

*To the esteemed King Nibbles,*

*I bid you greetings in these trying times, as well as a warning.*

*I am aware you have had a close relationship with our shared neighbor in the Quotidian Quorum, and I hope you do not dismiss this missive out of hand as a result, but I fear that they are attempting to mislead you into believing that you can trust them. You cannot. While I shall go into further detail later on, I believe the Shaking Plague is the result of the Quorum, and we even have in our possession communications from them requesting that “We ... strike back at the rats with [our] magic... do what you will with them.” (a course of action we have not taken, obviously). In addition, research into the nature of the Shaking Plague indicates it bears strong resemblance to many rat-specific diseases, suggesting it might have once been a plague dedicated to extermination of rats or ratlings.*

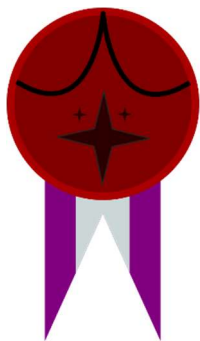
*The result of our investigation into the origin of the Shaking Plague places it as a direct attack by the entity known as ‘FRIEND,’ possibly aided by the Quotidian Quorum (details later) as a blast of wild magic originating from the Ultralands created a magical resonance with some of our own to unleash the plague upon our lands. Arithmantic recreations of the situation place the likelihood of this having been a truly random event as having less than a 1 in 100 billion chance of occurring, and by no small margin. The given number is but the calculated odds whereupon the plague would have infected anyone and begun to spread, and not the actual creation of the plague (for which we still have no explanation, as it defies all known medical knowledge how the blast created the disease).*

*Still, we, to the best of our ability, worked to contain the outbreak, though not before it had spread beyond our borders, where it fell out of our ability to control. Still, we worked tirelessly in an attempt to determine a cure for the Shaking Plague. Our progress was stymied, however, by a veritable army of saboteurs from the Quotidian Quorum. Having shapeshifted into the appearance of Daricians, they stole and destroyed research pertaining to the cure of the Shaking Plague. With this treachery unveiled, we launched into a series of investigations and discovered that the Quotidian Quorum has in their possession extensive knowledge on the creation and weaponization of disease. When we confronted them with this knowledge, they denied any involvement on the part of themselves and FRIEND, then promptly attempted to demand we provide them with all “magic, technology, or magitech related to disease*

creation” we possessed, a request we are not only unable to fulfill but entirely unwilling, for self-evident reasons.

*I trust that with this missive you are capable of seeing the enormity of a threat the Quotidian Quorum potentially represents, if they were capable of creating the Shaking Plague and are now seeking to prevent efforts to cure it. Their shapeshifting is potent, versatile, and until recently, thought utterly impossible. Almost all traditional methods utilized to identify shapeshifters will not work on them. However, their weakness seems to be crowds. Overload them with people in close proximity and their disguises will fall. Left unchecked, however, I fear what they might do.*

*Best of luck,*



*The Headmaster*