

Ambassador to Jarm

Letters to the Jarmish Embassy

Oswi Twice Burned (3079.1)

Ambassador to Jarm

Over the last three months there have been several letters bearing news of Jarm. Several come from the civil servants who staff the embassy in Rigia (in Eastern Jarm), but there are also several clipped correspondences from Lord-Magister Anton Trescher of the Hidden Hook, who advises the House of Princes on international trade.

Game Information

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The Apologies

Lord-Magister Anton Trescher of the Hidden Hook expresses his satisfaction with the apologies issued by the Concalve and the Senate. They have gone a long way towards defusing the current tensions between the two nations – indeed, the Empire should already be seeing that the embargo against trade in crystal mana has been removed.

Trescher is confident that unless something happens to further sour relations, the Northern and Southern princes should be turning their attention to more important matters shortly – providing an opportunity for his office to quietly remove the other restrictions and return trade to an equitable position.

The Ferrero Deal

The civil servants working in Jarm continue to express about the arrangement between Magician-Prince Barbara Radz of Rigia and Duke Ferrero Sanguineo Rezia di Tassato of the Gilded Horn Carta. The deal has apparently seen nearly two hundred orc slaves provided by the Eastern magician-princes transported to the Empire.

This has led to an immediate increase in offers from noble houses across Jarm to sell *more* orc slaves to the Empire, provided Imperial ships are prepared to carry them away. While the civil servants understand that this is part of a scheme to liberate slaves, they find the entire business deeply suspect and are concerned about the legality – they would ideally like to see a clear announcement from the Imperial Senate in support of Ferrero's plans, or offering guidance on how they should proceed with regard to buying more Jarmish slaves.

The civil servants also remark that many of the people coming to them from the North and South are attempting to sell *human* slaves. They stress that only a *fraction* of the slaves the Jarmish keep are orcs, after all.

Religious Matters

Civil servants report that emissaries of the Sumaah Republic are actively spreading the story that the faith of the Empire is in decline. Their efforts in Eastern Jarm have been effectively opposed by the convincing arguments of **Stormcrow Beodun Snowlock** of Wintermark who has recently spend several months supporting the followers of the Way in Rigia.

Unfortunately, this means that the Sumaah have been free to malign the Empire's commitment to the way in Vezak and Kavor. Lord-Magister Anton is unconcerned, but the civil servants at the embassy are expressing worries that if they continue unchecked the Imperial Synod will lose its mandate to speak for the Way.

Religion is considered a private matter in Jarm, but among local followers of the “paths of virtue” the zeal of the Sumaah is both recognised and respected. While this is unlikely to greatly impact trade or political relations between Jarm and the Empire, if the Jarmish are convinced that the Synod has lost its way then its ability to reach out to the people of the Principalities might be greatly curtailed.

Opportunity : Limitu Principality House of the Way

Reports from the North suggest that the Limitu Principality House of the Way may be under attack specifically from the Sumaah.

Established to increase the presence and influence of the Imperial faith in Jarm, the House of the Way is being roundly criticised and the previous liason between it and the Empire **Eadread Oswinson of Fjellrevening Hall** appears to have stepped down leaving the priests there uncertain as to how they might proceed.

The civil servants suggest that the Assembly of the Nine should be encouraged to name a successor as quickly as possible. They also pass on the information that the Magician-Prince of Limitu has recently passed away. His successor, his son Tuernin of Limitu, is apparently quite publicly grieving. The old Prince's wife, the mother of the new Prince, is sympathetic to the Way.

There is an opportunity for the Imperial Synod to secure a solid foothold here by providing “proof” of the existence of past lives. Any assembly, including the Council of Nine, may send a named priest to Limitu principality with a dose of *true liao* with instructions to offer Magician-Prince Tuernin an opportunity to experience one of his past lives. If this opportunity is successful, the influential Prince will surely throw his support behind the Empire. This will benefit from the Limitu Principality House of the Way and serve to significantly reduce the effectiveness of the Sumaah in their attacks on the Empire – as well as potentially converting a powerful Jarmish noble to the faith of the Way.

