

Grandmaster

During the Summer Solstice Dimitri Ivanovich Ionescu, Grandmaster of the Shattered Lantern, informed me that I could help the Order of the Shattered Lantern by making him “a professor of night magic”- that if I did so he would use these gifts to create new magic in a passionate fashion or some such rot.

The Eater of Secrets confesses that he is not clear how specifically this shows how “Magic is capable of both protecting, and exposing, secrets and knowledge” or how “Acquiring the knowledge and secrets of the Empire's enemies strengthens us” or the way that “Guarding and shielding the secrets of the Empire protects us.”

Nor can the Father of Bats quite work out how this will allow the Shattered Lantern to “Utilise magic in the detection and monitoring of threats”or “Supports the acquisition of the secrets and knowledge of hostile forces in all ways”nor how it might “stave off blind fear and allay the concerns of the citizens by addressing threats and hazards with discretion.”

However, the Black Sloth committed to listen to the gambits of the Grandmasters and offer what assistance he could. As such Sadogua offers Dimitri Ivanovich Ionescu an opportunity. Let him create an arcane projection of the Night realm which he believes the Brother of Wizards could offer his support to. Let him do so before the end of the Autumn Equinox, and use operate portal cantrip to send the projection to the Black Sloth. The Keeper of the Black Stones will judge the worth of the projection and if he approves, he will provide all appropriate assistance and return it. If he does not, then Dimitri will have simply wasted everyone's time.



Grandmaster

During the Summer Solstice the Grandmaster of the Golden Pyramid declined to take the opportunity to present a gambit to the Brother of Wizards. A Freeborn magician of the Handful of Dust spoke on their behalf, and the Father of Bats is inclined to be generous in his desire to assist his allies, the Imperial Conclave.

The first request was that the Eater of Secrets raise the entire Forest of Peytaht as an army, or raise the forests of Reikos to fight for the Imperial armies. The Keeper of the Black Stones declined to do so.

In the end a different agreement was made; the Black Sloth would investigate the provenance of the curses that fell upon the League cities in the months before the Autumn Equinox. This the Lord of the Dark Lantern has done on behalf of the Golden Pyramid; it is clear how an attack against the ability of the Empire to harvest crystal mana is an attack against both the ability of the Golden Pyramid to pursue their aims, and an attack against the Imperial Conclave itself.

There are three clues that the Black Sloth has uncovered, and they are recounted here.

The curse on the League cities shares the same provenance as the curse that has recently fallen on the mountains of Urizen. Both are driven by the same passion. Both were performed in Casinea, using that regio that is at the heart of Imperial magic.

Secondly, an image of a burning bird. Not the phoenix of the night skies, nor a true firebird, but a great clawed beast that burns with a passionate all-consuming fire, a fire that devours as well as give light, that tears down as well as provides heat. Sparks fall where it passes; some fade to embers, others ignite a conflagration that leaps from one heart to another.

Finally, the Seer of Silence found a rhyme in the bottom of a certain dark well on the borders of his realm that seems connected although it is not clear if it speaks of those who placed the curse or the source of their power; or if it is a hint to someone who opposes their will, or is a prophecy of some future wickedness they plan to unleash. The rhyme is this: "Chains cast off and mind unbound: my soul is free, our hope is found. The day will dawn, the time will come, when all shall know what we have done; but till that day I keep this vow to none but glory shall I bow."



Grandmaster

During the Summer Solstice the Grandmaster of the Celestial Arch declined to take the opportunity to present a gambit to the Brother of Wizards. A League magician spoke on their behalf, and what was discussed will remain a matter only for that one, and the Father of Bats.

The Gambit that might have been placed by the Celestial Arch is instead given to the one who spoke to Sadogua in the heart of the Empire. We shall continue our discussions in private. The Celestial Arch has lost their opportunity.



Grandmaster

During the Summer Solstice the Grandmaster of the Unfettered Mind made an impassioned plea to Sadogua to recover the children of Urizen, stolen by the Grendel orcs. There was much discussion of how this supported the aims of the Unfettered Mind. How it advanced the Empire's rich understanding of magic, how it increased the knowledge and use of magic, how it helped the Empire stay at the apex of magical knowledge and power.

The Brother of Wizards pondered long and hard, and came to agree that the potential contribution of these young people could not be underestimated. As a consequence, the Keeper of the Black Stones sent his heralds to Dubhtraig to summon the Wind Lord of the Grendel to an audience and there discussed the recovery of these children.

An agreement was reached; the Father of Bats has evaluated the potential of the children of Urizen and recovered seven of their number; the boys Gallus and Herotide (ages nine and eleven); the girls Marissa, Lamia and Neora (ages four, twelve, and ten); and the twins Damocles of and Callia (both aged nine). Of a little over two hundred these are the seven with the greatest potential.

Sadogua chooses to keep one of the children as a ward, and leaves the decision as to which one that will be to the Conclave. Let the Grandmaster of the Unfettered Mind deliver the decision to the Dark Lord by the usual means before the end of the Autumn Equinox – if they cannot make this decision, Sadogua will keep all of the children.

The Grandmaster should also indicate where the children are to be delivered – nowhere in Urizen is outside the reach of the Watcher 'Neath the Boughs.

It should be noted that five of the children are now naga, where once they were human. Neora was already a naga, and has been helping the others adjust; while Herotide was of the merrow lineage and still is.

By reaching an agreement with the Wind Lord, so Sadogua has demonstrated his friendship with the Empire.



Grandmaster

During the Summer Solstice the Grandmaster of the Rod and Shield requested a warlike power that could spread confusion among an army. Sadogua agrees that this would be a useful tool, and it is within his power to aid the Empire in this regard.

The Black Sloth makes a gift to the Empire, and offers his aid to the Imperial Conclave. The Keeper of the Black Stones has prepared a ritual infused with a little of his essence and presents it to the Grandmaster of the Rod and Shield. Let this be a symbol of the alliance between the Eater of Secrets and the Imperial Conclave



Grandmaster

During the Summer Solstice the Grandmaster of the Sevenfold Path chose to avoid the opportunity offered by the Black Sloth. Instead, a request was made that the Keeper of the Black Stones assist Maurice de Gauvin of House de Gauvin in his plan.

The Father of Bats views Maurice de Gauvin as a personal friend, and has dealt fairly with him on more than one occasion. He welcomes the opportunity to work with the Archmage of Autumn.

It is not clear to the Lord of Shadows how this is connected to the idea that “Magic should work in harmony with, and to promote, the fulfilment of the destiny of Imperial citizens” nor helps “The Conclave and Synod can most effectively protect the Empire from hazards, and subversive elements, by working in harmony and unison” nor how it demonstrates that “The Way of Virtue binds the Empire together and should inform all use of powers, including magic.”

Likewise it is hard to see how this will “Encourage the use of magic in understanding, and supporting, human destiny” nor “Ensure the powers of the Conclave are deployed in line with the Way of Virtue” and “Build a bridge between the Conclave and the priests of the Synod.”

So, with that in mind, the Eater of Secrets regretfully declines to fulfill this gambit. If Maurice de Gauvin wishes the aid of the Brother of Wizards, he can request it directly. As long as it has nothing to do with moving castles with magic.

