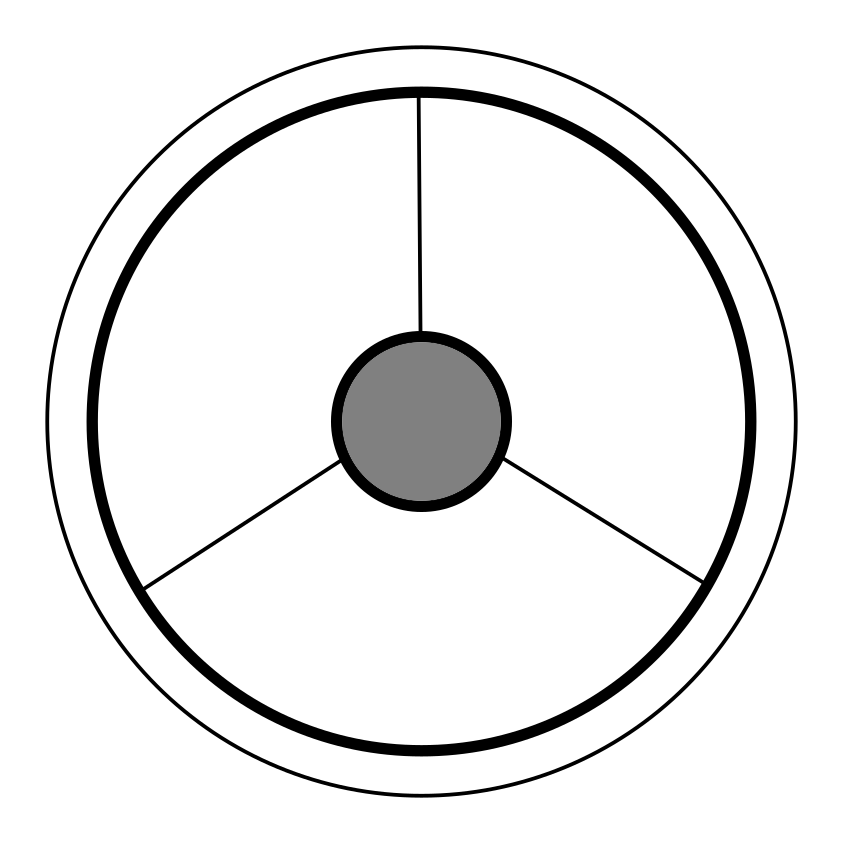
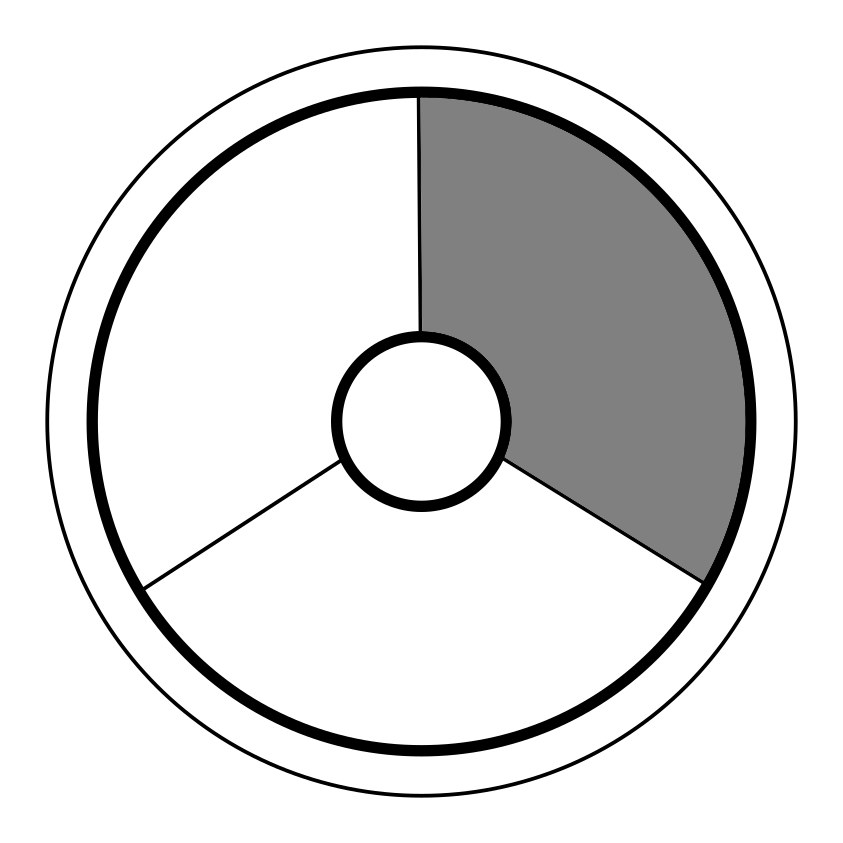
