

Dreams of Autumn – Ludmila Koslov

Dreams of Autumn – Ludmila Koslov – IC Text

Sometime between the Autumn Equinox and the Winter Solstice, you have the following dream.

You are suspended in a black void. In front of you, hanging on nothing, are an array of masks. It is familiar to you; you saw it when you visited the chamber in which you met Mazen the Many-Faced.

As one the masks speak, in many voices.

"Ludmila. We see you. Yes. We see your thoughts. We see your potential. Yes. Yes."

There is a sound like the movement of a great crowd. You hear the murmurings of theatre-goers, and are distracted for a moment. When you look back, you see that a stony-faced figure has joined you, hanging in the dark. Its limbs hang loose, like a puppet with cut strings. It carries a bronze tablet.

"This is Jannem. This Jannem has been helping us! Yes! Speak!"

The figure jerks into life, and speaks. "By the will of Their Majesties I have produced a Most Excellent ritual text of Great Excitement to the Gull-Catcher. It is the Net of the Gulls."

The figure falls limp again. The voice of Mazen sounds again.

"The knowledge of this ritual is yours. Yes! It will let you whisper to us, as we to you. It will let you tell us of what you do in the name of power. Yes! In the name of power, cheat. In the name of power, lie. In the name of power, speak honeyed words. Please us with your stories, and we will aid you. Yes! We have done this before. We did it for dear Daniella. We will do it again. We can do it for you. We may teach others this ritual... but you will be the first. Yes! Come to us!"

Jannem jerks back into life, and raises the tablet. On it is written... ah! It is so bright, and the words are not words, they are the words of power itself, they are – your head reels, as the knowledge of the ritual is transmitted directly into your mind, burned in bronze upon you.

You wake up with a headache... and a newly mastered ritual echoes inside your head. You also feel confident – more than normal!

Dreams of Autumn – Ludmila Koslov – OC Explanation

You have gained mastery of the ritual "Net of the Gulls". A copy of the OC details of this ritual is provided on the next page.

In addition, you have become enchanted with the effects of "The Conspirator's Cloak". This is a regular enchantment, and can be displaced by another in the normal way. It lasts until the start of the Spring Equinox. The effects are as follows:

You experience the following potent roleplaying effect: You feel clever and confident, secure in your own plans and schemes, and convinced of your superior intellect and ambitions. You rarely experience guilt about the decisions you make, and find it easy to take whatever action is needed to advance your goals. You may respond to any roleplaying effect that would coerce you to follow another being, or to reveal information about your plans, schemes or actions, by remaining calm and slightly contemptuous instead.)

This also provides a source of spiritual strength for purposes of overcoming any roleplaying effect that would coerce them to follow another being, or to reveal information about their plans, schemes or actions.

This enchantment is a personal aura, similar to that created using the anointing ceremony. A character can only be under one aura at a time. This ritual will replace any standard personal aura (including those created by similar rituals), but is not powerful enough to remove a durable personal aura. Likewise, any anointing can replace (or remove) this enchantment. A detect magic spell determines the realm and magnitude of the effect, but the insight skill will not detect any spiritual component to the enchantment.

The effect lasts until the start of the Spring Equinox.)

**NOTE: THIS IS AN OC SUMMARY OF THE RITUAL
“NET OF THE GULLS”, INTENDED ONLY FOR A
CHARACTER WHO HAS MASTERED THE RITUAL .**

**IT IS NOT AN IC ITEM IN ANY SENSE. IT MAY NOT BE
USED TO CONFER MASTERY OF THIS RITUAL TO
ANOTHER.**

Net of the Gulls

Autumn Magnitude 2

Performing the Ritual

Performing this ritual takes at least 2 minutes of roleplaying.

While performing this ritual, a contributor must write a message on a piece of paper, which they should read aloud. The paper must have a hole cut in its centre, no less than the size of a five-Throne coin.

The message must take the form of a poem, formed of up to 10 rhyming couplets. Each couplet should be no more than 30 words long. The poem should detail the ways in which a named individual has recently lied, cheated or manipulated others to gain power. That individual should be present throughout the ritual, and may be a contributor.

All contributors and the named individual must conceal their features for the duration of the ritual.

Effects

When the ritual is complete, the specially prepared paper disappears and is received by the Autumn Eternal Mazen; the paper should be given to the referee.

This ritual does not transfer pictures or items.

The Eternal is peripherally aware of who sent the message.