

To the headmaster, honoured educator, master of the paths and keeper of secrets

From his majesty Mansa Sino'otollo, the Shark-Binder, Voice of the Navigators, High King of the Three Fleets, Ruler of the Four Seas, Lord of the Eight Islands, the Starblessed, Councillor of the Cnidarians, Good Buddy, Binder of Men, Cleaner of Latrines, First Sword of the Surf, Brine-bound and Iron Willed. May the salt-sea bring his words to you this day, so that you may hear them and rejoice.

I accept your offer. Send us your builders of pathways, and my fleets will convey them to Roshan, a port city on the south-eastern edge of the Fish Twin. It is not my seat of power, but a regional trading hub and one within easy reach of traders from Grovel and Sereberia. We will guard it as you suggest, and I will accept your offer of education for my Navigators. They tell me your magics are marvellous things of artistry, so I fear their own contributions may be paltry. Nonetheless, I will tell them to share their charms of wind and rituals of water as their price for acceptance into your academy. It will take me some time to assemble their numbers and secure the backing of the elder voices in their number, but by the next cycle of the moon I shall hope to send some of their number to you to learn from your academies.

I will send traders too, and I hope great wealth will flow between our peoples. We have many goods born of the beasts and trees of the land, or hauled from the depths by our sailors. Pearls, corals, ivories and other materials are plentiful on our shores, whilst our navigators can provide mindbound creatures and their components, which I am told may be of great interest to mages. The greatest creatures we reserve for our own use, and the mindbound of prodigal races are serving for their citizenship, but to trade for a lizard-hound or a seeker-eel will be a mighty boon for any merchant.

The land of Dun Sancerre is unknown to us, for its leaders have not responded to our singular attempt at contacting them. This mark of disrespect does not dispose me to think well of them. What do you know of their land? What warriors have they, and what cities, that they might be so bellicose? Your own friendship has been clear and frank, and we are willing to lend our warriors to defend your lands if this spirit of friendship will continue to mutual profit. We are sailors primarily, and thus our aid would be best given upon the waves and along the coasts of their land or yours. If you can help us chart the Labyrinth as we discussed previously, our ability to reinforce you will grow tremendously. My sailors will be attempting this

in two moon-spans, and it would honour me if you can send guides or maps to aid this endeavour.

If we are to face other nations upon the world stage, I believe we should reach for further allies. The lands of the Rahastan and the kingdom of Grovel have so far shown us respect and offered us trade, whilst we have received primarily insults, attempted ensorcellment and infiltration from the Quorum. What has your contact been with these nations? If you would be agreeable, perhaps we could approach the kingdom of Grovel together and propose the formation of a regional powerblock: this would protect both of our borders, and allow us all to ward off the aggression of Dun Sancerre.

On the topic of aggression, the Quorum have now attempted twice to infiltrate our lands and spy on my people through magical means. My navigators do not know much of Quorum sorcery, and our numbers of gifted are few and their arts focused in other avenues. Perhaps you have better magics or knowledge of that realm? Any assistance you could lend would be appreciated, and will be returned in aid against threats to your own realm.

On a happier note, it brings me great joy to hear of your nation, and I am glad that you learned to face the calamities of the age of chaos. Struggle breeds strength, and though your struggle was different from ours, I am glad it has brought you such strength in magic. Our own islands and tribes once numbered in the hundreds, but the age of chaos brought storms and leviathans. Barely a tenth of a tenth of our people survived, and like you we did it by learning to travel, though our paths were the seas and our guides the stars themselves. From the very edge of destruction, my people learned to bend the lesser leviathan spawn to our will, and we now use that which sought to destroy us as our guides to wealth and prosperity. Today, we are a people split into many tribes, full of the prodigal children, honoured bound, skilled sailors and mighty warriors. Each tribe has joined their voice to my own, and I am honoured to bring their words to you.

Under the pull of the tides and the glare of the wyld star, my words are bound

*Mansa Sino'otolle*