

THE CITIZEN'S HANDBOOK TO VEGA





General Riesen's Introductory Speech

Civis Romanus sum. I am a citizen of Rome. There was a time when that phrase would grant you passage to lands where no man dared travel, for it was known that the power of the world's greatest empire was manifested in the rights of all of its citizens, no matter on what ground they stood.

Good day, citizen. I am General Edward Riesen, founder of Vega. Sadly, the world in which we live holds dangers no Roman could have imagined. The great angel army may have been defeated, but Eight-balls still infest the desert beyond the walls. Yet, we possess weapons the angels do not possess: society, customs, roles which give us meaning, which tie us to the greater good.

You are one of the lucky few. You have survived the war. You have reached the sanctuary of Vega's walls. But with citizenship comes obligation. You are now part of a diverse community where each person has a function, a responsibility.

Join us as we rebuild. Help make Vega a beacon to the other cities of the Cradle. Together, we will make the Earth a kingdom for humankind once again.

Civis Vega sum. I am a citizen of Vega. And now, so are you.





WELCOME TO VEGA.

In your hands you hold a guide to Vega citizenship. This book is key to your personal survival, and also to the survival of your fellow citizens. The angels will exploit whatever weak link they can find. Thus it is essential that you memorize all rules and regulations contained herein. The fate of humanity is at stake.



Chapter One

A Brief History of the Extermination War

On November 21st 2013, the angel invasion began. Lower angels claimed possession of unwilling human bodies, then launched a war to wipe out all of humanity. The attack was invisible, insidious, terrifying and sudden.

Historians have dubbed the devastation and bloodshed that followed "The Extermination War."

Over the next seventeen years, more than six billion lives were lost and many of the great cities were either reduced to rubble or deserted. In the Battle of Shanghi alone, 200 million lives were lost. The 2018 Assault on the Eastern Seaboard wiped out every metropolitan center between Boston and Charleston. Communications with Europe were lost in 2022, Russia and the rest of Asia the year after.

On the brink of extermination, humankind rallied in what was once the upper northeast United States. All able-bodied survivors were organized under the leadership of General Edward Riesen. Seeing his chance, the archangel Gabriel, leader of the angel armies, massed the remaining possessed and set out to end mankind.

After almost two decades of war like this world had never seen, fighting devolved into a series of violent land battles. Following a long Fabian retreat into southwest deserts, General Riesen executed a stunning envelopment of the massed angel army at The Battle of Hoover Dam. Human losses were severe, but Riesen had ended Gabriel's ability to wage large scale war.





History of The Founding of Vega

Following the destruction of the angel army, General Riesen and his closest advisors knew their jobs were not done.

The angels may have been beaten back, but they were not gone. The war counsel dreamed of a safe haven where people could raise their families in peace and begin to rebuild. They chose the nearby city of Las Vegas, whose infrastructure had been relatively undamaged in the war. The city possessed ample water and food stores and the old hotels provided more than enough beds for all survivors. A vast protective wall was constructed around what remained of downtown. When the wall was complete, General Riesen gave the city a new name: Vega.

Soon other survivors began to trickle in, seeking shelter behind Vega's walls. Each refugee was given a job and a place to live. A senate was organized to oversee continued construction and defense of the city. A water purification system was built and then the Agri-tower, a huge greenhouse capable of providing food for all of Vega's residents. For the first time since the outbreak of war, people were focused on more than survival. They were working, living, creating families, having children. Though the world will never fully recover from the horrors of The Extermination War, within Vega's walls, we have begun to look towards the future once again.















The V-System Social Hierarchy

Inspired by his training at West Point, General Riesen worked with the Senate to devise the V-System, a rigid occupation-based social ordering which ensures the vital work of building and running Vega is accomplished.

Decoding the V-System

- V6: Ruling Class
- V5: Learned Class
- V4: Agriculture Class
- V3: Professional Class
- V2: Labor Class
- V1: Basic Class

- Members of Vega's government
- Military Generals, Judges, Lawyers, Physicians, Scientists, Priests, etc.
- Farmers, Livestock Ranchers, Water & Waste Managers, Natural Engineers, etc.
- Military Officers, Nurses, Clerks, Technicians, Engineers, etc.
- Military Enlisted Ranks, Infantry, Manual Laborers, etc.
- Unemployed, Unskilled, Orphans, etc.

