

The Calledar Chronicles
Part 2 – In the Realm of Calledar
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“Teshkaht continues to enhance and improve the power of his position in Gryth and the atrocities his armies are committing in the war are getting worse,” Beregor, King of Calledar, said to his council.

“Is there nothing we can do to discredit and ruin him in the eyes of his people? To hurt his reputation or standing?” Alea, the Minister of Finance, asked.

“I wish that there was,” the King answered. Exasperation and irritation clear in his voice. “That is the problem when a religious fanatic takes power and kills everyone who openly opposes him.”

“Rulers like him most often find their time in power to be ephemeral. Teshkaht’s reign will not last long. There will be another zealot who makes sure of this, or something will happen, and the whole thing will fall apart.” Allyster, Minister of Information, interjected.

“Really, Allyster? That is what you hope for, that things will all fall apart for Teshkaht all by themselves. Just because your agents and spies of all been rooted out and killed, it is no reason to give up.” Ryten, the Minister of Justice, snapped. Disdain and contempt clear in his voice. “This is will not just go away.”

“Ministers, I know you have divergent viewpoints on how to deal with this matter, and the loss of our intelligence services in Gryth nearly cripples us in knowing what is happening inside the country, but your bickering over different plans of attack will not solve anything.” The King silenced them both with his calm words and the rebuke they held.

“I have someone who might be able to help,” Alea said, trying to emulate the King’s calm tone in her voice. “I have contacts who might be able to provide information about what is happening in Gryth. It might be possible to get them to do more.”

“Please share what you have for us,” the King smiled with empathy for the youngest of his ministers. He had been very young when he took the throne and knew how challenging it could be to speak out in the company of older, more experienced leaders.

“I have contacts with the Order. They travel, trade, smuggle, and cross lands at will, having no regard for boundaries, guards, armies, or governments. They are evanescent, there one moment and vanishing the next.” The shock of her revelation was clear on the faces of the other ministers. King Beregor only smiled.

Allyster and Ryten both looked like they wanted to comment, to argue, or say something, but the Minister of Finance’s revelation had an enervating effect on them. Both men sat back, drained of their desire to argue or fight. They waited to hear more about Alea’s contacts and what they might be able to do to help Calledar in its time of need.