

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO ATTEND THE INAUGURATION OF
THE **CONNIVANCE** OF THE
ADUMBRAL VOLUTION
IN YOUR ROLE AS A FOUNDING MEMBER.

YOU SHOULD TRAVEL THROUGH THE SENTINEL GATE
AS THE DAY TURNS ON THE FIRST MIDNIGHT OF
THE COMING AUTUMN EQUINOX
(THAT IS, 00:00 ON FRIDAY NIGHT)
TO THE BASEMENT OF THE PLANNED
VICENTE SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE, SPIRAL.

THERE, YOU AND YOUR FELLOW INITIATES
WILL MEET WITH MAIRI DUSESNA,
WHO WILL GUIDE YOU FORTH TO A SUITABLE CHAMBER.

THERE, THE PATRONS OF YOUR SCHOOL
WILL FORMALLY MARK YOU AS
THEIR INITIATES IN THIS MATTER.

WE ARE EXPECTING FIVE OF YOU TO ATTEND, AND NO MORE.
IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU, HELIODORO, ARE IN
ATTENDANCE, BUT IN TRUTH YOU ARE ALL WANTED, AND WELCOME.

TRAVEL SAFE. YOU WILL NOT RETURN EMPTY-HANDED. BRING A BAG.

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Dear Fintan,

I was heartened to receive, via Illarch Deinera, your kind gift of liao. I cannot tell you how much this meant to me! That you had made this gift from the openness of your own heart... but I must reiterate something. I know that you hope that Axos will one day join the Empire, but that is not the goal Kyther seeks and it is not the goal I seek. I hope you will continue to support our movement in light of this: I consider you a friend - I hope this is not too bold - and I do not wish to dishonestly curry your support.

Kyther was not angered by your ambition, though, let me alleviate any worry you have there. He is a pragmatist, and it is easy for him to understand why Axos as a part of the Casinean Empire is something you seek. Moreover, we would *always* rather that was the Empire's policy than one of straightforward conquest with the intention of tearing the citadels from us and giving them to another... as I fear may be the vision of many in your lands. Still, it was also good to have the letter of support from your Emperor. Perhaps she is not the straightforward conqueror I feared.

As you may have heard, my efforts are to complement those of Illarch Deinera's. While he focuses on political and military matters, my focus is on matters spiritual. It is clear to me that so much of the strength of your Imperial Synod comes from the way that it provides guidance and focus to the priests of the Empire. My hope is that by bringing the disparate sects of Axos together, we can lay the foundation of something that can truly be called a religion to stand alongside your Imperial Way, that has relevance even to those not of Axos. Of course, I still preach my trialectic, and I am pleased to say that with the aid of Sacrifice many adhere to my words, but I accept that I will never win over everyone. Still, with the power of understanding rising in Axos, I am pleased to say that the messages of those who adhere to Purity in particular are not being heard.

I hope you have also received an official request through Illarch Maxatious' office for aid regarding Solokha. I am sure he did not mention - Kantor opposes our movement, for now at least, and they will not have given it much credit - but this is my initiative, as you may have guessed. My belief is that success in Solokha will be the proof of our message of unity. I plead, friend, if you can lobby for its support in your Synod, I would so greatly appreciate it. I will be there, at the ruins of Solokha, so if you write to me at all, write to me there. (Kyther is moving from citadel to citadel often at the moment - it may be hard to reach him.)

In vigilance, wisdom, and understanding, your friend,
Theodosia of Ipotavo

P.S. I understand my darling cousin Phoeb is coming to Anvil. Poor dear has been under the weather for some time: I hope they find some relief from Imperial physicians. Please do ensure they are looked after: for my sake if nothing else!

Cut or tear off this strip to have a completely IC document.

Hi vossk! Under Melissa's direction, I've been working on your latest requests. We've not been able to unearth your virtuous Grendel commander, as of yet - you'll get news if we make progress.

Very happy to say we have got a lead on your other request. I think it would be great for you to meet the Wind Lord known as Mogh Rotha (Uncle Mó to his friends). He is an extremely talented mage of Autumn, well known to Melissa and many others in the City of Bridges - a very well-connected sort. He isn't at the absolute pinnacle of Grendel politics, but he has a lot of influence in many areas, and while I don't particularly think he likes your Empire too much, he's a vocal critic of the current war. Bluntly he thinks it's a waste of time for not enough profit: and he is a "hard-nosed geezer", as they might say in Tassato Mestra.

Unfortunately, he is a somewhat private individual of no fixed abode. He owns a mighty treasure-ship called the *Roth Rámach*, and you would want to reach him there, except, of course, because it has no fixed location, the usual methods will not reach him. He can be difficult to get hold of... but! All is not lost. He is known to have made certain compacts with certain other parties in the Realm of Autumn which mean that a messenger can reach him wherever he is... as long as a certain form of address is adhered to. The difficulty is that we are not permitted to give out that form of address: it is known to Melissa and her staff, but it would be a most exceptional favour were we to just give it out - more than Melissa is willing to ask of you in return, given your stipulations.

However, there is an alternative route to getting the information you seek, and we've been reaching out on your behalf to try and secure this. Have you heard of the Circle of Black Sand? They are - were, I suppose - a fairly notable Grendel coven who used the realm of -well, Sand, in their terminology - Autumn, as you would call it. They had close links with Mogh Rotha - in particular, Rahuun Amahuz, their leader, was once a student of the Lord Rotha in his youth, and they retained close contact for many years. Amahuz was regarded as something of a prospective successor to the wheel of the *Roth Rámach*... except he threw his lot in with the Empire, of course, and is now a proud (and loyal!) citizen of the League! He lives in Apulus.

What does all this have to do with you? Well, Amahuz has been in contact with Melissa too, you see. He cannot get in touch with Mogh Rotha directly - not without potentially being accused of treason, given his past loyalties - but he would dearly like to be indirectly in contact, and would like to make sure his erstwhile master isn't angry with him and so forth: if there is a period of peace again, I feel quite sure he will want to be directly back in contact and work for Lord Rotha as much as is permitted in the meantime! Melissa has brokered contact with Mog Rotha in this matter and we believe we can sort things out between them, but in return he owes us a favour, and so we've asked him to meet with you. If you can convince him that putting you in contact with Lord Rotha will be worth his time and his erstwhile master's time - and is good for the Empire, of course! - then he'll do that, and then we'll sort out his problem, and then you can contact the Lord Rotha and, hopefully, arrange a meeting.

I hope that isn't all too complicated - such is the nature of the business of the City of Bridges, but Melissa assures me you are an old hand at such things and will have no trouble! That's all from me this time - same address as normal if you have a reply. We'll keep working on following up that other matter, and we'd like to know if you do manage to set up a line to Mogh Rotha - extremely useful person to know and awfully good company besides!

Vincent