Chapter 87: History Lesson

“Long ago, perhaps longer than there was a Wig-Or-Log, there was war. Wars were fought all across the world for different reasons. There were times of peace as well, but times of violence always eventually followed. Finally, there came a time where the war we know today began. The reasons for the war’s start have been lost over time, but whatever that incident was, it escalated into the biggest war in history. Although what is being fought today is a result of that war, but the events that took place there was a war on a scale unlike anything anyone today has seen. Four countries exist today; back then, there were a lot more. Virtually every nation in the world joined into the war. The devastation and death count were on a massive scale. The countries, however, were not all on different sides. Some had allies with each other from past events, others believed in the cause of certain countries and joined with them, while some hoped joining some countries would gain them better standings. The alliances caused the countries formed four factions. The factions were identified by colors which people wore on bands on their left bicep so that a person would know who was their ally and who was their enemy. Those colors were green, gold, blue and orange.

Despite the success of the four faction idea, the primary fuel source of the war was something else. The need for war brought a need for death, and thus those who were good at killing were highly valued. There existed a known group of such people. These were assassins who had their own method of training. Rather than being part of any country or fighting for any just cause, the assassins killed anyone as long as someone was willing to hire them and as long as the kill didn’t weaken their own organizations. Though well known, their methods were secret. The group was known to everyone as ‘The Discretes.’ The Discretes you know now are indeed extensions of that group, but they are most certainly not the same as these assassins. No life was sacred to them, save their own.

As I said, the Discretes back then were responsible for extending the war. Whenever a faction had gained some kind of advantage, another country need only hire a Discrete to solve the problem. Because they had the most skilled warriors of their time, no one could do anything about it. Before the rest of the world knew it, the group was the most powerful faction in both fighters and influence, perhaps stronger than all four factions combined. No faction could rival them, nor did any want to lose their advantage over their enemies, thus they all went on using them.

The Discretes realized the profit the war bought them, and expanded their merchandise. They not only exceeded everyone in military strength, but in their weaponry and tools. Along with their kills for hire, they sold these to different factions. Of course, they also sold the same weapons to the other factions, so no country was ever really ahead of another. The Discretes continued to invent, sell and kill, becoming stronger and stronger. Finally, they created their most powerful, valuable and influential weapon known to mankind. A drug known as the Gene-Enhancer. Genetics, or genes, are codes in your body that determine everything about you. From how you look, to what you do. The Gene-Enhancer, when taken, targeted specific genetics in the body and enhanced them to a certain degree, specifically the genes that determine talents. There was a name given to the result of a person who had taken a drug. The people called it ‘the Wig-Gene’. Though the Gene-Enhancer worked on anyone and everyone who took it, there were a variety of effects that could happen to a person once taken. The people saw the effects and determined where one would use them and how it could affect their war capabilities.

The first effect displayed a noticeable change in soldiers on the immediate battlefield. A person with this effect would have altered muscles, making it easier for them to use their strength and/or speed to its fullest potential. This was a much desired skill for those seeking to fight in close combat. The change became known as the Near-Gene.

The second effect was that in the senses, primarily the eyes. A person with this effect could see a great distance with clear interpretation of what was happening. The person’s other senses could also be enhanced, but the enhancement of sight was always a sure thing. In war times, this trait was seen as a valuable way for attacking enemies from a distance or gathering information. It became known as the Far-Gene.

The third gene was an increase in one’s intellect. Essential to planning and strategizing, these people became natural leaders to their countries and thus the gene was named the Leader-Gene.

Although the three genes had different primary effects, they all shared secondary effects; they are all essentially one effect just doing different things to different people. One such trait was the gene’s capability to linger. The Wig-Gene got the name ‘gene,’ because like genes, it did not disappear with just the first person who got it. Any child with a parent who had a Wig-Gene would ultimately be born with it as well. And because of the popular need to increase the talents of soldiers, virtually every adult wound up taking it. It soon became impossible to be born without a Wig-Gene. It exists today in every person in Wig-Or-Log, including everyone here. These three genes redefined the way people were arranged in the war. People put they’re total faith into their Wig-Gene, believing that it defined them and using it to its fullest could help them win the war.

