

"The Multi Facet™" Series Linked Writing™



RYDIN

Created By: Nadir Shirazi



SHABINA

What if there was only one one source of fresh water left?.....

Welcome to Dunyai. The Royligio Facet "Believe in the One" while the Vibulare Facet "Reason to None". They both want to control the Well of Life. Only the Multi Facet keeps the peace.

Barely..... How long can they stay "The Middle"?

Read the first part of the story at

www.themultifacetseries.com

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Guide Page (You can always come back here!)

What is Linked Writing™ and how does it work?

"The Multi Facet™" Series will employ a format called Linked Writing™. In this process the reader gets a simultaneous vantage point between different characters who are experiencing events at the same time.

There are four ways to experience the story, try them all!

- Nadir Shirazi Creator "The Multi Facet™" Series

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Rydin Vantage (Split Screen)



Shabina Vantage (Split Screen)



Shabina Vantage (Single)



Rydin Vantage (Single)



Shabina Vantage (Split Screen)



Rydin Vantage (Split Screen)



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Rydin Vantage (Split Screen)



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Shabina Vantage (Split Screen)



SHABINA

Rydin Vantage

Esbin brought Rydin directly via the platforms from the Sanctuary Zone. Rydin had hidden out of sight on the way down, so anyone looking would only see Esbin and not him. They both stepped off the platform onto the edge of a roof that Rydin knew was the World Water Council Chamber. At the centre was an oval skylight opening that looked into the Chamber below. Surrounding the skylight and standing fanned out like a 360 degree human fence were some of the most intense men and women Rydin had ever seen: Waleez. They were different than the usual guard who watched him. These were elite. Dressed in dark green Shalmeez waistcoats, they looked fierce and intimidating.

Shabina Vantage

Shabina stood poised as her father announced her. His voice was muffled, but that was because she was behind two large doors measuring 60 feet high and 20 feet across. She had a fleeting desire to hide forever behind these doors and hide from everyone else, but she obliterated that thought. She chided herself, this was what she had worked so hard for! Suddenly, the doors swung open and she could hear her father's booming voice from the Chief Elect's perch directly above her.

“And with great pleasure I present a vision of the future. This year's Opening Ceremony of the World Water Council will be conducted for the Multi Facet by Potential Shabina Rhung and accompanied by her sisters Thalina Rhung and Corina Rhung.”

Rydin Vantage

Rydin looked anxiously at Esbin who gave him a reassuring smile. As Esbin strode forward, the soldiers saluted. Esbin nodded and simply walked by them and Rydin followed quickly, in case the soldiers changed their mind about him.

Five feet away from the skylight, Esbin halted Rydin. He spoke firmly.

“Rydin, you and I both know that you are not supposed to be here. These men and women are sworn to me,” he gestured to the Waleez, “however it is best if we keep your visit as discreet as possible. I am taking a risk by bringing you here, but of all people, you have a right to see this. Please watch from here.” Esbin’s tone left no doubt that this wasn’t a request.

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Shabina Vantage

The Chamber broke into applause. The Royligio and Vibulare would be on their best behaviour here of course and would pay her every compliment, even if they didn’t mean it.

Shabina stepped forward and began to walk on the ramp that led to the centre dais where she would begin the ceremony. Thalina was to her left and Corina her right having already entered through their gates. As she walked they walked behind her. Despite the pressure of the moment, Shabina surveyed the chamber around her.

It was divided into 6 equal sections, and each section had a lower and a higher seating level. To her right in the red seats, were the Religai the most powerful of the Royligio. On her left in the violet seats, were the Secule, the most powerful of the Vibulare. Next to the Religai

Rydin Vantage

Rydin tried to fight the apprehension he felt and tried to compose himself, he nodded not trusting his words at the moment. He took a deep breath and forced himself to look into the opening: better to face this head on he thought, than let it smack you in the face. Even though he was not as close as he would have liked to be, the skylight was a good vantage point. Rydin could still see into the chamber making out the figures below, the chamber was noisy and electric.

He was hoping to see his brothers and his parents but saw her instead.

A mix of emotions and thoughts coursed through his entire being. He felt a little unsteady.

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Shabina Vantage

were the orange seats occupied by the Faithai, and next to Secule were the Atheste in the Indigo seats. Directly in front of her line of sight, yellow and blue seats completed the ring. The yellow seats belonged to the Spiritai, while the blue belonged to the Agnoste. Historically, the 6 groups had been distinct, but during the first Water War the Religai had formed, (or rather coerced) an alliance with the Faithai and Spiritai to form the Royligio Facet. The Secule had retaliated by manipulating the Atheste and the Agnoste into an entente of their own: the Vibulare Facet.

Shabina saw Jair and Zaynah sitting right next to each other, well as closely as they could of Jair was in the Agnoste section, while Zaynah was in the Spiritai section. The Spiritai

Rydin Vantage

Esbin asked him if he was all right. Rydin didn't look at him, and tried to focus, to no effect. She, like everyone else had abandoned him. Just like his brothers, she was on to her own future espousing her "Middle Philosophy." He tried to focus on something, anything else, but his eyes even from this distance saw one thing.

The hood that marked her as a future candidate to lead. It shimmered shades of green light then dark....

They were 10 years old and she had just received her hood and they were exploring the

Shabina Vantage

were the least stringent in their beliefs and the Agnoste the least vehement in their reasons. Their "sub-facets" as they were now known had good relations even after the War. Jair and Zaynah were a living example of it. Shabina smiled quickly at each of them and they both blushed, neither looking at the other.

