

Dear Fathermother,

I was overjoyed to hear from Mel'yannah that you had returned to us again. I told you that she would survive and recover in time. I had also told the others that we should be expecting you soon, but there was always the fear that we might miss you this time. Plus you could not have emerged at a better time as I really could use your help.

Before anything else, I do need to give you the warning you asked me to give you the next time around:

Ylith Silthar does not care about you.

Apparently, in every one of your lives, you always find Ylith Silthar and you always believe you have a special bond, and you always create life. Yet that is ultimately the extent of Ylith Silthar's interest. Motherfather is good at sounding like it cares about mortals so that they will aid him in spawning more life, but the only things Motherfather truly cares about is creating lots of life, serving Yaw'nagrah and aiding Heralds of Yaw'nagrah. That does not include you – and it does not include me.

I really wanted to come and see you in person, but Papa Otec has sent me to the Barrens and I am unlikely to be free until my mission as his Herald has been completed. I'll come back to that though as you'll need me to start from the beginning.

You said last time that you are born with no memory of me, or the others, unless you have some kind of vision. So I suppose I should reintroduce myself.

My name is Kvaasi, Herald of the Prince of a Thousand Foes, and you are, or were, my father.

I do not exactly understand how it works, so the last time you asked me to keep a hold of a text that had been written by some Varushkan Wise One, which I have enclosed with this letter. I hope they both reach you. Ylith Silthar doesn't talk to me since I broke from Yaw'nagrah, so I had to ask Mel'yannah to ask Motherfather to deliver it. She is still his favourite. Anyway, the scroll should explain everything. You should probably read that now.

Now the scroll is old, so it falls to me to fill you in on what has happened since. Plus I have the best memory and writing skills of all your children.

Starting with Baxshula, as we suspected her fascination with naturally venomous creatures did not limit her solely to the domain of Yaw'nagrah. It ultimately led Baxshula into the lair of Arhallogen where she donned

the Spiderbite and became Herald to the Spider-King. Now I don't want you to worry but the last time I saw Baxshula, Arhallogen's venom was taking its toll. Baxshula was happy though, in the way that one is when one has found one's true place and destiny, and she is untroubled by the indifference Ylith Silthar now shows her.

For me, I wish that I were as immune to Motherfather's indifference, but I also know that I am where I should be. You have to have the right skills and mindset to survive as a Herald of Irrah Harrah. Being sent into places of great danger to aid others in surviving is not gentle on the heart, but I grow restless otherwise.

I have not seen Gilean in a long time. The last I heard, Llofir was sending Gilean to the Sacrophan Delves, but what her mission there is, I do not know. I have every reason to believe that she is well though. Gilean is older and more powerful than I am.

So, eventually, we come to Mel'yannah. Obviously, you had been worried that she was grievously hurt by the destruction of the Heart of Spring regio she had merged with. I told you at the time she would recover. I will admit I was worried though and it did take about a hundred years, but her strength has returned and she is back to her quest to bring lineage to the un-diverse orc-kind. The Thule orcs have provided Mel'yannah with a Spring regio and she was confident of better results this time, and that was before the birth of Stormerow Vora. I cannot begin to tell you how excited she was by that development. It is too early to tell, but the spawn from a male orc Archmage of Spring could be the key that Mel'yannah has been seeking for about four hundred years.

Obviously we are all very excited by the arrival of Ylitha-Rose and to learn what her potential may be. Unsurprisingly, Ylith Silthar will want her to remain with Yaw'nagrah or else lose interest, however I hope that she will be something special. Perhaps this could be the Eternal we spoke of?

I hope that covers most of what you need to know, as I need to ask for your help. You see Papa Otec has sent me to the Black Winds orc tribe in the Barrens, which is where a Winged Messenger would reach me, if you wanted to write.

The Black Winds sought the aid of Irrah Harrah to help them in their uprising against the Druj that conquered them. I have been doing everything that I can. Rahvin – the leader of the Black Wind – has a plan to build an alliance between other Barrens tribes, but it is not going well. The tribes fought one another a lot before the Druj and there is not a lot of trust.

Senator Jorma Steelhail of Wintermark has written to Rahvin to try and do a deal between the Empire and the Black Winds Tribe. I have persuaded Rahvin that the Empire might be neutral ground on which the tribes could meet. This has issues as some Barrens Tribes see the Empire as no better than the Druj. Anyway, I have managed to persuade four of the biggest groups to send people to Anvil to discuss if there is even the slightest potential for alliance. If it goes well, we might have something. It's a long shot, but taking any chance you have is the Prince's way. They should arrive on Sunday.

One of the stronger tribes is the Great Forest Tribe, and the Black Wind really would do well to get them on side. Getting the Great Forest to come to the Empire to talk with other Barrens tribes is difficult, because it was the Empire who destroyed their Spring regio around a hundred years ago.

You were the only way I could attract their interest in meeting in this way.

You see, the Great Forest Tribe are the descendants of the Gyak, and their Spring regio was the one that Mel'yannah had merged with. The Great Forest tribe have mythologised that incident, and they retain a strong reverence for Yaw'nagrah, and Mel'yannah, and – by extension – Mel'yannah's mother. So I may have told them that by coming to the meeting, they would have a chance to meet you and bask in your glorious radiance.

I am really sorry, Fathermother, but I may have laid it on a bit thick about how you are the Mother of Heralds and have returned from the grave to bring salvation to all those who are touched by the Realm of Spring. In my defence, I really needed the Great Forest Tribe to come to the meeting and for that meeting to go well.

If you could possibly do all you can to keep the Great Forest Tribe at least willing to listen to the Black Wind's proposals, and perhaps either not disappoint them too much or, ideally, perform a miracle for them, then I would be extremely grateful and I would be in your debt.

I'll leave it that for now. I just want to finish by saying that I am so very excited to have you back in the world. I also hope that, this time, you might break the pattern and actually live beyond the age of forty, and die of natural causes.

Your son,

Kraasi

Herald of the Prince of a Thousand Foes