

Olek La Maschera Sorridente de Temeshwar,

Cardinal of Ambition

Anvil

Casinea



Olek La Maschera Sorridente de Temeshwar, Cardinal of Ambition

For shame, Cardinal.

Does it fall to the priests of Summah to remind the Empire of the Doctrines of the Faith?

The Human Spirit is Immortal. It inhabits mortal flesh for a span within the world before being liberated again, having gained knowledge and enlightenment. It traverses the Labyrinth of Ages before returning to mortal life through new birth.

Only Human Spirits reincarnate, therefore humans are the greatest of all beings in Creation for only human spirits gain strength, knowledge and enlightenment through rebirth. The Paragons not only personify Virtue but the full potential of humanity.

Only human spirits are immortal. Only human spirits reincarnate. Only human spirits may be Paragons and Exemplars of the Way – for only human spirits may truly touch the Way. Only human spirits may pass through the Labyrinth, and only human spirits have the power to understand the Labyrinth and by doing so, transcend it.

We have warned you against your practice of allowing orcs to be accepted into your Synod. We kept our peace when you allowed the orcs to create their own assembly – even though both cases place your Synod in a position where non-humans might have authority over humans, and over their spirits, and over their destiny.

Now ... you go even further. The priest Hector de Rondell says that an orc can be an Exemplar. Need I remind you of the definition of heresy? It is the teaching of doctrines that are at odds with, and thus undermine, the Doctrines of the Faith.

I am prepared to accept that you have encouraged some of your orc slaves to pay lip service to the Way. I am prepared to tolerate the idea that they may express things that appear to the outsider to be like the true virtues.

I can ignore the idea that you might reward a murderer whose act of “Benevolence” involved a bloody uprising against a legal authority that left hundreds dead. I can ignore a “Legacy” that amounts to nothing more than a boot knife which some orcs think is a worthy item of worship. I can even see the relevance of “Salvation” being the end of slavery.

None of which excuses the fact that orcs do not have true spirits. They cannot be Exemplars. It contravenes the Doctrine of Reincarnation, and the Doctrine of Human Destiny, and it flirts with blasphemy.

I am disgusted, Cardinal – absolutely disgusted – that Hector de Rondell has not been tried for heresy and excommunicated. Does it fall – once again – to the Sumaah to excommunicate your heretics for you? And let me be clear – if the assembly of Ambition accepts this creature as an Exemplar of the Way then we will have no choice but to consider you all to be heretics also, teaching and accepting false doctrine in the name of political expediency.

Was there not even a single priest in the assembly prepared to speak up against this abomination?

Your Synod must acknowledge its error in allowing this heretical, monstrous judgement to be passed or you must accept that you have finally fallen completely from the true Way.

I urge you to take the right action – or the Assembly of Ambition in Sumaah will have no choice but to judge that the Empire is a pit of Heretics, worthy of our pity but not one iota of mercy.

Präst Ooros, Assembly of Ambition, Zemeh, Virtuous Republic of Sumaah

Seraiah Armand of the Suns of Couros,

Gatekeeper of Ambition

Anvil

Casinea



Seraiah Armand, Gatekeeper of Ambition

For shame, Gatekeeper. For shame that you stand idly by and let someone unfitted to their position hold the title of Cardinal.

Does it fall to the priests of Summah to remind the Empire of the Doctrines of the Faith?

The Human Spirit is Immortal. It inhabits mortal flesh for a span within the world before being liberated again, having gained knowledge and enlightenment. It traverses the Labyrinth of Ages before returning to mortal life through new birth.

Only Human Spirits reincarnate, therefore humans are the greatest of all beings in Creation for only human spirits gain strength, knowledge and enlightenment through rebirth. The Paragons not only personify Virtue but the full potential of humanity.

Only human spirits are immortal. Only human spirits reincarnate. Only human spirits may be Paragons and Exemplars of the Way – for only human spirits may truly understand the Way. Only human spirits may pass through the Labyrinth, and only human spirits have the power to understand the Labyrinth and by doing so, transcend it.

