

From The Desk of Deputy Icarian

Rank 4 and Above Eyes Only

To: The Headmaster

I do not believe that pursuing military alliances as our *only* means of defense is a prudent idea. To rely on the swords of others, especially when those others are so far away and rely on *us* for nothing, is incredibly risky: When they are done “helping” us, what reasons would they have to not simply take our wealth and land themselves? Not to mention their unreliability: You have already heard of the collapse of the Tauhan Empire, what would have happened to us if we had already staked our military survival on them?

For all that the situation worries me, however, I am pleased to report that we may not have as bad a crisis as we had feared. The military of Dun Sancerre continues to do nothing to impede our day to day running of our country- their soldiers do not threaten our governors, they generally avoid trouble, and some units have even shifted out of towns after some discussion between their diplomatic corp and the governors. We seem to be safe for the moment, but I am unsure if *seeming* is the same as being. Either way, the military units have actually begun attempted *recruitment* from our lands. They speak of a “great Crusade” in the name of their “Saints,” and though, of course, our people hold no reverence for any such poppycock, there have still been a few scattered reports of civilians signing up to join their military. Mainly those without other prospects, I believe, so no great loss, but it still paints a worrying picture.

I am pleased to say we have completed the construction of a Pathway on Keitan lands, with much aid from the various monster reagents provided by Rahastan traders (the most recent batch is supposedly from an “Undying Calf,” and shares elemental associations with both the sun and the moon, extremely useful for spatial tunneling spells). Trade has begun with the Keitan League, and may prove to be quite profitable: Not only do their markets lust for our trinkets and baubles, but their own mastery of magic has led to them trading extremely well trained pets, that they say have been made such with the aid of ‘mind bondage.’ These pets seem to have caught on in high

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society, and Trader Hermeshash says that our monopoly on their import has been quite profitable for us.

Speaking of Trader Hermeshash, I am most pleased to hear that you are placing him under my supervision. As you instructed, we have melted down and reforged any gold incoming from the Quorum, and have thoroughly insured that they remain unenchanted.

I have also begun the process of sorting through applications for Study Abroad programs, in addition to preparing our own spaces for introductory courses. We have sent the first batch to the League to see what we may learn and teach there, and have a promising crop of undergraduates who are prepared to venture into the Quorum, when it becomes feasible.

I await your letter eagerly,

Deputy Icarian