

GODS' IMPACT 301

Chapter 301 Incentive To Followers "What would happen to us if we became your followers?" Noah asked, seemingly interested in joining Zach's religion but not sure about it.

"I am honestly not sure. I have set rewards for reaching certain numbers of NPC followers. And the rewards were something that could benefit them." Zach shot a glance at Ninia and continued, "But Nothing would change for you as all those things I mentioned are already given to the players. But you can get food, money, and shelter if you join my religion."

"So it's like a guild, but not a guild?" Elina asked, finally breaking her silence to show her interest in the conversation.

"Something like that, yes," Zach nodded in response. He turned to Ninia and said, "I will give you money for everything later."

"There is no need for that. I have a room full of money stored in this church," Ninia stated. "I am a healer, after all. And I get a lot of money from healing the players."

"But that's your hard-earned money. You should use it for yourself," Victoria quipped from the corner.

"I agree with Victoria," Zach seconded her.

"Mee too," Aria joined them.

"But I have no use of the money. I can cook my own food and stay in the church. I have no expense for myself." Ninia smiled at Zach and said, "I plan to use all my fortune to expand your religion."

'Stop that. Don't be so kind to me. You have already showered me with your favors. If you keep doing that... I might develop feelings for you...'

"Still, I will give them money."

"I wouldn't allow you to do that—"

"Ninia. It's my religion," Zach said in a loud voice. "You cannot do everything."

"I... understand..." Ninia uttered with a dejected look on her face.

"..." Victoria opened her mouth to say something, but Aria shook her head at her as though she was trying to justify Zach's action.

'Zach did the right thing. It may sound harsh to others, but I know why Zach did that.' Aria bit her lips and continued, 'Zach's religion is going to spread regardless of when and how. And he had made Ninia his prophet. IF he let Ninia do God's job, who will do the prophet's job?'

'It's for the best. Zach needed to make it clear to Ninia and remind her of her position in his religion. I don't want to pry much into their personal relationship with each other as I have no right to stop her or Zach if they truly decide to break the boundaries and commit a taboo act.'

"Master Zach, we will join your religion!" Noah chirped.

"..." Zach looked at the cheerful look on Noah's face, but Elina didn't seem happy about it.

"Noah, the first thing to learn as a man, is to never speak for others unless you have a right to do so," Zach said to Noah in a calm voice.

"I... see..." Noah glanced at Elina, who seemed angry at him for saying 'we' without even consulting her about it.

"I only said it because... I want to stay together with you..." Noah said with a little flushed face.

"We can be together even without joining any religion." Elina glared at Zach and uttered, "Will you kick us out if we don't join your religion?"

"Of course not. You can stay here as long as you want."

"And why should we join your religion if there is nothing in it for us?" Elina asked as though she was annoyed at Zach for trying to get them into joining his religion.

"As I said, I don't know what the benefits are. Maybe there are benefits. Who knows? Maybe you will have them after I reach a certain number of followers or once I get strong?" Zach responded with a shoulder shrug.

"The other gods are giving us favors from the Karma Points. They give an incentive to the players to get them to worship them. So if you want the players to worship you, you will have to give them an incentive too," Elina asserted and flipped her hair after speaking the last sentence.

'She is surprisingly smart for her age...' Aria thought. 'Heh! I think I now know who will have the upper hand in their relationship once they grow up.'

'What can I give them as an incentive?' Zach wondered. 'I am already providing them money, food, and shelter. That's a basic thing a player would need to survive. But Elina is right. I need to give them something they will never find someone else.'

After pondering for a while, Zach thought, 'What if I provide them free MP potions? Their demand keeps increasing, and if I make them exclusive for my followers, I will become famous in one night.'

'However, there is a major drawback. I can't charge my followers for the potions as they can buy them from the magic shop anyway. And suppose I don't get money from the potions. In that case, I will eventually run out of money since I will provide resources to my followers.'

'Perhaps, I shouldn't make potions exclusive, but then the impact of the incentive will be sub-par. Hmm... how about a discount? I will give a 50% discount to my followers, and they will be the first ones to get their hands on potions as soon as I make them.'

After thinking about it for a while, Zach decided to proceed with his plan. However, there was still one thing he had to do before announcing his religion openly to the players.

'I will have to change the deal I made with Xie Lua since she is the one providing me with the materials to create the bottles.'

"The lunch is ready~!" Victoria announced. "Go wash your hands. I will set the table."

Zach got up and said, "I will help you."

Ninia took the kids to wash hands while Aria stood dumbfounded in the middle.

Aria stared at Zach and licked her lips before thinking, "I don't know what we are going to do for the rest of the day, but I think I know what Zach and I are going to do tonight.'

Chapter 302 A New Deal
After eating lunch, Zach and Victoria were washing dishes together on the backside of the church.

"This kind of feels like we are married and doing house chores together," Victoria said with a smile on her face.

"That would have been the normal life you yearn for, huh?"

"It will happen once we get out of the game."

"..." Zach watched Victoria with a calm look on his face but didn't say anything, or rather, he didn't know what to say. There was no point in giving false hope.

'Can we leave this game? I am not sure. The gods said we can, but they are gods. They won't easily give up. There has to be a twist they are planning.'

'But... is there any need or reason to leave this game?' Zach wondered. 'The only reason I want to go back to the real world is that mother, Zoe, and Siesta. Victoria is already here.'

