I find myself writing this in one of the short breaks afforded to the Fighting Eel Drakes. I have learned much, and the smaller airships have proven to be formidable, particularly when amassed in numbers.

Sky Captain Nganga showed us some of the more dangerous maneuvering that the smaller vessels utilized by the Drakes are capable of. I do not know if he is exceptionally brave or just somewhat unhinged, because ships should in no way move at the speed he wishes us to press them to and fly that close to other vessels, but as with many other military units, it is better to learn in these controlled environments instead of trying to push our limits while in actual combat. He has also shown his own skills enough to prove himself someone I could learn much from. Either way, may the dragon’s wings protect my fellow Fighting Eel Drakes and may each of them be imparted with the resolve to see this training through. The sailors amongst us all had much to unlearn and relearn, as moving in multiple dimensions and with a focus on height changes a lot of how one navigates, and more considerations need made for boarding maneuvers.

INDRA and Edo have both taken to the small vessels quite adeptly, with the former likely learning some things from glider racing, and the latter a natural and taking to the skies just as he takes to water. Silim was noticeably diagramming and making notations on schematics, so I can only surmise that he intends to make some modifications to his vessel. Either way, every fellow Eel Drake has seemed to learn their own unique ways and skillsets that allow them to be effective and efficient pilots. I have also come to respectfully referring to Prince Butternut as ‘the flying squirrel’ and I am certain that when his work with the guild is done, the skills learned here will help as he moves to retake his homeland.

I know I am personally looking forward to returning to Samazar and to assist the Daylight Alliance in their efforts to cease the endless expansion of the Empire. It will also be nice to see once again many of my fellow guildmates that were willing to speak with me when I first arrived at the guild hall. I hope Magdaline is staying out of trouble and that she heeded my warnings. I also have worried about Nasear, who seemed as if they were having an internal struggle with what to do when they finally found their father. I have not been able to hear much of the goings on and training has been rather rigorous – honestly, it reminds me of the time spent in the Jagen Temur.

Yesterday, we spent time dodging timed barrages and strikes from above. Tomorrow, we practice fast response maneuvers and calling in the ship quickly while we hook onto its underside. The healer ward never seems to be without work, and it is imperative to ensure the skyhook latches on firmly, lest we end up spending some time with them between our various falls, burns, and dodging the sharp plates used as sky anchors and for low altitude turning. I suspect this training would have proceeded much more quickly were it not for the involuntary breaks taken in the infirmary.

I should rest. Tomorrow is another long day defying gravity. May the Dragon protect us all.

Xurek, Claw of the Dragon