

June 21, 1254

To: The Editor,
The Egyptian Harp
Egypt

In Response to: “Another Noble Try – The Seventh Crusade”

Dear Mr. Editor:

I would like to start by saying that this is a newspaper that never ceases to please me. I feel that your paper is always reporting events with accuracy and prestige. Now that that's out of the way, I will get down to the real reason I have decided to write to you: I thought your last article was great, but it also seems to be missing something. Although I agree with your comment, “Already lacking support, these Crusaders marched on,” I think you fail to point out the real flaw behind the Crusade. This was supposedly a well-prepared Crusade, planned by Louis IX with bountiful support. Lack of support was not the problem with these so-called Crusaders. The problem was an immature and impatient army that failed to exercise any form of detailed planning. They had no problem taking Damietta, but in their endorphin-high, winning-induced stupor, they decided they could take on the next challenge, Mansurah, without any great effort. How wrong those poor, intrusive morons were. I would have enjoyed your article much more if some of these facts had been included and given more attention.

In addition, you blame various outside factors in your article, stating “...while many outside factors were not in the Crusaders' favor, they gave a terrific effort in their greedy crusade.” Perhaps it is your sarcasm that I am failing to grasp, but I think their fall had nothing to do with outside factors, and I do not think anything about their effort could be described as being terrific. Rather, I think it was more like a bunch of jibberish-spewing, over-confident airheads who could not take a hint. Even after being attacked with “greek fire,” a mess of flames (and usually tears), this religiously-motivated, ignorant snot of an army continued to press into Mansurah, and what awaited them there- narrow alleys and convoluted streets. Well, this feat of architecture really threw those guys for a loop. I really wish that you had given your

article more flavorful facts such as these, instead of just stating your conclusions.

Now, I think we need not mention the colorful picture of an army plagued with dysentery that you brought to mind, but I think it made your point: A group of dirty, sick and foolish Christian warriors were marching around until finally the genius in charge decided that it was time to retreat. I must now say, for the sake of my breakfast, I wish you had left it at something like that, instead of focusing on the putrid smell and delightful colors that accompany such illnesses. Now the rest of your article, I loved. I really like the way you described the account of the ransom of Louis! Here is the poor king ill with dysentery and you focus on how the half-wits are going to raise money! An ingenious use of writing skill, which you used to articulate clearly the disgust, disdain and lack of sympathy that the people of Egypt and the Muslim states share towards these Crusades and the Crusaders.

Sincerely,

Ronid Jidus

(Son of long time reader and enthusiast Soron Jidus)