Unlike his angel brethren, Michael believes that humanity is worth fighting to save. At the outbreak of The Extermination War, he left his kind to join the fight against his brother Gabriel and his armies of possessed. As General Riesen's chief advisor, Michael proved an invaluable ally.

Since the end of the war, Michael has made Vega his home. From atop the Stratosphere hotel, he keeps a watchful eye, dedicated to protecting the city from angel threats. To aid him, Michael established the Archangel Corps, an elite group of Special Forces who serve as Vega's first line of defense.

We ask that you please respect the Archangel's desire for privacy and solitude. If you should encounter Michael during your stay here, please avoid eye contact, keep your hands in plain view at all times, and do not request to either see or touch his wings. Never forget that without the Archangel Michael, we would not be here today.



Chapter Two

Types of Angels

Archangels · Michael & Gabriel

Brothers Michael and Gabriel are the highest-ranking angels known to have been engaged in The Extermination War. Archangels resemble humans in all ways but for their great strength and enormous feathery wings that unfurl from their upper backs. In addition to Michael and Gabriel, there are rumors of other archangel siblings, but those reports remain unconfirmed.

Eight-Ball Angels · A.k.a. "Dogs of Heaven", a.k.a. "Lower Angels"

These lowest angels are little more than wraith-like lesser spirits. Lacking physical form, they must take forcible possession of human bodies in order to exist in our world.

The Archangel Gabriel

When Gabriel descended from the sky, he brought nothing of what we had long considered heavenly, only death and destruction. The archangel came with one simple mission: to end all human life.

With his dogs of heaven, he swept eight-ball hordes across the globe, pushing humanity to the very brink of extinction.

But Gabriel had a weakness: he underestimated humankind. As he bathed himself in the blood of our dead, we regrouped. From the wreckage of the West Coast of North America, armies were rallied. Gabriel had used his dogs of heaven foolishly; his ranks had grown too thin. At the Battle of Hoover Dam, Gabriel's army was defeated. A rapid tactical bombing strike followed, completely destroying Gabriel's command center. The great archangel was presumed dead.

With their general gone, the "dogs of heaven" lost faith in the war. First in a trickle, but then in droves, the lower angels wandered off to live on their own, and to seek what little our world had left to offer them, living instant to instant, pleasure to pleasure, a constant danger to man. But reports of Gabriel's death were wishful thinking. Unconfirmed sightings now place him somewhere in the former northwestern states. Perhaps Gabriel has given up his war to exterminate man.

We can only hope.





How to spot an Eight-Ball

Little is known about why the human body changes upon possession, but the signs are extreme and can be easily identifiable. If an eight ball is spotted, it should be shot on sight.

Strange Body Movement

Eight-balls are not human beings; they took our bodies, but do not know how to fully operate them. Eight-ball movements often appear as though someone is puppeteering the body.

Black Eye Balls

Possession by a lower angel invariably causes a full black hyphema, making the eyes look black, like the number "8" ball of a billiards game. Always be suspicious of anyone wearing sunglasses.

Increased Strength

Eight-balls have been known to climb walls with their bare hands, leap unnatural distances and lift objects far beyond the limits of human strength.

Black Spider-Like Veins

Some eight-balls utilize various cosmetics in order to hide this condition.

Sharp, Jagged, Blackened Teeth

This effect is thought to be an evaporation of enamel. Some eight-balls have tried to hide this change by pulling out or filing down their teeth.

Murderous Rage & Tendencies

Eight-balls hate humanity and will try to kill as many people as possible.















In the Event of Eight-Ball Possession

Witnessing a loved one become the enemy can be very traumatic. In the unfortunate event that a friend or family member gets possessed, it is important to know the three most common stages of coping.



STAGE 1 · Denial

This is the most dangerous stage. Remember, the creature you are now looking at is no longer human. It may have once been your friend, lover, sibling, or parent, but now it is a murderous angel inhabiting the body of the person you once knew.



STAGE 2 · Anger

It is perfectly normal to feel anger; that anger just may save your life. Anger activates the adrenal glands, which contribute an extra boost of strength and speed. Use it. Strike the eight-ball and run away to find help.



STAGE 3 · Acceptance

You must accept that your loved one is gone. Summon the Archangel Corps, or if you are unable to do so, find a weapon, look into its black eyes one last time, and put your loved one out of his/her misery.



