



TO FREEMAN DUSAN,

I WOULD LIKE TO WRITE TO YOU TO THANK YOU FOR AIDING MY COMPANION VALMONT WHEN HE APPROACHED YOU IN ANNIL. WE HAVE FOUGHT FOR SEVERAL YEARS AGAINST A SEEMINGLY INSURMOUNTABLE FOE SO TO RECEIVE OFFERED OF HELP IS BOTH UNEXPECTED AND WELCOME.

MY NAME SINCE MY REBIRTH HAS BEEN ALDEN AND I SERVE AS SCRIBE TO THE SAINT WHO HAS BEEN REBORN. IT IS A SAD FACT THAT MANY OF OUR NUMBER, COMING FROM THE RANKS OF SLAVES AS THEY HAVE, ARE UNABLE TO READ AND WRITE. THANKFULLY I WAS RAISED AS A HOUSE SLAVE AND THUS GIVEN TUITION TO AID MY MASTER (MAY SHE WANDER FOREVER CLASPED IN BURNING CHAINS IN THE DEEPEST HELL OF DUMON) AND THUS IT IS THROUGH MY MASTERY OF THE PEN RATHER THAN THE SWORD THAT I SERVE TO FREE MY PEOPLE.

WITH THIS IN MIND I WRITE TO YOU THIS DAY WITH A WARNING. NEWS HAS REACHED US ABOUT YOU ASKING A QUESTION TO SEND PRIESTS TO SPREAD THE WAY AMONGST THE REBORN DURING A SESSION OF YOUR SENATE. IF SUCH WORD HAS REACHED US, IT IS LIKELY THAT THIS HAS ALSO REACHED THE EARS OF THE BASTARD DUKES OF THE CONFEDERACY. PLEASE, BE CAUTIOUS WITH YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS. WHILE WE ARE GATHERING OUR STRENGTH SECRECY IS OUR GREATEST SHIELD. OUR BUSINESS IS BEST HANDLED AMONGST A SMALL GROUP WHO CAN BE TRUSTED AS THE CONFEDERACY HAS EYES AND EARS EVERYWHERE.

ONE OF THOSE SET OF EYES I FEAR IS YOUR EMPIRE'S OWN AMBASSADOR TO THE CONFEDERACY. IF RUMOURS ARE TRUE, THE LEAGUE MAN KNOWN AS LUKASH HAS ENGAGED SLAVE SOLDIERS ON BEHALF OF THE EMPIRE THIS SEASON AND VALMONT HAS WITH HIS OWN EARS HEARD THE MAN ARGUE AGAINST CHASTISEMENT FOR THOSE NATIONS WHO SEE THEIR OWN CITIZENS AS CHATTEL TO BE USED AND THEN DISPOSED OF. IF I MAY GIVE YOU ONE PIECE OF ADVICE, SUCH A MAN IS UNSUITABLE TO HOLD OFFICE. SOMEBODY WHO SHARED AN IDEOLOGICAL DRIVE FOR EMANCIPATION WOULD, I FEEL, BE BETTER PLACED AS AN AMBASSADOR.

WITH THAT SAID, I HOPE I AM NOT SPEAKING PRESUMPTUOUSLY, BUT I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DID NOT EXPRESS THE REBORN'S FEELINGS ON THIS MATTER IN THE STRONGEST TERMS.

TO OTHER BUSINESS, THERE IS A LONG ROAD AHEAD OF US AS WE STRIVE TO FREE OURSELF BUT WE WISH TO MAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE ERADICATION OF HUMAN BONDAGE WITHIN OUR HOMELAND AND AS SUCH WE WOULD ASK TO SPEAK WITH YOU AT MORE LENGTH.

THE REBORN HAS ASKED THAT VALMONT RETURN TO ANVIL TO DISCUSS OUR PLANS WITH YOU. VALMONT WILL BE AT THE FORGE IN ANVIL AT 9 IN THE EVENING ON THE SATURDAY OF THE COMING SUMMIT.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ATTEND PLEASE DO SO. WE WOULD ASK THAT IF YOU DO INVITE OTHERS THAT YOU KEEP THE NUMBER OF CONSPIRATORS TO THOSE WHO NEED TO BE THERE. SECRECY WILL KEEP MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALIVE.

FIRE MELTS THE CHAINS

ALDEN THE SCRIBE