

Esme Decaline, by the Grace of Suran and Kavol, to the Virtuous Lord Zadkiel de Coeurdefer, by the will of the Casinean Empire Ambassador to the Iron Confederacy, health and greetings.

My lord Jean Valois, second son of the Baron Valois, bids you heed his announcement. He will travel to Anvil accompanied by the most exalted Second Master of the Mirrored Shield to challenge the greatest champion of the Virtuous in combat.

My lord bids you speak with the Cataphracts and other Virtuous Crusaders of the Mighborn, choosing from among them their greatest champion by your own hand. The chosen warrior must be known by all to be great in the ways of Virtue, and blessed with skill and strength. The fall of that mighty warrior, witnessed by the Order of the Mirrored Shield, will prove that Queen Suran's blessing lies upon my lord. By skill of arms will he prove himself beloved of the Queen of Heaven! He will return under the cover of glory to claim his rightful Barony.

In the name of Arav the Judge, he swears to act justly and faithfully in all dealings with the Empire. In the name of Kobol the Warrior, he swears that the bonds of honour that unite all warriors who faithfully serve their masters will unite him and his opponent.

On the eve of the Spring Equinox, my lord will send an advisor to discuss formalities with you and the leaders of the Mighborn, arriving on the field an hour before sundown, around the eighth bell. On the day of the Spring Equinox itself, my lord and his retinue will attend at Anvil. He will take hospitality with that warrior and their Virtuous companions, and once he is satisfied that this is a worthy champion, he will issue his challenge.

If any other statement is made to you respecting these matters, do not believe it; for we shall always be found faithful to our word.