

To Princess Alvarella of the Anilaths, heirs of the Mind of Stars.

I extend my congratulations upon your three hundred and seventh birthday. Although I myself met the light of my life many years ago, I wish that you may find similar happiness. To that end, I will encourage my unmarried sons to write to you. You will find my second son Tiban'otollo is mighty in word and deed, a brave and daring Captain who has fought leviathans and quelled enemies through the might of his boasts. My third son can hold his breath longer than any man I have ever seen, and he brings forth pearls from the depths whose beauty may help him anticipate your own. My fourth son is not worth your time. My fifth son is still an apprentice Navigator, but has already mastered the treacherous eastern shoals and bound many fell beasts to his will.

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, Friend of the Cnidarians, the Starblessed, Binder of Men, Cleaner of Latrines, First Sword of the Surf, Brine-bound and Iron Willed. May the stars whisper his words to you this day, so that you may hear them and consider.

Mansa Sino'otollo

(attached to the letter are several long letters of poetry and compliments from four of Sino'otollos sons, accompanied by gifts. The second son has sent a poem of charming verse, the third son a beautiful pearl set in a carved wooden hairpiece, the fourth son has sent an earnest letter about stars and curious questions about the ultralands but does not seem to have been able to send a gift, the fifth son has sent a parrot that has been taught to recite his own name but has the habit of saying "hey bae, u up?").