MORNING! WHAT'S UP?
NEARLY TIME FOR CLASS, RIGHT?
JUS' NEED A BIT LONG'R... I'M JUS' FINISHIN' OFF A LET'T'R T' PAIGE.
MMPH... I WANT'D T' SEND IT OFF WITH KAZ WHEN HE HEAD'D BACK TO REI, BUT HE LEFT SO QUICK AFT'R THAT... WAR... THING.
THAT WHOLE MESS, HA... YEAH.

WELL, I HAVE SEEN MESSIER!
NOB'DY DIED, WE GOT A FEW MORE WEIRDIES, WHA MORE Y' WANT? HAH...
SORRY YOU MISSED OUT, LOK!
MISSED OUT? PSSH!
THERE WAS SOLDIERS AND ARMY MONSTERS ALL OVER MY RANCH!

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THAT DARIUS GUY, THOUGH? HE STAYED AT MY RANCH FOR A BIT DURING THE DAY, BUT HE'S HERE FOR KEEPS NOW? HE REPPIN' THE KING OR WHAT?
YEAH, SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT. APPARENTLY HE'S DRAKE'S HUSBAND AS WELL?
WHAT? BUT-
THEY DON'T EVEN LIKE EACH OTHER THOUGH??

I JUS' TELL Y' WHA' I HEARD, FR'M DARIUS... SEEMS LIKE THEY AVOID EACH OTHR A LOT.
THAT'S... WERD. AT THE GATE DARIUS SAID DRAKE WAS A MURDERER.
WHAT THE-? AT MY PLACE HE SAID SHE WAS A TRICKSTER..

WHAT? ...MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHIN' WRONG WITH THA' GUY. I MEAN SHE'S NOT, RIGH?
Hm... mind you, Darius also said mana is a trickster and I really doubt that’s true.

Well, she is a weirdo of some sort... I have a theory, but...

What? Oh, ah... nevermind. What? C'mon!

If I tell you, you'll call me crazy.

Oh don't worry, I can call you crazy even if you don't tell me.

Hey claw-er, prince...

Hm?

You finished that letter? We probably have time to get it mailed before class.

Oh, right!

Thanks, Loki... hehehehe.

What's so funny?

I was thinkin'... on th' way back here I was a bit worried y' guys would treat me differently now I'm a prince.

Haha obviously I shouldn't'a worried! Y' don't treat me special f'r bein' an immortal, so why would bein' a prince be a bigger deal?

Well, I guess we know you, so it's easy to forget the whole clanner thing.

I also keep forgetting you're pretending to be a bloke, sorry. As long as wrath doesn't hear...

Mmph, yeah. I'd rath'r not have t' do tha'! But it's f'r Paige... it's a little annoyin' t' have to pretend, but eh... 'okay.

Least it's only wrath an' I guess Darius tha' I gotta fool, an' y' guys are all with me, makes it easier.

Pity they've got to stay, otherwise you could just drop the act.

Yeah... maybe whoever Paige sends t' replace wrath'll be someone I don't have t' trick... or... I dunno.
Well I think it's really sweet, you and the princess. Haha.

But honestly have no idea why you came back here instead of staying there!

Mmm... I told Paige I had to finish studyin'.

But really? Did you forget? I was kinda here for sanctuary in the first place.

'Scuse me, Miss. I've got a lett'r t' go t' Princess Paige, at th' Reinan Palace? -?

Ooh, a palace, huh? Can do, boss!

Thanks for choosing Monster Mail!

Um... if you can die and then live again, then just wait are so afraid of?

...me fam'ly, mainly.

Least if they catch me here, they won't cause any troubl' for Paige.

But why- -anyway! Wha' class we got?

Subtle. We've got magic, then history.

So hey, Loki. What was that theory you had about the headmistress anyway?

Not telling.

Ask Darius. He said he saw mana walk right through a solid object.

Oh! That was the school gate. I saw that...

So she can turn incorporeal, she has those creepy, lifeless eyes... what do you think she might be?

Uhh? ...haha no way.

Headmistress Ryushin is not a ghost! "...

Probably.

Huh?
NAH, I DON'T GET IT.

SERIOUSLY TAIDE, WHAT IS THERE TO GET?
GO OVER IT ALL AGAIN.

DARILUS IS MY HUSBAND.

HE'S MAD I KILLED A GUY. THAT WAS WAY BEFORE WE MET, BUT HE STILL ALERTED THE GUARD ON ME.

