

Celime

Intrigued I was at first by your letter, Celime. Its size and weight of words were of surprise, but refreshing to hear, and resolved me to action where prior I was hesitant.

You were interested in a possible liaison and trade arrangements between both Pellern and Bentara. I am pleased to learn Lord Stepan is making well of his rather tenuous arrangement made exoterically, and that you too find yourself well. Most pleased.

I am glad the climate you are in finds room for freedom. It is something you should cherish even in the face of seeming rebuke. You have accepted so much in responsibilities I wonder if I should ask to impose on you any more. Actions speak volumes, and I could think of nothing more exacting than to offer you the position of Bentaran Ambassador to Pellern. Its a currently unfilled position, one with not just pay, but strength and fortitude of others. I do not hesitate this lightly, and I can understand reservation. All I ask is that maintenance of this relationship is maintained, improving for the both of us.

I wish I could be wise with words in regards to your emotions and thoughts of love, Celime, but in my years the concept has eluded me in the press of time and of those who wish to manipulate so

vehemently. The closest thing I have ever known in any deep passion would be, perhaps, vigilance.

Never is that not for imposing by a man. I do not believe that he wields the right to dictate to another, but in the den of snakes, it is best to not gather but to lure them out one by one. Yet I fear they multiply one by one.

I have trust in you, lady.

Count Bryce Kovel