

04-NÚZYÆL-720 TASHAL, KALDOR

5TH WATCH [COLD, PARTLY CLOUDY, NORTHWEST GALE]⁹

For the evening meal you are served lentils with chestnuts for an appetizer, a choice of entrée (grilled ox tails; pike with galentyne sauce; suckling pig a la flaccus), accompanied by lemonhyt (lemon rice with almonds), cocket (cheap white bread) and beer (pale in color with an enticing citric aroma, a chewy texture, a smooth, malty flavor with just a hint of bitterness. It has a smooth, slightly oily, very dry finish with a hint of almonds). Amyleryn is served a dry red wine instead of the beer.

After drinks, dinner and polite conversation, you are shown to your rooms for the night. Amyleryn's room has a wood frame bed with a rope netting supporting a rag filled mattress. There is also a lockable chest (although the lock does not appear that strong) and a bedside table. On the table is a pitcher of water, a towel and a large bowl for washing.

Felada shares the bed with Amyleryn. The money goes under the mattress at the head of the bed between the two of them, the rest of their things will go in the chest. Amyleryn wears her ring at all times, including while sleeping.

Buryn's and Zedeon's room (assuming Zedeon mentions taking a room – otherwise he will be shown the door), contains two straw filled mattresses on the floor and a lockable chest with a cheap lock.

After storing his gear near to hand, Buryn readies for bed. Assuming Zedeon is there, they may talk somewhat about the day, the trip, or whatever before turning in.

Zedeon, settling in, strikes a conversation about his weapon crafting ideas, and another conversation having to do with his edict and how to speak to people.

Meanwhile at the temple...

Terias and the other temple residents are served truffles for an appetizer, a choice of entrée (mutton olives; boiled mussels; stuffed chicken), accompanied by flore frittours (fried squash flowers), cocket (cheap white bread) and beer (dark brown color, light fruity aroma, full texture, sweetish malty flavor with slightly sweet aftertaste).

After the meal is over, Terias retires to the room he was assigned where he finds his roommate for the night already asleep.

05-NÚZYÆL-720 TASHAL, KALDOR

2ND WATCH [COOL, PARTLY CLOUDY, NORTHEAST GALE]¹²

Everyone awakes at dawn and goes to the common room to break their fast with blood pudding, chicken eggs, dates, wild rice and small ale.

At the start of the meal, Felada turns to Amyleryn and asks, "Milady, should we not send a messenger to your uncle so he will grant us an audience this afternoon. He will probably not be accepting visitors in the morning and not at all without announcement."

Before she can answer, Amyleryn's napkin bursts into flames.

Amyleryn quickly pours a little of her small ale on the napkin [OOO: The alcohol content of small ale should be low enough to avoid adding to the fire.]

Amyleryn says: "Well, that was interesting. Quickly now, what were each of you thinking and feeling just before the napkin caught fire?" Since she knows about psionics because of her skill with prescience, she will examine her own thoughts and feelings as well, while she's waiting for their answers.

At the moment before Felada spoke, Amyleryn was thinking about the day to come and she was slightly irritated when Felada interrupted her thoughts.

Amyleryn tries to fix in her mind the irritation she was feeling at the interruption.

Felada says, "I was thinking about the differences between protocols in the country and those in the city so I can advise you and prevent any embarrassment. I guess what I was feeling was concern for your well being as I usually do, Milady."

Amyleryn puts a hand on Felada's arm and says: "Thank you, Felada. You're a dear."

With a one-shouldered shrug, Buryn answers, "'Twas thinking of the road ahead, milady. The case I'm t'appear at, and what that'll all be like." His voice is rough, and he looks at his hands, rather self-conscious.

After everyone has calmed down, and answered her question, Amyleryn says: "Felada, your idea of sending a message to my uncle is a good one, and although he's expecting me, please see to sending such a message right away. We will wait here until we hear back from him."

Felada goes to consult with the innkeeper.

Making small talk while Felada sends the message to Lord Fugys, Amyleryn says: "Zedeon, I assume that your long-term goal in life is to become a master weaponcrafter, but Buryn, where would you like your life to go in the long run?"

Zedeon grins that the conversation has moved to something he's familiar with.

Looking very uncomfortable, Buryn hesitates, then says, "Milady? I donna unnerstand. I be just an 'unter, t'da good Lord Odasart. I've little wants from dat, t'be true." He pauses, then looks down again, and his voice grows rougher still. "Though 'twould like to see t'land what me parents hailed from, mayhap. Someday."

Turning towards Buryn, Zedeon smiles intently waiting to hear, if any, more of what Buryn has to say.

"That seems like a worthy goal. If you remain in my company, it's possible you could see your parents' homeland...but I can't promise anything." Looking at both Buryn and Zedeon, she continues: "Do either of you hope to wed someday and raise a family? Anyone either of you considering at the moment? I'm asking these personal questions, because I don't want your service to me to interfere with such personal plans.

I'm not being entirely generous towards you...although there is some of that...but I don't want your service to me to cause distraction and resentment. The things I'll be doing, are for the good of the kingdom, and that must take precedence."

ACT 1 SCENE 3 PAGE 2

Unexpectedly, Bury'n's expression hardens at the mention of family and settling down, and his jaw tightens. "Nay, milady," he says after a moment and a slow, deep breath. "I've no such pers'nal plans. I'm wit ye so long as ye needs me."

Meanwhile at the temple...

Terias awakes an hour before dawn as Malena Falesh gets up to prepare for his duty. "You will be expected to get up soon," he tells Terias, "as the matakea all attend an hour of prayer and an hour of weapons practice before they break their fast."

