

My Dear Friends,

Word has reached me that your compatriate Roln is safely once again in your company. My heart swells to hear it.

With your own nation's troubles confronting you, I'll not overly trouble you with ours, but suffice it to say that recent events have been perplexing and have brought more questions even than strife. For example, Lady Lebeda's allies on the Swordlord Council have been overly quiet of late, and that in and of itself is cause for concern.

Be that as it may, I trust you and yours are well, and hope that we are entering a time in which these lands will be called "stolen" only in history texts! Yet it would seem that for all your victories, your fellow colonists to the east may have met with trouble.

As intimated with much subtlety to Irina by faithful Guri, the settlers of Varnhold are not responding to messengers—and indeed, some envoys have gone missing as well. You may have noticed this on your own, given your relationship, but as the climate here in Restov grows more turbulent, we find ourselves increasingly limited in the amount of aid we can send. Certainly, sending Brevic troops south to Varnhold to investigate is out of the question, as you well know.

And so it falls to you, I fear, to investigate the Varnhold mystery. For if something dire has befallen the colony, you are their only hope—and depending on the cause, we may all well be in danger!

Since you are heading that way, I've enclosed an official charter—the completion of which will benefit all who occupy this corner of the world.

The stars guide us all,
Lord Sorin Aldori
Swordlord Councilman