

Opportunity for Study

At noon in Kalyn, ruling capital of Sylva, Royal Magician Kyrian is thinking glorious thoughts. By tapping straight into Kalyn's main mana fault, his runic construct should sustain binding with raw illithid psionics, and voilà: Sylva's first fully mana-built quill aid! This will plainly show that odious advisory group that Magician Kyrian is not just "a string of unruly fiascos" (not his words). With a flourish, Sylva's most scintillating magical luminary flips a switch; in instants, most of downtown Kalyn is unconscious by psionic blast.

Luckily, inhabitants soon stir, and officials avoid panic for about half an hour, until a minor functionary in Kalyn's city watch thinks to pick up a quill and draft a summary of this situation. At this point it is found that anybody who aims at writing a word, digit, or pictogram is cut short by an unknown compulsion against making marks containing any sort of information. Background mana pollution is put forth as a suspicion.

Word flows across Kalyn. Common folk and administrators both think on how to run Sylva's most important organizational and policy-making hub without any writing, and instantly know what this situation calls for: blind panic. It's only about an hour until a distraught playwright calls up a mob and ousts Kalyn's city council.

That night, from his manor atop a luckily intact portion of Royal Hill, Kyrian scans a continuing display of chaos from which occasional shouts still carry: windows on official buildings now in shards; shops and banks vacant of both patrons and goods; and soot rising from distant conflagrations.

Kyrian discards his quill plans right away, thanks to this fascinating display of total sociopolitical implosion right in front of him. What an opportunity for study! A bright day for scholars all around, Kyrian thinks, and turns to his room happy.