

Thosl's Brilliant Idea

Thosl sought out the immature dragon of the party. When she found him she asked without preamble, "I require your assistance for an upcoming mission. It is your transformation capabilities that I desire."

G'lishi stared at Thosl, puzzled. Presumably she knew something he didn't, that's why she was a higher rank. "I do not know how to give you my abilities but I can try to learn," he answered.

Thosl bit back a nasty retort and said, "When we engage in the mission then you will use your transformation capabilities to transform yourself, not to transform me, or anyone else."

"Oh." G'lishi looked both relieved and disappointed. He nodded and said, "I can do that."

Thosl prodded one of her frontal fangs with the tip of her tongue for a moment and eyed G'lishi. She stopped doing it suddenly and said, "We are going to construct a wolf-pack. I was asked to engage in a meeting and georgely it was dull. The plan under discussion was as reprehensibly incapable of movement as one of my statues. In essence our desired result is to navigate the enemy into an unexpected expiration. I then suggested that I had a much better idea that would not only serve the goal of the purposeful navigation but also demoralise the soldiers. So I explained to them my plans. You must

join us as one of the wolves. We will run mawlong into the earthbound troops and wreak havoc amongst their ranks. Will you join us?"

G'lishi took some time to digest what Thosl had said, remaining silent for several seconds after she finished speaking. He slowly nodded his head in agreement. "I can do this, for a few hours. I am assuming I am to keep my identity as a dragon a secret? That is to say no magic?"

Feeling some relief that child was not mentally deficient Thosl said, "Yes that is partially correct. We do not desire the enemy to know what we are. To that end you are not to break the transformation until the mission is over, it should not over-extend your limitations in time to remain changed. It is my suggestion not to engage in the casting of spells either, though we will certainly prepare in advance of the initial thrust. Do you have any further queries?"

G'lishi asked, "Shall I disguise my aura with mind-magic? I have been told that there are some mind-magic users serving the Coalition. There is some risk of detection, but I suspect the risk is less than not shielding my aura."

"I do not think so," Thosl began, "You inevitably would be the only one who would be misrepresented in that manner. Engage the alteration as you wish should you desire the psychological security it must bring."

G'lishi stared at her for a few moments. He realised

she didn't understand, presumably because she has no mind-magic of her own. He tried to explain. "I do not worry much about a man with mind-magic doing much to me, I can shield myself. What I worry about is the disguise. If I disguise my aura, they won't think anything is unusual if they look at us. If I do not disguise my aura, when they look they will realise that I am not a wolf." With a vaguely humanoid shrug of his shoulders he adds, "I may be the most magical entity they have ever seen without the disguise."

He continued on, "I am also capable of mind speech. That might be useful in co-ordinating our actions. Are you also capable of mind speech?" G'lishi asked.

Thosl spoke in an obviously measured tone in American, "These mind powers are superfluous, unneeded for this mission."

The language switch threw G'lishi for a second. He merely nodded acceptance of her decision and commented, "What about my innate magic? I suspect I should not use it either, however there may be a time when I could duck out of sight and then teleport without being seen."

Returning to Dragonese Thosl told him, "No teleporting. Breathe fire, rip them apart, shoot them with beams from your eyes, toss them about like broken children's effigies, I care not. I require nothing more as part of my mission plan."

G'lishi was confused again. Before he could do

anything, she turned to leave. She stopped and craned her neck around to look at G'lishi, "2nd Lieutenant Chris expressed that he was final authority, so any further inquiries can go to him. I have situations that require my attention."

G'lishi merely nodded again, and lay down to meditate on what was being asked of him.