

Okaparnis Story Quest Ch. 5 – Clean Up!

You feel much better already. Those techniques really put things into perspective. Now when you look at the giant praying mantis statue, you just feel relaxed and peaceful. The monks are impressed and tell you that you must keep practicing and try to continue to cultivate good habits.

You, Antonio, and Tira thank them and then you head back to the ship. Antonio tells you, “We’re almost to Corto Vanail. It’s only about a two-day journey from here.”

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Two days pass by and you’re almost to Corto Vanail. In fact, you can see the outline of the island already... As you get closer, you notice there is a lot of red in the waters near the coast. You wonder what that could possibly be. When you get near enough to the red, you also find that some fish are dead, floating on top in the vast patches without red. The sight shocks you. No wonder people are leaving.

Your eyes start to water and you begin to cough. You also notice that Tira and Antonio have also started to cough. Is this *stuff* causing us to get sick? You wonder if you can escape these symptoms by going in further. So, Antonio steers the boat into the bay, but you only find more of the red stuff and even more dead fish. Goodness! What is going on?

Antonio ties up the boat and you all jump off. The entire place looks like a ghost town; you see nobody. Everybody’s cough is getting worse, so you go into the nearest building.

You feel better immediately. Your cough has disappeared. You look around to find that you are in a restaurant. It looks like a very nice one, too, except that there’s nobody inside. Tira decides to explore the restaurant a bit. She wanders from room to room, but finds nothing. There’s not a scrap of food or a soul in sight. Antonio calls Tira back and the three of you leave.

Outside, the coughing resumes. You feel miserable again. So, you spot another building further away and head toward it. The streets are completely empty. “Did everybody in this town leave?” you think to yourself.

You reach the building and realize it looks like a house. You even hear music coming from inside. Antonio tries the door handle, but it’s locked. Tira hears the music, too, so she knocks on the door... Nothing happens, so she knocks again, this time harder... You hear footsteps rushing toward the door. It flings open and a tall person in a tuxedo welcomes you in.

Inside, the man shows you to the living area. When you arrive, another man stands up to greet you:

“Hello. My name is Rooft. I am the mayor of Corto Vanail. It saddens me that you have to see this city in such a horrible state. Just a year ago it was a growing metropolis; now it is a mere shadow of its former self.”

You ask him what happened. He sits down, takes a deep breath, and then begins telling you the whole story:

I really had no idea what was happening, but one of our marine biologists, Kira, explained what was going on. She said the problem is eutrophication... When you introduce too many nutrients (like nitrogen and phosphorus) into salty waters, the populations of some species of algae will grow very rapidly, causing what is called an algal bloom. In the case of Corto Vanail, this algal bloom (the red stuff) has caused hypoxia (a depletion of oxygen) in the bay and on the coast, which has resulted in many fish dying. Even worse, these toxins have become airborne, causing respiratory symptoms, like coughing. This lack of fish and sick-like feeling were more than enough to motivate people to leave the city..."

Tira interrupts and says, "Kira, the marine biologist?" Rooft replies with, "Yes. Do you know her?" She says, "Of course I know her... she's my mom!" Then she asks, "Where is she now?" Rooft explains that Kira decided to travel to the little island to the north. She was looking for oysters. She said they are crucial to fixing everything.

You then ask how oysters can fix everything. He continues by saying:

"Kira imagined that the problems started with the way we dispose of waste. You see, the algae live and grow on nitrogen and phosphorus and these two elements are naturally found in human and animal sewage. Well, we didn't see any harm in just dumping our human waste right out into the ocean, but Kira pointed out that by doing that, the waters became nutrient-dense, which promoted the growth of algae.

I asked her if there was any way to fix this problem and she told me that we would need to remove a lot of the nutrients in the sewage first. That is why she went to find oysters; they are good at filtering these elements out of the water. "

"Do you think my mom's okay?" asks Tira. "Oh, yeah. It's not even remotely dangerous up there. She should be back in the morning," says Rooft. "But, I know she'd like to get started with this project as soon as she gets back, so could you please help me figure out how to connect all these tubes? It's all very confusing to me."

Task: Many new sewage pipes need to be added in order to direct the waste into the new treatment plant, but every time Rooft looks at the unfinished blueprints, he gets confused. Can you help him connect the pipes correctly? You will need to draw lines to connect the different pipes without crossing other pipes or leaving any blank space. You may also only move directly up, down, left, or right, not diagonally. (For example, you will need to connect the two areas labeled "A" in order to successfully connect the "A" pipes).

A				A	H		K	J	I		H
B	D	C									
	D		F	G							
	B			F			K	J		I	
		G			C						