







The Last Judgment

[One evening, as the clock struck midnight on Francesco Romano II's fiftieth birthday, a meticulously sealed envelope appeared on his doorstep. Addressed in the elegant script of his late grandmother, a stalwart patron of Italian culture and a devout adherent of the Vatican, it bore the weight of her legacy. With trembling hands, Francesco broke the seal and unfolded the aged parchment within. There, in her familiar handwriting, lay a testament to her abiding love and unwavering faith in him. It was not a mere letter, but a contingent bequest, meticulously timed to coincide with this significant milestone in Francesco's life. In her wisdom, she had deemed it necessary for Francesco to attain a firm footing in his country before bestowing upon him such a monumental responsibility. Thus, her legacy was not just a gift, but a challenge—an immense task entrusted to him only when he had proven himself worthy through the passage of time.]

Date: 5th November, 2030 To: Lucia Lorenzo From: Francesco Romano II

> "What the soothsayers revealed on a starry night, Guides the torchbearer of the Sicilian heritage's plight. Now, summoned by whispers from the past, your task unfurls, To craft an art gallery, a beacon for the world to swirls. There, in the bosom of the Mother of Zion, the Ark of the Covenant lies, Containing the Ten Commandments A horizon where faith never dies.





Х





Build your gallery in reverence, echoing faith's sacred call, A testament to the self-portrait of Cappella Magna, where art and spirit enthrall. There, beneath the sacred vaults of Florence, O ye artists skilled in brush and hue divine, I beseech thee, let thy hands now refine. But with consent from Florence, we must align, Permission seek we, to replicate this design, of the tale of the man's strife, Against Goliath, a giant whose defeat signified renewed life. But when the time comes, auction it at a rightful cost to the masses with care, As a symbol of triumph over darkness, let it be rare. Just as the victory over the giant, may it end their plight, And bring an end to their sufferings, in hope and in light. In the hues of oil on wood, an unfinished canvas gleams, A delicate masterpiece, a vision of dreams. Yet to a land where temperatures dare to rise, It journeys forth, under watchful skies. Handle with care, its fragile form,

> In climates harsh, where heat may swarm. For in its preservation, lies the key, To keep alive its legacy. No English claim shall seize its reign, Ours, Italians, its lineage sustain.









In the realm where gods and mortals meet, Lies Leda's tale, with mysteries sweet. Find the swan, where Zeus once roamed, In hidden depths, where secrets are owned. Gone from sight, a mythic flight, Leda's treasure, veiled from light. Seek it out, with eyes keen and rare, And bring it forth, from shadows' lair.

In the marketplace of dreams, where whispers weave, Tales of ancient wisdom, seekers believe. In search of treasures, both rare and sublime, They come seeking solace, in art's divine. Market the gallery, as a sacred shrine, Where spirits find solace, in beauty aligned.

In shadows deep where dangers lurk unseen, Where art's fair treasures lie, both rare and keen, I bid thee now, with wisdom's careful hand, To craft a plan to guard each masterpiece grand. With cunning eyes, perceive the threat unshown, And let no peril near these treasures known. Build walls of vigilance, strong and true, To shield the art from all the dangers that brew.









My dear grandchild, heed my words with care, For in your hands, my legacy I share. Build a gallery, where art shall find its home, A sanctuary of beauty, where spirits roam. Procure this trinity of holy artworks, with diligence and grace, Each a testament to time and space.

Secure the site, with wisdom and insight, Drawing seekers to bask in its light. And when the time comes, auction with pride, For the greater good, let it be your guide. Fulfill my legacy, as I know you should, For in your hands, my dreams find their good."

Please help me decode this my friend, I trust you will not let me down.

Warm regards, Francesco Romano II