

Unto: Dame Brionna of Stanway, Chief Military Adviser to the Imperial Throne
From: General Sir Darvon Millsworth, Head of Military Services to the Empress, South Kingdoms section of the Empire

Most honored Dame:

Here in the restored South Kingdoms a new threat has appeared, or rather has manifested. Manyhands is trying to contain it, but he is concerned enough to mention it to me, knowing full well that I would mention it to you as quickly as a courier could travel.

A group of Snake bodied many armed females, calling themselves a Clave of Marliths have rampaged through our Northfold (the northernmost section of claimed land) with abandon, slaying a few and taking a number of male prisoners, then vanishing.

It is not clear to my scouts where they came from, and Manyhands says he is seeking to find the source of their "summoning." He is notoriously sparse with details to any but the Empress and I am strictly a military man and a ranger. Still, neither I nor a specialized group that I formed of other rangers to watch for any trouble can track these beasts more than a half mile from any of the three villages they attacked.

Those they killed however are obvious to me - those who have most heartily and with the greatest determination converted to the Light among the common folk, and one of the handful of priests that have come to minister here. If that has not escaped me, and it has not, I am fairly certain that it has not escaped the common folk either.

I wished to bring this quickly to the attention of the Imperial court. In the meanwhile I will continue to react as best I can.

Faithfully your servant.