

2/22 Nealday: It has been nearly seven months since the Eibin brothers were brought to us after witnessing the murder of their parents, and sadly the authorities have yet to locate any relatives able to care for the boys. Derlin's condition remains of particular concern as he has shown scant improvement in all these months of treatment. Little Brenton seems to be recovering normally but Derlin has become withdrawn and continues to suffer unremitting night terrors that only the shadow lantern his parents gave him can quell.

2/23 Bathday: Another unexpected call from Count Lowls. These have become so common and Lowls' focus is so singular that they no longer leave me apprehensive. He requested to see me after his visit with Zandalus today, though. He claims to have a theoretical solution for the poor man's condition. I don't know what the count and my prized patient have been discussing — and Lowls again refused to share — but I doubt that lordly amateur psychologist has truly hit upon anything of worth. Regardless, I'd be a fool not to humor my liege.

2/24 Friday: Mr. Elbowine had to be transferred to the care of Dr. Whitmarsh following an incident of fraternization with Dr. Scaen. I feared this would trigger an episode of self-harm but he took the change with surprising equanimity. I still have misgivings about taking a case such as his but the hospital cannot afford to anger his powerful family in Aideal and Mr. Elbowine seems to be here of his own free will at least.

2/25 Saturday: Lowls' "solution" was not at all what I expected. I have no clue where he turned it up, but on his most recent visit he brought along a copy of Valhadis's *The Chain of Nights*, a near-legendary collection of psycho-arcane studies and treatments focused on dreaming. While I abhor arcane tampering, if there's a permanent solution to Zandalus's nightmares, it could be here. Lowls

allowed me to study the text for the duration of his visit, but staunchly refused to leave it in my possession.

2/26 Sunday: I had to remind a few of our nurses about the importance of watching what they say around our more impressionable patients. While using the phrase "keeps her heart from exploding" might just be a figure of speech to us, it could be far more terrifying to an old woman suffering from dementia. Mrs.

Cezualo is now convinced that missing a single dose of her medication will literally have that effect! While we were able to calm her eventually, I worry about the long-term effects those careless words could have on her fragile psyche.

2/27 Monday: Lowls has made me an extraordinary offer: his copy of *The Chain of Nights*. All I must do in return is accept a handful of new patients—former associates of his that have suffered some unprecedented manner of group amnesia.

Normally, I would accept this as charity on the count's behalf, but he insists that I keep no record of their committal. The terms make me suspicious, but I can learn more of these curious strangers once they're in my care. If it means the possibility of a cure for Zandalus and others, then I welcome the bargain.

2/28 Tuesday: The patients I agreed to accept from Lowls have arrived, and are unprecedented indeed. Not only do they all appear to be suffering from a fugue state, but they also exhibit all the signs of anterograde amnesia as well! To have one patient exhibit both conditions would be monumental, but to have an entire group to do so is practically unheard of. Luckily, Lowls also delivered the *Chain of Nights* as promised, which could yield cures for so many of my patients here.

3/1 Wednesday: *The Chain of Nights* is a marvel. It will take years of study to unravel all its possibilities, but already I've discovered a process by which chronic dreams might be drawn forth and disposed of like so much psychic gristle.

Tomorrow our experiment begins.