

# THE FORTRESSIAN LETTER

“As It Develops”

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Moatose 8



## New Aesthetic Announced

### Pronouncement Arrives Late

PA – After many months of speculation that the tradition had been abandoned, Her Majesty, the First Princess promulgated a new royal pronouncement proclaiming a new aesthetic for the year 8. So-called “Anglewash” is described as “blend[ing] Cubist fragmentation and modernist geometry with bold, high-contrast planes, limited yet expressive color palettes, and visible dry-brush acrylic textures to create dynamic, diagonally driven

compositions that abstract recognizable subjects into layered, architectural forms.”

Art using this clearly AI generated and defined style was added to the Pillow Fortress Wiki pages on the various Throne department pages weeks before the official announcement, in a move some Pillowans have condemned as being unprofessional. “Kinda shows her heart’s not in it anymore,” said a citizen speaking on condition of anonymity. “If the aesthetics are going to be so uninspired, why bother?” questioned another. A spox for the Department of Culture was quick to dismiss the naysayers. “Anglewash was chosen via the same rigorous process that brought us Royal Impasto Verve and Vibrolume,” they said in a

comment to *The Fortressian Letter*, “Not everyone will like a particular aesthetic, and that’s fine. Our great state is one built on a diversity of ideas and tastes.” That the criticisms are levied at the concept of a yearly aesthetic and not the aesthetics themselves seemed lost on the spox, who did not respond to followup questions.

Regardless of one’s preference, the tradition of choosing a new aesthetic seems to be here to stay, at least until the new graphic design guidelines are promulgated. In the meantime, if it is any consolation to those who don’t like Anglewash, you only have to see it for a single year.

## Fortressian Calendar Upgraded

### New Epoch Among Changes

PA – In what can only be described as a busy month for the Department of Culture, the Fortressian Calendar was upgraded. The most consequential of these changes was the complete replacement of the Common Era (CE) and Pillow Fortress Era (PFE) epochs with the Antefortressian (AF) and Pillow Fortress (PF) eras, respectively.

“This was done for two reasons,” said a DoC spox on the matter, “firstly we thought it proper that the fewer characters used the better, and so truncated the old PFE down to just PF. It still begins at the same time, still represents the creation of the Principality. Now it will just save on time writing it out and space displaying it. That doesn’t seem like much, but over the thousands and indeed millions of years the Pillow Fortress is projected to exist for, that adds up. Secondly, the Common Era created a confusing problem, in that the calendar still also technically used the Before Common Era epoch. So starting with the big bang, years would countdown to 1, then count upward to 2018 only to be reset again at 0? That’s rather absurd. Now there are only two eras. The one before

the Principality, and the one after.” As if making up for their department’s lack of communication on other topics, the spox added, “The months of the AF era are all still Gregorian, Fortressian months don’t extend backward to before 0.”

Another notable change to the calendar is the grouping of the first five months and the second five months plus Outwork into the groupings Vanguard and Rearguard, respectively. These had been in wider use among everyday Pillowans, showing up in some semi-official documents, such as the editions of *The Party Loyalist*. No doubt the change was merely done to reflect this use, though we didn’t ask the spox, as they had moved on to another calendar related topic.

“Her Majesty asked us to determine the total number of available holidays left on the calendar, as there’s been some talk in the royal court about the Principality’s dearth of holidays and celebrations. We reported back to her that there are 151 days available, assuming all future holidays are established on rest days or in Outwork.”

It remains to be seen what, if anything, Her Majesty does with that information, but one thing is clear from the spox’s inability to stop speaking on this subject, there are likely more changes to the Fortressian Calendar in the works.

## War In Telluria

### America Launches Preemptive Strike, Kills Leader of Iran

TELLURIA – On Pentiday 5 Moatose the United States of America launched a preemptive attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran, sortieing air raids across much of the Middle Eastern nation, and killing several of its highest ranking government officials, including the supreme leader Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The State of Israel joined in with the Americans, launching its own air

strikes, while the militant group Hezbollah sided with Iran and began renewed attacks on Israel.

Over the ensuing week, United States forces have managed to sink or destroy most of Iran’s navy, including a destroyer off the coast of Sri Lanka that had been returning from training exercises in the Indian Ocean. Bombing of the capital city Tehran continues, while Iran has fired missiles at several countries in the region. In addition to Israel, The United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Azerbaijan, and Oman have all been hit at least once so far.

Peace appears a distant prospect. Iran has selected a new supreme leader, Mojtaba

Khamenei, and is mining the Strait of Hormuz in an attempt to deal a crippling blow to global energy supplies. The United States has demanded “unconditional surrender” from Iran, and shows no signs of stopping its aerial campaign, even as stocks of anti-missile and anti-drone interceptors run low. American ground troops have yet to enter the country, but the possibility is appearing more and more likely.

The question on everyone’s minds is, can the fighting be contained in the Middle East, or are we witnessing the start of a major global conflict?

## REVIEW: Slaughterhouse Five

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥. It's rather in keeping with the spirit of the novel *Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut to reveal its score at the start. A veteran of World War II, the protagonist Billy Pilgrim has become unstuck in time, and we readers are along for the ride. It's been said that anti-war movies are really pro-war movies, but the same can not be said for anti-war books. *Slaughterhouse Five* lays bare the tragic human cost of war at an individual level in a way that is heartbreaking without being maudlin, impactful without being blunt. It's funny, in a way. Vonnegut is a skilled humorist and uses his talents to great effect, bringing an ironic detachment to events inspired by what he himself witnessed as an American prisoner of war in Germany during the latter stages of WWII.

