

Judgements of the Imperial Synod



Understanding the **powers of the Synod** and
how it exercises them

Third edition, Summer 385YE

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Tribune of the Synod

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Raising a Judgement

Anyone who preaches to a congregation (either in a personal capacity, or by being appointed an appropriate sinecure) is considered a Member of the Imperial Synod and can submit **one** Judgement per summit for the scrutiny of **one** Assembly.

Normally, a Member will be a member of three Assemblies, and can raise a Judgement for the scrutiny of any one of them:

- ❖ The General Assembly, which all Synod Members are a part of
- ❖ Their National Assembly, of which there are 10 (one for each nation)
- ❖ A Virtue Assembly, depending on what Virtue they preach (this defaults to their dedication, or if they have none, to the Assembly of the Way, the 8th Virtue Assembly)

To raise a Judgement, a Member need only fill out an appropriate **Judgement Sheet** (available from the **Tribune in the Hub**) and present it to the Tribune for acceptance. They should pick one of the available **types** of Judgement (listed on the back page of this booklet), as well as a valid **Assembly** to consider the Judgement.

If there are no legal or procedural issues with the Judgement it will be accepted by the Tribune and posted in the relevant Assembly on the **Wall of Judgements** in the Hub, which is viewable by all citizens. It may then be voted upon by any Member who is a member of the relevant Assembly. Judgements are allocated a sequential reference number and are posted in order.

Once voting is complete, the result of the Judgement will usually be announced in the Hub. If upheld, it goes into effect immediately.

Types of Judgement

There are many types of Judgement, explored in some detail below, with a summary overleaf.

Appointment – these are raised by the Tribune, and function as elections to Synod Imperial Titles. Candidates should approach the Tribune to be considered.

Challenge – triggers a new election for a tenured title that is subject to Revocation, other than the Throne.

Change of Doctrine – a significant Judgement that proposes an addition, deletion or change to the Doctrines of the Faith.

Inquisition – compels an individual to attend for an hour of questioning, with legal repercussions if they do not. Before raising such a Judgement, it is highly recommended to agree a time and location with the target(s), and to ensure the correct Assembly is selected. Afterwards, these may be escalated to a Sanction.

Mandate – this takes advantage of specific opportunities identified by the Civil Service to use liao to influence hearts and minds. Make sure to use the exact wording – available in the Hub.

Recognition – make someone an Exemplar or Paragon, or challenge such a status. These must first clear the relevant Virtue Assembly before being escalated to the General.

Revocation – removes an Imperial Title from an individual, but cannot be used for Conclave or Bourse titles.

Rewarding – grants money or True Liao to the raising Member from the Virtue Fund, a pot accessible to the Synod. Money enters this pot via donations and the Bourse Auction of a dose of True Liao.

Sanction – There are four types:

- ❖ **Vindication:** To praise the virtue of an individual, or exonerate them.
- ❖ **Penance:** To instruct an individual as to how they can correct their unvirtuous behaviour.
- ❖ **Castigation:** To rebuke an individual for behaviour that is unvirtuous.
- ❖ **Condemnation:** To establish guilt of a religious crime – this triggers a referral to the Magistrates for prosecution.

Statement of Principle – expresses the will or opinion of an Assembly. If this reaches a Greater Majority, this will be distributed to relevant citizens and may provoke thought or reaction.

Veto – blocks a Senate Motion, as if it never passed in the first place. Whilst voting is ongoing, the Motion does not go into effect. The Assembly of Nine can Veto any motion that requires a constitutional vote.

Writ of Excommunication – a very serious Judgement that expels an individual from the Way, making them ineligible for Imperial Title, legalising the use of any ceremony against them, and placing their immediate monies into the Virtue Fund.

Type	Assemblies	Majority	Purpose
Appointment	Varies (Tribune)	Lesser	To elect Synod Imperial Titles
Challenge	Varies (by title)	Lesser	To trigger a new election for a tenured Imperial Title
Change of Doctrine	General	Greater	To Add, Change or Remove Doctrines of the Faith
Inquisition	Any	Lesser	To summon an individual for questioning for 1 hour - can then be escalated to an additional, free, Sanction
Mandate	Varies (by Mandate)	Lesser	To enact opportunities assessed by the Civil Service by spending liao
Recognition	Virtue (escalates to General)	Greater	To recognise an individual as an Exemplar or Paragon
Revocation	Varies (by title)	Lesser	To remove an Imperial Title from an individual
Rewarding	General	Lesser	To award money or True Liao from the Virtue Fund
Sanction	Any	Lesser	Vindication: To laud or exonerate the virtuous Penance: To instruct as to the correction of unvirtuous behaviour Castigation: To rebuke unvirtuous behaviour Condemnation: To establish guilt of a religious crime
Statement of Principle	Any	Lesser	To express the opinion of an Assembly or send a message to congregations
Veto	General/Nine	Greater	To strike down Motions of the Senate
Writ of Excommunication	General	Greater	To expel an individual from the Way