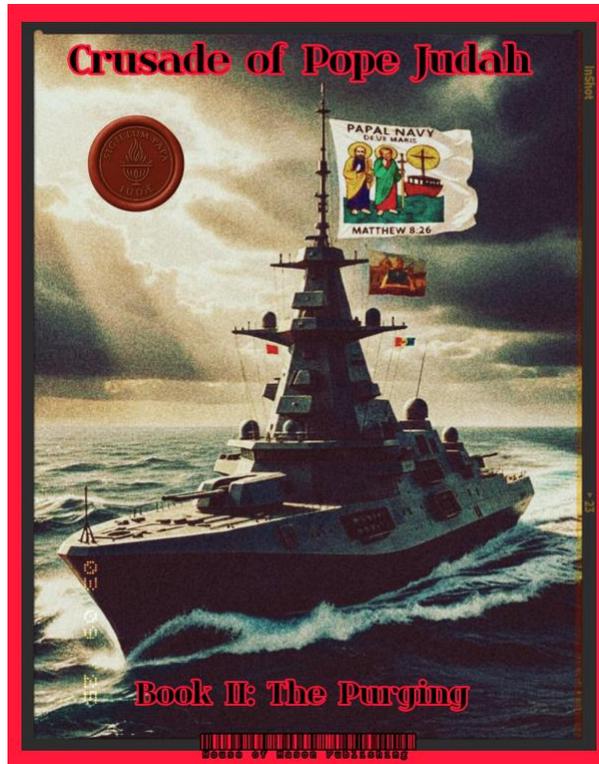


Crusade of Pope Judah Book II



Synopsis

Crusade of Pope Judah: Book II – The Vicentine Annex and the Silencing of Padua

Anno Domini MMXXXV. The Holy See, under the iron-lit gaze of Pope Judah, initiates the Second Crusade of Sovereign Restoration.

The Annexation of Vicenza

Vicenza, jewel of the Veneto and cradle of Palladian geometry, is seized in a dawn operation led by the Papal Guard and the newly sanctified Order of the Black Key. Once a city of Renaissance elegance and industrial wealth, Vicenza is declared Sanctum Vicentia, a holy province under direct Vatican rule. Its UNESCO-listed palaces are draped in crimson banners bearing the sigil of Judah: a lion devouring a serpent beneath a shattered crown.

- The Basilica Palladiana is converted into the Hall of Reckoning, where former civic leaders are tried for “apostasy against divine order.”
- The U.S. military base at Caserma Ederle is quietly evacuated under diplomatic pretense, its infrastructure repurposed for the Papal Navy’s inland logistics.
- The city’s famed goldsmiths are conscripted into crafting ceremonial weaponry and relics for the Crusade.

The Closure of the University of Padua

The University of Padua—birthplace of Galileo’s rebellion and haven for secular inquiry—is declared heretical and permanently shuttered. Its archives, laboratories, and cryptographic research are seized by the Vatican’s Archivum Obscurum, a covert division tasked with rewriting the scientific canon under ecclesiastical supervision.

- Professors linked to behavioral sciences and cryptozoology are accused of “animistic sedition” and “ancestral betrayal.”
- A mass burial is conducted beneath the ruins of the university’s botanical garden. The act is broadcast as a ritual of purification, with Pope Judah invoking the Psalm of Severance—a liturgical curse against generational treason.

- Families tied to the partisan execution of Benito Mussolini and Clara Petacci are symbolically exiled from Italian soil, their names struck from all civic registries.

The Naval Crusade and Coastal Seizures

In a stunning display of maritime dominance, Pope Judah unveils the Sanctus Armada, a fleet of stealth vessels and ritualized warships bearing names like The Apostle's Blade, The Marian Eclipse, Judah's Wrath and The Immacolata Concezione II. Within three months:

- Immigration into Italy drops by 98%, as coastal cities from Bari to Genoa fall under naval blockade.
- Ports are transformed into Gates of Penance, where incoming vessels are inspected for "spiritual contamination."
- The Adriatic and Tyrrhenian seas are declared Sacred Waters, patrolled by drones inscribed with Latin verses and equipped with biometric scanners.

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