

Chapter 5

Foreign Relations

K109 has always sought to establish as many friendly international relationships as possible.

“Having formal allies benefits K109, but more importantly, it benefits Longfellow,” said Mr. Huang. “I have always dreamed of seeing a tapestry of nations on the Field, each with its own proud leader, flag, and distinctive mission.”

The first friendly international relationship was with the land belonging to Mr. Williams, but Mr. Williams never formalized his position over his people or his government. Therefore, 109 could not sign a treaty with his land.

Tieland

The first treaty 109 ever signed was with faraway Tieland, led by Mr. Cheney. Tieland was a democratic government, but the two leaders still got along well. In the fall of 2007, Lancer Life, led by Mrs. Duggan, filmed Mr. Huang and Mr. Cheney in Tieland signing their ground-breaking treaty. Mr. Huang gave his famous speech “It’s Good to Have Friends”, where he urged all Longfellow fledgling nations to build strong friendships with each other.

Hughey School of Wordcraft and Imagery

In the fall of 2011, the second treaty was signed with the Hughey School of Imagery and Wordcraft (HSWI). HSWI was an English room with a mystical nature that intrigued Mr. Huang. Prior to signing the treaty, Mr. Huang visited HSWI and marveled at how peaceful this beautiful country was. According to its leader, Headmistress Hughey, the secret to HSWI’s quiet and peaceful nature was kittens. After the treaty signing, 109 built its first ever embassy there and allowed HSWI to build an embassy in 109, which included a moat surrounding the building.

Starship Inquiry

In the fall of 2012, a third treaty of alliance was signed with the journalism room Starship Inquiry, led by Captain Mrs. Duggan who by then was already well known in 109 for being the chief cinematographer for the Liberation of Tieland and Dr. Donut scenes in the documentary *Mangos and Large Potatoes*. By 2012, Mrs. Duggan had hung up her video camera and instead focused on Longfellow’s PTB-approved newspaper, the Longfellow Lead. There were rumors that this alliance was a strategic move by Mr. Huang to be close to Longfellow’s publication and have possible influence over what the PTB printed.

Starship Inquiry also housed the most famous K109 embassy in history. Built in early 2013 by the Daniel brothers, Teddy and Noah, the embassy could fly, had apartments and fire defenses, and was manned by autotropic munchkins trained in martial arts.

The Queendom of 163

In the winter of 2016, the fourth treaty was signed with the Queendom of 163, led by Mrs. Collins, the orchestra teacher, also known as The Lady with the Wand. The decision to ally with 163 followed debate over whether to ally with band or orchestra. In the end, Mr. Huang sided with orchestra since he had been a member during his days as a young prince.

The Matharchy of 200

In June 2017, the fifth treaty was signed with the Matharchy of 200. Despite a relatively uneventful relationship, Mr. Huang has stated privately that, outside of 109's relationship with Mr. Williams, the relationship with the Matharchy of 200 and its leader Goddess Mrs. Sheldon (nee Godwin) has been the most important one of the five alliances.

Chapter 6

The Liberation of Tieland

The Phoss always said that boredom is one of the many seeds of evil intent. During 2007-08, evil forces grew within Longfellow because English teacher Mr. Calamito and Officer Morris got bored. Joining forces to think of something destructive to do, their idea was to take over Tieland. This became known as the First Darkness.

The Takeover

Office Morris got his hands on a magic crystal ball that could hypnotize (he said the police often uses it to interrogate suspects). One day, they offered to watch Tieland while Mr. Cheney went to a closet to retrieve an important textbook. Calamito locked Cheney in the closet while Morris, wearing sunglasses for protection, took out the crystal ball and ordered all of Mr. Cheney's citizens to follow himself and Mr. Calamito.

Calamito and Morris couldn't believe how easy it was to take over a country. One of the first changes they made was a ban on wearing neckties, the hallmark of Tieland. In the meantime, Mr. Cheney was in the closet.

109 Gets Involved

Luckily for Tieland, Mr. Cheney had recently signed a treaty of alliance with the Kingdom of 109, and it was customary for Mr. Huang and Mr. Cheney to check in with each other from time to time. A few days after Calamito and Morris took control of Tieland, Mr. Huang gave Mr. Cheney a phone call. Office Morris picked up. The call ended abruptly after Morris told Mr. Huang and Mr. Cheney was not available.

Mr. Huang was immediately suspicious and sent a squad of his own guards, led by Nikos Pavlis, to check it out. Pavlis' team were surprised by Morris and Calamito and taken hostage as well. Morris this time called Mr. Huang to tell him he had his squad in custody. Mr. Huang demanded them back, but Morris hung up. During this time, Mr. Cheney was able to de-hypnotize one of his zombie citizens and told him to go to 109 for help. When he got Cheney's message, Mr. Huang knew what he had to do. He went to Tieland himself and instructed the 109 Army to meet him at the athletic field.

Mr. Huang carefully searched for clues in the hallway outside Tieland. After turning a corner, he came across the closet where Mr. Cheney was kept. He managed to open the door, and Mr. Cheney, wearing a tangled long beard, emerged, overjoyed to be freed by his friend. Mr. Huang and Mr. Cheney rode a couple of getaway bicycles to the athletic field to meet the 109 Army, who greeted them with cheers.