For a while, this was simply accepted as a truth, and further study into the Wig-Gene ceased. Everyone believed that once they knew which of the three Wig-Gene types a person had, they knew all they needed to know.

But, unknown to everyone, there was a forth Gene. The reason for this is that the fourth gene is the rarest of them all. For the first time period of the Wig-Gene, only the three genes had surfaced in individuals. The rarity of the fourth gene is for good reason as it is the most powerful. The gene creates a virtually unstoppable warrior, one that could rival, even beat, the infamous Discretes. And thus the gene became known as the Discrete-Gene.

Despite its rarity, the first four Discrete-Genes all appeared around the same time, each in one of the four factions. If that hadn’t happened, this war might’ve ended a long time ago. But it did happen. These four were the first of the Discretes we know today.

The Firsts’ talents were each recognized by their individual faction. With their talent for not only fighting, but battle strategies and many other areas, it was only a matter of time; the Firsts were not only the first Discretes, but also each became the first Officials of their factions. And just like it is said they do today, the Officials met in a secluded location to discuss the matters of the war. They had the power to end the war, right then and there… but they didn’t. The war could end, but there would eventually be another one. Each Official had experienced too much violence in their life. They observed man and its history. The cycle of death would recycle over and over until mankind would eventually terminate itself. The Firsts then decided that rather than ending the war and leaving mankind to its fate, they would control it. They decided that they would allow man to continue to settle its need for violence and death by killing each other, but they would make it do it so that it would survive. Each had the trust and control of their faction. Each could ensure that the people did what was asked. Each had the intelligence to maintain that control. They would make this war last forever. There were only three problems standing in their way. The first was time. Supreme fighters they may have been, but they were still mortal. Eventually, their reign would end with their life. This was a plan that was supposed to extend past their lifetimes. They needed it to be eternal. They needed others who believed like they did, younger minds who would continue the plan once their lives ended. Their second problem was maintaining control. The people willingly followed them now, but people only follow a leader so long as they either trust him, or fear him. Over time, even if there were successors, people who thought differently would rise up against the rule. Unless the people had some reason to fear or trust the Officials for all time, it would be inevitable. The third problem was a potential threat. Controlling everyone in Wig-Or-Log meant gaining complete control over it, and there was still one group which they had no rule over. The assassination group of the Discretes. In order to accomplish all of this, the Firsts determined there was only one course of action. They attacked and took control over the Discretes.

Once they had control over the Discretes, their plan was set. The Discretes were to no longer work as assassins, but publicly work as the Firsts’ police force. The people trusted their Officials, but any who didn’t, feared the Discretes enough to resist the urge to rebel. With the Discretes in place, the Firsts put in place new rules to every country. They told their people it was essential to their survival, but really it was to ensure that the war was fought on their terms. Because the rules were agreed upon by all four factions, they became known as the Rules of Wig.

And the war we know today stands because of this. The logic that the Firsts have past down to the Discretes is that man must remain in this war. If that should ever change, man will restart the cycle of uncontrollable violence and eventually commit genocide on itself. The war is a way to keep man killing itself, but makes sure it doesn’t go all the way. This is why anyone who questions the Rules of Wig is turned into a criminal, hated by all, and executed. But as time passed, the Firsts had to establish new measures to make sure man’s other needs would seem real. The feeling of choice... of freedom. There were those who did not wish to fight anymore. Just like the Firsts, they found reason to try and get away from violence. The Firsts created the Grey territories for these people. These allowed people to think they had a choice to not be in the war, when in fact they still are. Greys are still required to help out in the war.

The only way the Discretes will cease enforcing the war is if humanity itself proves them wrong. If everyone can stop fighting, seek the truth, and realize that this war is pointless, the Discretes will cease their control. If a country can actually win the war, the Discretes will also be forced to admit a loss. That will prove that humanity has outsmarted the Discretes intelligence and can handle itself. However, the Rules of Wig are put in motion so that no country will ever stand a chance of winning. And it seems man will always want to kill.

There is, however, one more danger that could end the everlasting war. The Firsts carried the Discrete gene and with it, were able to take over their own countries as well as take down the most powerful organization in the world. When other people with Discrete-Genes rose up, they would also have warriors with unfathomable power. Whatever country the person was with would win, no matter what rule was placed in front of them. And even if they didn’t, their superior intelligence would eventually allow them to discover the truth of the war. The Firsts were confident that other Discretes were intelligent enough that given proper training they would understand the importance of keeping the war alive, while also believing that an untrained one would destroy everything they’ve created.

