Esteemed Instructors,

I send report on my latest findings.

In our continued efforts to combat the Terakhan, we continue to venture forth and find valuable archeological places of importance. More and more I find connections with the ancient civilization of the Diamond city, and many of its remnants become site of great import for scholars. I would greatly enjoy to converse with others scholars on this topic, as my own insights and conclusions can only go so far, and having differing viewpoints to challenge my own thoughts may lead to great insight.

I have enclosed with this missive a map of the desert with several locations of importance marked. I also enclose a book I have penned on the Great Wastes to offer some knowledge to scholars interested in this location so they may better understand what I have learned.

There are many locations of import that are becoming apparent. To the far south, several days travel from our guild hall in the oasis, is a mountain. At the base of this mountain is an ancient town built by the djinn. From my estimation, this dates back several centuries to the time of the Diamond city. Most of the buildings are closed off, and show few to no means of entry. Great pipes and conduits rise from the ground. It would be my opinion that such structures are built to channel hot gasses from the volcano into the builds, as some of the pipes appeared cracked and were venting a yellow gas into the air. It appeared not dissimilar to sulfur gas that is used in some magic rituals. I would hazard to guess that some of these structures were used to generate power to fuel their ancient artifice, though without further study and knowledge of such artifice, I cannot be certain. Also found within the city was an ancient gate that still possessed power, be it magical, artifice, or other. Said device lends to the credibility that this location belonged to the ancient djinn, as it allowed passage to all save those possessing the blood of efreeti. I note this location as a site for further study should resources for an archeological expedition become available.

Also noted on the map are several locations closer to the guild hall, as well as the oasis site. Those that were originally known are the guild site, the location of the lightning shrine, which remains in ruins, and the location discovered last month by the scouts. That location was visited and is the site of a water shrine. This shrine remains whole, and allowed for a bit of study. Its design is about 15 to 20 feet in height, and depicts a female jinni, in a kneeling pose, holding a chalice. Water from an unknown source continues to fill the chalice, so that a few steady drops continue to fall from the chalice. Where the drops strike the desert sand, small seedlings appear to have sprouted and grow. An inscription on the shrine states that contains the waters of life that feed the life of the land. Such waters are cool, crisp, and clean, though being of djinn construction, they have an odd effect on those of effreti blood.

Of most importance are these closing remarks. Six locations are marked on the map, though three of them areas rather than specific locations. Those areas are the locations where three other shrines are located, though there exact locations will take time to scout out, as the areas where they may be located are large. Though given skilled mathematicians with a working knowledge of geometry, their locations may be narrowed down, as the six shrines seem to be evenly spaced along the circumference of a circle. They are conduits that are either supplying power to, or taking power from the “flow of life”. Each shrine once served to promote the growth of life in the harsh lands, but due to the ancient feuds between the djinn and efreeti, the shrines no longer have the power they once did, and the lush lands they once created no longer stretch as far. At the center of the circle is the “flow of life” which I believe may be the location of the Diamond City. It should also be noted, that while we have not yet noted a shrine at our location, the oasis where we have built this hall is on the location of one of the ancient shrines. More study will need to be done to see if we cannot unearth remnants of this shrine, though it appears its power may still be working, as the area remains lush and green, as was the purpose of the shrines.

As a closing remark, the shrines still represent points of contention for the efreeti in their constant battles against the djinn. While they have not come to directly destroy us yet, their Terikhan servants continue to harass us, as well as the other shrines. We cleared those out that we found at the Water shrine, though they may return. We have also come into possession of a great and powerful artifact of their ancient feud. We have uncovered a bottle, used as a ritual focus of great primal forces and magicks, which entraps a djinn. I have uncovered only the barest of its secrets, and hope to uncover more, as we have agreed to aid the djinn in acquiring his freedom. To do so would grant myself, and therefore the Royal Academy, a great wealth of knowledge long lost to this world.

Student Prodromus