With a bit of a groan as he rolls over and sits upright on his bed, Terias replies groggily, "Aye, aye. Good to see some things don't change. My thanks Malena. The road has been hard and the peace the temple has offered welcome."

Terias hops out of bed and quickly readies himself.

Once Terias arrives in the dining room to break his fast, he is served calamari, goose eggs, a sharp cheese, currants, corn bread and apple cider. As it was last night, the meal is eaten in silence while scriptures are being read.

After the meal, Obasaran Isaafan asks, "Will you be staying for the Soratir or are you expected elsewhere?"

Terias is sure that this is the second time that the Obasaran has asked him this same question.

Dipping his head before speaking, Terias tries his best to act formal, "Apologies for not answering you the first time. I'd very much like to Obasaran, but first I need to meet up with the group I arrived with and find out their plans. If there's time at all I shall gladly. The hospitality you've all shown me is much appreciated."

With a confused look on his face, the Obsaran says, "I had not realized that someone had already asked you."

Rubbing at his jaw for a brief moment, Terias shakes his head slightly, "Thought t'was you, could've just dreamed we had the conversation."

Then with a grin the Matakea adds, "One should never keep a Lady waiting. But what time do you hold the Soratir?"

"We start at midday," Obasaran Isaafan says. With a frown he continues, "I certainly hope you are not planning to shirk your duties just for some dalliance with a woman."

Terias chuckles gruffly at Isaafan's words, and counters "Nay, nay Obasaran.. not a dalliance with a woman, t'is Lady Odasart I go to meet. I'm part of the retinue and we are on errand. Besides there is only space for one Woman in my heart right now." With that he motions around him and then upwards, "And She guards Dolithor."

Finally the Matakea adds, "I'll do my best to return for the service."

As Terias leaves the temple, he asks Malena Falesh, who is now standing guard, for directions to the Garb and Flail Inn. He then follows the directions carefully and arrives at the inn by the start of the third watch. He enters the inn behind a sailor and a messenger lad.

5-NÚZYÆL-720 TASHAL, KALDOR

3RD WATCH [COLD, CLEAR, NORTH WIND]

As you finish your morning meal, a black man, dressed as a sailor, enters and speaks with Captain Josriath. On his heels is a young lad who speaks quietly with the innkeeper.

Captain Josriath turns to Amyleryn and says, "Lady Odasart, may I present to you my pilot, Cornall of Pasena. He is from Tashal and has naught to do while we are in port. I have persuaded him to accompany you and guide you to wherever you wish to go while in town."

The innkeeper approaches the table and, when he has the opportunity to speak without interrupting, says, "Lady Odasart, Lord Odasart sends his greetings and delight upon hearing of your safe arrival. He says he will expect to meet with you and your companions at midday for a light, informal meal."

"Thank you." Amyleryn says to the innkeeper. After he leaves, Amyleryn says: "Well, we have about four hours before seeing my great uncle. I'd like to see where the Guild of Arcane Lore is, followed by a quick look at the wares available in the shops and booths in Mangai Square, and ending up with a visit to the temple of Save K'nor. Can you guide me to these places, Pilot Cornall?" An impish smile crosses her face. "If our route should happen to pass by the temple of Larani, we could stop there briefly and collect the other member of our party."

Cornall answers, "You could not have picked five places further apart and still be within the city walls. We are currently in the west. The Guild of Arcane Lore is in the southwest. The Temple of Larani is in the southeast. The Temple of Save K'nor is in the north. And the Mangai Square is right in the middle. I know not where your great uncle is as I do not believe you have said who he is. If we leave quickly, walk briskly and stay not over long in any one place, I can get you to your choice of three of them."

As Terias leaves the temple, he asks Malena Falesh, who is now standing guard, for directions to the Garb and Flail Inn. He then follows the directions carefully and arrives at the inn by the start of the third watch. He enters the inn behind a sailor and a messenger lad.

Once inside the Inn, Terias looks around for the party. The Matakea's demeanor seems to be more rigid and renewed than the previous days and his water blue eyes scan each person attentively.

He spies Bury'n, Zedeon and Lady Odasart in conversation with two sailors and the innkeeper.

Terias approaches the group and offers a polite bow to Lady Odasart, but says nothing not wishing to interrupt the discourse.

Amyleryn says, "My great uncle is Lord Fugys Odasart, the Royal Weaponcrafter. His mansion is on Kald Square. As I've been there before, I know how to find it." Spying Terias entering the inn, Amyleryn says: "Ah, the last member of our party comes to us. It won't be necessary to visit the temple of Larani at this time. In the case of the Guild of Arcane Lore, I just want to go there, see the building, so I know how to find it again if I need to. You say that the temple of Save K'nor is in the north, so I'm guessing that it's not too far from my great uncle's. That being so, I'll put off a visit there until after the luncheon. That should

leave us with a fair amount of time to browse the shops and stalls in Mangai Square."

When Terias comes over to the table, Amyleryn says: "Terias, let me introduce Captain Josriath of the riverboat 'Barabeleth'," and she indicates Josriath "who is Bury'n's uncle, and First Mate Cornall of Pasena. Gentlemen, this is Terias of Forniad, Matakia of Larani."

"Well met," Terias offers in reply to the introduction by Amyleryn.

After they've exchanged greetings, Amyleryn says: "Now that we're all gathered, let's be off. Terias, Cornall has agreed to guide us to a few places around Tashal before we have lunch with my great uncle."

She stands and goes over to the innkeeper. "Do you have a place where we could leave the bulk of our belongings safely until later?"

If he has a place, and charges for it, Amyleryn will have Felada pay him before the party leaves.

