

To his leadership Vulkerath Sootscale, honoured ruler of the prodigal Rahastan assembly of tribes.

I understand your concern, and I will do my best to provide you with the information you require. Please find attached my correspondence with the Quorum. We have yet to reply to their final letter given the juvenile depths of the insults they served us there. For context I also attach the report from the adventurer who first made contact with the Quorum. I apologise for his strange discourse, he is from a far off land, and my scribes have included the strange accents he places after words verbatim.

Excerpt From Report by Akira Shiroyama

[Then] we went to visit the Quotidian Quorum (I swear to god who comes up with these country names) next and I think it might be haunted or something?? Each place we visited almost looked abandoned they had only one guy there, human each time and always wearing these super edgy black cloaks and shit. spoke to us using the Keitan language too, tho like. Weird? My scribe said it was an older form and shes cute so i believe her anyway we'd offer to sell him stuff, he'd decline or be evasive or whatever sometimes he'd say yes and then he'd just go away????? Then we'd go check our stores and one of each thing we had would be gone, replaced with these gold tokens?? Fuck is up with this place ship wizard said that there was a surveillance enchantment on 1 out of every 19 tokens but that it was easy to spot and remove, so I *guess* we got paid?? fuck idk man this place is weird :p

(Please note that we do not have "wizards", Akira refers to our Navigators as such, though our correspondence with Al'daric indicates they far outstrip any of the natural and mind magic our navigators know).

First Letter to the Quorum

To the unknown ruler of these lands

To hide ones intent and face from the world is a thing of insects and mud-fish. My traders and explorers report that your lands seem abandoned, yet a few individuals purporting to represent your people emerged to trade with them, then plied them with ensorcelled coins. The captains involved are insulted, and I must quell their anger. If you wish for happy relations between our peoples, I suggest refraining from such activities in future.

If you wish peace and further trade from the Keitan, approach us openly with the respect of a formal introduction and embassy. Any further attempts to ensorcel my people or our coinage will result in repercussions. Still, I pray to the stars that you might wish for peace and trade between our peoples, and have the wisdom to demonstrate this desire before my captains decide to repay your insults in kind.

Reply from QQ

Mansa Sino'otollo , Keitan League Ruler,
From their eminence, JR, the guider of their people, holder of the Six Territories, Keeper of the Knowledge and the
Watcher of Butterflies.

Our people do indeed tremble, and have done so since you have done us the discourtesy of bringing mind slaves into our lands. This abhorrent practice compelled my tradesmen to insult your captains, it seems, and while I truly apologize for their actions I cannot, in truth, help but see their point. I can, however, vow to you that no further ensorcelled coins will be given to your people. Should you require it, I can investigate, to my best ability, what sorts of spells were involved and how best to remove them, as an act of good faith.

Our people are no insects, nor are we mudfish. As such, we must provide our own requests necessary for peaceful trade. No embassy will be provided to you, as we can not guarantee to our ambassadors that they will not become mind slaves should they enter your borders. We ask you bring no further mind slaves to our lands.

We may well find ourselves amenable to a formal introduction, if you could but define such a thing for us. As we have seen demonstrated so clearly, our customs are very different, and what may be common courtesy to one of us may be the gravest insult to the other.

In that interest of respect, I duly offer the fact that among my people a prompt reply is considered respectful and I have done my best to reply as fast as I am able, as clearing this misunderstanding is paramount.

May your trade paths be prosperous,
JR, Quotidan Quorum Ruler

Second Letter

To your eminence JR, the guider of a Prodigal People, holder of the Six Territories, Keeper of the Knowledge and the Watcher of Butterflies.

I thank you for the promptness of your letter, though it saddens me that you show your barbarism and the prodigal nature of your people in every word of your ignorant response. You claim we own slaves - we do not. Would you call a child a slave to his parents? An apprentice a slave to his tutor? A sailor a slave to his captain? No. The mind-bound serve with honour, and earn their way to adulthood and citizenship. My own service as a mind-bound is long behind me, but it taught me the value of good sanitation and to respect my betters - two traits I suggest you acquire with all speed.

We will not alter our ways for you, but we are not faithless or prodigal - we would not practice our magics on honoured ambassadors, nor would we strike down those who have accepted guest-rights. We will continue to send our traders and their *complete* entourages to you, and you may send yours to us. We hope friendship can still bloom between us - tell me of your culture, and your ways. Tell me of these six kingdoms, and of the peoples that reside in your realm. Why have we encountered so few of you? What goods are most desired in your ports? Perhaps if we know more of each other, we can avoid any further insults on either side. But I must repeat that any further attempts to cheat us or insult my people will be treated most harshly.



Reply

Mansa Sino'otollo , Keitan League Ruler,
From their eminence, JR, the guider of their people, holder of the Six Territories, Keeper of
the Knowledge and the Watcher of Butterflies, by way of Jamie, Intern of JR, Learner of
Language, Respector of Elders.

