

Personal Journal of Magnus Cornario

The Twenty-Ninth Day of April, in the Year of our Lord 1530

Prince Roger's Keep, Southern Lakonia

For a day not spent in mortal peril, today was exhausting. The Hercules docked in southern Lakonia. From port, we made our way to a keep belonging to Prince Roger, where we will be staying until such time as he makes his determinations upon the land grants and such. I spent my free time today planning on how best to use the time I will have available.

After a long discussion, I agreed to enchant Adam's mithral plating so it will not interfere with his spellcasting. In return, he will allow me to learn some spells that he possesses.

I also made the acquaintance of the inhabitant of the ring I took from Zon. This was a creature of elemental air, of a race called the Djinn. The Djinn refers to himself as "the Slave of the Ring." I pressed him for a name, as calling someone "Slave" sits ill with me. He would not give his true name, but said that he had been called Caliban in the past and that it would not offend him to call him that.

Caliban said that he was bound to the ring by the Wizard Sulemain, nearly 150 score years ago, due to his offenses against said wizard. Caliban is a little over ten feet high, and while humanoid, appears to be made of blue mist and clouds. He has some unusual abilities: he can vanish from mortal sight at will. He may conjure vast quantities of food and water, wine, physical goods and illusions. The physical goods are temporary if made of animal or mineral material, but permanent if comprised solely of plant matter. Caliban also has the ability to enable a person to walk upon the air as if it were solid ground. Each of these abilities is useable by him a single time per day.

At noon today, I scried upon Darius. He was sitting in the restaurant in which I saw him before. He was conversing with a Dwarf wearing plate armor. I did not understand the language but I believe it to be Dwarvish. Darius showed the Dwarf a small watch or clock that appeared to be of a silvery metal, perhaps even mithral. He and the dwarf then studied as map for a period of time. They then gathered the rest of the occupants of the restaurant

(all Dwarves) and headed to the edge of town. There were two to three-score dwarves in total.

Two hours after noon, I turned my scrying crystal upon Beta. This was less informative. I saw Beta standing motionless against a stone wall. I heard something scraping upon stone in the background, but could not see anything. Sometimes I wish constructs would tend to move around as humans would.

Late in the day, I used an enchantment to shape some raw metals and materials into a diminutive mechanical manikin. This fabrication enchantment, while difficult, is vastly superior to doing the job by hand. I plan to enchant the manikin as a crafting assistant, a sort of dedicated wright. I plan to use it to perform the permanent enchantments for which I just never seem to have the time.

The Thirtieth Day of April, in the Year of our Lord 1530

I sent Wulfgar to a tailor with some specific instructions on making a cloak with an embroidered symbol of Helios on one side.

Worked on the manikin enchantments all day. Attempted to Scry upon Darius in the evening, but the spell failed.

The First Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

More work on the manikin enchantments. Successfully viewed Darius early in the morning. He was riding in a carriage through the country. Darius was attended by two men he called Henlein and Buonarroti. Henlein he addressed in German, Buonarroti in Italian. From the conversation, I deduced that this must be Peter Henlein, inventor of the pocket watch. The Italian was none other than Michelangelo Buonarroti, the famous Florentine architect and artist. They passed a grand cathedral, which I recognized from a drawing I saw in my studies at the University of Padua - Salisbury Cathedral.

Why is Darius in England? Perhaps I will learn tomorrow - Darius mentioned that they will be meeting the "Toms."

The Second Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

Work on the manikin continues. My scrying on Darius was most fruitful. At six pm, I saw him and his two guests eating a most sumptuous dinner. One appears to be a bishop. All are wearing very fine clothes. Names mentioned are Cromwell, Cranmer, Boleyn, Herexes and Trenton. It is clear who the "Toms" are now: Thomas Cromwell, nobleman and councilor to the English King and Thomas Cranmer, the archbishop of Canterbury. Herexes was on the list of names dictated by Captain Abellius. I feel I should recognize the name Boleyn, but do not. Trenton is an English town, if I recall correctly.

There is talk of a ceremony tomorrow, but I did not catch the time. I will speak to Haldar and see if I can get him to divine the most auspicious time to Scry in order to catch the ceremony.

I wonder at the purpose of the ceremony. England is a backwater, hardly a major power in Europe. Why would Darius involve them?