'Only if mother had her powers, she could have taken Zoe to another safe realm of one of the father's friends.'

'Oh! I forgot about our real bodies. Just like how we die in the real world if we die in the game, if we die in the real world because of some circumstances, we will die here too.'

Their bodies were defenseless in the real world, although they were safe.

"Yeah." Zach finally broke his silence and said, "We need to clear this game and go back to the real world."

After washing the dishes, Zach went back to his room and jumped on the bed to relax.

He looked at his gloves and took off the gloves from his right hand.

"I have noticed this before, and even though it was only my second time using phoenix's mode..." Zach opened and closed his fists a couple of times and said, "My hand feels numb. Not only my hand but also my head and mouth."

He curled to the side of the bed and muttered, "Even though Victoria made my favorite dish, I couldn't taste it because of the numbness."

'It should automatically go away, but this is the side-effect of using the blessings. If I want to use my blessings freely, my soul needs to get strong, a lot stronger.'

Zach closed his eyes and meditated for a few minutes before getting up from the bed. He wore the gloves and opened the portal to the magic shop dimension.

Xie Lua was at the booth, but she was resting her head on her hands, and her eyes were closed. Seemingly, she was daydreaming again.

"Ahem!" Zach cleared his throat to make his presence known.

Xie Lua's ears twitched after hearing that, and she slowly raised her head to see Zach standing in front of her.

"..."

They stared at each other for a few seconds, creating tension in the atmosphere.

Zach was about to open his mouth to say something, but he stopped when he heard Xie Lua sigh.

SIGH!

"...?" Zach was confused and anxious after hearing Xie Lua sigh after seeing him. 'Why did she sigh after seeing me? I thought we were lovers now?'

Xie Lua took a deep breath and smiled cheerfully at Zach before saying, "Welcome, dear~ What would you like first~? Food, bath or~ Me~?"

"...."

Xie Lua groaned and puffed her cheeks as she said, "Come on~ You are supposed to choose me like you always do~"

However, she was still in a playful manner.

"What... in the world are you doing...?" Zach asked with an awkward smile on his face.

"Huh?" Xie Lua's face turned pale when she saw Zach speaking. "Don't tell me.... This... you are the real Zach...?"

Zach facepalmed himself and muttered, "So she was truly daydreaming."

"Wait! Why are you here again?!" Xie Lua hissed with a flushed face. She covered her face with her hands and said, "You never come two times in a day, so I was sure I was daydreaming."

"It's okay. There is no need to be embarrassed. And of course, if you ask me to choose between food, bath, and you, I would always choose you," Zach said with a grin on his face, seemingly trying to tease Xie Lya even more.

"Shut up!" She gritted her teeth and asked, "Why are you here?"

"I was missing you, so I came here to meet my dear wife, who is obviously lonely without me," Zach replied in a neutral tone.

"I can tell that was a lie since the expression on your face didn't change. Now, what's the real reason?" she asked with a judging look on her face.

Zach told her about his plan to use MP potions as an incentive to get players to join his religion.

"Originally, I came to inform you about that since you are the one funding me with the materials, but then I remembered that the potions are non-transferrable, and I can't give them to anyone other than you."

After a brief pause, Zach said, "So they will have to buy potions from here at a 50% discount, which is also 500 coins. But I don't think they can summon the magic shop whenever they want a potion. So... can you give me a token like you gave me to summon the magic shop whenever they want?"

"I am sorry, but I only had one token, and I gave it to you," Xie Lua said in a low voice.

"I can give them my token, but then I would lose the ability to meet you every day, and I don't want that."

After a brief silence, Xie Lua held Zach's hand in her hands and said, "How about one of them comes and takes potions in bundles every week?"

"That's possible, but I don't have any player I can fully trust, and NPCs can't enter here."

"How about... you do it?"

"Hmm?"

"You can sell me the potions and buy them from me. That will make them transferable and usable," Xie Lua suggested, "Of course, I will give them to you for free, but I can't do a transaction without a trade, so you will have to give me one coin, at least."

"Oh!"

Chapter 303 More Problems and Quick Solutions Zach came to make a new deal with Xie Lua, but she suggested something that changed their previous deal.

"That's a great idea, not going to lie," Zach nodded in agreement. "But then I will have to descend every week to give them potions."

'Hmm. But that's actually good. I will get to see Ninia's smile every week. But since I am doing all this for the players, I am sure only day they will ascend to the higher realms. What then?'

'I can't use the church of any other realms as my own, so I guess I will have to give someone the responsibility to handle everything related to potions. But I currently don't have anyone I can trust.'

'Noah is still a kid, and it will take him months to ascend if he tries hard. Other than that, I don't know anyone else.'

"How will you know if a player has truly joined your religion or not? What if they lie to you to get the potion at a discount?" Xie Lua asked.

"What if I create a sigil of my religion and have my followers tattoo it on their arms?" Zach suggested.

"You can do that, yes. And not only that, but I will also give them a discount at my shop if they come to purchase something."

"Uhh..." Zach furrowed his brows as he pondered. "Why do I feel like I am forgetting something important..?"

A few seconds later, Zach banged his hand on the booth and said, "Can a player give potions to another player?"

"If they have purchased it, then yes... oh!" Xie Lua's eyes widened as she realized what Zach was trying to say.

"Suppose my follower brought ten MP potions worth 500 coins— which is at a 50% discount. And sold them for, let's say, 700 or 800 coins— which would be less than the market price, yet they would still earn 300 coins more."

