

This book suffered from long exposure to humidity. Some pages are covered by mould while others have been eaten by rats. The remaining pages are covered with a very small and accurate handwriting, each letter almost a piece of art.

5th December 1208

A crusade against the Cathars. A crusade against the Languedoc. Certainly they are heretics, but a crusade? My memories about the crusade come back to haunt me.

21st December 1208

Carolus promised us a spell to protect the covenant from the crusaders. It was not ready for the ritual today. I pray that he succeeds in time.

There was not much celebrating today. Nothing compared to the feasts of previous years. I always thought that there was too much gluttony at these occasions, but today it felt like a funeral.

21st June 1209

Today was a great day. Every one participated in the ritual to cast the new protective spell on the covenant. Carolus promises that it will keep the crusaders away. I never really understood how this all works but I have seen enough of his magic to trust him.

24th July 1209

It has begun. Many good Christians died yesterday, I pray for their poor souls.
[unreadable]

16th August 1209

After Béziers Carcassonne fell quickly. The resistance is broken.

Several refugees from Carcassonne arrived in the area this afternoon but the spell kept them away from the covenant. Sometimes this magic is a curse. We could easily save these poor people, many of them good Catholics, if the magi would stop staring at this stone and do something useful.

I will go down there tomorrow to see if I can help them.

4th October 1209

They say that Simon de Montfort will be the new Lord of these lands. All I heard about him indicates hard times for all of us. But after all he refused to participate in the attack on Constantinople. Maybe there is some hope.

12th June 1210

We heard reports that the crusaders are now besieging Minerve. I fear that Martin may be still there.

23rd July 1210

Finally Minerve fell. Mandalus reported that more than hundred people were burned at the stake. He could not say if Martin was amongst them.

11th May 1211

Again several hundred Heretics were burned. I only wish I could agree with the actions performed on behalf of our Holy Father.

30th June 1211

The news is spreading fast. de Montfort was forced to lift the siege of Toulouse. Many of the people here hope that this is the beginning of the end of the crusade. I am afraid that they will strike back even harder than before. I pray that this bloodshed is coming to an end.

14th September 1213

We heard rumors that Pedro II of Aragon was killed in battle. If this is true Raymond indeed lost an important ally.

3rd May 1214

Mandalus returned today and reported that Raymond fled to England. This could be the end of this war. Hopefully they do not turn their attention to us. The Magi seem to be too preoccupied with their own problems to worry about this.

22nd March 1215

Something very frightening happened yesterday. I was in the Scriptorium, copying one of the books Carolus wants to trade. Suddenly Benedictus came running out of his room. He was shouting. I think he was casting a spell at this strange stone. Something went wrong. He started screaming and a bright light seemed to consume him from within. Then he was gone. I cannot imagine how he should have survived something like that but the Magi say he may come back.

15th April 1215

On my way back from Carcassonne I almost ran into the Prince's army. They are moving towards Toulouse.

7th November 1217

Mandalus died today. Carolus and Ignatius insist that he has to get a church burial as soon as possible.

28th June 1218

Simon de Montfort was killed in battle. There are rumors that the siege of Carcassonne was lifted. If Amariac is as weak as people say, the crusade will be over soon.

21st December 1218

I have seen none of the Magi for weeks. Carolus still refuses to leave his room. If he is not coming out soon nobody will perform the ritual.

23rd December 1218

The stone is gone! Somebody must have taken it during the night. Carolus and Ignatius had an heated argument about this. But instead of doing something they just went back into their laboratories, slamming their doors. This is all heading to disaster.

5th February 1219

There was an explosion in Ignatius's room. The fire spread quickly. Many of the remaining books were destroyed. Carolus is furious. Ignatius must have died in the blaze but we could not find any of his remains.

21st June 1219

Tonight the last of the rituals will expire. Then nothing will protect us from the crusaders. I will try to find a safe hiding place for the remaining books and the covenfolk. Without the Magi it is too dangerous to stay here.