

START
Merchant: Your Majesty, I bring news from one of my trading ships.
King/Queen: Let us hear it then.
M: My crew tell me that, while they were docked in a neighbouring port, they encountered an old sailor. This man spoke of a shorter route to the Eastern Ports, known only to few.
M: There is lucrative business to be had by trading in the East. The faster our goods can reach their shores, the more profits we can make!
KQ: It could indeed turn into a promising venture, if true.
KQ: You trust the word of this sailor?
M: Some of my men know him well. He is a drunken lout but the ale has not yet washed away his wits. He seems to know the Far Seas better than any other mariner.
M: I wish to employ this man and set up a new trading route. With your blessing, of course.
KQ: And does this blessing come in the form of gold?
M: Only a moderate sum, I can assure you... to set things in motion.

Choice: Pay the Merchant [- gold, + merchant class opinion]
KQ: Take this gold and make it happen.

Choice: Turn Down the Merchant [- merchant class opinion]
KQ: I have no gold to spend on old sailors' tales.

Chance: 50%
>sailor is greedy
Sailor: Aah, Your... Grace? Majesty? All you nobles look the same to me. Never enough gold in your pockets.
Merchant: Mind your language, you oaf! You are in the presence of a king/queen.
S: Not my king/queen. Not yet, at least.
S: You want to be rich? I can make you richer! But who is going to fill my pockets?
KQ: You want us to buy your loyalty?
S: Aye, and perhaps a fine supper too!

Choice: 50%
>sailor is arrogant
Sailor: Oho, if my mother could see me now! Hi! Strutting through this castle like a fine prince.
Merchant: Stop blabbing your mouth! You are making a fool out of yourself.
KQ: Or perhaps he is trying to make a fool out of me...
S: Say, I could stand in front of a throne such as this. But could any of you here stand behind a helm like I do?
S: Rare skills like mine should be rewarded, would you not agree?

END [- gold, - prestige]
Merchant: A most grievous development, Your Majesty! It concerns the trade route I proposed to you.
King/Queen: What of it? I already said I have no interest in the matter.
M: The old sailor must be Judas himself! My port contacts inform me that he offered his services to our rivals!
M: If he did that to hurt us or to spite us, I do not know. But what I am certain of is that we shall lose a lot of business in the future.
KQ: A plague upon him!

Merchant: I come to inform Your Majesty that the preparations for establishing the trade route are well under way.
M: I have acquired a sturdy ship with the gold that you so graciously provided.
KQ: Very good! When do you set sail?
M: I am in need of a bigger crew to man such a large vessel.
M: I could wait until my other ships return form their voyage and merge the crews.
KQ: Then what is the hold up?
M: None of them are due to return for a fortnight and I fear that some goods shall grow stale if they sit in the warehouse for much longer.
M: If you grant me your permission, I could enlist a handful of peasants to help for now.

Choice: Recruit the peasants [+ merchant class opinion, - peasant opinion]
KQ: No need to wait around when we have other able hands to choose from.

Choice: Wait a fortnight
KQ: No need to be hasty. Do what you must to keep the cargo fresh.

Chance: 20%
>nothing bad happens
Merchant: Joyous news! My two ships returned from their voyage and I now have a full crew.
M: We shall set sail as soon as we load the cargo and gather all the necessary supplies. [+ merchant class opinion]

Chance: 80%
>goods grow stale
Merchant: Your Majesty, I have come to report that my two ships have returned from their voyage and I now have a full crew.
M: Unfortunately, a few of our goods have begun to grow stale while in the warehouse.