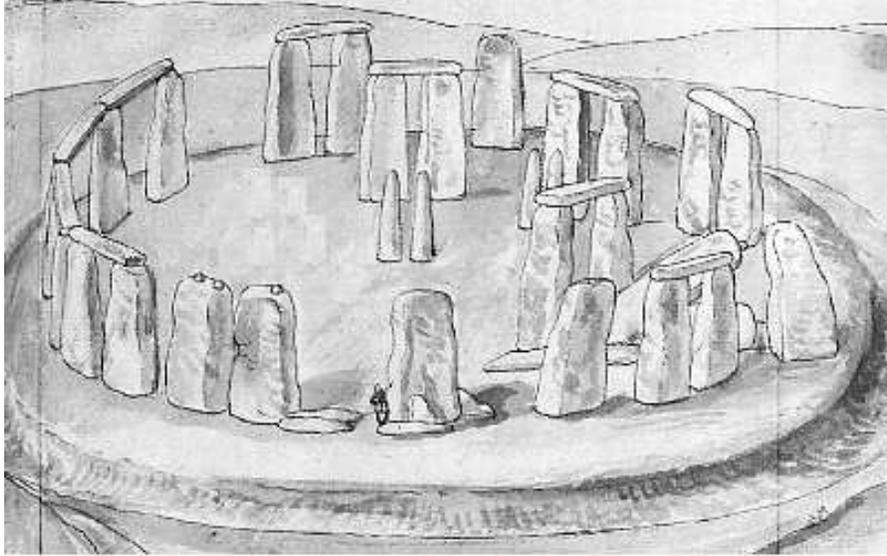
The Third Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

I am not absolutely certain, but I believe magic has been returned to the world.

I observed Darius and five other people wearing brown robes. Due to size, one was probably a dwarf and another was small enough to be a gnome or halfling. I am guessing that one was an elf, but couldn't tell. Each carried a triangular stone in their hands.

They invoked some sort of deity in Latin. They apologized for their ancestors taking the stones, saying that they are returning them and asking it to "return your blessing unto us." The six stones fused into a large, hexagonal stone. At that point, I suddenly felt an incredible pain in my skull. Scrying on a ceremony that affects the fundamental forces of nature can have some deleterious consequences, I guess.

They placed the hexagonal stone on the ground and it sunk into the earth. I then saw that they were standing in a ring of large stones. From my studies, I recognized this as the stone circle outside of Salisbury, England, more commonly known as Stonehenge.



As a side note, I finished work on my manikin. I will set it to work on Adam tomorrow.

The Fourth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

I set my mechanical helper to work upon instilling a basic protective enchantment into Adam's mithral plating. I have also begun to work upon a mechanical owl effigy. Without a doubt, this owl is my most difficult creation yet.

The Fifth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

The manikin finished its first task, so I set it up to make Adam's mithral plating more flexible. This should prevent him from miscasting spells that have difficult somatic components. My calculations estimate that it will take some three days to finish this task.

More work upon the owl – I used our magical lens to assist in some of the fine work.

The Sixth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

More work upon the owl, which I have decided to name Celeris.

I scried upon Darius at what should have been four hours past noon in England. I saw him in a library with various tomes of arcane lore. He appeared to be studying and occasionally speaking with some companions. From my previous viewings, I recognized them as Henlein, Buonarroti, Cromwell, Cranmer, Boleyn and Herexes.

The Seventh Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

Good progress upon Celeris. Got the wing actuator mechanism to work and the head swivels properly.

My manikin helper finished its work upon Adam. Adam had a most pleased look upon his face. At least, I think it looked pleased. It can be very hard to tell with my construct friend.

I have been using Caliban to scout the area. Previously, he had been reluctant to travel too far from the keep, especially to the north, but today this reluctance seems to have been gone. My guess is that he had some sort of instinctual knowledge of the area where magic ended. With magic everywhere now, there is no problem with him traveling.

I attempted to view Darius at an hour before noon, but this attempt failed.

The Eight Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

The work upon Celeris proceeds. Fabricated metal feathers I then lacquered black. If I didn't know better, I would swear that they looked like the real thing.

I started the manikin on an fire augmentation crystal for Wulfgar's blade. This is similar to the one I did last month, but much stronger.

The Ninth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

Assembled the inner clockwork mechanism for Celeris and placed it inside the endoskeleton.

Attempted to Scry on Beta, but the spell failed.

The Tenth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

Celeris is finished! Once the assembly was complete, I engaged in the binding ritual to make it my familiar. It is immensely gratifying to see ones creation fly about the room. Quite strange to hear it hoot and understand precisely what it saying. As expected, the familiar link has enhanced its intelligence far beyond the limited abilities of an ordinary construct.

