

The story of Chi Si Chen (Autumn Silver Reed)

Chapter 55: Chains (2nd ride of Elesias 1370)

The door opened to a dark room with a strange glittering wall at the rear end, and we discussed what to do. Neither Felina nor Nethander could find anything that resembled a trap, but we still felt uncertain. Felina went in first. Nothing happened – as far as we could tell – but she continued to amble around. Odd. Nethander followed, as did Cuura, Grimwald, and Zhae. Half of them disappeared, the others started ambling to... then disappeared as well. Kendalan and I looked at each other, we did not like this at all, but staying here was no option.

As I stepped in, the world faded, till I was left with Kendalan in a kind of... nothingness. It felt like a teleport, but teleports did not function in this tower. Could it be we were stuck half way? Trying to move was futile, any action was futile. I did not have the magic to dispel the effect, nor move myself across the planes. But I did have a gift from Guan Yin, allowing me and others to retry resisting bad effects. So I tried.

I stood in the same room again, looking at the open door, where... This wasn't the same room! Through the door I saw my friends fighting against a mass of chains... humanoid shapes clad in chains. I saw most of them bleeding, Nethander and Zhae in the forefront. I rushed forward to help, my Guan Dao in long stance, but it made little impact. These creatures are... automatons? Then somebody pointed out one of the chain figures, declaring it a daemon. Now most metal automatons are immune to evoked magic and to fire, but a daemon might only be resistant. Calling forth all I had I reached out and *combusted* it, to the vocal chagrin of Nethander who had targeted it his opponent. The chain golems, for that was what they were, continued to fight, but the loss of their leader meant a lot less attacks so we quickly took them out.

Then I explained my problem to Nethander, and he quickly apologized. I didn't blame him: where would he have learned of the invulnerabilities of automatons?

We healed ourself again – the wand is getting depleted – and continued, to arrive at the throne room again. We went back to the circular room, and looked in another room. It was waterlogged, full of remains of furniture, and, as Kendalan mentioned, a beautiful spot for an ooze to hide. We started by probing a puddle with a hint of gold. Indeed Kendalan was right. A form started to grow, but we destroyed before it could reach any of us. Grimwald said it was one of the most dangerous fungi: it stole your identity, then attacked using the stolen skills, or even spells.

Human female Paragon/3, Wu-Jen/1, Naturalist/3, Ancestral Hierophant/2