

Unto the Mouth

From a toe in the City of Silver Pools, Northwestern Drucien
Near the border of Hanal

Honored Mouth, I am sorry that I, a lowly toe, am reporting directly to you, however I cannot reach my ankle at this time.

As you know, our neighboring city-state (the Crystal City) was recently strongly defended against attack via the support of Canberry and the Forest of the Singing Leaves. The city survived and the walls were being rebuilt.

Two days ago a wave of refugees emerged from Hanal and fled through the territory of both of the city-states and probably the city of Chimes as well. They were pursued by a surge of, well... they do not strike me as human soldiers, or rather they do not strike me as humans.

They appeared to be humans, but massively muscled, and some of them growing horns like those of some form of goat from their foreheads. They spoke a patoi in which some words could be determined, but not all. They wore what appeared to be partial Hanalian uniforms. They were slaughtering the refugees and our citizens who were without the walls.

The military stopped them. Though there were no more than a few hundred of the man-beasts, several thousand troops between our two cities died, literally torn apart. Had we been able to defend from the walls, the casualties would be far far lower, but that would have left the farmers and tradesmen without the walls to die instead.

The church has determined that the bodies of the soldiers will be buried with full rites, and those citizens who were slain as well, but, with the permission of the local bishop and at the suggestion of the elder of a tor with which the city Doge is allied, the beastmen will be burned. For some reason the elder sidhe also said that only men should touch the bodies, and only men have.

While the situation is resolved (none of the beastmen attempted to escape combat, that is another reason for the casualties, they would not break or surrender), I thought you should be aware of it, and while precautions have been taken to sweep the citizens outside the walls inside to protection in the future, should we be forced to another couple of similar engagements, we would have no effective military force left.

Please direct my actions when you can.