Chapter Three

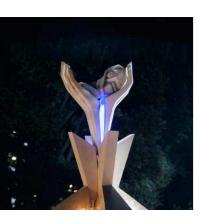
The Black Acolytes



The Church of the Savior is not without enemies. Despite the horror, suffering, and near total devastation at the hands of the angels, there are those amongst our population who still worship and revere them.

The most dangerous and duplicitous of these groups are the Black Acolytes of the Archangel Gabriel. Fervent believers that strength is born of suffering, these Black Acolytes have formed clandestine sleeper cells in nearly all the major cities in the Cradle. Members of the Black Acolytes can be identified by their signature blindfolds with open eyes stained on the inside. The 'eyes' are said to represent those of Gabriel, as it is rumored that he can see through the eyes of all those who serve him.

The Legend of The Chosen One



Soon after the outbreak of war, whisperings began to percolate, of a baby saved by the Archangel Michael. It is said that this baby would be known by strange markings on his body, written in a language unknown to anyone on Earth.

This child is destined to unite the people of earth and usher in a new age of peace and tranquility. Though the Archangel Michael did indeed save the child, he made sure the baby's identity was kept a secret from even himself. He had the child whisked away to lands unknown to be raised in complete anonymity and safety. Rumors emerge, from time to time, of the Chosen One's coming. To this day, each and every one of those rumors has proven false.

Church of the Savior & the Principate

The Church of the Savior was created by its first Principate, Founder Zachary Harwick, to bring spiritual peace and hope to our city.

The stated purpose of The Church of the Savior is to remind the citizens of Vega that any day the Chosen One can arrive, and to promote daily prayer, important to keep the will of the people strong and free of angel possession.

Soon after the founding of the city, Saviorism became the official religion of Vega. The church is now led by Principate William Whele of House Whele. While freedom of religion is still recognized in Vega, it is recommended that each citizen visit the Church of the Savior at least twice a year.



Chapter Four



The Senate of Vega

The Senate of Vega is comprised of the heads of the city's eleven houses, each representing one of the most powerful families in the city. From these eleven senators, two are elevated to consul and one Lord of the City.

For the sake of stability in these turbulent and dangerous times, the seats of the Vega senate, the consulships and Lord of the City are all hereditary positions. However, at any time, a senator, consul or even Lord of the City can be removed from his or her seat by a vote of no confidence, requiring a super majority of eight senators.

All other votes require only a simple majority. At any time the consuls can override the vote of the larger chamber if all are in agreement. Though the senate can exert influence in military matters, the Lord of the City is the ultimate authority over the army and can not be overruled.



Notable Vega Leaders

LORD OF THE CITY · General Edward Riesen

After leading the remnants of the human race to victory over Gabriel in the Extermination War, General Riesen formed the Vega government based on aspects of both the old Roman Republic and the duty-based structure of West Point. General Riesen created the position of Lord of the City to keep military functions free from the time-consuming bureaucracy of the legislative process.



CONSUL · David Whele

David Whele has proved himself invaluable in the administrative tangles inevitable when constructing and maintaining a fortified city. Along the way, he has amassed a huge fortune and a vast network of influence. It is said that 2/3 of all the chips in Vega have passed through the account books of House Whele. With his annual Jubilee, David Whele has found a means of giving back, providing the lower Vs with a much-needed distraction from the hardships of the post-extermination world.



CONSUL · Becca Thorn

When Portia Thorne died soon after the founding of Vega, the young and brilliant Becca ascended to her mother's vacant seat in the senate. Despite her youth Consul Thorne quickly proved herself a masterful public servant, instituting countless health and human services programs and overseeing construction of Vega's medical facility.



SENATOR · Thomas Frost

"A man of the people and the land" as he likes to refer to himself, Senator Frost is one of the original founders of Vega. His horticultural expertise has been essential in construction and upkeep of the Agri-tower, which supplies 90% of the food consumed by Vega citizens. But Senator Frost is quick to remind anyone who will listen:, these means of provision are only temporary, a way to bide time until the Chosen One returns.



SENATOR · Blanch Romero

Before the war, Senator Romero was a leading researcher in the burgeoning field of fuel cell technology. Luckily for the citizens of Vega, Senator Romero was in old Las Vegas for a clean energy conference when the Extermination War broke out. After her family was killed in the first weeks of the war, she committed her energies and mind to finding fuel solutions for the camps of refugees fleeing the cities. Following the war, Senator Romero brought her expertise to Vega, helping to establish and maintain the city-wide power grid.