"What? You are leaving already?" the innkeeper asks. "If you are planning on staying again tonight, you may leave your things in your rooms and they will not be disturbed. You need not pay until the end of your stay. If you are leaving already, I must charge the regular room rate for you to store things here as it prevents me renting the room to another...and I cannot guarantee there will be a room available if you change your mind later in the day."

Amyleryn says, "Oh, in that case, we'll stay. Thank you."

Terias lets Amyleryn know as the group leaves the inn, "I'm not sure of our plans Lady Odasart, but if there's time at all today after lunch - from midday on the Soratir is being held at the temple and if I'm free I'd like to partake in the services."

Amyleryn says, "Well, I can't make any promises. Whatever my great uncle has in mind for us to do, it will have to take precedence. Still, if whatever we're to do doesn't start immediately after lunch, I see no reason why you couldn't go to the services. We'll just have to wait and see."

* * *

As Cornall leads you out the door, he says, "We will have to hurry as all the introductions and negotiations have delayed our start."

He leads you half way towards Mangai square and turns south on Torastra Way (he tells you the street names as they are not marked). You continue south to cross Chelebin Street and cross Haldan Square. A few doors later, he points out the Guild of Arcane Lore just as a woman is stepping out of the door.

http://www.duttond.topcities.com/Harn/Kaldor/Tashal_H12.jpg

After giving you a couple of moments to look over the building, Cornall leads you back the way you had come...crossing Haldan Square and Chelebin Street to turn right to Mangai Square. The square is filled with market stalls with most of them selling fresh produce.

http://www.duttond.topcities.com/Harn/Kaldor/Mangai_Square.jpg

5-NÚZYÆL-720 TASHAL, KALDOR

4TH WATCH [FRZG, PARTLY CLOUDY, NORTH CALM, FOG]

After you look through the wares at the market for awhile, Cornall leads you through the now very foggy streets toward Kald Square. Just as you are crossing Torastra Street a woman blocks Amyleryn's way and says, "Milady, are your belongings safe? There are thieves, cutpurses and housebreakers everywhere. I can sell you strong leather purses or lock boxes to foil the cleverest thief."

Continuing on, you reach Kald Square without further interruption. Amyleryn takes over the lead and you all arrive at Lord Odasart's mansion. The chamberlain who lets you in looks ancient but only slightly older than his master.

Lord Odasart says, "Amy! Welcome! I believe I've met your companions before. If I am correct, it is Bury'n, Terias, Zedeon, Felada, and..." Looking at Cornall, he continues, "No, this one I know not. Niece who is this strong fellow you have brought with you?"

Amyleryn gives her uncle a hug, then says: "Uncle, this is Cornall of Pasena, pilot on the riverboat 'Barabeleth'. The 'Barabeleth' is captained by Josriath of Coryerdan, Bury'n's uncle."

In the great hall, you see the "light" repast that has been prepared, consisting of a buffet with oro (fried artichokes), sorrelye (sorrel soup with figs and dates), galantine pie, vyand de cypris in lent (almond fish stew), smalle byrdes (bird stuffed with dates and mustard), flore frittours (fried squash flowers), wastel (first quality bread), beer (dark brown color, nutty aroma, full texture, balanced malt-hop flavor with slightly sweet aftertaste) and damson (plum and currant tarts).

"You will have to serve yourselves as I have not a large household staff to care for just myself," Lord Odasart says.

After everyone has eaten their fill, Lord Odasart asks Amyleryn, "Has Lady Harabor explained what we need you to do? Is there naught I can do to help you on your way? I mean not to be inhospitable but time may be of the essence."

Amyleryn says, "No, uncle, she didn't have time to tell me much. You and I can withdraw to another room if what you have to tell me is of a sensitive nature."

"Your companions will be able to help you better if they know as well," answers Lord Odasart. "If there is any that you trust not, you should not be traveling with them. At your command I will send them on their way."

Amyleryn says, "I trust your judgment, uncle. If you think they can be told, then they stay."

"And what of the next person you meet when I am not around?" asks Lord Odasart. "You must learn to judge a person's character for yourself and then stand by your decisions. The opinions of those you trust is valuable but you will not always have that luxury."

ACT 1 SCENE 3 PAGE 4

Amyleryn says, "I was just trying to find out how closed-lipped I had to be regarding the mission."

"Truth be told," he continues after that is dealt with, "we know not much. A number of the heirs to the throne and the King have been unavailable recently. Be it just one, there would be no cause for alarm. But with so many quiet after the start of the King's recent illness, there is some concern. The Sheriff of Meselyneshire merely wishes to know if there is danger to his person or if he needs to step forward to take the throne. In either case, making official inquiries would be a sign of weakness and would make the situation worse."

Amyleryn says, "I hadn't heard that the King was ill. At his age, it's not a surprise...still, what do you know about his condition?"

"Nothing," Lord Odasart says, "and that is part of what has us concerned."

Amyleryn asks, "Where do you want me to go...and if more than one place, in what order?"

"What? Has Lady Harabor told you nothing?" Lord Odasart asks with growing concern on his face. "We want you to go to Kiban to learn the condition of the Earl and why he has been out of communication. Have we chosen the wrong person for this task and are now to learn you are incapable of making a decision for yourself?"

Amyleryn stiffens and says: "That was unfair, uncle! I was just trying to make sure I had the correct understanding of my task. If you have no faith in me, then send me back to Hesby!" and there's fire in her eyes.

At this moment it is easy to tell the two are related as Lord Odasart's face reddens in anger, "Very well, IF you are now certain of your understanding, I think it is nigh time that you should be on your way. You may do your duty or not, as I will see if that high minded cousin of yours, Dadazdan the priest, has learned any humility and will do as he is told. I will bid all of you a good day," Lord Odasart says as he turns and leaves for his private chambers.

