

FIRE OF GOD SYSTEM (F..O.G.S)

Chapter 9: Kodak's choice, sudden mission

"H-head elder.. if I heard you correctly, you want me to quit being a messenger?" Kodak stuttered with wide eyes, not believing what he just heard.

To be a messenger for a god was by no means an easy task, as one had to undergo various rigorous trainings before then hope a god sees some potential in you. But it didn't end there, no! As the individual would still undergo some missions from the god, before deeming him or her the messenger. He'd undergone different impossible trials, and life threatening choices to come this far and become a messenger. but now they wanted him to give it up?

"Look Kodak.. I know it sounds absurd and unreasonable, but you have to consider our thoughts." Valine paused observing Kodak's reaction. She didn't expect him to be this calm, as she expected otherwise.

"You've sacrificed so much to reach this stage, but how much more do you need to sacrifice? Day after day you embark on different missions for the gods and you stay weeks, hell months!" Valine exclaimed with a frown, to which the others calmly nodded including babayaga.

"You leave home for what seems like eternity and when you come back, you're all bruised and bloodied." Babayaga softly spoke, with worry plastered all over her face.

"I can't possibly bear to see you in that condition." Babayaga dramatically said, earning some few glances from the rest. while darling openly scoffed, expressing her disdain.

"What happens if one day you don't come back home? Or worse, you come back and were no longer here." Elder Chang butted in brushing his long beard.

"We're still humans you know, and we can't escape death including you Kodak." Master Gore added with a sad expression, as the room fell silent. All of their words replaying in Kodak's head.

5, 10, 30 minutes had passed and still no one said a word as Kodak still stood there frozen, lost in his thoughts.

'D-did we break him? Damn it! We didn't mean to hurt his feelings, we just wanted him to see reality.' Valine frowned, seeing Kodak might've accidentally been broken mentally.

"Look Kodak-"

"You're all right." Kodak suddenly blurted out stunning everyone.

"W-we are?" Valine replied in shock, not expecting Kodak to accept her words that easily.

"I understand what you mean high elder, and I too concur with all of you." Kodak calmly said stunning them even more. To quit being a messenger meant giving up all his hard work, and dreams of being a god one day.

"My job as a messenger is life or death, I get it. Everytime I have to go on a mission which meant leaving my wife, child, and the village, with the constant thought of a sudden attack pains my heart. But alas, I was the one who signed up for this." Kodak paused, glancing at each one of them before continuing.

"I understand you all care about me deeply and so do I. Every decision I made, every pain I had to endure to get stronger was to protect my family, you guys." Tears were slowly building up in his eyes, as he spoke from the heart.

"We are but a small village in a far plain where beasts roam. We could easily be attacked, and with our current forces we'd be slaughtered!"

"Yes I know it's scary to loose the one you love, but wouldn't you do anything to protect them?" He asked, some balls of tears slipping down his eyes.

"Well I would, even if it meant death!" Kodak shouted, his voice a bit high pitched as he was overwhelmed with emotions. There were mixed expressions of shock, fear, anger on their faces listening to Kodak's word.

They couldn't deny all what he said was true, as they were living in a world filled with beasts, constantly evolving and growing stronger. Humanity was on the backside of evolution, as only few high level cultivators remained. Which was why the gods chose to interfere in the first place, taking in messangers and granting them some bits of their powers to fight back.

It was a cruel cold world and they all knew it. The strong takes what they want, while the weak scrapes shit. Only the fittest would survive in this blood thirsty world.

'Clap! Clap! Clap!'

The sound of clapping garnered everyone's attention, as they stared towards the source. Valine was already on her feet clapping her hands, steadily making her way to Kodak.

"Well done boy.. I wasn't entirely sure you were ready yet, but now I see it." She smiled, placing her hand on Kodak's shoulder.

"What are you talking about high elder? Ready for what?" Kodak honestly said, confused not knowing what she meant.

"I mean you're ready to be the next village chief." She spilled the beans, making Kodak's eye go wide as he took some few steps back.

"Y-you can't possibly be serious right?"

"Oh but I am. infact, we've all taken a vote and we decided it's time you took your place as chief."

"You deserve it Kodak." Elder Chang smiled.

"Yeah.. and as chief you get to have more than one wife, ya know what I mean?" Babayaga seductively said biting her fingers a bit.

"You disgusting hag he's already married. and even if he wasn't, he'd never go for a used product!" Darling mocked, making babayaga's face go tomatoe red.

"Why you fucking-"

"Eh! What we're trying to say is the village need a new chief. A strong one to guide, protect, and lead them." Master gore added, cutting the two bickering old women.

"B-but we have elder valine."

"My powers are growing weaker each day boy. Am not getting any younger you know." Valine said with a bitter smile, and Kodak understood what she meant. He'd known valine since he was a child, and though no one knew her real age he guessed she was over 300years old.

"I-i can't do it, am not ready yet. W-what if the village was plagued with sickness or worse!" Kodak panicked, clutching his heart feeling it pounding hard against his chest.

"Shhh... Calm down child, everything will be alright." She hugged him tightly, causing his built up dam to burst open.

"We never really wanted you to quit being a messenger, we just wanted you to see it from our point of view." Valine softly whispered brushing his hair. She could feel he was visibly shaking, like he was having a convulsion and she didn't blame him.

He'd went through a lot before he reached this position. Even though he didn't show it, she could see fear always lingering at the corner of his eyes.

"There.. there.. boy we believe in you. You got this!" She gently brushed his back, giving him some light taps. "And besides.. it's not like we're leaving soon." She chuckled a bit.

After some minutes Kodak seemed to have finally calmed down, as he wasn't shaking or crying again.

"T-thank you high elder valine." He smiled staring in her eyes, to which she nudged his check. "And to all of you! I promise I'll never forget all that you taught me." Kodak bowed in respect.

"You haven't answered our question boy. Do you want the position of village chief or not?" Master gore asked with a light smile.

"I-it would be an honour." Kodak smiled raising his head up.

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After the heartfelt meeting, elder Chang and master gore had already left to prep the villagers on the latest development. While darling and babayaga had also left, to prepare for Kodak's inauguration to becoming the next village chief.

"Your parents would be proud Kodak." Valine softly said tapping his shoulders, earning low muffled pained grunts from Kodak.

Since he was just a child he'd spent it in this village, as he never really knew his parents. He was an orphan, but he was adopted by high elder valine and trained by her. Most of his life he spent training, cultivating and hunting beasts. He was slowly growing stronger and surpassing everyone in the village, but it came with a price.

Though elder valine cared for him and showed him so much love like her own child, it just didn't hit like his real parents affection would be. He mostly cried and drowned his thoughts in fights, but eventually he got over it the more he grew.

Eventually he earned his way as a messenger of kira the god of fire, after many life demanding tasks. He found love and married his childhood friend Leona, and now they had a bouncing baby boy together.

"You know.. even though I never knew my parents, I wouldn't change anything." He smiled, to which valine softly nodded hugging him again.

'Bam!' The door of the room was flung open, as a figure made it's way to them.

"M-mister Kodak! A letter from the god's~" the secretary panted, huffing in large amounts of air as she handed over the letter.

Reading it a frown immediately formed on Kodak's face, as he gazed through the contents.

"What is it?" High elder valine asked, seeing Kodak's face contort into a frown.

"Am afraid am being summoned by kira, for another sudden important mission."