

TEACHER COMMENTARY: THE (RATHER LENGTHY) SCENE BELOW DOES A GREAT JOB OF INTRODUCING THE MEMBERS OF LLR (LEAGUE OF THE LAST RESORT) TO EACH OTHER. IN ADDITION TO THE “BASIC SIX” MEMBERS, WE HAVE THE GOVERNMENT AGENTS, TWO OF WHOM ARE NAMED “PHIL.” BOTH STUDENTS WERE ACTUALLY NAMED PHIL, AND BOTH HAD SERVED IN THE MILITARY (ONE ARMY, ONE MARINE), SO WE CALLED THEM PHIL 1 AND PHIL 2. JUST LET ME GUSH OVER HOW ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IS: IT BRINGS EXPERIENCES INTO THE CLASSROOM THAT PROBABLY NEVER WOULD HAVE MATERIALIZED OTHERWISE. LATER, WE FOUND THAT PHIL 1 (OR WAS IT PHIL 2? :-) HAD ACTUALLY PERFORMED SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR DIGNITARIES VISITING WAR ZONES. THIS KNOWLEDGE BECAME CENTRAL IN FORMULATING THE TEAM’S RESPONSE TO KATRINA’S DEVASTATION.

INT. SAME AS SCENE 1.

Lights up and we see the entirety of the LLR group around the table. SAAVERDO, MER GAB SHALL, AURIANE ST. CYR, STAJSA SHICHENKO, and RICARDO VENGADOR have joined SONNY, the PHILs, and ABEL.

ABEL

I appreciate all your patience and understanding considering the extraordinary circumstances of this situation. You were all chosen by myself and a team of MIST experts for your particular skills and character constructs for this particular task. It is my understanding that all of you are facing, shall we say, less than ideal circumstances in your home dimensions. MIST exists to utilize technologies to literally change the past for the better. In this particular case, the second landfall of Hurricane Katrina. We know historically that the efforts of this Earth’s government were ineffective in saving as many people as possible, and the culture of New Orleans itself. Our goals for you are not directly outlined, but we expect you to determine the best

possible course of action to avert this disaster. There is nothing we can do to stop the hurricane, which will be making its second landfall in five days time. We need you to limit the damages to the population of New Orleans as much as possible. Any questions?

SONNY

I have a question. (Points to Mer Gab Shall) What is that?

AURIANE

I think we're all thinking that, as if this situation couldn't get more bizarre.

ABEL

I think it would be best if I let Mer Gab Shall answer that question.

RICARDO

Mer Gab what?

MER' GAB' SHALL

Mer. Gab. Shall.

STAJSA

You speak English?

MER' GAB' SHALL

I speak many languages. I am a member of the Moreahan race. I am what is known as a mystic among our species. I was declared an enemy of the state after a battle with the humans in my home timeline. Shortly after, I found myself here.

SONNY

What precisely does that mean you can do? Being a mystic and all that shit.

MER'GAB'SHALL

I have certain mental abilities that you would call psychic. I am one of the most powerful of the Moreahan mystics. I was a soldier in our war against the humans.

RICARDO

War against the humans? How is it we are supposed to trust this...thing?

P1

The war concerning Moreahans and Humans takes place in a different dimension than this.

TEACHER COMMENTARY: OKAY. EVEN THE AUTHORS ADMITTED THE "ALTERNATE UNIVERSE" GAMBIT WAS A PRETTY CHEESY "SOLUTION." BUT HERE'S THE THING ABOUT EXPERIENTIAL AND TRANSGRESSIVE LEARNING: IT'S LIKE THE ULTIMATE SHOT OF BRAINSTORMING, WHERE EVEN THE "CHEESY," THROUGH CONTACT AND MODIFICATION WITH OTHER UTTERANCES CAN BECOME SOMETHING NOT SO CHEESY. I'M SAYING YOU CAN LEARN TO USE CHEESINESS :-)

P2

On this Earth, there are no Moreahans. We suggest you simply not bother thinking about whatever war may or may not be occurring in a dimension that only Mer'Gab'Shall is from.

MER' GAB' SHALL

I am nothing if not pragmatic. I have no quarrel with any of you. And if I am stuck here until this task is complete, then that is what I'll do.

SONNY

How goddamn noble of you.

MER' GAB' SHALL

I am not familiar with this word, "goddamn". What does it mean?

SONNY

(laughs)

Never mind. It's not important.

MER' GAB' SHALL

(staring at Sonny)

It is difficult to read you. I am not used to this.

SONNY

I'd appreciate if you stay the hell out of my head, Mer. May I call you Mer?

MER' GAB' SHALL

If you prefer.

SONNY

I do.

SAAVEDRO

Hold on. Look, it's obvious none of us know who each other is or anything about one another. But you know, don't you?

TEACHER COMMENTARY: IT'S HERE THAT WE GET A GLIMPSE OF THE IRON FIST IN THE VELVET GLOVE OF M.I.S.T. BOTH ABEL AND THE PHILS ARE PERFECTLY AWARE THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE EXTRACTED FROM THEIR HOME SPACE AND TIME PRECISELY AT THE POINT WHERE THEY WERE AT ROCK BOTTOM, WITH NO PLACE TO GO. SO, THE NAME "THE LEAGUE OF THE LAST RESORT" HAS AT LEAST A DOUBLE, IRONIC MEANING: NEW ORLEANS IS CONSIDERED A RESORT DESTINATION, ONE OF THE LATEST (LAST) TO SURVIVE NATURAL DEVASTATION, AND EACH OF THESE INDIVIDUALS IS PERSONALLY AT THEIR WIT'S END, SO THE LLR AND SAVING NEW ORLEANS REALLY IS THEIR "LAST RESORT."

