

Luke bites his lip and asks, “do you trust me?”. Julius’ head snaps to face Luke, “what kind of question is that?!”. “Well, I learned about your story. You were betrayed by the people closest to you before you died. I know it can be hard to trust anyone after that, even a thousand years later...”. Julius snaps, “just shut up and keep following the plan. It’s worked so far for you”.

Luke regrets asking that question, so he opens his heart to Julius, “when I was young, the tensions between the Brackenstein’s and the Wodsnell’s reached a boiling point. My father knew I could be of no use in the upcoming war so he hid me in the estate. I didn’t speak to anyone for over a year, but he left me a red stone. I always held that stone, even cuddled it every night. Then one day, he called me on the phone in my room. It never worked before so I assume he used magic to make it work. He was screaming at me over the phone to teleport the stone anywhere else. I tried my best to teleport it and I just couldn’t. My father told me on the phone that this was all my fault. I left my room to apologize to my father, and when I came out I saw something terrible. All my family was dead, their bodies were everywhere. I tried to apologize, but my father just took the stone and told me again that it was my fault. I even tried to make it up to him later, but I just ended up making everything worse again”. Julius scoffs, “you tell your story in hopes of prying my story out of me?”. Luke shakes his head, “no, I felt bad I offended you. I just wanted to show you that you can trust me”.

Luke and Julius sit in silence for a few minutes, until Julius snaps his fingers and starts a fire on the ground in front of them, “would you be happy if you left this game without ever giving your father a fist or two for what he did?”. Luke sighs, “I don’t really know, I thought I was going to be dead by now, so I didn’t really even think about it. I do want to at least speak to him again”. Julius holds his hands out to be warmed by the fire, “he is too strong to beat. My plan right now only has a small chance at victory, and we have one of the strongest magicians on our side. However, after hearing your story, I too wish to alter the plan to include you speaking with him”. Luke shakes his head, “no, don’t give up the wish just for that, it’s ok”. Julius smiles, “boy, sometimes the little things are worth more than the whole world”. “Thank you” is the only words Luke can say.

~

The next morning, Leonne is suddenly awoken by his arm being pushed. His mana birds flock to his arm and hold it straight, while he calls out, “Primera Verth! Silver Crest!”. Leonne turns the air in front of him full of power, and then seals it inside of his attacker’s shirt, which becomes unstable and explodes. His body breaks away into mana. Leonne stands up and looks around and sees hundreds of men surrounding him. Leonne sighs and rubs the back of his neck, “I recognize a few of you from earlier. So Nebuchadnezzar sent his men to spill this glass. All of you are fighting against the one who will help you”. “You can’t do anything to the King, he is too powerful!” one of the men in the crowd cries out.

Leonne’s Phantoms cannot interact with the physical world, but they can directly interact with other Phantoms and mana. Leonne uses them to enhance his own magic, but also to interrupt the flow of mana of another’s attack. “Golden Whole” Leonne states and he creates millions of Phantoms and fills them with life. His millions of Phantom birds all strike each enemy at the exact place they are using their magic to prevent their attacks from beginning. During all of their short pause, Leonne throws his arms forward and speaks, “shadow above, light below, shrink the infinite into a stagnant nothingness” around Leonne forms a shadow so black that even if it were right in front of your face you could not see it, this blackness touches a nearby rock which shrinks into nothingness. Leonne sends this black mass towards his enemies. All it needs to do is touch the slightest amount of their skin for its’ horrible effect to take place. Their body shrinks until it becomes smaller than an ant.