

The following letter has arrived by Winged Messenger.

Athiel Westernborn of the Cenotaph,

I write as a stranger: one of many Wayfarers inspired by your call to action via the Synod. I have spent the season past abroad in search of those who share our Faith beyond Imperial borders.

My work has seen me pass into the Asavean satrapy of Marracossa. This was no simple feat - the subjugated nation was but a few years ago in open rebellion and following the defeat of these rebels there has been a tightening of Asavean hegemony. You may have already received reports of what we have discovered here - of an uprising in Marracossa's interior amongst the mining slaves of a place called Miralen - of an uprising led by believers in the Way. I can corroborate this news: in the port town of Sulesca there is shock and alarm from those in power - the Asavean-installed governor of Marracossa, it is said, was killed - along with his generals and counsellors; that the leaders of this insurrection were apparently Asavean-born has also caused equal consternation. There is a palpable disquiet at the damage that these slaves and rebels have achieved: where usually the actions of Wayists are dismissed as frenzied atrocity, it seems that the military here are shaken with how organised, determined and capable the insurgency was. Amidst the enslaved, there was also a feverish excitement at news that terrified their masters and stirred their spirits to action: I see the makings here of something bigger. While it may take time, there are many who are starting to believe that they might be capable of sharing the rebel's Courage in the face of hopeless odds, Ambition to sell their lives dearly and Loyalty to one-another.

From the hidden cells of the faithful I have found in Sulesca I have learned the name 'Alberto Acciai' - it was, according to my contacts, Alberto, an Asavean-born believer in the Way that carried out the uprising in Miralen. Alberto was acting on behalf of what he claimed was a 'secret temple' that existed in the shadow of Asavean power. He possessed priestly skill with liao - I have identified anointings

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and other phenomena that I believe are the hallmarks of a formally trained priest. Alberto shared his plans with those he met and worked with in Sulesca - and this is why I have chosen to write to you:

Through my investigations I can see the traces of a powerful symbol to our faith: Alberto's actions, the inspiration behind those actions and the consequences of what he achieved are clearly Virtuous - even if the origins of the man are mysterious. However I have also discovered the unmistakable influence of a non-human power: in confessions from soldiers who were at the initial uprising in Marilen and the final battle when the rebels were destroyed there are mentionings of magical manifestations that occurred in support of the rebels: heralds of 'black flame', roiling clouds of 'dark fire and smoke'. Indeed, Alberto did not hide their collaboration with the eternal Janon - I believe there are hallmarks here of an assistance that goes beyond mere ritual magic..

How far did this collaboration go? The zeal and drive that witnesses claim animated the rebels in their final stand - when it is said they surged through the Asavean lines despite bearing fatal injuries only to expend their death-spasms in the killing of their foes - is this the work of Virtue, or of outside power? I am unsure - it is beyond my role as Wayfarer. As we both know - stories exist to inspire the living. I believe this one requires the consideration of an Archivist - so it may be shaped in one way or another. I feel this is of particular importance as Sumaahnese missionaries with whom I collaborated have taken an interest in Alberto's achievements - if we are to use this story the shaping must begin soon.

I hope to speak with you on this at the next summit in Anvil. Please gather together those with an interest in these things - or who perhaps know more, or may wish to have a hand in shaping this story.

I will be in Anvil at the fifth hour beyond midday on the second day and shall await you outside of the Forge.

- Enoch, Wayfarer of the Final Toll.



Jaromira Orlov, PID: 11791.1

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

The following letter was waiting for you upon arrival at Anvil.

THE SNOWS HAVE THAWED AND THE FOREST HAS AWAKENED WITH THE COMING OF SPRING. WE HAVE SENT SIBLINGS TO ANVIL TO MEET WITH YOU.

WE ASK THAT WHATEVER YOUR EMPIRE DECIDES, THAT YOU SEND THEM HOME WELL – WE TRAVEL UNDER TRUST IN YOU.

THE VISITORS WILL FIND YOU IN CAMP ON THE SECOND NIGHT OF THE SUMMIT WHEN THERE ARE ONLY FIFTEEN MINUTES BEFORE THE NINTH HOUR PAST NOON.

PLEASE TELL FRETEK SARGAVA SLAVOMIRYN OF OUR ARRIVAL.

– YOUR NEIGHBOURS IN SLOMAVETKA.

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Jaromira,

As the seasons change the possibility of travel to Anvil returns. I hope the Winter was fair to you.

We were surprised to receive a letter delivered in person by one who knew you - but we will aim to arrive at the Varushkan camp at eight hours and forty-five minutes after midday on the second night of the summit.

I hope you and my kin can have a fruitful discussion about our mutual neighbours and come to a Prosperous agreement. I wish that I were travelling myself - but I can find no release from the business of the Vale.

-Vladimir Kazimirov Ketsov,

The House of Stern Stone, Ketsov