"You mean the scalpers..."

"Yeah, but a bit worse than them since they will be buying at a discount. I mean, you know better than anyone about the demand for MP potions," Zach scoffed softly.

"Yeah. They get sold out every day."

"I wouldn't be surprised if players are selling them for even more price."

"Well, you can't really stop the scalpers. They exist everywhere. Even if you stop one, another will rise. And they make money by scalping, so it's equivalent to a job for them," Xie Lua asserted.

"I am aware of that. But I wouldn't want my followers to do that."

"You just have to let it slide. Why worry about something you can't control?"

"True..."

Xie Lua smiled at Zach but didn't say anything. She was happy that she was able to help Zach with his concerns, and for the first time, she felt as though she was important to him.

"Putting all that aside, let's talk about the pricing," Zach said with a serious look on his face.

"Huh? I already said you only need to give me one coin for..." Xie Lua stopped when she noticed the serious look on Zach's face.

"You are the one who said we shouldn't mix our personal life with professional life. So tell me the price. How many coins do you think the materials cost per potion?"

"Around 50..."

"Okay, then. I will give you 60 coins per potion," Zach asserted.,

"Why 60?"

"You need to keep your shop running, no? The ten extra coins are your commission."

".re..." Xie Lua muttered something, but her voice was so low that even Zach couldn't hear it.

"What was that?"

"...more..."

"Huh? More what?"

Xie Lua looked into Zach's eyes and said, "I want more..."

"Oh! Sure. How much?"

Xie Lua touched her lips and said, "60 coins and one kiss..."

"..."

Xie Lua's face flushed a few seconds after she said that. She glanced at Zach from the corner of her eyes and asked, "Is that a no...?"

Zach leaned forward and kissed Xie Lua on the lips before saying, "You will get kisses for free."

"Shall we seal the deal with a kiss then?" Xie Lua asked with a grin on her face.

"Obviously." Zach wanted to kiss Xie Lua properly, so he got to the other side of the booth and casually pulled Xie Lua close to him.

"Oh?" Xie Lua wrapped her arms around Zach's neck and said, "It seems the sealing kiss is going to be a deep one."

Zach kissed Xie Lua's soft lips before saying, "It's a big deal, after all."

Even though they said it was a sealing kiss— which should have ended after one kiss— they kept kissing for minutes.

Once again, Zach pushed Xie Lua against the booth and kissed her passionately. Then, he slowly moved his hand towards Xie Lua's chest, expecting her to push him off as she did in the morning. But much to his surprise, she didn't do anything.

'I will take that as a yes then...'

Zach copped a feel of Xie Lua's breasts before squeezing them while they kept kissing.

'They feel a lot different than any of the breasts I have touched before. Discarding Victoria and Aurora as they are humans, even Aquarius and Ruli's breasts didn't feel like this. Is this the charm of a phoenix or an ancient being?'

'If so, then I don't know how Aria's —who is the oldest— breasts would feel like...'

After kissing for a few more minutes, Xie Lua stopped Zach and said, "You should leave now."

Zach still kissed her a few times and squeezed her breasts.

"Other players can't summon the magic shop if a player is already inside. So unless you leave, other players can't come in."

A few kisses later, Zach patted Xie Lua on the head and smiled at her.

Xie Lya raised her brows and asked, "What are you doing?"

Zach grinned and replied, "Patting you for all the hard work you have been doing..."

Xie Lua squinted her eyes and uttered, "When you were a kid, I used to pat you all the time, and now you have grown big enough to pat me..."

Zach kissed her once again and asked, "I wanted to ask you something."

"Hmm?"

"It's about one of my father's friends who betrayed him. Do you have any clue on who that could be?"

After a brief silence, Xie Lua nodded and said, "I think I know who did that."

Chapter 304 Unraveling the Traitor"Who is it?" Zach asked with a frowned face.

That was enough for Xie Lua to realize how angry Zach was with the traitor.

"I am 99% sure that it was one of 12— now 11— pillars," Xie Lua answered in a calm voice, seemingly unaffected by the furious look on Zach's face because her feelings were the same.

She was as angry —if not more— as Zach at the traitor, and she wanted to avenge Deus as well.

"That's..." The furious look on Zach's face vanished as soon as Xie Lua's words reached Zach's heart. He was having a hard time believing it. "That's not possible."

"Do you know the meaning of betrayal?" Xie Lua asked in a neutral tone.

"Ah..." Zach understood what Xie Lua was getting. "Betrayal always comes from the closest people who one trusts. Otherwise, it wouldn't be called a betrayal."

"Right. And there was no one else close to master other than the rest of the 11 pillars. Sure, he had lots of friends and enemies, but he spent most of the time with the pillars as he was the 12th and the youngest pillar," Xie Lua asserted in a solemn voice.

"Do... you have any proof of your statement? I am not saying that I don't trust you. It's just... hard to believe..."

"Your father went to the eleven pillars to ask for help. And only they knew that he was planning to attack the heavens. If that's not enough to convince you, then forgive me, but you are the stupidest person I have ever met."

Zach placed his hand on Xie Lua's shoulder, but he kept his gaze down and uttered, "I am convinced. It's just hard to take in. After all, they all are my masters. They trained me. They also gave me blessings. They made me who I am today. So if one among them is a traitor..."

