

Thalia,

I am somewhat disappointed. I can only assume that you don't feel like sharing whatever you learnt from the worshippers of Siakha. I had thought we shared a mutual distaste for them.

Thank you, however - I have confirmed reports that my rival's band of Wave Riders never made it through Indigo Pass. As a result, his remaining assets have been seized by his creditors, allowing me to move in on his business.

So, as promised, I will give you some interesting information about one of our sources of White Granite.

Salt Lord Moorvain imports White Granite for our nation. He purchases the material in bulk from an Asavean noble family - House Tarquinius. Up until recently, these supplies were delivered to Spiral directly for the purpose of building fortifications. As is clear, that is no longer an option.

I have been informed that one of that House - Leri Tarquinius - did not manage to escape Spiral before your troops advanced, and was taken into custody.

I am quite confident that by the time you read this letter, he will no longer be in custody. Rather, he will have been broken out by Grendel in the employ of Moorvain, who will attempt to escort him across Spiral to Mareave.

They will attempt to take him via The Argent Path that leads along the ruined coast, in an attempt to avoid Imperial armies. I imagine you can intercept them there.

Why? Because Salt Lord Moorvain has sworn an oath to the Tarquinius family that he will see Leri safely out of Spiral and back home. Should you put an end to Tarquinius out on the Argent Path, House Tarquinius will treat Moorvain as an oathbreaker, and refuse to do business with him.

*It should be obvious by now that I also gain in this endeavour. Salt Lord Moorvain is due a fall from grace - and trust me when I say there are people willing to step into the fold. Of course, it will hamper our ability to procure additional White Granite in the short run - but I have no concerns in that regard. Indeed, perhaps at some future point we might see trade of such resources between our nations.*

*With this information I consider our present arrangements settled.*

*I am keen to continue our relationship, however. I think we can continue to be useful to one another. I do, however, need some show on your part that you are as committed to our ongoing deal as I am. Therefore I have a favour to ask of you.*

*As a favour to one of my kin, Seer Cullaegn, I have arranged for a coven of Sky magicians to travel to Anvil this Saturday evening. They will require careful escort to the artifact you call the Sentinel Gate, which they seek to understand the nature and history of through an arcane projection. They will then require the same for the regio which stands within the boundaries of Anvil. Then they will need safe escort away once more.*

*Seer Cullaegn is very interested in understanding these magical phenomena. I expect you to ensure that the coven comes to no harm whilst in Anvil, and that their presence is not advertised. Do this, and I will be confident that you believe we can work together for mutual benefit. Refuse, or fail, and I will take it that you want this relationship to end forthwith.*

*If you wish to talk, Winged Messengers will find me in Dubhtraig.*

*Yours,*

*N*