I'M PARDONED NOW, BUT HE'S STILL MAD...ISH.

THAT ABOUT COVERS IT, SHEESH. I THINK HE'S COMING AROUND A BIT, HE'S NOT YELLING SO THAT'S PROBABLY A GOOD START. BUT...

I DUNNO. EVERY TIME HE SEES ME HE GOES THE OTHER WAY. IT'S REALLY OBVIOUS HE'S AVOIDING ME.

SAHEMS.

REMEMBER HOW YOU SHOULD CHECK BEHIND YOU BEFORE TALKING—?

HUH?

OH— HEY! DAR!

DO YOU HAVE TIME TO CATCH UP? I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TALK TO YOU SINCE—

OHH, UH, DRAKE, I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE...

SORRY, I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW.

NOT GO GREAT, HUH?

AT LEAST HE SAID SORRY, I GUESS.

GEEZ TAIDE. YOU KILL A GUY AND YOU JUST ABOUT GET A HOLIDAY IN YOUR HONOUR. I KILL A GUY AND—... SHEESH.

YEAH, NEXT TIME YOU SHOULDN'T KILL A NECROMANCER.

ANYWAY, AREN'T YOU BUSY? YOU'VE GOT A CLASS TO TEACH, ER... RIGHT NOW I THINK.

PFFF, YEAH.
Well, if Dar isn’t going to speak to me, I’ll have to do something to protect myself in case he’s been going around spouting off that I’m a trickster...

Hm... Ah, I know just the thing.

Morning, kids! Sorry I’m a bit late...

Today we’re going to learn about... curses.

Miss, I don’t want to learn how to cast curses.

I hope not, sheesh! Nah, we’re going more into what curses actually are, covering a few different types, and maybe some ways to defend against 'em.

Ooh that sounds better...

So then! Curses! Now, curses tend to vary wildly, there’s all sorts really.

Curses are made of multiple types of magic, usually at least two or three, rather like enchantments!

They can be applied to an object, a place, a person... anything, really. It’s important to be vigilant.

They tend to be very difficult and time-consuming to cast, and often require multiple people to create.

Skilled magi can come up with their own curses, but it’s hard so there are a few more common ones.

Oh—right! Before I forget, curses aren’t limited to just the magic gods’ power, people have been known to use lesser gods’ power in curses. Usually luck, you know, bad luck, or prosperity.

Though obviously if the spell has a positive effect it’s not technically a curse, it’s a blessing.

Anyway! Gods can also drop curses on people. There’s no real defense against that except for not attracting heavenly wrath.

Those sorts of curses are something I’m sure Jared is quite familiar with.
Y’know, apart from the ears thing, there’s another curse sometimes used by the trickster god, but this one tricksters have been known to use too.

Miss, if a curse uses multiple types of magic, how does a trickster curse work?

Oh, Jake steals magic sometimes. Ears use the god of change’s magic, and this other curse I think uses truth or knowledge magic.

Tricksters themselves are pretty good at tricking other people into lending them their magic. Or paying for it. Not everyone is totally averse to tricksters, after all.

So this other curse, it’s a lying curse. It’s applied to a person, and prevents them from telling the truth about a certain thing, or several things...

Whenever they try to talk about whatever it is, only lies come out.

It’s a little less common than the ears, but you see it around. Can be a lot harder to spot! Anyway, that’s just an example, to show the variation in curses.

Best way to prevent curses from affecting you is to avoid ’em completely! So let’s go over some ways to detect curses...

Hmmm...

Good morning, Miss San.

Oh, hi Mr. Piperion.

I wanted to talk to you about your curriculum.

History in particular seems to have some holes. It comes across as a little bit, er... trickster-friendly.

Please, you just think I’m a trickster.

 Aren’t you?

This eye’s real, Darius Margold Piperion. From the god of knowledge himself, not that there’s anything wrong with being one, but I’m not a trickster.

...that proves nothing, Drake. Could have told you my middle name.

Believe what you want.
ANYWAY... I'M ALWAYS HAPPY TO TALK ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CURRICULUM. TO BE HONEST, WHAT I INHERITED FROM DHARFI WAS KIND OF ALL OVER THE PLACE.

WHERE IS MISS VALCROSS, OUT OF INTEREST?
OH DON'T WORRY, WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO HER.

