

## *Embracing in Vegas' Court*

### *Petitioning the Prince*

Before Embracing the childe, a dutiful Invictus formally asks the Prince for permission. The Invictus will not consider the Embrace legitimate, however, unless the sire makes a formal request at the Prince's court.

The petitioning process is steeped in ceremony. The ritual begins with the would-be sire going down on one knee and declaiming the Prince's absolute authority, as deputy of Longinus, to approve or reject all sirings. Then the sire offers a beautifully illuminated scroll of her request to sire a childe. The sire recites her lineage as far back as she knows it, and lists every honor she and her "ancestors" have achieved, to show her fitness to bring a childe into the Invictus. She continues with a description of the childe and the assets (financial, political or personal) she brings to the First Estate, and concludes with a pledge to train him in the traditions of the Kindred and the Invictus, and in obedience to the Prince.

Along the way in this peroration, the Prince and supplicant may exchange formulaic questions and answers as the Prince asks why the supplicant wants to sire a childe and questions her fitness to do so. For instance, the Prince might ask the supplicant if she knows the Three Commandments of Longinus and order the would be sire to teach them to the prospective childe. The supplicant responds with the appropriate ritual phrases:

### **CATECHISM OF THE SIRE**

**Prince:** Sire-who-would-be, do you know the First Commandment of Longinus?

**Supplicant:** Great Longinus spake, Do not reveal your true nature to those not of the blood. Doing so forfeits you your claim to the blood.

**Prince:** Yet you would reveal your true nature to one of the kine through granting your blood. How do you plead?

**Supplicant:** Master, I crave your permission in Longinus' name. I swear the mortal shall keep the secrets of the Kindred, before the Embrace and after. On my own blood, I swear it.

**Prince:** Let it be so. Take this candle, in token of your oath. It is the light of the First Tradition, given us by Longinus to guide us in the darkness of our Damnation. Let it be a light to your childe as well; and if you are foresworn by his deeds, let its fire burn in your blood, to your destruction or his own.

**Supplicant:** Let it be so.