You allowed orcs to be accepted into your Synod. You allowed orcs to create their own assembly and placed them in a position to have authority over human spirits, and over their destiny.

Now you go too far.

The priest Hector de Rondell says that an orc can be an Exemplar. Heresy by definition is the teaching of doctrines that are at odds with, and thus undermine, the Doctrines of the Faith.

This orc was by all accounts a murderer whose act of “Benevolence” was a bloody uprising against a legal authority that left hundreds of humans dead. It’s “Legacy” amounts to nothing more than a *boot knife* venerated by a handful of savages. At least the act of “Salvation” helping to bring about the end of Imperial slavery is slightly convincing – although it utterly abnegates the actions of the Emperor Ahraz whose wisdom and courage truly ended this unprosperous activity.

Orcs do not have true spirits. They cannot be Exemplars. It contravenes the Doctrine of Reincarnation, and the Doctrine of Human Destiny, and it is almost blasphemy.

I am absolutely disgusted that Hector de Rondell has not been tried and excommunicated. If the assembly of Ambition accepts this creature as an Exemplar of the Way then we will have no choice but to consider you all to be heretics, teaching false doctrine in the name of political expediency.

Was there not even a single priest within the assembly prepared to speak up against this abomination? It undermines and it taints every other Exemplar and Paragon when the Empire recognises an inhuman monster among their number.

Your Synod must acknowledge it's error in allowing this heretical, monstrous judgement to be passed or you must accept that you have finally fallen completely from the true Way.

I urge you to take the right action – or the Assembly of Ambition in Summah will have no choice but to judge that the Empire is a pit of Heretics, worthy of our pity but not one iota of mercy.

Präst Ooros, Assembly of Ambition, Zemeh, Virtuous Republic of Summah

Silas of the Suns of Couros,

Cardinal of Vigilance

Anvil

Casinea



Silas , Cardinal of Vigilance

It seems it must fall to the priests of Summah to remind the Cardinal of Vigilance of the Doctrines of the Faith that both are nations hold dear. Specifically, the Doctrines of Reincarnation and of Human Destiny. Which are:

The Human Spirit is Immortal. It inhabits mortal flesh for a span within the world before being liberated again, having gained knowledge and enlightenment. It traverses the Labyrinth of Ages before returning to mortal life through new birth.

Only Human Spirits reincarnate, therefore humans are the greatest of all beings in Creation for only human spirits gain strength, knowledge and enlightenment through rebirth. The Paragons not only personify Virtue but the full potential of humanity.

Only human spirits are immortal, and only human spirits reincarnate. Only human spirits may be Paragons and Exemplars of the Way – for only human spirits may truly touch the Way; pass through the Labyrinth; and possess the power to transcend it.

The practice of recognising orcs as priests in your Synod is bad enough. You have put inhuman creatures in a position of authority over human destiny – creatures who have tried to destroy your Empire time and again.

Now Hector de Rondell has proposed that an orc can be an Exemplar of the Faith.

This judgement is absolutely a heresy against the Way.

Orcs may be able to ape human virtue but they do not have true spirits. They cannot be Exemplars.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to immediately have Hector de Rondell tried for heresy and excommunicated if he will not accept his error.

If the assembly of Ambition is allowed to accept this creature as an Exemplar of the Way then it will be clear to everyone that the Imperial Synod is a den of heretics, prepared to debase the doctrines of the faith in the name of political expediency.

The shared doctrines of the faith are very clear here. You may choose to accept orcs as your equals if you wish – you may make them senators and archmages – but this – this is an abomination. It is abhorrent and it must not stand.

The world looks to the Empire for inspiration in the teaching of the Faith, but when they see your priests abandoning doctrine in favour of sentimental gestures their Faith is shaken. Your Synod is directly damaging our shared faith and this is not acceptable.

Präst Kadjea of the Assembly of Vigilance Zemeh

Virtuous Republic of Sumaah

*Nikolovich Drakov,
Gatekeeper of Vigilance*

Anvil

Casinea



Nikolovich Drakov , Gatekeeper of Vigilance

For shame, Gatekeeper.

