

Cardinal,

During the Summer Solstice we were charged with investigating the provenance of the document prepared by the Department of Historical Research regarding the Doctrine of Human Destiny. Given the Cardinal was not clear about where they think the threat to the Empire and it's people lay with regard to this document, it seemed reasonable to investigate all three of the people involved in its creation - Severin Teyhard von Holberg who commissioned it; Leontes the Scribe, the Imperial Archivist ; and Siward the Beacon, a lecturer at Holberg University.

Severin Teyhard von Holberg

A member of the House of Seven Mirrors, Bishop Severin Teyhard von Holberg, was a long time ally and close confidante of Imperatrix Lisabetta. There's no evidence that he was involved in her disappearance, or that of her husband Juha. He has been an active participant in the political life of the Empire for many years, and is one of those who met with the Sumaah Synod "delegation" earlier this year. He is perhaps best known for his controversial encyclical which in some quarters was seen as risking the destabilisation of the Synod, and it's relationship with the other houses of power. He was also involved in the apparent miracle at the Holmauer Gate, where a single dose of true liao produced two potent consecrations of Wisdom.

Severin was appointed Minister for Historical Research during the Autumn Equinox 383YE. He commissioned two other reports from the Department – research into the properties of "black lotus" shortly after being appointed, and investigation of "General Cretatus, the Claw of the Dragon, and the history of the Sword Scholars."

The Minister has apparently retired from public life to spend more time offering spiritual support to the people of Holberg. The timing of his retirement does not appear to be suspicious – his role in the government effectively ended with the disappearance of the Imperatrix (which we stress again there is no evidence he was involved with). He had created a miraculous consecration, and from our observations we assume he has simply decided to pursue a higher calling.

There's nothing to suggest Severin Teyhard von Holberg is an enemy of the Imperial people, or a treat to their spiritual wellbeing, although his opponents in the Synod may beg to differ.

Leontes the Scribe

The Imperial Archivist has held the position for twenty years – since 364YE. He joined the Department during the reign of Emperor Hugh, and is believed to be in his mid-to-late 50s. The

middle child of a Marcher farmer from Mitwold, and a craftsman from Tassato Mestra, he spent two years serving with the Drakes, and then several year studying at various schools and universities around the Empire. In between semesters he returned to Mitwold where by all accounts he was an extremely indifferent farmer. He spent some time at Anvil, involved in the politics of the Conclave, but never held any official Imperial title and belonged at various points to the Rod and Shield, Celestial Arch, and Golden Pyramid orders.

He was noted during this time for his blunt personality, a cynicism bordering on the misanthropic, and a grim, sarcastic sense of humour. He clashed several times with members of the Sevenfold Path order, challenging them to prove the courage of their convictions, and vociferously defending Marcher spiritual beliefs against any who criticised them, especially while drinking. He also took an unpopular line on the lineaged – leaning towards the Highborn belief that the realms might influence lineaged citizens in unexpected ways.

After joining the civil service, he rose quickly through the ranks of the Department. His scholarship was considered excellent, although he had an unfortunate tendency to editorialisation and bluntness especially when dealing with questions about Imperial history. In particular he was known to be very critical of anyone who didn't live up to his personal standards of scholarship especially those Highborn archivists who prioritised inspiration over fact.

Observation of Leontes shows no particular spiritual tendencies – he does not regularly seek out the company of priests but neither does he shun it and there is no indication he is involved in any organisation that might threaten the welfare of the Empire.

Siward the Beacon

A Steirn scholar, and lecturer at Holberg University, Siward earned his Name following the building and igniting of a beacon that warned an unsuspecting hall of the arrival of a Jotun raiding party during which he was badly burned. A priest dedicated to the path of Wisdom from Hahnmark, he spent time as a wayfarer – visiting Faraden, the Sarcophan Delves, Sumaah Republic, and Asavean Empire preaching the Way and engaging in discourse with priests and skeptics alike.

He joined the faculty at Holberg University in 374YE after returning from the Sumaah Republic for the final time. Since then he has lived in the city, apart from an occasional visit to family in Hahnmark.

A passionate orator, he apparently enjoys engaging in debate about the virtues, the Doctrines of the Faith, the role of the Way in day-to-day life, the responsibilities of the Imperial Synod, the true meaning of the virtue of Wisdom, and any number of other related topics.

After eight weeks of observation we have seen nothing to suggest that Siward the Beacon is living any kind of secretive life.

The document itself

There's nothing to suggest the document has been tampered with. Obviously, we cannot account for every moment but we can confirm that it appears to have been written by Siward the Beacon who by all accounts spent nearly three months researching, and visiting scholars in Bastion. It was brought by Siward direct to Anvil, reviewed by Leontes who apparently corrected some spelling and grammar errors, and passed into the custody of the Civil Service who delivered it to Severin Teyhard von Holberg.

Conclusion

There's nothing to suggest this document, or anyone involved in it's creation, is a threat to the Empire or involved with a group that threatens the Empire. Severin Teyhard von Holberg, Leontes the Scribe, and the lecturer Siward the Beacon all appear to be supporters of the Empire in their own way.

If I may be blunt for a moment, Cardinal, I would ask that you appreciate that the Silent Bell is a tool for identifying and addressing threats to the Empire. We can investigate and observe individuals, and we can root out conspiracies, but we are not the people to come to to determine if the contents of a historical research document are dangerous or not. That is, with all due respect, the responsibility of the Imperial Synod.

In Vigilance,

