

Gaze in the distance

——《Tales of Tarsylia》8

吴淼作品

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In Tarsylia, a soul cannot maintain its identity, which is tied to the material world. The soul is sorted into the upper or lower worlds based on certain criteria. Those who faithfully follow the nature gods will be returned to nature. Beyond that, I cannot guess at the other criteria, although I am sure that it's not so simple as "good" and "evil."

Some Jesperites believe that those who worship Titus will remain on this world as a spirit after death. Laughable as it may seem, there are a few people who have accomplished this feat, but only a few.

These natural laws are enforced by the strength of the dimensional boundary surrounding Tarsylia.



The above passage is excerpted from Master Sibelius' compilation *An Introduction to Necromancy*

But today,
a savant
has ripped open the
boundary,
and changed
everything.

Spring of year 61 of the Heroes

Jesper Empire
Inner chambers of the pope



Are you sure?



Yes. At first
we thought
it was just a
persistent
side effect,
but this soul
has already
lingered for
15 hours.



In Rainbow City?



Yes.



They're finally
joining the
party.



Archbishop Bolat, bring me the
intelligence officer in charge of
Rainbow City.



Archbishop Ikos, go personally to
ask His Majesty to declare
war.



Mobilize the Imperial Guard.
Jesper is readying
for war!



In the past 24 hours, which
master wizards have died in
Rainbow City?



(20 minutes
later, at the
shrine)

Our spies didn't include that information in their report.



So?



We believe that none of their master wizards have died.



Guards, take him away.



Wait, master pope. What if...that is, it's possible the spirit is just an ordinary human!



NACCIO-OSDANAHAL...



BREAK!



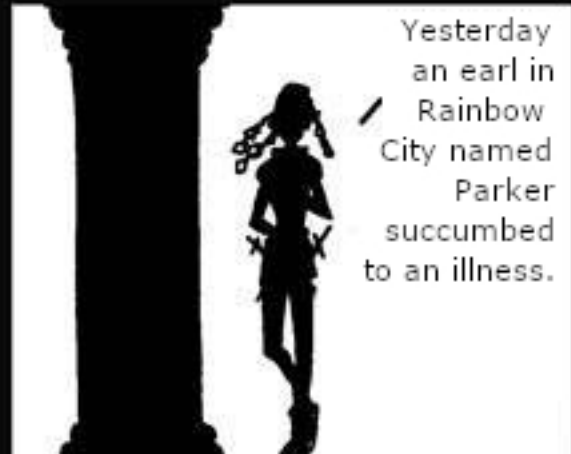
Mr. Dryar, let's discuss your price.



The Smiling Hand would never disappoint a paying customer.



Yesterday an earl in Rainbow City named Parker succumbed to an illness.



Drop your weapons!



Leave it, Kaide! Let him finish.



31 years ago, he married Princess Tillis and left the wizard association.



His father was Exaros, Aimerdar's teacher!



Pardon my directness, your country's intelligence personnel are....

Smiling Hand is ready to expand our service to the empire!

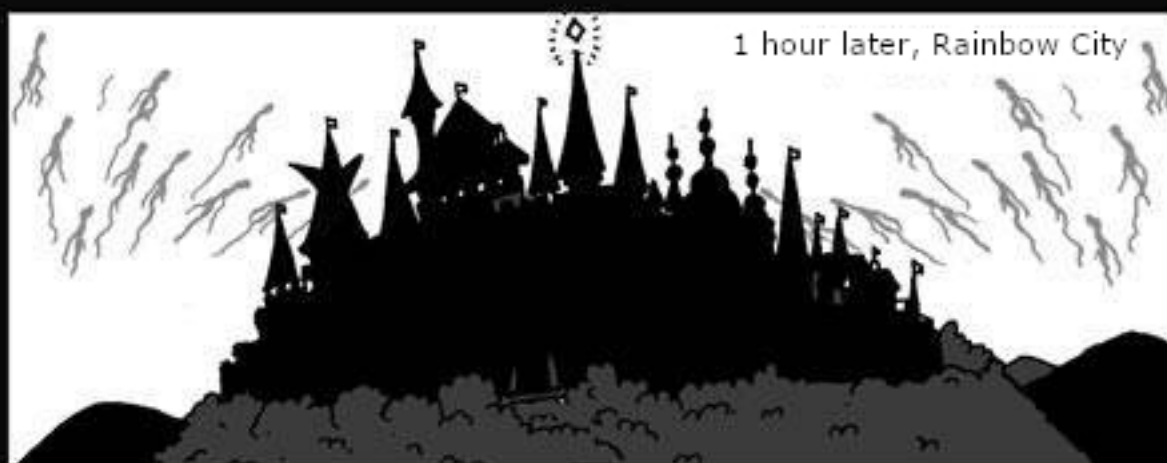


(Tilat's Shrine, Altar of Immortality)

