

Charioteer Official to receive Decados Knighthood

A press announcement by the Charioteer's Guild has revealed that Ozul De Vatha, godfather and head of the powerful De Vatha Hong, is to receive a knighthood from Count Enis Sharn next month on Pandemonium. House Decados has not awarded this unprecedented honour to any guild member since 4613, when Genin Tsa Kai-Shek was formally adopted and knighted into House Decados after it was discovered that he was an illegitimate son of Baroness Ekaterine Decados of Novy Moskva.

Said De Vatha, "I have never personally visited Pandemonium, and the Count has assured me that this ceremony will be quite memorable. A week ago I received a letter from the Lady Ericka (Decados), who I've corresponded with in the past. She wants me to visit her house in the Hub and show me the sights, and I can't refuse such an offer. I expect that my contracts with the Noble Houses won't suffer from my new status. (laughs)."

Although this knighthood will allow De Vatha the right to be addressed as "my lord" and "Sir Ozul", the status shall not extend to his children, present or future. Neither will De Vatha be added to the peerage assemblies of any of the Noble Houses unless they choose to admit him. Critics from rival Hongs have accused De Vatha of seeking a meaningless title for the sake of vanity, a charge De Vatha strongly denies.

Baronet Julio Alvaro Gerardo Rolas, the Hazat ambassador on Leagueheim, expressed his disapproval. "This farce demonstrates the moral decay native to House Decados, that they would consider offering a knighthood to a merchant for monetary favours! This could suggest that nobility can be bought for mere firebirds, even the twisted nobility of the Decados is worth more than that! 'Sir' Ozul had better not try noble airs with my family, or he might find himself in a 'noble' duel!" No other noble ambassador gave comment.

As a nod to De Vatha's League ties, security at the event is being carried out by the Muster, rather than by Decados house guards. Chief Rav Singer is in charge of preparations and leaves for Pandemonium tomorrow. Singer was unavailable for comment as he was busy making ready to depart. He has twenty years of experience in security and has worked with House Decados in the past. Singer has had a spotless record since he failed to protect Dame Lia Decados from a sniper's bullet early in his career. House Decados has expressed complete confidence in Singer's ability and character.

De Vatha will be traveling by one of his Hong's luxury liners, the Ishtar, Capt. Istring De Vatha commanding. Several De Vatha, Charioteer and League dignitaries will be accompanying him to Pandemonium, to promote the strengthening of ties between House Decados and the League. They will be traveling via Midian and Apshai to Pandemonium, though they will not be making planetfall in either of those systems. De Vatha has hinted that he might take a longer route back to Leagueheim, to visit a few of his new "peers".