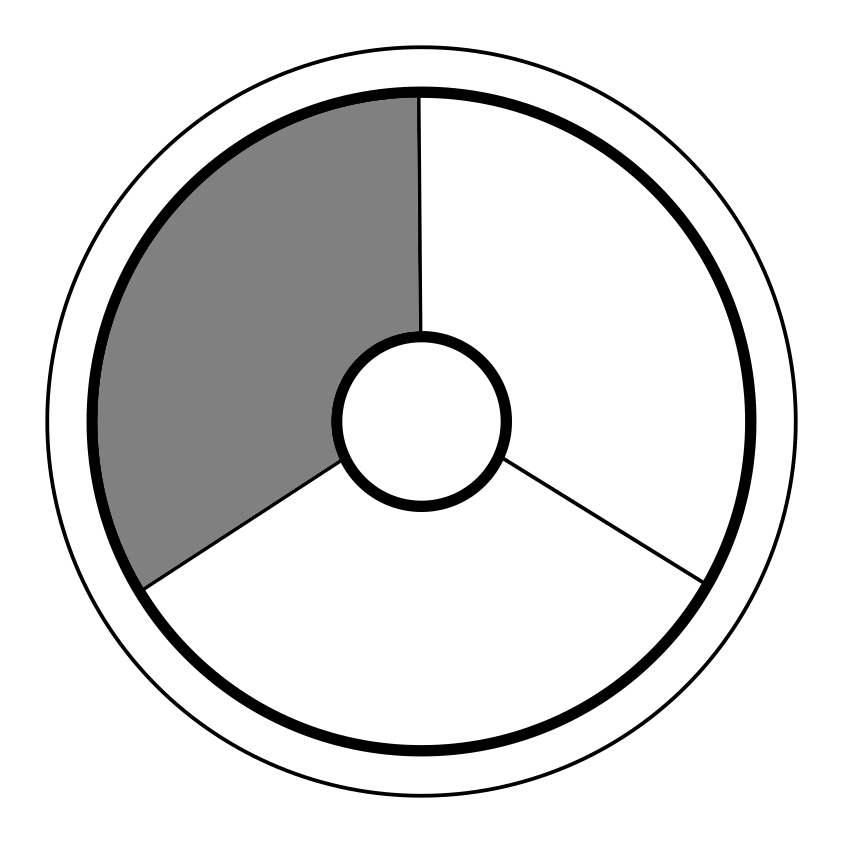
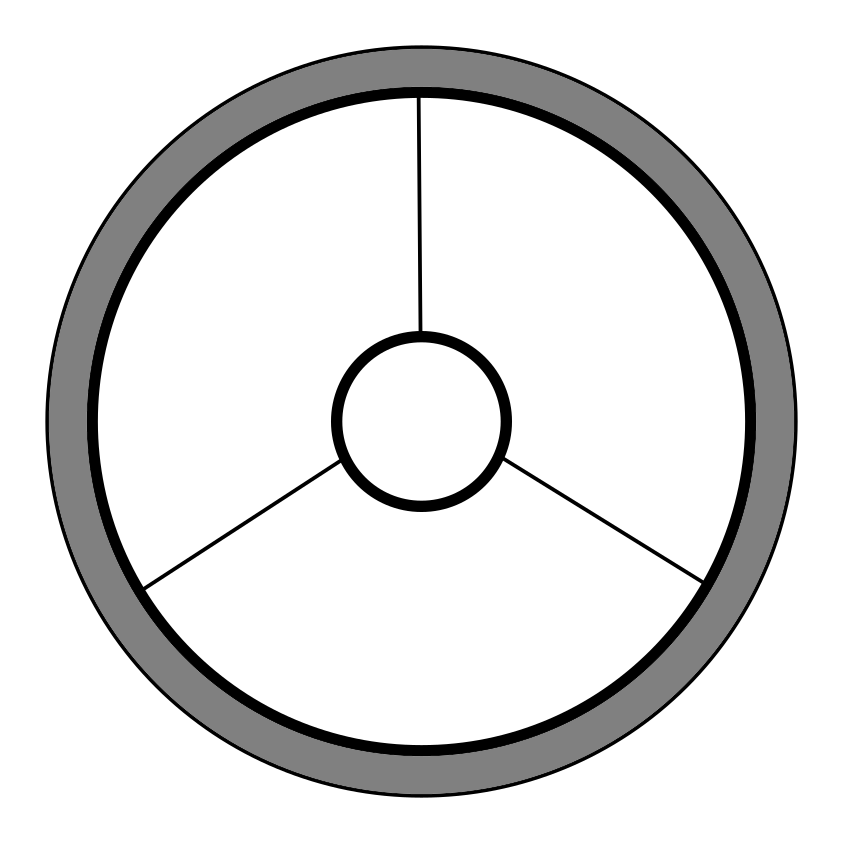
