

*To the Honourable and Virtuous Avisena i Kharizmi i Guerra,*

*An unfortunate turn of events, to be sure, but not an insurmountable one. The largest forest falls one tree at a time, although it is unfortunate that the trees in this instance must be Imperial lives. Our warriors will do their duty, as yours will do theirs, and so long as all conduct themselves in Virtue and no skulduggery occurs then all shall be well.*

*The offer does indeed remain open. If your generals should feel it necessary in Vigilance to leave armies in Kahraman to ensure that we are true to our word, we would not take it as an insult. Let them draw up in their full might along the borders to Gambit and Serra Damata, ready to spill blood if so much as one warband should set foot beyond those two regions. Although having written than, I must in Vigilance acknowledge that it's not as if those borders are drawn on the ground, so mistakes do happen. You know what I mean, though. We will claim these two regions, and no more. Should we do so, your people's lands will not be threatened by the Jotun for the span of one year. After that, we will see where negotiations take us.*

*With regards to the Kirkja and the White Granite, you are of course aware that trading such resources to us would be treason for so long as a state of war exists between our people and yours. Still, what is life without a little risk? Courage demands that we act! Any who wish to supply us with White Granite should ensure that it comes into your possession. If you send us a Winged Messenger informing us of how much White Granite you have to bring to this endeavour, we will inform our contacts on your side of the border. At some point during the season you will be contacted by a smuggler who will mention me by name. They will arrange for the wains to cross the border. Do not worry about compensating them, we will make sure they are very well paid.*

*Alternatively, you could get the Jotun to give us back our damn quarry. They captured it when they conquered Reinos. But the chances of a Jarl voluntarily giving up anything are slim.*

*One last thing. We have heard word on the wind that the Grendel once again set foot in your lands. If that is the case, we know that there is a chance that the Naguerro will be close by. The circumstances of our parting still weigh on us heavily - words were spoken in haste that we have since repented, and the idea that our cousins will be deprived of the revelations of Virtue that have returned to us the lost knowledge of our ancestors is deeply painful. We have no means of contacting them, but if there is anything that you can do to make this happen, we would be eternally grateful.*

*Virtue Guide You,*

*Lucero Mihril-Shield of the Hierro*

*Gatekeeper Wayfarer,*

*I am Stabsunteroffizier Konstanze Roth, writing on behalf of Der Orden der Verborgenen Hand and Das Graue Regiment. We are orders of Paladins in the Commonwealth. In the Spring of last year Hans Halgerd and Eike Schroeder, representatives of both of our orders sought an audience with the Gatekeepers of your Synod due to their actions in Rachensgrab, hoping to gain access to a dose of True Liao. Were they successful, it was their intention to remove a pernicious aura that has endured in our city of Maarbeck for many years. They elected to remain in the Empire, serving in our Embassy, until the bureaucratic processes were finished and a judgement was rendered one way or another.*

*Our reports are currently lacking in detail, but we understand that your enemies sacked the city of Siroc in which the Embassy was located. Both of them were bound to items which you know as a Litany of the Labyrinth, and we have confirmed that both are dead. Based on winged messengers from the staff before their evacuation, we believe that they died fighting for your city.*

*Paladins Halgerd and Schroeder saw clearly in their minds their goal. To achieve it, they travelled across the world. They chose to remain away from their homes and families for a year, and would have waited longer. Where others have claimed that such enduring auras must simply be accepted, they rejected that pettiness and lack of vision. They followed their*

*ambition, and gave everything for it. I beg of you, help us to fulfil the dream that led them to their deaths.*

*If the Gatekeepers choose to posthumously honour Paladins Halgerd and Schroeder, we will use this gift to break the aura that is upon Der Kämpfende Hase tavern in Maarbeck. Those who profit from the existence of this affront to free will and agency will protest, as will their political allies, but consequences are the price of ambition. We will know that we have done the right thing.*

*Should you decide to honour us in this way, we will not be able to arrange for anyone with the appropriate skills to access the True Liao in good time. Therefore, send a Winged Messenger to Konstanze Roth, die Stahlhalle, Volkavaar, naming an Imperial Citizen who can break the aura known to you as Consecration. We will pay for them to take passage to the Commonwealth, and will arrange for them to be escorted to the site of this aura where they may destroy it. We will doubtless correspond further between your summits. If you elect to reject this notion once and for all, let us know by the same means.*

