

Roman, Blaze

You won't have heard of me. I was asking for the leaders of the Cadets Council around the roads of Varushka and yours were the names I heard most often. I'm from Varushka, myself, just a member of a quiet vale. Well mostly a quiet vale. Like most, we share ours with a Sovereign. I'm hoping you might have heard of him, even met him. His name is Lord Panlyr.

The thing is, he shouldn't be awake. He awoke, at the proper time more than four years ago, and as was the way when our Sovereign of Prosperity wakes in his normal cycle – it is children he wants to bargain with. He shouldn't be awake now, and I don't dare send little children to bargain in case things are very different. But it is known that calling any Warden or Volhov will not do for this Sovereign. And so musing on it – I thought of the cadets.

We know why he is awake. His mora – they always let us know that's what they are even if they take human form – brought word. Orc brigands had stumbled into the heart of the vale, right to the hall where he now has his Table of Plenty – built, not in the open under the trees like it once was. And stolen from the table, and somehow – probably because there were enough of them – made it out of the vale.

If we don't send some to speak with him, to take him gifts yet resist the temptations of his table – the Mora tell us... he will be angered and raise husks to trouble the vale. We, me and my people, will have no peace.

I'm coming to Anvil to find you as soon as I can at the start of the Equinox – I've managed to find a civil servant and discover there is a conjunction to the Table of Plenty – Lord Panlyr's hall itself – for up to 12 people. It is at half past eight on the first evening of the solstice, and it might not leave much time to gather boons – do you remember his liking for enchanted items or other symbols of wealth?. We are not a rich vale and have nothing of that sort, but I will bring the yield of our mana site and forest this season, in some small compensation.

Will you help? If you will, read on for the way the mora told us things must be. If you met the Lord before, you might recognise some of the roles.

There should be an Announcer.

They must be the first to speak to Lord Panlyr, the one to stand nearest to him. They should tell who comes and what roles they take.

There will be Bearers of Gifts

They must speak of the gift they bring and convince Lord Panlyr why that gift is worthy of the Sovereign. The Lord was benevolent when last he was awake, he is less benevolent now.

There will be Diplomats

They must convince Lord Panlyr that something will be done about those who stole from him or that if there will not, the gifts are enough to make up for it. If they are very clever they may bargain for more than

that. They must remember that Lord Panlyr expects his Diplomats to meet his eyes.

There will be Lightbringers

It will not be very dark at the Table of Plenty. The light is a metaphor.

There are temptations at the Table of Plenty. It will be the Lightbringers role to keep the others from succumbing through their vigilance, their words and their deeds. They are spared other duties so that they can focus on that alone.

There may be witnesses who do not speak or act at all

This is not required but is accepted

I will meet you as soon as I can. Look for me at the Academy.

Ilya Papovitch