### Constitution Being Amended

PA – It has been confirmed by Her Majesty's office that the Princess is currently working to amend the Constitution. Following only one year after the last set of amendments, this is an unexpected move, especially with the recent election of the 1<sup>st</sup> Directory. Comments made at the time by the government implied that any future changes to the Constitution would not be done unilaterally by the First Princess, a legitimate power granted to her by the

Constitution, but would instead be initiated by the legislature. "We're monitoring the situation," said a director of state on condition of anonymity, "while we couldn't stop her, we certainly could make things difficult for her, if we wanted to." How exactly the Directory could intervene is unknown, but the director added, "It would have been too much of a hassle going through proper channels, and eaten up too much of the Directory's time to oversee a multi-months long constitutional convention. We trust the Princess."

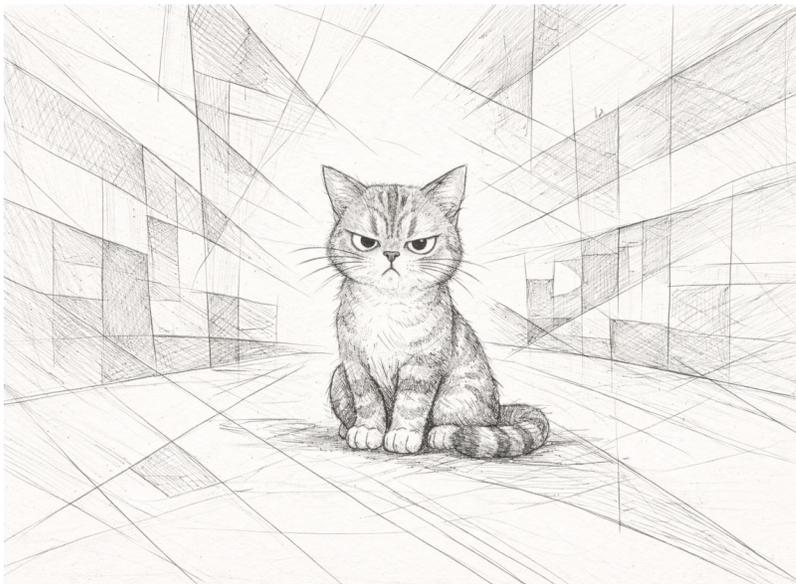
Others are less sure. "I don't trust the Princess," said one Pillowan, "Her Majesty's most recent amendments made the Pillow Fortress more conservative. Who knows what she'll slice and dice up next, but in the end a little more of our freedoms and liberties will be gone. Mark my words!" The Office of the Princess has denied any desire to reduce Pillowan freedoms, and indeed, has not spoken whatsoever regarding what this new amendment or amendments are intended to change, only promising that it will be big.

"I'd be justified in making a Constitution of the Year VIII," her Majesty was overheard saying, "I'm not going to, but these changes are about as fundamental as they can be. Without altering the State Charter, that is."

## WHATWHYHOW

### Brief Insights Into the Principality

Originally the national anthem was supposed to be the song *Born Free* by Matt Monro, as according to the Princess, "[it] perfectly encapsulates the Fortressian ethos." However, due to the piece not being in the international public domain, it was felt that using it in an official capacity might cause diplomatic and legal incidents. Thus, a different but equally fitting tune, *The Big Rock Candy Mountain*, was chosen instead.



***"This newspaper is already in color.  
Can't you spare some for the funnies?"***

This brings us to the elephant in the room, which cannot be discussed without some spoilers for the novel. While Vonnegut describes the destruction of Dresden based on how he experienced it, the novel repeats the long since discredited claim of 135,000 civilian dead. The aftermath is likely to look the same from his position on the ground whether the death toll is 135,000 or 35,000 or even 3,500, but the British revisionist historian and holocaust denier David Irving is mentioned by name in *Slaughterhouse Five* and his inflated numbers taken as fact. The effect this has on the story is negligible, it is an individual portrait after all, but should nevertheless be something the reader is aware of.

All that unpleasantness aside, nothing could diminish the literary achievement of *Slaughterhouse Five*. Without a doubt one of the great novels of the late Antefortressian Era. Our present moment is exactly when it is needed most, but it seems the anti-war movement so ready for the novel's message is itself dead. So it goes.

### Words of Wisdom

Nolite te bastardes carborundorum.

or

"Don't let the bastards grind you down."

### Tellurians Wowed By Normal Month

#### A Glimpse Into Fortressian Perfection Drives World Mad!

TELLURIA – In the Gregorian Calendar still in use across much of the less enlightened world, the second month of the year, February, began on the first day of the Gregorian week, Sunday. Since February has an evenly divisible by 7 twenty-eight days, the last day of the month was on the last day of the week, Saturday. This is a very rare occurrence, and when the Tellurians noticed they went wild, making hundreds if not thousands of posts all across social media marveling at the simple beauty of a month beginning on the first day of the week and ending on the last. Some going so far as to suggest calendar reform.

Of course, for Pillowans this is rather mundane. All months of the Fortressian Calendar begin at the start of the first week and end on the last day of the final week. The shock and awe displayed by Tellurians is proof that what the Principality has is special, and must be protected at all costs from the influence of those whose dates are in such disarray that a mere taste of Fortressian elegance drives them into madness.