

Dear Senator Cesare,

my name is Margaret Steward; as you know, I am the leader of the Whittle-folk. I speak for them and help them arrange their business and needs; it was my Beaters who kept them safe these long years.

I am writing to let you know that I, along with Friar Bill and a couple o' others, are travelling to Anvil to speak with you and "Harlequin" regarding the recent motion passed in your Assembly.

As you know, our kinsfolk in the Marches have chosen to shun us for what we believe. This is a source of great pain to us: we regard ourselves as proud Marches, whatever Virtues we cleave to. And yet it is the League who have extended to us the hand of friendship, and though it is not in our nature to be accepting of the unfamiliar, we are not churls who will spit in the face of generosity.

We have some concerns about what is meant by integration, and what you intend to teach our children.

We welcome education for them, as there is precious little expertise here to do so; of course, instruction in our shared Virtues is welcomed. We are often painted as exclusively extreme in our beliefs: but, for instance, I personally find the Virtue of Vigilance most important in my life.

However, as you know, we have our own traditions which we are not minded to give up, even in the face of the execution of one of our beloved priests. Indeed, I have to say that Friar Robin was a moderating influence among many here; none are really in a mood to compromise. (I lead the villagers in everyday matters, but it is our Friars who offer spiritual guidance; the death of Robin has hardened the hearts of many who remain.)

So, we are coming to discuss exactly what it is you intend and propose. I'm not sure when we'll arrive, but I'd reckon around Saturday afternoon.

Best,

Margaret