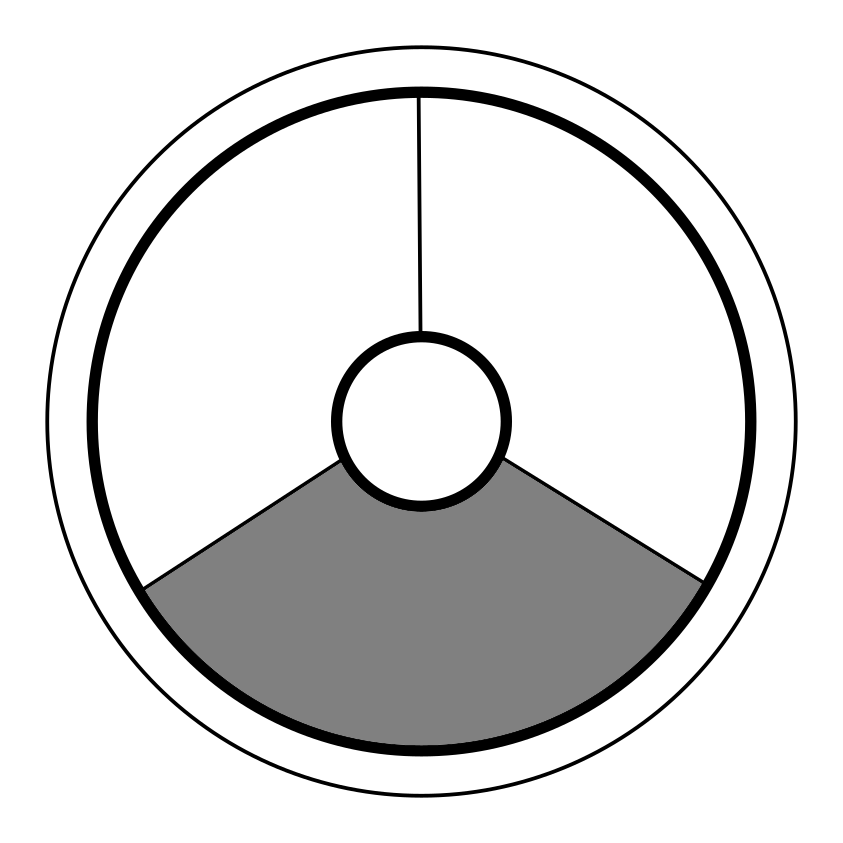
# **Life in Valgrum**

