

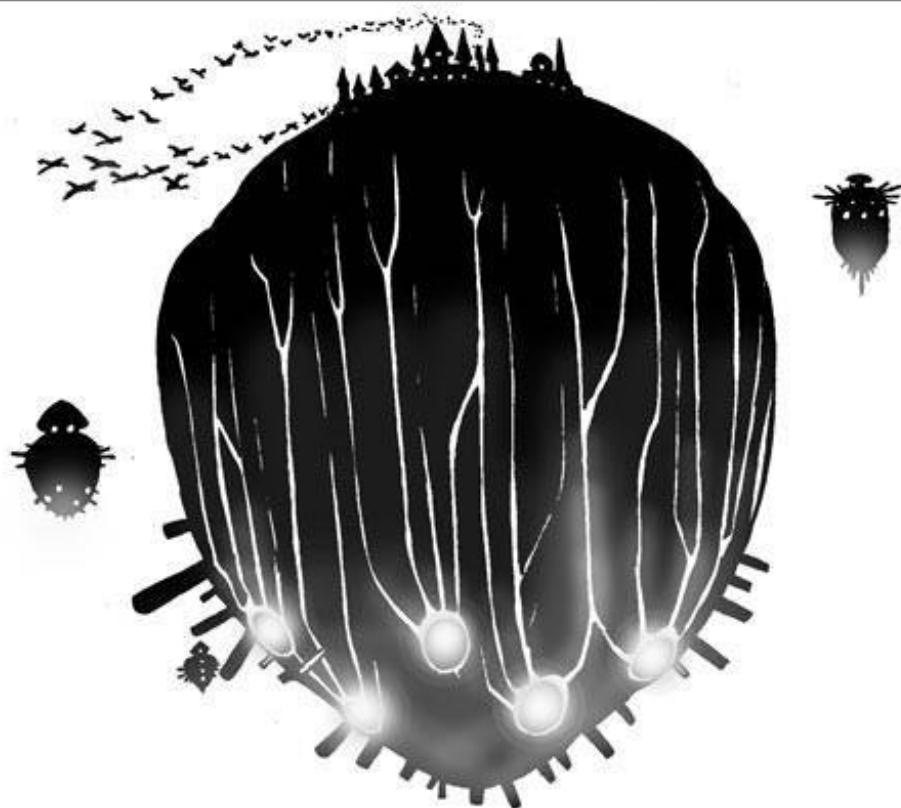
# Mortal

——《Tales of Tarsylia》9

吴淼作品

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Year 35 of the Hoeroes, Autumn  
Old Rainbow City Wizards  
Association meeting chambers



The entire city was suspended in the air using eight different great magics. Even the most self-righteous spirits must now look up at us. It was the greatest miracle in all of Tarsylia's history. Even if one day the world is destroyed, us wizards will still survive.



The whole city will float in the air? We can do that? I would never have imagined that.



Would it be expensive?



The expense will be worth it. This is the greatest feat in the world.



But Rainbow City is still in the early stages of construction. We would need to relocate all of the wizards.



If we spend our budget on such a large investment, what would all of our sick and hungry citizens think? It's best to be prudent. Goodbye.



We can use the wizards' powers to fund it.



My proposal is this: We can install a portal to every country in Tarsylia. Rainbow City will become the world's economic capital. Caravans would bring in all sorts of precious goods, without having to worry about the perils they would face en route, or the import taxes they pay to use each country's roads. Prices would drop, and attract those greedy merchants. If we properly manage the markets, we can collect enough back in taxes to make up for the entire expense several times over. At that time, those idiots in the Xidao Alliance will explode with anger.



This is a great proposal. I can tell you have a lot of experience in business. That's exactly what we need.



How about you come and lead Rainbow City's first Chamber of Commerce? I will give you my full support.



I am at your service. But I will need the Association's blessing, so that I can use the portals freely.



That won't be a problem. I will persuade them.



I will do my utmost for the sake of Rainbow City. It has been a pleasure talking with you. I will take my leave now.



