

































## Commerce

As a token of his commitment, the trader left a sizeable piece of the blue stone with brilliant streaks of gold to tickle our imaginations while we await his return.

Of course we feel that Akar's gift to us is at least as desirable as the blue/ gold stones brought to us by the Uruk trader from the north, but we had no idea where the old Nubian trader had found the stone, nor where to begin a search for him or for the source of the stone itself.

I sit, pondering these stones on the warehouse roof this morning. I look to the east and see a new caravan from the east with new goods and materials that will need to be appraised, purchased and taken into my father's warehouses;...and the traders on the caravans will have stories to tell of their adventures in the desert on their journey here. I fly down the steps to greet them with honeyed dates and portions of beer.

I cannot wait to hear their stories.

END