

*For the Eyes of*

*Medea Ruth, of the Marshwatch Spire*

*Most respected colleague,*

*It is with great pleasure that I read that Virtue is not dead within the Empire, no matter the efforts of backsliders and blasphemers to kill it. It is with great pleasure that I read that there are still great souls who are prepared to stand up for what we believe in. That there are still those who believe that it does not matter what the Synod says, does not matter what the politicians or the mobs say, if they are wrong. That it matters not one iota if the whole of the Empire decides that something wrong is something right. That there are still those who shall plant themselves like a tree beside the river of true Virtue, and tell the whole world that no, it is the world that is wrong, it is the world that must move.*

*Your Benevolent words at the Symposium were an Inspiration to the quiet majority of the faithful of the Empire: do not feel that you are alone in your righteousness. Our thoughts are with you and with your work: our thoughts, and more than our thoughts - I have been asked by my congregation if I would write this letter to you, offering not just some nebulous well-wishes but concrete promises of our Prosperous support.*

*Tell us, please: are there acts of Virtue which you wish you could perform, but cannot, for the lack of resources or agents? Our wealth is not what it once was, but it is not nothing: and our reach is long, for we still have friends within the Empire even as the blasphemer Yael decries us from her bloated pulpit. Tell me, Medea Ruth Marshwatch, who stands a bulwark of Virtue against the onrushing flood-tide of idolatry: how can we, or anyone we can influence, help you?*

*Should all the assistance you require be a name, an appeal to authority - then if the name of the Tribunal still carries weight, you may conjure with it as you may. There is no further test, there is no bar to clear or hoop to jump through, no oath we would have of you. Your words and actions have been enough.*

*And if there is anything else? Tell us. Winged Messengers may find Judith behind the bar of the Faithful Yeoman in Brightway, Astolat.*

*Yours in Virtue,*

*Judge Marcus, son of Mithras, of Ravenna's Field*