Brave warriors of Tilat,
disciples of death, in a
far-off foresaken land,
an arrogant soul is
currently profaning our
god's realm. In the
name of Tilat, I order
you to find this soul
and bring him to me
at all costs!



We will obey.



1 hour later, Rainbow City

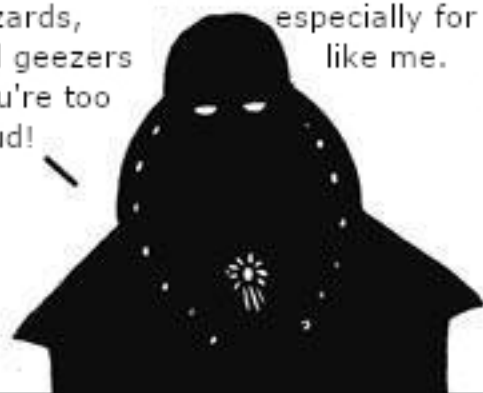


Aimedat's
wizardry tower:
Crystal Ocean

Did you see
that?



Afternoon naps are essential for
wizards, especially for
old geezers like me.
You're too
loud!



Jesper's diplomatic envoy has
requested that we stop profaning
the death realm...



And hand over some dead spirit. I don't
know what they're talking about. Why
would they cross the the ocean to attack
us now?



Eh...to tell you the truth, these
hotheads are just small fry.



Then what should we do? Sibelius left. Should we call the cleaners?



Do you know why I picked you, Disnio?



Because I thought you could keep your wits about you. Delay the envoys as much as you can.



Don't let them release those demonic spirits into the city.



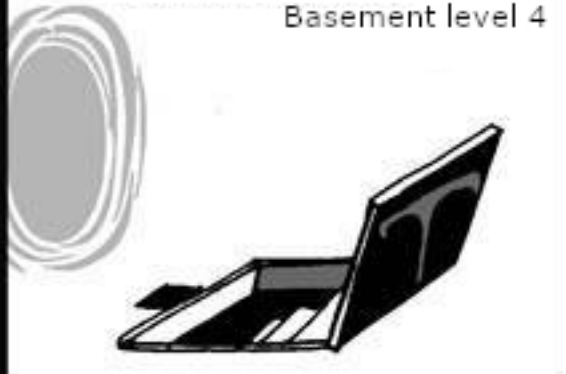
Where are you going?



To catch a demon.



Earl Parker's castle
Basement level 4



Why are you looking at me like that?



I'm planning your funeral right now.



Any good ideas yet? It has to be something that people will remember for the rest of their lives.



I've decided to let you host.



Have you picked a date? I'm a pretty busy guy.



Is this your doing?



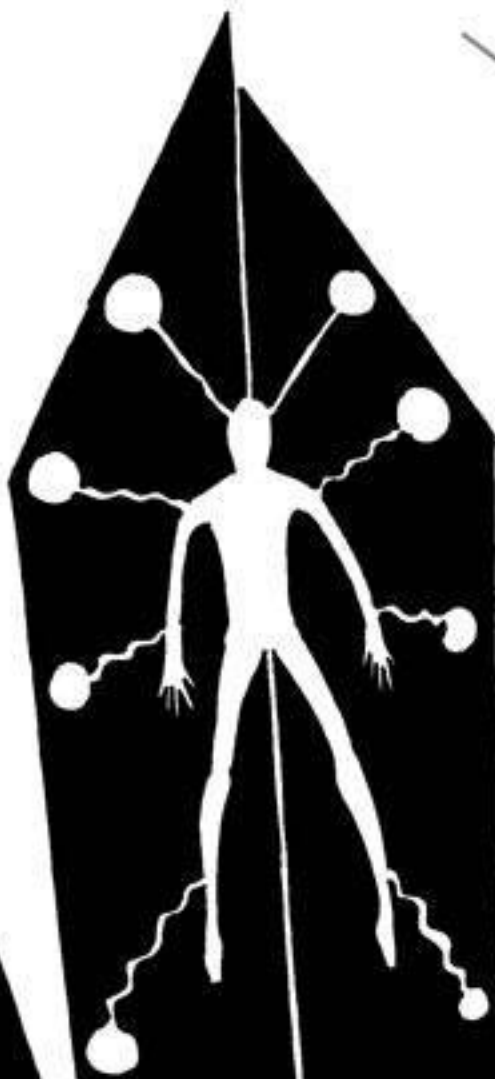
The mice in the basement did it.