The Battle on the Field

The 109 army was made of volunteers who believe in 109's mission to defend the homeland from evil forces within and without. Within minutes, the new zombie army of Tieland made up of hypnotized citizens of Mr. Cheney also arrived at the field led by their leaders, Calamito and Morris. Then the smack-talking began:

"Hey Huang, give us Cheney back, and we'll leave you alone!" yelled Calamito.

"If you want Cheney, you'll have to go through 109!" responded Mr. Huang.

"It doesn't have to be like this," warned Calamito. Morris added, "You really think you can take us on?"

"You're small potatoes to us," stated Mr. Huang with a wry smile.

"Potatoes? We'll show him potatoes!" screamed Calamito angrily.

Mr. Huang knew he had Calamito and Morris agitated. He turned to his glorious army and gave this speech:

"My friends, we are mighty but we are not here to conquer. We are strong but we are not here to kill. We are here to set people free. We are here to set Tieland free! Are you with me? Are you with me? Are you with me?"

The army grew more boisterous and confident with each question. After the third "YES!", the army and Mr. Huang gave a rousing rendition of the 109 Fight Song. Then Mr. Huang turned, gave his battle staff a twirl and led the charge. The noise must have rattled Calamito and Morris because as soon as the 109 Army drew near, they turned around and ran, leaving their zombie army to fight for them.

The zombie army did charge, albeit slowly, compared to 109. The battle was over quickly, as the soldiers of 109 neutralized the zombies and Mr. Huang knocked the power of the crystal ball out of each Tieland citizen with the touch of his staff. When the battle was over, Mr. Huang and Mr. Cheney calmly made their way back to Tieland to find out if their trap had worked.

Principal Kihm Seizes Calamito and Morris

Expecting Calamito and Morris to run back to Tieland, Mr. Huang planned to catch them there, but he had help. During the 2007-08 year, leadership of the PTB had transferred to Mrs. Kihm. Mr. Huang had briefed the new principal on the importance of keeping Longfellow free from tyrannical elements who use magic crystal balls to hypnotize people. With her own special forces, Mrs. Kihm agreed to wait in Tieland to ambush Morris and Calamito. When they showed up after their cowardly retreat from the battlefield, she easily took the evil-doers into custody.

After the Battle of the Field, Mr. Huang and Mr. Cheney came back to Tieland and met with Mrs. Kihm. The PTB, Tieland and K109 agreed to put both Morris and Calamito into the dance

therapy program Evil-Be-Gone to erase the evil from their souls and heal their hearts. The First Darkness was over.

Mixed Results of Rehabilitation

The treatment was successful with Officer Morris, and he later became a valuable ally in defending Longfellow against Dr. Donut. However, the treatment was not able to penetrate Mr. Calamito's hardened heart. During treatment, he was able to psychologically manipulate some of the staff at the treatment facility into helping him escape. During the summer months when most of the staff was on vacation, four orderlies wheeled an unused refrigerator into the recreation room. Calamito lifted the refrigerator and smashed it against the sliding glass door. The weak-minded orderlies cheered as Calamito ran through the grassy field behind the treatment center.

Chapter 7

The One Donut

In liberating Tieland from Calamito and Morris in 2008, 109 came to the aid of another nation. In 2009, the Kingdom of 109 came to the aid of all of Longfellow to face the Second Darkness.

The One Donut

After two years of relative peace in Longfellow, the skies darkened again. A evil force from outside Longfellow began to influence the minds of some the teachers, including Mr. Gorgia and Ms. Shemonsky. The evil force was searching for something called the One Donut. The One Donut was an item of unspeakable power, long-hidden in Longfellow by the Phoss, who long ago fought its creator, Lectario. After the defeat of Lectario, the Phoss hid the One Donut somewhere in Longfellow. They put a spell on the Donut so that, to be seized, *two* people were required to physically remove it from its hiding place.

The evil force identified himself as Dr. Donut. Following his direction, Shemonsky and Gorgia began searching all of Longfellow for locations of unusual levels of energy. When he had enough data, Dr. Donut entered Longfellow himself, and lo and behold, it was Mr. Calamito! Calamito honed in on a power source in the southeast region of Kingdom of 109. After some digging, he found the One Donut, but then Mr. Huang found him. Mr. Huang was ready to capture Calamito, but then Calamito began to talk his way out of his predicament. Using the tempting power of the Donut, he explained to Mr. Huang how sharing the Donut's power could help Mr. Huang improve and strengthen 109 and Longfellow. In his time away after escaping the dance therapy program, Calamito had learned mind control techniques from the mercenary mystics of the Gatehouse, and his newfound skills worked on Mr. Huang. Together, they seized the One Donut, but Mr. Calamito immediately took it for himself and ran from 109.