Chapter Five

Building Vega

Through the forward-thinking vision of a select few, and the hard work, dedication and perseverance of everyone in the V-System, Vega is a fully functioning city with abundant resources. All citizens benefit from the food, water and shelter that Vega provides.



Understanding the Infrastructure of Vega

Electricity

Electricity was originally created by the flow of water through turbines located throughout the aqueduct. But this system was faulty and unreliable, often leaving huge sectors of Vega without power. With the help of several energy technicians, Vega began a transition to nuclear power. Consul David Whele funded a project to scavenge uranium from the old San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant. Today, the city's nuclear power facility is fully operational, making Vega a bright beacon of hope for all the citizens of The Cradle.



Water

During the Extermination War, the Hoover Dam was catastrophically damaged. When its walls finally broke, the course of the Colorado River changed, now flowing 33 miles to the east of Vega. The first project General Riesen and the Senate commissioned was a 33 mile underground aqueduct, bringing water from the river to Vega's underground cistern. From there, water is easily supplied throughout the city.



The Agri-Tower

With more refugees stumbling into Vega every day, it was essential to establish a stable and reliable food supply. In response to growing demand, Senator Frost led a team of engineers to transform the unfinished Fontainebleau casino into the Agri-tower. They fitted it with a state of the art hydroponic continuous flow system, fed directly by the Vega cistern. Staple crops like wheat, barley, and corn are supplemented by many basic fruits and vegetables including: apples, peaches, oranges, and several varieties of lettuce and squash. Six of the Agri-tower's 65 floors are dedicated to medicinal plants and cultures.



Housing

The fact that each citizen of Vega is provided with employment means that each citizen of Vega possesses the means for acquiring adequate housing. For many V-classes, housing is provided to fit the needs of their service to Vega.



It is of benefit to all citizens that we protect the health and safety of our most valuable human resources.

Chapter Six

The Cradle

After the Extermination War, a cluster of settlements sprung up in the former western United States. In addition to the fortress City of Vega, there is Helena, New Delphi and a large nomadic settlement often referred to as "the camp."



The City of Helena

Built on top of the ruins of La Jolla and governed by the benevolent Queen Evelyn, Helena is a thriving matriarchal society and Vega's nearest neighbor. Helena trades frequently with Vega, providing textiles and oil. Despite open diplomatic relations between our two cities, little is known about Helena other than the fact that it houses the world's last Air Force.

Culturally Vega and Helena are worlds apart. Helena's all female diplomatic core wear only the traditional garb of the city, called Haikas. Their children are never seen in public or outside their home city. It is rumored that the female children are trained as warriors from the age of ten.



New Delphi

Purported to be a city with no laws, no set customs and very little organized government, New Delphi has drawn a motley collection of outcasts, criminals, loners and "independent spirits." With fish and farmland plentiful, a sustenance living can, in theory, be accomplished. But the loose settlement offers its "citizens" little in the way of safety—from the angels or their New Delphi neighbors. Without police, courts, or law, disputes in New Delphi are settled with fists, knives and guns.



The Camp

The Camp is a group of nomadic scavengers that annually crisscross The Cradle in their arduous quest for survival. Originally founded by drifters and refugees of the Extermination War, this ragtag group quickly grew into a tight knit tribe who realized that not only was there safety in numbers but also in anonymity. It is unknown where The Camp may be at any given time, which makes a treaty with their people impossible to establish. If by happenstance you do indeed come into contact with Camp members, it is advisable to start your parlay with an offer of trade as they do not recognize any form of money.

The World Beyond

Immediately after the war, scouting missions could find no remaining large population centers in North America. As refined fuel grew more scarce, continuing the search became impossible.

The few parties sent over the continental divide have not returned. Contact with Europe, South America and Asia has never been reestablished. It is possible that The Cradle is all that's left...



Chapter Seven

The Wall

25 miles of heavily fortified, impenetrable wall protect the city from the remnants of the eight-ball armies which still roam the desert.

Wall armaments include motorized .50 Caliber Machine Guns at 20 meter intervals, providing support to the fifteen 20mm anti-air cannons strategically stationed around the perimeter. Within the wall, a vast system of passageways allows Vega's soldiers rapid access to potential threat points, maximizing manpower for city defense.

