

## **A NOT ENTIRELY ROUTINE MORNING**

This morning began as any other ... but it didn't stay that way.

As you leant over a washbowl (or stream) to wash your face you realised you were being watched. A hand-sized fish-like creature swam back and forth below the surface of the water. Not a fish, you realised – a tiny whale or perhaps a fat dolphin, no more than six inches long.

As soon as it realised you had spotted it, it rose up slightly out of the water and talked in a high-pitched, slightly squeaky voice that was difficult to hear. It was clearly shouting to attract your attention.

“Hello Navarr Ebb of the Summercrows! I am Beleth, messenger of Leviathan! The Abyssal One has words for you! I have been chosen to deliver them!”

You have to lean closer to hear the tiny creature properly.

“The Deepest One has been considering the question the Iron Scroll asked, and would like to speak with you. It is suggested that you, Braith, Cigydd, Idris, or Isca – or all five of you if you prefer – come down to the Imperial regio at Anvil at the eighth hour after noon. Use the simple cantrip of gate opening, and the Dweller in the Depths will be able to hear you and speak to you.

“There is only a little time when the Great One will be swimming close to the Empire – it will wait as long as it can but there are many other places to be and the tides between worlds are tricky to navigate at the moment, even for the Exalted Swimmer in the Unconquered Deep.”

The little whale-beast flicks its tail, sending ripples through the water, then leaps up into the air for a moment and dives down – seemingly swimming deeper and deeper until it is lost in the depths of your shallow wash bowl (or stream).

This message is for the Mari Linkforge/Bryony Cain, Archmage of Day (2464.1)

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As soon as it realised you had spotted it, it rose up slightly out of the water and talked in a high-pitched, slightly squeaky voice that was difficult to hear. It was clearly shouting to attract your attention.

“Hello Navarr Mari of the Linkforge Coven! I am Beleth, messenger of Leviathan! The Abyssal One has words for you! I have been chosen to deliver them!”

You have to lean closer to hear the tiny creature properly (perhaps you even shove your head under the water so it can whisper it's piping little voice into your merrow ear).

“The Deepest One first sends greeting to the Imperial Archmage of Day and expresses it's hope that the tides of your body are in harmony! Recently, the Dweller in the Depths has receives a strange message by a method that it finds deeply, deeply distasteful. Please, as you wish Leviathan to be a friend of the Empire, make sure that such messages are never sent again! It is suggested that Octavius of the Auric Horizen spire, who is the Provost of the Halls of Knowledge, will know what this is about as it was that one which sent the message!

“The Dweller in the Depths will swim close to Anvil tonight, around the eighth hour after noon, on other business. It suggests that if you wish to speak with it, you could do so by performing the simple cantrip that opens a gate, but there is only a little time when the Great One will be swimming close to the Empire – it will wait as long as it can but there are many other places to be and the tides between worlds are tricky to navigate at the moment, even for the Exalted Swimmer in the Unconquered Deep.

“At the same time, if Octavius wishes to speak to the Abyssal One, then they might do so but should be aware that it will not be forgiving of further rudeness.”

With that the little whale-beast flicks it's tail, sending ripples through the water, then leaps up into the air for a moment and dives down – seemingly swimming deeper and deeper until it is lost in the depths of your shallow wash bowl (or stream).