

stands up from his throne, "Leonne, I can tell you are a Belwether by your charisma. Tell me exactly what you want". Leonne steps forward, "I want to win, and so does everyone else playing. I'm not asking anymore more than for a slight chance of victory". Nebuchadnezzar stares into Leonne's eyes with his hollow holes, "the only way for there to be a chance is if I died. Is that your request?". "I should have been clearer King, I am requesting a chance for victory, even if it is artificial. Let's say, whichever player is the last alive, you promise to not act for 30 seconds" Leonne pushes.

"You think you can demand me to act beyond my choosing?! My job as King is to act out my choosing, by agreeing to such terms, I might as well give you the crown!" Nebuchadnezzar grows bitter. "That was an example King, I believe that something akin to this would allow you to have extra layer of fun, allow something surprising to fill your endless life with a short thrill. While it gives us a hope at winning, even if it could never possibly happen" Leonne explains, while trying to calm his racing heart beat. "I see...then these shall be the terms" The King summons a golden chalice, the magically fills with wine to the brink, "if you manage to hold this glass of wine for 3 days without letting go, or spilling a single drop, then I shall allow these games to end naturally. However, even if you succeed, that does not stop my army from acting". Leonne carefully grabs the chalice from the King's hands, "thank you! You are truly as wise and honorable as history speaks of you" Leonne spits out with a sigh of relief.

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Lander shuffles down the streets staring at the ground whispering to himself, "that technique is perfect. Not only have I never seen a Phantom Azoth as perfected as mine before Ur, after killing thousands of the best magicians in history, none of them could survive longer than a few seconds in it. Even the two players that escaped it only did because one was being left alive for bait, and the other I kept getting distracted. If it was just me and him he wouldn't have lasted a second. So how did I fail to kill everyone?!". His shuffle starts to slow and turn into him dragging his feet, "am I not really perfect?" he ponders this idea and then answers himself, "I am perfect, it's just that I'm facing the best of the best, that means there are going to be people in here close to perfect, that's enough to push me".

A man wearing golden robes stands in Lander's way, he hits his chest with his fist and calls out, "I am Qin Shi Huang! I saw your performance earlier and I am impressed! You are much stronger than me, and I wish to test you in battle!". Lander ignores the man and whispers to himself, "so there are 3 people near perfection, that woman, the King that Julius spoke of, and of course Richer. So, how will I handle all 3...". Qin pulls his fist back and runs towards Lander, "here it comes! My strongest attack!". "Open Phantom Azoth" Lander says in an empty tone. This Phantom Azoth is only the size of 5 feet across compared to the city sized one from earlier. The man in front of him bursts into flames and burns to a crip, Lander walks past the man without ever seeing his face. He pulls out 3 glowing blue bottles from his pocket, "I brought 3 mana potions that should be bring me back to about full power. I could have used it back there, but I needed an excuse to leave and collect my thoughts. Plus this answers my question. I can fight all 3 back to back and just use a potion between each fight. I'll just try to save Richer for last, but who knows, I might get too excited and kill him early".

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Luke taps on Julius' shoulder and points to a sleeping Daniel, and then points to her mana angels staring at them, "do you think she can see what they see?" Luke whispers. "No, Golden Whole is a technique that imbues life into something, it is a separate life and no longer your own. You can only puppet it if it is an incomplete version of the technique. The real version allows for complete autonomy". Luke nods, "I see...they are still really creepy though...". "Agreed."