

Charter of the Great Realm of Aquilonia: Member of the Great EMP Empire

Know, oh Queen, that between the years when the oceans drank Atlantis and the gleaming cities, and the years of the rise of the sons of Aryas, there was an age undreamed of, when shining kings lay spread across the world like blue mantles beneath the stars. Hither came Conan, the Cimmerian, black-haired, sullen-eyed, sword in hand, a thief, a reaver, a slayer, with gigantic melancholies and gigantic mirths, to tread the jeweled thrones of the Earth under his sandaled feet. The ancient state of Aquilonia was ruled by Conan in life, and his spirit rules it after his death. Aquilonia is dedicated to his spirit and lives to follow the way of his world. It is I, Talock that has been tasked from our distant land to educate you about the workings of your possession.

Oh great Majesty, while you have finally taken your honored place upon the throne of this Great Kingdom of Ardesca, there is much yet left to learn. While you reside within your capital throne room there is much outside these walls that you have yet to witness, or understand. The holdings of Your great Kingdom are vast, far reaching, and complex in their layers and workings. Aquilonia resides far from your daily eye and their customs may seem strange. For while you are the head of this kingdom there are those under you that have great wisdom to offer you in counsel. Some of them may even have the influence to move against your purpose, so you should be aware of their methods. It is said a wise ruler knows the workings of the most humble of craftsmen, statecraft is surely no exception.

The Counsel of Twelve does all the day to day governance of the state of Aquilonia. Those among the proud and wise Counsel of Twelve are chosen from among the most senior sustained members of our State. They possess much knowledge, wisdom, and influence among them that can prove to be immensely valuable to You during Your reign for it is the council that decides on the financial, legislative, and judiciary matters throughout their land. This counsel convenes at least once a year to discuss matters of state. When such matters arise that require a decision that is not unanimous among the members of the counsel they employ a simple majority vote to decide. Also, since no man shall live or rule forever, the members of this counsel must be replaced as those among their number fail to pay their yearly tribute

to the kingdom, or fail to convene with their fellow members to discuss matters of state. When this occurs the council chooses the next most senior member of the Aquilonia to fill the seat. This seat may be declined by the potential new member, at which point the offer passes to the next most senior member, and so on till such time as one accepts the honor. When there is a call from the kingdom for a representative from our land the choosing of said individual also falls to the judgment of the Counsel.

There are also the matters of the spirit to be considered. For these matters we always have a spiritual counselor. This counselor is drawn from the members of the Shamanistic or Priestly orders among our number. Their duties include not only advising Your Majesty on spiritual matters, but also in the performing of ceremonies and blessings as are needed within Aquilonia. They are also called upon in times of indecision among the Counsel of Twelve. When the Counsel reaches an impassible conflict in their decision making the spiritual adviser is called upon to break the stalemate. The spiritual adviser's blessings and ceremonies are also integral in the finding, and function, of the final part of your counsel, the Avatar of the Mighty Conan!

While this final position holds little in the way of formal authority, it holds great power in the minds and hearts of the people. This great avatar embodies all that we strive to embrace and project from within our great and mighty land. This avatar can be found from any land as long as he agrees to live by the laws of Your kingdom, for was not the mighty Conan an outsider to Aquilonia before we embraced him? He shall wield the sword and the helm of the master. The worthiness of those seeking to be found to be the Avatar of Conan are tested by passing through many trials that will test their prowess in the arenas of Valor, Courage, Wisdom, and Strength. These trials are decided upon by the Counsel of Twelve, and are blessed, and presided over, by the spiritual counselor. In this manner a new Avatar of Conan is found with each passing year.

With these three branches of counsel our land has remained strong for many years, and Gods willing, many more years to come. With this knowledge I have now passed onto you my Majesty I pray for your reign to be long and fruitful. I, your servant strive to be a pool of knowledge for your distant possession.

~ Talock: Arch Priest of Set