

Handout 1

Listed here are several issues that need resolution before I'm comfortable revealing to Korvosa that Neolandus still lives. I leave to you the methods for answering these questions, and also solving these problems.

- 1) A new "hero of the people" has been fighting rebels in the streets. These rebels are false; they're not my people, and I suspect that this hero, a man named Trifaccia, is false as well. Find out who or what he is.
- 2) I have it on good authority that the rumors of a black dragon taking nest in Castle Korvosa are legitimate. If the rumors prove true, the dragon must be defeated.
- 3) The role of castle seneschal is currently held by a bloated wizard named TogomDr. If you can capture or defeat him, we'll avoid a long legal complication over the revelation that Neolandus still lives.
- 4) Ishani Dhatri, Abadarian priest and vocal opponent of his church's public endorsement of Ileosa, has vanished. My initial investigations indicate that he was last seen approaching the castle—perhaps some clues to his fate lie hidden within?
- 5) I suspect that there are Red Mantis agents sheltered in the castle. Proof of the alliance between Ileosa and the Red Mantises would be very helpful; forcing the Red Mantis to abandon Korvosa, perhaps by finding and defeating their local leader, would be even better.
- 6) The Gray Maidens are certainly a menace; they need to be stopped. Sabina Merrin is the commander of the Gray Maidens—find and defeat her, and you'll throw the entire organization into chaos long enough for us to reclaim the streets from them. Vencarlo and Grau believe that she can be reasoned with, and that she may not be as loyal a minion of the queen as she seems.
- 7) Rumors of devils involved with the monarchy disturb me as well. If you can find proof that Ileosa is trafficking with devils, or that devils dwell within Castle Korvosa, that should significantly help our case against her in the eyes of the city's government.
- 8) Ileosa must answer for her crimes. She hasn't been seen publicly recently but for brief appearances on the castle walls. If we can capture her, a lot of our work will be easier.

Korvosa of their own to serve as hideouts), but supplies them with three scrolls of mage's magnificent mansion she's gathered expressly for this purpose.

If the PCs speak with Vencarlo or Grau about Sabina, both men offer the same observation: the Sabina they knew loved Korvosa and was honorable to a fault. It was her rigidity of thought and personality, Vencarlo muses, that held back her progress in the more fluid fighting style he attempted to teach her back when she was his student. As a result, both Grau and Vencarlo have a hard time believing Sabina could condone what Ileosa has done to Korvosa. They suspect the queen uses some sort of magic to control her, and urge the PCs to try to use nonlethal methods in dealing with Sabina. At the very least, a cooperative Sabina could be an excellent source of information about Ileosa's plans and what has been going on in Castle Korvosa for the past several months.

Korvosa's New Hero (EL 15)

Although Queen Ileosa is not actually in Korvosa, she's left the city in the charge of several powerful and dangerous subordinates. Once it becomes obvious to them that the PCs have returned to Korvosa, these subordinates swiftly realize that they face their greatest challenge yet. Their first reaction to this knowledge is to send one of Ileosa's

most recent responses to growing rumors of rebellion: the efreeti Yzahnum in the guise of a new hero of the people, the swashbuckler Trifaccia.

In the form of a masked, robed swordfighter, Yzahnum has spent the last few weeks engaged in a war of propaganda and false information. Posing as a Blackjack "replacement" named Trifaccia, he has been taking steps to protect and aid the oppressed common folk, helping them out where needed against a small group of "rebels." Typically, these rebels (actually a particularly loathsome gang of Sczarni thugs who sold out their heritage for a semi-regular payday from Ileosa's coffers) move into a region and cause trouble, robbing citizens, beating them, and worse. Just when things are

