To my friend and lieutenant Icaran,

Your previous correspondence has left me concerned, I will admit. However, I feel that there is more to be lost angering Dun Sancerre by responding as though their intentions are hostile than I am willing to risk. Maintain trade and research, though prepare for a retreat through the Pathways if need be. With fortune, diplomacy shall prevail and we can continue to use our resources for more productive means.

Regarding our neighbors to the south, the Quotidian Quorum, I have not enough information to provide much in the way of guidance. I am currently seeking to establish contact with their leader to secure a trade deal with them. However, I want every piece of gold we receive from their nation melted down and dispelled. Assume all coins have a scrying beacon we cannot detect on them until otherwise proven.

To the west, I am very pleased to hear of your success in establishing trade with the Assembly. That will be your priority for the next month. While not neglecting other areas, I want for you to focus as much of your attention as possible in using the Mother of Beast’s reagents to push forward research into the Pathways. I am likewise attempting to establish a trade deal with the Assembly wherein, in exchange for access to the Pathways, we get first choice upon Titan and Leviathan Reagents. Should this deal pass through, I trust that you are capable of seeing to the minutia of expanding the Pathways into a proper international network. To this end, you have the backing of all dividends earned in trade since international markets opened. Use it responsibly and don’t waste it.