It seems it must fall to the priests of Summah to remind the Imperial Assembly of Vigilance of the Doctrines of the Faith that both are nations hold dear.

The Human Spirit is Immortal. It inhabits mortal flesh for a span within the world before being liberated again, having gained knowledge and enlightenment. It traverses the Labyrinth of Ages before returning to mortal life through new birth.

Only Human Spirits reincarnate, therefore humans are the greatest of all beings in Creation for only human spirits gain strength, knowledge and enlightenment through rebirth. The Paragons not only personify Virtue but the full potential of humanity.

Only human spirits are immortal. Only human spirits reincarnate. Only human spirits may be Paragons and Exemplars of the Way – for only human spirits may truly touch the Way. Only human spirits may pass through the Labyrinth, and only human spirits have the power to understand the Labyrinth and by doing so, transcend it.

We have spoken time and again against the practice of recognising orcs as priests in your Synod. We merely warned that you were placing inhuman creatures in a position of authority over human destiny.

But now, the priest Hector de Rondell has proposed that an orc can be an Exemplar of the Faith. Need I remind you of the definition of heresy? It is the teaching of doctrines that are at odds with, and thus undermine, the Doctrines of the Faith. This judgement is absolutely a heresy against the Way.

Orcs may be able to ape human virtue but they do not have true spirits. They cannot be Exemplars. It contravenes the Doctrine of Reincarnation, and the Doctrine of Human Destiny, and it flirts with blasphemy.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to immediately have Hector de Rondell tried for heresy and excommunicated from the Faith. If the assembly of Ambition is allowed to accept this creature as an Exemplar of the Way then it will be clear to everyone that the Imperial Synod is simply a den of heretics, prepared to debase the doctrines of the faith in the name of political expediency.

I do not wish to dictate to you – I am trying not to claim an exalted moral position – but the shared doctrines of the faith are very clear here. You may choose to accept orcs as your equals if you wish – you may make them senators and archmages – but this – this is an abomination. It is abhorrent and it must not stand.

Präst Kadjea of the Assembly of Vigilance Zemeh

Virtuous Republic of Sumaah

Elka Nadyanova Gremani

Cardinal of Pride

Anvil

Casinea



Elka Nadyanova Gremani, Cardinal of Pride

Pride that is only spoken is vain, it is boasting. Pride should be proclaimed by our conduct in every part of our lives. I must speak plainly, but I must also remember that it is not fit for us to demean others, not claim a position of moral authority that has not been earned. However, I cannot be half-hearted, nor uncommitted. My Courage demands also that I do not keep silent when I see injustice.

But the priest Hector de Rondell has proposed that an orc can be an Exemplar of the Faith, an Exemplar of Ambition. This has been agreed by your Imperial Assembly of Virtue, and has been agreed by your General Assembly. This is heresy. It is the teaching of doctrines that are at odds with, and undermine, the Doctrines of the Faith.

The Human Spirit is Immortal. It inhabits mortal flesh for a span within the world before being liberated again, having gained knowledge and enlightenment. It traverses the Labyrinth of Ages before returning to mortal life through new birth.

This is the Doctrine of Reincarnation, one of the most fundamental of our Doctrines. It is very clear – the human spirit is immortal. Not the spirit of beasts or orcs or trees. The human spirit.

Only Human Spirits reincarnate, therefore humans are the greatest of all beings in Creation for only human spirits gain strength, knowledge and enlightenment through rebirth. The Paragons not only personify Virtue but the full potential of humanity.

This is the Doctrine of Human Destiny. It is very clear – only human spirits reincarnate. Only human spirits can be Paragons. Only human spirits can gain strength, knowledge and enlightenment through rebirth.

Hector de Rondell has contradicted both of these Doctrines with his judgement. He has set an orc – which is categorically not a human – as the equal of a human and claimed it is a fit inspiration to all the people of the world.

I am not a scholar of Imperial History, but I understand “Thrace” was a murderous brigand who slaughtered dozens of your countryfolk during a bloody uprising against your people and the Empire’s Laws. This creature is an agent of Anarchy, not of Ambition!

