



THE GRAND STORY

THE GREAT
CROSSING[®]

PARTENAIRE OFFICIEL DE BICOLLINE



Hamilcar de Villar Macedo, a man of imposing bearing and penetrating gaze, stood before the vast assembly of the Southern Merchant Hanse. His heart pounded in his chest, filled with immeasurable excitement. The sun's rays streamed through the meeting room's large windows, casting a warm glow over his face lit by a triumphant smile.

For months, Hamilcar had devoted every moment of his time to devising a daring plan, an idea that made him vibrate with enthusiasm. He had convinced influential members of the Hanse League to finance a maritime expedition to the mysterious Old World and the Duché of Bicolline, which for many was no more than a legend...

It was a unique opportunity, a chance to push back known frontiers and discover a new universe filled with unexplored riches and wonders.

As he passionately expounded his arguments, every word resonated in the air like a spellbinding melody. Hamilcar had the gift of captivating his audience, carrying them away in his vibrant dream of adventure, gallantry and grandeur. The Hanse members listened attentively, their eyes shining with interest, their faces reflecting the growing excitement. The decisive moment finally arrived, when the last words escaped Hamilcar's lips. A suspended silence settled over the room, as if time itself were holding its breath. Then a wave of cheers erupted, filling the space with a joyous, triumphant tumult. The Hanse had given its unanimous approval. Christian Fréon de La Taveniere's manuscript, the map and the few coins had been key elements, as had his commitment to set off ahead of schedule on a fast sloop with a few renowned explorers, including a certain BoisMaury du Colimasson, and try to find the men mentioned in the manuscript, the first to have made the crossing to Bicolline, including their leader Tache le Lent.

Hamilcar felt his heart racing, his mind drifting off to distant, unknown horizons. He was overwhelmed by an intense mixture of feelings: pride at having succeeded in persuading these powerful merchants, palpable excitement at embarking on an expedition that would make history, and anticipation of the journey to the mysterious Duchy of Bicolline.



As the Hanseatic members congratulated each other, Hamilcar found himself isolated in a corner of the room, letting his thoughts drift away. He was already imagining the sails unfurled, the powerful wind blowing through his hair, the ship braving the rushing ocean waves. He felt the electric thrill of the unknown, the irresistible call of discovery.

In that moment of euphoria, Hamilcar realized that his life would henceforth be irrevocably transformed. He was abandoning familiar shores to embark on an extraordinary quest, where every day would be imbued with the adventure and magic of the unexplored. With his gaze fixed on the horizon, Hamilcar felt the fire of passion burning in his veins. Doubts and fears dissipated before the promise of a radiant future. He had persuaded the Hanseatic League, and now he would guide his intrepid companions to the Duchy of Bicolline. Life was a journey, he told himself, and he was ready to throw himself body and soul into the tumultuous waves of the unknown. With his heart throbbing with excitement and his mind ablaze with dreams, Hamilcar de Villar Macedo prepared to undertake the most daring expedition of his time.

Long months had passed since Hamilcar had convinced the Hanse of Southern Merchants to finance the expedition to the Duchy of Bicolline. He had made the round trip, and in the meantime the Hanse had made all the preparations and armed the ships.

Now, on the quarterdeck of the majestic three-masted L'Haruspice, he watched the scene unfold before him. The quayside was alive with a motley crowd, vibrating with excitement and hope. The Franche Compagnie des Villar Macedo managed the flow of volunteers rushing to be selected, to join this extraordinary adventure, and maintained order.

Hamilcar couldn't help smiling as he saw familiar faces among the volunteers. He spotted members of the Compagnie du Loup, brave warriors whose reputation was well established. Their eyes shone with unflinching determination, ready to face the dangers that awaited them beyond the known horizons.



Then, among the crowd, he spotted a tribe of orcs, powerful and imposing. Their presence was surprising, but Hamilcar was convinced that diversity was the key to the success of this expedition. These orcs were renowned for their bravery and knowledge of the wilderness.

Their presence added an unexpected dimension to this adventure, an alliance between different races for a common goal. A member of the Hummingbird Guild was with them, no doubt as interpreter.

The Compagnie des Vents du Sud was obviously present, with members of the Lames de l'Aube as escort. The Mystics of the Eclipse had simply obtained seats by discussing with the high council, surely in exchange for services.

Hamilcar couldn't suppress a feeling of pride as he contemplated the scene before him. The dreams he had nurtured had become reality, and now individuals from all walks of life were ready to embark on this majestic ship into the unknown. It was a living testament to human audacity and willingness to transcend boundaries, to embark on new horizons.

As Hamilcar stood on the aft dock of L'Haruspice, excitement mingled with a hint of curiosity. Among the multitude of volunteers crowding the quayside, he wondered what was driving them to embark on this uncertain adventure. Perhaps some were seeking fame and recognition, hoping to etch their names in the annals of history. They aspired to be the pioneers who would lay the foundations of a new duchy, ready to sacrifice everything to leave an indelible mark on time. Others, no doubt, were driven by an insatiable desire for discovery. They thirsted for new lands, unknown cultures, and encounters with peoples whose stories had never reached their ears. They were explorers at heart, ready to abandon all comforts to witness the wonder of the unknown. There were also those for whom this adventure represented a means of escaping their monotonous existences, a surge of adrenalin in their veins. They wanted to escape the constraints and conventions of society, to lose themselves in distant horizons and find a freedom that had eluded them until then.



And then there were those who simply sought to push their own limits, to confront adversity and the grandeur of the universe. They wanted to test their courage, resilience and determination. For them, the expedition was a chance to surpass themselves, to become heroes of their own story.

These assumptions swirled in Hamilcar's mind, creating a complex web of motivations and desires. He realized that each volunteer had his own reason, his own story to write. And it was in this diversity of aspirations that he found a source of hope and confidence, for he knew that these diverse motivations would coalesce into a single force, capable of overcoming the trials to come. With a smile mixed with humility and determination, Hamilcar turned to his crew and realized that, whatever their deepest motives, they were all united by the same desire to explore, to surpass themselves and to bring about a new era. Together, they were ready to face the mysteries and challenges ahead, weaving the threads of a shared destiny that would remain forever engraved in their hearts.

He looked up at the infinite sky, feeling a shiver of excitement run through his entire being. Distant horizons beckoned, and Hamilcar de Villar Macedo was ready to embark on this great adventure, with his motley crew, in search of glory, discovery and a new world with an evocative name: the Duchy of Bicolline.



THE GREAT CROSSING

Rendez-vous sur LA GRANDE BATAILLE 2024

· Duché de Bicolline ·
30th Anniversary



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