You don't understand how boring
being an earl is.



Why?



Did you forget?
Your father...
Our teacher...
It was because of this that the
four of us had to kill him.



Father wanted immortality.
I just wanted another 24 hours.



What do you
mean?



This stone in your
dimensional pouch...



Could it be the Perfect Eye of
Chaos that my father spent his life
looking for?



You...



Don't look so shocked. Death
lets you see through a lot of
things.



No, it is a
complete
Eye of
Chaos, but
nothing in
this world is
perfect.





Then
right
now,



Are you
planning
on using
it on me?



Or are you
going to let
me use it?



I always carry it around. I just
feel it's safest
when it's with
me.



What's all the
fuss outside?



Nothing big. The
Jesperites just want
to start a war
with us.



Have you
dealt with
it?



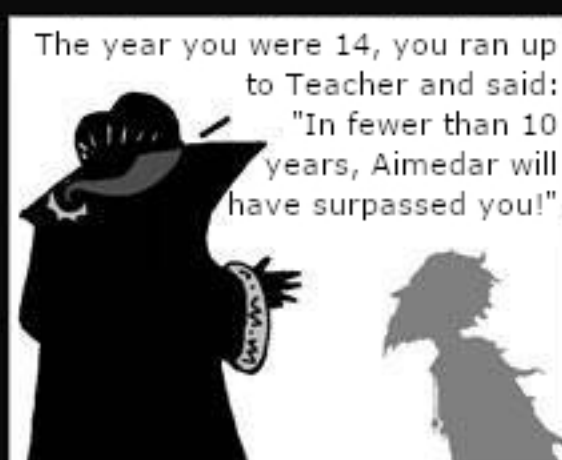
It's not a big enough deal to merit
dragging all of Tarsylia down.



Oh no, wait...
Is it because...



Sorry, I caused trouble for you
again.