The chamberlain shows you the way to the door.

Visibly regaining her self control, Amyleryn says: "Outside."

Once everyone is together outside her uncle's mansion, she says: "I'm sorry you all had to sit through that. We Odasarts can be...argumentative." She looks at Felada, and as she continues eye contact, the corners of her mouth begin to twitch upwards until she can hold it back no longer, and breaks out in gales of laughter.

Buryn glances at her once, quickly, and then away again, looking very interested in who might be nearby, rather than stare at Amyleryn.

Until they reach the door, Buryn keeps his head down and eyes averted from his betters. But once they head out of doors again, he will resume his air of wary watchfulness.

Zedeon almost exactly follows suite behind Buryn, trying to stay close to the group

Following the others, Cornall asks, "Do you still wish to go to the temple of Save K'nor, milady?"

Addressing Cornall, Amyleryn says: "Yes, I do want to go to temple of Save K'nor. I could make good use of some prayer and meditation." Turning to the others, she says: "Zedeon, you said you wanted to come along, and you're certainly welcome to do so, but it was my understanding that you follow Peoni as does Buryn. That" and here she points to the huge building that occupies almost the whole of the north side of Kald Square "is the temple of Peoni. While I wouldn't presume to try to dictate a person's religious practices, I do suggest that each of us try to...as they say...'get right' with the Deities we worship. Terias, I assume you did some worshipping at the temple of Larani last night, so if Buryn would like to offer up some prayer in Peoni's temple, I'd like you to tag along with him. I don't want any of us to be walking around Tashal by ourselves from now on."

"Milady?" Buryn asks, looking surprised.

Amyleryn continues, "I don't mean to say that any of you HAVE to go worship. You can all come with me if you wish. When we're done with this, everyone meet up back at the Garb and Flail. We'll stay there again tonight, and leave for Kiban in the morning. Cornall, lead on." And she follows him to the temple of Save K'nor.

Felada says, "Milady, if you will permit, I will go to Peoni's temple for an hour as well. However, if we mean to leave in the morn, we should finish our prayers in time to visit a money lender today so we may replenish our funds as I am sure the riverboat will leave at first light."

"You're right m'lady" Zedeon replies realizing its been a while since his last 'getting right'. "Buryn, if you would like, we can go make peace with Peoni now, and explore later." Zedeon looks towards Buryn for his reply.

"Very well. Go to your worship. Terias, I still want you to go to look after them. Cornall will stay with me. Felada, you're right. Everyone meet back here in an hour." and she and Cornall start off for the temple of Save K'nor.

Without much emotion Terias simply says, "Aye M'Lady" and readies to follow two men to the temple, but watches as Buryn jogs off to follow the others.

Buryn starts to call after them then closes his mouth, but continues to stare after them for a long moment. In an obvious nervous habit, he gnaws on a callous on his thumb for a moment, apparently deep in thought, then trots to catch up with Lady Odasart and Cornall before they move out of sight.

Noticing Buryn trotting up behind her and Cornall, Amyleryn says: "Welcome then, Buryn. I now have two strong men to look after me." and she grins at the two of them as they continue on their way.

At the last hour of the fourth watch, you reach the temple of Save K'nor. The porter at the gate greets you, "Welcome, I am Rowanti Turvarard of Valhenastir. Milady, you may enter if you please but your companions must await your return here at the gate.

With a slight nod, as if he expected as much, Buryn says, "We'll await yer, milady, 'less you wants oth'wise."

* * *

You arrive at the entrance to the temple of Peoni and Ebasethe Cyben of Kyfa greets you at the door, "Welcome! Enter and be at peace."

You enter the main chapel and see an enormous room lit by rush lights on the row of columns down either side. You can dimly see confessionals behind the torch lit columns. At the far side of the room is a podium and an altar.

Cyben tells you, "there is no mass at this time of day but you are welcome to pray here or I can take your confession in one of the confessionals."

5-NÚZYÆL-720 TASHAL, KALDOR

5TH WATCH [FRZG, PARTLY CLOUDY, NORTH CALM, FOG]

By the start of the fifth watch, Amyleryn has attended the Save K'nor daily mass while Zedeon and Felada have prayed for an hour. Today's Save K'nor daily mass was a one hour lecture on the varieties of gargun. Afterwards, you meet again in front of the Odasart mansion.

[OOOC: ...once you get there, you must identify yourself (signet ring) and say how much you want. The money lender will check your letter of credit (I'll put it on your character sheet) to see if what you ask for is allowed. Once it is approved, the moneylender makes a note of the amount on the letter of credit, has you sign a receipt (using signet ring on wax seal) and counts out the money to Felada in the denominations you specify. That would be the instructions given to Amyleryn when she got the letter. Currently, the maximum she can get is 15d per day per person for five people (Amyleryn, Felada, Zedeon, Terias, and Buryrn) up to 10 days in advance. Including the 5 days that have passed and the 10 days in advance, she can get up to 225d.]

As the group is standing out in front of Fugys' mansion, Amyleryn goes inside for a few minutes to speak with her uncle's chamberlain: "Excuse me but I need to see a moneylender. Who's reputable, and how do I get to their shop? I also need to see a weaponcrafter to sell some things. Who should I see?"

He says, "Milord usually deals with Querene of Valain. She is the only female mercantyle in town and her shop is on Mangai Square right next to the well. As to weaponcrafters, I can recommend a couple but not one over another...that would be an abuse of my position. One is Obras of Kyfa and his shop is on Querina road. Another is Kuvel of Charin and his shop is on Cheslo Lane. Both of them are just a short way from Mangai Square, I believe but I know not for certain. If you wish to visit them today, you had better hurry as they will be closing their shops soon."