25 miles of heavily fortified, impenetrable wall





The Kill Zone

Mounted anti-eight-ball guns positioned at outcroppings in the wall create overlapping fields of fire. An approaching unfriendly will need to cross almost a mile of kill zone before ever reaching the wall.

Eye Scanners

Retinal scans remain the best way of detecting a possession. Though scans are preformed on every person entering the city, neighborhood sweeps do occur regularly; be prepared at all times to be stopped for a random scanning.

You

The high tech defense systems of Vega should give all citizens a feeling of security, but it is essential to remember that we must all play a part in keeping Vega safe.







What to Do in Case of Angelic Attack

In case of angelic attack, air raid sirens will sound throughout the city, informing the populace to head to their designated safety V-zone (see appendix 2.6 for V-status allocation).

Threat levels are recognized by the tone and frequency of tonal bursts. They are as follows:

Red Alert

(3 minute continuous tone) = attack imminent

Yellow Alert

(short 4 second bursts) = attack likely

White Alert

(short 2 second bursts) = all-clear

In the case of Red or Yellow alert, all citizens are required to wait in their designated safety V-zone until a White Alert is issued. Under no circumstances are citizens allowed to disobey any Safety Alert. For your safety and the safety of those brave soldiers who have sworn their lives to Vega's service, be aware and vigilant as angelic attacks are swift and lethal.



Chapter Eight

Vega's Military

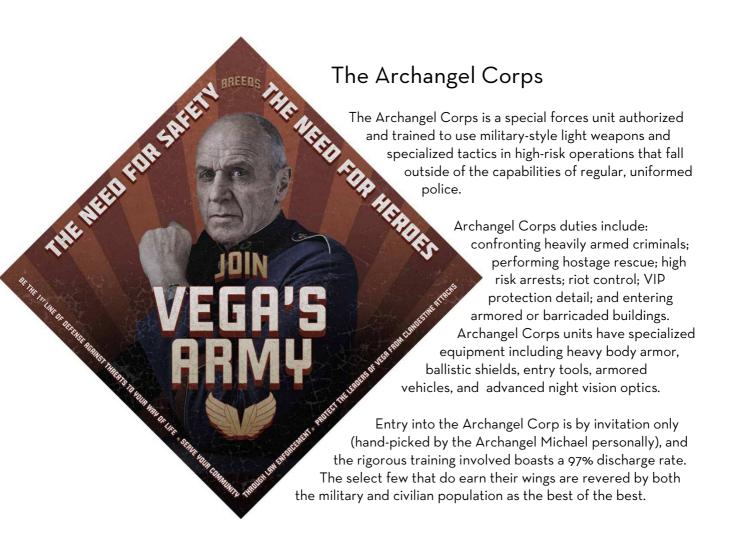
Vega's military is comprised of two separate units: the Blues and the Tans. Each has very distinct responsibilities in keeping Vega safe and secure.

The Tans are responsible for manning and guarding the walls of Vega. They are our first responders in an angel attack. They maintain and man the anti-air guns and have orders to shoot to kill any angels on sight. The Tans are also responsible for policing Vega's borders and are equipped with angel scanners that make sure anyone who enters or exits the city is possession free.

The Blues are Vega's largest military force, responsible for policing the general populace with jurisdiction over anything that happens within the walls. In case of angelic attack, the Blues are charged with making sure Vega's citizens get to their designated safety zones. Once they secure the safety bunkers, the Blues become Vega's secondary defense.

No matter what uniform color, every soldier of Vega is armed with state-of-the-art weaponry to protect the city against angelic threats.





The best way to work your way up in the V-system is to join the army. Immediately upon enlistment, you will be elevated to the V-2 class. Each soldier is provided with clean, comfortable housing, access to hot water showers and rations equal to the calorie expenditure of their duty.



Chapter Nine

Law in Vega

All law and regulations in Vega are created to ensure your safety and that of your fellow citizens. The danger of the world past the wall leaves little room for human folly. That is why Vega adheres to a very strict set of safety regulations and general laws. The slightest deviation from Vega law can put the entire city at risk.

Lower Crimes are based on English Common Law. For a more expansive list of regulations, visit the Vega Law Center at House Cassian.

Some common Lower Crimes:

- Food Theft
- Violent Crimes (assault, battery, fighting)
- Falsification of V-class
- Disobeying a Vega Officer or Soldier
- Public Drunkenness
- Faking an Angel Sighting

Capital Crimes are far more serious. Each of the following offences are punishable by death or banishment from the city:

- Treason
- Murder
- Rape
- Consorting with an Angel
- Traveling Outside the Wall
- Angel Worship











Angels have no rights whatsoever under Vega law.