Zach clenched his chest with his hand and muttered, "I feel disgusted. Why would they do that?!"

"One always betrays in two conditions: whether they are losing something or gaining something. Sure, there are other reasons why one would betray another, but all that fall into a different category, such as being betrayed by an acquaintance or a mere friend."

"Do you..." Zach looked into Xie Lua's eyes and saw fire inside them. "Do you know who it could be from the 11 pillars?"

Xie Lua shook her head and said, "Sadly, I do not know. I never knew them personally, so I can't tell the reasons for the betrayal either."

After a few seconds, Zach cracked his jaw and uttered: "Say, is it given that it was only one traitor?"

"Huh?"

"When father mentioned the traitor, he assumed someone must have snitched him out. But what if it wasn't only one traitor? What if it was more? Perhaps, all the pillars ratted father out?" Zach asked in an inexplicable tone.

"...!" Xie Lua was taken aback after hearing that. Not by what Zach said, but by the fact that Zach said that.

'Until a few minutes ago, he wasn't even getting convinced that his masters betrayed his father. And now he is suspicious of all of them...'

Xie Lua grabbed Zach's head and caressed his face.

"What are you doing...?" Zach asked curiously.

Xie Lua leaned forward and kissed Zach on the lips before saying, "I think we have talked enough on this topic. We know who can be the traitor, but we don't know for sure who it was. Doubting or getting suspicious of them is not going to help you on that matter."

"Yeah, you are right," Zach nodded. "And even if I knew who it was, I can't do anything unless I get out of this death game. Until then, I can just let my anger brew so that I can unleash them all together one day."

After saying that, Zach kissed Xie Lua on the lips as a goodbye kiss and left the magic shop dimension.

"..." Xie Lua watched Zach leave and placed her hand on her chest. "Zach... You are choosing the wrong path... but I don't have the courage to stop you. Maybe the wrong path leads to a better future. I don't know. But I will support you till the very end."

When Zach left the magic shop dimension and entered his room, he found Victoria and Aria sitting on his bed.

"Look who is here," Aria remarked. "I thought you left us behind and ran off somewhere to clear the game alone."

"Come on, Zach would never do such a thing," Victoria defended Zach.

"What are you girls doing here?"

"Aria mentioned you wanted to talk to us about something..." Victoria responded.

"Oh, yeah." After a brief pause, Zach uttered, "Xie Lua and I are a couple now."

"..."

"..."

"Umm... say something."

"You even laid your hands on an NPC?" Aria asked in disbelief. "Who are you going to seduce next? Ninia?"

"Whoa, whoa, whoa. First of all, Xie Lua is not an NPC. I have known her since I was a kid. And second... she is hot as fuck. No man wouldn't want her, and I think of myself as lucky to have her love me."

"I... have no comments..." Victoria muttered.

"I used to get jealous, but that was when I wasn't an official part of your harem. However, now that my position is safe and secured, I don't actually care which or how many girls you mess around with, honestly. But don't you dare ever stop loving me," Aria warned Zach and continued, "Otherwise, I will make you regret your every choice."

"I am curious to know what you would do if that happens, but I will refrain myself," Zach remarked.

"What are we going to do now?" Victoria asked curiously. "Any plans to ascend anytime soon?"

"Well, I have to take care of my religion first. I already made a deal with Xie Lua about the potions, so now I will have to spread the word amongst the players."

Chapter 305 Dropping Another Bomb
Zach glanced back and forth between Aria and Victoria before saying, "I also promised Ninia that I would make my religion official when I get over 500 followers, and I am sure I have reached that limit. What do you girls think? You were with her for three days."

Aria and Victoria glanced at each other as they remembered the three days they spent together with Ninia, where they fought and pulled each other's legs most of the time.

"I think you might have. How about you plan a gathering of all your followers? Victoria suggested. "You can also know the exact number of your followers and make your religion official too."

"That's a great idea! Let's do that tomorrow morning... uh, no. Make it noon or afternoon." Zach had planned to do something else tomorrow morning, which would take him the entire day to finish.

"Okay. I will discuss this with Ninia first," Victoria nodded in response.

"Also, Aria and I are planning to do 'it' today, as in after a few minutes."

Once again, Zach had dropped the bomb at an unexpected time, and even Aria was baffled after hearing that.

All this time, she thought they would do it at night, but Zach, however, was planning to do it as soon as they got a chance.

Victoria, who was listening to Zach calmly, frowned her face and said, "Why her and not me? Besides, I promised you that we would do it after you win the battles. But then you were in slumber for three days, and we never got a chance."

"Whoa. Calm down, you horny rabbit," Zach said to Victoria.

"Don't give me weird nicknames!" Victoria hissed and jumped at Zach, but he embraced her with a hug.

"But it's the truth, no?" he asked with an innocent look on his face, seemingly trying to sound convincing and cute at the same time.

"No!" But it didn't work on Victoria as she knew Zach inside out.

"Yes."

"If anyone is a horny rabbit, it should be Aurora," Victoria remarked.

"Well... I cannot refute that. But that horny rabbit is resting right now, so you are the next one," he retorted with a grin on his face.

"Anyway, back to the topic. Why do you want to do it with her and not me?" Victoria asked with a curious and sad look on her face. "You were with her for more than a week, and you shared the room with her. So you two must have done it a lot of times, right? While I... am lonely without your touch..."

She said the last sentence in a low voice while lowering her gaze.