"Thank you. I'll go see Querene right away. I'll go see the weaponcrafters tomorrow." Amyleryn goes back outside and rejoins the group. She says, "OK. Here's the plan. We will go to the moneylender right now. I'm told that the weaponcrafters will be closing their shops soon, so we'll go back to the Garb and Flail after the moneylender. First thing in the morning, we'll go see a weaponcrafter or two. I have two shortswords that I'm not trained to use, therefore, I'm inclined to sell them. Some of you have weapons as your share of the booty from the fight with the mutants. If you are not trained in their use...or if you already had

better quality gear...I suggest that you also sell same. Carrying extra stuff around...that you can't use...is not a good idea." Addressing Buryrn and Terias directly, she says, "I note the two of you have short swords. If the ones I have are of better quality than yours, we can exchange them and I'll sell your old ones instead. We'll have a look at them when we get back to the inn."

"No," Buryrn's face reddens under her scrutiny, but he squares his shoulders. His voice is rougher than normal as he says, "I am sorry, milady, but my sword, I canna give it up. 'Twas my father's, and all I 'ave left of him. I tek good care offit, I swear."

Amyleryn says, "Oh. OK. I can respect that. You'll have to tell me about him when we're sitting around a table of a campfire sometime."

"Of course, milady," Buryrn says but he looks taken aback at the very suggestion.

After listening to Buryrn's response, Terias then says, "I've no sentimentality towards my weapon. If it's better than my own I'd gladly take it Lady Odasart."

Turning to Cornall, Amyleryn says, "Cornall, if Captain Josriath, yourself, or any of your crewmates have need of any of the weapons I propose to sell, I would be happy to give you the first chance to buy them before I offer them to a weaponcrafter."

"No, milady," Cornall answers, "Captain Josriath is very explicit about that...he expects each person to do their job to the best of their ability and that means leaving others to their own job. He said he would be hiring some mercenaries or marines to guard the cargo and I believe he offered that job to your men this morning. He does not expect them to interfere with the sailors jobs and he does not allow the sailors to interfere with the mercenaries jobs."

"Zedeon, I believe you have that crossbow with your belongings back at the inn? When we go see a weaponcrafter tomorrow, we should have him dispose of it for us. We nobility consider crossbows to be coward's weapons. As we are going to be mixing with various nobles on this mission, having that crossbow would cause us quite a bit of trouble."

Amyleryn asks, "Cornall, just exactly when does Captain Josriath intend to sail?"

"I know not exactly as I have not seen him since this morning," Cornall answers, "but if his fortune is as usual, he will have bought a cargo and had it loaded by this evening so that he can set sail by first light."

Once all of the talking is done, Amyleryn sets out for the moneylender.

Arriving at the moneylender, you see a guard posted at an iron bound door. He tells Amyleryn, "You and your maid may enter if you wish but your men must remain here."

Speaking to the guys, Amyleryn says: "Wait out here. We should only be a short while." Turning to Felada, she says: "Come with me." Amyleryn goes in.

ACT 1 SCENE 3 PAGE 6

With a stoic look on his face Terias offers Amyleryn a curt nod and then positions himself near the door but away from the guard, looking around the area intently.

When you enter, you see another guard on the inside and a woman behind a clerk's desk. "May I help you?" she asks.

"Greetings. I'm the Lady Amyleryn Odasart." and she extends her hand with the signet ring for inspection. Pulling out the letter of credit and handing it over, she says: "This is a letter of credit from my great uncle, Lord Fugys Odasart. I'd like to get 225d, please."

The money lender examines the signet ring and the letter of credit. She then does some calculations on an abacus, makes notations on the letter of credit, writes a receipt and counts out the money. Handing the receipt to Amyleryn with some sealing wax and a candle, she says "please sign here and apply your seal."

Amyleryn signs where indicated, then slips the signet ring off of her finger. Holding the ring by the small band of the underside, she melts some of the sealing wax with the candle...dripping it onto the indicated part of the receipt...and presses the ring-face into the wax before it can harden.

Once Amyleryn does that, she hands over the money and says, "It has been a pleasure doing business with you."

"Thank you. It has been a pleasure for me as well." As there is quite a bit of money, Amyleryn splits it up between herself and Felada.

As they're leaving the moneylender, Amyleryn will say to Felada: "I want to give some of the money to the others to carry. This way, if one of us gets mugged, we won't lose all of the money...as might happen if you or I were the one to be mugged. I heard an expression once... 'Don't put all of your eggs in one basket.'"

* * *

Your trip back to the Garb and Flail is uneventful and you arrive by the middle of the watch – just as the curfew bell rings. There are a couple of farmers in the common room but with the arrival of a man dressed all in black leather, they decide to leave. As the farmers leave, two young nobles, each with a bodyguard, enter and demand drinks to be served.

Indicating that everyone sit at an available table, Amyleryn sits down. When the others have seated themselves, she leans forward and indicates that Terias, Zedeon, and Buryn to do likewise. Speaking in a low voice, Amyleryn says: "I got quite a bit of money from the moneylender. I want each of the three of you to take 50 pence to carry. This is in case we encounter a cutpurse or a mugger. Splitting up the money lessens the chance of losing all of the money at one time." Trying to not be too obvious about it, she counts out 50d to each of the three men.

After catching the hint that Amyleryn projected to sit down, he graciously accepts the 50 pence. "Thank you ma'am your very kind. And if you don't mind me saying so, when I get my smith business up to full speed, your weapon of the best quality will be the first I make."

