

Unto the Mouth  
From a distant, cut off Toe

Honored Mouth, I am among the flow of refugees that are fleeing Hanal and moving in tide toward the Pass of the Portal. I cannot estimate how many of us there are - but the news out of the Capital and some other areas is so horrifying that the people think anything is better.

Cults are springing up everywhere, dedicated to some evil God I do not know. The Inquisition army is locked on the East border and the Queen Empresses soldiers seem to do little about the cultists except when they reach a critical mass, at which time a strike team come with vollers, kill those who resist, capture those they can and take them back to the capital.

Likewise two Vollers that are as far above the Hanalian vollers in design and weaponry as I am above an ant (or so it seems) appear to be randomly bombarding those on the ground, though one of my fellow refugees, a priest of Paranswarm (forgive me speaking his name) believes that they are elven ships of some type, targeting the cults, though how they even know where such cults are is beyond me. I am sorry that I cannot deliver more information.

The exodus started a few months ago when the cults first began to appear and then horrors were rumored in the Capital and one or two other cities. Now, with bad weather and storms coming soon which normally would keep all Hanalians indoors, we are heading to a pass which no one knows where leads. There are hundreds of thousands of us at least, and few of us have any appreciable food. The slenderer strands of this exodus passed through the same areas months ago and stripped the land, even of wildlife. There is nothing to gather or garner, or even steal, as the exodus itself has driven such crofters and good folk as lived here, outside the protection of any nation, into flight. Were it not for the generosity of the Crystal Cities, I do not think any of us would have survived this far, their vollers, even more elegant than the two that circle above Hanal drop masses of some marvelous bread, a mouthful of which maintains a full grown man for a day and it keeps - but even with their best efforts it is not enough, though I think the children will survive. At the same time they drop food however, they have warned the refugees not to turn toward their borders, saying they will have no choice but to turn their weapons upon us if we do.

If the atrocities rumored in the capital and its surrounds are to be believed however, perhaps starvation in the wild or braving the "pass of the portal" whatever that is, really are better options.

I remain faithfully yours while I draw breath.