*Best Regards,*

*Stabsunteroffizier Konstanze Roth*

Gatekeeper Tulva,

I am Stabsunteroffizier Konstanze Roth, writing on behalf of Der Orden der Verborgenen Hand and Das Graue Regiment. We are orders of Paladins in the Commonwealth. In the Spring of last year Hans Halgerd and Eike Schroeder, representatives of both of our orders sought an audience with the Gatekeepers of your Synod due to their actions in Rachensgrab, hoping to gain access to a dose of True Liao. Were they successful, it was their intention to remove a pernicious aura that has endured in our city of Maarbeck for many years. They elected to remain in the Empire, serving in our Embassy, until the bureaucratic processes were finished and a judgement was rendered one way or another.

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Paladins Halgerd and Schroeder were men of exceptional bravery. They demonstrated this in their prior military service, in their involvement on the destruction of Rachensgrab, and at last in their deaths defending the hosts who had offered them hospitality. We know that only volunteers went to fight at the Salt Guard, while the rest remained to help evacuate the

embassy. A normal citizen would choose to take their colleagues to safety. A truly brave citizen would sacrifice their life to buy the others time.

If the Gatekeepers choose to posthumously honour Paladins Halgerd and Schroeder, we will use this gift to break the aura that is upon Der Kämpfende Hase tavern in Maarbeck. Those who profit from the existence of this affront to free will and agency will protest, as will their political allies, but we will cleave to what we know to be true: that we have done the right thing.

Should you decide to honour us in this way, we will not be able to arrange for anyone with the appropriate skills to access the True Liao in good time. Therefore, send a Winged Messenger to Konstanze Roth, die Stahlhalle, Volkavaar, naming an Imperial Citizen who can break the aura known to you as Consecration. We will pay for them to take passage to the Commonwealth, and will arrange for them to be escorted to the site of this aura where they may destroy it. We will doubtless correspond further between your summits. If you elect to reject this notion once and for all, let us know by the same means.

Best Regards,

Stabsunteroffizier Konstanze Roth

*Gatekeeper House of Wanderers,*

*I am Stabsunteroffizier Konstanze Roth, writing on behalf of Der Orden der Verborgenen Hand and Das Graue Regiment. We are orders of Paladins in the Commonwealth. In the Spring of last year Hans Halgerd and Eike Schroeder, representatives of both of our orders sought an audience with the Gatekeepers of your Synod due to their actions in Rachensgrab, hoping to gain access to a dose of True Liao. Were they successful, it was their intention to remove a pernicious aura that has endured in our city of Maarbeck for many years. They elected to remain in the Empire, serving in our Embassy, until the bureaucratic processes were finished and a judgement was rendered one way or another.*

*Our reports are currently lacking in detail, but we understand that your enemies sacked the city of Siroc in which the Embassy was located. Both of them were bound to items which you know as a Litany of the Labyrinth, and we have confirmed that both are dead. Based on winged messengers from the staff before their evacuation, we believe that they died fighting for your city.*

*Paladins Halgerd and Schroeder were utterly devoted in their service. For the Greater Good of the Commonwealth and all of its people, to whom they had sworn their lives, they travelled half-way around the world on an uncertain chance. For their loyalty to their friends and colleagues at our*



embassy, they took up arms and marched in their defence. In defence of the city that had offered them hospitality, they gave their lives.

If the Gatekeepers choose to posthumously honour Paladins Halgerd and Schroeder, we will use this gift to break the aura that is upon Der Kämpfende Hase tavern in Maarbeck. Those who profit from the existence of this affront to free will and agency will protest, as will their political allies, but we know that they do not command the devotion of our hearts. We will know that we have done the right thing.

Should you decide to honour us in this way, we will not be able to arrange for anyone with the appropriate skills to access the True Liao in good time. Therefore, send a Winged Messenger to Konstanze Roth, die Stahlhalle, Volkavaar, naming an Imperial Citizen who can break the aura known to you as Consecration. We will pay for them to take passage to the Commonwealth, and will arrange for them to be escorted to the site of this aura where they may destroy it. We will doubtless correspond further between your summits. If you elect to reject this notion once and for all, let us know by the same means.

