

New Buenos Aires, 20th of September 2048

Dear Osmond

This letter reaches you three days ahead of the official investigation as a personal favour, a gesture of treachery (you so much admire in the classics), and as proof of a friendship that has connected us for more than thirty years.

The official document will state, as always, nothing, and I thought that you might be interested in my personal thoughts and insights, as this case contains everything that you and I find interesting.

When a cult of this extreme persuasions scrambles to protect a ship at all costs, that is for all purposes of the sane mind completely useless (it is not fit to be put on water for example) then the authorities will want answers, as you know, and when the case is as it is, they will even call upon an arcane archaeologist as myself.

Knowing that all my findings will be immediately shelved, I found myself at liberty to really dig deep. The cult in question, as you so well know from your own battles, upholds selected creeds from such esoteric cults of the past like Anthropology and Visual Arts, lines of thoughts that our benevolent regime has rightfully decreed a complete waste of time and resources.

The cult was founded in the times of the reckoning and foolishly (although to us: romantically) tried to preserve some of the old knowledge and discourse (before these became some of the famous 5236 words never to be used again) in ways that leave us reformed humans completely at loss.

As an arcane archaeologist I have some of the knowledge to unlock the mysteries of the unusable vessel, but it's true purposes might be well (and rightfully?) lost in time. On first inspection it appears to contain a cargo of unconnected artefacts in various media, useless chunk to most, but obviously not to the cult and not to us, although for very different reasons I suspect and hope.

In the old world order the centre of power lied in the north of the Americas and in Europe, a fact that most people have not been aware of, or have so completely forgotten, that they couldn't remember it under torture, as many of us have proven in the frequent visits to the camps.

The vessel in its form of a useless wreck must have meant something, maybe it was used in the way, that the old texts call "symbolic" (I would love to read some of these uncensored just once!), the objects seem to deal with a form of subversive documentation of the old South, a documentation that is more fiction then document, alas completely useless, again, as with the vessel.

I have to admit, and I suppose you already deduced this, I am completely at loss, although in a most delightful manner, and the only conclusion I can draw, is, here it comes, that the objects and its host body must have been part of something, that the cult

has called by this word that can't even be found in the state sanctioned dictionary for Arcane Archaeology, and that we have discussed so many times, so fruitlessly, "Art".