THERE WAS A SPOT OF TROUBLE WITH SOME GUARDIANS. THEY SHOWED UP TO START FIGHTING NETTLE, SO DHARFI DREW 'EM OFF. I'M SURE SHE'LL BE BACK EVENTUALLY.

...Huh.

NEVER A DULL MOMENT AROUND HERE! SO WHAT DID YOU HAVE IN MIND FOR HISTORY?

YOU'VE GOT THREE EYES. CAN'T YOU TELL?
OH, PLAYING THAT GAME, HUH?

HMMM...

OH! THAT'S A GOOD POINT, ACTUALLY!

I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, DHARFI DIDN'T COVER THAT. SHEESH, SHE REALLY SHOULD HAVE. IT'S BASIC KNOWLEDGE, BUT... I BET THERE'S SEVERAL STUDENTS THAT DON'T KNOW IT.

AND YEAH! THERE'S A FEW ALTERNATIVE TAKES ON WHAT HAPPENED, SO IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THOSE WHO DO KNOW ABOUT IT TO GET TAUGHT ABOUT IT PROPERLY.

HMM. YOU LOOK WORRIED. NOT SURE I'M TALKING ABOUT WHAT YOU HAD IN MIND? THAT'S WHY I PREFER NORMAL CONVERSATIONS.

LIVING SHADOW, RIGHT? THAT'S PERFECT FOR A HERO SCHOOL...

I'LL GET MY NOTES, I SHOULD HAVE ENOUGH TO GET READY FOR NEXT LESSON, THANKS!

UHH, NO PROBLEM...

DO ME A FAVOUR THOUGH, FOR GODS' SAKE, TALK TO DRAKE.
AH-SORRY.

I'M VERY BUSY RIGHT NOW, I SHOULD BE GOING.
UH-HUH.
SHEESH. THAT GUY IS INSUFFERABLE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT DRAKE SEES IN HIM.

BUT WHEN YOU'RE RIGHT...

TRICKSTER-FRIENDLY THOUGH, PSSH. I GUESS IT WOULD LOOK THAT WAY IF THE DEFAULT POSITION IS TRICKSTER-UNFRIENDLY. ...HOPE WE CAN CHANGE HIS MIND ON THAT.

ANYWAY, WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO COVER THE LIVING SHADOW, HMM...

GOOD MORNING, SHAUNI!!

OH HI, WRATH!

WHAT DID YOU SAY TO DARIUS? GEEZ HE LOOKED SURLY COMING OUT OF HERE.

HAHA NAH, I SHOULDN'T PUT THAT ON YOU, FAR AS I CAN TELL HE'S ALWAYS WEARING A SOUR EXPRESSION.

WHAT'S HIS DEAL? ARE ALL GARDENIANS THAT GRUMPY, OR JUST HIM?

OH, YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW...

UH... HM... ACTUALLY, MAYBE YOU DO.

OH? WHY'S THAT?

HAVE YOU TALKED TO HIM MUCH?

NOT BEYOND IDLE CHIT-CHAT... AND YELLING AT HIM FOR CALLING ME AND THE PRINCE GIRLS, HAHA.

YOU COULD TRY TALKING TO HIM ABOUT FAMILY.

YOU THINK SO? HE'S MARRIED TO THE MAGIC TEACHER, RIGHT? THAT SCALER LADY?

OH, HAHA...

UNLESS YOU MEAN... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL THE HEADMISTRESS ABOUT MY SECRET PLAN, EH THREE-EYES?

DON'T WORRY, I DON'T TELL SECRETS!

GOOD, GOOD. HRMM... I DO MISS MY FAMILY, BE NICE TO TALK TO SOMEBODY ABOUT 'EM, ALRIGHT? I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT.
Okay, so... I'm going to cover something today that's a bit overdue. There's sort of a wildly varying level of knowledge of history in this class, so it's sort of important to cover some basics.

Today, we'll be covering a very important event that led to what was probably the world's greatest hero!

But... altogether it might be a little uncomfortable for some to hear.

I'll try to cover it sensitively, but... today we're talking about--

The living shadow.

Which is definitely going to touch on the exile of the trickster god, but...

It's complicated.

At any rate, it's an event a lot of people use to excuse vilification of tricksters, but ah... I'll tell it and you'll see.

For those not aware, the living shadow is a terrible, uncillable, shapeshifting monster.

Every generation or so, it reappears and wreaks havoc, it's responsible for so many deaths...

But... I guess I'd better start at the beginning.
The records on what happened are a bit spotty, but we'll cover it best we can.