The chamber was a work of art, the intricate line work of the interior was only matched by the natural beauty of the Freshtra Trees that grew in perfect harmony. Not allowing herself to look too much, Shabina continued her walk towards the centre. Corina and Thalina continued like shadows behind. They would only follow her so far, and despite their earlier argument she did feel reassured having them there. She dared not look back towards her

Rydin Vantage

Refuge Zone in disguises. She had rolled her ankle and he had used her hood to wrap it up. It was soft and silky yet somehow very durable. He carried her on his back through the market.

They were 13 and he had made her a wristlet, on it he had written, "Don't forget me when you're famous." She had laughed and had used lines to weave the wristlet into her hood...

They were 16 and she was consoling him because his brothers had left for the Royligio and Vibulare. He was crying on her shoulder, she didn't mind that her hood was getting wet...

They were 19 and arguing, because she had told him that she was in serious contention to lead the Multi Facet. He had told her that the Multi Facet was just as stupid as the Royligio

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Shabina Vantage

father because that would be perceived as a sign of weakness by the Royligio and Vibulare, and of course by the Wraze's. Lavindra would love to gain any advantage over her. The Multi Facet diplomats were seated at the exterior of ring around the centre dais with water in between them. It was a symbolic show, as the Multi Facet core was on the interior of the barrier that separated them from Royligio and Vibulare seating, as if to say: we protect our own.

That thought brought a laugh to Shabina. The core was always determining who was the best leadership potential. Her father had held the leadership for the Rhung's, however his brother was the leader of the Wraze's, the rival group. The Rhung and the Wraze had no love lost

Rydin Vantage

and Vibulare, because it didn't try to unite the two Facets, but just tried to keep the peace and preserve itself. She ripped his wristlet from her hood and threw it at him...

They were 20. She asked him why he didn't want to be with her. He was distant, and just said that he was not important to her anymore, not with her future ahead. She got angry and told him he was being stupid, that he was important to her. He asked her to give up on leading the Multi Facet and to help him find a new way to end the hostility between the Royligio and Vibulare. She called him an idiotic dreamer. He looked back at her and said: "Well then your majesty, go enjoy your life, stay out of mine, don't choke on your hood..."

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Shabina Vantage

between them. The Wraze's were betting Lavindra would unseat Shabina when the time came for Pieroz to step down. Lavindra sat inside the water ring lower than where Jair and Zaynah sat. Lavindra fixed Shabina with a smile that never touched her dark green eyes. Lavindra's Potential Hood was styled over her dark hair in an intricate pattern (of course) that made Shabina feel self conscious of her own simple draping. How she despised her cousin, always trying to play games and be friends when it suited her. Shabina would rather have a Zulfi as a friend than her any day! Shabina knew that her reaction was being watched. She gave a genuine smile to Lavindra, and the shock on her cousin's face was priceless.

Rydin Vantage

That was the last time before today he had seen her.

The chamber erupted in applause as voices announced... his brothers, Rydin finally saw them and for the second time he nearly lost his balance.

Arsin and Billen looked impressive decked out in their regalia, so did she and a part of Rydin was proud of his brothers and of...her.

She was saying something that silenced the crowd, but her words weren't words to him they were tremors and he fought to subside them not sure of what she was saying. She was walking forward with purpose; her sisters were standing behind her not following. Somehow

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Shabina Vantage

But her victory was short lived. At that moment, the buzzing in the Chamber grew louder and to her right she saw a herald rush from the side entrance of the Royligio. To her left, a herald rushed to the side entrance of the Vibulare.

They practically tried to shout at each other.

“May I present to you, Thadro and Velut, Reasoned Leaders of the Vibulare, and their daughter Mimeen!”

“May I present to you, Kaylin and Jesle, Believed Leaders of the Royligio, and their son Zian!”

The chamber erupted with the Royligi and Vibulare sections trying to out applaud each other.

Shabina tried to settle the jitters that were remerging. So the rumours were true, Zian and

Rydin Vantage

those two never really inspired the most confidence in him.

She was no better than either of his brothers; despite her vehement defence of the Multi Facet it was no different than the Royligio or Vibulare to him. Still he was a little awed by the pomp and circumstance of the occasion and truthfully a little drawn to it.

But then he looked again at the spectrum of colours they wore: (Arsin in flowing Roy attire, Billen in a streamlined Vib ensemble, and Shabina in her Middle green) gave way to the realization of who they were and what they represented. Rydin looked down at his own plain grey clothing and felt inadequate, not for the first time.

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Shabina Vantage

Mimeen had finally separated. Shabina's eyes misted for a second, but she quickly blinked away the tears that were forming. Corina and Thalina were nearly level with her and were looking at her with those stupid smirks on their faces. They knew where her mind had just wandered off to. She could not-no would not lose focus, especially not for *him*!

Fortunately for her, the heralds were still trying to out shout one another.

“...and as selected by The Vibulare Facet for the Ceremony, Billen Razi!”

“...and as confirmed by The Royligio Facet for the Ceremony Arsin Razi!”

all the eyes in the room were fixated on the two men coming through their respective entrances as the crowd went even louder. Billen Razi and Arsin Razi. Shabina couldn't help

Rydin Vantage

He hadn't seen any of them in years. Even though he was above the chamber, the distance to the ground might have been the size of the world. He had never felt so alone.

