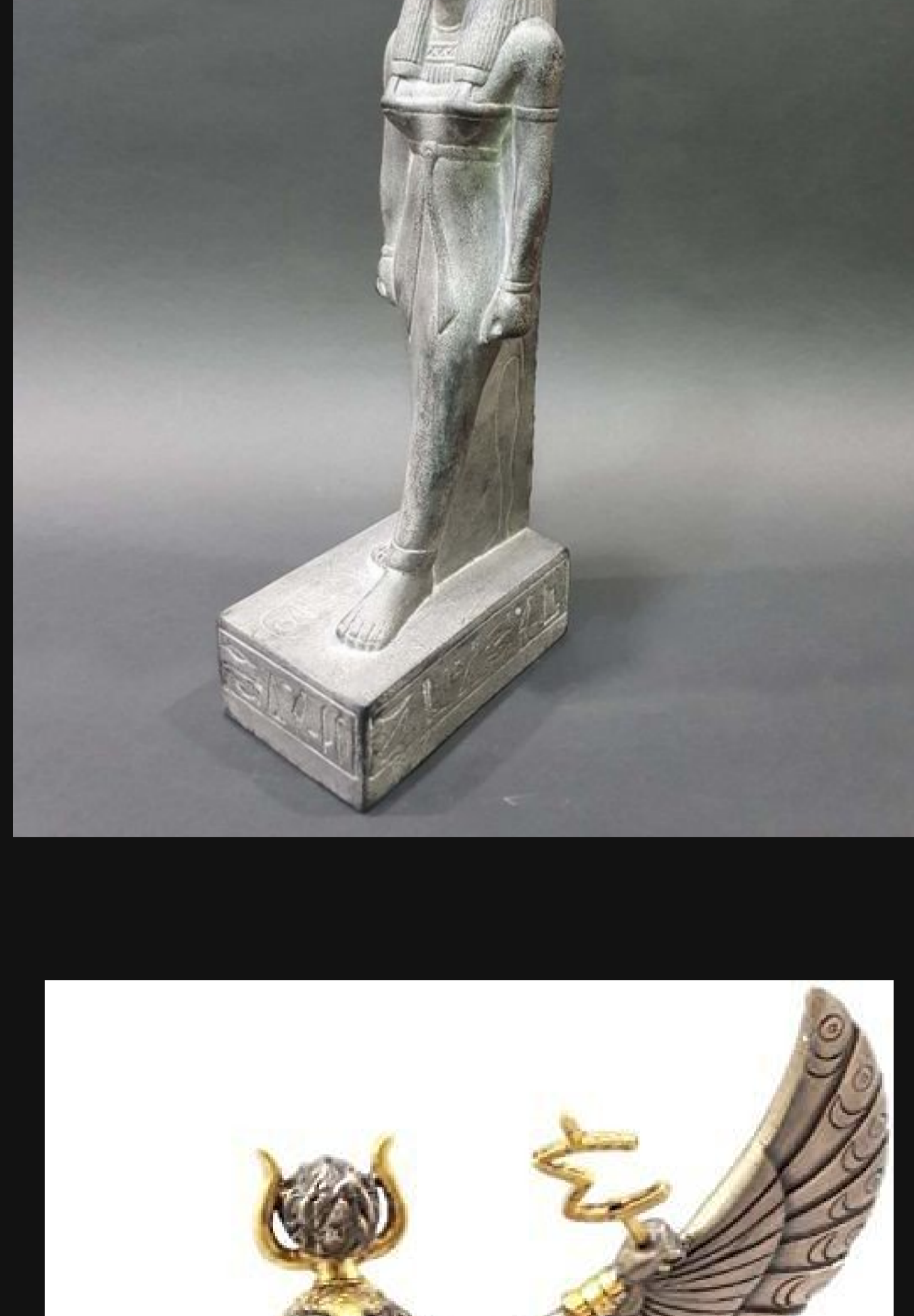


"Beautiful Vena, wake up. I brought you something."  
 "Ugh, just let me rot in here in peace, Druig."  
 "You're gonna want to see this, beautiful Vena." I groaned opening my eyes and was met with Druig's blue ones.  
 "What could be so important that you had to wake me up at ungodly hours?" I yawned rubbing the sleep out of my eyes. "Is Ajak finally letting me o her leash?"  
 "Not yet. Makkari has a plan for that, but she'll tell you later." Druig smiled brushing the hair out of my face. "The humans made something for you. I thought it might cheer you up."  
 "What is it?" I smiled sitting up and outstretched my hands in a grabbing motion. "I wanna see."  
 Druig laughed sitting on the bed and handed me two small statues.



"It's how they see you, I think. Well... as Hathor, pretty much. The second one... I made it with them."  
 "You did!?" I smiled big jumping out of the bed and rummaged around trying to find space for the statues. "Why did you? I thought you chose to sit back and observe from a distance."  
 "You told me once that I had to see the world from their eyes, so I did. And you were right, Vena. They truly are fascinating creatures and everything you've done for them is truly phenomenal." He shrugged and I pulled him into a hug making him tense up but a er a while, he hugged back.  
 "Thank you, Druig." I whispered pulling away just as Makkari sped into the room. " What'd you bring me now, sweet Makkari?"  
 " The opportunity to leave the Domo for a while. Thena oered to defend you and so did Kingo. Want to come?She asked and I nodded jumping around excitedly. " Druig, want to join as well?"  
 "Of course, sweet Makkari."

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 ~Druig's POV~

"You're staring again."  
 "I'm observing, Kingo."  
 "Right, just like Ikaris is **observing** Sersi dance with the villagers?" Kingo smirked and sat next to me making me scoot away slightly. "You gave her the statues?"  
 "How do you know about that?" I asked.  
 "Maybe I'm just as 'observing' as you are." Kingo shrugged and I rolled my eyes turning my attention back to Vena who was being picked up and spun around by Gilgamesh making her laugh. "Looks like little Vena is back where she belongs."  
