

Nicola Barrassa de Tassato Regario, Master of the Mint,

I bring word to you from Tassato. I, and three others, were dispatched there to carry out an initial follow-up investigation of the information you and your guide provided from your pure liao vision.

I bring both good news and fell.

We found the Cup of Peace – and lost it at great cost.

When we arrived, we learned from local thief-takers that there was a bounty out on a group that had been selling fakes of the Cup of Peace to the gullible and naïve. Part of the deception would invariably include information about the Cup's history, including it being provided as a boon from a Night Eternal to the Sorcerer-Kings of Axos. It was lost to Axos along with the Spires of Solokha and was last noted in Tassato where its location was a mystery – until now.

Using such accurate information as the con artists had gleaned, alongside your revelation of the location as Felize Grove, we were able to complete the puzzle. We were able to locate where the Cup was buried and unearthed it.

That is all the good that I have to report.

Having dug up the Cup of Peace, we were ambushed by a group of what initially appeared to be Axou sorcerers. They paralyzed Duak and Morrigan, and – being outnumbered – I was forced to flee leaving the Cup in Duak's rigid grasp.

Refusing to abandon my fellows, I reported the crime to the local magistrates who commenced a search for a group of Axou. It was only with hindsight that I now realize that the Axou were in fact the mountebanks – a group calling themselves The Prosperous Beggars – who had been perpetuating the con around the Cup. Somehow they learned of our investigation and had followed us. By disguising themselves as Axou, they had made it seem as though the Cup was being recovered by that nation, and threw us off their trail – until it was too late.

When I next saw Duak and Morrigan, they were under the Cup's spell. They knew what they should do, but they found themselves unwilling, or unable, to break the hold the Cup had over them. When I sought to destroy the Cup, or oppose the Prosperous Beggars, they threatened me with harm.

There was nothing I could do to help them and, the longer I tarried, more and more people have started to fall under the Cup's spell.

As far as I can tell, the Cup is the catalyst or key. I feel sure that its destruction would liberate those under the mountebank's sway. I could not get close enough. With each day, more League citizens are coming under the Cup's sway, and this is starting to stretch into the Marches too. I fear it will now take more than a lone civil servant to wrest the Cup and free the citizens from its bewitching powers.

The Prosperous Beggars seem drunk on the power and are bleeding the locals dry. I have no idea what their full intentions are, but we cannot see the souls of Imperial citizens so enslaved. I implore you to alert the Generals and deploy a taskforce to wrest control of the Cup and destroy it.

By guided by the Paragons,

Lucius Valeri,

Imperial Civil Service