Opportunity : Pärnau Principality Weirwood

The opportunity to secure access to Pärnau Principality Weirwood. As you may recall, the old Magician-Prince of Pärnau Principality has passed away recently and his daughter is looking to expand both the influence of the principality in the House of Princes, and its wealth. Pärnau Principality is known for its weirwood groves, and Anton has appraised the new Magician-Prince that the Empire might present an interesting market for the valuable wood.

He describes, in essence, a ministry that would allow a citizen to purchase Weirwood. He believes that a basic structure would require an investment of 15 wains of weirwood and 15 wains of white granite, and 60 crowns in labour costs

Once completed, it would permit the purchase of up to 21 wains of weirwood each season with the first 7 wains costing 31 crowns a wain; the next 7 costing 30 crowns a wain; and the final 7 costing 28 crowns a wain. This would of course require a motion from the Senate.

The only restrictions that the Magician-Prince of Pärnau places on the ministry is that the Empire remain at peace with Southern Jarm; that the ministry be built on the Bay of Catzaar (which includes Cargo in Redoubt); and that the individual named to operate the ministry is a magician.

Anton mentions as an aside that although the Magician-Prince is most interested in Imperial coinage – he does not explain why – she might be prepared to accept tempest jade instead.

Opportunity : International Trade

Finally, Lord-Magister Anton Trescher of the Hidden Hook expresses some concern that there may have been a miscommunication regarding one of the opportunities he offered. You seem to have though the was interested in purchasing materials directly from the Empire. In fact he had hoped to communicate on offer to to serve as a mediator and secure other potential trade opportunities for the Empire to purchase materials from Jarm. Apparently he has had his translator flogged and summarily dismissed for his failure.

Specifically, he is prepared to turn his attention to securing opportunities for the empire to purchase *either* mithril, *or* ilium, *or* crystal mana from the Jarmish Principalities, and present his findings to you for your decision.

At the same time, he is also prepared to look into opportunities to purchase *either* dragonbone, *or* green iron, *or* iridescent gloaming, *or* Cerulean Mazzarine, *or* ambergelt – provided you are prepared to provide him with an estimate of the prices the Empire is prepared to pay for either bulk purchase, or regular supplies, of those materials.

Ambassador from Jarm

Letters from Magician-Prince Barbara Radz

To Eriktho Auricspire (3201.1)

Over the last three months there has been a letter from your aunt, Magician-Prince Barabara Radz. They contain both family news, and political tasks.

Game Information

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Disastrous Weather

Your aunt understands that there has been some sort of localised disaster around Anvil over the Winter Solstice. She was initially quite concerned – but when **Stormcrow Beodun Snowlock** of Wintermark arrived to preach in opposition to the priests of Sumaah, she was reassured you were still alive. She quite understands that the problems in the Empire prevented you writing to her.

Establishing Rigia

The port of Rigia goes from strength to strength, not least because of your good work. You are commended. The merchant-venturers from Asavea are working to secure stronger trade links between that nation of the far west and the easternmost of the Jarmish alliances..

Rigia has been established as an equal to Kavor and Vezak, much to the chagrin of the Northern and Southern princes.

The Ferrero Deal

The arrangement with Duke Ferrero has been completed successfully. One-hundred-and-seventy orc slaves have been transported to the Empire.

There are still a further forty orc slaves readily available – as you know the majority of slaves in the principalities of Jarm are human as orcs are considered too wild to make good servants. The Eastern princes are a little more desperate since the embargo on crystal mana sales, and more predisposed to the Empire since the Cartel has helped prop up Rigia. Consequently, the slaves are stilling for one crystal mana each or 15 for a wain of mithril, or 9 for a ring of ilium.

In addition to the standard “labourers” there is a message about **Magician-Prince Ivarob of Hishun Principality**. He has a cadre of extremely well-trained orc gladiators that he uses to enact mock battles. He is becoming bored with the gladiator-slaves, and considering selling them – out of appreciation for the work Duke Ferrero has done he is prepared to offer all twenty slaves for four wains of mithril.

