# Apollyon

## The Harbinger of War

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*When we stop fighting against it, nature will always reassert itself.*

Blue: FSIQ

Green: EI, SI, STP

Red: Manipulation, deception, setting traps

Lime: Foresight

Purple: Strategy, planning, tactics

Orange: Reasoning, thinking

Teal: Observation, adaptability, leadership

Cyan: Misc

## For Honor's Plot:

Apollyon is the main antagonist of the video game For Honor. Among a cast of rather lackluster and underwhelming characters within the game, Apollyon is one of the few fleshed out and interesting characters. The aura she exudes is larger than the Empire she commands, with an ideology that serves as the incentive for the actions that are underway throughout the main story. To understand Apollyon's ideology we must first understand the setting of the story and her background. The story takes place in a fictional region known as Heathmoor during a medieval time period. The land of Heathmoor was home to the Knights and Vikings, who rarely interacted at this point in time. This was until a natural disaster known as the cataclysm occurred. Earthquakes of immeasurable magnitude spanning across the entire planet, meteor showers, and massive volcanic eruptions destroyed the lands and permanently changed the topography of Earth. The destruction was so far and wide, Japanese warriors from the East traveled all the way to the swamplands of Heathmoor in search of a new home. By the end of it, the lands were divided between the three factions. The Knights owned Ashfeld, the Vikings owned the frozen lands of Valkenheim, and the Samurai inhabited the swamplands known as the Myre. The disaster was so catastrophic it's a miracle that anyone managed to survive. Naturally, resources became scarce, and eventually the factions met and fought for centuries. At first it was a war for resources. As time went by, the reason they fought became less and less clear, and the once motivated and fierce warriors became complacent and searching for a sign of peace. Any semblance of peace however, was shattered when Apollyon arrived.

## Apollyon's ideology and goal:

Apollyon grew up in Ashfeld, the home of the Knights within Heathmoor. The Vikings began pillaging towns all across Ashfeld when she was young. She watched as the townsfolk cried for help, only to be met with a Lawbringer[1] known as Dante, who deemed their village unworthy of defending and fled to safer lands. Apollyon watched as her village was plundered, the inhabitants killed and raped, and from all of the death and destruction she came out of it with a lesson learned. For one, the world is separated by two groups of people; predator, and prey. Wolves, and sheep. The strong prey on the weak, they exert their power in any way they see fit, living by their own hand and carving their own path. The wolves are warriors, those who starve for war and conflict, some revel in this fact while the others will deny it and claim to be fighting for abstract concepts such as duty, honor, or kinship. Those who fight, not for the sake of fighting but for ideas such as peace and a world without conflict, are hypocrites who deny their true calling. Fighting for principles and ideas antithetical to their warrior nature, however their actions still make them wolves in their own right. Then there are those who enjoy the benefits of the concepts some of the warriors fight and die for. Those who crumble under pressure with no resistance, and those who ignore their calling to conflict. Prey. Prey don't fight for their own ideas, they don't risk their lives in spite of what they may preach, they're sheeps awaiting their own slaughter. Humans are unique, as they are the only animal that can willingly choose to be either predator or prey. Immediately, Apollyon sought out to live by the laws of her own ideology. She spent her youth training in combat, then lived as a criminal, then a soldier, and then a warden[2]. When she turned 16, she had finally found Dante who was by now a frail old man. Mercilessly. She dragged him onto the streets and publicly executed him, she proceeded to take his armor and had it refitted by a blacksmith. She brandished

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[1] Lawbringers are Knights who enforce justice in Ashfeld. They're among the most armored warriors and carry the most versatile weapon, the poleaxe.

[2] The Wardens are powerful, noble warriors dedicated to the defense of their land and their people. Trained to be proud, loyal, and brilliant diplomats, the Wardens are expected to embody the highest values of Knighthood.

that armor for the rest of her life, wearing it as a warning for those who dare to use the law against the strong. From that day forward, her ideology was truly cemented into her well being. Until the day she died, she worked towards one goal, a plan set in motion to create the ideal world for the wolves to rise among the weak. A world plagued by eternal war.

