

# Gazing from afar

——《Tales of Tarsylia》6

吴淼作品

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Tarsylia, spring of Year 59 in the Age of Heroes  
Aida's Heart, the capital of Jesper Empire  
Upper City Cathedral



Tower of the Gods  
Home to Bishop Nadifila,  
Leader of the Dead



Bishop, sir,  
that knight is  
standing in the  
square again.  
He's staring  
straight at the  
tower.



Those blue eyes of his  
really are captivating.



\*\*\*\*\*



I'll just go  
tell the  
temple  
servants to  
take him  
away.



I heard that a few noblewomen nearly started a fight last night at the imperial ball.



They were all trying to claim a dance with that knight.



I'll go burn his letters and summon the guards.



Year 60 of the Heroes Summer



This morning, a few temple guards from the Main Temple told me...



That knight is volunteering for temple service. Each evening, he comes to the shrine to tend the gardens. Since he is in fact here for temple service, we won't be able to evict him anymore.



I'll tell the guards to prohibit him from entering temple grounds.



He refused the temple's rewards.



He said he planted the flowers for you, not for the gods, so he wants you to give him your reward in person.



\*\*\*\*\*



I'll convey your displeasure.



Year 61 of the Heroes Spring



He has been standing outside the temple all night.



Just meet him this once.



I'll ask him to leave!



At the risk of overstepping my place, I heard last night that the pope is declaring war on Rainbow City! They could be sent across the sea at any moment.





Sir, will you be personally handling the pre-resurrection purification rituals?



Is he a member of the royal family, or...? Sorry, I shouldn't ask so many questions.



I heard the ship encountered a sea monster. He was fortunate that his corpse was retrieved from the sea.



That was perfectly done, sir. I will take him to the resurrection altar immediately.



4 hours later



The pope's inner chambers



No, child. There were no problems with your resurrection ceremony. The blame does not lie on your shoulders.



In my experience, there are two possibilities. Either he was one of those dangerous non-believers, who lacked loyalty to our empire and our gods...



...or he carried something else in his soul that surpassed his devotion to the gods, and so they had no way of reaching him.



This happens frequently. Stop blaming yourself, child. Only those who are loyal to the empire even after their death can return to this world.



Sir, the knight's family would like to take the body home, so they can prepare for the funeral.



Sir, it's already been days! You need to lead the prayer. Some of the archbishops have already...



... I'll go tell them you're sick.





Bring her body to the rooftop altar in the Temple of Tilat immediately. I'm going there now.



The pope's favorite bishop actually committed suicide. Hah, the gods won't be retrieving her spirit.



The church originally opposed you promoting her to bishop. She was too young. Her death is a failure on both the empire and the church.



Archbishop Bolat, you really are very well informed.



Listen, if you have so many complaints, convince the church to oust me. Better that than stand here insulting my child!



She's been under my tutelage since she could talk! Her faith in the gods is overwhelmingly pure. You don't understand her at all!



These rumors you spread are all lies. She is using her death to prove her devotion to the gods!



Then I wish you the greatest of luck in your resurrection.



Once she passes through this trial, she will become this empire's 21st Archbishop.



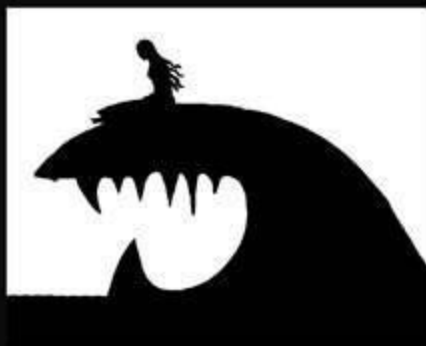
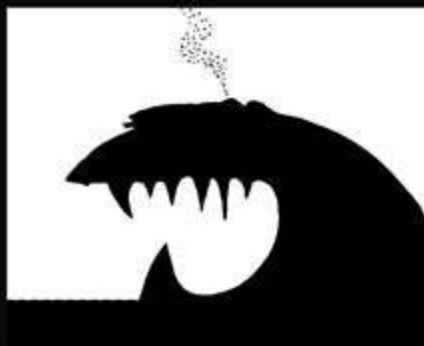
Oh great Tilat, patron saint of Jesper, Hear these prayers of your servant. Bring that lost child back to this earth. Let her commitment guide her path, And let her faith be the toll.



Wake up. Use your immortal body, your eternal life, and continue to devote your full strength to this empire...wake up now...







I knew you wouldn't  
leave be alone.



Stay in this world...  
Welcome back.



I never doubted your  
faith.



"Research on Jesper priest's  
resurrection ceremonies has  
revealed the following:

1. The resurrectee must be  
a devoted fanatic of Tilat.
2. The resurrectee will lose  
most of their memory, only  
remembering their devotion  
to Tilat and the empire.



"3. The resurrectee must undergo  
extensive purification treatments. We  
are currently investigating the  
techniques involved in this process.  
4. The resurrectee retains all skills  
from before the rebirth. This point is  
particularly apparent in soldiers.  
5. High-level necromancers can retain  
nearly all their memories after death.  
Of course, this requires intense levels  
of training.

"There have been fanatics who  
committed suicide to demonstrate  
their devotion, but that practice has  
since been banned.  
6. These reborn necromancers possess  
a high degree of mental instability."

-- Excerpted from Master Sibelius'  
compilation "An Introduction to  
Necromancy"

"When dusk creeps in  
I know // that you will be there  
And that // is more than enough.



Fate // can block my path  
But I still see that smile

Bittersweet love // is just one  
possibility



I am content  
Gazing upon this flower from afar"

-- Unnamed knight



END

