

The Crafts 223

Chapter 223: Restoring The Artefact

After leaving behind Ronny and his friends, Lucas returned to the work-station once more. The task this time around was to restore an artefact; a vestige from a different era.

Based on the channels of the inscriptions on the ring, Lucas was able to figure out exactly what it was and how it worked. He was also familiar with the structural style of the inscription.

With all this preliminary knowledge, naturally fixing it wasn't a huge issue. But there was his lack of stellar energy which further complicated the request. Apart from that, the materials used for the engravings were outdated and couldn't be identified. So, Lucas would have to make appropriate substitutions as he saw fit.

Whenever a vestige was made, so much calculations went into the design and simulation from the vestige-smith. To the outside world, they were blacksmiths who earned more, but the truth could not be any farther from this.

For a vestige-smith, their vestige was a product of so much effort gone into calculation, simulation and construction. Whether it was the size or shape of the vestige, the type of materials used, sizes of inscriptions and so on, everything was considered before smithing. Since Lucas wanted to fix the ring the proper way, he had to find out all those necessary values.

After that was done, the next step was to use the relevant knowledge to produce a simulation of possible solutions. This was the trial aspect which enabled vestige-smiths to be able to create a simulation and test out different plausible solutions in it. This way, they could try and fail as much as they liked.

However for Lucas, there was no such thing as a failure. In fact, Lucas didn't even need to use a computer for this stage as most vestige-smiths would. Instead, he was fully capable of handling everything.

With his eyes shut, Lucas went through a recreated version of the ring in his imagination and tried different items and inscription methods with it. He spent ten minutes in silence. In those ten minutes, Lucas had simulated at least forty different processes. It wasn't until he found a suitable one that Lucas opened his eyes and began to work.

Firstly, Lucas put on the same pair of glasses he had used previously. Since the ring was so small, the pair of glasses was necessary especially as Lucas couldn't use magnification spells.

Apart from the glasses, Lucas opened a drawer that was filled with tools and took out some equipment necessary for work. One of them was an inscription pen but with a very tiny tip suitable for the ring.

Following that, Lucas began to work on the artefact.

The ring was crafted with a unique type of metal that was not only conducive for mystical energy conduction, but with a high hardness and durability rating. There was also an inscription added onto it to increase these two qualities. This was one of the reasons it had been able to survive centuries and still maintain its form.

The inscriptions used on the ring weren't the hyumankin's stellar matrices or stellar runes. Instead, it resembled magic runes from Lucas' first life, especially in its operational mechanism. However, after further scrutiny, Lucas had discovered that the inscriptions were different from magic runes as well, albeit very similar to them.

Due to the fact that the unknown inscriptions were quite similar to magic runes, Lucas was confident that he could fix them without having to erase it.

Concentrating his efforts, Lucas dived right into it and began restoring the rings.

First, he worked on the physical form of the ring without damaging the inscriptions. Even though the materials used, as well as the inscriptions, made the artefact quite lasting, there were still some damages done to it. Even a work by a high level magic blacksmith, he could not have survived centuries without being damaged.

Although the ring wasn't made by a high level magic blacksmith, it was properly preserved which was why it had lasted so long. Even then, it was still rusted and had some chipped parts.

This was an arduous task but it was still doable.

First, Lucas got rid of the rust, but he couldn't use a dissolving liquid to do so. If he had stellar energy, Lucas could just 'brush' it all over the artefact and get rid of the rust. While he could

achieve the same effect using blood energy, it was quite wasteful. As such, Lucas did things the old way; by filing.

Since he had to get rid of the rust without damaging the inscriptions, this took Lucas longer than usual, but he was still faster than other vestige-smiths.

After ten minutes, the rust was cleared. Next was to restore the ring's original form.

Some parts of the ring had been chipped and missing a bit. Lucas could file the entire ring and bring it to a proper form, but he would end up reducing the size of the ring and this would interfere with the inscriptions and functionality of the ring. So, what he had to do was to add in material to the ring. This meant that Lucas had to measure the size of the missing parts and recreate it, before fusing the replacement parts to the ring.

Compared to removing the rust, this was an even more challenging task. This was because the missing parts were so tiny, with some being just a bit larger than a speck of dust. The majority of the missing parts weren't even half the size of a baby's finger nail. To recreate such missing parts and then attach them to the ring was incredibly difficult.

For this, Lucas spent over forty minutes alone. Truth be told, he felt that he took more time than he should have, but Lucas' weak state didn't allow him to be any faster. Nonetheless, forty minutes to replicate and fuse fifteen missing pieces that were smaller than a toddler's finger nail was already impressive.

After he was done repairing the physical structure of the artefact, Lucas then moved onto the inscriptions.

Since it resembled magic runes, Lucas decided to call them magi runes.

The magi runes operated on the same theory as magic runes, which made their form and operation logic quite similar.

To put this in a very simplistic analogy, one could say mystical energy was just like energy on Earth where we have solar, wind, hydro, heat, mechanical, electricity and other forms of energy. But in essence, they were still energy. In the same way, mystical energy had different forms like stellar energy, blood energy, soul energy, mana, true qi and so on, but they were all still mystical energy.

However, for the mystical energy used by magi runes and magic runes, they were very similar. An equivalent Earth analogy would be just like the difference between Direct Current (DC) electricity and Alternating Current (AC) electricity. They were both different forms of electricity but still the same.

Now since both runes used two very similar mystical energies, their structures ended up appearing to be the same.

An appropriate analogy would be that the two inscriptions were like electric lines. Just as different civilisations used different types of inscriptions depending on their research direction, in the same way, different countries had different ratings and measurements for their electric cables.

For instance, the standard voltage rating in the USA is 110-120v while Europe uses 220-240v. Because of this difference, American electric cables were thicker than their European counterparts. Apart from that, even the colour demarcation for the cables were also different.

But even with all these differences and more, the cables still conducted electricity. They were still made of copper or an appropriate metal, and they still had a very similar general appearance, ignoring the size difference.

Similarly, magi and magic runes worked the same. They both still operated using mystical energies that were almost the same just as American and European cables conducted electricity. So, even though there might be differences in the sizes, structures and forms of the runes, there were still a ton of common points.

Although the two runes used different mystical energies, the mystical energies were quite similar to each other, which was why the runes ended up being similar.

As such, Lucas was confident that he could work on the artefact. However, this wasn't the only reason why. If he were just an ordinary magic blacksmith, then Lucas would have lacked the courage to try this out. However, he was a Grandmaster magic blacksmith.

Every Grandmaster magic blacksmith had to have experience working with various mystical energies before they could be recognised as a Grandmaster. In his past life, Lucas had worked with mana, true qi, blood energy, soul energy, material energy, void energy, and many other

mystical energies. This was why even without having stellar energy, he could still produce vestiges ahead of the market relying solely on blood or material energy.

Even though the artefact before him was made using the principles of an unknown mystical energy, the fact that such mystical energy had similarities with mana as well as his abundant experience with various mystical energies, reduced the difficulty level for Lucas.

Nonetheless, without possessing an abundance of mystical energy, it would still be difficult for Lucas to restore the artefact so easily. At the same time, even if it was restored, the artefact can never be able to perform at one hundred percent. This was because it was designed with a specific type of mystical energy in mind.

Unless one could use such energy to operate it, or obtain mana—which was very similar to it—the artefact would perform at only eighty percent (80%) of its real strength. And this was only thanks to the fact that Lucas would make some tweaks to it. Otherwise, even if it were to be fully restored, it would only operate at around forty to sixty percent (40%-60%) while using stellar energy.