**(Emotional engagement, emotional realization, abstract thinking, existential intelligence)**

## *Narrative:*

Throughout her journeys, Apollyon has come across warriors of all different factions, even exchanging pleasantries. She noted a conversation with one female Viking warrior in an observable, which implies that she can speak and understand Icelandic. She also speaks later to multiple Samurai warriors implying that she can also speak and understand Japanese. One may point out that the different factions are showcased speaking English, however this is a design choice done specifically when members of a faction are speaking to their own members. During the Viking segment of the campaign, Runa remarks that she doesn't speak Japanese after being asked if she managed to get directions from Samurai combatants. Showcasing that the factions speak almost always in their respective native language, and English isn't a lingua franca in this universe. Apollyon is not only able to speak the languages of the three distinct factions, she is also particularly knowledgeable in their history and cultural customs/ideals. Something she takes into account when developing her plans and strategies.

**(VCI, knowledge)**

The Blackstone Legion had many warlords prior to Apollyon taking power, all either too weak or incompetent to lead, resulting in their deaths. Apollyon would be the 8th and final warlord of the Blackstone Legion. Shortly after assuming control,

she destroyed 17 "permanent" Viking settlements in Ashfield, showcasing her expertise in military affairs and how quickly she adapted to becoming a Warlord.

**(Leadership, tactics, adaptability)**

## Chapter 1.1: Warlords and Cowards

In chapter 1.1 we are introduced to the primary protagonist of the Knights campaign, a Warden serving under a Warlord named Hervis Daubeny. Daubeny was a former member of Apollyon's Blackstone Legion, who deserted after stealing some supplies. A lawbringer known as Holden Cross was sent to punish Daubeny for his treachery. After Daubeny refused trial by combat, the Warden was chosen to fight Cross' second. As the Warden beat and executed the Blackstone warrior, Cross saw that the Warden was a potent and skilled combatant being led by a coward, a wolf led by a sheep. Holden Cross then accepted the Warden as part of the Blackstone Legion. A decision Apollyon agreed with. Showcasing that Holden Cross on the surface knew what Apollyon wanted. He was, in fact, her second in command and was regarded as her most stalwart ally.

## Chapter 1.2: And Stay Out

Swiftly after the Warden is recruited, he is sent by Apollyon to save the Iron Legion from an invading Viking force. The Iron Legion was once the most powerful Knight faction, however over the years it became weak and complacent. Their defenses began to crumble, and their resistance against the now invading Vikings was a futile effort which would inevitably end in defeat if they weren't provided aid. The Warden was sent by Apollyon as their relief force for a few reasons. For one, to test the Warden. His resolve, his combat skills, and to see if he sticks to his oath. The second reason, one warrior wouldn't be enough to fill the gaps within the Iron Legion's lines no matter how powerful, and as a result the Iron Legion would suffer

more casualties and become even weaker in spite of the aid. A weaker Iron Legion would be more susceptible to pressure. Lastly, the Warden served as leverage, showcasing the might of warriors who belong to the Blackstone Legion, subliminally encouraging the Iron Legion soldiers to accept their protection. Shortly after the battle of Harrowgate had been won, the Iron Legion had been integrated into the Blackstone Legion. Even though now the Iron Legion was officially disbanded, its old image remained as a once noble, honorable and fierce fighting force in the lands of Ashfeld. And now with its soldiers under a new Legion that exemplifies strength and action, the seeds had been laid for a new Iron Legion to be birthed in the near future.

