



THIS HOLY messenger

The Countess and the Credits

The three young Quants entered and sat down in her office, and the Countess transferred 10,000 credits over to each of them.

"I am leaving for a while," she said. "I have been informed of your talents - use them as you see fit."

The three of them nodded, and left to do as instructed.

Upon her return one month later, the Countess called them in to see what had become of her money.

She gestured at the first to step forward. They did so, and dutifully transferred 20,000 credits back to the Countess.

"I worked throughout the month, Countess, watching the H.E.X at all times." they replied. "I only stopped to eat and to sleep. I am pleased to give you back your 10,000 credits, along with 10,000 more."

The Countess nodded, pleased. "Diligent child."

She returned 5,000 credits to the young Quantos for her hard work. "I will see that your name is known throughout the Office of the Transactos."

She gestured at the second to step forward. He did so, his head bowed down in reverence.



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"I worked throughout the month, Countess, watching the H.E.X. at all times," he replied. "I saw my investments falter. Rather than lose it all, I withdrew the money, and after consulting with the Regulatos, and the High Priest, and the Neshmets, I used the money to ensure that all those who had passed during your absence were in the Black."

The Countess nodded, pleased. "Charitable child. Even though no money flows to me this day, you have made sure that others can pass into the After. I will see that your name is known throughout the Office of the Transactos."

She gestured at the third to step forward. With a flick of the wrist, he transferred 100,000 credits back to the Countess, eyes gleaming at the prospect of his reward.

"Here is your money, Countess, returned tenfold."

The Countess waited for his explanation as to how such a sum could have been raised in such little time. After some silence, the man spoke.

"I had no need to watch the H.E.X., Countess," the man confessed. "I have no need for you to spread my name amongst the Office of the Transactos either, Countess; many already know it, and so I was able to use their knowledge as if it was my own, before it even came to light to others."

The Countess was about to speak when the man spoke further.

"I also know the business of many people in Tyr, and Aurem and Conflux too, and whilst their stocks and shares may be worth little, their secrets are worth much."

The Countess left the man where he stood, anger and sadness etched into her face. Soon, he found himself being escorted away by the authorities for trial.



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Whilst the first and the second went on to success, the third was sent to Gleipnir for his crimes.

The Countess, her reputation tainted, stepped down from her position, and used the third man's money only for good. She then spent the rest of her days toiling in the fields.

Her children and her children's children did the same too, as did their children too. Only then could the burden imposed by the third man on the Countess and her Soul begin to be lifted.

Children of the Empire, hear this:

It is not against God to pursue wealth in this world, so long as it is done within Virtue. When Wealth is placed above Virtue, then it is placed above God, its weight upon the Soul forever heavy.