Best Regards,

Stabsunteroffizier Konstanze Roth



Gatekeeper Von Holberg,

I am Stabsunteroffizier Konstanze Roth, writing on behalf of Der Orden der Verborgenen Hand and Das Graue Regiment. We are orders of Paladins in the Commonwealth. In the Spring of last year Hans Halgerd and Eike Schroeder, representatives of both of our orders sought an audience with the Gatekeepers of your Synod due to their actions in Rachensgrab, hoping to gain access to a dose of True Liao. Were they successful, it was their intention to remove a pernicious aura that has endured in our city of Maarbeck for many years. They elected to remain in the Empire, serving in our Embassy, until the bureaucratic processes were finished and a judgement was rendered one way or another.

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Paladins Halgerd and Schroeder embodied the values of the Commonwealth in all facets of their lives. They strived to spread the Greater Good wherever they went, and to eliminate that which interferes with people's free will. Some said that enduring auras simply had to be tolerated, but they refused to accept this complacency. Then, in the end, they refused to stand back and

allow brutes and slavers to stand unchallenged. They never once compromised what they believed, and showed it through their actions. If the Gatekeepers choose to posthumously honour Paladins Halgerd and Schroeder, we will use this gift to break the aura that is upon Der Kämpfende Hase tavern in Maarbeck. Those who profit from the existence of this affront to free will and agency will protest, as will their political allies, but we will not be half-hearted or uncommitted in our actions. We will know that we have done the right thing.

Should you decide to honour us in this way, we will not be able to arrange for anyone with the appropriate skills to access the True Liao in good time. Therefore, send a Winged Messenger to Konstanze Roth, die Stahlhalle, Volkavaar, naming an Imperial Citizen who can break the aura known to you as Consecration. We will pay for them to take passage to the Commonwealth, and will arrange for them to be escorted to the site of this aura where they may destroy it. We will doubtless correspond further between your summits. If you elect to reject this notion once and for all, let us know by the same means.

Best Regards,

Stabsunteroffizier Konstanze Roth

*Gatekeeper Vodjavic,*

*I am Stabsunteroffizier Konstanze Roth, writing on behalf of Der Orden der Verborgenen Hand and Das Graue Regiment. We are orders of Paladins in the Commonwealth. In the Spring of last year Hans Halgerd and Eike Schroeder, representatives of both of our orders sought an audience with the Gatekeepers of your Synod due to their actions in Rachensgrab, hoping to gain access to a dose of True Liao. Were they successful, it was their intention to remove a pernicious aura that has endured in our city of Maarbeck for many years. They elected to remain in the Empire, serving in our Embassy, until the bureaucratic processes were finished and a judgement was rendered one way or another.*

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*Paladins Halgerd and Schroeder did not come to your Empire as beggars seeking charity. They stood there first due to their actions at Rachensgrab, where they tore down the vile slavers who leeches off the hard work of those they abducted. They remained in the Empire, working in our Embassy rather than relying on their political connections to secure food and lodging.*

Then, rather than stand back, they recognised the work that the city had done for them and stood up in its defence.

If the Gatekeepers choose to posthumously honour Paladins Halgerd and Schroeder, we will use this gift to break the aura that is upon Der Kämpfende Hase tavern in Maarbeck. Those who profit from the existence of this affront to free will and agency will protest, as will their political allies, but our people worked hard for this, and will not be denied the fruits of their labours. We will know that we have done the right thing.

Should you decide to honour us in this way, we will not be able to arrange for anyone with the appropriate skills to access the True Liao in good time.

Therefore, send a Winged Messenger to Konstanze Roth, die Stahlhalle, Volkavaar, naming an Imperial Citizen who can break the aura known to you as Consecration. We will pay for them to take passage to the Commonwealth, and will arrange for them to be escorted to the site of this aura where they may destroy it. We will doubtless correspond further between your summits. If you elect to reject this notion once and for all, let us know by the same means.