(FRI, emotional facilitation, observation, analysis, adaptability, psychological warfare, direct manipulation, indirect manipulation, emotional manipulation, mass manipulation, concealment, strategy fortitude, strategy efficiency, strategy effectiveness, strategy complexity, planning intricacies, planning formulation, planning coverage, long term planning, short term planning, decision making)

## Chapter 1.3: The Blackstone Legion

Apollyon notes how she believes that the Warden has reservations concerning their methods. The Warden is sent off with the former Warlord of the Iron legion, Stone, to raid an outpost that Vikings held after Iron Legion deserters abandoned it. The Warden verbally expresses his disgust with how they've abandoned their people and says he trusts Stone as he is from the Iron Legion, showcasing his distrust of the Blackstone Legion. Afterwards they discover Iron Legion deserters who abandoned their posts. One Iron Legion warrior(who seems to be the commander of the deserters) evidently doesn't view the Blackstone Legion favorably and even asks why a Warden would be fighting for Apollyon. During their fight against the Warden, Apollyon arrives and displays her skills in combat. After killing off some of the deserters, the remaining Iron Legion deserters surrender to

the Blackstone soldiers. Apollyon then orders her soldiers in a pre planned process to put their weapons away, as they do the surrendered deserters become much more relaxed. Two of them attempt to launch a surprise attack on Apollyon however they're quickly subdued. Apollyon then executes the remaining deserters, and welcomes the two into the Blackstone Legion. This was all a part of Apollyon's selection process. A tactic she developed to weed out the wolves, those who attempted to take direct action, from the sheep, those who accepted their fates. The Warden is enraged by this process, even attempting to step in as Apollyon beheaded the deserters only to be stopped by Holden Cross. After the selection process, Apollyon stares at the Warden, knowing he disapproves of her methods despite not even looking at him throughout the entire exchange. Apollyon is deliberately sowing the seeds of hatred within the Warden, and doing things to get him to question his loyalty.

**(EU, tactics, emotional manipulation)**

## *Chapter 1.4: Valkenheim in Winter*

The Blackstone Legion are now set upon the Viking stronghold at Valkenheim. Bypassing their so called "impassable defense" through new and superior technology, portable bridge launchers. Upon the fall of the Viking stronghold, as the legion is executing prisoners of war Apollyon stops Holden from executing a raider[3]. Ragnar, a very assertive and dominant warrior who's struggle and resistance caught the eye of Apollyon. Holden Cross informs her that Ragnar was responsible for killing 40 of the Blackstone Legion's soldiers. In spite of this, she had him spared. When asked by Holden Cross she claimed it was because he's a wolf. In reality, Apollyon saw potential in him and knew he could be used as a pawn to advance her goals. She knew he would easily assume leadership over a

[3] Fighting with heavy two-handed axes, Raiders are always found at the forefront of the Viking horde. Relentless warriors who embody the Viking ideals: boundless bravery, spotless integrity, and unbridled passion.

soon-to-be splintered Viking faction after her planned attack on Sverngard, and that his dominant and oppressive nature would result in infighting among the Viking clans. It's also important to note that the Warden wasn't present during this battle, as Apollyon knew that the actions that the Blackstone Legion took would've most definitely caused him to break earlier than she would've wanted.

**(FRI, EU, EP, creative thinking, concealment, verbal deception, acting skills, indirect manipulation, prediction, anticipation, tactics, strategy forecasting, strategy control, long term planning, planning intricacies, planning formulation, decision making)**

A potential debunk to Apollyon's decision to free Ragnar being a calculated move would be to suggest it was simply a part of her selection process, which was the reason she gave to Holden Cross as to why she chose to spare him. However, Cross notes how it's a particularly strange decision, even saying in his inner monologue "I had thought that her laws of selection only applied to us". Holden Cross had been fighting for Apollyon longer than most, being one of the few Blackstone Warriors to take up a Demon name along with her. He had a good enough idea of her ideology on a surface level, and would've been present with her along many of her campaigns and efforts. The only way to argue that Ragnar was chosen solely due to Apollyon's laws of selection would be to argue;

1) Out of the many, many battles the Blackstone Legion have fought in, Apollyon had never found a Viking warrior who she deemed worthy enough to be classified as a wolf. However this would not only be incredibly improbable, it would contradict Apollyon's statement in the last chapter of the Knight campaign where she suggests that the Vikings had many wolves among them.
2) That she had freed Vikings before, however Holden Cross never witnessed it happening. This would be strange to argue due to his close proximity with her, being her second in command, being present among the establishment

of the Blackstone Legion, and being labeled as one of her most important allies.