It is sad enough that political expediency forces you to place orcs in positions where they may wield primacy over human destiny. I understand the shame this must bring, but this goes too far. Orcs do not have true spirits. They cannot be Exemplars. It contravenes the Doctrine of Reincarnation, and the Doctrine of Human Destiny, and it flirts with blasphemy.

Many of my fellows have written to the Imperial Synod to demand things but I would rather not assume you are a fool who does not understand the urgency of this situation. I think we both understand why Hector de Rondell must be tried for heresy, and either retract his judgement or be excommunicated from our shared Faith. Why there must be an Inquisition of the priests of Ambition who lacked the courage and moral fibre to stand against this politically motivated judgement.

This is not only a crime against the people of your Empire, but an insult to every single human being who practices the Way throughout the world – and looks to your Empire for inspiration in right behaviour.

Präst Gräm of the Assembly of Pride, Zemeh

Virtuous Republic of Sumaah

Bishop Beodun Snowlock of Wintermark

Cardinal of the Way

Anvil

Casinea



Bishop Beodun Snowlock, Cardinal of the Way

Pride, and the Courage to speak. Vigilance, and the Wisdom to guide it. These are the virtues I write of now.

The Imperial priest called Hector de Rondell has preached that an orc can be an Exemplar of the Faith.

This is heresy.

It is the teaching of doctrines that are at odds with, and undermine, the Doctrines of the Faith.

The Doctrine of Reincarnation says: "The Human Spirit is Immortal. It inhabits mortal flesh for a span within the world before being liberated again, having gained knowledge and enlightenment. It traverses the Labyrinth of Ages before returning to mortal life through new birth."

The Doctrine of Human Destiny says: "Only Human Spirits reincarnate, therefore humans are the greatest of all beings in Creation for only human spirits gain strength, knowledge and enlightenment through rebirth. The Paragons not only personify Virtue but the full potential of humanity."

Only human spirits can gain strength, knowledge and enlightenment through rebirth. Only human spirits can personify virtue.

This judgement of Hector de Rondell contradicts these Doctrines. Thus judgement sets an inhuman creature as the equal of a human and pronounces it a fit inspiration to all the people of the world.

"Thrace" was a murderer and a beast more suited to be a cautionary tale of the dangers of Anarchy. The bloody, murderous rebellion of this inhuman beast brought chaos to your Empire. The wisdom and courage of your Emperor Ahraz ended it – this is where the Exemplar is in this tale.

It is sad enough that political expediency forces you to place orcs in positions where they may wield primacy over human destiny. I understand that your Assembly of the Way contains priests of the orcs – and while I do not accept that I have the wisdom to be able to tolerate it.

But this goes too far.

Orcs do not have spirits that are the equals of humans. To teach otherwise is simple heresy – it is not a complex case.

If there is any faith left in your Synod, let Hector de Rondell be given the chance to recant and if he will not, he must be tried for heresy, and excommunicated from our shared Faith.

The fact that your priests seem to support it is not just a crime against the people of your Empire but an offence to every single human being who practices the Way throughout the world.

Präst Mardul of the Assembly of Pride, Zemeh, Virtuous Republic of Sumaah

Asher of Felix's Watch

Cardinal of Courage

Anvil

Casinea



Asher of Felix's Watch, Cardinal of Courage

We do not fear to act, and we welcome truths that others might turn away from. We act on what we know to be true, and we despise weakness and inaction. If there is an ounce of faith left in the Empire we know this is true.

My fellows in the High Houses, the assemblies, they have wound themselves up into a fury - and while their rage is strong it sometimes drives them to try and force others to see their way rather than reason with them.

I will try a different tack. We have learnt that a priest of Dawn called Hector de Rondell has proposed that an orc can be an Exemplar of the Faith. This has been agreed by your Imperial Assembly of Amibiton, and I think has been agreed by your General Assembly.

Asher, this is heresy. It challenges the Doctrine of Reincarnation, and contravenes the Doctrine of Human Destiny.

I am not a heretic - I accept that orcs do not have human spirits. Unlike many of my fellows, I do not assume that means they are incapable of good actions, ethics or morality - I simply know that they are not humans. To treat them as such is to demean them, and ourselves, and all those human Exemplars and Paragons and followers of the faith.