50%>Luckily, I was able to sell them to local markets before they went bad and I recouped some of their value. [+ gold]
50%>The decay was too extensive and we had to throw them away. I am afraid we lost a small part of the profits. [- gold]

Lord: It has come to my attention that Your Majesty has allowed the Merchant to recruit some of the peasants from my estates.
L: Far be it from me to question your decisions but, Your Majesty, the Merchant took forty of my best labourers!
King/Queen: I know the peasants are tied to your land, but I require them elsewhere. Consider this a levy of sorts.
Merchant: These people shall brace the sea for months. I need strong and disciplined hands who are not fearful of hard work.
L: Gone for months you say? And who shall tend the fields then? While you turn my farmers into rovers, our granary shall go empty!
M: This trade route can bring the realm more gold than ever before, enough to buy all the grain we need.
M: You can find farmers everywhere, but good sailors are in short supply!
KQ: Enough!

Choice: Let the peasants become sailors [+ manpower]
KQ: I said we need more sailors and more sailors we shall have. My decision is final!

Choice: Peasants have feelings too. Ask them what they want [+ peasant opinion]
KQ: Perhaps I should listen to the voice of the people.

Choice: Let the peasants go back to their fields [+ food]
KQ: However enticing this expedition may be, I cannot risk famine in my lands. Let the peasants go and await the return of your crew.

Lord: Your Majesty, since the Merchant recruited my peasants there are not enough farmers to sow all the fields.
L: At this rate, we shall be lucky to have half a harvest next season!
L: Please, aid me, Your Majesty. I need gold either to buy grain and make up for the poor harvest or to hire farmhands and sow the rest of the fields.

Chance: 50%
>they want to become sailors
Peasant: Sire/Ma'am, we have been serfs our entire lives. Grant us the freedom of the sea.
Chance: 50%
>they want to return to farming
Peasant: Sire/Ma'am, the land is all we have ever known. None of us is cut out for life at sea.

Choice: Give him gold [- gold, + noble class opinion, + food]
KQ: It is only fair that you should be reimbursed for the loss of your workers. Here, take this gold.

Choice: Have the Merchant reimburse the Lord [- merchant class opinion, + noble class opinion, + food]
KQ: Your quarrel is with the Merchant, not with me. Let her pay what she owes you.

Choice: Give him nothing [- noble class opinion, - food]
KQ: I am a king/queen and I can command my people however I wish. I owe you nothing.

Merchant: The ship is ready to set sail. However, this unknown chart may hold many perils.
M: It would be of great benefit if you could spare some soldiers to accompany my crew on their voyage.
Soldier: Your Majesty, we are not mercenaries. We fight to protect our realm not to act as convoy for traders who seek profit.
M: Surely, even a brute like yourself must see how greatly this trade route shall benefit the realm!
KQ: Again with your quarrelling...

Choice: Send soldiers as convoy [- manpower]
KQ: Take whoever you want, just get this business over with already!
M: Many thanks! I shall set sail immediately!

Choice: Refuse to send soldiers [- merchant class opinion]
KQ: My army is not at your disposal. If you want protection, bring some lucky charms!
M: But, Your Majesty, that is... fine, fine by me. I shall set sail immediately.

END
Chance: 40%
>pirates attack the ship
Merchant: Your Majesty, I bring terrible news! My ship has been attacked by pirates.
if sent soldiers >Luckily, your soldiers bravely fought them off and we were able to continue our journey. We reached the Eastern Ports faster than ever before and sold our entire cargo for a nice profit! [+ gold, + prestige]
Chance: 20%
>crew reach destination
Merchant: Your Majesty, I bring most joyous news!
M: My crew reached the Eastern Ports faster than ever before and sold our entire cargo for a nice profit! [+ gold, + happiness]
Chance: 20%
>crew earn extra
Merchant: Your Majesty, I bring most joyous news!
M: The new trade route cut the traveling time by half. The merchants in the Eastern Ports were so pleased with how fresh our goods were that they paid us double! [+ gold, + prestige]
Chance: 20%
>crew get lost
Merchant: Your Majesty, I bring terrible news!
M: My crew tried to follow the route shown by the old sailor, but those parts of the sea are treacherous. The ship was becalmed for several days and, by the time it reached the Eastern Ports, most of our cargo was already rotten. [- gold, - prestige]