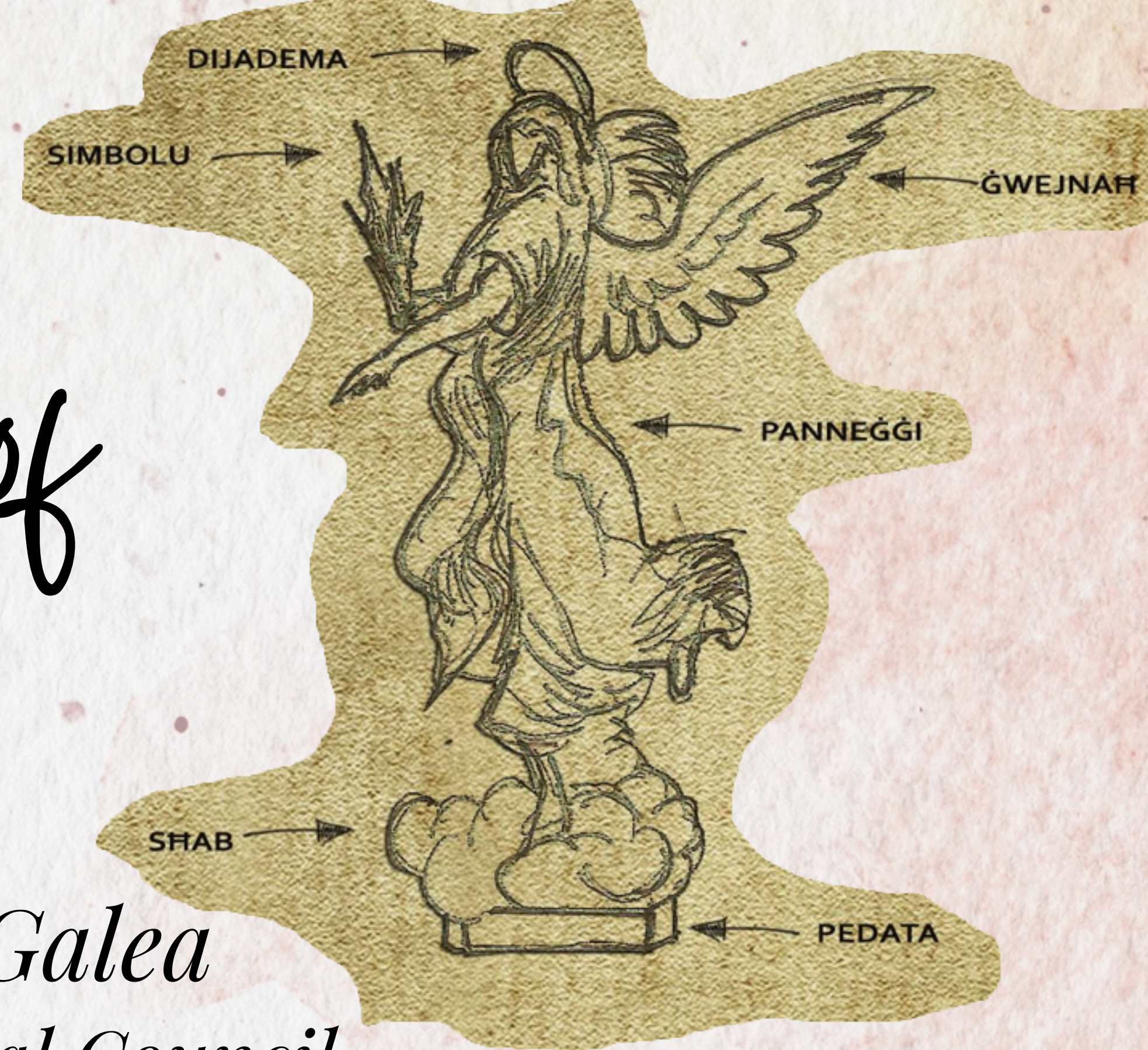


The Clash of the Saints

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Introduction

Noted as the 'Oldest Permanent Division' - traced back to 1850

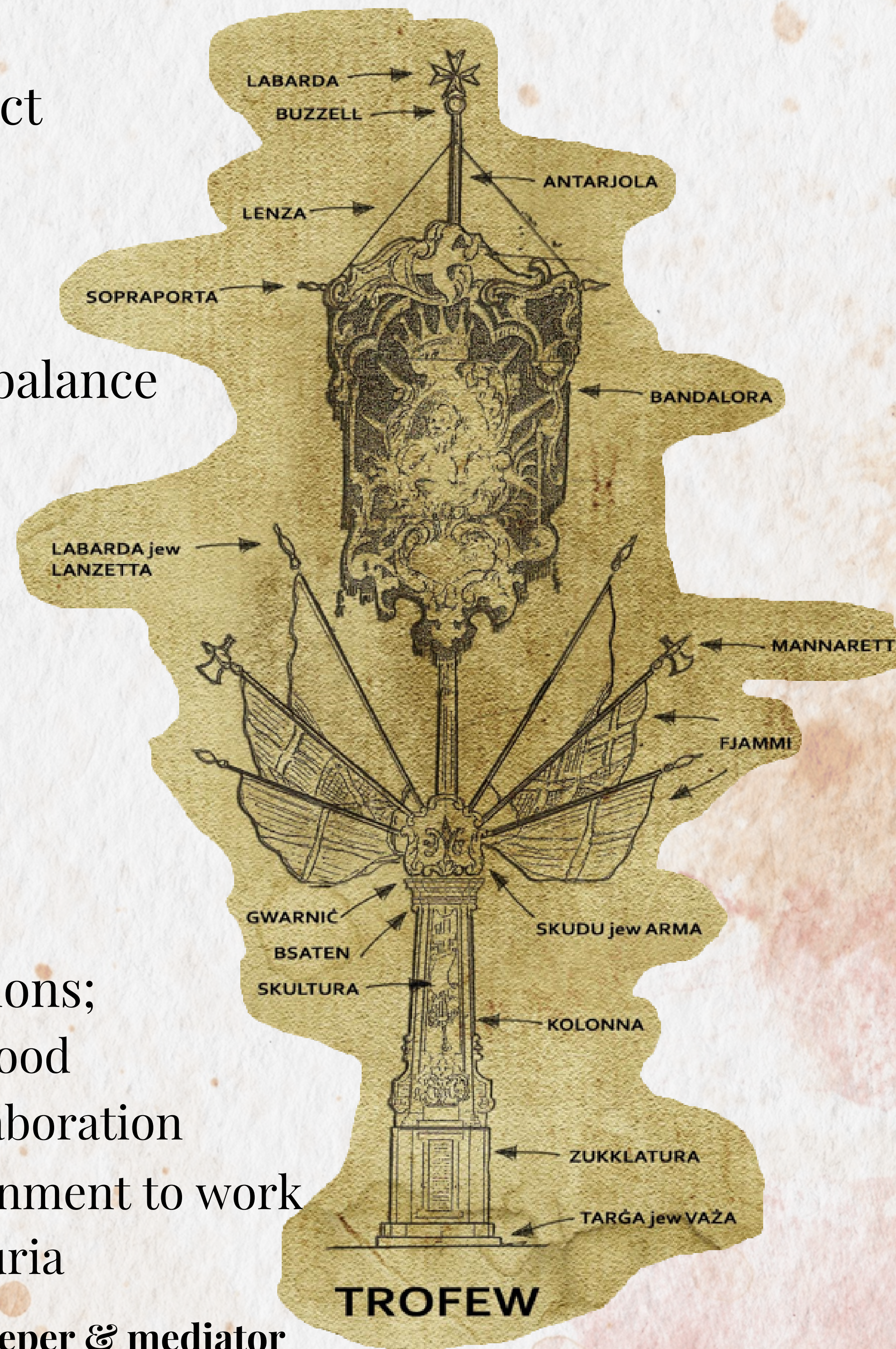
Malta, a predominantly Catholic country (92.3%), where villages celebrate their patron saints by having beautiful world famous feasts, with processions, decorations, statues, fireworks, etc. Some villages have more than one feast, this usually stemmed from disagreements within the titular feast's organization, and the creation of the secondary feast which is now also celebrated. This caused/s division between the village and competition/'pika' between the band clubs which at times has escalated into violence.

- Creation of an 'Us' vs 'Them' and/or Collectivism construct
- Zero Sum Game Politics

Key Concepts.

- Competition as a vehicle, motivation, to keep culture alive - balance required to not reach volatility & community division
- Reconciliation Process in 4 steps: Creating space for interfacing, Telling the Truth, Listening to the sound of fury and forgiveness as wisdom and power.
 - Building trust & communication
 - Changing perspective of the other
 - Give both equal footing, benefits, opportunities & 'Win-Win' situations;
 - Work together for the common good
 - Create events which require collaboration
 - Ensure both have space & environment to work
 - Policy & Systematic changes - Curia

Żurriq Saints - Found facing each other - an ex. of 'pika' - Competition on who has the nicer/bigger statue



Parish Priest as a peace keeper & mediator

Conclusion.

These will aid in building bridges between the two. Competition is needed as a vehicle but balance must be maintained. This will be a lengthy process, generational, but can be done with proper intervention.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel



St. Catherine of Alexandria