

From Kaelan of The Hollows
to Maximilian of Spring Spire
12th day of the first moon, 374YE

Dear Nephew

I have enclosed some of the specimens you requested, and the herbarium of Illiae; I hope this helps in your research. We have a good spring currently, and I hope to collect Illiae for a copy of the herbarium, in which case you would not need to return it.

As for Thule, here is the information I found regarding the dragons:

The Dragons have not been encountered on a battlefield to date, but are believed to be extremely aged orc men and women who are potent ritual magicians. They are believed to occupy a cavern complex in the heart of Otkodov. Rumours and myths about the Dragons are rampant among the Thules; they say that they can somehow "walk as spirits" and observe anything that happens in lands claimed by the Thules; that they are physically immortal; that they are living ancestors, possessed by the spirits of the greatest Thule who have ever lived; that in times of need they can assume the form of unique and terrible beasts with their magic; that they feed on magical materials and mana crystals; and that they travel bodily to other realms where powerful spirits offer them fealty. Of course, much of this must be Barbarian superstition, but this is the definition written down by Delphius of Ankarien 239YE.

I have not been talking to your mother, but I believe that your plan to go into the wilderness for a year to gain better insight in yourself and improving your particular skill is ill advised almost as much as the Ammonit Night ritual - if it has to be, I would advise you to do it in Redoubt, and offer you shelter in the Hollows, but mark my word - I think it may not be time well spent.

I am sorry to be such an unsupportive uncle to you and I hope you will understand my advice in the best possible way; please let me know if the herbarium helped you classify the yellow flowers in the well.

I remain yours sincerely,