Rydin gritted his teeth and realized he had been daydreaming again. He could hear his mother's voice reprimanding him for losing focus.

She was closing in towards the centre of the Chamber. His brothers had made proclamations of their own and also moved towards the centre. He didn't need to focus to know what they were saying because those idiots had made him listen to their propaganda every day of his life. Rydin could recite both the Royligio Creed and Vibulare Charter in his

Shabina Vantage

looking around the chamber for a split second. Had he chosen a side? Stupid girl, she berated herself again. Not now, and certainly not for him! Yet why did she feel pleased that she didn't see him?

Arsin was the charmer he had entered waving to the crowd. He had darker skin than hers with wavy hair, and he gave a special smile to Corina, who practically gushed back. He did look supremely confident in the Royligio attire, prism dangling over his heart.

Billen was the formal one as he strode in with his right arm positioned perfectly resting on his shoulder. He saluted Thalina, who stupidly saluted back. He was light skinned with silver hair. Everything he did was with an air of intent and he looked poised with his prism in his

Rydin Vantage

sleep.

Rydin refocused as Shabina arrived slightly before his two brothers in the middle circle. Rydin knew this was some kind of ceremony, but he had always tuned out when his mother and father began to go on about how Billen or Arsin was going to take part in it. He hated everything to do with the Facets, and especially lining. Once his brothers left, he had stopped pretending to care.

Because Rydin couldn't use Emotive Lining, the Royligio could care less about him, and because he couldn't do Reasonal Lining he didn't exist to the Vibulare. Arsin was admitted to

Shabina Vantage

headband.

Instinctively Shabina touched her prism on her arm. It was time to take charge.

People were rushing over on each side to congratulate Thadro, his bulbous frame and smirking face making him look ever the sly leader, while his wife Jesle stood with her hands clasped seeming almost apologetic in the moment.

All the while, Velut nodded in triumph from her admirers. Her never-wavering stare was intended to strike intimidation, while her husband Thadro looked more interested in surveying the setting.

The crowd was not settling down. The Roys and Vibes were playing a game and Shabina was

Rydin Vantage

the top Roy lining academy and Billen the best Vib institution. As each of them got better at their type of lining, they grew apart and began to follow the garbage that the Royligio and Vibulare espoused. Soon they stopped talking to one another and stopped coming home. Lining drove them apart.

And Shabina had become obsessed with becoming the best at Middle Lining, spending every spare second on it.

Because he wasn't formally part of the Multi Facet, he was never given the chance to even attempt Middle Lining. Rydin could have punched somebody then. Lining! The source of every



Shabina Vantage

trying to middle it. Arsin and Billen were not proceeding down their walkways as they were supposed to. They instead were basking in the applause.

This Opening Ceremony was a tradition that dated back to the creation of the Multi Facet after the first Water War. The original leader of the Multi Facet Qarnain recognized that even though the Royligio and Vibulare had ceased hostilities, they each still had a great deal of animosity towards one another.

The ceremony was a small way for the two sides to compete and have bragging rights for the World Water Council Session at least until the Lining Festival. Shabina would elevate and line and create a holder for her prism. Arsin as the Royligio representative and Billen as the

Rydin Vantage

problem he had to live with. It had torn his family apart and had... he let his thoughts trail off. He didn't care about finishing that thought and he didn't care about her, he told himself.

Lining... It had ruined everything.

Rydin looked to Esbin, who read his face. "You want to know what they are about to do, right?"

Rydin sighed. "Yes Esbin what exactly is the big deal?"

Esbin looked at him as if he was talking to a child he had to instruct.

"You grew up with Cheif Elect Pieroz, and you don't know what is happening?"

Shabina Vantage

Vibulare one would each try to get her prism first, and counter her obstacles with their own lines. Even though it was supposed to be a light-hearted gesture as conceived over the centuries, it had turned into a highly charged political statement of who had the best liners.

Shabina had planned some challenging obstacles she hadn't told anyone about. She was aiming to add her name to history by forcing a draw where the obstacles were so hard neither Arsin or Billen could get her prism. It had happened only once before in history; even her father hadn't been able to achieve it.

To top it all of this year was even tenser because for the first time, two brothers would go head to head. There was so much hype around those two! People were forgetting that she

Rydin Vantage

Rydin got defensive. “I was never invited to the ceremony remember?”

“That’s hardly an excuse.”

“Are you going to tell me or not?!” Rydin knew he should be grateful, but he was annoyed.

Esbin relented. “Well this is the opening of the World Water Council. It is usually performed by the Chief Elect and a champion from each of the Royligio and Vibulare, but Pieroz insisted this year that Shabina would break tradition and open it herself. The political class objected fiercely, especially the Wraze’s but Pieroz wouldn’t be denied. The Royligio and Vibulare in response picked your brothers. Kind of a youth movement.”

Shabina Vantage

was the third side of this equation: she knew she had to take charge. She straightened without looking at either of her sisters. She didn’t need to look back to know that this small gesture had wiped the stupid smiles off their faces. Shabina didn’t need to speak Corina and Thalina knew that she was going to “own this.” They would go no further and she knew would be none too pleased about not being able to walk to the centre to meet those two. Tough! They were daughters of the Multi Facet and needed to start acting like it whatever the future held. She strode forward to the centre with purpose and now on her own. The chamber had been prepped to her frequency, so when she spoke her voice carried to the rafters, silencing

Rydin Vantage

“How generous of them,” Rydin rolled his eyes.