Chuckling, Amyleryn says: "I gave you the money to carry, not as a gift. All of this money is for the use of all of us as we go about the tasks my uncle set us to do." Looking at each of them, she says: "If you have a way to do it, keep this money separate from your personal funds. If not, you'll have to keep count so you can tell the difference." With a serious look on her face, she finishes: "I'm placing my trust in all of you. I rely on you to not let me down."

"I only meant that this money should help us along towards a greater goal and gold, ma'am. This amount shall be safe with me." Zedeon bows his head a little after saying this

Terias just nods and quietly tucks the coins away.

* * *

Amyleryn then gives her attention over to studying the man in black leather, the two nobles, and their bodyguards.

After putting away the money to keep for Amerlyn, Buryn glances at this group as well.

One of the nobles looks her way and says loudly, "Ah, the tavern wenches have arrived."

The other replies, just as loudly, "You need not pay us for your pleasure. You can sit on our laps for free. If you are real nice, we may even pay you."

The bodyguards stand ready to do their duty – that of protecting their masters. The man in black also watches the events as they unfold but it is uncertain yet what his reaction will be.

Buryn is on his feet quickly, his face a mask of anger and indignation on behalf of Amerlyn and Felada. "Speak ye not dis way to a Lady!" he growls in his harsh voice.

"Why you whoreson, flap eared, beetle-headed knave," one says, "Are you, a loathsome churl, presuming to tell me what I can and cannot say?"

"Mind him not," the other tells his companion, "for he swaggers his dull wit about like a clumsy hammer."

[OO: In the SCA, there are outward symbols to indicate a knight...white belt, spurs, gold chain worn around the neck. Are there outward symbols of knighthood used in Kaldor, and if so, are either of the two nobles wearing same?]

[OO: There is nothing they are wearing that you can tell would indicate they have been knighted and you have no way of knowing any military rank symbols. They are each wearing a surcoat and the size of the coat of arms (greater than six inches) indicates that they are noble...]

<http://www.duttond.topcities.com/Harn/B5.gif>

<http://www.duttond.topcities.com/Harn/D5.gif>

You are not sure what it is but there is something about the one with the white hind that makes you think it is fake. <+1 Heraldry>]

Rising to his feet in unison with Buryn, Terias says nothing, but puts a hand to the hilt of his sword. He merely eyes over the two noblemen, then turns his gaze to Amyleryn awaiting her response.

The man in black quietly says to Terias, "Beware of your actions. For a common to attack a noble is a crime and, if you draw that sword, your life will surely be forfeit."

Flinching a glance over to the man in black, Terias says somberly, "Aye I'm aware, though I'm an aid and guard of Lady Odasart here and if things escalate, I am oath bound to protect her unless she says otherwise. Just as the Goddess I am an Unwilling Warrior."

Terias resumes his attention to both the nobles looking for signs of details as to who they may be.

Terias notices the coat of arms they are wearing...

<http://www.duttond.topcities.com/Harn/B5.gif>

<http://www.duttond.topcities.com/Harn/D5.gif>

He does not recognize the one with the griffon but the white stag on a blue field is the crest of clan Dariune. He does not remember the significance of the circle in the corner.

Buryn moves his shoulders a bit, as if shrugging off a gnat, and his expression grows hard. But he merely folds his arms over his chest and remains silent, seeming to accept their abuse so long as it is aimed at him and not the Ladies.

The nobleman with the griffon crest says, "It appears that not only are you impudent, you are impotent as well." Smiling at his own witticism, he challenges, "Are you going to take that without comment? If you are concerned with the difference in our station, I am sure I can hire this man..." pointing at the man in black, "...to act as our champion. If you best him in a fair fight, I will offer my apology and my purse."

As Lady Odasart deliberates on the situation at hand, Terias leans towards her and whispers gruffly, "I'm nay sure if you know these two, m'Lady but the one with the white stag coat is of Clan Dariune. The other I've no idea on. The same with the import of the circle. Seems I need to brush up on my studies."

"Buryn, Terias, stand where you are." Amyleryn says sharply. "I'll handle this." and she rises to her feet, gesturing for Zedeon and Cornall to rise with her.

"Oh no, you will not get me in the middle of this," Cornall says, "I am neither soldier, gentry nor your hireling."

Zedeon catches on to Amyleryn's hint and stands up. He follows to her left flank as to hide his main hand. His inpatients is gleaming from his face now. Though he hopes this ends peacefully, it has been a while.

Amyleryn walks toward where the nobles are. If one or both bodyguards attempts to block her way, she'll show them her signet ring and hiss: "Get out of my way or I'll have you in gaol within the hour." If they try to block her and won't back off, she'll call out to the innkeeper: "Send someone for the watch!" and be ready to dodge.

The guards block her way and will physically restrain her if necessary. One says to her, "We are just doing our jobs and are allowed to use whatever force is necessary to protect our wards – even to the point of knocking you down or doing you other injury. Calling for the watch will avail you naught."

She shows them her signet ring and says: "I am the lady Amyleryn Odasart. My father holds Hesby Manor. Lord Fugys Odasart, the Royal Weaponcrafter, is my Great uncle." Gesturing back towards the rest of the party without taking her eyes off of the nobles and bodyguards, she continues: "The other woman is my maidservant, and three of the men are in my employ."

Getting a caustic tone to her voice, Amyleryn asks: "Were manners not a part of your education, or..." her eyes narrow and she takes a step backwards to put her out of immediate reach "are you imposters posing as nobles? Show me your signet rings!" she demands.

If any of the four of them make a grab for her, Amyleryn will dodge and shout: "To me!"

