

Select Master's Degree - Ahashar's Dilemma

(Read at the beginning of the Select Master's Degree. Ahashar is positioned near the inner door and speaks so candidates in the anteroom can hear.)

SEN *(Gong sounds nine times)*

AHS In truth this is the life of a mongrel dog. Evening after evening I walk here, up and down, back and forth, until my feet are weary and my legs scarce hold me to my path. Nine to twelve, night after night. "When prying eyes are closed in sleep" they say.

(Yawns and stretches) I could do with a little sleep myself. Would that I were with my friends in the inn by the city gate. They know how to treat a man. But no, here I must stand guard where never a soul comes near to share a word with me. It is full three months since anyone approached this Arch, save those who work inside it.

(Tries to peer into Arches) I wonder what they work at. A precious secret it must be within those Arches to make a man suffer so. And if I ask wherefore I stand guard, what answer is given me? Solomon says "Be content good Ahashar. In due time you shall receive your reward."

(Walks a few steps in silence) If I just rest a moment, I can hear if someone approaches. *(Sits on floor)* Who will know? *(Leans back on elbow)* "Guard well your post," they say to me. A foolish task for a man to guard against no one.

(Yawns and settles farther back) Two long hours to pass before low twelve. My eyes will scarce stay open now. *(Falls back on floor asleep)*