The orcs claim to hear the voices of their dead ancestors. We do not. Even if the proof of the liao were not compelling, the proof of their own voices would be enough for me. They are not humans, and they are not like us, and we should not look to them as Exemplars of the faith.

Some here in Sumaah are baying for blood, and I find it a little shaming. They are quick to denounce your Synod as a political tool, pandering to the Imperial Orcs who serve you as warriors. I don't assume that is the case - I prefer to think that Hector de Rondell is a brave man who has been genuinely inspired by this Thrace, and sees his bloody rebellion as Ambition and not Anarchy.

But a spider can inspire - its tireless work creating a web. An animal that painstakingly stores food for winter can inspire, as can pack beasts that see off larger drakes.

They inspire - and the stories we tell about them inspire - but they are not Exemplars. Any more than this orc is an Exemplar.

I urge you to think about what I have said, and I urge you to encourage the other priests of the Empire likewise. Our two nations, our two Synods, are distant and have not been friends for centuries. But this goes beyond perceived snubs and political grumbling. This is a heresy against two of the core doctrines of our shared faith.

I have also written to your Conscience of the Senate, as I am not blind enough to assume that this is only a matter for Cardinals.

But if Hector de Rondell continues to teach that an inhuman beast can be an Exemplar, there is no place for him in the community of the Faithful.

Präst Jurom of the Assembly of Courage, Zemeh

Virtuous Republic of Sumaah

Lisabetta Giacomini von Holberg of the League

Conscience

Anvil

Casinea



Lisabetta Giacomi von Holberg of the League, Conscience

I am Präst of the House of Courage – the Assembly of Courage if you prefer. I am one of several who has been moved to write to the Empire about the decision to propose an orc as an Exemplar of the Way.

My peers in the other High Houses, they are consumed with righteous anger – and while their rage is strong it sometimes drives them to try and force others to see their way rather than reason with them.

I do not know if you are trained in theology, so I will lay it out simply. We two nations share a faith built on a bedrock of doctrine. Two of those doctrines – the Doctrine of Reincarnation and the Doctrine of Human Destiny – are contradicted by the idea that an orc can be an Exemplar of the Way.

A priest of Dawn called Hector de Rondell has proposed an orc as an Exemplar of Ambition and it has been agreed by other assemblies.

This is heresy. It challenges the Doctrine of Reincarnation, and contravenes the Doctrine of Human Destiny. It cannot stand. It places the Imperial Synod in direct opposition to all other communities of the faithful everywhere in the world.

*I am more open-minded than some of my fellows – I accept that orcs do not have human spirits but, I do not assume that means they are incapable of ethical behaviour – they possess minds comparable to our own. But they are *not* humans. To treat them as such is to demean them, and ourselves, and all those human Exemplars and Paragons and followers of the faith.*

Some here in Sumaah denounce your Synod as a political tool, pandering to the Imperial Orcs who serve you as warriors. I prefer to think that Hector de Rondell is a brave man who has been genuinely inspired by this Thrace, and sees his bloody rebellion as Ambition and not Anarchy.

But a spider can inspire – its tireless work creating a web. An animal that painstakingly stores food for winter can inspire, as can pack beasts that see off larger drakes. They inspire – and the stories we tell about them inspire – but they are not Exemplars. This orc is not an Exemplar.

I urge you to think about what I have said, and I urge you to encourage the priests of the Empire likewise. Both our Synods exist to guide and protect the souls of our people – but sometimes the people must caution the priests who have gone astray.

Our two nations are far apart and have not been friends for many centuries, but this goes beyond perceived snubs and political grumbling. This is a heresy against two of the core doctrines of our shared faith.

If Hector de Rondell continues to teach that an inhuman beast can be an Exemplar, there is no place for him in the community of the Faithful. If the Empire supports him ... then there is no place for the Imperial citizens in the community of the Faithful, either,

Präst Jurom of the Assembly of Courage, Zemeh

Virtuous Republic of Sumaah