



Church of Rao  
Mitrik – Veluna

From the office of the Canon, Moonday, Coldeven 3, 597 CY

*Excerpts from a recent speech of the Canon to the Celestial Order of Moons and College of Bishops, in which he addresses the outbreak of violence in the west ...*

My brothers, Peace cannot survive unless it is nurtured. Much like a fragile orchid, it can never bloom into its full beauty without someone nourishing it. But that same orchid must also be shielded against those that would destroy it, or all work put into it would be for naught. We cannot shy from our obligations to not only promote Peace on Oerth, but to protect it as well. All those in the true service of Rao would prefer to choose words of Peace over weapons of war but, unfortunately, there are those who have closed their hearts to the words of Rao and may only learn his lessons from the ring of steel. For this reason, we must reluctantly take up arms in defense of Rao's peace. Peace, not passivity.

Still, in times when we are forced to take up arms, we do so only with the guidance of Reason. Just as a map shows one the route to one's destination, Reason directs us to our ultimate goal – that of Peace on Oerth. Still, we must be on guard that our Reasoning be true and complete, for, as on a physical journey, if the map you are following is lacking important information, or is drawn according to what you think would be easy rather than what the actual road encompasses, the journey grows much more difficult and dangerous. We may wish that some things were another way, or that we need not pursue certain paths. Yet we cannot choose what information to include in our Reasoning. Nor can we choose what to ignore. Reason, not rationalization.

Serenity is a well-earned gift from the Wizedened one. If we have achieved Serenity, we of course must be thankful of Rao's gift to us, and be glad he has smiled upon us. Yes, Veluna should be pleased she is not beset by the chaos of the Bandit Kingdoms, the evils of the Scarlet Brotherhood, or the dangers of Geoff. Yet, neither can we become content in our Serenity, nor think that it is a gift only for us. No, our own Serenity is not magnified by the strife of others – it is lessened. Veluna, as Rao's chosen, must work to spread Serenity across the Flanaess. Serenity, not self-righteousness.

There are times when we are called to defend Peace. There are times when we are called to follow Reason where we may not otherwise choose to go. There are times when we are called to advance Serenity.

As some of you may already have heard, there are tales of aggression and the stirrings of war in the west. These accounts have saddened the heart of Rao, and we are called to bring him solace. We must do what we can to nurture and preserve the Peace. To this end, we have already sent emissaries to both Ket and Bissel, taking Rao's words of Peace and Reason to them. We all pray that the words of Rao will find their way into the hearts of those involved, will clear away all of their misunderstandings, and will bloom into a full flowering of Peace. Yet, as always in such matters, Peace is not a guaranteed destiny, not easily found nor painlessly achieved. There may be dangers along the road we must take to find it. Even though we hope and pray that violence will not be necessary, and while we actively seek out that peaceful resolution, Reason dictates we must nevertheless prepare for the possibility of war.

It is thus, with regret at the necessity, that we hereby establish the Fals Gap Garrison, a force tasked with defensive, peace-keeping missions – defending the western border of Veluna, and ensuring that the waters of the Fals River, and more importantly, those that would ply them, travel peacefully and freely. This detachment is to be stationed within the Fals Gap, but will have the capability of both swift response to requests for aid, and strong reaction to any threat to the Peace and Serenity of Veluna, no matter the source. We also remind those involved of the recent modifications to the Treaty of Thornward, under which the Thornward Garrison was recalled with the understanding that Peace be kept in the Bramblewood Gap and its environs, and suggest it may become necessary to rescind those modifications. We also call upon the good and Peace-loving nations of Furyondy and Highfolk, all branches of the Church of Rao, as well all those peoples in Gran March, Perrenland and the western caliphates who value Peace, to assist us in ensuring Peace in the west.

Let the enemies of Peace, Reason and Serenity know that Veluna will not passively watch as Peace is torn asunder – she must defend it. Veluna will not avoid the path to which Reason directs us – she must do what needs be done. Veluna will not sit still, satisfied in her own Serenity – she must move to protect it for others as well. And so we shall.

*Canon Priffin Truft*  
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