"We have a real spitfire here with an over developed sense of her own importance," the noble with the griffon says. To Amyleryn he continues, "Well little miss Odasart, we have no need to answer to your commands and we will see how long your great uncle keeps his royal post after we tell of the shameful things you and your men have been doing here."

The other noble says, "Let us be on our way. It is obvious that these 'men' have no cods and prefer to hide behind the lady's skirts."

With that they casually head for the door while the guards prevent anyone from following too closely.

Terias watches the two leave the door, and then shakes his head looking clearly discontent. After the guards have made their way out, he visible relaxes turning his full attention to Lady Odasart.

Visibly getting her anger under control, Amyleryn stalks back to the table where the others are standing. Speaking to the party as a whole, she says: "I'm thoroughly convinced that those two were imposters. Through all of the bravado and insults they didn't show any real proof of noble status and were quick to leave."

Addressing Terias directly, Amyleryn says: "Come with me as escort. I mean to go to the Enclave of the Holy Oak immediately. We'll have to hurry, as the curfew bell has rung and curfew will be in force within the hour."

"Aye m'Lady", Terias says curtly.

Turning back to the others she says: "The rest of you get something to eat." To Felada she says: "Felada, get something for Terias and myself to eat that can be eaten cold...for when we return."

Going over to the innkeeper, Amyleryn asks: "Innkeeper, I may have to be out after curfew is in force. Please direct me to the nearest post of the Watch so that I can arrange permission."

"Of course you can do as you feel you must," says the innkeeper, "but I doubt the Enclave will allow you in at this time of night. They teach young nobles heraldry so are very careful to ensure their protection. If you must travel, the nearest watch would be at the Kald Gate just down the street. I also would not expect the watch to accompany you away from the gate."

ACT 1 SCENE 3 PAGE 8

At this moment, Captain Josriath walks in the door. "I have my cargo safely onboard the ship and will be ready to cast off at dawn," he says. Looking at Amyleryn, he continues, "Will you be accompanying us? Will your men be able to start their employ by guarding the ship through the night?"

"Damn!" she says to nobody in particular. "The Gods seem to be thwarting me at every turn."

The god of narration? A good deal of what is going on at this moment is driven by the needs of the story.

Turning to the party, Amyleryn asks: "Do any of you have something I may write on and something to write with?"

After replies to her question, she addresses Captain Josriath: "Yes, the lot of us will be traveling with you... and yes, my men can stand guard. Tell them what sort of watch schedule you want."

"I need at least two guards to stay on the boat throughout the night," the Captain answers. "They will have to sup quickly or take something with them as the Kald Gate will be closing, for the night, within the hour and they will be unable to get back in until the morn. Cornall will direct them as he will be on the night watch as well. They can set their own watch schedule as they see fit."

"Innkeeper, dinner for all of us please." Seating herself, Amyleryn says to Terias and the others: "Terias, forget about going to the Watch post. Let's eat."

The innkeeper serves puree of lettuce leaves with onions for an appetizer; a choice of entrée (beef and vegetable pottage; prawn rissoles; hot boiled goose with cold sauce); accompanied by vegetarian custard lumbarde (an almond and fruit tart), wastel (first quality bread), ale (light amber color. overpowering citric aroma. soft texture. well-balanced, fruity flavor. that becomes sharp and dry in the finish); followed by a dessert of sweet wine cakes.

Cornall has the innkeeper bundle up a little of each (with the beef and vegetable pottage in a bread bowl) into a cloth and leaves to go to his post. "Those of you who will be standing guard best get a move on and follow me," he says over his shoulder.

Looking to Amyleryn, Terias motions to Cornall and says, "M'Lady, I do not mind standing first watch if you'll have it."

Amyleryn says, "By all means, go ahead. I suggest that you follow Cornall's lead and wrap up a portion of the meal to take with you."

Terias nods curtly and does as Amyleryn suggests, wrapping up some food and then falling in with Cornall for the trip to the boat.

5-NÚZYÆL-720 TASHAL, KALDOR

6TH WATCH [COOL, PARTLY CLOUDY, NORTHEAST WIND]

Terias and Cornall pass through the gate and board the river boat just as the guards close the Kald gate. Things soon settle down as everyone along the wharf either prepares to stand their watch or settle in their hammocks. The guards on the walls keep fires burning but little of the light reaches the ground. Between the many crates and barrels on the wharf, and along the bottom of

the town wall, the darkness is complete. The only sound is the creaking of the timbers and ropes of the boats and the slapping of the water. The smell is of river water, of mold and of fish.

Glancing across the river, Terias can barely see the swamp on the other side. There is merely a sliver of moonlight as it gleams off the fog and the creaking of frogs adds to the eeriness of the scene.

Suddenly Terias can see dim figures of light moving about the swamp. It also seems that he can hear some of them talking to each other but the voices are too low to make out what they are saying.

Terias mutters to himself as he keeps watch of the general vicinity, while moving off to find someone on the boat, "My eyes may've played tricks with the light, but nay my ears. Someone's out there"

Once Terias finds someone he motions silently in the direction of the swamp with his hand and in a raspy whisper says, "There's a few folk about the swamps. Can't make out numbers of what they're up too. Best to rouse the others. I'll keep watch here."

"Dey be a bene wan, governor, bit it wud work better if dere wuz actually zomething to zee. Dere is nothing out dere and I weel nat make a looby uv mezel' raising de alarm vor some daft land lubber. Be ee nat de wan 'ired to protect us? If us do yer job tonight, does dey mean ee weel be manning de oars on de marrow?" the sailor says as he walks away.

Clearly annoyed Terias calls out, trying to keep his voice subdued, "If something foul does fall on this night I'll remember your face fella."

