

The Calledar Chronicles
Part 4 – Family and Politics
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Frustrated after his plan was refused by King Beregor, Allyster returned to his chambers where the lobbyist for the Children of the Everblossoming Arches waited.

“My apologies, Master Eblin, but your efforts to ally your people with mine have come to nothing.” The Minister of Information said. “He wants nothing to do with your people in terms of the war with Gryth or on any other front.”

“I am sorry to hear that Minister Allyster. There are many things that others impute to the Children, but as you are aware it is gossip and rumors, nothing more.” Ambassador Eblin replied.

“I wish that I could have made him see. Many argue that your community and the people of Calledar are incompatible. Despite our differences, there are many ways that we could help one another. The King has made it clear that I am not to mention allying with the Children of the Everblossoming Arches again.”

“That we want alliance should show you that the Children do not believe the war with Gryth is inconsequential, or unimportant. However, there are larger issues beyond this border dispute. The driving force behind it is of far more concern. Your King’s shortsightedness saddens me.”

“There is nothing more I can do, Ambassador,” Allyster said. “You know I was invested in a successful alliance, but once the King has made up his mind he will not change it. Past troubles with the Children have made it difficult. The longevity of our family’s grudge against the Children is an insurmountable challenge. Even with Prince Athyn on the throne it still wouldn’t be possible to see the alliance made. He is as prejudiced as King Beregor.”

“Those things are true. However, an intuitive and intrepid man, one who is brave and adventurous, having the blood of kings running through his veins might make use of certain means to do what is right for his country, especially when a King and Prince are being more stubborn than wise.”

“What you are implying puts my integrity and yours in question, Ambassador,” Allyster glared at Eblin. “Such talk is treason, especially from one descended from an outcast branch of the royal family.”

“Change is inevitable, and it is coming to Calledar. The question is whether or not you will be a part of it.” Eblin’s gazed didn’t waiver. “I certainly do not wish our cousins, the King and Prince, any harm. However, the danger is greater than he or anyone else in this realm understands.”

“Understanding the dangers of Those Who Wait does not require a man to be educated or *intuitive*. They are making a real bid for power here, not just for the takeover by their followers, but in moving from their world into this one.

“There will be little *jubilation* in the land, or the world for that matter, if it all becomes the home for those horrifying creatures being worshipped in Gryth.”