Calamito tripped near the Front Door, and the Donut slipped from his hands. In the vicinity and attracted by the power of the Donut, Mr. Bradford, Officer Morris and Mr. Cheney all dove for it. As they wrestled for the all-powerful Donut, Mr. Huang finally caught up. Imploring the men to not let themselves be controlled by the Donut or Mr. Calamito, he brought the men to their senses. They gave the Donut to Mr. Huang willingly, but they did not know that Mr. Huang was still under the thrall of Calamito! Mr. Huang immediately gave the Donut to Calamito, who only then released Mr. Huang from his thrall.

Never one to miss an opportunity to revel in victory, Mr. Calamito mocked Mr. Huang and the others before using the Donut to disappear. Realizing that he had let himself be tricked, Mr. Huang was overcome with guilt for his transgression. He immediately made plans to leave Longfellow to search for Calamito himself and vowed to not return until he found Calamito and the One Donut.

The day before Mr. Huang left, Mr. Huang gathered seven citizens of 109: Timo Sheridan, Carrie Murton, Mya Abousy, Jonathan Leidenheimer, Hayley Wenk, Joe Downs, and Leah Surratt. He dubbed them The Heptumvirate and charged them with watching over 109 while he searched for Calamito. Mr. Huang then left the room and began his self-imposed exile.

The Search for Calamito (aka Dr. Donut)

Mr. Huang used informants from around the world and satellite technology to detect invisible, energy surges that might reveal the location of Calamito. The evidence took him to several continents, but he came closest to finding Calamito in Europe. While in Munich, Germany, he met a one-year-old at Olympic Park who told him that Calamito had just left Munich for Prague, Czech Republic. In Prague's central square, Mr. Huang found a note left by Calamito himself mocking his efforts, but Mr. Huang was undeterred. His informants eventually told him that Calamito had returned home.

After Mr. Huang returned home as well, Mr. Calamito used the power of the One Donut to unleash a deadly snowstorm on Longfellow and its environs to slow the search. Mr. Huang was forced to take shelter in a snow tent. While there, he received a message from Jason Liu that Calamito was hiding in a nearby forest. He sent word to a 109 commando unit that was training as a facility called The Farm for the exclusive purpose of catching Calamito.

The commando unit consisted of Hayley Wenk, Jonathan Leidenheimer, Zack Sanders, Abi Anderson, and Timo Sheridan. After a frantic chase through the woods around Burke Lake, Calamito ran to the safety of one of his minions, but he didn't know that Mr. Huang had already turned this individual to the side of 109. Working in concert with 109, the spy lured Calamito to the supposed safety of a jungle gym before signaling the 109ers who arrived promptly to take Calamito into custody.

Mr. Gorgia's Double-Cross

With the One Donut now in hand, the commando unit tied up Mr. Calamito and led him back to Longfellow, where Mrs. Duggan and Mr. Gorgia were waiting (Mr. Huang still didn't know that Mr. Gorgia was working with Calamito). This was the first time in a year that Mr. Huang set foot on Longfellow property since his self-imposed exile began. As Mr. Huang gave a short speech on a hill overlooking Longfellow, the masses rejoiced seeing Calamito in tow. However, during the celebration, Mr. Gorgia suddenly put on sunglasses, took out the Magic Crystal Ball (the same one Calamito and Morris used to create the zombie army of Tieland), and signaled to his henchmen to seize all 109ers, take the One Donut, and free Mr. Calamito. The tables had turned in a few seconds. But they were about to turn again.

Now free, Mr. Calamito told Mr. Gorgia to give him the One Donut, but Gorgia had other plans. Relishing his new position as holder of two objects of power, he refused to let either go. Feeling Calamito's anger rising, Gorgia fled with both magical objects. Calamito gave chase as Gorgia scaled a mountain. At the top of the mountain overlooking the construction site, the

two men wrestled for the two objects. In the struggle, the One Donut inadvertently struck the Crystal Ball. The immense power that emanated knocked the two men unconscious.

Mr. Huang, who had finally freed himself from the crystal ball zombies, scaled the mountain and caught up with the two men right after the shockwave stunned them. He picked up the One Donut, and sensing its attractive power, decided to throw it into the construction site. At that moment, Mr. Calamito awoke. Seeing the object of his desire for power and control being thrown into the chasm, he stood up and leapt after it. That is the last anyone ever saw of Mr. Calamito. Officer Morris and Ms. Shemonsky pinpointed the location of the One Donut deep in the chasm, but it was too dangerous to climb down to get it. The PTB and 109 agreed that the best course of action was to bury it. It fell upon Officer Morris to pour dirt into the chasm, hopefully burying the object of power for eternity.

The next day, Mr. Huang gave a speech to assure Longfellow that Calamito was “gone forever” and that the One Donut would not tempt anyone again. While most felt at ease, there were whispers of what might have actually happened. Officer Morris himself wondered if Calamito had teleported before hitting the ground. Others wondered if the spirit of a deceased Calamito could live on in another being. Some wanted to execute Mr. Gorgia to prevent him from again being used by Calamito or any other evil influence.

In the end, Mr. Huang and Mrs. Kihm chose to let Gorgia live and undergo treatment for his evil tendencies. He went on a forgiveness tour, where he visited groups in the community and penitently asked to be accepted back. This tour produced mixed results, as many were not ready to forgive. Some visits had to be cut short due to physical and verbal assaults on Gorgia.