

- *Preliminary Report, Imperial Eye*

Contenders for Archbishopric

The failing health of the current Archbishop of Aragon, has caused much speculation as to his imminent successor. While many of the diocese are performing acts of charity and concern towards the ailing pontiff many others are already speculating on who shall succeed him. Already the five mostly candidates have begun to their political maneuvering. This is an excellent opportunity to unburden the long standing tensions between many of the Hazat nobility and the Church.

What follows is a preliminary report on the standing of the most likely candidates.

Bishop Becket Oscura - Long known as one of the most honest and voracious agents of the Synacula, he has a noteworthy record of success. Many favor him and believe him rightfully next 'in line' for an appointment to an Archbishopric position; however his affiliation with the Mihayana branch of the Church has given rise to opposition in more conservative circles. His greatest strength is that most power brokers consider him to be 'second choice' this to is his greatest weakness. Most believe that he will act in the best interests of the church; rather than their own.

Bishop Hasan Archellius - He has been a bishop an incredibly short time, but his single greatest qualification is that he is a distant relation to the Archduke. Given the recent push to have the Church support a crusade against the Kurgan, he would make an ideal ally. His greatest strength is surly the support of the Archduke, and tradition dictates that that the Patriarch consider the wishes of the nobility in such matters. The Patriarch how ever does not favor a crusade at this time and this coupled with Archellius' youth stand against him.

Bishop Ryule Hakan - Conservative, Hiyana and favored by the Patriarch. Most believe him the most likely candidate to succeed the current Archbishop. It seems however that he has a checkered, a former member of the Inquisition he has few friends, and several baseless claims of Antinomy, which will doubtless be little more than the muck racking of rivals. His greatest strength is that he has the backing of the powerful Hiyana branch of the church, as well as the Patriarch. Unfortunately there have been calls for a formal investigation concerning the current dark rumors that are circulating, the Archduke is said to be particularly concerned.

Bishop Char Lysenko - Considered a long shot at best, he has of late served in the Al-Malik space. However, a rather bizarre and populist whispering campaign amongst the populace at large on Aragon and Vera Cruz rumor him to soon fulfill a great prophesy. However such rumors, while popular among the peasantry, sever only to worry the nobility and those church officials who listen to such gossip. Lysenko is also believed to have strong Avestite sympathies that make him unlikely to receive serious consideration from the Patriarch.

Bishop Humilde Humilde - Believed by many to be 'the safe' candidate; he serves as the right hand man to the current Archbishop. By choosing him, the church could maintain 'the status quo' and not offend any party. He has the advantage of the endorsement of the current archbishop, is rumored to possess files detailing highly useful 'dirt' on many of the most powerful nobles in the realm.