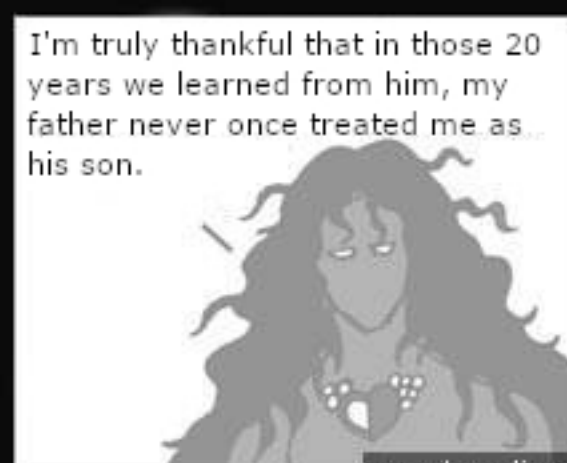
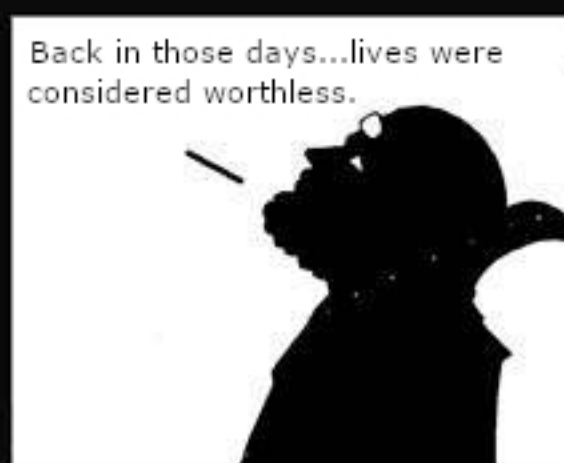
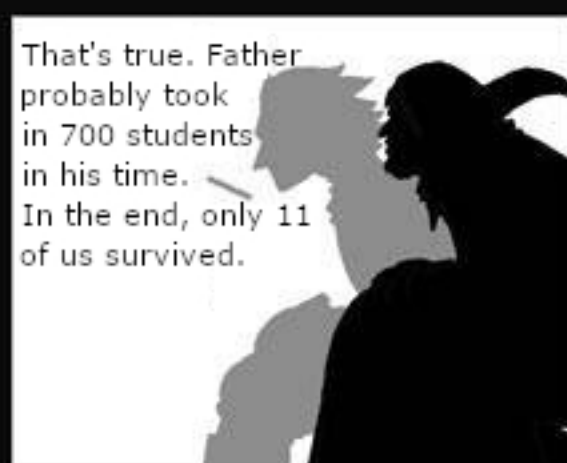
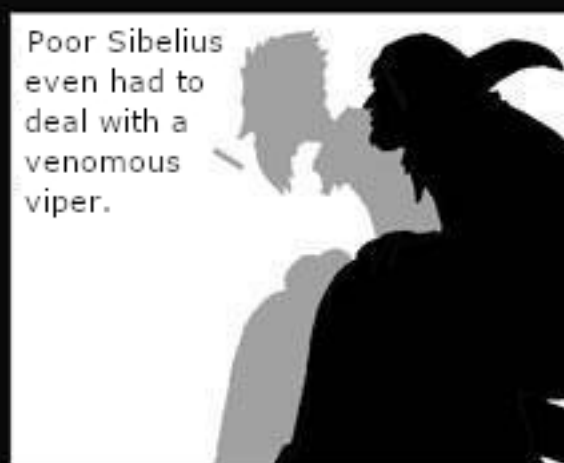
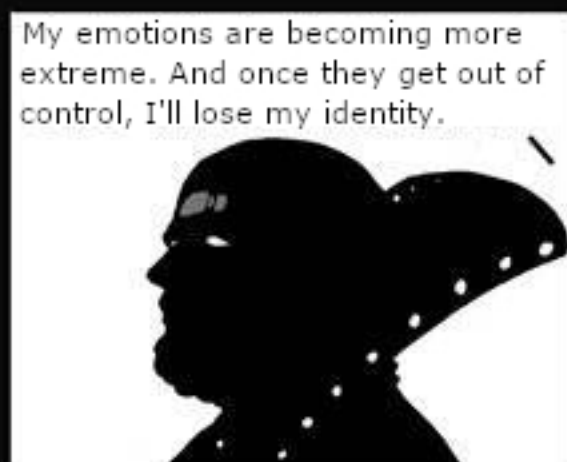
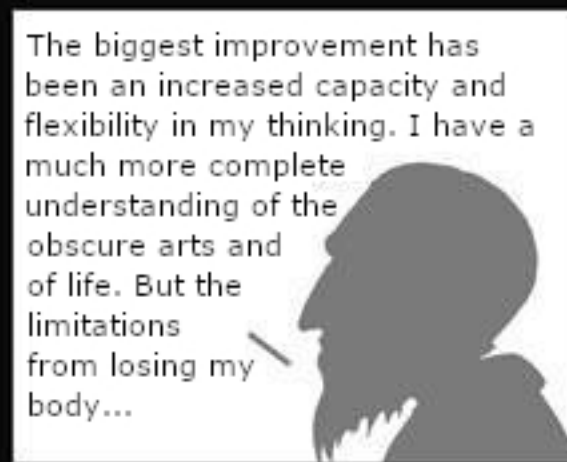
The year you were 14, you ran up
to Teacher and said:
"In fewer than 10
years, Aimerdar will
have surpassed you!"



Since that moment, I've known
that being friends with you would
mean no end
of trouble.



You still
remember that?



Sibelius certainly
wouldn't agree.



To be able to
spend my youth
...