Best Regards,

Stabsunteroffizier Konstanze Roth

Gatekeeper Von Temeschwar,

I am Stabsunteroffizier Konstanze Roth, writing on behalf of Der Orden der Verborgenen Hand and Das Graue Regiment. We are orders of Paladins in the Commonwealth. In the Spring of last year Hans Halgerd and Eike Schroeder, representatives of both of our orders sought an audience with the Gatekeepers of your Synod due to their actions in Rachensgrab, hoping to gain access to a dose of True Liao. Were they successful, it was their intention to remove a pernicious aura that has endured in our city of Maarbeck for many years. They elected to remain in the Empire, serving in our Embassy, until the bureaucratic processes were finished and a judgement was rendered one way or another.

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Paladins Halgerd and Schroeder were, as all Paladins should be, tireless in protecting the people of the Commonwealth. While some sought to profit from an ongoing affront to the free will of the people, they knew the danger of allowing such poisons to fester in our hearts. While some chose to profit from the lie that an aura such as this can exist without significant costs to

those who experience it, they sought fearlessly to expose the truth. Then, when danger threatened the city that hosted them, they stood up in its protection to resist those who threatened those they watched over.

If the Gatekeepers choose to posthumously honour Paladins Halgerd and Schroeder, we will use this gift to break the aura that is upon Der Kämpfende Hase tavern in Maarbeck. Those who profit from the existence of this affront to free will and agency will protest, as will their political allies, but we are prepared to thwart their malice before it strikes against us. We will know that we have done the right thing.

Should you decide to honour us in this way, we will not be able to arrange for anyone with the appropriate skills to access the True Liao in good time. Therefore, send a Winged Messenger to Konstanze Roth, die Stahlhalle, Volkavaar, naming an Imperial Citizen who can break the aura known to you as Consecration. We will pay for them to take passage to the Commonwealth, and will arrange for them to be escorted to the site of this aura where they may destroy it. We will doubtless correspond further between your summits. If you elect to reject this notion once and for all, let us know by the same means.

Best Regards,

Stabsunteroffizier Konstanze Roth

Gatekeeper Tuuli,

I am Stabsunteroffizier Konstanze Roth, writing on behalf of Der Orden der Verborgenen Hand and Das Graue Regiment. We are orders of Paladins in the Commonwealth. In the Spring of last year Hans Halgerd and Eike Schroeder, representatives of both of our orders sought an audience with the Gatekeepers of your Synod due to their actions in Rachensgrab, hoping to gain access to a dose of True Liao. Were they successful, it was their intention to remove a pernicious aura that has endured in our city of Maarbeck for many years. They elected to remain in the Empire, serving in our Embassy, until the bureaucratic processes were finished and a judgement was rendered one way or another.

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Paladins Halgerd and Schroeder did not make the decision to come to your Empire lightly. They had both experienced the aura that they sought to destroy, had considered the arguments of those who claimed it to be harmless, and found them wanting. They accepted that they did not know if they would succeed in their mission, but set out to try anyway, and in



doing so learn more of the character of your Empire. When danger came to threaten those who had been gracious hosts to them, they applied their knowledge of the arts of battle to the city's defence, right up to the end. If the Gatekeepers choose to posthumously honour Paladins Halgerd and Schroeder, we will use this gift to break the aura that is upon Der Kämpfende Hase tavern in Maarbeck. Those who profit from the existence of this affront to free will and agency will protest, as will their political allies, but we will not accept their folly and will see that they are not allowed to spread it. We will know that we have done the right thing. Should you decide to honour us in this way, we will not be able to arrange for anyone with the appropriate skills to access the True Liao in good time. Therefore, send a Winged Messenger to Konstanze Roth, die Stahlhalle, Volkavaar, naming an Imperial Citizen who can break the aura known to you as Consecration. We will pay for them to take passage to the Commonwealth, and will arrange for them to be escorted to the site of this aura where they may destroy it. We will doubtless correspond further between your summits. If you elect to reject this notion once and for all, let us know by the same means.

Best Regards,

Stabsunteroffizier Konstanze Roth

Cynekedra ~~to~~ Open-Handed,

Recently you spoke with a mutual friend of ours, the Prince With A Thousand Foes. Let me be blunt: I do not think that Irra Harrah will do well under the rule of this new Emperor. They speak about protecting our people, but they show no respect for the weak and the young in other places. The Horned Hare acknowledges no boundaries of nationality or culture, and knows only the eternal war that the strong wage against the weak. Nonetheless, you know as well as I that the young and the oppressed will always need protecting. Therefore, I propose that we meet.

