Linhart Leiniger’s Promise
Not To Seek Vengeance
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1527

I, Linhart Leiniger, burgher of Kitzingen, acknowledge and make known publicly with this document before one and all that I was held in the jail of the illustrious, high-born princes and lords, my gracious lords, the Margraves of Brandenburg, in Kitzingen and spent several days there for well-deserved reasons, namely that one night last year I laid violent hand on Magdalena Frenckin, currently the wedded wife of Bastian Marke, struck, and injured her such that she was confined to bed, causing others to fear that she might be dying, for which at the time a monetary fine was levied on me by my gracious lord, Margrave Casimir, may he rest in peace, namely originally two hundred guilders, an amount which following negotiations by the resolute, noble, and steadfast lord, Ludwig von Hutten, Knight and Administrator in Kitzingen, my benevolent lord, was reduced to one hundred guilders and then most graciously to forty, and that I should dispense to the above-named Magdalena Frenckin ten guilders as compensation and also two guilders to the physician as physician’s fee, and upon my unwillingness to be satisfied with this gracious reduction in my fine, but rather refused payment, for that reason (as described above) I was taken to jail and from which jail, upon requests submitted and the intercession of my dear wife and other good friends and payment of the board and other things that happened to me there, was again set free and released with good will on condition that I should still extend and make payment of the above named fine of forty Rhenish guilders to my above named gracious lords, the Margraves or in their graces’ stead, to their princely graces’ Castner in Kitzingen on today’s date and additionally also extend payment of the ten guilders already mentioned to the above mentioned Magdalena Frenckin as her compensation and to the physician the stated two guilders in physician’s fee.
And in light of the numerous times I acted improperly with my wedded wife that I would refrain from anything of the kind in the future and make every attempt to assume a pleasant, proper demeanor around her, which I have accepted and agreed to with gratitude. Therefore I thus vow, pledge, and promise for myself and all of my heirs with the following sworn obligations and in truth herewith by power of this document to faithfully fulfill the articles described above in their substance, additionally to refrain from retaliating, contesting, or seeking vengeance for my above-mentioned confinement and the proceedings and whatever happened to me there against my above mentioned gracious lords the Margraves, their princely graces’ brothers and heirs, principalities, lands, and people, subjects and relatives, clerical and secular, whatever rank, eminence or status they may be and in particular against their princely graces’ officials, the Mayor and Council in Kitzingen, all residents,burghers, and the community itself and all others who had a hand or took part in my confinement and what happened to me there, providing aid, support, supplies or services, privately or publicly, including those who were or might have been related to or involved with it, from now on and forever, with words or deeds, thoughts or actions neither by myself nor anyone else on my behalf, as one could or might conceive or plan, rather seek for any one of his gracious lords’ subjects and relatives an orderly, lawful resolution of any matter and not to try them or contest or proceed with matters elsewhere in any way, again as could be conceived. And to provide greater assurance and certain fulfillment of things described above, I selected as lawful, credible, and sound guarantors and name them by power of this document, the honorable Linhart Leiniger on the moat in Kitzingen, my dear cousin, such that if I broke my word and did not uphold one or more parts of my promise not to seek vengeance, as contained and shown in this document, something that shall not occur, so then shall my named guarantor, as soon as he is reminded and notified of this, faithfully pursue and search for me, bring me back to this jail, from which I was just released within the next month following. Should he not capture me and bring me to the aforementioned jail, then he shall present himself in my place in the oft-mentioned jail, in which he shall remain and be held for as long as my often above-named gracious lords, their princely graces’ lands and people, subjects and relatives, who sustained injury by this, shall obtain full payment, amends, and restitution for my transgression and
broken promise. And I, the above named Linhart Leiniger, pledge and promise for myself
and my heirs to uphold my above mentioned promise not to seek vengeance in all its substance with acceptance, and in a
firm, steadfast and unwavering fashion and in addition to excuse my above mentioned guarantor therein and hold him
fully harmless, as such therefore I, the previously named guarantor, acknowledge my service as guarantor,
also pledge and promise by the obligations in my following oath and in truth to faithfully fulfill, uphold, and perform
my service as guarantor, should such conditions come to pass, with a search and pursuit
as expected of and appropriate for a faithful guarantor, in each and every point without dispute
and argument, exception and excuse, as then I, the above mentioned Linhart Leiniger, and I, the previously named
 guarantor, have given the honorable and respectable Cuntz Schwarz, my above-cited gracious lords’,
the Margraves’ Vogt in Kitzingen, in their princely graces’ stead, our hands in good faith
to faithfully uphold each and every point, as far as they pertain to each of us, and in addition have raised
our fingers and sworn an oath to God and on Holy Scripture and to certify all this have both made a
fervent request of the honorable Hieronymus Kumpf and Michel Berbing, burgurers of Kitzingen, such that they
affixed their own seals to the end of this document, which action, we, the two notaries,
just named, attest to have performed upon request without harm coming to us or our heirs.

Given on the Tuesday after All Saints’ Day, in the twenty-seventh year, etc.

1 There are two Linhard Leinigers named in this document, the transgressor and the guarantor, his cousin. Bátori lists one (p. 837) who according to the
Kitzinger Ratsprotokolle of 1536 behaved inappropriately in public (“hat sich auf den Gassen ungebührlich benommen”).
2 Casimir died on the 21st of September 1527
3 The Amtmann was an official named by the Margrave to oversee governmental matters the city in his stead. Bernbeck writes: “Das Regiment in der Stadt
Kitzingen ist dermassen beschaffen, dass von wegen des Landesfürsten ein Amtmann als des Fürsten Statthalter, der auch eine Person von Adel ist, allda durch
die Herrschaft erhalten wird, ohne den nichts Treffliches, was des Fürsten Obrigkeit belangt, von den unteren Amtleuten oder Bürgermeister und Rat
gehandelt werden soll. Nach ihm ist von der Herrschaft wegen ein Vogt geordnet, welcher Richter ist . . .” (p. 11)
4 Grimm: “rheinischer gulden für die zunächst von einzelnen, seit 1386 einheitlich nach münzvereinen geschlagenen goldflorene der rheinischen
kurfürsten”Also Wikipedia: „Der Rheinische Gulden war Basis für viele regionale Währungen im gesamten Heiligen Römischen Reich und auf finanzieller Ebene
das ,einigende Band’ des Reiches. Nicht nur Gold-, sondern auch Silbermünzen wurden in ihrem Wert nach Rheinischen Gulden bewertet und damit ihr
Wechselkurs festgesetzt; in der Mark Brandenburg wurden z.B. 1426 ,drey gute rheinische gulden für ein schock groschen’ gerechnet.“
5 The Castner, also appointed by the Margrave and third in authority after the Amtmann and Vogt, had several important responsibilities in town: tax collector,
judge in major criminal cases,
6 The verbs don’t appear until l. 36.
7 Compared with other manuscripts a section seems missing here, was perhaps not copied, that deals with any future grievance one might have with any of
these individuals or towns. See, however, this formulation in MS 1263—perhaps copied from there.
Although the text indicates Leiniger has selected guarantors, only one is named.

All Saints Day is November 1. In 1527 this fell on a Sunday; thus the following Tuesday is November 3, 1527. Casimir had been dead for just over a month.

Marks where two seals would have been, with a tear beginning at the middle of the second seal almost to the side of the leaf—I suspect that the tearing was unintentional, otherwise the tear would have gone all the way to the side of the leaf.