Our people do indeed tremble, and I am sorry that you feel
such contempt for us. However, we do not hold slaves, and we do not seek to enslave anyone.

We merely wish to trade with you in order to improve our lives.
I cannot believe that you think we are some barbaric people! If anything, we are a nation of
scholars and philosophers. We study the sea, the land and everything else under the sun.

If you only knew us better, you would not make such an illogical statement! You say your
people are barbarians, that's fine. I'll grant you that.

You laugh at our entreaties; you spit on our peaceful overtures. You give us no choice but to
send this letter with a respected leader of our opposition. You hope that this letter finds you well, and that
you will change your ways soon.

Well, I
best get going then.

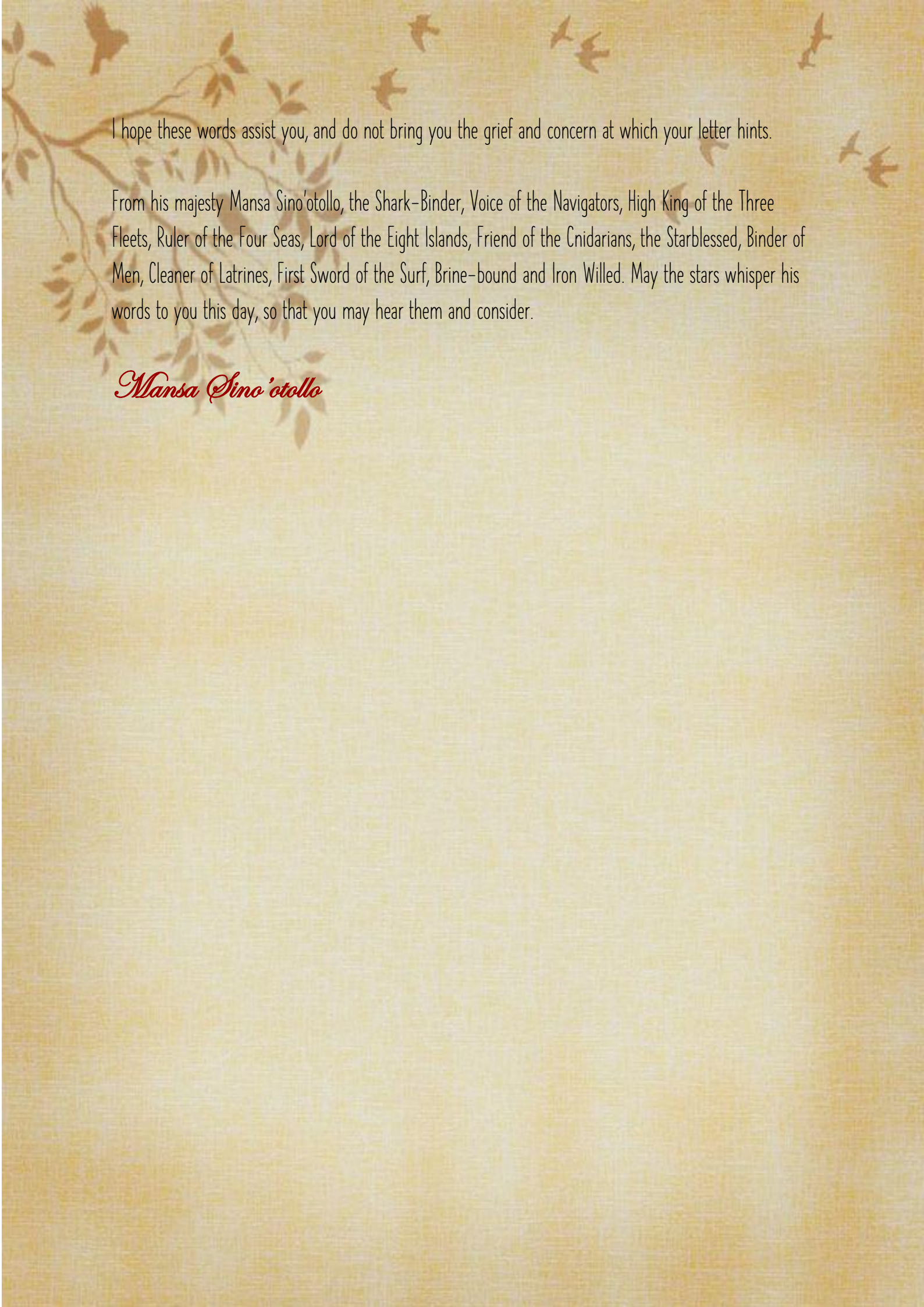
Written by:

Intern Jaimie, age 14

Approved by:

JR,

p.s. I am afraid I don't have the heart to tell dear Jaimie that we can't actually convince a respected leader
of our
opposition to deliver this letter to you. I'm sure you understand.



I hope these words assist you, and do not bring you the grief and concern at which your letter hints.

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