Here are a few of the ideas I've come up with.



Time is every wizard's greatest weakness. To accomplish all we wish to achieve, we need vast amounts of time. So I have designed these flying discs. Forgive me if I skip over the implementation details. These flying discs can travel quickly through the air and automatically evade each other. It's an incredibly safe and convenient mode of transportation. This will save us large amounts of time otherwise spent on unnecessary inconveniences. We should also devote resources to artificial constructs like golems and spiritual familiars. They are both useful and loyal, and can help us accomplish far more in our day-to-day research. With all of these advancements, we would greatly increase Rainbow City's operational efficiency. Imagine: when a normal person enters Rainbow City, he sees before him surprising vista. He'll think to himself, "Wow, this must be where the gods live."



I don't quite agree. Wizards already lack exercise. Wouldn't this make our bodies degrade faster?



Degrade? How dare you insult my inventions like that!



Also, I enjoy walking. I might run into a friend, chat for a bit. If we were all locked inside our towers, each minding our own business...



I actually want to encourage everyone to walk around the city more. That way, there will be more opportunities to see each other.



What? Walking? Are you an idiot?



What?!



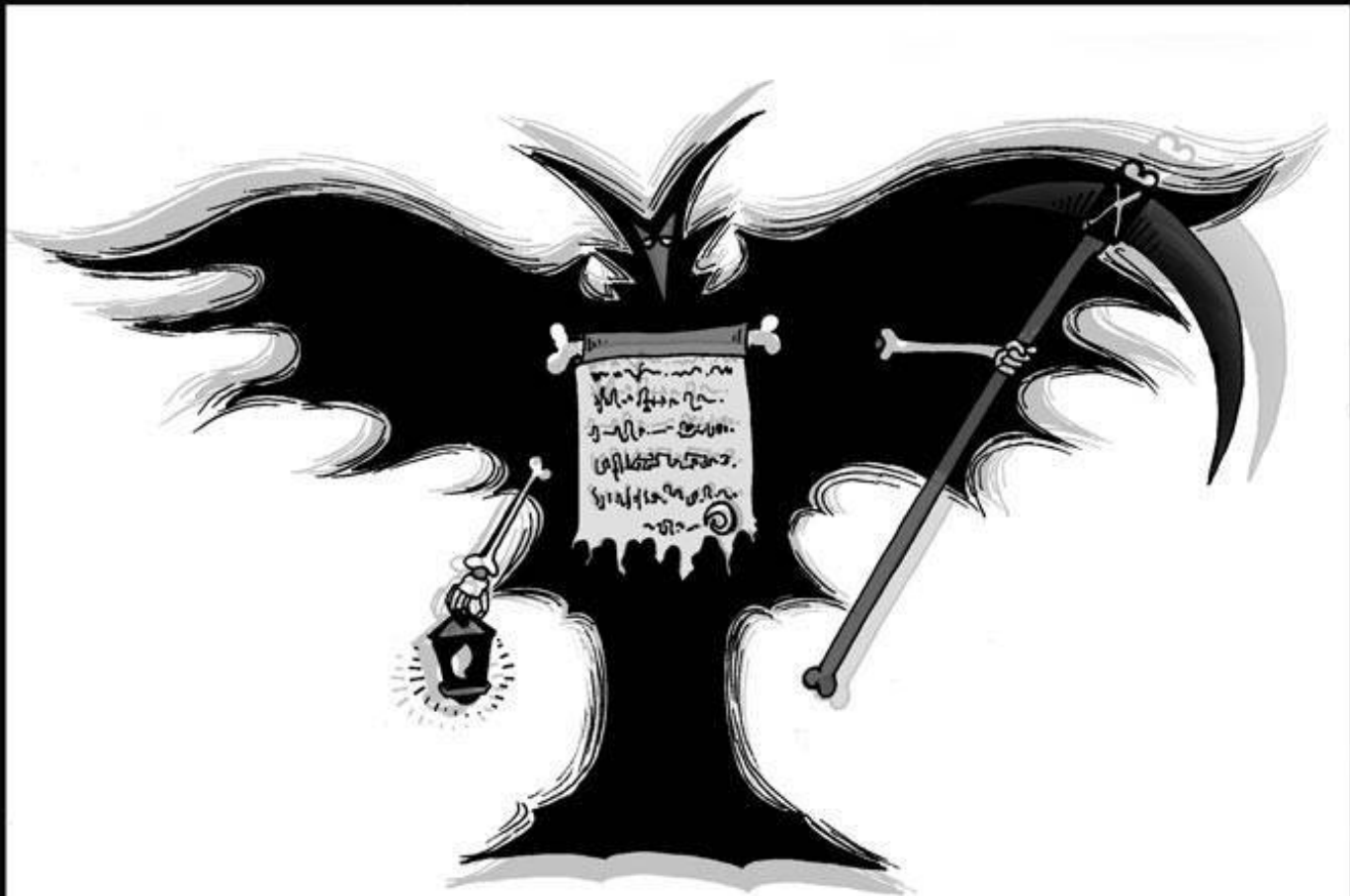
You... Say that one more time...



