

*To my friend and deputy Icarian,*

*I have taken your words to heart, and while I understand your desire to immediately raise a mage-corps militia to respond to the threat of Dun Sancerre, I cannot in good conscience allow us to risk the life and limb of so many of our citizens when there are disposable pawns elsewhere in play.*

*Already, I have established the workings of defense pacts with the Keitan League and the Serebrian Confederation, where they will come to our martial aid in exchange for mere access to the Pathways. In addition, while the Tauhan Empire has yet to reply to our correspondences, they have offered their aid freely in defending our lands from Dun Sancerre as they attempt to encroach upon our lands.*

*With that, it brings me to the heart of my instructions for you. Work to establish the Pathways as an international network with as much haste as you can, monopolizing the reagents from the Rahastan Mother of Beasts to your maximum capability, attempting to bring the Pathways to our foreign allies as quickly as you can. I leave it to your better judgement the precise ordering, though I would hope you could at least make initial strides in this endeavor inasmuch as you are capable.*

*As for what nations you should pursue opening Embassies of Trade and the accompanying Path within:*

*The Keitan League has offered us their city of Rosha, a port city on the Fish Twin, as a location wherein we may open an Embassy of Trade, though they insist on guarding it. While it is my personal assessment that this provides us our greatest opportunity, being so far from our lands and so rich a trading location, I know not what difficulties you may face in establishing the embassy, and so leave you room to determine whether it should indeed be our first Embassy.*

*The Quotidian Quorum agreed to allow us to open one or more Embassies within their lands and have offered guides to aid navigation to construction sites. While they do not wish to have any Embassies within their heartlands, we can use this opportunity to establish waypoints to the far ends of Bellor, but I will leave it to your competent hands to work out the specifics of where we would obtain the most benefit from.*

*The Tauhan Empire I know not much of, but if you could attempt to establish a Path with their permission in an area where they could*

*reinforce us in the event of invasion, it would be most excellent. Coordinate with their army to obtain specifics.*

*The Kingdom of Grovel is allowing us to open an Embassy within their lands provided we stay aboveground. Use your best judgement where one might be of most use (though relatively easy access to the Horn Mountains would be quite pleasing).*

*The Serebrian Confederation has offered us unspecified land to open a Pathway upon. As always, I leave it to your judgement and assessment of the ground to determine the ideal location.*

*The Rahastan Assembly of Tribes, while having not given us express permission to open a Path within their borders yet, have certainly suggested that they will be willing to allow us shortly. Begin making the very first preparations therein, but no external work or anything that would be seen as disrespecting their sovereignty.*

*As you can no doubt tell, I wish for our primary focus to be upon opening the Pathways, and you may draw upon as many resources as you have available and deem fit to do so. It is up to your judgement as to which nations will receive them first, but I trust that you will make the right call.*

*Accordingly, given our relative glut of allies willing to throw themselves upon the sword of Dun Sancerre for us, take no directly hostile action upon them yet. However, prepare for a full evacuation of the lands they are near. Do not leave yet, merely make the citizens aware of the potential need to evacuate through their nearest Path. Should Dun Sancerre make any directly hostile moves before our allies have assembled, fall back and do your best to harry and delay their armies as much as possible. Disable and hide (but do not destroy) Paths that fall into their control.*

*With any funds you have remaining once you deem our outreach with the Pathways to be complete, I leave to your capable hands to find the most efficient use of them.*

*Please do relay a few instructions for me, though:*

*To Trader Heramesh: Melt down all Quotidian coins and gold and treat all objects obtained from them as though they had scrying relays that we cannot detect upon them. Accordingly, keep all such objects away from anything even remotely sensitive.*

*To your underlings at the Academy: Prepare for an influx of foreign students, and likewise, inform the students there is an opportunity to study at the hidden school in the Quotidian Quorum, and that if they are so interested, applications and the entry exam are open to all who wish to inquire. The Keitan League has also requested them we send them a few mages to help them ward against and learn about the Quotidian Quorum, an avenue I feel would be in our best interests to pursue. Send whoever and however many mages you feel are suitable for the task.*

*Your friend,*

*The Headmaster*