

Legacy

Eternal Recursion

In almost utter darkness, a wounded young man trekked through what seemed like a labyrinth of misty woodlands. Trying to make sense of his ever changing surroundings, the young man began to fall in and out of consciousness. As the world began to fade around him, a figure cloaked in shadows appeared in front of him. Kneeling on the ground, the young man began to laugh at the sight of who stood before him.

“You know Mentis, I was kind of hoping Death had finally come to greet me this time around instead of you again.” An inhuman smile spread across Mentis’ lips.

“Is that so? Tell me child of man, who says I am not Death? For all you know, I could have taken your soul in that throne room years ago. All of this could be your afterlife.” Rising to

his feet, the young man took a deep breath. The pain in his chest had disappeared as did the wound on his side.

“If this was the afterlife, then why are you still here? One such as yourself cannot die, nor are you allowed to leave the world of men. Besides, was it not you who said that I have been barred from both everlasting paradise and eternal damnation alike for what we have done? That was the price of our deal, was it not? To take your place once my time finally came.” Mentis chuckled and began to walk towards a clearing in the trees.

“Come now child, at least pretend to be shocked or frightened from time to time. Now that we are bound to each other, all I am allowed to see is your mundane life until the appointed day.” The young man began to laugh again as he caught up to Mentis.

“Mundane? You think wars, assassinations, and politics to be mundane?” Mentis let out a sigh and shook his head.

“For the most part, yes. You forget child, I have been watching this world of yours for the past fourteen hundred years. Not much in the events of man interests me anymore; however I do enjoy things like the looks of utter despair in acts betrayal or the expressions of pure joy at the birth of one’s child. Those brief moments where one is completely consumed by a single emotion is what allows me to stay sane as I watch this eternally stagnant world.” As they approach the edge of the misty forest, Mentis came to a sudden stop. The young man proceeded onward out into the clearing.

“You should really be more careful child. As I have said before, for every time you die in the real world before the appointed day your sentence extends by a century. If you keep this up,

you will be forced to suffer longer than even I did. Do try not to die so much.” As the young man body began to fade back to world of the living, he turned around and gave Mentis a warm smile.

“But Mentis, if I did that you would get lonely all by yourself. We cannot have that, now can we?” Mentis was about to scold the boy, but after seeing his face instead let out a heavy sigh and smiled.

“I guess not. Until next time then, enjoy what life you have left your Highness.”