Grumbling in disgust Terias mutters, "One against a handful. Nay liking these odds. Lady preserve me."

Terias looks to the night sky briefly as he walks back to his post.

Terias then crouches low by the edge of the boat and keep watch for the figures, his right hand idly thumbing the hilt of his sword.

Soon after all of the sailors have went below and the night quiets again, an arrow suddenly thuds into the boat railing next to Terias' head. He spins around in time to see his attacker raise up and fall over with something protruding from his back. Another figure raises in an attempt to flee and a missile lands in his throat. He too falls over unmoving.

The quiet and stillness of the night returns.

The Matakaea draws his sword confusion lining his face, and shouts, "Show yourselves assassins! Fight as men, not as curs!"

In an attempt to keep safe Terias moves low on the boat towards the closest fallen figure to inspect what killed it and discern who it is.

In the dim light, he can get close enough to tell that both were killed by crossbow quarrels and that they are the two people who made the odd gestures to Zedeon at the Heru Gate of the city. Unfortunately, he is also close enough to savor the rank odor that indicates very poor hygiene habits even within medieval standards. He can barely detect that each of them has some sort of tattoo on their shoulder but he is not close enough to make out any details.

Scratching the back of his neck, Terias glances around some more trying to spot anyone else. He then drags the two bodies together, holding his breath during the exercise. Once complete Terias moves to stand upwind from the two dead men. For the remainder of the evening he keeps his watch all around him rather than just over the boat.

At first light Terias moves back to the rank bodies and searches them over more thoroughly for evidence of who they were.

He finds nothing that would identify them (in fact, little in the manner of belongings). Now that he has gotten a closer look, the tattoos are the outline of a hand filled in with yellow.

When the sailors come on deck he asks them to bring Cornall to him for a report.

Terias mentions to Cornall, clearly tired from remaining awake all night, "Last eve I spotted two or more figures out in the swamps. I told one of yer men, but they didn't seem to right care."

"As I believe I told your mistress," Cornall replies, "sailors are not trained or hired to fight and the Captain gets upset when they do. If you feel you need help to do what you were hired to, Captain Josirath is willing to hire more mercenaries. I thought he already had but your companions apparently did not want the job. On our trip today, you will ride for free but the others will have to pay their fare."

Once Cornall explains about the soldier's Terias eases off his annoyance, and adds, "Aye the other two aren't military trained I don't think - ones a crafter and the other's a hunter. Though they held their own on the roads."

With a grunt of annoyance Terias grudgingly continues, "Then a few hours into the watch I had a bolt nearly put me down. I turned around to see one of these two slump to the ground and moments later the other trying to dash away also collapse."

Terias raises three fingers as he speaks, "Obviously there was a third and by my reckoning a Saint of Larani that kept me safe. Not sure what these two were up too, but theft's top of my list. Nor do I know who to thank for my life or why they were watching over my back."

"Very well. You have done well. You can either get some sleep now or quickly break your fast," Cornall says. "We will be casting off by mid watch."

Without a pause Terias replies, "I'll grab some grub and tuck off for some rest. Feel free to rouse me if there's any trouble."

6-NÚZYÆL-720 TASHAL, KALDOR

2ND WATCH [HOT, CLEAR, SOUTH WIND]

The innkeeper knocks on your door to awaken you at the beginning of the second watch. "The Captain says, you will have to hurry to pack your belongings and settle your bill as the ship will be casting off by mid watch."

Felada rushes to set out Amyleryn's clothes and fishing packing. She then says, "By your leave, milady, I will settle the bill for ourselves and I will see that your men pay theirs as well."

"Yes, get it done." and Amyleryn gets dressed.

Entering the common room, you hear Captain Josirath say that he will pay the 5d for the one night that Terias stayed since Terias is now in his employ. With that, the Captain heads out the door, calling over his shoulder, "step lightly folks. We will be leaving in an hour."

The innkeeper has raspberries in soft cheese served in a bread bowl and a pint of cider for anyone wanting to break their fast.

Speaking to the innkeeper, Amyleryn says: "Please wrap up a serving of that for me and another for my maid. We'll eat it aboard the boat."

"Yes, milady," the innkeeper says, "and may I say it has been a pleasure having you here. I hope the unpleasantness of last evening will not keep you away when you return. I can assure you that this is usually a very quiet inn."

Amyleryn says, "Do not concern yourself with the conduct of those two boors last night. As a public house, I know you have little control over who comes in the door. Rest assured that when I am again in Tashal, and in need of lodging or a meal, this is where I will come. Good day to you."

Once her gear and Felada's is all gathered up and ready to go...and the food handed over... she'll say to Zedeon and Buryn: "Step lively. We dare not miss the boat." and she heads for the door.

Zedeon gets ready as quickly as possible and readies himself waiting on the rest of the party

The innkeeper addresses Zedeon saying, "You would not be trying to slip out without paying your bill would you? You and your companion..." he motions towards Buryn "...owe me 10d each."

"By no means sir." replies Zedeon looking for where he keeps his coin. (Assuming he has enough and it is the right money to spend, Zedeon will pay for the both of them out of pocket). Think of this as coin for your time and stories of your past and your future Buryn. Zedeon Lets off a small smile as he follows Buryn to the rest of the group

"Thank you sir," the innkeeper replies, "and may your journey be a safe and pleasant one."

Turning to Buryn, "I'm still interested in your tales and ideas about what you want to pursue later on in life, but lets make haste, there are many a tales to be made with this group."

* * *

Once Terias picks up a good sized meal, he settles down in a quiet spot to nibble on the food. While he eats Terias reaches into his pack and pulls out his journal, ink and quill. The Matakea jots down some of the events into his personal journal.