"Oh, hey!" Aria finally broke her silence and said, "We haven't done anything!"

"Argh~" Victoria rolled her eyes after hearing that and said, "You can't fool me. I know you are dominant in your relationship with Zach, and he never turns you down. So it's hard for me to believe that someone as selfish as you would miss a chance to make moves on Zach when his heart was vulnerable. Furthermore, didn't you help Zach in creating an essence pill for Aurora? How can someone do that without the cum?"

"For the first time, I agree with you, and as disappointing as it may sound, nothing happened between Zach and me. There was close to zero development in our relationship," Aria uttered with a weary sigh as though she didn't have the energy to debate the topic.

"Wait, really?" Victoria didn't doubt Aria's words because she had no reason not to believe her.

She knew that even though they were rivals and always messed—sometimes even joked— with each other, they would come out clean and be honest at the end of the day.

That was the most important thing to managing the harem, and Aurora had nailed her job on that matter. She had trained the girls well.

"Yeah." Aria nodded and said, "And you are right, by the way. I did give him hints to make a move on me, but he never did. So I had no choice but to make a move on him myself. However, he turned me down when I did that, saying, 'I can't do anything with other girls unless I do it with Aurora first. I promised Aurora, and I can't break that,' or something along the lines."

Aria nailed it by imitating what Zach had told her.

"Not going to lie, that does sound like something he would say." Victoria turned to Zach and asked, "So what has changed now?"

"I talked with Aurora about it, and she scolded me good. She said I was being stupid and asked me not to disappoint the other girls while trying to please one," Zach shuddered as he said that.

"That's true, and I was going to tell you the same thing, but I refrained myself because I didn't want you to get angry with me," Victoria asserted.

Zach moved his hands forward and squeezed Victoria's breasts as he said, "I would never get angry at you."

SIGH!

Victoria walked to the door and said, "I will excuse myself."

"Wait!" Zach turned around and said, "Can you...uhh.."

"I know what you are going to say," Victoria said with a smile on her face. "You were going to say, 'Ignore the moans and noise we make', right?"

"No..."

"Then... you wanted me and the rest to leave the church so you two can have some fun without holding back?"

"Yes," Zach nodded in response.

"Sure, I don't mind. I can also take the kids, but I don't think Ninia would leave that easily. She also has a job as a healer, after all.."

"Just tell her about the summit of the followers we talked about earlier. She would be excited about it."

"Hmm. I guess. Okay, I will take everyone out. How much time do you think you two would need to satisfy yourself?" she asked curiously.

"What time is it now?"

Victoria checked the time and replied: "Um... 2:22."

"Then maybe return by dinner time?"

"That's 6 hours!" she exclaimed.

Chapter 306 Secret is Out "You seriously don't plan to do it for 6 hours, right?!" Victoria exclaimed.

"I can actually go even longer, but obviously, I can't do it if you guys return," Zach replied with a shoulder shrug.

"But how can you do it for that long?"

"I am a god, remember?"

"But we only did one round.."

"That was... an extremely awkward first time for both of us. But now I have learned."

Victoria squinted her eyes and glared at Zach with a judging look on her face.

"Don't worry. I will make our second time more special than our first," Zach said while winking at Victoria.

SIGH!

After the sigh, Victoria relaxed her squinted eyes and said, "So..."

"Hmm?"

"Will you spend the night with me...?" Victoria squirmed.

"Sorry, but I plan to sleep with Aurora tonight," Zach replied calmly.

"Zach!" Victoria yelled.

"What is wrong with you?!" Aria yelled from behind.

Confused, Zach glanced back and forth at Aria and Victoria and asked, "What? Why are you girls suddenly so furious?"

"How can you even think of sleeping with Aurora when she is in bad condition?" Victoria sighed in disbelief.

"What do you mean? What's wrong with— oh!" Zach suddenly exclaimed, and his eyes grew wider in realization. "By sleeping, I mean normal sleeping. I simply want to spend the night with her, that's all."

"Oh..."

"You girls are perverts. You have dirty minds," Zach remarked. "How could you even think that I would do something with Aurora?"

"It's your fault!" Aria hissed.

"Yeah."

Victoria seconded Aria and continued, "We were talking about having sex, and then you suddenly mentioned your plan to sleep with Aurora without any context. Anyone would misunderstand."

"I guess."

After a brief pause, Zach turned to Victoria and said, "We will do it later after we ascend, okay?"

"Kay..."

Victoria left the room with a disappointed face. But she wasn't sad or angry about it. She had learned to accept the compromises one would make in a relationship, which were much harder in a harem.

Victoria first decided to get Noah and Elina, but they weren't in their room, so she went to Ninia, who was healing the injured players outside the church.

"Have you seen the kids?" she asked Ninia.

"They are in the backyard," Ninia responded.

Victoria went to the backyard and brought them to Ninia. Then, they waited for Ninia to heal all the players and asked her if she was interested in going with her to tell Zach's followers about the gathering tomorrow evening.

Ninia, of course, agreed without even thinking.

"But where is Aria?" Ninia asked curiously.

"She... uhh, she is training Zach," Victoria replied awkwardly.

"Training? What could she possibly teach him?" Ninia scoffed softly. She turned around and said, "I will go check-up—"

"Zach asked not to be disturbed," Victoria stated. "You wouldn't want to make him angry, right?"

Ninia slowly turned to Victoria and asked, "Did he really say that?"