It happened roughly 2,000 years ago. It's 1504, post-worldsplit so this would have been in 1622, second-age.

Before his exile, the trickster god was actually very highly regarded...

He was still the god of lies, tricks, and shapeshifters (which existed back then, but I'm pretty sure don't exist anymore), but he was much more powerful. Um, he looked different, too.

So, the most powerful beings in existence are the creation goddesses, Luna, Sola and Gaia. What gods are to mortals, they are to the other gods.

But of the other gods, the strongest are the nine gods of magic.

And before his exile, Jake was the most powerful of the magic gods.

It's pretty weird to imagine now, but there were temples to the god of lies, and he was openly worshipped by many.

But one day that all changed. He created a terrible monster from his own body. He unleashed it on the world, where it destroyed cities, and killed many thousands...

For this, he was exiled.

Um... that's the most well-known and commonly accepted story, anyway.

But it has a few holes. For one thing, most primary sources indicate that he was actually exiled before creating that monster, the living shadow.

And for another, it uh, really doesn't give any reason for him doing that beyond "he's evil".

I don't defend his actions in any way, but that seems a little simplistic...
Another version says Jake had a fight with the Elemental gods, who wanted to take his place as the strongest god. Which... yeah, the Elementals took over from the Perception gods as the strongest.

They say he created the Living Shadow to spite Elementalists.

Though that seems plausible, the Living Shadow kills indiscriminately. It does kill Tricksters. So it seems like that would be an odd revenge...

Whatever the reason was, what Jake did 2,000 years ago is no reason to kill Tricksters.

Really there’s no reason for that.

Well... let’s move on.

Because even though we can’t say with certainty what happened leading up to the creation of the Living Shadow, the aftermath is very well documented.

Documented by a human woman, the Great Hero known as the Shadowslayer!

Umm... I’ve forgotten her name.

Er... if she’s such a big hero, how come y’ forgot her name?

In my defence, she’s had many names...

I guess I’ll just call her the Slayer for now.

Miss— Isn’t “Slayer” a title usually given to heroes who kill Undead?

Very astute!

As a Zombie is an Undead person, the Living Shadow was created from the Trickster god’s own (old) body... so it’s sort of like an Undead god.
SO... THE SHADOWSLAYER! BEFORE SHE BECAME THE SLAYER, SHE LIVED WITH HER GRANDFATHER! APPARENTLY HE WAS A GOOD HERO HIMSELF, IN HIS TIME.

AT THAT POINT HE WAS A BIT OLD FOR THAT SORT OF THING. BUT THE SLAYER WANTED TO BECOME A HERO TOO, OR AT LEAST LEARN HOW TO FIGHT AND TO DEFEND HERSELF.

BUT... SHE WASN'T THE BEST AT IT.

TCH, DANGIT...

HAHA, NICE JOB WITH THE SWORD! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO, KILL THAT DIRT?

OH GET LOST! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY?

BUSY WHAT? BUSY UNLEARNING HOW TO SWORD FIGHT? OR JUST FAILING TO?

I'LL FIGHT YOU...

HAHA, AS IF.

HEYYYY...

DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL GET IT WITH TIME. IT'S HARDER FOR SOME PEOPLE, BUT YOU ARE IMPROVING. TAKE ALL THE TIME YOU NEED.

YOU'LL GET THERE EVENTUALLY. AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, I'LL LET YOU HAVE MY SWORD.

PASSED DOWN IN THE SLAYER'S FAMILY WAS THIS ONE AMAZING SWORD. IT WAS AN OLD SWORD, CRAFTED BY THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED BEFORE THE LOWER GODS WERE CREATED.

UH... M-MISS... YOU MEAN, SORT OF LIKE... MY SWORD?

YES, JUST LIKE YOUR...

S-S-SATURN!! ARE YOU THE SHADOW SLAYER?? YOU'VE GOTTA TELL ME IF YOU'RE THE SHADOW SLAYER!

I.... WHAT???
SIR. CAN WE PLEASE GO... WE ALREADY KNOW ALL THIS GARBAGE.

YOU'VE ASKED THAT THREE TIMES AND I'VE TOLD YOU TWICE ALREADY, NO.

SIR THAT'S NOT FAIR, I ONLY ASKED ONCE, THESE TWO ASKED THEM OTHER TIMES.

RIGHT. YOU THREE. SIT UP FRONT.