## Chapter 1.5: Sabotage

In this chapter we are introduced to Mercy, a peacekeeper [4]who is sent by Apollyon to clear a path for the Blackstone Legion on their march towards Svengard.

## Chapter 1.6: Wolves Among Sheep

The Blackstone Legion arrive at the gates of Svengard. The Warden asks Apollyon why they are besieging it, as it looks to be just a storehouse. Apollyon responds saying it is, and that that's why they're there. She claims that the Vikings pretend to be good people on the surface, however as night falls they brandish their knives and stab each other. Leading on with saying if there are wolves among them, it would be right to set them free. While somewhat true to Apollyon's plan, her explanation to the Warden intentionally leaves out the methods she has ordered to bring about the rise of the wolves among the Viking clans. As well as leaving out what her plan truly is.  The Warden implies in his inner monologue that he came out of it more confused. Throughout the beginning of the campaign, it's clear he has ambivalent thoughts about the entire situation. Questioning many times why they're doing this, not sure whether to live by his oath as a warden or his allegiance to the Blackstones. Apollyon was messing with his mind, pushing him further to his breaking point.

**(Acting skills, concealment, information control, individual manipulation, emotional manipulation)**

[4] Female assassins within the Knight faction.

The Warden fights against the Jarl [5]of the fort, Gudmundr. The brief duel ends with Gudmundr retreating, and the Warden lying unconscious. Apollyon stumbles upon the Warden and brings him back to his feet, sending him back into the fight. After the Warden expresses more thoughts showcasing his cognitive dissonance, he has two more duels against the Jarl. After Gudmundr's death, the Warden looks around. Disgusted by the destruction caused, questioning whether he's fighting for the right side. That's when Mercy suddenly appears before him. She tells him the real reason why they're there is to cause famine. The Warden angrily tells Mercy that they took an oath to fight for peace, then tosses away his chain representing his allegiance to the Blackstone Legion. Considering Mercy's abrupt arrival, coupled with her exposition dump on Apollyon's true plans, it logically follows that this entire ordeal was orchestrated by Apollyon to push both Mercy and the Warden to abandon the Blackstone Legion.

**(planning coverage, planning intricacies, strategy control, strategy fortitude, strategy complexity, strategy efficiency, strategy effectiveness, information control, direct manipulation, emotional manipulation, individual manipulation)**

Holden Cross watches as the soldiers leave some of the food unharmed, asking Apollyon why they aren't burning all of it. Apollyon then responds by asking what he believes the Viking clans would do if they burnt it all. Cross said they'd starve and die. Apollyon then informs him in actuality they would unite, however leaving scraps for just a few clans will force them to fight over what's left. "We aren't here to kill them, we're here to teach them who they are. To set them free". Apollyon then tells them it's time to go home. The real reason why she ordered them to leave so early is because Viking reinforcements were on their way, a much larger and stronger fighting force than the Blackstone Legion had present at this moment. "We knew at Svengard that within a day Viking ships would fill the harbor

[5] A Norse chief

and their army would destroy us, but I intended to be long gone before that could happen".

**(planning coverage, strategy control, anticipation)**

## Chapter 2.1: Raiding the Raiders

A year had gone by since the attack on Svengard. Just as Apollyon had predicted, the minimal food left to infighting among the Viking clans. Ragnar sat at the top of the hierarchy, having massive feasts with his acquaintances while the rest of the population starved to death. "It takes a special kind of madness to eat and drink and make merry while your warriors fight and burn and die outside. Ragnar was that kind of wolf". Ragnar's terrible reign had drawn the hatred of many, particularly the Warborn clan. The new protagonist introduced in this chapter is the Raider, one who descended from the mountains and joined the Warborn in order to end the suffering of his fellow man. The Raider then kills Ragnar who refused to change for the better, even justifying his actions prior to his execution by saying "We're vikings". The year in which the clans fought and starved brought constant conflict to the Vikings who were previously growing complacent and soft, just as the Knights. Apollyon achieved two goals after this one year period, that being to reinvigorate the Vikings with the hunger for war that they had seemingly lost. And, to incite conflict that would lead to stronger reunification after it was settled. While Ragnar embodied the oppressive, beast-like nature of the Vikings, the Raider contrasted with a more honorable and morally righteous approach. While Ragnar did good to invoke the urges that deep down they all had hidden, he wouldn't be an ideal leader for the Vikings due to his lack of empathy for those who don't directly serve him. Meanwhile the Raider had a much more noble and charismatic approach, toppling the monster who garnered the distaste of all of his non-subordinates. Apollyon created the perfect situation to reignite the love of conflict among the vikings, providing them a common enemy to unite against, and

