

To the Headmaster of the AlDaric

Your message finds me hale and in good health. I hope the same is true of you in return.

It is true, we hold our mages in high esteem. We have universities of our own, in fact, though perhaps none are the equal of yours.

These Pathways are of great interest to us, and your offer of their use a most welcome jewel indeed. Such a boon commands respect and parity, and as you've done me the courtesy of expounding on yours, I shall do the same for the aid you wish for.

Our warriors sit the saddle as soon as their feet can clasp a horse's flanks, and the best of them are the Winged Hussars. Trained in their arts from the age of six, prospective Hussars drill with the lance and the saber in the mornings, and study magecraft and philosophy in the afternoons. Their diets are strictly regimented to promote the growth of muscle and bone, their minds honed with tribulation and refined through academics that they become more than soldiers, but true masters of an art. Each one bears enchanted arms passed down through generations of their houses and traditions, dating back to the old Empire.

With this said, I admit to great interest in such an idea, but would be remiss in my duties if I did not ask after the cost. To ask after us in your defense in exchange for valued service is to expect the service to be used to compensate for this offering, is that not so? We do not balk from battle, were it necessary, but there is a curious saying among the freeholders, "I would punch a bear for you, but you must tell me how large it is and how many rows of teeth it has." Which enemies would we come to expect, and what might their strengths and weaknesses be?

I eagerly await your reply.

Mikhail Wladislaw
Prince of the Pass
High Chancellor of the Congress of Lords
As dictated to his personal scribe, Stefan Bozar