

Pope John XXII
Avignon
1306

Excellency,

Forgive me if this is not the correct address, my domain does not instruct in the ways of Christians.

This declaration does, however, concern one of your Christians who is infringing upon the domain of my subjects (for I am as much a Prince as you are, with complex webs of earls, lords and marischals at my command).

I assume you are familiar with Plato's 'Republic' and the cave thought experiment. Well, we hold many creatures captive and they have no choice in witnessing the shadowplay upon our walls but it is a surprise to find your subject willingly subjecting himself to a life in our shadows.

If only he were like the others and lay still awaiting his fate, however we have to suffer his blundering about destroying much of our hard work. Then he stares at us for hours and hours as we go about the repair.

We have driven Britons and Picts out of this place, we want to do the same to this Viking or Norman or whatever he is. Know you that we are graced with widespread renown in this area.

In truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honour are we fighting, even if we have suffer like the Maccabees, but for freedom.

Before your man arrived, chuntering about Red Comyn's death being an accident and no reason for excommunication, we were a happy lot living in accordance with the principles of 'Republic', harbouring no malice or treachery.

The deeds of cruelty, massacre, violence, other outrages without number which he committed against us we will be set free from.

For as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we be brought under human rule.

Even as I dictate this he is making notes, should you hear any similar appeals in the near future then know where they got the idea.

Remember there are more of us than you, so if you want to avoid more housework and excess use of the first aid box then act upon this.

Meta Menardi

Arran

aka Francis Mitchell