BUT SIR--! NO MORE INTERRUPTIONS.

WE'RE GOING TO FINISH COVERING THE SHADOW SLAYER NOW.

NOOOGH SIRRRRR.... QUIET DOWN.

SO AS WITH ALL OF THESE SORTS OF THINGS, THE SHADOWSLAYER MARS LIVED A RELATIVELY NORMAL LIFE, UP UNTIL....

WH--WHAT WAS THAT--?

GRANDPA?

WHAT THE HECK--?

WE NEED TO GET TO A TEMPLE, QUICK.

WHAT WAS IT--?

I'VE NO IDEA, BUT SOMEONE THERE SHOULD KNOW.
EVERYONE, STAY CALM, PLEASE. THERE'S ROOM INSIDE FOR THOSE WHO NEED...

EXCUSE ME. WHAT'S GOING ON?

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOU, SORRY! THERE'S TOO MANY PEOPLE THAT NEED HEALING.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT?

THE TRICKSTER GOD CREATED A MONSTER. IT'S ALL DARK, A SHAPESHIFTING BEAST, THEY'RE CALLING IT THE LIVING SHADOW...

THE CITY HAS BEEN DESTROYED. EVERYONE... THEY'RE ALL DEAD... MAGIC WON'T WORK ON THE MONSTER... THE GODS THEMSELVES COULDN'T STOP IT...

WH-WHAT...? WHY WOULD... WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

NOBODY KNOWS...

EXCUSE ME! I'VE SOME SPARE ROOMS AND FOOD, I COULD FIT A HALF-DOZEN SURVIVORS IN MY HOUSE.

THAT WOULD BE A BIG HELP, THANK YOU...

MARS WENT HOME, BUT SHE PASSED A SMALL SHRINE TO THE GODDESS OF TRUTH ON THE WAY. SHE PAUSED TO PRAY, AND WAS VISITED BY A VISION OF THE GODDESS HERSELF.

MARS... THE GOD OF LIES HAS CREATED A MONSTER THAT GODS AND THEIR MAGIC CANNOT TOUCH... YOUR GRANDFATHER'S SWORD... WAS CREATED BY THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED BEFORE THE GODS... TAKE IT... AND YOU MAY SLAY THE SHADOW...

MARS, GO HOME AND GET SOME GUEST BEDS SET UP. I'LL MEET YOU THERE LATER.

R-RIGHT.

SIR I DON'T BELIEVE THAT EVER HAPPENED.

SNICKERS-
SHUT UP Azure.
WHAT? IT SOUNDS PHONY.

WELL, YOU'RE NOT WRONG TO BE SCEPTICAL...

THE SOURCE FOR THIS IS ONLY THE SHADOW SLAYER HERSELF. WHO KNOWS IF THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED THEN. SHE COULD HAVE GOTTEN THAT IDEA FROM ELSEWHERE. EVENTS COULD HAVE UNFOLDED DIFFERENTLY...

BUT WHATEVER IT WAS, SHE DID END UP WITH THE IDEA TO USE HER GRANDFATHER'S SWORD.

AND WHERE OTHERS TRIED AND FAILED, USING THAT SWORD SHE WAS ABLE TO FACE DOWN THE LIVING SHADOW.

AND STRIKE IT DOWN.

BUT AS IT DIED, THE SHADOW SPOKE.

HA... HA... YOU SLAY ME, GIRL....

BUT YOUR EFFORT... WILL COME TO NOTHING...

YOU ARE BUT A MORTAL... THOUGH I DIE NOW... I WILL RETURN...

HA... HA... HA....

OH- OH YEAH?! THEN I'LL BE HERE TO STOP YOU AGAIN!!

NO... YOU WON'T...

YOU'RE MORTAL.

THE LIVING SHADOW WOULD SPEND THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS OR SO GATHERING ITS POWER, AND RE-EMERGE LONG AFTER THE SLAYER WAS DEAD, BUT THE SLAYER WOULD BE THERE TO STOP IT. ALTAIR, GOD OF DEATH, HEARD HER PLEDGE TO BE THERE TO STOP IT AGAIN.

HE ALLOWED HER THIS. BEFORE THE LIVING SHADOW IS TO REAPPEAR, THE SHADOW SLAYER WILL BE REBORN, SO SHE IS READY TO FIGHT IT.

SIR I DON'T BELIEVE THAT EITHER.