ABEL

Yes. We know a great deal about all of you. That is why you are here.

SAAVEDRO

Then I can assume you have dossiers on all of us. Instead of bothering with introductions, just give us those. That would make this process much more efficient.

P1

The information in these alleged dossiers that you suggest we have, even if we did have them on our person, is classified.

P2

As of this moment, you're all on a need-to-know basis.

SAAVEDRO

I am no stranger to those types of answers. I am also certain that you know a lot about me and what I am capable of. Which makes me wonder, how is it you plan to convince me that I just shouldn't leave as soon as I get the chance.

P1

Because you are a terrorist in your home timeline. You would have been caught, put on trial, and executed had we not extracted you.

1. **TEACHER COMMENTARY: NOT ALL MEMBERS HAD THIS SERIOUS A CONSEQUENCE FACING THEM IN THEIR HOME TIMELINE, BUT EACH HAD SUFFERED PERSONAL DISASTER (LISTON'S CAREER DESTROYED OVER RUMORS HE "THREW" A TITLE BOUT TO MUHAMMAD ALI; AURIANE RECOVERING FROM METHADONE TREATMENTS; RICARDO ON THE LAM FROM LA PINCHE MADRE; SO FORTH) WHICH LEFT THEM WIDE OPEN TO THE ADMITTEDLY HEROIC QUEST FOR WHICH THEY'D BEEN BROUGHT TO NEW ORLEANS. ONE BY-PRODUCT OF THIS WAS HOW WE CAME TO HAVE SOME SPIRITED DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HEROISM, WHO GETS CALLED TO IT, AND WHAT ARE ITS CONSEQUENCES. ARE HEROES SOMETIMES ORDINARY FOLK WHO'VE SIMPLY RUN OUT OF ALTERNATIVES?**

P2

You stay here and help to the best of your ability, and we will link you to wherever you wish to go.

AURIANE

And what exactly determines "the best of our ability"?

P1

We will determine that.

**TEACHER COMMENTARY: PRETTY
POTENT THREAT, THAT. "PLAY BALL,
OR...WELL, IT'S MARDI GRAS FOREVER..."**

ABEL places a large file on the table in front LLR.

ABEL

This is all the information we can provide you. It contains information on the efforts of this government to assist with this disaster, and why they have failed and continue to fail. It also includes extensive information on the culture and history of New Orleans which we believe you will find useful as you set about the task of saving it. We know about all of your individual problems in the timelines we extracted you from. And we can help you, if you help us.

P1

We will be monitoring you at all times.

P2

We have eyes and ears everywhere.
If at any point one of you
deviates from the intended plan,
or we determine you plan on
causing more harm than good...

P1

You will be removed from the
equation.

RICARDO

Meaning what precisely?

P2

That you will be removed from the
equation.

RICARDO

(Laughs)...Thanks for clearing *that*
up.

P1

You have a great deal of work to do
and very little time to do it in.

P2

We suggest you get started. If you
require assistance, we will do what
we can.

RICARDO

How do we contact you?

P1

You won't have to. We'll be watching
and if you need to contact us, we
will find you.

P2

(as dryly as possible)

Best of luck.

The PHILs exit the room. ABEL remains. SAAVEDRO opens the file on the table and begins to thumb through it. He hands certain documents to the left and right and the other members of LLR.

SONNY (to ABEL)

I don't suppose it's too much to hope that there may be some bourbon left somewhere around here?

ABEL

I don't think you should be drinking...

SONNY

Listen, Keller, alcohol is the universal social grease and is exactly what the hell we need right now considering we've all found ourselves in this ridiculous and difficult to comprehend situation. Now where's the goddamn stairs so I can go get myself a goddamn drink.

ABEL (pointing off stage)

Down that hallway, stairs are on the left.

SONNY

Thank you. Anybody else want anything?

There is a pause and several members of the group look at each other as if they aren't sure what to answer. Except RICARDO, who speaks first.

RICARDO

Tequila.

STAJSA

Vodka.

MER' GAB' SHALL

Alcohol is not generally something mystics ingest as it can have adverse affects on our abilities. But as you humans say, "when in Rome" I believe it is. I would like to try this vodka Stajsa mentioned. She likes it quite a lot.

STAJSA

How do you know that?

MER' GAB' SHALL

Surface information like what foods and drinks one likes, or someone's first name, are easiest to access.

AURIANE

Any whiskey you find will be fine with me.

SAAVEDRO

Nothing for me.

SONNY

Five bourbons coming up.

TEACHER COMMENTARY: SONNY'S LAST LINE...NOW, THAT'S FUNNY! ALSO, MAYBE APPROPRIATE GIVEN THE STEREOTYPING GOING ON HERE (THE LATINO WANTS TEQUILA, THE UKRAINIAN PREFERS VODKA, AND THE EAST ST. LOUIS THUG SEES TO IT THAT EVERYONE DRINKS BOURBON). IF EVERYONE DRINKS BOURBON, CAN TRUE AMITY BE FAR OFF? :-) OF COURSE IT CAN...