Finally, there are two minor households on the eastern borders – not really principalities as such for all they claim seats in the alliance and in the House of Princes. The **Yulmadel** and the **Grabitel** have more contact with orcen tribes than many of their peers. Between them they can muster a further thirty slaves, primarily miners, but they are disinterested in mithril or crystal mana. They will sell the slaves for a measure of orichalcum apiece. The price is steep, but each of the orcs has been trained from youth to operate in the treacherous mines of the far-eastern borderlands.

International Diplomacy

The House of Princes has rescinded the embargo on trading crystal mana with the Empire, thanks to the fine apologies from the Senate and the Conclave. It is your aunt's opinion that as long as nothing happens to sour relations further, the trade restrictions with regard to Imperial captains are likely to be removed also over the next few seasons.

A ritual from the conclave

Barbara Radz remains exceptionally interested in the idea of receiving a ritual text from the Conclave – from Imperial Lore. She is disinterested in the rituals that focus on economic returns, and expresses interest in any ritual with a magnitude of at least thirty especially those that aid campaign armies or bands of warriors. She is especially interested in Crystalline Focus of Aesh, Bright Eyes Glean in the Depths, Knights of Glory, and Quickening Cold Meat.

She suggests you send her a short list of three-to-five rituals you are confident you could secure for the Eastern Alliance (not the Princes as a whole!) and an idea of what the Empire would require as payment. She seems very interested in the idea to acquire a ritual that is unknown in Kavor and Vezak.

A ritual from the library

Aunt Barbara offers to lend a ritual if you are interested. There are two in the family library that she is confident are not in Imperial Lore.

The first has applications to a campaign. It is called *Przysięga smoczycich wojowników*, and is a ritual of the Summer Realm. It allows a binding trade between the owner of a mine and the eternal known as Ahraz. The eternal claims the mine and all its produce for a season, and in return oathbound dragon warriors will fight as directed by the mine owner, who are especially adept at fighting alongside a campaign army.

The other is a ritual of the Day realm that creates an enchantment, called *Echoing Strike*, which empowers the wielder of a rod or staff to knock a foe off their feet whenever they use the *repel* spell instead of driving them back.

She is not at this time interested in providing you with *The Salt Glass* again – reading between the lines she believes its usefulness is at an end now that Rigia is very nearly established, and the Empire has secured its foreign trade with civil servants.

As always, any ritual she lends to you is for your coven only – it is not to enter Imperial lore.

Religious Matters

Emissaries of the Sumaah Republic in the far west have been actively spreading the story that the faith of the Empire is in decline. Religion is considered a private matter in Jarm, but among local followers of “Ścieżki Cnoty” the zeal of the Sumaah is both recognised and respected. However, over the last three months **Stormcrow Beodun Snowlock** of Wintermark has done an excellent job inspiring the people of Rigia who follow the Way to resist Sumaah calumny.

Now that Eastern Jarm has received obvious special attention from their allies in the Empire, she leaves it to your discretion as to whether you wish to let the Synod know that they could make similar efforts in Kavor and Vezak. It is likely that eventually the followers of the Way in these parts of Jarm will contact the Empire directly, so if the initial overture comes from the representative of Eastern Jarm you may be able to parlay that into increased political power.

To combat the Sumaah, the Imperial Synod will need to make a *statement of principle* in one of their assemblies and name a priest to contact their Jarmish peers to refute the allegations. Two statements will be needed – one for Kavor and one for Vezak. As the Sumaah have had three months head-start in these ports, each priest will need to be equipped with *seventy-five* doses of liao for them to have any effect. This number is likely to increase further next season.

The Chamber of Winter

Your aunt is a little disappointed that you did not manage to acquire any of the boons from the Winter Chamber for her. She mentions that a number of the boons were acquired by the southerner Zamashka, Prince of Votika. She is clearly a little worried about what these boons might mean for Zamashka's influence over the House of Princes.

Opportunity : Temple of the Way

Barbara Radz wishes to extend an *opportunity* to the Synod to construct a temple in Rigia. To do so, the General Assembly, the Council of Nine, or the Prosperity assembly would need to make a *statement of principle* and name a single character who will be responsible for overseeing construction. They will also need to select whether they wish to construct a temple dedicated to the Way as a single entity, or to the Virtue of Prosperity.

