

Dear Rodrigo,

Greetings from Faraden. I thought it best to inform you that in the past 3 months informants in Faraden, especially in the city of Caitun, have been noticing a significant uptick in the number of Asaveans in the city. This has so far not been anything of particular concern - they are in relatively small numbers and are by all accounts here doing legal activity - but of course I have been attempting to discover anything possible about whether they are pursuing any action here that might harm the Empire's good relationship with the Faraden. Of course you can rest assured that we always take the utmost prudence to avoid offending the notoriously prickly Faraden in matters such as this - though I might say the Asaveans here are being similarly obviously careful.

In the course of my investigation I have had my suspicions around a Faraden trader by the name of Naran Altsanig (some lower noble apparently) who has been having a lot of dealings with the Asaveans. After a precautionary check of his rubbish bins I discovered the following discarded piece (helpfully transcribed for you here). I have no clue of it's meaning, or even if it's of value or import, but thought you should be aware in case you can get more meaning out of it than I.

ZVMUV|ZQTZN|RYKKY|GTQXH|KWOJD
RVWEL|HEZLH|VVQXD|ZZEVF|DQYYZ

Your loyal servant of the Empire,

Benedecto de Cigno

To Tarik,

You have been successful in your challenge, and the time for your rewarding has come. Come to the Grove of the Thousand in Axmure, Semmerholm at 6 35 on the Saturday of the upcoming summit; you may bring up to 5 others with you to witness your triumph.

As part of your reward, the Iron Duke asks you bring your preferred musical instrument to the rewarding ceremony.

Barien sends his apologies, but due to current circumstances cannot be there to reward you himself. You will receive your reward nevertheless from Revel, and you may ask his heralds on the Friday evening of a future festival if you wish to meet Barien in the future.

We look forward to meeting with you, questor.

Yours,

Revel, Herald of Barien

To Andred,

The time has come for you to present your successes, to be judged as to whether you have completed the challenge that was set to your house by the Iron Duke. Come to the Grove of the Thousand in Axmure, Semmerholm at 6 35 on the Saturday of the upcoming summit. There will present your case and succeed or fail as the heralds of the Iron Duke see fit. You may bring up to 5 others with you to witness and assist in your presentation - due to time constraints in this chamber, the Iron Duke asks for brevity in your tale.

In the event you are successful, the Iron Duke asks you bring your preferred sword as part of your reward.

Barien sends his apologies, but due to current circumstances cannot be there to reward you himself. You will receive your reward nevertheless from Revel, and you may ask his heralds on the Friday evening of a future festival if you wish to meet Barien in the future.

We look forward to meeting with you, questor.

Yours,

Revel, Herald of Barien

To Aurum,

You have been successful in your challenge, and the time for your rewarding has come. Come to the Grove of the Thousand in Axmure, Semmerholm at 6 35 on the Saturday of the upcoming summit; you may bring up to 5 others with you to witness your triumph.

Barien sends his apologies, but due to current circumstances cannot be there to reward you himself. You will receive your reward nevertheless from Revel, and you may ask his heralds on the Friday evening of a future festival if you wish to meet Barien in the future.

As part of your rewarding, Barien has requested you bring your favourite spear (or polearm, if you prefer).

We look forward to meeting with you, questor.

Yours,

Revel, Herald of Barien

To Aldwyn,

You have been successful in your challenge, and the time for your rewarding has come. Come to the Grove of the Thousand in Axmure, Semmerholm at 6 35 on the Saturday of the upcoming summit; you may bring up to 5 others with you to witness your triumph.

Barien sends his apologies, but due to current circumstances cannot be there to reward you himself. You will receive your reward nevertheless from Revel, and you may ask his heralds on the Friday evening of a future festival if you wish to meet Barien in the future.

We look forward to meeting with you, questor.

Yours,

Revel, Herald of Barien

Dear Artis,

The time for your challenge has come. On the Saturday of the upcoming summit at 5 45pm, you will find a conjunction to the Silvered Birches, in Wood Heath, Hahnmark. Bring yourself and two of your most favoured companions; you may also bring spectators, to bring your party to no more than 30.

The Silvered Birches is a chamber of Cathan Canae, whose heralds will be awaiting you. With them is a band of favoured Jotun warriors who will be assisting, and are looking to earn favour with the queen of ice and darkness. Your task is, at the appointed moment, for you and your 2 chosen companions to survive for as long as possible against an onslaught of both Jotun and heralds, who will come in waves. You will be judged based on how long you can survive and how many of the opponents you can dispatch. The challenge ends either when you fall (even if your companions still stand) and can no longer rise, or if the allotted time comes to an end.

You may take anything you want into the challenge and use any ability you have, but outside help is prohibited once the challenge starts. You may heal yourself and each other during the challenge - if you fall and are recovered by yourself or a fellow, the battle continues. This fight is NOT intended to be to the death - no executions.

If you wish to ask questions the heralds of Barien will be at the Nabarr on early Friday evening, around 7pm. Good luck, questor.

Revel, Herald of Barien

The below appears for you as a Winged Message, just before the start of the summit at Anvil:

By the virtues help us. They came for us at Sybella Cross, the scions, hunted us for a day. Too weak to move, nobody found us. Last mana, gloaming. Refuge in an orchard, sign says Ananias. You probably don't know who I am, I met one of your military unit once, said you would be at Anvil. I do not believe in hope but the gate is our only chance now, all else fled. Please hurry if you can.
Adriel

Dear Lightning,

The time of your challenge has come. Use your sentinel gate to go to Heorotsgrove in West March, Kallavesa, at 5:15pm on the Saturday of the upcoming summit. This is a summer chamber where you will meet Njal and his Jotun warband who will be your opponents. Bring 14 companions to face them.

Time is very limited in the chamber so I will explain the rules here - in Heorotsgrove I, Revel, will be present with one of the beasts of the summer realm. At the sound of my horn, both parties will give chase to the beast and try and stop each other. The beast will have dangling tokens on its person - your party's aim is to grab them, at which point I will sound the horn and the current bout ends. Both parties will separate and at my horn begin again. We repeat as long as time allows. Whoever claims the most tokens wins the challenge. As reminder, your task is to *chase* the beast, not kill it, though it would probably be a difficult task under the circumstances anyway.

As agreed, both sides will aid each other between bouts as you see fit, but the challenge is dangerous and whatever happens, happens. Remember that while you may be bringing companions this is your challenge - ensure you do your best in the eyes of the Iron Duke.

If you have any questions you can find Barien's heralds in the Nabarr around 7pm on the Friday of the festival. Good luck, questor.

Revel, Herald of Barien

Dear Questor,

The Iron Duke has seen fit to give you another chance to complete your challenge. At this summit, on the Friday night at 9 15pm, a portal will open to Sarokk, in the Sarangrave, once more. There you will once again be able to investigate the mystery of the obelisk in Druj lands.

My fellow herald advises that the Druj have abandoned the area somewhat in the face of Imperial success elsewhere, and so far fewer remain than your previous attempt. You need only bring 15 of you to face a similar number of Druj who still linger in the area.

This will be your only chance - if you fail to take what you need from this opportunity, your challenge will be considered a failure.

Good luck, questor.

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