




WHY YES...

... I MOST CERTAINLY PREVENTED YOU AND YOUR SPIES FROM DISCOVERING YOUR SISTER HAD A CHILD.

YOU'RE A FOOL IF YOU THINK I'D DO LESS THAN PROTECT MY ONLY LIVING GRANDCHILD FROM YOUR... IMPULSES.



YOU THOUGHT I WOULD MURDER MY OWN NIECE.



MY DARLING
SWORD OF
THE EAST...

... PERHAPS YOU
WOULDN'T HAVE
MURDERED HER
OUTRIGHT... BUT YOU
WOULD HAVE HELD THE
CHILD HOSTAGE AND
BROKEN HER LITTLE
BODY TO PIECES... IF IT
MEANT MAKING
MORIKO OBEY.



AND MORIKO
WOULD NOT HAVE
OBEYED. BOTH OF
YOU ARE THE
SAME, IN THAT
REGARD.

YOU DECAYING
BITCH. ALL THESE
YEARS YOU
PROTECTED HER
SECRETS.

YOU KNEW, DIDN'T YOU, THAT MORIKO
HAD FOUND THE WEAPON I'VE BEEN
SEARCHING FOR. THE WEAPON THAT
COULD SAVE US.

THE WEAPON
THAT WILL
DESTROY US,
YOU MEAN.



YOU AND MORIKO
WERE BOTH WRONG TO
SEARCH FOR THAT...THING.
IF THE SHAMAN-EMPRESS
HERSELF DEEMED HER
CREATION TOO
DANGEROUS TO CONTROL,
THEN WHAT DAMNED
HUBRIS ALLOWED YOU TO
THINK THAT YOU WERE UP
TO THE TASK?

BETTER ME
THAN THE DUSK
COURT. OR THE
FEDERATION OF
MAN AND THEIR
WITCHES.

SAID LIKE
A MORTAL
CHILD.

THE WEAPON
YOU SEEK IS
NOT WHAT YOU
THINK IT IS.

YOU WILL NEVER
CONTROL IT. YOU CAN ONLY
STALL ITS ARRIVAL, AND
EVEN THAT IS FUTILE. A
YEAR OR TEN THOUSAND...
WHAT SLEEPS MUST
AWAKEN.



HOW IT AWAKENS, HOWEVER... AND WHO DOES THE WAKING...

NOW THAT MIGHT MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MOST DEAD... AND ALL DEAD.

BUT YOU, MY DEAR, ARE MOSTLY IRRELEVANT TO EITHER OUTCOME.


YOU TALK LIKE THIS WEAPON IS A LIVING THING. IT'S JUST A MASK.



AND NOW THE DUSK COURT HAS BROKEN ITS SILENCE. THEY FOUND MORIKO'S DAUGHTER... AND SURELY THE WEAPON MY SISTER GAVE HER.

MY POOR DEAR. HOW LITTLE YOU KNOW.

I SUPPOSE I PUT YOU AT A DISADVANTAGE WHEN I BOUGHT ALL YOUR SPIES. YOUR BRILLIANCE, I'M AFRAID, DOES NOT EXTEND FAR BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD.



IF ONLY YOUR SISTER WAS STILL ALIVE.


THIS IS HER FAULT, AFTER ALL.



YOU --

NO, YOU WILL NOT SPEAK.

AN ENVOY OF THE DUSK COURT IS COMING HERE TO DISCUSS HOW WE MIGHT ALLY OURSELVES IN OUR COMMON GOAL OF CONTAINING THIS... WEAPON... YOU GO DESIRE.



IN FACT, I BELIEVE SHE'S ALREADY ARRIVED. GO DO BE POLITE. SHE KNOWS MORE ABOUT MORIKO'S DAUGHTER THAN ANYONE ALIVE.