

Rings

As your footsteps echo down the dark corridor, you begin to think that this was not such a great idea. The eerie glow of strange lichen is all that lights your way, and it isn't bright enough to help you avoid all the cobwebs. Just as you run out of clean fabric on which to wipe the cobwebs off your face, however, you spot a light at the end of the tunnel. Hope and determination renewed, you run into a brightly lit atrium.

Disoriented by the sudden flood of light, it takes you a while to get your bearings. What you do immediately notice are the many pedestals in the room, grouped neatly into five groups of five. Once your eyes readjust, you then see that on top of every pedestal is a small chest, not much larger than a man's fist, each marked with Roman numerals. You also notice that, partly obscured by shadow, there appear to be three broken pedestals that would once have one stood with the others, but now seem to have fallen into disuse.

Seeing that your shoelaces have come undone, you bend down to re-tie them, and notice that there is also an engraving among the cobblestones.

*Five Rings they wish to rule, Five Rings that call them,
Five Rings to bring them all and in the peace unite them.*

The moment you read the text, you realize what has to be done. After unlocking the chests and rearranging the pedestals, the answer is revealed. Energized with the knowledge to save Melbourne from a fate worse than being Sydney, you race out of the crypt, back into the sunlight, determined to save the world.

—Han Liang Gan