

## **UR – As seen through my eyes.**

Ur Season 2 was a play by post megagame that took place over several weeks, in the fantasy city of Ur.

I was playing the game as Raven, a blacked winged humanoid, or kin with an interest in revolution. The first question asked was what revolution should he instigate? This quickly became a quest for a revolution, for any cause. Raven was cavalier, always willing to say yes, and explore something new.

The natural sources of water in the city had been blocked for several years. Raven was worried about importing water, as those who controlled the water, controlled Ur. Disrupting these supply chains would certainly cause a shift in the power dynamic away from the Orders that currently governed.

### **Opening Moves**

Raven began to lay schemes, including Elements Unbound, a fake religious group to cover for the theft of water from a supply caravan. Freeing the water was the first idea Raven had, and after visiting the forge and hearing spirits, the idea of a cult related to the elements sprung to his mind. Supporters even started painting their own graffiti around town. If the theft was successful, his standing would rise. If he failed, he had at least started a useful rumour.



*The Four Elements, interlinked.*

Raven's Fraternity organisation was a struggle at first, with seemingly half the Fraternity missing or without a plan, Raven looked to expand his contacts, by putting an advert in the local newspaper. A good plan, he thought, but in the end, only one person responded to the note.

He also tried to build a relationship with the Newspaper's editor, but it was very clear he was censored by those in control, but it became a good way to disseminate information, even if it was only to the authorities themselves.

Then things got weird. The fake secret society Raven had created continued to grow, with weapon caches and secret messages appearing everywhere. The secret messages even started appearing in Raven's graffiti, and he hadn't put them there at all. Raven started focussing on the cult that seemed to have a life all of its own.

Following the hidden messages he discovered a small cache of notebooks, and when they were read he could commune directly with the entity known as Tigamel. He offered support and boons if Raven pledged to follow him. So, Raven said yes.

After this, Raven began being plagued by dreams full of eyes. They became more intense and then he found he could commune directly with the Entity known as Ovo. They offered support and boons if Raven pledged to follow them. So, Raven said yes.



*How could you say no to this?*

When Raven woke, he had a floating eyeball companion. He was christened Geoff. Raven begged for Ovo to make his form less obvious and constructed a small pepperpot casing with an eyestalk and a plunger for him to hide in, but it was too heavy. In the end Raven bought him a selection of wigs and berets, so he could better blend in on the streets of Ur. People questioned where Geoff had come from and Raven lied to their faces, saying his supporters had accidentally summoned him whilst doing research.



*Geoff. Pre-Beret.*

### **Some Adventure**

Finally, the Fraternity was doing something, and Raven agreed to help steal a mechanical eye. Things worked out quite well, and although a winged kin with a flying eyeball was seen escaping the scene, no one even bothered questioning him about the theft.

But this wasn't enough, Raven craved more disruption, more disorder. He began to find new allies, outside the Fraternity, talking to those who had pledged to worship Tigemal and others in the Orders themselves. Raven wanted to build real trust, and in a moment of frustration at the lies circling the city, confessed everything he had done to Ciara.

This led him to the revelation that the group the 355 had been burned by the Orders, their very families evaporated by magical fire. The burning of the 355 and subsequent cover up led to Raven's decision that the Orders were the true enemy, and that he needed to expose this crime to the whole city. Raven and Geoff performed a strange puppet show, that told the whole story through the metaphor of a loveable eyeball that was used to terrify the people by the greedy mayor, as a front for passing out leaflets revealing the truth. There were several riots and deaths as a result. Following this Tigemal blessed Raven with the ability to vanish into crowds. A very handy trait in the days to come.



*It really was a good puppet show.*

This was Raven's way into the cult of Tigemal and an actual revolution, with explosions and armies and a general disruption of the status quo. Finally, a cause, a revolution was being discussed. Raven's part was simple, after weeks of charity work, and bringing the Order's war crimes to public discussion Raven had carved himself a niche. He was a voice of the people, and a leader, but not of warriors and weapons, a man of free speech and free assembly. He publicly declared his intentions to the newspapers and planned a march for peace. Every free kin he could find marched on the High Halls.

What ended up happening was probably inevitable. A peaceful march became disrupted when things started exploding and Orders were undermined. Raven had achieved a small victory, and again, very little in the way of consequence.

Whilst this was happening, one of his network, a small girl called Lucy thought it was a good idea to show Geoff the secret pamphlets of Tigemal. Putting together entities from beyond our dimension must always be a good idea, she reasoned.

Raven, returning from this aborted march found a room with several scorch marks and one terrified eyeball covering in a corner. It seems no one in Ur can play nicely.

### **The Future**

So Raven is back where he started, in Queen's Park, feeding the poor from the soup kitchen and being a very public voice for peace, even if he does link up the odd person with revolutionary elements outside the city, or with a cult worshipper for Tigemal, or spends hours talking to someone about the eyes they see in their dreams.

The last few weeks, Raven has seen himself grow, to believe more in what he cannot see, and to hope that the first blow in a long conflict has been landed.

He remains in Ur, seemingly untouched by the lot of the chaos. Of course, having the ability to see short distances into the future, and having a God's blessing to disappear into a crowd at will also helps. If things get terrible, he can always fly away on great black wings, an eyeball bouncing along behind.

### **Random Game Observations**

Control was great

Via Discord or Email, control were really responsive in this game, and worked incredibly hard to resolve dropouts. Thanks to all that were involved, you were all brilliant.

Less actions, better actions.

One issue with the Aux system was that the actions seemed less important to the emergent narrative, and more likely to fail without supporting arguments. If they are less important, it might be better to remove them entirely, let control focus on one big action resolution, whilst reducing their workload?

Brick wall actions.

A few actions led nowhere. A good example is trying to get Tigemal and Ovo to meet. I don't know what happened, the person involved had no memory and Tigemal and Ovo wouldn't tell me. Even failures should lead you to new ideas or threads.

People are great at telling stories.

I know there was so much madness I never touched, Grand films, murderous daggers, the Troika, and it's great to see so many additional ideas being hinted at in the game.

All in all, a grand experience. If I take one piece of advice away from this, it would be that if you want something to happen in a Megagame, be the one who makes it happen.