It is my intention to come to Anvil at around seven in the evening on Friday of this coming summit, and to make my way to the Wintermark camp. I hear that there is something there called the Tree of Names, I will hang around there. Hopefully you or someone from your Hall can meet me, and we can go somewhere to talk. We should discuss what services and resources your Hall can provide to advance the cause of the Guard of the Young, and what assistance might be provided to you in turn.

I have also asked a Marcher to be present for this visit, they will have a letter from me as proof of this. I intend to talk to them about certain private matters, nothing that should trouble you.

Regards,

Savio i Montaverde i Erigo

*Kennett,*

*I represent the Prince with a Thousand Foes. I will be blunt: Irra Harrah has heard of your work in the Empire, and approves of it. We have seen the judgement of Sam Wych-Elm, and fear the consequences this may have for you. I wish to meet to discuss your options, and what you intend to do next.*

*I will be visiting Grhara Hall in Wintermark at seven in the evening on Friday of this coming summit. They should be aware that I have invited you to this meeting, just show them this letter as proof of your identity.*

*I hope you understand that there are limits to what I can commit to paper. I trust that whatever we say will help you to find a path forward better than the one that seems to open itself before you now.*

*Regards,*

*Savio i Montaverde i Erigo*

*Arcelia í Garza í Guerra,*

*My name is Elío í Sirocca í Guerra. Last season me and my wife Fortuna were possessed by a Tulpa of the Three Sisters, or that's what my friend Dominga tells me. We thought that we were Death and Fortune, and maybe we cursed some people? I'm not sure, it's all a bit hazy. Fortuna's the smart one, but she's off working right now. At least I think she's working. She's not so good at explaining herself, but I love her anyway.*

*I'm getting distracted. The egregore said that you were the one who organised the corsairs who came out and helped us. Me and Fortuna wanted to write to you and say thankyou. We both lost our families when the Grendel burned Siroc, on the day we were meant to be married. I think that left us open to getting possessed. Your people helped us to remember ourselves. Dominga got us back to a camp with some others who had run from Siroc. We're alive and well, and you helped us manage that.*

*Please pass on our thanks to everyone who came and talked to us. We're sorry if we cursed you, we couldn't help it. We also want you to know that we got a proper marriage contract drawn up between us. We changed both our names, what with our families being gone. We are now the founders of the Sirocca family, to remember what happened. We're already making contracts to adopt those who want to join us, the bloody Kohan are sniffing around trying to recruit people but we're Corsairs and we always will be.*

*Anyway, I don't want to ramble. Thankyou, and thanks to everyone else who helped. We've no coin, but hopefully we can find some way to repay you some day.*

*Siroc Fell, But Love Stands*

*Elío í Sirocca í Guerra*

Archmage Edmundo,

Good news! As the Loom of Spells comes up for tender again, I find myself examining my current stores of capital. The profits I have gained from controlling the Loom have been far beyond even the most optimistic projections. As such, I have managed to gather together enough, plus a few loans, to once again put in a sizeable bid. Based on the profit growth from this year, next year I should be able to make even more! I have had to reinvest most of my profits into this bid, of course, but I have no reason to believe that the Empire will bid less for access to this wondrous device! I just need to make enough money that I can cover what I invested in the bid and pay off the loans I have taken out, which I have no doubt will occur. The chances of my profit margins falling are almost impossible.

I am aware that there may have been some loose talk from certain parties about the Empire maybe getting to put in a bid for the Loom themselves, but why would the Empire want to waste resources on such a thing when I, your very good friend, could handle all the administrative details for you? This also means that auctions will continue, which can only be better for Prosperity! And as I am the Most Prosperous Herald, officially endorsed by the Imperial Synod, there can be nobody better to manage this.

I will, of course, continue to work preferentially with the Empire. Your Conclave surely represents an opportunity to make back enough money to not only pay off my creditors but to further expand my nascent business empire! Just so long as the bids keep getting larger. It is very important that the profits continue to increase. A contraction in the market at this stage could be disastrous. But never fear! Our shared business model is infallible. Profits can only rise!

Respectfully Yours,

Sanvar Isk

The following report is prepared only for the eyes of Tyburn Weaver of House de Rondell, Grandmaster of the Shattered Lantern. While there is no legal force preventing you from reading this if you are not the Grandmaster, I would kindly request that you do not do so. It would be extremely rude.

