

*Cardinals of the Imperial Synod,*

*My name is Artellus, and I am Arbiter of the White Spire Ascending in Zenith. Whitespire has broadly withdrawn from Imperial life, and we no longer send delegations to Anvil. However, we were asked to write to you and attempt to change your minds on the matter of Lucidianism.*

*The philosophy of Lucidianism has a history that dates back as far as the origins of the Empire, and perhaps earlier for all that I know. Despite this, it has frequently been misunderstood, mischaracterised and, worst of all, feared.*

*If you would heed no other words of mine, consider these:*

*Lucidianism is not a threat to The Way or the Synod, and never has been.*

*To feel otherwise is a wilful deficit of both Courage and Wisdom, which would in itself be the real blasphemy that you fear.*

*Lucidianism is feared because it asks difficult questions. Ones that we do not believe have been answered, and which it may be impossible to answer.*

*Yet I digress, and should start at base principles.*

*Lucidianism holds that virtue should be a choice. It should be a conscious decision made by a human soul. Any form of external influence or coercion dilutes and lessens that choice. In simplest terms, the auras that arise – both naturally and through religious ceremony – are harmful to the pursuit of virtue.*

*Would you be more satisfied if my Loyalty to the Empire arose naturally within my own heart, or was the product of a supernatural force that could fade or be banished?*

*Even if one makes excuses for this crutch, the utilisation and treatment of auras by the priesthood carries with it large numbers of uncritical assumptions about the nature of auras. What are they? From where do they come?*

*Take the following hypothetical scenario:*

*Virtuous souls enter the Labyrinth upon death, taking their virtue with them that guides them. Consider that the auras may extend from the presence of virtue – and other forces – within the Labyrinth themselves. Consider that virtue, as it leaks, or is drawn from, the Labyrinth, may be denying souls ease of passage from death to rebirth. Consider that a more virtuous option should be to leech the malign influences out of the Labyrinth than look to our own selfish impulses in this life.*

*I cannot prove that to be the case, any more than you can prove that it is not the case. Yet, which of us is demonstrating true Vigilance, and which is taking risks lacking in Wisdom?*

*Lucidians are still able to teach the worth of Ambition, Courage, Loyalty, Pride, Prosperity, Vigilance and Wisdom – and we do so by the natural conviction of our hearts, rather than through supernatural coercion.*

*Lucidians are able to promote the Way whilst walking a path that seeks to safeguard the supernatural foundations of all that we hold dear and hope for.*

*Lucidians are not your enemies; we walk the path of faith today.*

*May you always keep your poise in testing times,*

*Artellus Whitespire  
Arbiter of the White Spire Ascending  
Zenith*