

To the great scaled ear of Vulkerath Sootscale, Bridge-between-nations, honoured ruler of the peaceful Rahastan assembly of tribes.

Your words do you credit, and we have a special place in our hearts for those who treasure peace as you do. Rahastan sounds mighty indeed. My own lands look to our Navigators for guidance, who in turn use the stars to chart safe paths through the reefs of the world. That your kin seeks to uncover the dangers in the Ultralands does you honor, and I will seek to aid such an expedition: There is a boy in my own lands, who names himself "an adventurer" and delves into dangerous temple. ~~He is, frankly, annoying.~~ Perhaps I could ~~get rid of him for a bit~~ honour you by sending him and some of my most talented Navigators and Beast Riders to join your expedition in a few months - where one nation's talent's might fail in the Ultralands, a combined expedition of many peoples may have the talents to succeed. We could approach other nations as well - for example Al Daric has told me they are eager to explore the Ultralands and have many adventurers and freemages who might be recruited for the task.

Your concern for the Tauhan is pleasing, but the implication that they brought this fate upon themselves concerns me. Do you know why they were cursed so? I would gladly assist in safeguarding their people, and your offer of assistance from the Grasp is gladly accepted. Please inform your people that I will be sending ships to the coast east of the Grasp, and my captains would humbly ask to dock in your ports for resupply. From there, my captains will be seeking to establish permanent harbours along the northern coast so that we can protect those tribes who choose to join your realm or my own, and it is my hope these locations will allow our two peoples to trade directly - I include a map of areas we plan to travel to, and if you wish to send your traders east to meet my ships, we can begin trading within the month.

As for the Quorum, your desire to act as a bridge is acknowledged and accepted. Keitan honour has been slighted by their rerepeated insults to our traders, emissaries and communications. To be a king is a position of honour, and if I do not act with respect and receive it in turn, some amongst my people would say I am no king at all. A third direct insult from the Quorum will leave with no choice but to burn their nation to the ground - or abdicate. I would choose the former.

Please inform the Quorum that there is an easy way for peace to resume between our people. They should apologise for their transgressions, and refrain from them in future. My letters and communications are not to be answered glibly by mere children. My traders are not to be paid with ensorcelled wares, and should

Quorum enter sovereign Keitan waters they will not do so in secret to spy upon us. No Quorum is to ever impersonate any Kietan - our faces are our own, not a shiny gift for a crow to imitate. The mind-bound who serve us to do so with honour, and further insults to them will be avenged by those same mind-bound once they have earned citizenship. Should the Quorum agree to these conditions, I would be pleased to resume peaceful relations upon receipt of the traditional compensation.

It is traditional amongst my people for the ignorant or defeated to send themselves or their children to the wiser victor to be mind-bound and learn to act as proper adults and emissaries to our court. It would be honourable and proper for the Quorum to do this, but as they have shown repeated contempt for our ways I suspect they will be unwilling. As such, we will consider honour satisfied if they make an equivalent gift - if they lack the imagination to devise one, a tribute of 200 nutulan of gold (=1 wealth) would be sufficient recompense.

From his majesty Mansa Sino'otollo, the Shark-Binder, Voice of the Navigator Conclave, High King of the Three Fleets, Ruler of the Five 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 tides and stars bring great bounty to the shores of our nations.

Mansa Sino'otollo

(attached to the letter is a map and a small intricately carved Bridge made from whale bone. Areas marked in yellow on the map indicate places the Keitan fleet plans to attempt to establish holdings and evacuation zones)