No, no, everyone calm down. Let's end here. Next!



I've drafted a ranking system and some basic regulations.



Given that this is a city of wizardry, then obviously wizards will be the highest level. Any other non-essential residents will be expelled. As everyone knows, wizards are dangerous and self-serving. In order to control them, we must establish limits and oversight. I found a few examples of magical techniques from ancient literature: using contract magic, we can force wizards to comply with these regulations, make sure they don't step a toe across the line. Although I can't use contract magic right now, as long as the results are the same...I've been researching my own branch of magic. As the president, the city's safety should be your first responsibility. I am willing to help you in this endeavor, and make sure you stay on track.

Speaking of hidden threats to the city, we should first address the situation with wizards using the portals.!



Friend or enemy, anyone can enter or leave Rainbow City at will. If we don't regulate the portals...



That's a good point. I understand!



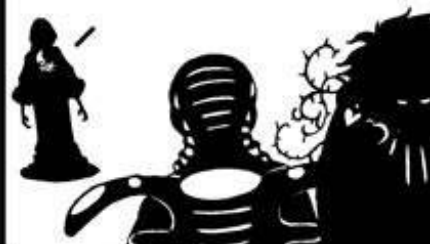
I'll go immediately to monitor the situation at all the portals.



I'll create some interference to limit their usage.



And then we'll deal with everything else. One problem at a time...



Alright, Sibelius. My meetings are all done for the day. What did you need?



I heard you announced that any noble wizard who donated to the academy would be admitted without further selection.



Why would you agree to that? Did you forget how those nobles treated us back then?



Do you believe that anyone can become a good wizard with enough money and power?



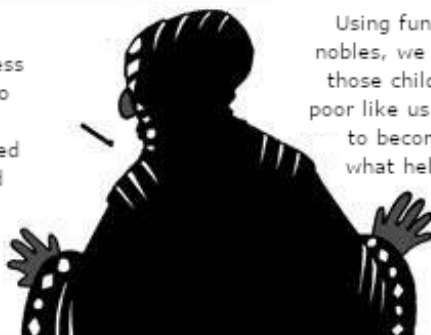
Of course not. To become a wizard of any note...



...requires talent, perseverance, and a boatload of patience.



I'm not being stingy, but the academy is a bottomless pit moneywise. We need to create a self-sustaining system. That's why we need to attract those nobles and sweet talk them a bit. I learned that from the church.



Using funds from those nobles, we can then train those children who were poor like us. On the road to becoming a wizard, what help is money or influence?



I can't believe it! We actually let a dirty backwater bumpkin become the chairman.



I know! That old devil Exaros left behind an enormous amount in the treasury, and he refuses to spend a penny. What a waste!



That's enough. Would you rather have a nice guy we can control, or a ruthless, amoral wolf?