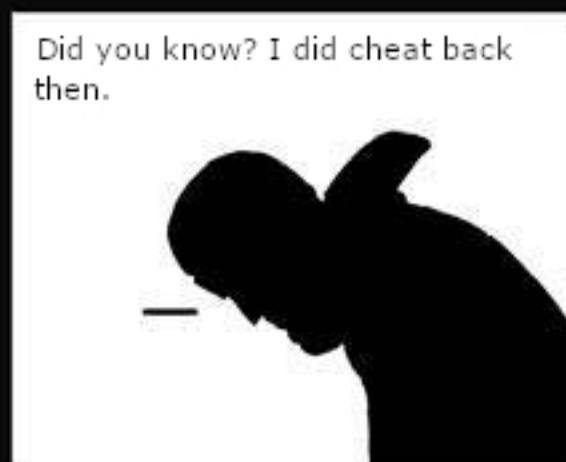
...with you, Iago
and Sibelius...



...was my pleasure.



Did you know? I did cheat back
then.



That snake...



Only Delina knew this secret...



My mother was a druid.



No wonder you spent all day
with the animals when my father
first took you in.



Delina...

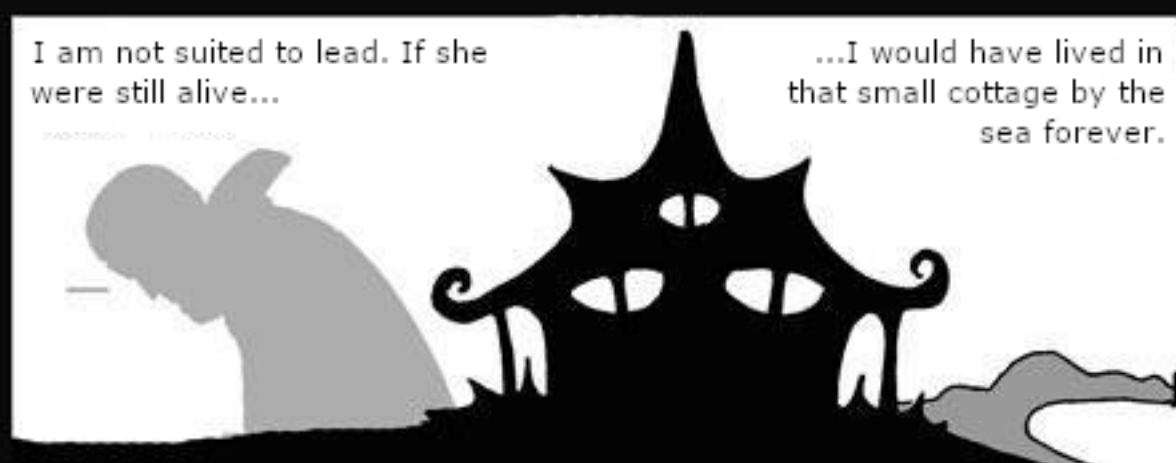
If she were
still alive...



Would you
have come
back and
succeeded
Iago?



I am not suited to lead. If she
were still alive...



...I would have lived in
that small cottage by the
sea forever.

I've always
admired you.



I have as well...



Ever since I saw that crappy love poem you wrote.



You still remember that?



Of course. Half of that poem was "ah"s and "oh"s.



You have to admit in my later years, there were some good ones.



That's right! You wrote for 3 straight years...



When Delina agreed to elope, she still thought you were a second-rate poet!



You have to treat beautiful things with love and sincerity.



That's why I admire you.



I merely abducted a baron's daughter. You, on the other hand, married a princess.



You know that that was all arranged by my father...



I know that Teacher had his own motives. But I also saw clearly: you loved her.



Do you remember the first time we went to the palace, to perform magic tricks?



When we got home, you ran up and down the street yelling, "I'm going to marry her, I'm going to marry her!"



Who knew that 8 years later, you really would marry her? It was out of a fairy tale.



That's just a story...



To any common person, living a storybook life would be an immeasurable happiness.



It's torture.



Aimedar, as a friend, sometimes you need to be more frank.



I just think that I don't have the right to judge someone else's life.



That's why you and Sibelius were the only ones that didn't stop me from leaving the Wizard Association.



Only you could evaluate those tradeoffs in your life.



Sibelius definitely put it more bluntly.



You know he never thinks of anybody else's feelings when he speaks.



Just so...

...
Is there no way for the two of you to get along?



