

Esteemed and honourable Champion,

This letter is one of introduction by the fair and strong hand of Baron de Bestel. I, that same noble lady, do now wish to extend my thanks for your generous invitation, and to issue solemn regrets that at this time of turmoil, when the people of my own country are so watchful and wary for the actions of the agents of the hated Dumon, I am not myself able to meet your welcome.

Nevertheless, I was touched and heartened by your kindness. You treated my cousins Camille and Leo with respect, and your discretion regarding their inquiries was admirable. Therefore, I entrust to you some part of my fortunes and security, and I beseech your aid.

I have sent this letter to you in advance of visitors. You will find this missive followed my child and my sibling, who will arrive at some time around five o'clock on the Saturday evening of your summit, and have been advised by your Civil Service to meet briefly with the Ambassador in the 'Hub'. I request that you treat them with the same respect and honour as you would afford me myself; they are my blood and of my blood and of my house and for all these reasons I have granted them the latitude to represent me. They wish to further the conversations already begun between my family and yours, and to witness and learn of those peculiar influences that your people can bring to bear.

My family will be required by the niceties of international diplomacy to meet briefly with your Ambassador to our lands, one Tethros by name. I beseech you to rescue them from conversation with him at the soonest opportunity. You understand, of course, that the matters which you will be discussing with my family are extremely delicate, and I cannot be certain that your Ambassador would not simply report them back to our representative Baroness Lavasse. I have pre-warned my people and you will find them unwilling to discuss matters in the presence of Tethros the Ambassador unless you are able to personally vouch for his discretion. I understand also that there may be some possibility to trade for goods, of the same kind requested by my cousins at the auction. I have sent my people with the means and resources to trade in kind, should you still be willing to sell to us.

I hope dearly for this trust between us to grow further, and to one day have the opportunity to meet you and your most noble family myself.

I remain at this time,

Yours most faithfully,

Baron Bestel