rebuild a much stronger clan after the tyrant has been defeated. Unknowing to the Warborn, they did everything Apollyon wanted.

**(EU, EF, prediction, observation, preparation process, planning complexity, planning intricacies, concealment, mass manipulation, individual manipulation, indirect manipulation)**

## Chapter 2.2: Viking Diplomacy

Starting off, Apollyon mentions how the growth of the Warborn occurred much quicker than anticipated. Implying that she did in fact know about and properly foresee that the Warborn would be the ones to succeed Ragnar's reign. She mentions how now there remain two Viking warlords, the Raider and another warlord named Siv. Knowing that Siv had Warborn leaders held hostage, Apollyon logically reasoned that conflict would ensue. There would be no room for diplomacy as Siv butchered and impaled many Warborn prisoners, and had some sort of history with the Raider.

**(anticipation, information gathering, deductive reasoning)**

## Chapter 2.3: Wood, Iron, and Steel

Apollyon had anticipated that the Warborn conflict against Siv's Bear Claw Clan would lead to Viking unification, and as a result she had her Knights occupy a former Viking shipyard in Valkenheim. Intentionally keeping a small garrison there as bait for the Vikings to attack as they desperately needed ships. After the shipyard was taken back, the Warborn discovered Samurai loot. The loot was deliberately placed there by Apollyon, to instigate the Vikings to fight against the Samurai. As the Vikings were still recovering from the events of Svengard, seeing that the Samurai had an abundance of riches made them inclined to raid and plunder.

**(anticipation, setting traps, fabrication, indirect manipulation)**

## Chapter 2.4: Up The Beach

This chapter showcases the Viking raid on Samurai shores, with the Raider taking out a Samurai commander. The Raider says that this raid reminded the Vikings of who they were, so potent that it would go down in history as the Great Raid. The Warborn takeover at Svengard was the rekindling of an old and dying flame. The Great Raid was the flame expanding into a bright and everlasting fire. A permanent change in the Viking psyche, one that reintroduced and cemented the Viking cultural norms of old, was merely one part in the plan Apollyon had laid out.

**(EF, preparation process, planning complexity, emotional manipulation)**

## Chapter 2.5: Reconnaissance

This chapter showcases the efforts of a Viking valkyrie[6], Runa, in her efforts to gain directions that will lead from the Myre to the Emperor's palace. In one of the areas, the corpse of a Blackstone Knight is present. This would be a warning of what was yet to come. "Whoever the lone scout was who found that monastery must've wondered what a Blackstone knight's body was doing there, so far from home. They would find out, soon enough".

## Chapter 2.6: The Great Raid

Here the Vikings attack the gates leading to the Emperor's palace. As the Raider kills the Samurai general Tozen, Apollyon watches from afar. Waiting for the opportune moment to strike.

After that, the game flashes back to a meeting held by the Blackstone Legion five years prior. Where Apollyon reveals her "true" plan, hidden from the Iron Legion, to be triggering war everywhere. When Holden Cross casts doubt this can

[6] Female Viking warriors who act as scouts and trackers. They use their spears and shields to deadly effect.

be done, she assures him it can, if they simply recruit their enemies to the cause. A plan five years in the making, becoming realized to such an effective degree.

