

Eryn Arnën, Hisimë 22nd, Fourth Age 11

My dearest Faramir,

Forgive me for not writing sooner, but it seems that Elboron and Meriadoc have given their colds to me. Somehow Peregrin has managed to avoid getting sick so far, and I hope that continues. Meriadoc has clung to me the past two days, and Elboron has not let me go far from him either. He did find his Horsey, though. Someone had discovered it and set it on a shelf in the grain room for us to find. Horsey could do with a good washing soon, too.

Has your business in the City improved any? I hope it has. Your letter did nothing to hide the miserable time you've had so far. To be honest, after I read it the first time, I considered coming to the City, but then Elboron and Meriadoc showed signs of getting sick, and soon they were unhappy enough without asking them to make a journey. As soon as they are well again, we will try to come. I know we have many friends who want to see them, the twins especially.

I do want Húrin to meet them. Your news of him greatly saddened me. I did not realize he was that ill. It will be a great loss for that family, and already I hurt for them. Watching a loved one waste away through illness may be worse than a sudden, unexpected loss. I have been through both, and it is harder to remember someone when your last memories are of their weakness and suffering, rather than their prime. I wonder what has triggered his illness, and the severity of it.

But to less somber matters. How is Azrahil faring? I hope that he is feeling better and that you have been able to show him some of the City beyond the council chambers. It is not surprising that he is an easy target during council, though it does seem unfair. He knows well enough what he has done in the past; nothing good will come from reminding him and everyone else of it. Has his health improved any? I know he was dreading the coming winter. Do you know if he has given any more thought to taking Khorazîr's offer of joining them for the mid-winter feast and meeting Narjede? He does not have much longer to think about it if he wants to leave in time, though I suppose that he can only leave when the council is finished with him, and who knows how long that could take.

It sounds like council is running you ragged as well. Try to get some rest, else you may find yourself getting a cold as well. And try not to let Falastur's and the others' remarks cut too deeply. You know that they will fabricate whatever they need to irritate you. I wish that the children and I could be there, so that you could have something to look forward to after a long day.

Though there is more I want to say, I will end this letter for now. Forgive the brevity, but as I said, the boys have given me their colds, and I think I will try to get some rest while they are napping and hopefully ease the headache I feel forming. Do not worry about us; this will pass.

*Love always,
Éowyn*