

## **REFLECTION**

### **Feral Companions**

**by Guillermo de Carndonagh**

Towards the end of summer I was joined for several weeks on my late evening walk around the villages loose perimeter of streets and country roads by a young feral companion. A female Coyote would join me in my walk along a stretch of road bounded at both ends by deep ravines and developed only on one side. She would emerge from the brush as I came down the hill and pace along the hedge road side of the road as I walked along the opposite shoulder moving in and out of the pools of light from the houses.

I mention this only because of an encounter it engendered. On a warm afternoon one of the more annoying yuppies, who have moved into the village recently, stopped me in the post office and asked where I had had my dog trained. This took me aback because I do not own a dog so I asked why he was interested. As I figured out he meant the young I coyote I said something like canines learn discipline best when they are young and extricated myself from the conversation. I'm confident that had he known the rest of the story he would have been screaming for the local law enforcement officials to come and protect all his valuable junk from the dangerous predator.

The encounter did get me to thinking about the judgments people make based upon appearances and presumed relationships, particularly when the observer is totally ignorant about the true nature of the participants. Another aspect that stuck me was the benefits each partner in a relationship gains. Undoubtedly unintentionally, but none the less real, the young coyote obtained the protective cover of being presumed a safe house pet as she walked along with me.

Relationships between organizations are not any different. If your perceived allies are cranky unpleasant and foolhardy you can expect that you will similarly be characterized. Allies can also be dangerous, more dangerous sometimes than the perceived enemy because you are not on your guard against them. One of the novels about the Spanish civil war describes a battle at which, as the Falange engaged the forces of the left, the communists withdrew from the field to let their socialist allies be slaughtered. Often the first thing that happens after a coalition seizes political power is that the various groups jockey for position attempting to neutralize or exterminate the others.

Various groups call upon the people of the Traditional Roman communities to come join them in this or that crusade. Sadly upon close examination you sometimes find that the sources of these summons are just looking for canon fodder and not for real allies. In some cases they are categorically opposed to any but the most restrictive availability of the Traditional Roman Rite. Other groups are just opportunists looking for a greater visibility and mailing lists to raise funds. Some are not hostile by intent, just Quixotic, and thus engaged in a hopeless resource eating conflict.

To the extent possible the people and organizations of the Traditional Roman Rite should be engaged in the activities of the wider community. But they need to do so with their eyes open. Evaluate your potential allies carefully, they may be a harmless young feral companion or they may be a ravenous wolf bent on your destruction.