“Shabina will go up first and your brothers will ceremonially duel each other by racing to get her prism, it’s a tradition and the winner gets bragging rights.”

Rydin froze. “Bragging rights, Esbin what do you mean?!”

Esbin looked perplexed “Whomever retrieves the prism gets to say they defeated the other for that session. Some say it gives an edge before the negotiations get underway for either the Royligio or Vibulare. At the very least it gives bragging rights up until the Lining Festival.....

Shabina Vantage

all else.

“Madames et Monseiurgs Aurath aur Mardh, Ladies and Gentlemen of the esteemed World Water Council. It is with great pleasure I open the 131st Session of the World Water Council Water Negotiations.”

Her words filled the chamber and a pin drop silence hung after. She had caught the Royligio and Vibulare off guard because they thought she would wait. The Multi Facet did not wait!

Billen who was stationary, looked right at Shabina his face intense. Arsin bouncing on his feet looked downright angry. Billen straightened himself up and walked on his path over the water towards the centre from his entrance near the Secule. He spoke, his voice monotone

Rydin Vantage

Esbin was still talking but Rydin was no longer listening.

Bragging rights. Defeat. Edge.

Rydin had spent his whole life separating his brothers, there was no half speed, no joking and with the stakes this high.... In that moment Rydin knew what was going to happen next he saw it. Why did no one else understand! Why did they not see!

The Chamber. Burning carnage everywhere. The world in chaos.... and she was dying.

Dying.

Rydin turned away from the opening and Esbin looked at him with sympathy.

Shabina Vantage

but full of command.

“The only power in this world, is in the understanding that there are None Save Us. Those who dismiss this reality have shuttered their minds, leading to their delusion.”

When he saw his brother move, Arsin had moved forward immediately from his entrance near the Religai seats, on his path to the centre. He did not even wait for Billen’s sentence to finish before proclaiming his own statement and said:

“Salvation and success can only come from following the divine guidance of the One Creator. Those who reject this gift have closed off their hearts, resulting in their downfall.”

She had challenged them and they were responding. Not just to her, but to each other.

Rydin Vantage

“If it’s too much, I underst---

“No Esbin, please just let me look a little bit closer”

Esbin softened, for the first time in his life “Very well.”

And Rydin inched forward till he was right next to the opening. They had begun the ceremony and not fully understanding what he was doing Rydin abruptly leaned forward and fell....*in*.

He remembered Esbin trying to grab him and yelling “NO RYDIN!” Esbin’s voice sounded muffled like it was coming from under water.

Shabina Vantage

She arrived at the centre moments before they did.

In a flourish, she swept her cloak onto the ground and kneeled. “In the name of the Multi Facet I pledge to The Middle. To be the voice in the world that stays the hand of hatred and prejudice, words to solve but force if necessary to resolve. Let us Line.”

Rydin Vantage

As he floated in the air, he saw the most spectacular cavalcade of colours below. Then he dropped.

He wasn't as skilled in the air like his brothers or her, he had no prism and he couldn't line.

Rydin was going to die.

He yelled.

He fell.

At least the colours looked nice.

Shabina Vantage

Their words were like knives.

Hers was the shield.

Neither of *these two* brothers would ever get the best of her.

Ever.

The story continues with the Animated Trailer look out for our...

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Shabina Vantage (Split Screen)



SHABINA

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RYDIN

Shabina Vantage

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Shabina Vantage

But her victory was short lived. At that moment, the buzzing in the Chamber grew louder and to her right she saw a herald rush from the side entrance of the Royligio. To her left, a herald rushed to the side entrance of the Vibulare.

They practically tried to shout at each other.

“May I present to you, Thadro and Velut, Reasoned Leaders of the Vibulare, and their daughter Mimeen!”

“May I present to you, Kaylin and Jesle, Believed Leaders of the Royligio, and their son Zian!”

The chamber erupted with the Royligi and Vibulare sections trying to out applaud each other. Shabina tried to settle the jitters that were remerging. So the rumours were true, Zian and

Rydin Vantage

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That was the last time before today he had seen her.

The chamber erupted in applause as voices announced... his brothers, Rydin finally saw them and for the second time he nearly lost his balance.

Arsin and Billen looked impressive decked out in their regalia, so did she and a part of Rydin was proud of his brothers and of...her.

She was saying something that silenced the crowd, but her words weren't words to him they were tremors and he fought to subside them not sure of what she was saying. She was walking forward with purpose; her sisters were standing behind her not following. Somehow

Shabina Vantage

Mimeen had finally separated. Shabina's eyes misted for a second, but she quickly blinked away the tears that were forming. Corina and Thalina were nearly level with her and were looking at her with those stupid smirks on their faces. They knew where her mind had just wandered off to. She could not-no would not lose focus, especially not for *him*!

Fortunately for her, the heralds were still trying to out shout one another.

"...and as selected by The Vibulare Facet for the Ceremony, Billen Razi!"

"...and as confirmed by The Royligio Facet for the Ceremony Arsin Razi!"

all the eyes in the room were fixated on the two men coming through their respective entrances as the crowd went even louder. Billen Razi and Arsin Razi. Shabina couldn't help

Rydin Vantage

those two never really inspired the most confidence in him.

She was no better than either of his brothers; despite her vehement defence of the Multi Facet it was no different than the Royligio or Vibulare to him. Still he was a little awed by the pomp and circumstance of the occasion and truthfully a little drawn to it.