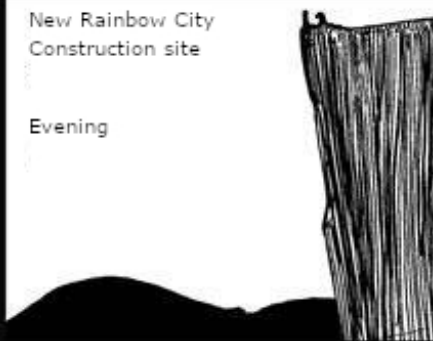


Do we even have a choice? That mad dog Sibelius is always by his side. If only Aimerdar or Parker were here...



New Rainbow City Construction site

Evening



I finished designing New Rainbow City's water supply network and sewer systems.



How is that any of your business?



Back in my hometown, we had a certain tradition: If you wanted your new house to be solid and sturdy, you had to dig the first hole yourself.



The chairman shouldn't be worried about these trivialities! The decisions you made today...



Sibelius...would you say that we are normal people?



What's gotten into you all of a sudden? You know that every wizard hates to admit they could be common.

Exactly. Those wizards all want to portray themselves as lofty and mysterious. They want to be treated like gods.



People instinctively fear what they don't understand. And fear will drive people away. They'll see us as enemies, seek to destroy us...

Do you still remember that test? When the four of us were trapped on the mountain... Do you remember what you said then?



Was it about that cursed Aimerdar? Whatever it was, I've forgotten it.

You said there was no such thing as friendship between wizards. That day, I couldn't have cared less about all the insults the fatty spat at us. But your words felt like a dagger.



Is this just the price of being a wizard?



To be unreachable, incomprehensible, distant;  
To have everyone afraid of us, warding us off;  
To sacrifice all pleasures of being human,  
In order to prove that we are superior beings?  
That's why I share our teacher's belief: we must change this situation that wizards have long found ourselves in.



When I found out that I had been elected chairman of the Wizard Association, in order to build upon the teacher's vision for Rainbow City,

I imagined such a scene:

In the future, Rainbow City's streets would be bustling with wizards alongside normal craftsmen, greeting each other, talking and laughing together, bumping shoulders as they walk past.

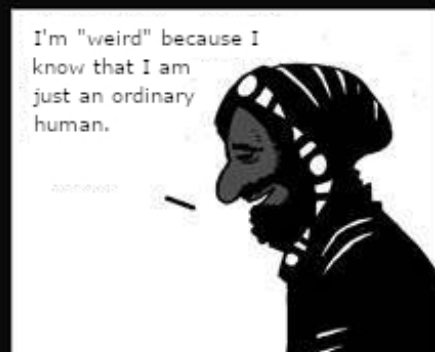
Hehe...



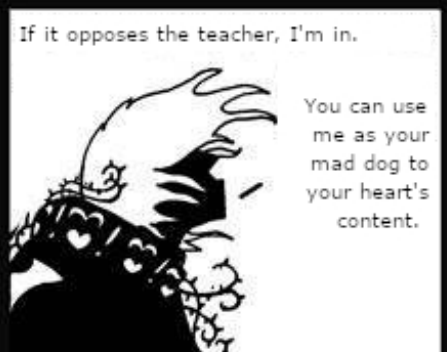
Hahahaha! I promise you, what the teacher meant when he talked about change definitely wasn't what you are describing. Hahaha...If his soul were in heaven right now, he would definitely be climbing out of his grave to curse you!

Hahaha! Iago! You are the strangest wizard I have ever met. Your imagination is too wild.

I'm "weird" because I know that I am just an ordinary human.



If it opposes the teacher, I'm in.



You can use me as your mad dog to your heart's content.

Thank you...



Friend...



Bah!



In the 11 years of Iago's leadership, Rainbow City never fought any wars. 70% of Tarsylia's wizards moved into the city. Wizards dubbed him "Iago the Ordinary."

By the time Aimerdar took over, Rainbow City was rich and prosperous.

**END**

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