

Dearest Faramir,

*It is indeed a wonder how Aiglos manages to find you. Your choice of writing materials surprised me, and I was indeed worried about what ink you used. I will be sure to add a few extra sheets of paper to this message, but I'm afraid you will have to be responsible for finding more ink.*

*After your letter arrived yesterday afternoon, I sent a copy to the King soon after I finished reading it. He will certainly want to know about this new development. Please, do your best to find a way to keep warm and dry. You cannot afford to become ill now, especially since you are still not at your full strength. But most of all, stay safe and hidden. I do not want to think what may happen should Al-Jahmîr catch you a third time. Surely his resolve not to harm you is waning by now. Indeed, it is a marvel you were able to escape at all. I am astounded that you had no restraints when Al-Jahmîr called for you on the ship. Did they not imagine you might try to jump overboard? Well, whatever the case, it is their loss now.*

*I told this to Azrahil yesterday after I had sent the errand rider on his way. He was very surprised about the entire situation as well. He said it looks like his uncle's plans are unraveling faster and faster every day. (And if Elessar and Imrahil do indeed hurry, they could possibly deliver a final blow to the Umbarian.) We had a long talk yesterday while walking through the garden. He had Pharzi with him, on her leash, and he appeared to be feeling much better than when he came to us. Teherin told him to get out of the house, that fresh air and sunlight would do him some good, which it has.*

*We talked for a long time, about many things too. He seems to have been dwelling on the past, for he talked much of his childhood and growing up, and about how he was often treated poorly or as a second-thought. "But that has not happened here," he said. "Here I have been treated like an honored guest, given the best food, received care from your personal healer, and yet even among you t—Gondorians I am no better than one of your horseboys. And you personally have every reason to despise me. After all, I am the one who led the ambush on your husband."*

*"I do not hold it against you," I replied. "You were acting under someone else's orders, and you have even admitted that you felt it was dishonorable. I think there may be more decency in you than your reputation allows." The conversation drifted after that to the portion of the garden we were walking in, and then to Ithilien in general, and then back to Umbar. I think Azrahil is beginning to truly relax now and doesn't fear that we will have him arrested suddenly. He and Túrin have had several conversations already, and I found a half-played game of 'snakes and jackals' (your set, of course) when I was walking through the house earlier today.*

*I will consider your words about Pharzi. Do not forget that I have feared cages as well. Since Azrahil has been allowed out of bed, he has had her on her leash much of the time. He has asked if she can remain in his room, and I will have to give some thought to that.*

*But I shall end for now. I hope that this letter finds you well and safe, and may you return to us soon! We love you and miss you.*

Éowyn