

For the Archmage of Spring

Your predecessors had heads on their shoulders. And while Conclave seems to be completely insane, it did pick them. And now it's picked you. And it's being polite to me - right now. Did you do that? At least you didn't stop it.

So you get to show you're not like most of the Empire.

My plan for the next decade or so in Tamarbode was that I live and work here, bothering nobody, and creating something that will live here after I have moved on. I'm aware that's not your plan.

I know you want to know what the master is building: all in good time, is my best answer. We'll know when it happens and not much before, because that's the nature of Spring. You might thank us, when we're done.

People keep asking for things as if Llofir wants to be the Empire's friend. You really do have to listen to this - because we keep saying it - you are working with our enemies. Not the rest of Spring, that is just the business of life. But you are making husks and having them fight your wars, and all those little spirits are our enemies and bloody should be yours.

Put a stop to that, and then we can talk. Stop stringing us along with bullshit, talking a good game and then doing bugger all. Don't they still teach you people that Virtue acts? The master is not your friend while you keep doing things the master doesn't like - and we don't care for your reasons why the Empire 'can't' do what we want - why is that so hard for you to understand? You CAN do what we want. But you don't WANT to, so you DON'T. That's no friendship I recognise.

Show this herald to Asenath of Felix's Watch, if you would be so good, or the senator for Reikos, or someone else from Highguard who isn't an idiot. We have business.

Gilean of Tamarbode

For Asenath, or someone else who isn't a fool

I recall what one of you did for me when we met. I have not felt like that in a very long time. Listen to the words of the one that carries this.

Want me to play ambassador, do you? This is what Llofir has to say to the National Assembly.

"Tamarbode is our land!" you say. "Our ancestors owned it!"

Bullshit.

Your ancestors killed people and took it. I did that too. Not the same people, but not your people. That's how anyone 'owns' land.

Are we done there? No. How long? Many winters. Less than a generation. Can you help us? Talk when you can do proper magic again. Will that make it shorter? Maybe it will just help us do more. Depends how Llofir feels about you.

Husks to Llofir? Slaves, to you. Would you deal with slavers? Bring them into your house, sell them your land, let them do with it as they liked? Of course you would not. You hate slavers, you hate everything about them, their works and designs, their ideals, all they do is tainted, that is what your archmages have taught me. This is where we are, today. That is why we won't consider just selling you Tamarbode.

"Great Llofir, we need our husks! Give us something better!" you say. "Great Emperor, we need our slaves! Give us something better!" they said to Ahraz. Did he? No. Will I? No.

No more bullshit.

It's very simple.

You know how not to behave like my enemy.

Gilean, and Llofir behind her