

“Julius mentioned before that all 4 techniques are needed, so does he know how to make one?” Luke asks, worried about her reply. “No, the order of using them, why you’re using them, and the mana zone stabilization are all secrets to the public. The public just vaguely knows that you have to be a master of all magic to create one” she explains. “Wait...that gem my father had...is that a Philosopher’s Stone?!” Luke realizes. “Yes, but he created a false one by missing steps. He created it in real life, instead of on a Phantom, meaning it cannot change its’ shape or form. He also did not preform Golden Whole on it, so he must use his own mana to power it. Meaning when he is not pouring his mana into it, it becomes the same as rock”. Luke clenches his fist, “with all the time he has in here, that means he can finish it and create a real one any day now right?”. Daniel shakes her head, “he believes he created the real one, and even if he knew it could be made better, he would have to start over completely. Also, in this world, the reset between rounds of the game works by bringing everyone backwards in time. So he would have to create a new stone at the start of every game”.

Luke holds out his glowing weapon, “so then I was right, I really don’t have any chance to win. Why even bother training when he has that? In fact, why even both living if I’m just going to die in this anyways?”. “Aw, no Luke! It’s not-” “Everyone in this world got a second chance! Everyone except me! Lander gets to have his revenge! Mical gets a chance to wish for that girl! Julius gets a chance to find a friend! And you, of course someday these games will end, either someone will wish it someday, or the guy who runs it finally croaks, what you want is practically a given! While I don’t even get to have a chance to live, I just get to sit here and wait to die”.

Daniel points to the floating golden doors in the sky, “on those doors are 5 symbols, one for each player. They glow whenever a player dies, and when 4 of them are glowing, the doors open and the wish is just behind them. Until your spot on those doors are glowing, you still have a chance to do whatever you want”. Luke looks up at the doors and feels a sense of peace, “thank you Daniel”.

Unknown to them, Julius had left a Phantom imbued with Golden Whole to spy on their conversation. Yes he learned the secret of the Philosopher’s Stone, just as he wanted, but what he learned that truly stayed with him, was Luke defending him and willing to die for him. He sits in contemplated silence, thinking over his entire life.

Later that night, Daniel and Julius had fallen asleep, but Luke was still awake, staring at the door, his only hope, when they begin to glow. His heart sinks, He doesn’t need to be told who it was. He knows it is Zial, the only one who understood him. He lost more than just a potential friend or lover, he lost idea of hope in this world.

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The next morning, day 3 of Ur, Leonne sees two figures in the distance approaching, “everyone get ready! They are coming!”. His army stands to their feet and ready themselves for battle. “I wasn’t expecting all this...” Richer groans. “I know it’s scary, I can hold you if it makes you feel better” Mical jokes back. Leonne holds out his free hand, “Mical, stand down. I have made a deal with Nebuchadnezzar that he will not interfere with Ur if this glass does not spill for 3 days. Preventing such a strong enemy from entering Ur would benefit the both of us”. Mical sighs, “he’s lying to you. He’s just going to kill you while you’re stuck holding that thing up”. Leonne speaks with unwavering determination, “I believe in the hearts of men. He will hold true to his word”.

Richer looks down at Mical, “your fighting style is better fit for one strong opponent. I’ll kill all these guys if you go in there and kill Nebuchadnezzar”. Mical moves so quickly it seems as though he