

Thalia,

Before the pleasantries, please read the second-to-last paragraph of this letter. On the reverse, not this side. Take action as necessary. Then return to this point.

Thank you for having the temerity to come speak with me at the Winter Solstice. I trust the meeting was of benefit to all those present. Perhaps you could share this missive with the Grandmaster of the Shattered Lantern, or their proxy - unless that happens to be yourself.

At our meeting, you mentioned those who pay tribute to the Salt-Born Devourer, that which you call Siakha. I will speak plainly: those fanatics irk me greatly. They are too quick to deal with problems with brute force and brutal magic, and have no capacity for the subtle touch. I vastly prefer subtlety, and I am sure you do too.

I have, as a personal favour to you, scoured my contacts for any news of the fanatics. As it happens, I am told that Giorsal, one of the Mother-of-Wreck's most ardent worshippers amongst our ranks, is planning to sail dangerously close to the coast of Spiral this coming Saturday morning. Apparently, this is to "meet with a representative" of Siakha. The ship is named *Blood-on-the-Waves* and should be in the waters of Apulus before midday.

I trust that you would be able to find one or two individuals with sufficient nous to stealthily infiltrate that meeting. Should you manage to take advantage of this opportunity, I would be most interested to learn what transpires. Send me a Winged Messenger with anything you learn. Or get a representative to do it.

Secondly, to matters where we can more directly benefit one another. I'm impressed by the way in which the Empire has taken "advantage" of the Black Plateau. Also, I'm frankly appalled. I had previously thought the Urizeni in particular to be far more cautious around such a dangerous location. The number of casualties you've caused - on both sides - is significant.

Still, it doesn't directly affect me. I saw the attack coming, and am safely back in Dubhtraig. However, some of my rivals were a little slower off the mark, and have been further hampered by the pallor that has washed over Spiral, so there does appear to be a silver lining after all.

As a result, one of my rivals is only now arranging for some of his profits from Spiral to be evacuated. There's small train of cargo being carried out of the area by a group of Wave Riders, who will reach the Indigo Pass leading out of Apstrus early on Friday evening. Deny my rival his cargo, and he'll struggle to pay his debts. I look forward to seeing how he deals with his creditors then.

Should I receive word of your success, then I will send you some information I have recently uncovered about one of our sources of White Granite. But fail - or decide not to go - and the deal is off.

Yours,

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