But then he looked again at the spectrum of colours they wore: (Arsin in flowing Roy attire, Billen in a streamlined Vib ensemble, and Shabina in her Middle green) gave way to the realization of who they were and what they represented. Rydin looked down at his own plain grey clothing and felt inadequate, not for the first time.

Shabina Vantage

looking around the chamber for a split second. Had he chosen a side? Stupid girl, she berated herself again. Not now, and certainly not for him! Yet why did she feel pleased that she didn't see him?

Arsin was the charmer he had entered waving to the crowd. He had darker skin than hers with wavy hair, and he gave a special smile to Corina, who practically gushed back. He did look supremely confident in the Royligio attire, prism dangling over his heart.

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Rydin Vantage

He hadn't seen any of them in years. Even though he was above the chamber, the distance to the ground might have been the size of the world. He had never felt so alone.

Rydin gritted his teeth and realized he had been daydreaming again. He could hear his mother's voice reprimanding him for losing focus.

She was closing in towards the centre of the Chamber. His brothers had made proclamations of their own and also moved towards the centre. He didn't need to focus to know what they were saying because those idiots had made him listen to their propaganda every day of his life. Rydin could recite both the Royligio Creed and Vibulare Charter in his

Shabina Vantage

headband.

Instinctively Shabina touched her prism on her arm. It was time to take charge.

People were rushing over on each side to congratulate Thadro, his bulbous frame and smirking face making him look ever the sly leader, while his wife Jesle stood with her hands clasped seeming almost apologetic in the moment.

All the while, Velut nodded in triumph from her admirers. Her never-wavering stare was intended to strike intimidation, while her husband Thadro looked more interested in surveying the setting.

The crowd was not settling down. The Roys and Vibes were playing a game and Shabina was

Rydin Vantage

sleep.

Rydin refocused as Shabina arrived slightly before his two brothers in the middle circle. Rydin knew this was some kind of ceremony, but he had always tuned out when his mother and father began to go on about how Billen or Arsin was going to take part in it. He hated everything to do with the Facets, and especially lining. Once his brothers left, he had stopped pretending to care.

Because Rydin couldn't use Emotive Lining, the Royligio could care less about him, and because he couldn't do Reasonal Lining he didn't exist to the Vibulare. Arsin was admitted to

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trying to middle it. Arsin and Billen were not proceeding down their walkways as they were supposed to. They instead were basking in the applause.

This Opening Ceremony was a tradition that dated back to the creation of the Multi Facet after the first Water War. The original leader of the Multi Facet Qarnain recognized that even though the Royligio and Vibulare had ceased hostilities, they each still had a great deal of animosity towards one another.

The ceremony was a small way for the two sides to compete and have bragging rights for the World Water Council Session at least until the Lining Festival. Shabina would elevate and line and create a holder for her prism. Arsin as the Royligio representative and Billen as the

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Rydin Vantage

the top Roy lining academy and Billen the best Vib institution. As each of them got better at their type of lining, they grew apart and began to follow the garbage that the Royligio and Vibulare espoused. Soon they stopped talking to one another and stopped coming home. Lining drove them apart.

And Shabina had become obsessed with becoming the best at Middle Lining, spending every spare second on it.

Because he wasn't formally part of the Multi Facet, he was never given the chance to even attempt Middle Lining. Rydin could have punched somebody then. Lining! The source of every

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Vibulare one would each try to get her prism first, and counter her obstacles with their own lines. Even though it was supposed to be a light-hearted gesture as conceived over the centuries, it had turned into a highly charged political statement of who had the best liners. Shabina had planned some challenging obstacles she hadn't told anyone about. She was aiming to add her name to history by forcing a draw where the obstacles were so hard neither Arsin or Billen could get her prism. It had happened only once before in history; even her father hadn't been able to achieve it.

To top it all of this year was even tenser because for the first time, two brothers would go head to head. There was so much hype around those two! People were forgetting that she

Rydin Vantage

problem he had to live with. It had torn his family apart and had... he let his thoughts trail off. He didn't care about finishing that thought and he didn't care about her, he told himself.

Lining... It had ruined everything.

Rydin looked to Esbin, who read his face. "You want to know what they are about to do, right?"

Rydin sighed. "Yes Esbin what exactly is the big deal?"

Esbin looked at him as if he was talking to a child he had to instruct.

"You grew up with Cheif Elect Pieroz, and you don't know what is happening?"

Shabina Vantage

was the third side of this equation: she knew she had to take charge. She straightened without looking at either of her sisters. She didn't need to look back to know that this small gesture had wiped the stupid smiles off their faces. Shabina didn't need to speak Corina and Thalina knew that she was going to "own this." They would go no further and she knew would be none too pleased about not being able to walk to the centre to meet those two. Tough! They were daughters of the Multi Facet and needed to start acting like it whatever the future held. She strode forward to the Centre with purpose and now on her own. The chamber had been prepped to her frequency, so when she spoke her voice carried to the rafters, silencing

Rydin Vantage

Rydin got defensive. "I was never invited to the ceremony remember?"

"That's hardly an excuse." added a period here

"Are you going to tell me or not?!" Rydin knew he should be grateful, but he was annoyed.

Esbin relented. "Well this is the opening of the World Water Council. It is usually performed by the Chief Elect and a champion from each of the Royligio and Vibulare, but Pieroz insisted this year that Shabina would break tradition and open it herself. The political class objected fiercely, especially the Wraze's but Pieroz wouldn't be denied. The Royligio and Vibulare in response picked your brothers. Kind of a youth movement."