HMM WELL ALL OF THAT IS TRUE THOUGH.
When the Shadow Slayer is reborn, she keeps her memories.

Between that and using her legendary sword to slay the Shadow, it’s quite inarguably true.

But what if it's false though?

I'm not the Slayer! What?!

I'd know if I was... wouldn't I?

Miss San... why would the Trickster God give a legendary sword to the Shadow Slayer, though? That wouldn't make sense.

Hmm... oh yeah, that's true...

Your sword is a deeper mystery, then. Th. Just like the Trickster God to sow confusion. I wish I could just get a good look at you, then I could figure things out!

Umm, Miss San? I'm lost. Can you finish the story? I ain't heard it before. Why would Saturn be the Shadow Slayer?

Right. Y-yeah, I'll continue.

Hi, Wrath!

Oh Hey-Elliot, right?

That's right.

I have a question for ya. Might be a little offensive.

Er. Okay, shoot.

What exactly do you do all day? Looking after your prince can't possibly take that much time, considering he's in class all day and you don't really need to follow him around.

Hahaha! You got me!
I'm right, huh?

Well, the main reason I'm here is really to counter certain Gardean influences. But that certain Gardean influence seems to be making himself scarce, so it's pretty easy.

I've mainly been popping into town to see what's around.

So hey, do you know if there's any good primary schools in the area?

Hm, I know Mylenor's High School's a bit lacking, s'why I left my kids with the wife.

Well, I knew you were here to provide Reinan influence to your prince, but that school thing is a little odd.

Uh, gotta go—

Oh hi, Officer Piperion!

...I prefer "Darius", Mister Sinclair...

Alright Darius, then call me Wrath!

Thank you... sorry we got off on the wrong foot, Wrath.

I was having a really bad day, and I could have sworn last time I was here... well, anyway, that's no excuse. I apologize.

Apology accepted! Always better not to be at odds, I find.

Say - you're Gardean. What are the schools around here like? Haha, apart from Dhark's, of course.

Say - you're Gardean. What are the schools around here like? Haha, apart from Dhark's, of course.

The ones in Mylenor are quite good. But I do have to ask why...

Sure! I'm only here to act as the prince's guard for now. There's a more permanent replacement on the way. Headmistress Ryushin okayed her bringing her family.

Yeah, she's got two little girls so she'd appreciate me sorting out schools for them before she arrives, y'see.

Her, huh...

Yes, I see...

After the coup, figure it'll be nice for 'em to be somewhere quieter. Though Rei is very nice now... she did fight in the independence army with me, so I figure she could use a holiday with the kids.
YEP, GOOD TO BE WITH FAMILY. I MISS MINE BACK IN REI.

GUESS IT’S DIFFERENT FOR YOU, HUH? YOU’VE GOT YOUR LOVELY WIFE RIGHT HERE.

THE WORD IS “ESTRANGED”...

OH. HN. SORRY TO HEAR THAT.

I GUESS... WE’VE BEEN TRYING TO RECONNECT A LITTLE BIT, BUT... I DON’T KNOW. IT’S... HMM.

NOT SURE IF YOU REALLY WANT TO?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

IF YOU DON’T MIND ME PRYING, WHY DID YOU DRIFT APART?

DRIFT IS A LITTLE SOFT FOR IT... WELL.... I GUESS THE MAIN THING IS THAT SHE DID KILL A MAN.

SHEESH, WOULDN’T YOU’VE PICKED THAT.

FOR GOOD REASON? OR-?

I DON’T KNOW - DOES IT MATTER?

WHAT?

YOU’VE... NEVER KILLED ANYONE BEFORE?

WHAT? OF COURSE NOT!

BUT YOU’RE A GUARDSMAN!

A GUARD, NOT AN EXECUTIONER!

WHY? HAVE YOU KILLED SOMEONE?

WELL OF COURSE I HAVE! I WAS IN THE REINAN ARMY OF INDEPENDENCE... KILLING MAY BE REGRETTABLE, BUT IT’S SOMETIMES UNAVOIDABLE.

WELL, NEVERMIND. THAT WAS A DOWNER CONVERSATION ANYWAY. HEY, WANNA SEE A PORTRAIT OF MY WIFE?

ER...

HERE.

UM...

I’M JUDGING YOU.
Er... is that your children on the other side of the locket? That's lovely...

Oh yeah, it is. I miss them too, y'know?

Very realistic portraits, too.