This report has been compiled by Neirin Light-And-Shadow from the reports of a number of Shattered Lantern members operating independently. None of those members will be named in this report for reasons of operational security. While we cannot independently verify much of this information, reports have been cross-checked where possible. As such, what follows is as close to the truth as we can reasonably perceive.

The Order was tasked with establishing if there is now or has ever been communication between the Grendel and the rebel Spires of Spiral, and if so why, and for what purpose. In the broadest sense, the answer has been a qualified yes. However, context indicates that in the vast majority of cases this communication has been unwilling and has not led to any treasonous actions.

Throughout the Autumn and Winter of 385YE, every Spire that has risen up in rebellion against the Empire has been approached by Heralds of Lashonar. These Heralds have borne messages from the Grendel, attempting to open channels of treasonous communication. Numerous Spires have reported almost weekly attempts to deliver such messages from Heralds who, due to Lashonar's Amity with the Empire, are freely able to come and go as they please. Due to the cooperation of several Spires who were appalled by the offers being made, we were able to converse with several of these Heralds. They seemed at best dimly aware of the broader political context of the messages they were passing, but nonetheless understood their content. According to our questioning Lashonar has no direct alliance with the Grendel, but is completely willing to

*offer its assistance in fostering communication between anyone who might want to talk and anyone who they might want to talk to. As is known, the Chattering One does not care what words people say to one another, only that words are said.*

*We can, to the best of my knowledge, fully exonerate any of the Spires who owe their Loyalties to Actius of the Deathless Cave or Tiborion of the Endless Horizon. Some grumbled that the Empire and the Grendel were both the same in their disregard for the folk of Spiral, but there was no evidence of anything more. Indeed we were met with laudable cooperation from a number of the Spires, who cited the Judgement of Halkyon of Soourns Heart as the deciding factor in their willingness to comply with our investigation. If you should be so inclined, please do pass on our thanks to Halkyon. They made our lives a lot easier.*

*Further to this, we can confirm that the actions of the Senate have broadly begun to soothe the concerns of both of these factions. Their leaders are making speeches and writing missives telling their followers of the victories that they have won. Unless something catastrophic should happen, it is our collective opinion that none of these Spires are likely to continue in their state of resistance to the Empire.*

*The Spires who have organised around Caela of the Tower of the Silver Flame are a more mixed bag. They do not believe that their concerns have been addressed, and many of them are realising that they never will be. The chances of the Senate reassigning Spiral to Urizen are slim indeed, but the chances of them being able to achieve anything without wildly escalating are even more slim. Further to this, these rebels have begun to grow disunited. We have identified three main sub-factions who may be of interest.*



The largest of the three groups, comprising the majority of the pro-Spiral rebels, are directly loyal to Caela and her leadership. We have no evidence to suggest that they have been involved in any treasonous communication with the Grendel. Despite this, they seem unlikely to back down of their own accord. They have stated their demands – that Spiral be returned to Urizen – and openly conceding defeat would utterly destroy their sense of Pride. This has put their leaders in a difficult situation. Caela was polite but distant with us in the execution of our investigation, but her attitude and that of her closest subordinates paints a clear picture. They have planted their flag on top of a mountain, and are now having to reckon with how thin the air is. They cannot climb down without looking weak, and cannot retain their current position without intolerable sacrifices. It is our considered opinion that if they were given some concession, they would readily lay down arms.

The remaining two groups both comprise only a single Spire each, but both have the potential to cause great harm if given the chance. The first is the Sect of the Inner Eye. Neighbouring Spires described them as ‘cultish’ and isolated even by the standards of Urizen. Our investigators were not able to gain full admittance to the Spire, but were able to glean an impression of those who live within. Suffice to say, the ‘cultish’ descriptor seems entirely accurate. The Spire’s leader, Domnonus Whose Eyes Are Most Open, is an intensely charismatic figure who commands absolute devotion from his followers. He claims to possess secret knowledge of magical and spiritual secrets known to the inhabitants of Spiral from before the foundation of Urizen, and asserts that he has been able to contact his past lives without the use of True Liao, calling on their wisdom to know the answers to all of life’s mysteries. He is an unstable and controlling figure who has warped his followers’ minds with a combination of Night Magic, Day Magic, and mundane hallucinogens. He is also in command of an extremely powerful coven with access to a powerful Regio which seems to be possessed of certain non-standard properties. Further to this, we have discovered evidence that he was once a protege of Caecilius of Gardener’s Rest,

