

To **Boyar Oleg Vladimirovich**
Chief Chronicler of the Baptismal Court of Rus'
KYIV

Feast of Saint Elijah, 1st of March, Year of Baptism of Kyiv
In the 10th year of Vladimir I's Grand Princeship

Oleg,

You will call this letter heresy. But do not burn it—*bury* it.

On the eve of the feast, as the priests bathed the children in the cold waters of the Dnieper, I looked north and saw the sky burn.

A green fire, streaking and pulsing across the heavens. It waved like the banners of a thousand armies. Not from sun or star. Not lightning. It danced above the river like a spirit *refusing to drown*.

The bishop called it a blessing. The monks chanted Psalms. But I remembered Perun—lord of lightning. I remembered the songs of my mother, who lit oil for Svarog at dusk. And I knew:

This is not a greeting. This is a goodbye.

You write the chronicles now. You pen the lineage of the saints. But what will you write of the gods we have cast into water? What of the spirits that spoke in trees and rivers and wind?

Do not mistake this as longing. I have kissed the cross. I have knelt before the icons. But I tell you, Oleg—when the sky opens not with light, but with memory, one must wonder if faith is foundation, or simply the *current god's name* for what we do not understand.

The people celebrate. The bells ring. The Dnieper runs cold with joy. But I saw the green fire and thought: the gods do not rage. They mourn.

Let it be known:

In the tenth year of the reign of Grand Prince Vladimir, when the aurora wept green across the Rus' sky, Yaropolk Sviatoslavich, Christianized prince, carved the sorrow of forgotten gods into the chronicles of Kyiv.

You are receiving this because your quill does not lie. Write this into the margins of the Baptismal Scroll. Not as doctrine. As grief.

Let it say: *when the Dnieper took the idols, the sky wept in green. And one prince, baptized, still remembered the names the wind once carried.*

In shadow and silence,
Yaropolk Sviatoslavich
Second Son of the Western Wall
NOVGOROD