"Why would I lie?" Victoria shrugged her shoulders. "And if you don't believe me, then you can go ahead and disturb him. But don't come crying after he throws you away for disobeying his order."

"I believe you!" Ninia said and grabbed Elina's hand as she said, "Let's go. We have to roam around the entire capital."

Victoria smiled inwardly and thought, 'She is so innocent and meek whenever it comes to something about Zach. Now I know why Zach likes being around her.'

Meanwhile, Zach was staring at Aria— who was sitting on the bed in front of him— with an alluring gaze in his eyes.

Aria was acting a little shy, and Zach couldn't help but let out a chuckle after seeing that. After all, it was a rare sight to see Aria acting meek.

"What's wrong, my lovely wife? Feeling embarrassed now?" Zach teased her with a grin.

"Unlike you, I have shame. Hmph!"

"Oh? Then where was this shame when you defamed me earlier? And what happened to your haughty statement 'I made moves on him', huh?" Zach teased her even more.

"But that was true, right?!"

Zach shrugged his shoulders and asked, "So are you saying that you made a move on me knowing well that I wouldn't do anything?"

"Well..." Aria averted her gaze, and that was enough for Zach to know the answer to his question.

He shook his head in disbelief and muttered, "You girls are honestly so evil."

"Hey, listen! This is my first time, so obviously, I would be embarrassed. It doesn't matter if I am a goddess or whatnot, okay?! I am sure even you were embarrassed when it was your first time with Victoria," She remarked out loud.

"I wouldn't say I wasn't embarrassed. But that's a whole different topic. Here you made fun of me for not doing anything to you, and now you are acting like a maiden."

Aria frowned her face and uttered, "So are you going to continue this until they return and then say 'Let's do it another time' or something?"

"..."

"You already disappointed Victoria, and I am honestly surprised by how mature she has become in such a short time," she added.

"Oh? So now you are the one judging me. Great. You know, what? If we had met in the real world before I met Victoria, we probably would have become a couple and broke up a week later."

Aria frowned her face even more after hearing that. She got up from the bed and walked past Zach. She was going to leave the room, but Zach grabbed her hand and stopped her.

"Let me go!"

Zach pulled her close to him and hugged her tightly.

"Sorry. I am just stressed, and I don't know what to do..." he said in a calm voice.

Aria looked up at him and kissed him on the lips before saying, "Let's get on the bed first."

They both got on the bed and started kissing each other passionately. Zach began stripping Aria's clothes, and before she could even realize it, he had stripped her naked.

When their lips parted, Zach looked into Aria's eyes and smiled wryly. He kissed her once again and said:

"I have something important to tell you."

"Is this about Erza?" she asked with a knowing look on her face. "Do you think you can fool me?"

Chapter 307 Erza and Aria As Zach and Aria were going to take their relationship to the next level by going intimate, Zach wanted to tell her everything before that.

All this time, he was hiding it as there was no rush to tell her because neither of them was going anywhere, but now that their relationship was advancing, Zach thought it would be for the best to come out clean.

He didn't want Aria to find out about that from another source that could possibly damage their well-going relationship.

However, never in his wildest dream had he imagined Aria to know about it.

"You... knew...?" Zach asked while stuttering.

"I have had my suspicions."

"Since how long? And what do you know?" Zach asked with a curious and anxious look on his face.

His heart was beating so fast that even Aria could hear it clearly. It was as though he was standing in front of a god and getting his judgment, although his current situation was quite similar to that.

"After we met again and you welcomed me by stabbing me to death," she remarked and continued, "We continued living together, and I got to know more about you. But it wasn't until we went to the Sea Realm."

"About what, though?"

"My feelings for you!" she yelled with a flustered face.

"Oh..."

"But I noticed how you purposely kept your distance from me even though I was trying to open up to you. And I knew you weren't a shy boy since you flirted all the time with Aurora," she commented.

"That wasn't really necessary to say..." Zach muttered.

"However, I assumed you wanted to be loyal to Aurora, and I was completely okay with that."

Aria lied about that. She wasn't okay at all, and her jealousy was at its peak when they were in the Sea Realm.

"But then the marriage proposal from the king and all that made me conflicted. And after you discussed the harem with Aurora, I realized that wasn't the case. I was happy, to be honest. I thought even if it took months, something would happen between us. And we were spending time together, so I wasn't worried."

"..." Zach had already predicted where the conversation was going.

"But then I found out that you slept with Aquarius' aunt. I was so disappointed in you that I don't have words to describe it. But Aurora and even Aquarius didn't seem to mind it, so I thought I was the odd one."

"Uhh... sorry to disappoint you, but can you skip to the part about... well, Erza."

"I was getting there, so don't interrupt me," Erza glared at Zach and continued, "You got close with Aquarius, but you never bothered to make moves on me. Not to mention, I am your servant, and you can literally make me do anything. Yet, you never used your authority on me."

"..."

Aria was taking out all the pent-up frustration she had been holding all this time.

"Do you have any idea how sad I was? I thought I lacked the charm required to make you notice me. Sure, you had kissed me before, but that wasn't a romantic kiss. But... I was happy when you stood up for me at the after-party. You even called me your wife..."

"Please tell me you know the reason why I was doing that."