I cast Scry upon Darius at an hour past noon. Once again he was with Henlein, Buonarroti, Cromwell, Cranmer, Boleyn and Herexes. In addition there was a Dwarf by the name of

Bergadin and an Elf called Orn with them. They were looking at a map of Europe and conversing in Latin.

Key elements of the conversation were how to deal with the world now that magic has returned as well as expressing the hope that they can now deal with the threat of the Turk. The Dwarf, Bergadin, was openly contemptuous of the Turk's capabilities. I am not so sure – Zon was no fool and dealt much better with the presence of magic than did the Frederick.

Michelangelo Buonarroti agreed with Bergadin, also noting the progress in the mechanical and scientific arts in the past three centuries, although he tempered this with the hope that the world would not grow dependent upon magic again.

The Eleventh Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

My enchantments upon Adam have now bear fruit. I made copies of several of his spells, per our agreement. I spent the rest of the day learning one that enhances the casters Crafting abilities.

I gave my Glowstone over to my wright and instructed it on how to enchant the stone to enhance the bearer's intellect. It began work at once.

The Twelfth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

Learning another one of the spells I copied from Adam. This spell conjures invisible forces to engage in craftwork without one. Not as useful as the Fabrication spell, but far easier. It looks more impressive as well.

I attempted to Scry upon Darius after lunch, but the spell failed.

The Thirteenth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

Learned another of Adam's spells. This one I had seen him cast before – it grants the target touched the grace and celerity of a feline for a short period of time.

Wulfgar picked up the cloak I ordered from the tailor; it was a truly superb job.

Caliban said that he saw some Griffins today. Apparently magical creatures are returning. I wonder if they return knowing what happened to them or in the same place?

The Scry upon Darius before lunch failed again.

The Fourteenth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

Learned the last spell of Adam's – this one will repair light damage done to a construct. The wright finished up the enhancement upon the Glowstone.

Once again my Scrying attempt upon Darius failed. Has he taken steps to block my spell?

The Fifteenth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

Learned a spell from one of the scrolls we liberated. This spell gives the target the endurance and fortitude of a great bear.

I cast a resistance spell into my mechanical wright and set it to enchant the cloak of Helios. When done, the cloak will provide some magical protection against baleful magic and other malignancies.

The Sixteenth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

Began studying the Big Book of Summoning, which we obtained in Crete. I have managed to learn how to cast a spell to conjure forth a stone wall. Said creation is permanent and the shape can be manipulated. Most useful for construction purposes.

I set my mechanical assistant to enchant a tunic to focus the mind of the wearer, so that he can concentrate on the task at hand, ignoring external distractions. Would that I had this in the battle with the earth creatures beneath Kydonia.

Caliban returned from the north. He has viewed the canal connecting the Corinthian gulf to the Saronic gulf. Caliban claims that the canal was fabricated by magical means; he had heard rumors of this centuries ago and upon viewing it, says that it is obviously so.

The Seventeenth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

I learned a spell of the fifth magnitude from the Big Book of Summoning today. The spell calls for a creature from one of the outer planes to fight for or otherwise assist the caster.

Scried upon Darius again before I began my studies (approximately 6 AM). Darius was asleep. The room did not appear to be an inn, so my guess is that he is at home or at the home of a friend. There were several shelves of books, as well as a copy of the stone orrery beneath the temple of Helios. He also has a three-dimensional metal model of an orrery.

The Eighteenth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

Scried upon Darius at 7 AM. Once again he is asleep. Slacker.

From one of our scrolls, I learned a spell to create an illusory disguise for the wearer. Adam has expressed an interest in learning this from me. I said that I would do so, in return for a spell or favor to be named later.

I gave the enchanted cloak of Helios to Maldar. He seemed quite pleased and surprised. I explained that this was merely thanks for all of the wands of healing he has created for the party.

The manikin finished the tunic, which works as designed.

The Nineteenth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

I learned a spell of the fourth magnitude from the Big Book of Summoning today. The spell is a lesser version of the spell I learned earlier.

The wright was set to enchanting a pearl with the power of Recall. This should allow me to recall a spell of the first magnitude that I have already cast.

I have learned tomorrow that we travel to Tripoli to for the land grant ceremonies and contest.

The Twentieth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

A Villa in Tripoli

We left before dawn for the trip to Tripoli. Even though we were in several well-sprung coaches and had good roads, the trip took most of the day.

There was a magnificent feast. Prince Roger announced that there would be an auction of magical and otherwise unusual items tomorrow, followed by various contests over the course of the next few days.

