

In Defence of Mademoiselle Morgane Le Fay: A Citizen's Plea

January, 1677

My dear people of Paris, and all who cherish justice,

A grave and troubling charge has reached our ears: that Mademoiselle Morgane Le Fay stands accused of the most heinous crimes—witchcraft, treason, and the beguiling of our glorious King. The whisper of her name now travels on a tide of dark rumours, sown by jealous tongues and ambitious rivals. I have penned this plea not to deny the fears that grip our city, but to implore you to pause and consider the truth, not the shadows, that lie behind this indictment.

The Accusation of Witchcraft:

Mademoiselle Morgane is charged with using the "Dark Arts," a claim as vague as it is damning. Upon what evidence, I ask you, does this accusation rest? Let us not forget that a woman's knowledge of remedies and herbs, passed down through generations, is a gift from God, a skill to bring comfort and healing, not a pact with the Devil. Are we to condemn a lady of fine birth for the same practical wisdom a peasant woman uses to heal a fever? Do not let the fear of the unknown to blind you to the simple truth: her piety is known, her attendance at Mass is as regular as the tolling of the church bells, and her charity to the poor is unwavering. Her accusers stand on nothing more than the testimony of those who profit from a witch hunt.

The Accusation of Aiding an Enemy Spy:

The charge of treason is the most heinous of all, a stain upon the very honour of our nation. It is said that Mademoiselle Morgane aided an unnamed spy, a baseless claim whose vague nature forces us to infer it is Count Cuckpowder. This entire line of reasoning is a deceit. The said Count's trial concluded without a single mention of her name, and no credible proof has been presented to support this fantastic claim. A woman with influence, who holds the King's ear, makes for a tempting target in a court rife with rivalry. Consider who benefits from her fall, for it is not France, but her rivals. To accuse her of treason is to diminish her reputation and to cast a shadow on all at court who know her. The true traitors are those who sow discord and falsehood to gain an advantage.

The Accusation of Beguiling His Majesty:

Most grievously, she is accused of beguiling our beloved King through the Dark Arts, an indictment that is a profound insult to His Majesty himself. Is it not a woman's craft to use her beauty, her rhetoric, her talent to beguile and play on a foolish man's aspirations, without the need for arcane crafts? Does one condemn a merchant for using his wealth or his skill at negotiation to gain influence? No, for it is simply the natural use of his resources. So too, it is merely the natural use of a woman's gifts to gain favour and position in this world.

This preposterous indictment is an insult not to her, but to His Majesty himself! To suggest that our Sun King, Louis XI V—the very embodiment of divine right and wisdom—could be swayed by sorcery is a heresy. It implies that his mind is weak, that his judgement is clouded, and that his decisions are not his own. This is a claim of extraordinary audacity, and we must not let it stand. The King's will is his alone, a manifestation of his power and intellect. To say otherwise is to question his authority. The love and trust he holds for Mademoiselle Morgane are born of her wit, her intelligence, and her loyalty—not a demon's spell.

Let it be remembered that in this great city, the scales of justice are weighed by evidence, not by the breath of rumour. Let us not condemn this woman of proven character on the testimony of shadows or purchased confessions. Let us stand for justice and for truth.

A Citizen of Paris.