While Magician-Prince Barbara is prepared to give permission, the Empire will need to provide its own materials and labour.

A temple dedicated to the Way as a whole will work much like Limitu Principality House of the Way – it will create an Imperial title that allows the trade of liao for crystal mana. It will also encourage some converts to the practice of the Way.

A temple dedicated to Prosperity, however, will create an Imperial title that allows the trade of liao for the kind of trade goods available from Rigia. It will be more successful than a temple dedicated to the Way alone in converting citizens to the philosophy of the Way, although obviously they will have an emphasis on Prosperity.

- A *modest* temple will require 12 wains of white granite and 24 crowns to construct.
- A *large* temple will require 16 wains of white granite and 32 crowns to construct.
- A *grand* temple will require 20 wains of white granite and 40 crowns to construct.

In each case the amount of liao and the resources recovered will depend on the size of the temple. If the Imperial Synod wishes to accept her offer, they would have until the end of the year (380YE) to complete construction.

Dragons

In your letter after the Autumn Equinox you mentioned a “Thule Dragon” - a powerful orc sorcerer. She is interested in learning more, and suggests you either acquire the information needed for her to send a winged messenger, or pass the information along to the sorcerer so that they can contact her.

Gossip

There are three significant developments that Barbara mentions relating to the Eastern Alliance.

First, an agent of the eternal Mazen of the Masks has been attempting to stir up anti-Imperial prejudice among the Northern Princes. For the most part it is just rumour mongering, and rude words, but there is obvious malice there. Most Jarmish princes know better than to listen to the capering idiot that is Mazen but its presence is helping to keep the House of Princes focused against the Empire, at least a little bit.

Secondly, there have been a greater than average number of orc ships trading with Jarm in the last six months. They are restricting themselves to Kavor and Vezak, and not visiting Rigia at this time although there have been some overtures. Some of them claim to represent the Confederacy of the Iron Shore – and the captains have wasted no time in demonstrating competent magic use. They are petitioning the House of Princes for recognition, and trading valuable minerals and modest amounts of mithril. Normally they would be taken as slaves, but their obvious martial strength, magic, and civilised ways have given the wily princes of Vezak in particular pause for thought.

Thirdly, she has heard a rumour that Anton Trescher of the Hidden Hook has approached Oswi Twiceburned and offered to assist him in securing trade concessions of some sort from the House of Princes. It would be advantageous for the Eastern Alliance to receive advance warning as to what those opportunities might be so that they can try to ensure that they gain control of the Jarmish end, as it were.

Ambassador to Asavea

Letters from Lady Madrianna of the Blue Stones

Camilia di Traviciana di Sarvos 5423.1

Ambassador to Asavea

Over the last three months there have been several letters bearing news of Asavea. Several come from the civil servants who staff the embassy in Nemoria, but there are also letters from Lady Madrianna of the Blue Stones who advises the Plenum on Imperial matters.

Game Information

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Regarding Treaties

There is a great deal of interest in the suggestion of a treaty direct face-to-face negotiation would be required, and Lady Madrianna says there is more than a little interest from the Plenum. She asks whether it would be possible that you could send her a draft treaty so what she can get an idea of what the Empire is interested in – and so the Plenum can consider its responses – ahead of sending someone official who is empowered to negotiate the fine details.

On Slavery

Lady Madrianna wishes you to pass on the thanks of her government to your Senate – that they have seen sense in the matter of an embargo against trade with Nemoria.

However she also expresses some further concern – the Synod appears committed to stirring up trouble with Asavea. She understands that certain factions have used their Synod positions as a mouthpiece with which to express a commitment to aiding the murderous slave revolt. How concerned about this should she be, in your opinion?

Is there a Synod faction that is pro-Asavean? She would very much like to hear details of such a faction if it exists – especially if it could be persuaded to make a statement in the Synod in support of closer ties with Asavea, the Plenum, and her own office. Trade or politics, it matters not to her – it is about ensuring that the priests who are jealous of Asavean successes are not able to have uncontested control of the narrative.