The Firsts couldn’t let another Discrete endanger their mission, but at the same time they couldn’t let potential go to waste. They discovered a way to keep their legacy going. When a child is first born, whatever Wig-Gene they have causes their blood to behave a certain way. After three years, the signs are much more difficult to track. When the Firsts discovered this, they realized it was the only way to keep their war safe. Every child at the age of two would be examined. If their blood tests came out negative during Discrete testing, they would be allowed to join the war along with everyone else. But if the test came out positive, the person was taken aside for special training. The child would be educated in the ways of the Firsts’: not only learning the fighting ways of a Discrete, but understanding the war in its entirety. As long as the child grew up knowing why the war was important, they would understand and not oppose it. And given their higher capabilities of fighting, they would become trained Discretes, punishers of anyone who dared threaten the war. This method was passed down from generation to generations of Discretes. Overtime, only those with Discrete-Genes were allowed to even have the title.

Though the Discretes may think themselves perfect and above humanity, they are in fact still human and can make mistakes. The occasion is more rare than you could fathom, but once in a while a child with a Discrete gene is accidently placed in the Center with the rest. Lacking the proper mental training, he or she grows up believing their purpose in life is to fight in a war, not knowing that their body possesses skill and intelligence potential that would allow them to end the war. Though a Discrete-Gene does not fully develop until at least the sixteenth birthday of the child, it usually peaks its head, giving the child a temporary boost in strength, speed, understanding and other areas. The Discretes pay heavy attention to any student who possesses skill in areas outside the Wig-Gene they were said to have. They test the student, and observe their actions. Their greatest fear is discovering that the person is indeed a Discrete for they are taught to hold all life valuable and this discovery would mean grave things for the child in question.

Any untrained Discrete is a threat to the existence of the war, and according to the Firsts, a threat to mankind itself. This means that the untrained must come to an end before such a thing can happen; they must be killed. The Discretes, however, are not ones to merely kill for the fun of it, especially one who has no control over the danger they possess. Before killed, the untrained is put through a test to determine if they are really a threat. A loved one of said person is taken. The Discretes leave the faintest trail of clues to see if the untrained are able to locate them. No one in the history of Wig-Or-Log has been able to locate the headquarters of the Discretes except for other Discretes. If the untrained succeeds in finding their loved one, they will have proven themselves the threat. They, and everyone with them at the time, will be executed, for no one can know the truth unless it is self discovered.

Of the people in this group of fighters, three were considered possible candidates for being Discretes. The first was you, Atsuma. Your intelligence is high, even for a Leader. Your other skills exceed the normality for you as well. The investigation of whether or not you were a Discrete continued even after you left the Center. After a couple of years of letting you develop, you were spied upon by a closely infiltrated Discrete until a conclusion was made. It took quite a bit of time, but it was finally discovered that you are in fact not a Discrete. While your intelligence is high from talent, your Near and Far skills were all developed from practice. And even with the high level of skills you possess, you are not at a Discrete’s level.

The next person to be suspected was Vatti. Vatti was classified as a Leader, so it was natural for her to be gifted in strategy. However, she also showed a rather high level in close combat skills, that highly above even those of Nears. Her conclusion was made before she left the Center; she was not a Discrete. She was only a Leader who also had a natural gift for fighting, a rather high one at that. Added to the fact that she was determined to improve herself, her gifts proved her to be potentially the best warrior in this group, but still not a Discrete.

The last person suspected was Baas. Again, being a Leader meant that a talent of intelligence was no surprise. Baas, however, stayed under the radar of the Discretes because he never took anything seriously. It was only when the Discretes started paying closer attention to Vatti did they notice Baas’ potential. As I said before, though his gene was not fully developed, it would respond every now and again, allowing Baas to do things he normally couldn’t do.

The reason your Commander is missing is because the Discretes have taken her in an attempt to prove that Baas is a threat to the society of Wig-Or-Log. For Baas is indeed an untrained Discrete, a warrior capable of ending this war.”

Chapter 87 End