

### *13th of the Third Moon*

*Thorden is dead. He only went for firewood. There was a howl and a scream, and he is gone. There were barely tatters enough left to bury.*

*I hate this place. Berez, yes, but Barovia more. It drains everything, dries us up and hollows us out, and when we have no more left to give, it kills us. I will not have that for my son. The Vistani come and go as they wish; I will bring all the coin I have, and beg them to bring us with them to a place beyond these accursed mists.*

### *16th of the Third Moon*

*Curse the mists, and curse the Vistani. Thieves, I call them, for though they refused my coin, they have stolen my hope. Almost. One young woman approached me as I left their camp, and told me of a place to the south. A temple of lost knowledge, she said, where I might find the means to escape this place.*

*I cannot bring my son with me to the mountains; Strong as he is for one so small, I fear he would not survive the journey. I have asked Thorden's sister to watch him while I am gone, though I have not told her my destination. She would pity me as a fool if she knew.*

### *19th of the Third Moon*

*The way here was hard - harder than anything I have ever done, save bury my husband. But I have reached the Temple, and tomorrow I will steel myself to enter; the doors seem buried, and I am too tired and too cold to attempt to dig them out or find another way tonight. Tomorrow I will find a way to save my son.*

### *21st of the Third Moon*

*The Vistana did not lie to me. There is great power and knowledge here. I have spoken to a vestige of an ancient mind, wise in magic, and it has revealed to me a ritual that will grant escape from these cursed lands. It warned that its gift came with a cost, however - the lives of the others in the village.*

*What even is this life, under the eye and fang of the Devil? Half these folk lack even souls, what does it matter if they die? My son's life is worth all of these thralls, and I would sacrifice them gladly.*

*Tomorrow, I descend the mountain, to my son's salvation.*

*I swear, Kragorn will know the sun on his face.*