



To my ally, The Headmaster of Al Daric.

Whilst the eagle soars clear through the dawn, distilling glory.  
When the parrot whispers in trees, recounting life's story.  
And the takahe flicks swift through the branches  
And the albatross travels far, taking its chances.

The crow squats, eating the eyes of corpses.

The stars herald the season of Ambition is nigh, and your words are perhaps the greatest of its portents. Your letter was intriguing, nigh, revelatory. As we had previously written you, we had believed that the entity known as FRIEND had originated the plague, but we had not suspected the Quotidiens involvement. This accusation, however, makes several other details fall into place: the Rahastas have stated that they know who unleashed the plague, but are "bound by contract" not to share. We believe the QQ issue contracts to their allies, stipulating that information about QQ cannot be shared. In addition, our forces raiding the Quorum frequently suffered a variety of maladies and poisons. This fits, does it not?

We remember the 'Daricians' that assaulted our temple and attempted to steal secrets. We remember the letter from Grovel stating that 'Keitan' assassins had attempted to injure one of their agents (this seems especially unlikely, for if we attempt to kill you, you will be armed, and we will succeed). We remember these things as we read your story of 'Daricians' raiding your research facilities and destroying a cure that could have benefitted your nation greatly.







We remember. And we remember older things. Tales of soulless creatures, shapeshifters and aitu that haunted our people in the dawn of time. We remember what our ancestors had to do to those creatures. We remember the road to Extinction.

Thus, we are grateful to your letter in the extreme. Indeed, the timing was exceptional, for it resolved our quandaries in the field against the Dun Sancerrans the very day before we had planned to formally declare war. The Dun Sancerrans had offered us peace terms, but we had worried accepting them would not be compatible with our commitments to defend your nation. Yet in the light of our receipt of your letter, the Empress revealed she had received a similar letter, and her desires for conquest in Al Daric were transmuted - as if by some magic of your wizards - into righteous wrath against the Quotidien Quorum. With her stated desire to commit her forces to punitive action against the Quorum, we felt that it was safe to agree a peace settlement in the Tauhan lands (though we remaining willing to defend you against foreign expansionism in the future if this issue reoccurs). I hope we acted in accordance with your desires in this?

Your countermeasures against the Quorum have been effective, and their implementation rapidly detected several Quotidien, who we then transmuted into corpses through application of our own favoured spell - "javelin throw". Shall we send these cadavers to you, to further your subordinates work?

More broadly, we stand ready to aid you, in accordance to our alliance. Do you desire our aid in launching a military response to the actions of the Quorum? We are unsuited to a war in the shadows, such as they are waging against you, but perhaps we can distract them from your lands whilst you work on a cure. Dun Sancerre has suggested we three rulers meet in person to discuss a response, but as this will no doubt







take time to arrange, I would hear your thoughts so that we can allocate assets to your aid, or to other projects if not.

Do you intend to keep trading with the Quorum? If not, would the pathway to their lands be available for a military response into their heartlands? We would desire any information you have on them, their cities, trade routes or military capacities, for we know little beyond their nature as soulless mutagenic lab experiments.

As the season of Ambition approaches, may the Serpent witness my words and shine its light upon your own reply.



From his majesty Mansa Sino'otollo, the Shark-Binder, Voice of the Navigators, High King of the Four Fleets, Ruler of the Six Seas, Mansa of the Six Peoples, Lord of the Nine Islands, Viceroy of the Wreckage, Friend of the Cnidarians, the Starblessed, Binder of Men, Sitter of the Coral Throne, Warden of Ayambe, Plaguecleanser, Walker of the Elder Path, Cleaner of Latrines, Good Buddy, Keeper of the Ironscale Pact, First Sword of the Surf, Brine-bound and Iron Willed.