I congratulated the Prince on the ceremony on May 3rd that restored magic to the world. He was quite amazed that I knew the details and introduced me to Herexes. Herexes informed the Prince that this was the sort of thing the Prince would need to get used to. Herexes did say that he wished to speak to me later.

After the dinner, our group was invited to join Prince Roger and Prince Rupert in a new card game that was all the rage among the Hapsburg nobility. They called it "Poker." Adam and David agreed to join them, while I went to observe and to see (via an invisible Caliban) that the group was well supplied with wine.

I observed the game. It is played with cards for some obscure purpose and money frequently changes hands. David's skills at bluffing made him a fortune or two. Adam lost a fortune, but David fortunately now had one to spare and he covered Adam's losses. The princes lost quite handsomely to David, but were too drunk at the end to care.

I sent a note to Haldar that he might wish to petition Helios in the morning for a spell to neutralize the alcohol poisons in the princes' bodies.

The Twenty-First Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

The unusual item auction was today. We sold most of the masterwork gear we had acquired and then turned around and spent that money on magical items. I wished to sell some of the lesser magical items we acquired from the Zon's guards, but David was adamant against the idea.

Items we purchased. The price paid is in parentheses afterwards:

- Scroll of Obscuring Mist, Protection from Chaos, Ray of Enfeeblement, Reduce Person, Remove Fear, Shield, Shocking Grasp, Silent Image, Sleep (150 gp)
- Scroll of Expeditious Retreat, Feather Fall, Grease, Hold Portal (100 gp)
- Scroll of Knock, Phantom Trap, Locate Object (350 gp)
- Scroll of Resist Energy, Rope Trick, Scare, Scorching Ray (300 gp)
- Scroll of Glibness, Good Hope, Halt Undead, Hold Portal (700 gp)
- Scroll of Lesser Globe of Invulnerability, Hallucinatory Terrain, Ice Storm, Illusory Wall (1,500 gp)
- Scroll of Major Creation, Mind Fog, Mirage Arcana, Mordenkainen's Faithful Hound (2,300 gp)
- Scroll of Permanency, Persistent Image, Planar Binding, Prying Eyes (7,000 gp)
- Horseshoes that allow the mount to walk upon water or other liquid substances. This went to Sigurd, although it seems a little wasteful as he now rides a winged horse. (2000 gp)
- Greatsword with a basic combat enchantment but that was also imbued with holy power to strike evil. This was bought for Jean-Claude. (12,500 gp)
- A pink rhomboid stone that floats about the head of the wearer and enhances his vitality. This went to Wulfgar. (4,250 gp)
- A belt that grants the user the strength of a giant. Caliph wears this. (20,500 gp)
- A bag that holds 500 pounds of goods yet only weighs 25 pounds. I have taken this for the moment. (3,000 gp)
- An Adamant chain shirt with a basic protective enhancement of the first magnitude. This went to Wulfgar. (5,000 gp)
- A very heavy-pull composite longbow with a basic combat enchantment of the first magnitude. This went to Sigurd. (2,250 gp)
- A Mithral chain shirt with a protective enchantment of the second magnitude. This was purchased for David. (3,000 gp)
- An amulet of that enhances the health and vitality of the wearer. I estimated the enchantment to be of the fourth magnitude. Sigurd bought this out of his own funds for 8,000 gold pieces.

There were other items we did not bid on. The one such item that stuck out was a bronze figurine that could turn into a Griffon once per day.

The Twenty-Second Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

The contests began today. Today's test was to bring back the most dangerous mythical or magical creature. Wulfgar, Adam, Sigurd, Caliph, David and I set out for the "mountains" to the south as Caliban said these were likely to hold dangerous creatures.

Sigurd was flying a winged horse, called Thrud. Wulfgar told me that this was named after the daughter of Thor. Flying above, Sigurd scouted out a group of what appeared to be eight hill giants, but with only one eye in the center of their foreheads. Apparently the mythical cyclops have returned to Greece.

We set up an ambush. I borrowed a wand containing the Ball of Abysmal Flame enchantment that Adam had crafted and rode pillion on Thrud, behind Sigurd. I cast several Balls of Abysmal Flame upon the cyclops. The rest of the party engaged them in melee. I finished the last one of with a volley of missiles of Arcane Force.

While several of us took wounds, there was no severe damage. We placed the heads in our bag of magical holding.