**(fabrication, concealment, long term planning)**

## Chapter 3.1: Duty

In chapter 3 we're introduced to the final protagonist who belongs to the Samurai faction. The Orochi, known as the Emperor's champion. The commotion from the Viking raid allowed him to be set free from his cell by his comrades. After the Emperor's champion fought off some of the Vikings, Apollyon was ready to strike. Her and an innumerous number of mounted cavalry began charging towards the Emperor's palace. The Vikings thinned out the Samurai forces, while the remaining warriors were finished off by the Orochi and his comrades. Leaving the perfect opportunity for Apollyon to strike her true goal. As the Orochi said, "The Vikings broke into our city. They didn't know who they served". They were being used by Apollyon. Apollyon killed the Samurai Emperor, and rounded up the remaining daimyo. She asked the first one if he would take his Emperor's throne, he refused and so she executed him. She asked the next one, Seijuro, who responded "After I kill the rest of them, I'm coming to kill you". Apollyon called him a wolf, and ordered her men to leave the palace for Seijuro, leaving the remaining daimyo to fight for the scraps.

**(misdirection, concealment, mass manipulation, strategy control, strategy effectiveness, strategy complexity, planning intricacies, preparation process)**

## Chapter 3.2: Thinning the Herd

This chapter begins with Apollyon personally abandoning one of the daimyo, Ayu, in the Myre. Telling Ayu "Happy hunting", which Ayu understood as Apollyon believing the daimyo would fight each other to claim the Emperor's power. In an

observable, Apollyon states “We left four daimyō in the swamp. Had they been other than those four, they would have joined forces and solved their problems, but I had chosen well". Ayu said that Apollyon was right and that the daimyo she had chosen were all war criminals who would tear their people apart. Ayu was motivated to stop this from happening. Ayu manages to unite most of the Samurai warriors in the Myre, believing that this would be a counter to Apollyon’s plan. Unbeknownst to her, the unification of the Samurai was exactly what Apollyon had wanted. Ayu, through a showcase of force, managed to unite the Samurai in the Myre under her control. Killing the daimyo and subjugating their armies. As opposed to what Apollyon didn’t want to happen, which was for the Warlords themselves to create a coalition which would inevitably crumble due to the power struggle Apollyon had created. Even in the worst case scenario, a coalition wouldn’t have been feasible due to Apollyon’s actions, as a result Ayu was the only one capable of uniting the Samurai. This is why Apollyon personally had Ayu dropped off, and why she later remarks that Ayu was merely a hypocrite who wanted power. Apollyon saw through her from the very beginning, and knew exactly what course of action she would take.

**(EU, STP, prediction, anticipation, setting traps, concealment, mass manipulation, individual manipulation, direct manipulation, strategy complexity, strategy forecasting, strategy shielding, planning coverage, planning complexity, preparation process, long term planning)**

## Chapter 3.3: Picking Up the Pieces

Here the Orochi stumbles upon Ayu after fighting off the remaining Viking forces in the Myre. As the Vikings retreated with their plunder, Ayu called off her archers from attacking them. Informing her new subordinates that their target now is Seijuro, and that they need to dispose of this false Emperor. Just as Apollyon has said, "What impressed me most about the daimyō Ayu was her ruthlessness. Yet,

she lies to herself about her reasons for what she did. I believe it was unimaginable to her that she simply wanted power". Ayu wanted power, she couldn't fathom anyone else being Emperor. But she still lies to herself about the reasons why she opposed Seijuro.

**(EU, empathy)**

## Chapter 3.4: Unity

Ayu and her newly formed army storm the Emperor's palace, now under the command of Seijuro. The Emperor's champion defeats Seijuro, but refuses to execute him. The Orochi explains how it was Apollyon and the Blackstone Legion who pitted them against each other, and that Seijuro had done no wrong. Seijuro then submits to the Orochi. Ending the civil conflict in the Samurai faction, and finally unifying them. Apollyon had anticipated all of this, she knew that Seijuro would fall by the Orochi's hand, and that this would lead the Samurai armies to focus on her and the Blackstone Legion.