The Temple Exchange

By now you will be well aware of the temple exchange proposed by Hueva Joãon, Caesli Onorato, and Olybrius Pancratius - ranking priests of Asavea associated with Bahlo of the Foam, the Black Bull, and Baddu the Great Architect respectively. Lady Madrianna wishes to express her full support for this project – both the creation of a temple in the Empire and the establishment of an Imperial temple in Asavea. Increased understanding between your two nations cannot fail but to be a positive move – and would definitely assist in any treaty negotiations!

It might also help to establish the reputation of the Imperial faith in the face of Republican criticism.

She asks that if there are any significant developments that might stymie this arrangement – if the Synod attempts to interfere for example – that you send a winged messenger to her as soon as possible outlining the problems, along with any suggestions you may have for ways to deal with those problems. She will endeavour to give you an answer as quickly as possible.

On the subject of missives

Lady Madrianna appreciates that communication is the heart of a good relationship. She is given a regular stipend of crystal mana with which to empower her correspondence with diplomats around the world. She is aware that you do *not* receive such support from your government and has a suggestion.

She has access to a small stock of magical quills that can be used to perform the ritual that conjures a winged messenger without the need for either magical ability or mana. If you are interested, she could instruct one of her agents to provide you with one. They only last for a year, but it would surely assist in ensuring easy communication between your office and hers.

On the subject of Ferrero

She asks politely if you could pass a message to Duke Ferrero – he has secured an opportunity to acquire an Asavean-built vessel from the finest Nemorian shipyards. Now that the limitation on trade with Asavea is over, she looks forward to receiving instructions as to how much weirwood he is prepared to commit to the project. If you would be good enough to assure him that there is no upper limit ...

On the subject of the Grendel

The Grendel orcs are seeking closer ties with Asavea, as trading partners. The civil servants in Nemoria report sightings of Grendel vessels, and Lady Madrianna formally informs you that the Plenum has agreed to remain neutral in Imperial-Grendel war – at least for the time being.

She reassures you however that this is not an entirely negative situation – her office believes that the Grendel have stolen a great deal of artistic value from Sarvos. Her agents may be able to negotiate for the return of some or all of it as “middle men” between your office and the salt lords.

She warns you also that the Tarquins, disgruntled with the Empire, have secured a long-term deal to supply the Grendel with white granite. She hopes this will not sour relations with the Plenum – the individual noble families are largely free to do as they wish.

Opportunities : Foreign Trade

Following some successful negotiations with the Empire during the Winter Solstice, Lady Madrianna tells you that there is a great deal of interest among some of the less powerful Plenum families in “thumbing their noses” at the Tarquinius by securing trade with the Empire where that family failed.

The Heraclien and Rangabe families – rivals to the Tarquins – are interested in arranging a contract to provide white granite to the Empire. They do not have the resources of the Tarquins ... but Lady Madrianna plainly lays out her expectation that they will be a good deal less picky about the details of the trade than the Tarquins.

However, they are relatively devout families – before they will agree to a permanent trade in white granite to the Empire, the Empire will first need to build a Temple to Bahlo and the Black Bull. If this is secured, and the temple completed, then Lady Madrianna will serve as go-between to ensure the correct structures are built to facilitate the trade. She surmises that the lesser alliance may be able to offer perhaps as many as fifteen wains each season at a reasonable price once an initial investment of weirwood is made to construct suitable docks and warehouses.

Furthermore, a minor house called the Jiuvianna have expressed an interest in a permanent trade route dealing in orichalcum – in return for a grant of land and the construction of a compound for their exclusive use. Lady Madrianna believes this would require the construction of a *folly* somewhere accessible to ships – somewhere either on the Bay of Catazaar or along one of the four rivers. The investment of at least 4 wains of white granite and 4 wains of weirwood, and the expenditure of 16 crowns, should be sufficient to build a compound for the Jiuvianna. In return they would provide an individual of your choice with 12 ingots of orichalcum each season for as long as the Empire remains at peace with the Plenum.