 "She was miserable for fi een days. I think it was time she joined us down here." I shrugged as Vena rushed towards us. "Everything okay, beautiful Vena?"  
 "Sprite's about to do another show. I thought you two would like to join." Before I had a chance to answer, Kingo kicked me o my seat and Vena helped me stand up. "Kingo, what the hell?"  
 "Was taking too long." Kingo smirked and walked ahead of us.  
 "Don't pay attention to him, Kingo can be an idiot sometimes." Vena smiled and I couldn't help but smile back.  
 Her smile is probably the most contagious thing I've ever witnessed. Once you see her smile, you can't help but smile back.  
 "It's okay, beautiful Vena. I think I'm used to it now." I shrugged. "Are you enjoying your time out of the Domo?"  
 "Well... other than Ajak giving me another lecture and Ikaris with his comments as usual, I'd say I'm having fun. Even Thena joined in on the dance for a while a er she told Ikaris o for making fun of me. And the children, Druig! They're so nice and pure and innocent! Like, how can someone so small have so much energy!?"  
 "I can think of one person." I smirked and she sco ed pushing me lightly.  
 "You're taller by a few inches, it doesn't count."  
 "I'm still taller." I teased and she pushed me again.  
 "And I've fought Deviants three times your size, so what? I can still kick your ass if I wanted to." She smirked and I sco ed. "I cant!"  
 "But you won't."  
 "No? And why not?"  
 "Because we're friends. And friends don't hurt each other." I pointed out with a bitter taste in my tongue.  
 We're friends and that's all we'll ever be. We have been friends for a thousand years, nothing more.  
 "Makkari's my best friend and she kicked my ass last night at training." She shrugged and leaned on a wall just as Sprite started her show. "I like Sprite's shows. Mostly because the children are so easily entertained."  
 "Do you think the humans will remember these stories?" I asked and Vena nodded looking at the stars with a huge smile on her face.  
 "I think that these stories will change their lives for generations to come."

MEMES:

