

I am Khotol Tsagaan, daughter and mother of the Tsagaan, priest of the Five Winds, Who-Hunts-In-the-Moonlight, who is called Swift Arrow of Justice.

Neryui Tsagaan, may he hunt among the dead, was the son of my body and of my spirit. He has been taken from me, in fire. It is a wrong that can never be righted, spilled blood can never be wiped away. Yet Justice has been served. Those who lit the fire have been burned, and all those who stood by and did nothing.

The Tsagaan are priests. We do not travel the world beyond the borders. Our duty is to the people. Yet we are not without allies. Hanye of House Baruun is one who is respected by the Tsagaan. His family are courteous, and tread the path of the Five Virtues. He is one who guides them. He listens to the Five Winds. He it is, who found you at last.

When Hanye of House Baruun came to tell me he had found you I assumed a trick. I have been searching for you, the daughters of my son's body and of his spirit, for too long. Yet he described you in such detail, and I knew in my heart that what he said was the truth.

I reach to you now. I recognise you are children of the Tsagaan, but also as daughters of your mothers, of their body and their spirit. You will bring Justice to the people of the Brass Coast, and of the Empire, and I offer you my blessing and the blessing of the family you have never known. Should you wish it, there is a place for you here among the Tsagaan. You need merely walk away from the Empire and join us, and you will be home.

If you choose to stay, however, and to bring Justice to the Empire, then the Tsagaan will offer you what help they may. Call forth the spirits of the golden wind and the iron flame and send them to me, in the Palace of the Tsagaan, in the realm of Faraden, bid them speak to us of need, and we will do what we can to aid you in spreading the fire of Justice to the lands that know it not in truth.

Hanye of House Baruun will introduce to you the Wind of Justice, the Swift Arrow, the Blade that Punishes, and the Word that Burns. He bears gifts from House Tsagaan to help you kindle the fire.

But you must be cautious. The Empire is blind to truth, blinded by idle talk of wisdom and watchfulness and of the striving that overturns everything. They will hunt you, and seek to destroy you, if they know what you are about.

Yet know this. If they visit harm upon you, so will House Tsagaan visit harm upon them. If they bind you and say "Justice is false" then it will be proof – as if more were needed! – that there can never be friendship between Tsagaan and Empire. We will bear witness, we will bear witness to Tenar the Elder, and to Kurest the Quiet, and to Loronyantar of the River saying "the Empire will never be our friends" and they will listen, for I am Khotol Tsagaan who is called the Swift Arrow of Justice.

Tell them this if they come for you. If they try to quench the flame of Justice, there will be a reckoning.

Until then, listen to what you know to be right in your hearts, and in your souls, and pray that you will hunt with the father of your body and your spirit in the howling wastes.

