

Contract

—— 《Tales of Tarsylia》 ——

吴淼作品

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Tarsylia's first era was known as the Age of Chaos. Demons and other creatures of the material realm all vied to collect human souls.



All I need to do is put my fingerprint here?



Yes, and then your father will recover from his deathbed.



Then when will you take my soul?



No, no, no. I won't be stealing your soul, child.



It'll only become mine once you've passed away.



What are you going to do with it?



That's a good question. If we collect enough souls...



...then those of us in this world can wield power far greater than those in Heaven.



I know it's complicated, but you don't need to worry about any of it.



I just want Papa to get better.



Alright then, child...



This contract will be effective immediately.



Does this mean my dad
is cured now?



Not so fast. His fever will break by
tomorrow morning, and he should be
walking around the
day after.



Actually....how do I
put this?



This contract is
valid but...



Mister, are you
backing out of the
contract?



Of course not! Keeping our
word is more important than
anything else.



But I'm afraid that after you die,
those scoundrels in heaven will do
everything they can...



...to snatch you right
out of our hands!



Why?



Why? Well here's the
excuse they use...



"Oh, this innocent lamb made the
wrong choice but for the purest of
reasons."



"Let's help this poor soul
out."



As if humans can't make their
own decisions!



And then without any formalities,
they void all our contracts.



But why don't they help us
while we're still alive?



Why don't they save my dad?



Well said. You know what? I have a marvelous idea.



You and me -- our relationship goes beyond a sheet of paper.



I admire you.



Listen, I'll make another contract with you.



But I don't have anything left to give.



You don't need to give me a thing. This is actually a safeguard for our first contract.



This addendum will give you power and strength for as long as you live!



You can become a legendary hero, a wizard without equal, or a great king!



With a single thought, you can become whoever you want to be.



And all you need to do is promise me one thing.



Promise what?



Once you've signed the contract, you can no longer fall in love.



As soon as you fall in love, the power you once had will instantly disappear.



And then this second contract will automatically terminate.



I don't really get it...



You don't need to understand. It's just legalese. This is the only useful part here:



When someone signs this, they turn their back on Heaven.



Then they won't have an excuse to nullify the contract. Understand?



What about my dad? And my little brother and sister?



I see what you're saying. Don't worry, anybody you loved before you sign the contract won't count.



You can continue to love and care for them.



We are actually quite humane, when it doesn't interfere with work.



If I had this power, would my dad still have to pay taxes to the duke?



That would be easy to arrange, so long as you don't fall in love.



So if I never love anyone else, my family will always live comfortably?



Hold on child, you're getting too caught up in this.



The addendum I mentioned is actually a pretense.



People have gone insane from this contract. They believed they could master their feelings.



In the end, they only achieved regret and endless suffering.



I want to clarify that this isn't our intentional at all!



Being powerless can be painful, but having everything and then losing it all can be even worse.



I can still always love my family.



Listen! Your impoverished childhood may have made you more mature than your peers,



But you're still just a child! Your life has only just begun.



There are still so many beautiful things in this world you haven't experienced yet.



The most wondrous yet most dangerous among those is love, a fate no one can escape.



Even the most callous and the craziest people must bow down before it.



Mom wants me to become strong and take care of my family.



Believe me, you already are!



But it's still not enough...



We respect those who dare to change their fate, no matter the cost.



They deserve happiness far more than those who sit around all day praying to be rescued.



So I want you to have a fulfilled life.



Remember, use the power we give you prudently.



This will save you from greater losses in the future.



Your family will suffer through some hard times, and then one day you will grow up!



You'll meet a girl that will change your life.



You will lose the power, but you must remember that it wasn't yours to begin with.



And that power's worthless when compared to love!



I'll give you this sword. If you ever need help, you can use it to summon me.



But mister, you said the contracts were only for the powerful.



What happens if I really can do it?



I originally thought...



That you would be different from the rest...



You want to take a miserable, lonely path? Alright, if you can!



While you are alive, you would achieve everything you want to the utmost.



Because you would have a soul that's never been tainted by love, after your death...



You'd become even more powerful. We'd welcome you to the ranks of the immortals!



You would even be ranked higher than me. Are you satisfied?



In these kinds of contracts, the harsher the conditions, the better the rewards.



I was actually obligated to share all that, but for some reason I really didn't want to tell you.



Thank you mister. I'll sign both parts of the contract.



You are the first person who's been willing to help us. Thank you.



I know what I need to do now...



That's that, then. I wish you all the best, child.



Goodbye!



Alright...



the contract...



is starting...



to take effect...

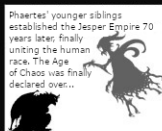


Open...



the dimensional portal!





The demons got a new Lord of the 7th Abyss, as well as an amendment to the rules for contracts:
"Regarding Soul Contract 46542 Condition 21 for children, the danger is inestimable. Effective immediately, halt all usage indefinitely. No exceptions."

In what now remains of the Jesper Empire, there are still people secretly studying the ancient demon contracts. They form a magical faction whose members rarely reveal their identities. Yet the faction has been clear in its refusal to join the Rainbow City Alliance...

After the Age of Chaos, the gods worked with the Jesper Empire to establish Tarsylia's second age: the Age of the Gods. Few people have encountered any demons since.

