

The Crafts 82

Chapter 82: Failed Talks

To summarise the document, it would give the Norsegold Co. priority pick in any vestige he makes. This meant that they would get to decide whether they want to keep it for themselves or not before anyone else, which included Lucas himself. As long as the vestige was to their liking, the Norsegold Co. would buy it at a price ten percent higher than market price.

This sounded nice to the ears, but one should recall that based on the system's price settings, Lucas' vestiges already sold at least fifty percent above market price. The system would never settle for less. Even if Lucas did, there was still the seventh five percent 'tax' rate, which would make his earnings even lower.

From a considerable one hundred and thirty one (131) federal coins in profit to only ninety six (96) federal coins, which was roughly a twenty seven percent (27%) drop in profits.

What's more, when the system's rates drop after it reaches level two, the loss margin would be even wider.

The drop in profits wasn't the only problem with this clause. Norsegold Co. agreed to buy at ten percent of market price, which made it seem impressive, but in truth, Lucas' vestiges could sell for more. They were made utilising never before seen magic runes, and encompassing a bit of his knowledge together with the new ideology he thought up.

In summary, they were novel to the industry, which inherently increased their value. If launched properly, ignoring the system's pricing scheme, they could sell for at least thirty percent above market price or much more.

Giving Lucas ten percent above market price was quite unfair, considering that the work of production would fall onto him alone.

But this wasn't all.

All vestiges sold to Norsegold Co. would be tagged as unbranded. This meant that the former could simply claim to have produced them in-house and brand it as an original product. It didn't just stop at the vestiges, but the R&D (Research and Development) rights would also be handed over to Norsegold Co.

Which means that the production method and the rights to expand on those, would automatically become Norsegold's.

This might sound simple, but there existed a devious layer of trap in this clause.

Once the production method belonged to Norsegold Co., Lucas would have to request permission to be able to forge a similar vestige again. If he forged a vestige using the same runes and production method as the vestiges sold to Norsegold Co., they could sue him for intellectual property infringement.

This simply meant that they would sue Lucas for using 'their production method', although it was initially his. This part wasn't mentioned in the contract, but it was obvious to Lucas that this is what would take place.

There was also another clause in the contract that stated that Lucas wouldn't be able to cancel the deal for the next five years without paying a hefty sum in termination fees (fees paid as penalty for breaking a contract).

In summary, this wasn't a partnership contract or anything that Gerald made it to be; it was a thieving contract.

This was why Lucas' first thought, after skimming through the document, was to curse the man.

"So, how about it?" Gerald asked once he noticed that Lucas' attention was brought back to reality.

"I'll pass." Lucas shook his head at the question.

"If the pay isn't to your liking, we can discuss that." Gerald said, but Lucas remained firm in his decision.

How could it only be the payment rate that would be discussed?

Seeing the behaviour of Gerald, Lucas had decided to eliminate any possibilities of cooperation with the Norsegold Co. Not to talk about the fact that this wasn't even a cooperation, but a disgustingly thieving contract.

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A subtle glint flashed in Gerald's eyes after facing an unexpected rejection from Lucas, but he didn't let it get to him.

"No problem. Please contact me if you decide to change your mind, or if you need anything."

Gerald placed a card on the counter before nodding to the other men and leaving. After Gerald, it turned out that the third man, the one with purple hair, was also a worker for a different company. He presented Lucas with a slightly better offer, but none were entertained by Lucas.

The dean had similarly departed with the rest, but he didn't give Lucas any offer. It seemed as if he was had been there to escort them or something else, but Lucas didn't bother.

For the moment, his attention was on how to deal with the next wave of guests. These two has probably capitalized in their position as members of the board of trustees to get first-hand information and make it here. However, with time, there would be more agents and companies finding out exactly what happened the previous day.

Some would also get interested in the vestige Lucas made and might either try to get it off Wally's hands for research, or just come to meet him; the last option being the more likely one.

Lucas wasn't interested in a deal, but recalling the 'one hundred new customers' mission, he had to do something to spread the awareness of his store.

Lucas also found out that the system was against him selling the store or any rights, and working as an employee of anyone else. In the system's opinion, to be the most suitable host and candidate for the Crafts-God role, Lucas would have to maintain the store himself and exhibit a certain level of independence; something he wouldn't be able to do as an employee.

He would however, be able to hire employees, but that was after the system's next level up.

For the moment, Lucas' main focus was on his growth and the mission. He let the matter about cooperation rest at the back of his mind as he knew that a sincere partner would be rare to find.

Wally's vestige was a trial product at the new ideology, but it wasn't what Lucas created to truly stun people. If there was one suitable, it would be his new vestige -the pair of gauntlets-, but those weren't for sale. Lucas was already working on something suitable, and it would be ready by the next day.