Aria nodded and said, "You are Erza's son, or rather, son of Erza's reincarnation. Am I right? And that would make you my nephew and me your aunt. I know that sounds so immoral, and why you did what you did. But—"

"Wait, wait, wait. Hold on." Zach inserted his finger in Aria's mouth and said, "It's true that Erza is my mother, but we are in no way related to each other. She is my father's wife, his harem member. And well, the one who raised me."

"I have never thought my sister would agree to be a part of someone's harem." Aria sighed in disbelief. "But I am not the one to talk to. Actually, I am even worse. Not only am I also a harem member, I am the harem member of her foster son, which makes her— my sister— my mother-in-law."

SIGH!

Zach facepalmed himself and rubbed his face as he muttered, "I didn't want to hear that. There is a reason why I was trying to stop you earlier."

"But it's the truth!"

"Okay. I already said Erza is not my mother, and we are not related by any means. My birth mother is a demon, whom I had only met once when I was three, or so I have been told. I don't know how she looks. I only know her name," Zach asserted in a solemn voice.

After a brief pause, he turned to Aria and asked, "Now, you tell me. What exactly is your relationship with mother?"

"Which mother are you talking about? Your real mother, Erza, or..."

"I consider Erza as my mother rather than my real mother or any of my other members— aka, my father's harem members," Zach stated calmly.

"Oh, okay. You already know I am the Goddess of death and destruction, so Erza was the Goddess of life and prosperity— the exact opposite of me."

"I already know that. I was asking about your relationship with her. Like... are you two truly sisters?"

"Yeah. We both were born and raised in the heavens. And when we grew older, we were given our own heaven and—"

"Wait..." Zach raised his brow and asked, "Born? As in... you two were given birth by someone?"

"Yeah, we have parents. Did Erza never tell you this before?"

"No. That's news to me. So wait a damn minute..." Zach took a few seconds to comprehend everything and asked, "You two are blood-related?"

"Well, we were. Now Erza has reincarnated, so I am not sure how that works," Aria replied with a shoulder shrug.

"Okay. So what about the other gods in the heavens who exiled you two? How did they come into existence?" Zach asked curiously.

Chapter 308 The Origin of the Gods "The other gods? There are so many gods—"

"Oh, come on. Obviously, I am talking about the gods responsible for this.." Zach glanced around while spreading his hands and said, "God's Impact."

Aria looked into Zach's eyes and asked, "How much has Erza told you?"

"Not much. She has told me things about you and her, but not the questions I am asking you. Besides, I was a kid at that time, and I had no interest in anything other than the stories with happy endings," Zach responded with a soft scoff but a distant smile on his face.

"That sounds like something you do. I am not going to lie, I am curious to see what kid Zach was like," Aria said with a resolute expression on her face.

"..."

"The innocent, sweet, kind, cute Zach," she added.

"How rude. I am still innocent, sweet, kind, and cute as fuck. Also, I am handsome and charming too," Zach said in a haughty tone.

"No. You are a shameless pervert who is not innocent and sweet at all. You might be kind sometimes, and you are nowhere close to being called cute." Aria averted her gaze and lowered her voice before saying, "But I won't deny the handsome and charming part."

"I am happy that we are having this talk, but we are diverting from the topic again," Zach said calmly.

"Erza and I create the gods," Aria answered.

"How did you create them? Like... what process? Magic or blood or... I don't know, perhaps some sacred ritual," Zach shrugged.

"Umm... So what happened was... Erza and I were bored. We had nothing to do, so we decided to create a race similar to humans but better than them."

"That sounds so... contradictory. Humans are the best race, in terms of evolution, at least."

"Indeed. Even our parents and the other gods were surprised. So we were so happy that we wanted to create something even better." After a brief pause, she continued, "So we brought clay from the higher heavens, shaped a humanlike body, and granted them power."

"That sounds like a bad plot. It's very predictable."

"Erza created six males, and I created six females. And since they were 'created,' they were already adults. We granted them our knowledge and told them every secret— but of course, not everything. We only told them what they should know."

"Years passed by, and we didn't know what to do with them. We couldn't put them between the humans as it could create a disparity that could eventually lead to wars and whatnot. So, we created another world for them."

"Wait... you did what?!"

"Not the type of world you are thinking of. It was a dimensional plane akin to a world, but with less space and waste," she asserted.

"I have got a bad feeling, but please don't tell me the dimensional plane you are talking about is..." Zach paused and looked into Aria's eyes before saying, "We are... all the players... God's impact is that plane."

"It indeed is."

SIGH!

Zach rubbed his face in frustration and groaned, "Come on! I had always wondered about this. Even if the gods called this an online world, it has to exist somewhere. Even the real virtual reality games have rooms full of servers, and they need to exist physically."

"I found it weird how this world didn't have one. But I assumed as it was done by the gods, their powers are undoubtedly mysterious, so everything was possible."

"Why are you upset about this, though?"

"I don't know. Now I feel like a puppet being controlled by the gods. I thought everything that happens in this world was unpredictable and completely natural. But what if the gods start tampering to fuck everyone over, and that's what they have been doing so far."

Zach felt even more compelled to destroy the very heavens, so he could end everything.

"The stronger you get, the more you will ascend. And the more you ascend, the closer you will get to the gods and the heavens." Aria shrugged her shoulders and uttered, "That's why I entered this world. It was the only way for me to get closer to the heavens and unleash my wrath."

"..."

Aria smiled at Zach and kissed him on the lips before saying, "But I met you. Now I don't care about anything else."

"You... don't want to take revenge anymore?" Zach asked reluctantly.