**(anticipation, strategy control)**

## Chapter 3.5: Honor

Apollyon knows that what comes next is the Samurai faction, united now under the Dawn Empire, scouting in Ashfeld in order to find safe passage for their armies. The Orochi then discovers that the Warden has abandoned the Blackstone Legion and reformed the Iron legion, along with many soldiers. The Warden captures the Orochi and assures him that they aren't enemies. They duel, and in the process the Warden allows the Orochi to win as a show of good faith. The Orochi understands this in the end, saying that by crossing their swords they are able to understand each other's hearts. Even though the Warden and the Orochi seem to be on good terms, the alliance is still shaky and isn't set in stone. As well, they only

allied to fight against a common enemy, Apollyon. Apollyon knew this, and had anticipated this alliance and knew exactly how to dissolve it.

**(anticipation, prediction, concealment, mass manipulation, strategy forecasting, planning intricacies)**

## Chapter 3.5: Honor

At this point, all of the factions have been united under one banner. The Blackstone Legion was falling apart as more and more Knights were defecting to the rebuilt Iron Legion, which Apollyon had anticipated and planned for since the very beginning. The Vikings were plundering and pillaging the lands, their love for war had been rebirthed by Apollyon's strategy at Svengard and the planned events that took place after the fact. The Samurai had all of their daimyo killed, and as a result were now free of civil conflict, motivated by the goal of putting an end to Apollyon's reign and forcing her to submit to justice. All of the factions were descending upon Apollyon's castle, right where she wanted them.

**(EF, self awareness, acting skills, anticipation, prediction, setting traps, concealment, mass manipulation, emotional manipulation, preparation process, planning intricacies, planning coverage, strategy complexity, strategy forecasting, strategy fortitude)**

Apollyon is informed that the Iron Legion is outside their walls. Atop her castle, Apollyon is able to pinpoint Holden Cross' exact location among hundreds of soldiers from around a mile away. Upon seeing him she mutters the words "at last". Cross' betrayal was predicted by Apollyon, who observed his behaviors prior to his defection. Back in chapter 3.2, Apollyon says, "Apollyon is a demon name. I chose it when I took command of the Blackstones. It means 'destroyer.' Holden's demon name is 'Asmodai.' Recently, he has preferred his given name. Strange". She observed his bizarre change in attitude and, given what she said implying that she knew he

would betray her, most likely reasoned that Cross casting away the name which was meant to serve as a reminder of who they were meant to become in order to plunge the world into war was a showcase of his change of heart and him beginning to reject Apollyon's ideology. Right after this, Apollyon observes as Holden commands a catapult strike at her castle. She watches for a few brief seconds, is able to gauge where the projectile is going to land, and stands in the exact place that would mitigate any damage or pushback from it. While the soldiers surrounding her fell to their knees from the impact of the projectile's crash, Apollyon stood upright and remained unscathed.

**(VSI, EU, empathy, prediction, observation, inductive reasoning)**

Soon enough, the Emperor's champion comes face to face with Apollyon. As they fight, the Emperor's champion notes that her skill was greater than his. Despite this gap in skill, the Emperor's champion is victorious. As Apollyon is barely hanging on to life he tells her that it's over and that there will be peace. She scoffs. Asking him what he thinks they're all going to do now. "You came into my home. And you brought your armies. What did you think would happen? Peace? That isn't how the world works. Don't speak to me of your virtues. Duty. Kinship. Honor. You've forgotten what you are". Apollyon then dies not long after the Vikings arrive. The Vikings disturbance causes confusion among the Knights and Samurai, leading to war between the former allies. Apollyon's death ensured that no new alliance would be had, as they no longer had a common enemy to unite against. The three factions are now at their strongest, all having found their lost passion for war once more. Peace would never come to Heathmoor for decades to come. There was a temporary truce at Wyverndale, however it was short lived after the arrival of one of Apollyon's admirers. The course of history has been dictated through the actions of one person. In death, Apollyon won.

**(EF, anticipation, prediction, concealment, mass manipulation, individual manipulation, emotional manipulation, indirect manipulation, long term planning, planning intricacies, planning coverage, strategy forecasting, strategy complexity, strategy fortitude, strategy shielding, decision making)**