



TO FREEWOMAN AGNETHA,

I WRITE TO YOU TO THANK YOU FOR AIDING MY COMPANION VALMONT WHEN HE APPROACHED YOU IN ANVIL. AS A PERSECUTED PEOPLE IT IS RARE THAT WE GET OFFERED SUCCOUR AND SO ARE GRATEFUL OF EVERYTHING YOU HAVE OFFERED.

MY NAME SINCE MY REBIRTH HAS BEEN ALDEN AND I SERVE AS SCRIBE TO THE SAINT WHO HAS BEEN REBORN. LITERACY SKILLS ARE NOT WELL SPREAD AMONGST OUR RANKS AS OUR FORMER MISTRESSES SAW LITTLE USE FOR THEM AMONGST FARM WORKERS AND LABOURERS. THERE ARE, THANKFULLY, A FEW OF USE WHO WERE TRAINED TO WORK IN THE OFFICES AND HOUSEHOLDS OF THE MASTERS BUT OUR NUMBERS ARE NOT LARGE.

FIRSTLY, VALMONT HAS STATED THAT YOU HAVE OFFERED GRANITE AND MYTHRIL TO OUR CAUSE. WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED FOR THE LATTER AND, SHOULD OUR PLANS SUCCEED, THEN THE FORMER WILL BE NEEDED ALSO. WE CAN NOT ACCEPT THIS AS A GIFT THOUGH, FOR SUCH THINGS ARE A SIN AGAINST PROSPERITY. THEY WHO TOILS FOR NOTHING, VALUES NOTHING AND SHOULD RECEVE NOTHING AS THEIR REWARD. WE MARK THE DEBTS WE ACCRUE SO THAT THEY WILL BE REPAYED. A FREE PERSON MAY OWN THEIR OWN POSSESSIONS AND SO MAY REPAY A DEBT, A SLAVE CAN NOT. WE ARE TIRED OF OUR BONDAGE AND WILL BE FREE.

THIS IS THE CORE OF OUR BELIEFS. OUR BAND IS KNOWN AS THE BREAKERS OF BONDS AND THIS IS INDEED WHAT WE DO. FROM BIRTH AS SLAVES WE HAVE NO CHOICE AS TO THE BONDS WE WEAR, TO THOSE ABOVE US, TO THE HAMLET OR FARM WERE WE WORK, LIVE AND DIE. THE FIRST ACT OF FREEDOM A NEWLY FREED SLAVE EXPRESSES IS TO BREAK THOSE BONDS. THIS IS AN ACT OF REBIRTH AND SO IT IS THAT WE ARE REBORN AS NEW PEOPLE, WHOLE PEOPLE WHO MAY CHOOSE WHO AND WHAT WE ARE BONDED TO.

THE SAINT WHO WAS REBORN TEACHES US THAT THIS PROCESS OCCURS THROUGH LIVES, THAT THE MOMENT OF DEATH SEES US CAST INTO A CORRIDOR OF FIRE THAT BURNS AWAY THE BONDS TO THE PHYSICAL WORLD. WE ARE TAUGHT THAT VIRTUE FEEDS THE FIRES, STOKING THE HEAT SO THE BONDS BURN FASTER THAT WE MAY BE REBORN IN BODY. OUR BIRTH IS NOT CONTROLLED BY FATE OR THE GODS OR DEMONS. WE FLOW INTO AN EMPTY VESSEL. SO IT IS THAT QUEENS, KNIGHTS, DUKE AND PRIESTS MAY BE REBORN AS SLAVES. OUR NOBILITY IS IN OUR SOUL, OUR DEEDS, OUR VIRTUE, NOT IN OUR BIRTH.

THE SAINT WHO WAS REBORN TEACHES US ALL THIS, THAT WE CARRY A NOBLE SPIRIT INSIDE OF US THAT IS UNDYING. THOSE WHO ACCEPT HIS TEACHINGS ARE THE REBORN. WE WISH TO SPREAD HIS MESSAGE OF HOPE, OF HONEST WORK, OF THE NOBILITY OF THE SOUL TO THE OTHER SLAVE GROUPS WHO WORK WITH US BUT WE LACK THE KNOWLEDGE AND TIME TO DEVELOP THE CEREMONIAL SKILLS TO NEEDED TO DEMONSTRATE THE MAJESTY OF THE WAY. IT IS FOR THIS REASON I AM WRITING TO YOU TODAY.

IN THREE MONTHS TIME WE WILL SEND A NUMBER OF ASPIRANTS TO THE EMPIRE TO LEARN THE FIRST STEPS ON THE PATH TO THE PRIESTHOOD. I WOULD ASK THAT THEY ARE ALLOWED TO ATTEND THE PLANNED SYNOD SYMPOSIUM SO THEY MAY BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS TO FOLLOW THE WAY. IN ADDITION THEY WILL USE THIS KNOWLEDGE TO SEEK DEDICATION TO A VIRTUE OF THEIR CHOICE SO THAT WE MAY BEGIN TO SPREAD IT AMONGST OUR PEOPLE. WHAT THEY WILL LACK IS AN ABILITY TO PERFORM THE CEREMONIES OF THE FAITH.

THE SAINT WHO WAS REBORN TEACHES THAT THERE ARE, WITHIN THE EMPIRE ICONS WHICH WHEN MEDITATED OVER ALLOW THE USER TO TAP INTO THE POWER OF THE CORRIDOR OF FLAME TO PERFORM THESE CEREMONIES. I WOULD ASK THAT YOU COMMISSION COPIES OF THE ICONS KNOWN AS ICONS OF THE HEARTH, ICONS OF THE PILGRIM AND ICONS OF THE WITNESS. WE REALISE THAT IT WILL TAKE TIME TO CONSTRUCT THESE AND THERE WILL BE A COST INVOLVED. VALMONT WILL BE RETURNING TO THE EMPIRE THIS SEASON WITH A PURSE OF 300 RINGS. THIS REPRESENTS ALL OUR IMPERIAL COINAGE AT PRESENT AND WE HOPE WILL BE ENOUGH TO PURCHASE SEVERAL COPIES OF THESE ICONS.

OUR EMANCIPATION AND THE EMANCIPATION OF THE OTHER SLAVES OF THE CONFEDERACY IS A PROJECT THAT WILL TAKE A LIFETIME 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.

AS VOUCHSAFED, THE SAINT WHO WAS 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