I don't want to.



I thought of those astrologer's words:



"The scorching heat of lava, the silence of the earth, the deep mysterious sea, the sinking weight of the wind."



It really was fate. The two of you are like oil and water.

If he really could see the future, then wouldn't he be able to see that Teacher wanted to kill him? Hahaha...



Maybe he did see that. He once said to us four, "Fate must be faced with tolerance."



Fate is an instrument for change. We must hold onto this belief...



...in order to survive in this era of utter chaos and warmongering.



But I'm tired...



So tired...



One day I was thinking, if I died... In this castle where we had grown up together, there were so many nuggets from the past... Would she cry for me?



I really wanted to know...

I'll leave this device to you. If you adjust the position of the crystals and astrolable, with your rock...



You're going to leave me to deal with your trouble again?



I'm giving my two old friends a challenge.



Remember what you said: fate is an instrument for change.





Did you get the answer you wanted?



No...



She always had her back to me...

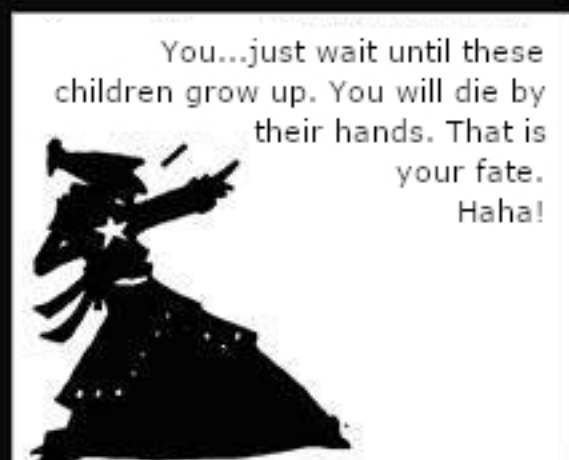


By Aimerdar's insistence, Parker was buried in the wizards' cemetery. Lying next to him was his father the great wizard Exaros.

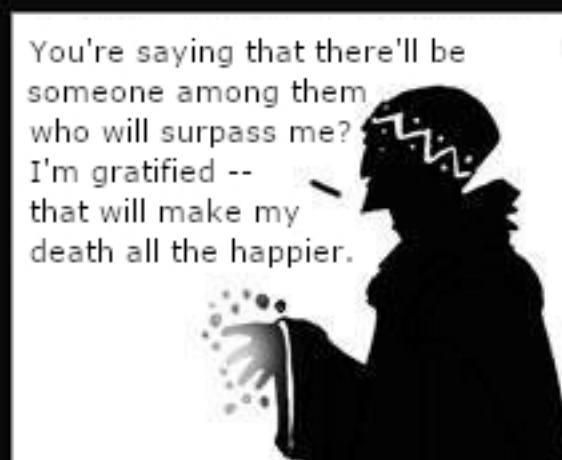
It has been said that this location was where father and son first met Aimerdar.

Aimerdar inscribed on the simple tombstone: "Here lies an extraordinary genius. He was so wise that in his life, he was never able to lie to himself."

END



You...just wait until these children grow up. You will die by their hands. That is your fate.
Haha!



You're saying that there'll be someone among them who will surpass me? I'm gratified -- that will make my death all the happier.

Great wizard Exaros
Real name: Unknown
Birth (death) date: Unknown
Birthplace: Unknown
Family members: wife unknown, son Parker

Third human in Tarsylia's history to have earned the title "Demon King."

Of the apprentice lessons we use today, half are based on those designed by my teacher. Of course, some of those lessons... No matter what I think, Sibelius' Shadow Alliance will certainly be preserving those lessons. For some reason, this makes me happy.

--- Excerpted from Aimerdar's journal

Eye of Chaos: In the bridge connecting the upper and lower boundaries, a few pieces of debris break off during earthquakes and fall onto the material plane. They don't belong to any plane and so, I believe, can absorb souls and allow us to circumvent the natural laws...

--- Excerpted from Exaros' research notes

Yes, I hated him! No one hated him more than I did. I remember every scar he left on me. He laughed at my mediocrity, laughed at my self-esteem. He always said that he was our fate. If we were to hate anything, it should be our own fate.

--- Excerpted from Sibelius' speech