Born in **Valgrum**, the capital of the **United Empire**, raised by his mother, Marisa, in the **Red Lotus** brothel. Growing up he saw all sorts of things in the brothel/tavern establishment. From eccentric to beautiful and proud, from piss drunk losers to high society representatives. Most importantly, he saw freedom. Freedom to express himself, freedom to act on his thoughts and desires, freedom to buy himself everything that he wants.

He got to know the city pretty fast. Though he mainly stuck to the **Earth District**, by talking to people he found out a bit about the other parts of the city too.

Valgrum layout (from left to right) – Earth, Outer Settlements, Sky, Water, Holy District

The **Earth District** was the poorest. This does not necessarily mean that life was bad, but compared to the other districts, it looked a bit malnurished. All of the entrances are in the Earth District. Common for all districts is the very frequent temples, establishments of the **Church of the Eternal**. Speaking of which, the church’s guards and priests constantly patrol the streets, making sure no crime goes unpunished. This is where the Red Lotus brothel is located, namely the southwest of the district.

The fun stuff, is in the **Outer Walls District**, or the **Outer Settlements**, as some call them. People gather around the huge walls of Valgrum city so that they can receive even a little bit of the convenience and safety it offers, hoping that one day, they will step into the city as citizens themselves.

The **Sky District** is where the richest people in Valgrum live. This part is built at the root of the Valgrum Mountains. Rising upwards, the farther from the center, the higher the houses are. People from this district are the best paying customers in the brothel.

The **Water District** is also a rich district. The only difference between this and the Sky district is that this one is flat and has water canals.

The **Holy District** is at the center of the city. Nobody is allowed here and the only information available to the public is that the emperor, his family and the highest members of the church live and work here. They operate in secrecy and as far as everyone knows, nobody has seen their faces, or exchanged words with them.

## Church of the Eternal

The faith in the so called Eternal, brings with it some restrictions to the people who practice it.

\* All races are considered inferior to humans, as the Eternal was human themself.

\* Chicken meat is forbidden for consumption.

\* Tobacco (and cigarettes) is not allowed.

\* All non-believers are to be saved, preached to and if ultimately do not convert, will suffer the Eternal’s wrath.

There may be more restrictions, but Vince is not aware of them yet.

## The War

Not much is known to the commonfolk about the war. It has been a topic since Vince was a little boy. Still is. Troops are regularly being sent through the Earth District outside, most probably on missions. Sometimes returning with less, sometimes with the same number of members and sometimes with new faces, people, soldiers. One thing is certain, war and trying times are a brothels golden age. Soldiers get drunk and use the services of the hostesses and hosts of the fine establishment, bringing in lots of money and trouble as well.

# Life on the Road

Eventually, he took over the family business from his mother and became the chief of the Red Lotus. This did not change his life that much, or at least not as much as he expected. The tasks and management were mundane and he got bored of them very quickly. Short after becoming the boss of the establishment, he decided to get out of the city on an adventure.

And adventure found him. A group of performers were in front of the city, readying themselves to set out for another destination. It is with this group that Vince found a friend, a soulmate. Fi’el, the leader of the group, the sophisticated and incredibly charismatic elf was everything the stories portrayed them to be.

Very quickly they became close, to what degree, they only know. But the more important part is that Fi’el taught Vince a lot of things. Not only how to perform on stage, but also how to draw out the power of the weave with his instruments. The overflowing free will of Vince was more than enough for Fi’el to see potential in him and tutor him as his mentor. Long ways did they pass on the Valgrum Continent, performing all sorts of plays and music, all over it.

After quite a lot of time on the road, Vince started getting the same feeling he got when he became the manager of the Red Lotus. He wanted more.

After a talk with Fi’el and explaining that he wants to be a part of something even bigger, Fi’el ended the conversation with the words, “Thou art certainly meant for excellence and th’world deserves to witness your soul’s and will’s splendor. Heed my words. Touch the ground where thou were cradled and find companions with which thou shalt share thine glory and story.”

Having a lot of respect for Fi’el, both as a friend, a mentor and an advisor. Vince decided to indeed heed his words. He continued with them until their next visit to Valgrum, where they bid their farewells and he returned to his home city. He is now waiting in the Red Lotus, waiting for the first opportunity to bail and begin creating his and the world’s greatest story...