

DEVIL WE KNOW



HE IS THE ANCIENT HE IS THE LAND

OUR LORD STRAHD IS NOT SIMPLY OF BAROVIA.
HE IS BAROVIA.

OUR LORD STRAHD IS NOT MERELY A LORD.
HE IS THE LORD.

OUR LORD STRAHD BANISHED MALEVOLENT
FORCES,

HAGS THAT BOUND BAROVIA TO THEIR WILL.
HE BANISHED THAT PAGAN YOKE, THAT BLOODY,
LAWLESS REIGN OF THE FOREST FOLK.

OUR LORD STRAHD IS MORE THAN THE ENFORCER
OF LAWS, THE GOVERNOR OF OUR VALLEY
HE IS ITS SAVIOR, ITS CHOSEN ONE.

HE IS THE ANCIENT HE IS THE LAND

THE NECESSITY TO LOOK BEYOND

SOME MAY INSIST THAT WE LOOK TOWARD DIVINE BEINGS FOR RESCUE FROM THIS DEVILISH PLACE, BUT THE GODS HAVE ABANDONED US LONG AGO.

THE DAMNATION THAT HAS LEFT US ALL ABANDONED HERE IN BAROVIA CAN BE NOTHING IF NOT THE FAULT OF THE GODS THAT FOOLS CONTINUE TO PRAY TO. IF NOT DIRECTLY THEIR DOING, THEY CERTAINLY DO NOTHING TO AID US NOW.

IF OUR SOULS ARE DAMNED TO THIS PLACE FOREVER, THEN WE OWE NOTHING TO THE GODS THAT HAVE NO INTEREST IN US. WE MUST, THEN, LOOK FOR AID ELSEWHERE.

LORD STRAHD VON ZAROVICH IS NOT OUR ENEMY

WHY, THEN, YOU MAY ASK, IS HE ABSENT, IS HE FEARED, IS HE CALLED DEVIL? BECAUSE IT IS THE FATE OF THE HERO TO BE MALIGNED, CAST OUT, DISMISSED.

THE FATE OF THE PARENT TO BE REJECTED. THE FATE OF THE SAVIOR TO BE SACRIFICED.

YET OUR LORD STRAHD IS ETERNAL EVEN UNTO THE DISRESPECTFUL, THE FAITHLESS. HE SHALL NOT LEAVE US. HERE FOLLOWS THE ACCOUNT OF HIS FIDELITY TO OUR LAND, AND OF OUR FIDELITY TO HIM, THAT THE FAITHFUL MAY FIND THEIR WAY TO HIM, EVEN AS HE IS ABUSED BY THE HEATHENS.

LORD STRAHD IS A SAVIOR TO BAROVIA

THIS FACT IS OF NO QUESTION TO US. HE CAME, SO LONG AGO, TO A VALLEY UNDER THE CONTROL OF HAGS AND THE HEATHENISH FOREST FOLK. HE WIPED AWAY THE BLOODY RELIGION WITH HIS OWN BLOOD, BRINGING SECURITY TO BAROVIA. THE VON ZAROVICH LINE BROUGHT ORDER TO THIS LAND. ONE NEEDS ONLY TO LOOK TO CASTLE RAVENLOFT TO SEE THE ELEGANCE AND CULTURE THAT LORD STRAHD BESTOWED UPON THIS VALLEY.

LORD STRAHD IS ETERNAL

ANOTHER FACT OF NO QUESTION. LORD STRAHD HAS BEEN A FIGURE ON HIGH SINCE MANY CENTURIES PAST. HE SHALL CONTINUE TO REIGN CENTURIES ONWARD. YES, CLAIMS THAT HE HAS FALLEN, OR BEEN BESTED ABOUND. FOOLISH, SO-CALLED HEROES PASS THROUGH OUR REALM, CLAIMING FALSELY TO HAVE BROUGHT LOW OUR LORD STRAHD. THEY CLAIM THEIR HEROISM BROUGHT PEACE TO OUR VALLEY. IT IS NOT SO. THEY ALWAYS LEAVE CHAOS IN THEIR WAKE. AND LORD STRAHD HAS SACRIFICED HIMSELF AGAIN AND AGAIN TO THEIR BLOOD-THIRSTY WAYS. HE SUFFERS IN BODY AND PRIDE THAT THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE BESTED HIM. AND HE RISES AGAIN. HE SHALL LIVE ON.

LORD STRAHD IS THE MORNINGLORD IN PHYSICAL FORM

YES, OUR FINAL TENET IS ONE OF DEBATE. IT IS OUR BELIEF, THOUGH LORD STRAHD MIGHT DENY IT OUT OF HUMILITY AND HIS ENEMIES WOULD DENY OUT OF CRAVEN FEAR OF BEING WRONG – FOR THE ENEMIES OF STRAHD DO WORSHIP THE MORNINGLORD AS HIS OPPOSITE. THEY SEE THE MORNINGLORD, AND ST. MARKOVIA, AND ST. ANDRAL AS ENEMIES TO STRAHD, YET LITTLE DO THEY KNOW THAT STRAHD HIMSELF MUST BE THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY FOR THE MORNINGLORD'S SEEMING GUIDANCE. AND STRAHD DOES WITHHOLD THE LIGHT OF DAY, YES, FOR THESE FAITHLESS MORNING-WORSHIPPERS FAIL TO ATTRIBUTE TO HIM VIRTUE AND PEACE AND ALL HE IS DUE. WHEN THEY, FINALLY, RECOGNIZE HIM AS THE ANCIENT AND THE LAND, THE LIGHT OF DAY WILL BE RESTORED.