Yeah, got 'em done when the war ended. Hmm. You know, that seer told me to talk to you about family. I wonder if she doesn't like you.

Hm. I wonder if a lot of people around here don't like me.

Ah, chin up. It's just a posting.

So! The shadow slayer is reborn to fight the shadow there you have it.

They say she remembers her previous lives, so I guess it can't be Saturn.

...unless there's something she's not telling us.

Wh-what?! I don't know anything about this!

Nah, no offence, but... if you had hundreds of years to practise, I think you'd be better with swords.

Um... yeah, but... either way, why did the trickster god give me a sword? Some sort of trick, maybe, but why me?...

H-hey, it's okay... it's not a big deal. Jake is kind of capricious, he just sort of does things... anyway, we'll stand by you, whatever happens.

Thanks...

(Cough) Well, anyway that's all for today I think. I'd better let you go!

Remember the important part of this lesson was anybody can be heroic and also don't pick on tricksters! I think...

...do you think Miss San might be a trickster?

Eeh, seems suss, right?
Hey! We’ve got reader questions! Tape asks “So, what happens if your curse does both good and bad things? Is it a blessing? A curse? A blurse?”

Clup half full? Or clup half empty?
Yo my money’s on “blurse”.
You’d just say it’s a blessing and also a curse. Doesn’t come up often.

There was another part to this. “Can you curse a god?”
Ohhh, haha, well... I guess I’d be the one to ask.

Yes, you can. But you have to be extremely powerful to do it. I would expect that mainly gods can curse other gods, and often it takes a group of them working together. But I suppose if you got enough people working together you could, up until whoever you were targeting got wind of it and took steps to stop it.

Boring! Give us some examples!

This one time, I cursed Ceraph to be bright blue. He was never able to remove that curse, by the way. He sort of rocks that look though.

Well yeah. Hmm... ah, I’ve just the thing. Cuffs! You’re familiar with them. Technically they’re cursed items, they block the magic of whomever they’re on. If you’re really really powerful it takes more than one set. I wasuffed at one point, it took three sets of cuffs. I suppose some people could have done the same thing, really only theoretical, though.

If you try to cuff me I will murder you.
Duly noted.
IT'S QUESTION TIME!
BECAUSE OF LAZINESS?
AND SICKNESS!

SO IF THE CREATION GODDESSES ARE TO THE REGULAR GODS WHAT REGULAR GODS ARE TO MORTALS, HOW DO THOSE REGULAR GODS FEEL ABOUT THE CREATION GODDESSES?

LET'S DO A SURVEY!!

HEY LORD LEVI, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT SOLA AND LUNA?
RADIANT! THEIR POWER IS BEYOND COMPREHENSION.

HOW ABOUT GAIA?
SHE GAVE US LIFE, BLESS HER...

OKAY LEVIATHAN IS ALL SORT OF... STEREOTYPICAL GOD WORSHIP THING. LET'S FIND SOMEBODY WHO'S ACTUALLY SPENT TIME AROUND THE GODDESSES... TIME? OOH!

HEY EMEL! LONG TIME NO SEE! WHATCHA THINK ABOUT SOLA AND LUNA?
UGH, THOSE TWO ARE SO DIFFICULT. I HOPE I NEVER HAVE TO SEE THEM AGAIN.

HOW ABOUT GAIA?
I GUESS SHE'S OKAY? AS LONG AS I NEVER HAVE TO SEE HER.

DOES... MAYBE EMELIA FEELS THAT WAY ABOUT MOST GODS THOUGH. HRMM. ONE MORE!

HEY TRICKY! SOLA AND LUNA - WHAT'RE THEY LIKE?
THEIR LITTLE CHESS MATCH WITH LIGHT AND DARK POWERS? ADORABLE! BUT DO NOT PROVOKE THEM.

HOW ABOUT GAIA-
DON'T SAY HER NAME!! SHE MIGHT HEAR YOU!

WAIT... ARE YOU AS SCARED OF HER?
I HAVE MET HER BEFORE, YES.
...It's so dark down here...
DID I TAKE A WRONG TURN? I THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS THE RIGHT WAY TO CLASS...
WH- Hello?? Is there anyone down here? Fels! I thought I heard A-

EAAAAAAAAAHHH!!!

AHAHAHA! Got ya!
BOOM! PRANKMasters!

WH- You again! Don't you have anything better to do than pull tricks on people?! Don't you have class to go to?!

She's not wrong, we'd better get to history.