

# The Speaker for the Dead

## Liberation

We, the Free Folk, have no way to search for this: we believe that the Speaker is drawn to our presence each Winter Solstice as we remember the dead. We have felt that presence as a people and it has kept this tradition alive - we contend that without Liberation, the Speaker could not return to us in this way.

## Recognition

We, the Free Folk, have no way to search for this: we have lived long without the Wisdom granted by true liao. We ask the Synod to help us in this.

## Benevolence

Through the Speaker's actions, they have instilled an undying Pride in those who witnessed their example and have experienced their passion through an unbroken tradition. The Speaker's life stood in opposition to the evils of slavery and through them we have all been raised in Virtue.

## Inspiration

We, the Free Folk who were once slaves in Marracossa, have held the Speaker in our hearts through much turmoil and loss. The Speaker's example in remembering and emboldening those without a voice to speak and take pride in their shared struggles has in turn carried us to our Freedom.



## Miracles

It is said that when the Speaker was slain, the temple in which they were killed faded from all memory. So did the name and stolen prosperity of the Speaker's master. For the year that followed the Speaker's death, their litany was heard by all who knew them and those disembodied words grew louder towards the anniversary of their death, inspiring others to take up their example. In recent days, it has been that an effigy of the Speaker has created what the Priests of the Empire have called 'a spontaneous aura' that we believe is evidence of the Speaker's visitation during our ceremony.

## Pilgrimage

The Speaker has made their pilgrimage through us, the Free Folk whose story and Pride they kept alight even through slavery. In crossing the ocean and the lands of the Empire, we present the Speaker's story so that they might finally arrive home at the heart of the Way whose Virtue they embodied.

## Salvation

When the missionaries came to Marracossa and the truth of the Way was brought to our ancestors, the Virtue of Pride was found in the Speaker's story and example. Through the Speaker our people found the Way and salvation.

## Legacy

The Legacy of the Speaker is in the litany of names and stories that we keep year on year to remember what has come before and take heart for the journey ahead - for both us and those who have gone. We are the Speaker's Legacy, for their struggle gave us a voice against those who would silence us.

# Truthful Alexander

## Liberation

We believe that Alexander's disappearance upon the dawn of the one-hundred-and-first day of his interrogation shows he has travelled beyond the Labyrinth.

## Recognition

We Free Folk have been denied the opportunity to study our past lives by our slavery. It has never been known for one of our Kin to have memories or dreams which might have once been Alexander's.

## Benevolence

Alexander's truth spoke for every slave like him: in defying each false god whose followers were sent to claim him, he showed the hollowness of those who worshiped them. His Courage was not just for himself - but for all.

## Inspiration

Alexander's example has been a cornerstone of our faith through generations of slavery all the way until now: by his Courage, the truth of the Way was shown to us. By his will, he has inspired us all to never submit to falsehoods and bear the truth - no matter what harm it may bring us.

## Miracles

When the machinations of deists failed and the mask of divinity was cast aside for the murderer's Knife, Alexander's Virtue was such that he was able to transcend the Labyrinth itself - denying his captors

even his mortal remains. There are stories too that those inspired by Alexander's example were able to stay the evil desires of those who would harm them through plain speech and honesty - their words piercing straight to the very spirit of the one that heard them.

## Pilgrimage

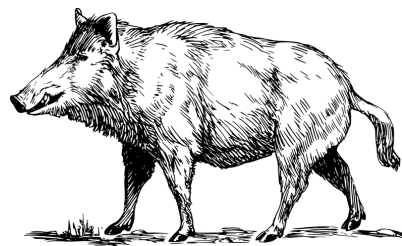
We wish to demonstrate the Virtue of Alexander through spreading his name throughout the Empire so that its people may be inspired as we have been and come to learn his example.

## Salvation

Alexander's example shows the power of Courage to establish the Way in the world: by denying the web of lies that slavers wished him complicit in and refusing to be cowed by torture or the threats of deists he showed the empty power of their false idols. This truth - of the falseness of gods - has turned many who lived in ignorance to the Way.

## Legacy

Alexander, who was permitted to own nothing, left nothing but his truth - that the Virtuous human spirit cannot be conquered - and his bindings.



# Wise Tailor

## Liberation

*Of all our Divines, Wise Tailor is thought to be one of the oldest. Though we have no way of knowing, the selflessness with which they fought our oppressors has never been matched.*

## Recognition

*We Free Folk wish one day to prove ourselves Virtuous enough to explore our past lives and seek the truths therein.*

## Benevolence

*Tailor could have chosen, as many slaves whose abilities and birth grant them the comforts of favour with their masters, to indulge their own Wisdom and turn their face away from those she saw kinship with. Instead, she cast this false comfort aside and risked her life so that Wisdom could be the inheritance of all.*

## Inspiration

*Tailor, by giving the slaves of Asavea a tongue, a means to aid themselves when sick, and preserve their offspring through safe birth, gave all those that came thereafter the chance of a Virtuous life. Her insights into the wrongs of slavery gave us the tools through which we might be freed.*

## Miracles

*By all accounts we Free Folk believe Wise Tailor's life itself was a miracle: that they were able to weave the tongues of Asavea into something new,*

*they seized the secret of writing from those who would deny it to her, she saved lives and travelled far by her own wit and Wisdom. That she gave so much simply for Virtue of Wisdom is a wonder that all Free Folk cherish.*

## Pilgrimage

*We bring Wise Tailor to you, the people of the Empire, as pilgrims on your shores. We proudly proclaim her Virtue as being one of the roots of our faith and in that way, we say that she has drawn us here - the culmination of the process she set in motion so many lifetimes ago.*

## Salvation

*We believe that without Tailor's struggles we would lack the means by which to have found both the Way and develop Virtue. Wise Tailor broke the chains that deny the spirit from joining with the destiny of all humankind.*



## Legacy

*Our language is Wise Tailor's greatest legacy. Were it that we could separate out every piece of the Wisdom she carried from city to city for the betterment of all her kin - but it is blended completely in our way of life. Pride also demands that we state that every member of our people who lives because they, or an ancestor survived by the arts of midwifery or herbalism that Wise Tailor risked her life to share are themselves her legacy.*