

Dearest Caliph Juhangiz XXIV, Khan of Khans, Vice-Regent of the Star-Maker and Reflector of the First Light:

I bring you greetings from the Known Worlds and a missive of great importance. Knowledge has made its way to me, through the most unlikely of channels, of new information of great importance to our endeavour. The woman that I entrusted to your care must forthwith be returned with all due speed, from there we travel to Midian to complete the final piece of our Grand Design. Her companion's fate I leave to you to decide.

Preparations have already been made and the date set – the Known Worlds shall tremble at the sound of the Kurgan banner and your righteous jihad. The barbarian Emperor will be no more and a new dawn shall rise! Keep to our plan and victory shall be guaranteed!

Long live the Caliph.

*Yours in all things,
Marquessa Melisande Shahrizai, Scion of the House, Heir to the
Known Worlds*