

Unto the Mouth

From Lady Dayra Ryathylu

Honored Mouth,

I can no longer contact you by the means which we had used prior. Once the dome was erected over the city there was nothing there when I reached out. Therefore, I am going to the barrier and dictating this to a former servant, who will then flee with the message and find a method with the Inquisition to send it to you. (Such grand hopes I have)

Nevertheless, since my great uncle and aunt fled, taking my nieces and nephews with them, the rest of the family has been under suspicion. Nevertheless, I did not lose my place at court and was able to continue to gather information that may be of value.

The Queen Empress has managed to retain the loyalty of the great Purs of the air and water as well as the Bashars of the army. I must say however that some of them just, just do not seem like themselves anymore. I suppose serving in this butchery will do that.

Regardless, I believe this will be my last report. The Blood Driven have gone mad, and have been given leave. There were still nearly a million souls in the Capital when the barrier went up, now I estimate no more than a quarter of those survive and not for long. The upper city, excepting the Imperial palace itself is no longer safe. After my Great Uncle and Aunt fled to Enclaves, the Empress was in a fury, as were her advisors. Now most of the noble townhouses have been ransacked and those in residence, slain.

There also are creatures that I can only characterize as demons roaming the streets.

Nevertheless, the Empress retains control, as I have said, of the military. The desposition of the Iron Legions now is as follows:

80 legions are committed against the Inquisition in the east (in the common parlance that would be 16 field armies)

30 legions are committed against the Kov of Bormark (it was 40 prior to the assault of a single elven voller of some nature)

100 legions, and the bulk of the navy are committed against the Kov of Sanurkazz.

The remaining 50 legions are committed along with the remaining scant 2,000 chivalry, to patrolling, assuring that the lesser nobles are loyal, and hunting down refugees here and there to be given into the "thrones" that have been set up by the new cult here and there. That last is haphazard at best.

The air navy has been reduced to less than two thousand craft, but it continues to patrol, as well as holding a line against the Inquisition in the East and Sanurkazz in the South.

Supply chains are strained. It is impossible to get imported goods, and the farms mostly failed this year, however, the military has enormous reserves. So the high court and the military are in no danger of want. However, many suttlers have fled, which has made distribution more difficult, given how scattered the legions are.

The estimates I've heard in the court are that at least 4,000,000 persons are in the process of fleeing and perhaps over a million already have. The Queen Empress finds that very amusing for some reason and other than having them harassed and some taken to the "thrones" does not seem to think it matters. "Just a matter of time" she says - even though they are fleeing over the borders. Her advisors also think it likely that over the winter another 4 million will attempt to flee, most of them dying in the snow. Her response is "their energy will be culled, worthless as it is."

She is mad.

It has been an honor to serve, through you, the Red.