Shabina Vantage

all else.

“Madames et Monseieurs Aurath aur Mardh, Ladies and Gentlemen of the esteemed World Water Council. It is with great pleasure I open the 131st Session of the World Water Council Water Negotiations.”

Her words filled the chamber and a pin drop silence hung after. She had caught the Royligio and Vibulare off guard because they thought she would wait. The Multi Facet did not wait! Billen who was stationary, looked right at Shabina his face intense. Arsin bouncing on his feet looked downright angry. Billen straightened himself up and walked on his path over the water towards the centre from his entrance near the Secule. He spoke, his voice monotone

Rydin Vantage

“How generous of them,” Rydin rolled his eyes.

“Shabina will go up first and your brothers will ceremonially duel each other by racing to get her prism, it’s a tradition and the winner gets bragging rights.”

Rydin froze. “Bragging rights, Esbin what do you mean?!”

Esbin looked perplexed “Whoever retrieves the prism gets to say they defeated the other for that session. Some say it gives an edge before the negotiations get underway for either the Royligio or Vibulare. At the very least it gives bragging rights up until the Lining Festival.....

Shabina Vantage

but full of command.

“The only power in this world, is in the understanding that there are None Save Us. Those who dismiss this reality have shuttered their minds, leading to their delusion.”

When he saw his brother move, Arsin had moved forward immediately from his entrance near the Religai seats, on his path to the centre. He did not even wait for Billen’s sentence to finish before proclaiming his own statement and said:

“Salvation and success can only come from following the divine guidance of the One Creator. Those who reject this gift have closed off their hearts, resulting in their downfall.”

She had challenged them and they were responding. Not just to her, but to each other.

Rydin Vantage

Esbin was still talking but Rydin was no longer listening.

Bragging rights. Defeat. Edge.

Rydin had spent his whole life separating his brothers, there was no half speed, no joking and with the stakes this high.... In that moment Rydin knew what was going to happen next he saw it. Why did no one else understand! Why did they not see!

The Chamber. Burning carnage everywhere. The world in chaos.... and she was dying.

Dying.

Rydin turned away from the opening and Esbin looked at him with sympathy.

Shabina Vantage

She arrived at the centre moments before they did.

In a flourish, she swept her cloak onto the ground and kneeled. “In the name of the Multi Facet I pledge to The Middle. To be the voice in the world that stays the hand of hatred and prejudice, words to solve but force if necessary to resolve. Let us Line.”

Rydin Vantage

“If it’s too much, I underst---

“No Esbin, please just let me look a little bit closer”

Esbin softened, for the first time in his life “Very well.”

And Rydin inched forward till he was right next to the opening. They had begun the ceremony and not fully understanding what he was doing Rydin abruptly leaned forward and fell....*in*.

He remembered Esbin trying to grab him and yelling “NO RYDIN!” Esbin’s voice sounded muffled like it was coming from under water.

Shabina Vantage

Their words were like knives.

Hers was the shield.

Neither of *these two* brothers would ever get the best of her.

Ever.

Rydin Vantage

As he floated in the air, he saw the most spectacular cavalcade of colours below. Then he dropped.

He wasn't as skilled in the air like his brothers or her, he had no prism and he couldn't line.

Rydin was going to die.

He yelled.

He fell.

At least the colours looked nice.

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Shabina Vantage (Single)



SHABINA

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Shabina Vantage

Shabina stood poised as her father announced her. His voice was muffled, but that was because she was behind two large doors measuring 60 feet high and 20 feet across.

She had a fleeting desire to hide forever behind these doors and hide from everyone else, but she obliterated that thought. She chided herself, this was what she had worked so hard for!

Suddenly, the doors swung open and she could hear her father's booming voice from the Chief Elect's perch directly above her.

"And with great pleasure I present a vision of the future. This year's Opening Ceremony of the World Water Council will be conducted for the Multi Facet by Potential Shabina Rhung and accompanied by her sisters Thalina Rhung and Corina Rhung."

The Chamber broke into applause. The Royligio and Vibulare would be on their best behaviour here of course and would pay her every compliment, even if they didn't mean it.

Shabina stepped forward and began to walk on the ramp that led to the centre dais where she would begin the ceremony. Thalina was to her left and Corina her right having already entered through their gates. As she walked they walked behind her. Despite the pressure of the moment, Shabina surveyed the chamber around her. It was divided into 6 equal sections, and each section had a lower and a higher seating level. To her right in the red seats, were the Religai the most powerful of the Royligio. On her left in the violet seats, were the Secule, the most powerful of the Vibulare. Next to the Religai were the orange seats occupied by the Faithai, and next to Secule were the Atheste in the Indigo seats. Directly in front of her line

Shabina Vantage

of sight, yellow and blue seats completed the ring. The yellow seats belonged to the Spiritai, while the blue belonged to the Agnoste. Historically, the 6 groups had been distinct, but during the first Water War the Religai had formed, (or rather coerced) an alliance with the Faithai and Spiritai to form the Royligio Facet. The Secule had retaliated by manipulating the Atheste and the Agnoste into an entente of their own: the Vibulare Facet.

Shabina saw Jair and Zaynah sitting right next to each other, well as closely as they could. Jair was in the Agnoste section, while Zaynah was in the Spiritai section. The Spiritai were the least stringent in their beliefs and the Agnoste the least vehement in their reasons. Their “sub-facets” as they were now known had good relations even after the War. Jair and Zaynah were a living example of it. Shabina smiled quickly at each of them and they both blushed, neither looking at the other.