The cyclops also had some treasure:

- 7,000 gold pieces between them
- Gems worth 3,200 gold pieces
- A jewel encrusted hilt appraised by David at 1,000 gp
- A jeweled comb worth about 500 gp

After defeated the cyclops we decided to look for more creatures as we were worried that the competition might have found something more impressive.

Once again scouting above, Sigurd said that he saw three large winged creatures with the bodies of lions and the heads of great raptors. From my readings of "Wondrous Creatures of Greece", I determined these to be Hieracosphinxes. We decided to take these back as trophies as well.

We headed up a mountain trail to their lair. We came across a dead body in the path wearing what Adam and I determined to be a magical cloak. We decided to bypass the body on the off chance it was a trap (which we found out later it was – it had a Symbol of Stunning on it). Rounding a corner in the path, we came face to face with the sphinxes.

Unfortunately, these had the heads of women, not raptors. There were Gynosphinxes, not Hieracosphinxes. Despite that, we did battle and proved victorious with little real effort.

Looting the lair of the sphinxes yielded the following:

- 5,000 gold pieces
- 300 platinum pieces
- A magical military pick
- On the body was a cloak with a basic resistance enchantment, similar to the one I made for Haldar.
- A potion that deflects weapons away from the drinker
- A potion that will delay the effects of poison and similar noxious substances.
- Oil that will temporarily enchant a weapon
- A minor healing potion
- Potion that makes the bears skin as tough as bark
- A crystal bead that when thrown, will explode in a blast of arcane force

We took one body and the wings of the rest back with us. When we got back to town, we saw that there was little competition. One group had killed an ogre and another managed to find some orcs. The others found more mundane beasts, including one which brought back a lion.

Suffice it to say, we took the gold medal. The group that killed the ogre received a silver medallion.

The Twenty-Third Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

More contests today. There was a race covering some twenty-five or so miles, followed by an archery contest.

I conjured some steeds out of shadows and phantasms for Wulfgar and I to use. Sigurd also participated, riding Thrud. We saw the person who purchased the figurine of the griffon riding that.

The phantom steeds I conjured were tireless and carried their rider three times as fast a swift horse. Suffice it to say, Wulfgar and I came in first. Although he and I deliberately tied, the judges awarded the gold to me and the silver to Wulfgar. Sigurd came in third.

The archery contests were broken into two parts. The first was a distance archery test. Sigurd came in fifth out of about a hundred participants and was the only member of our party to place. The second test consisted of hitting moving tower shields at short range. Wulfgar came in first in that contest, hitting the ten targets a total of fifteen times in a minutes time.

The Twenty-Fourth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1530

Immense feelings of deja vu.

The tests ended today with a reenactment of our group's bypassing the rooms of summoned monsters in the temple of Helios. Suffice it to say, it was quite wrong. Here there were simply outlines of rooms on the ground, with a door standing between each room. A group of four would go through each room. As soon as the door opened, Herexes would summon a monster for the group to fight. Not a single mention of the wit, cunning and mastery of ancient lore we used to bypass the traps. I was most disappointed.

Wulfgar, David, Caliph and I were in our group of four. We cast preparatory enchantments and fought the monsters. Herexes gave us a potion he developed called "Evading the Reaper", which would allow one to survive what would ordinarily be fatal wounds.

Here is the list of creatures Herexes summoned up. Based upon my reading of the Big Book of summoning, they were all fiendish creatures:

- Room 1: Dire rat. This was a rodent of unusual size, being about three feet long, with needle-like teeth. I estimate it weighed about 60 pounds.
- Room 2: Wolf. Other than its fiendish aspect, this appeared to be a normal wolf.
- Room 3: Hell hound. This is a large canine with red fur which can breath fire

- Room 4: Dire wolf. This was an immense creature, some eight feet long and probably six or seven hundreds pounds.
- Room 5: Dire ape. This stood some eight feet tall and must have weighed a thousand pounds. It had long ivory claws on each hand and razor-sharp teeth.
- Room 6: Rhinoceros. This beast had gray, leathery skin and a horn upon its head. It was about 12 feet long, 5 feet high at the shoulder and must have weighed several tons.
- Room 7: An eight foot tall, four-armed white ape, which I believe is called a girallon.
- Room 8: A huge bipedal lizard with nasty, sharp pointy teeth. The Big Book of Summoning called this a tyrannosaurus.
- Room 9: This room didn't have a monster. Apparently Herexes cannot cast spells of the ninth magnitude. Instead, he conjured an illusion of the pyramid which held the stone of magic.

Suffice it to say, we were the only group to complete the task. One other made it as far a room eight before giving up.