

The story of Chi Si Chen (Autumn Silver Reed)

Chapter 57: Masterful (2nd ride of Elesias 1370)

I felt dog tired, the stuff we got from the gnomes kept me focused, but it wasn't like after a good night's sleep. Which was odd as I hadn't got a body right now. I still kind of floated with the group. I also felt I understood the tower, the tests, although in my case it wasn't a test but a warning. Standing aside, being passive... it just wouldn't work. I would need to help others to find the Way, to improve their Karma.

Through the door I saw the others arrive at a kind of balustrade over a mushroom farm. With a kind of mental 'pop I saw Felina appear. She had managed to exist. A concept that was tricky to think about. It was the essence of Felina to be ungraspable. I could easily read the aura of the room, the smell was there to lure them, but they too had discovered the secrets. They pulled together and got themselves out. Back to the fireball room.

The last led to a room without an end. At least, not one I could perceive. There was a chasm with a small bridge over it. On it a man. Perfection. And because of that not very interesting compared to Zhae. Why did I think that? They had to best him to pass, and they tried, each in their own way.

Zhae tried a wonderful maneuver, yet the guardian did not fall for it. Felina tried to use magic to sneak past, but the dimension of the room warped. Again and again, different styles, different ideas until Cuura and Kendalan saw the solution. To pass they would have to let him beat himself.

...

We walked across the floor. I felt the stones. I was back again. We crossed engraved balances, each telling us something, changing something. We hadn't reached perfection, but we had come close.

Did that mean I could act again? Did it mean we could have some sleep?

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