who was Provost of the Halls of Knowledge during the reign of Emperor Walter. Caecilius left Domnonus all of his possessions in his will, including texts for at least one ritual which was not entered into Imperial Lore. While we cannot confirm what the contents of these texts are, we urge caution. Further to this, we have strong reason to believe that the Sect of the Inner Eye have been engaging with communications from the Grendel.

The second is the Spire of Black Glass. This is a relatively young Spire, formed in the aftermath of the Battle of Solen's Doubt and the awakening of the Black Plateau. The Sentinels of this Spire are universally affected by the Plateau's madness. Ironically, this takes the form of an intense paranoia that everyone else in the territory has been consumed by the self-same madness. They have concocted a series of elaborate conspiracy theories concerning the Spire of Oblivion's Edge and the Oblivion Sentinel, who they believe to have fallen under the influence of malign forces. They are all former soldiers of the Citadel Guard, and have been marshalling their resources to prepare for a conflict of some form since their Spire's foundation. They are well-trained and heavily armed, including with the obsidian blades once wielded by those driven to madness by the Black Plateau. In the event of open violence, the harm that they could inflict could be significant. We have strong reason to believe that this Spire has been in direct communication with the Grendel.

For reasons of operational security, the details of how we have acquired this information have been left out of this written report, as have certain potential avenues of action. I will be attending Anvil at 23:00 on the Friday of this coming summit. I will make my way to the Hall of Worlds. There I will deliver a verbal report either to yourself or to one holding written proof that they may act as your proxy. I am willing to deliver my report to such other parties as you believe to be trustworthy, so long as you vouch for them. Hopefully this information can furnish the Empire with a means to bring this sorry episode to an end one way or another.

*Last summit you had harsh words for us, Raven Seer. The Mystics of Anvil have come to us for many seasons now to imbibe Goosewhisper, partake of the visions and glean from them what Wisdom they may. Yet last season, we were chastised by the Raven Seer. Told that we must be more than this. Our Pride stung, but Courage teaches us to face unwelcome truths. You were selected as the most worthy among your fellows, and if you tell us that we must find a new path, then we must listen.*

*Sulkivaris tells us that no conjunction of the Sentinel Gate leads to the swamps this season. Perhaps this is an omen. Perhaps it is simply a coincidence. Perhaps it is both. But it may also be an opportunity. Gather the Mystics of Anvil together and tell them of your concerns. Say to them what you said to us. Let those of us who sit closest to the Empire's greatest Heroes, the ones who advise and guide them, speak of our destiny. This is all we have known for so many years, the visions, the Goosewhisper, the discussions afterwards. If we need more, let the Mystics of Anvil tell us what. Gather your people together and offer us guidance.*

*Or perhaps the Mystics of Anvil disagree with you. Perhaps they will rebut your challenge. And if that is the case, we will await the appointment of a new Raven Seer.*

*-The Keepers of the Aviary*

*Heilyn, we've only gone and bloody done it! Our first major success story! The Gloaming Forum's built, the economy's up, and all of us who were in on that are a bloody big deal all of a sudden! I've hired three junior Brokers just to keep my regular network going, these days I'm all paperwork and ten Throne pieces! And your hard work started us off here. You remember that little chat about the nature of Value all that time ago? I may be the parent of the Rising Tide, but you're the bloody midwife, my friend. You made this happen. And a commendation from the Prosperity Assembly, no less! I love a man who can make things happen! Keep an eye on us, friend. We're going places.*

*Speaking of which, the business around the Inquisitorial Court. We've wanted to make that happen for bloody ages, and now we've got the chance to push it forward on the Imperial stage. I'm hoping we can get you the recognition you deserve, you and the other folks keeping the Empire accountable. The inquisitions going up at the moment seem to reckon that there's some bigwigs think they can get by with just raw power and wealth and not bother with Virtue! I hope you can take those bastards down a peg or two.*

*I'll send more next season.*

*Gethyn Blood-And-Sweat*