

People of Cherage! I am Cleone Weld of Gagneux. I speak to you all as a proud Danoran engineer in service to our country, and as one who has journeyed abroad in search of new innovations and new relations to bring back home. And in doing so, I have discovered terrible truths about our home as well.

What you have heard is true: the Jierre sovereigns are puppets of the Obscurati. Its members are identified by their rings, inlaid with Methian stone and an inscription. Those close to him will find that Han Jierre owns such a ring, and that it dates back five hundred years to the original Jierre himself. From its founding to the present, Danor has been in league with the Obscurati - no, in **service** to it. Our country has yet to be its own.

I know this in part because [pause, slight falter before regaining resolve] I once had such a ring. As a deva, I have spent most of my current life serving Danor...but in my past life I served the Obscurati. I served its very leaders, and I wrongly but wholeheartedly believed that their mission was righteous and necessary. And in return for my loyalty I was murdered by its leader, Nicodemus - who today hails himself as a god, the mastermind of the Obscurati, the savior of this broken, sunless new world that he helped create.

But beyond just my own lives, I've seen the same in my countrymen over and over. It was Danoran soldiers sacrificed in every Yerasol War, not for Danoran ambitions but for the Obscurati's plans. It was Danoran people that were sent to protect the Obscurati's attempts to reshape our world to their whims, and Danoran people abandoned to starve when the Obscurati fled.

Our military is not our own, because the Obscurati uses it for their own ends. Our wars are not our own, because they are waged for the Obscurati's needs. Our centuries of enmity with Risur are manufactured, because they perpetuate the wars the Obscurati wants. Our peace too was manufactured, when the Obscurati desired it. We have been used, and we have been complicit in terrible crimes. And our sovereigns allowed all of this, because **our country has yet to be its own.** Han Jierre is a sovereign that does not serve the Danoran people, and does not deserve loyalty. But he is a symptom of the Obscurati's hold, not the cause.

For Danor to thrive as its own, independent country we have to shake off the Obscurati's influence and take our nation into our own hands. We are a nation of science and exploration! We lived in a land without magic, where the rules were different, where the rest of the world dared not stay. We experimented. We adapted. We thrived. The Obscurati created our wars, but it did not create our minds, our spirits.

Our country has yet to be its own, but it could be if we **think critically** about who we are and **reflect** on who we want to be. I am Cleone Weld, a Danoran engineer on exchange in Risur. Danor is not where I was born, but I have called Danor home for most of my life and I intend to return to this country with all I have learned in my time abroad. And to those of you hearing this: who are you? Where do you come from? What do you want for yourself, or for your country? What causes do you want to serve? Who do you believe is worth listening to?

Your answers will be different from the person next to you, and that's valuable. Progress does not happen with a single voice. Focus on your own voice, and you can help our country to be its own. Focus on your own voice alongside the voices of many others, and you will find answers.

Focus on your own voice, and remember who you are.