

Greetings from the **Voivode of Chains**, the Grand Herald of Ephisis,
the great patron of the sentient species of the mortal realm, the
munificent **Pharam Vex!**

I write on behalf of my master, who wishes to express his pleasure at having met you at the solstice just passed. He hereby offers the following discourse. You will not be bound to any agreement, contract or stipulations for reading this letter; no terms or conditions apply.

I understand that my master spoke to you about what he has to offer the Empire. He wishes to reiterate on the two possibilities that he places before the Empire, and also bears a message from his owner, the High Merchant.

On the matter of the message first, the Grand Plutocrat wishes, in response to certain queries from Imperial citizens, to make her response clear on a particular topic. Ephisis has made the decision that she will not countenance the sale or rent of any part of the City of Gold and Lead to mortals at this time. In order to avoid being pestered with the same queries again in the future, and to ensure that resolving any such misconceptions is as efficient as possible, the Grand Plutocrat wishes to make it clear to the Archmage of Autumn of the Casinean Empire that her decision on this matter is a final one. It is possible that she may alter it at some future time, but currently any of your citizens asking to purchase such property will be wasting their time and hers - and the time of all the subjects of the City of Lead and Gold is the time of Ephisis.

On the matter of the deals that the Voivode is offering the Empire, I am to reiterate what is on the table to ensure clarity for all involved.

If you place my munificent master under Amity at the Autumn Equinox then he will dispatch his drudges to work all the Imperial Bourse positions for a single season, alleviating the Empire of all costs associated with their upkeep and maintenance for three months. This will apply only to Imperial positions, not national ones. As per his discussion with you, the generous *MoŻnowładca Niewolników* will ensure that none of the drudges allocated to this labour were ever mortal in nature. This will apply

only for a single season. After that, while Amity is maintained, the Grand Herald Pharam Vex will be well-inclined to further discussions as to the use of efficient, enforced labour by the Empire and its constituent nations to help resolve the issues of the burden of costs that lie upon your treasury. Such matters will be the topic of later discourse should Amity be passed in the first place.

As long as my master is not under Enmity, he is currently willing to aid the Empire in its trade with those foreign nations where his friendship and influence carries weight amongst merchants and masters who make use of enforced labour. If the Conclave passes a Declaration of Concord, naming a single port in either Jarm or Asavea, stating that they wish the Voivode to use his influence in that port for the Empire's benefit, he will enhance all trade with that port in the coming season. My master's goodwill is limited, however - only a single port may be named in a season in this way.

Finally, my master offers a friendly warning. His fellow Herald, Reed, is unimpressed with the Empire at this time and looks poorly upon you. This is in stark contrast with my master's generosity and the friendship that he extends to you. It would be wise to place Reed under Enmity to curtail any actions he might choose to take to undermine your own wise decisions - and the Voivode of Chains would be very pleased if such a step were taken against the pompous Reed.

Please consider the above. I would expect my master to offer you audience again come the Winter, especially if you offer the mantle of Amity to him in reciprocation for his own offers of friendship.

