

to any member of tea-leaf spire who may attend anvil,

my name is conan. i am a grendel trader of the broken shore, and i have a proposition for you which you may find attractive.

i have been seeking the means to help foster peace between our two peoples by helping to heal the wounds of the past. as a resourceful and well-connected trader, i am in a good position to enquire around the slave-markets of fort fuil, and i listen to the stories of the human slaves taken from urizen and the brass coast. one man, a skilled urizen alchemist and tea-brewer commanding a high price, mentioned a draughir brother of tea-leaf spire. though i'm sure there must be many draughirs in urizen, he mentioned that his brother was a talented apothecary with similar skills to his own - and so it is that i send this letter to anvil, where the imperials of drive and ambition tend to turn up, in the hope of it reaching you.

i didn't buy him, but i know the man who did; we've done business in the past. i could buy him back, and in the interests of peace, i would charge only a finder's fee on top of the purchase-price; this is prosperity, is it not?

alternatively, i present a political opportunity; one which i would prefer, if i'm honest. i seek to influence a patron of mine toward peace with the empire, so that i can get back to safely trading across the bay without worrying about war-fleets and pirates. my patron is fond of the city of sarvos, having travelled in the bay in years gone by, and i understand that an old and beautiful map of that city is for sale at anvil presently. acquire it, arrange a meeting for the autumn summit, and i will waive my fee.

if you can reply at this summit by magical means, i will go to your brother's new owner in the season and buy him back. i realise this is a tasteless offer to imperial ears, but i am given to understand that trading with barbarians to free slaves is not covered by the general prohibition on trading with "barbarians", nor considered slave-trading. i have no interest in breaking your laws.

i look forward to your reply, and to taking the first steps to influence our peoples toward peace.

**conan**