The Judicial System of Vega

The Judicial System of Vega is divided into two tiers: the Local (or Lower) Courts and the High Court of Vega. Each justice of the Local Court is appointed by the senator from their district.

The High Court consists of three judges promoted from the Local Court. High Court appointments are made by the Lord of the City and must receive the supporting vote of at least 6 of Vega's senators.

Local Courts hear all lower crime proceedings. The judges are empowered to bring down sentences up to 2 years in Vega Prison. For longer sentences, approval by the Senate or High Court is needed.

All capitol offences (those punishable by death or banishment) are remanded to the High Court of Vega. Appeals to the High Court are reviewed by the three sitting justices. If two agree to hear the case, a new trial is conducted under their jurisdiction. A new trial can also be granted by the recommendation of any of the sitting senators.

No court in Vega possesses the powers of judicial review. Laws created by the Senate and Lord of the City can not be overturned. The High Court of Vega is not a political entity, but simply the highest branch of law enforcement.

Chapter Ten

Family Services Introduction

The heart of Vega is its thriving community. Family Services was created to ensure the growth and development of the city. Family Services include, but are not limited to:

- Marriage Matching
- Marriage and Relationship Enrichment
- Marriage Counseling
- Parenting Classes
- Prenatal care
- Vaccinations
- Services for Families
- Services for Parents
- Services for Seniors
- Services for Youth
- Child Care Resources and Referrals



Citizens are encouraged to do their part and raise healthy children as Vega looks forward to a bright and prosperous future. To learn more about specific Family Services, further information can be obtained from Vega's Social Services Office located in House Riesen.

The Importance of Marriage and Birth in Vega

As survivors of the Extermination War, it is every citizen's civic duty to help Vega rebuild and repopulate.

Marriages are rigorously encouraged for V-2 and V-3 citizens, but are mandatory for V-4 class and higher. If a viable spouse cannot be obtained through traditional means, one can be assigned. House Thorn records and stores all medical records in order to foster proper genetic matches and ensure maximal birth rate.

Caring for Vega's Children

Children are the future of Vega. The job of Family Services is to make sure your child has the best chance to grow and survive in our post-Extermination War world. Every pregnant woman is provided with comprehensive prenatal care.

Each new mom will be given a supply of prenatal vitamins for the duration of their pregnancy. Family Services makes sure every parent is prepared for their coming child by providing parenting class for mothers-to-be.

Once the baby is born a full panel of vaccinations are administered, covering everything from Hepatitis to influenza. A small outbreak of disease can turn into a plague quickly in a contained society such as Vega so it is very important for you to bring your child to every pre-scheduled check-up. If you do miss a scheduled vaccination, a representative from Family Services will come to you to administer the needed vaccine.

When your child is between two and four years of age, her or she will be enrolled in a V-appropriate pre-school. They will learn the basics of socialization and attend mandatory classes in eight-ball identification. It is never too early to teach children how to spot our enemies. By the age of ten, every child of Vega will have undergone extensive willpower training. The wall and the Vega army may lend us a sense of security, but all the defenses in the world are meaningless if the soul cannot protect itself.

Facts on Inter-V System Marriage

Vega's V-System is strictly policed and enforced. Citizens are not allowed to traverse their V-Status, and as such are not prohibited to marry above, or below their V-Status. Special cases do exist that allow for vital and/or beneficial to the prosperity of Vega. As such, please respect and obey Vega City Ordinance and marry within your V. It is for the betterment of the city and yourself.



Claire Riesen's Closing Speech

Well, congratulations. This is a special day. With the oath you've taken, you are now a full citizen of Vega, and I'd like to officially welcome you to our city. Your hard work and contributions have and will continue to pay off.

Remember, though, that with citizenship comes responsibility. The future of Vega depends upon the lasting contributions of citizens such as yourself. Your sacrifice and effort will ensure that Vega's promise of safety is passed on to generations yet to come.

I hope this handbook has answered any and all of your questions, but I also hope that your civic education won't end with your citizenship.

Visit Vega's Great Hall, read the histories collected there. And stand proud, for now you can say, civis Vega sum. Because you are a citizen of Vega.

May the Savior bless you. May he bless all of us.