The chamber was a work of art, the intricate line work of the interior was only matched by the natural beauty of the Freshtra Trees that grew in perfect harmony. Not allowing herself to look too much, Shabina continued her walk towards the centre. Corina and Thalina continued like shadows behind. They would only follow her so far, and despite their earlier argument she did feel reassured having them there. She dared not look back towards her father because that would be perceived as a sign of weakness by the Royligio and Vibulare, and of course by the Wraze's. Lavindra would love to gain any advantage over her. The Multi Facet diplomats were seated at the exterior of ring around the centre dais with water in

Shabina Vantage

between them. It was a symbolic show, as the Multi Facet core was on the interior of the barrier that separated them from Royligio and Vibulare seating, as if to say: we protect our own.

That thought brought a laugh to Shabina. The core was always determining who was the best leadership potential. Her father had held the leadership for the Rhung's, however his brother was the leader of the Wraze's, the rival group. The Rhung and the Wraze had no love lost between them. The Wraze's were betting Lavindra would unseat Shabina when the time came for Pieroz to step down. Lavindra sat inside the water ring lower than where Jair and Zaynah sat. Lavindra fixed Shabina with a smile that never touched her dark green eyes. Lavindra's Potential Hood was styled over her dark hair in an intricate pattern (of course) that made Shabina feel self conscious of her own simple draping. How she despised her cousin, always trying to play games and be friends when it suited her. Shabina would rather have a Zulfi as a friend than her any day! Shabina knew that her reaction was being watched. She gave a genuine smile to Lavindra, and the shock on her cousin's face was priceless.

But her victory was short lived. At that moment, the buzzing in the Chamber grew louder and to her right she saw a herald rush from the side entrance of the Royligio. To her left, a herald rushed to the side entrance of the Vibulare.

They practically tried to shout at each other.

Shabina Vantage

"May I present to you, Thadro and Velut, Reasoned Leaders of the Vibulare, and their daughter Mimeen!"

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The chamber erupted with the Royligi and Vibulare sections trying to out applaud each other.

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"...and as selected by The Vibulare Facet for the Ceremony, Billen Razi!"

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all the eyes in the room were fixated on the two men coming through their respective entrances as the crowd went even louder. Billen Razi and Arsin Razi. Shabina couldn't help looking around the chamber for a split second. Had he chosen a side? Stupid girl, she berated herself again. Not now, and certainly not for him! Yet why did she feel pleased that she didn't see him?

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Billen who was stationary, looked right at Shabina his face intense. Arsin bouncing on his feet looked downright angry. Billen straightened himself up and walked on his path over the water towards the centre from his entrance near the Secule. He spoke, his voice monotone but full of command.

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When he saw his brother move, Arsin had moved forward immediately from his entrance near the Religai seats, on his path to the centre. He did not even wait for Billen’s sentence to finish before proclaiming his own statement and said:

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Shabina Vantage

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Rydin Vantage (Single)



RYDIN

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Rydin Vantage

Esbin brought Rydin directly via the platforms from the Sanctuary Zone. Rydin had hidden out of sight on the way down, so anyone looking would only see Esbin and not him. They both stepped off the platform onto the edge of a roof that Rydin knew was the World Water Council Chamber. At the centre was an oval skylight opening that looked into the Chamber below. Surrounding the skylight and standing fanned out like a 360 degree human fence were some of the most intense men and women Rydin had ever seen: Waleez. They were different than the usual guard who watched him. These were elite. Dressed in dark green Shalmeez waistcoats, they looked fierce and intimidating.

Rydin looked anxiously at Esbin who gave him a reassuring smile. As Esbin strode forward, the soldiers saluted. Esbin nodded and simply walked by them and Rydin followed quickly, in case the soldiers changed their mind about him.

Five feet away from the skylight, Esbin halted Rydin. He spoke firmly.

“Rydin, you and I both know that you are not supposed to be here. These men and women are sworn to me,” he gestured to the Waleez, “however it is best if we keep your visit as discreet as possible. I am taking a risk by bringing you here, but of all people, you have a right to see this. Please watch from here.” Esbin’s tone left no doubt that this wasn’t a request.

Rydin tried to fight the apprehension he felt and tried to compose himself, he nodded not trusting his words at the moment. He took a deep breath and forced himself to look into the opening: better to face this head on he thought, than let it smack you in the face. Even

Rydin Vantage

though he was not as close as he would have liked to be, the skylight was a good vantage point. Rydin could still see into the chamber making out the figures below, the chamber was noisy and electric.

He was hoping to see his brothers and his parents but saw *her* instead.

A mix of emotions and thoughts coursed through his entire being. He felt a little unsteady.

Esbin asked him if he was all right. Rydin didn't look at him, and tried to focus, to no effect.

She, like everyone else had abandoned him. Just like his brothers, she was on to her own future espousing her "Middle Philosophy." He tried to focus on something, anything else, but his eyes even from this distance saw one thing.

The hood that marked her as a future candidate to lead. It shimmered shades of green light then dark....

They were 10 years old and she had just received her hood and they were exploring the Refuge Zone in disguises. She had rolled her ankle and he had used her hood to wrap it up. It was soft and silky yet somehow very durable. He carried her on his back through the market...

There were 13 and he had made her a wristlet, on it he had written, "Don't forget me when you're famous." She had laughed and had use lines to weave the wristlet into her hood...

