

*Dol Arandur, Ithilien, Reunited Kingdom of Arnor and Gondor
Viressë 10th, Fourth Age 11*

To Marek Al-Jahmîr

It comes as little surprise that you are the one behind the kidnapping of Faramir, Steward of Gondor, Prince of Ithilien, my husband. Indeed, once we received the message he entrusted to his horse, there were precious few other suspects.

Having thoroughly discussed the matter with the High King Elessar and several members of the Council, a painful yet necessary decision has been reached: there will be no Crown-sanctioned negotiations with villains and criminals, regardless of the cost to the realm.

I, however, am free to do what I will, though I risk much. I am not unfamiliar with gambling and high stakes. Indeed, what stakes could be higher than the life and safe return of my beloved husband?

I will not, though, recklessly enter this wager without some assurance about the prize I seek. You are a wise man, you know that it is foolish to begin a venture without knowing if the results are attainable.

With this in mind, I request proof that Faramir lives and is as well as when I last saw him. This is not unreasonable. Before buying a horse, do you not first ask the owner to walk, trot, and jog it to prove its soundness?

In all of this, I would advise you to be cautious. Has not one of your own poets said, "Beware, O most foolish one! if you raid the lioness's den."?

*Éowyn
Lady of Ithilien*