They were 16 and she was consoling him because his brothers had left for the Royligio and Vibulare. He was crying on her shoulder, she didn't mind that her hood was getting wet...

They were 19 and arguing, because she had told him that she was in serious contention to

Rydin Vantage

lead the Multi Facet. He had told her that the Multi Facet was just as stupid as the Royligio and Vibulare, because it didn't try to unite the two Facets, but just tried to keep the peace and preserve itself. She ripped his wristlet from her hood and threw it at him...

They were 20. She asked him why he didn't want to be with her. He was distant, and just said that he was not important to her anymore, not with her future ahead. She got angry and told him he was being stupid, that he was important to her. He asked her to give up on leading the Multi Facet and to help him find a new way to end the hostility between the Royligio and Vibulare. She called him an idiotic dreamer. He looked back at her and said: "Well then your majesty, go enjoy your life, stay out of mine, don't choke on your hood..."

That was the last time before today he had seen her.

The chamber erupted in applause as voices announced... his brothers, Rydin finally saw them and for the second time he nearly lost his balance.

Arsin and Billen looked impressive decked out in their regalia, so did she and a part of Rydin was proud of his brothers and of...her.

She was saying something that silenced the crowd, but her words weren't words to him they were tremors and he fought to subside them not sure of what she was saying. She was walking forward with purpose; her sisters were standing behind her not following. Somehow those two never really inspired the most confidence in him.

She was no better than either of his brothers; despite her vehement defence of the Multi

Rydin Vantage

Facet it was no different than the Royligio or Vibulare to him. Still he was a little awed by the pomp and circumstance of the occasion and truthfully a little drawn to it.

But then he looked again at the spectrum of colours they wore: (Arsin in flowing Roy attire, Billen in a streamlined Vib ensemble, and Shabina in her Middle green) gave way to the realization of who they were and what they represented. Rydin looked down at his own plain grey clothing and felt inadequate, not for the first time.

He hadn't seen any of them in years. Even though he was above the chamber, the distance to the ground might have been the size of the world. He had never felt so alone.

Rydin gritted his teeth and realized he had been daydreaming again. He could hear his mother's voice reprimanding him for losing focus.

She was closing in towards the centre of the Chamber. His brothers had made proclamations of their own and also moved towards the centre. He didn't need to focus to know what they were saying because those idiots had made him listen to their propaganda every day of his life.

Rydin could recite both the Royligio Creed and Vibulare Charter in his sleep.

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stopped pretending to care.

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Because he wasn't formally part of the Multi Facet, he was never given the chance to even attempt Middle Lining. Rydin could have punched somebody then. Lining! The source of every problem he had to live with. It had torn his family apart and had... he let his thoughts trail off. He didn't care about finishing that thought and he didn't care about her, he told himself.

Lining... It had ruined everything.

Rydin looked to Esbin, who read his face. "You want to know what they are about to do, right?"

Rydin sighed. "Yes Esbin what exactly is the big deal?"

Esbin looked at him as if he was talking to a child he had to instruct.

"You grew up with Cheif Elect Pieroz, and you don't know what is happening?"

Rydin Vantage

Rydin got defensive. “I was never invited to the ceremony remember?”

“That’s hardly an excuse.”

“Are you going to tell me or not?!” Rydin knew he should be grateful, but he was annoyed.

Esbin relented. “Well this is the opening of the World Water Council. It is usually performed by the Chief Elect and a champion from each of the Royligio and Vibulare, but Pieroz insisted this year that Shabina would break tradition and open it herself. The political class objected fiercely, especially the Wraze’s but Pieroz wouldn’t be denied. The Royligio and Vibulare in response picked your brothers. Kind of a youth movement.”

“How generous of them,” Rydin rolled his eyes.

“Shabina will go up first and your brothers will ceremonially duel each other by racing to get her prism, it’s a tradition and the winner gets bragging rights.”

Rydin froze. “Bragging rights, Esbin what do you mean?!”

Esbin looked perplexed “Whoever retrieves the prism gets to say they defeated the other for that session. Some say it gives an edge before the negotiations get underway for either the Royligio or Vibulare. At the very least it gives bragging rights up until the Lining Festival.....

Esbin was still talking but Rydin was no longer listening.

Bragging rights. Defeat. Edge.

Rydin had spent his whole life separating his brothers, there was no half speed, no joking and

Rydin Vantage

Rydin had spent his whole life separating his brothers, there was no half speed, no joking and with the stakes this high.... In that moment Rydin knew what was going to happen next he saw it. Why did no one else understand! Why did they not see!

The Chamber. Burning carnage everywhere. The world in chaos.... and she was dying.

Dying.

Rydin turned away from the opening and Esbin looked at him with sympathy.

“If it’s too much, I underst---

“No Esbin, please just let me look a little bit closer”

Esbin softened, for the first time in his life “Very well.”

And Rydin inched forward till he was right next to the opening. They had begun the ceremony and not fully understanding what he was doing Rydin abruptly leaned forward and fell....*in*.

He remembered Esbin trying to grab him and yelling “NO RYDIN!” Esbin’s voice sounded muffled like it was coming from a under water.

As he floated in the air, he saw the most spectacular cavalcade of colours below. Then he dropped.

He wasn’t as skilled in the air like his brothers or her, he had no prism and he couldn’t line.

Rydin was going to die.

He yelled.

Rydin Vantage

He fell.

At least the colours looked nice.

The story continues with the Animated Trailer look out for our...

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