"I want to. But I think I will be fine even if I don't," she responded.

Zach felt angry after hearing that, but he didn't say anything to Aria. However, his anger was visible on his face.

Aria noticed it and said, "Don't get me wrong. I haven't forgiven them, and I will never forgive them."

"That's not what I am angry about," Zach muttered in a disdainful tone. "I know how important revenge was for you. I could feel your fury when we first met. But now, that fury has long vanished from you. That happened because you met me. I changed your goals. Yet... I can't help but be furious."

"Huh?"

"My main goal was to get out of the game, just like everyone else. But it slowly changed as time passed. Now, getting out of the game is my least prioritized goal. The only thing I care about now is to break the very order of the universe and unleash the calamity called Chaos," he asserted in a solemn voice with any hint of hesitation on his face. Seemingly, he was dead set on his goal and wouldn't change it even if someone asked him to.

Aria felt a chill down her spine after hearing that. For the first time in her life, Aria was actually scared of something, which turned out to be none other than the man she loved.

However, that didn't stop her from loving him. She hugged him tightly and pressed her bare breasts against his chest before looking up at him and saying, "I can't believe we are having such a serious conversation while I am naked."

Zach kissed her on the lips and carried her in his arms like a princess. Then, he sat on the bed and placed her on his lap before playing with her body.

Chapter 309 Her Husband Zach was playing with Aria's body by squeezing her breasts and pinching her nipples. But of course, he wasn't satisfied with that. He moved his hand down from her breasts to between her legs.

Aria was still wearing panties, so Zach had to strip it too. However, Aria grabbed Zach's hand and stopped him.

"Don't you think we should first discuss our relationship?" she asked. "What do we plan to do further, and how it's going to affect the rest of us."

Zach pulled his hand back and nodded, "You are right. Let's talk about it first."

Aria, who was in Zach's lap, turned to him and asked, "I will continue what I was saying."

After a brief pause, she said, "I will skip everything and get to the point since we are getting sidetracked again and again."

Zach calmly listened to Aria, who said, "When you mentioned the dream you had about the past sealed memory with a different perspective, you deliberately skipped Erza's name. That was my final straw, and I was convinced that you are someone related to Erza."

"I figured."

"It felt really weird after that. I wasn't sure if you knew about it or not. I didn't even know if Erza had told you about me or lived as a human," she said calmly. "But it was foolish of me to think that you didn't know about it."

Aria stared at Zach with a judging look on her face, and there was no hint of her grin from before. She was serious, and looking at her made Zach nervous.

He wasn't scared or afraid of what would happen in the future, but his relationship with Aria was at stake, which was enough to make him lose his cool.

"In my defense, I didn't know about it either. When we first met, I assumed you were an NPC, and I won't lie...." Zach let out a loud sigh and uttered, "I didn't fully believe you even after you gave me your blessings."

"Wow. That hurts... but that's something you would do," she remarked. "And stabbing someone to death too."

"When you told me about yourself after I ordered you to, I matched your story with mothers, and they matched. Ironic enough, mother never mentioned your name, I don't know why," Zach said with a curious and confused look on his face.

"My name... is cursed. My name shouldn't be said aloud, or it would bring calamity," she muttered with a dejected look on her face. "I heard this every day when I was in the heavens. Erza's followers would curse me every day. And the evildoers came to me to ask me to fulfill their evil desire."

"..." Zach wanted to comfort Aria, but he didn't know what to say. Normally, he would have stopped her by kissing her on the lips, but their relationship was in a limbo right now.

"Even though I was a goddess... I was treated as a devil. They came to me with offerings in return for doing their tasks. Sometimes... I would get tempted to do them and become a devil they yearned, but Erza always stopped me." Erza started crying while telling her story.

"You might hate me for saying this, but... I hated Erza. We used to get along fine until we created the humans. I never asked to be the Goddess of death and destruction. But I didn't get to choose that."

After a brief pause, she continued, "I wasn't bothered by it at first because Erza was happy. But that didn't age well. My hatred for Erza grew more and more but of course... I never meant any harm to her."

"Aria..." Zach held Aria's face in his hands and said, "You didn't hate Erza; you were simply jealous of her."

"Is that... so?"

"Yeah."

"I still loved her despite all that, and after we were exiled..." Aria shook her head and made a sad look on her face.

"You don't have to tell me more. I already know the rest," Zach said calmly with a smile on his face. "Now, we have talked about everything."

"Indeed."

"I kept it a secret from you because I was afraid of losing you. I loved you so much that I wouldn't have cared even if we were related somehow. But I agree, it was wrong of me to hide it from you."

"It was."

Zach looked into Aria's eyes and asked, "Are you angry about that?"

"You know, I was thinking the same as you. I was unsure when I found out about it and assumed you weren't aware of it. I didn't want to lose you either, and mind you; I did not know if you were directly related to Erza or not. You could have been her son, which was the last thing I wanted."

"What... would you have done if I had told you when I found out about it. Would our relationship have turned out the same?" Zach asked in a calm but anxious voice.

Aria didn't reply at first, but then she nodded and said, "We probably would be on our separate ways."

"...!"

"I was still conflicted about my feelings for you. I wasn't sure whether I truly loved you or not, but then I finally confessed to you in the dungeon expedition. So if you had told me before that, I don't think I would have ever confessed to you."

"Oh..." Zach sighed in relief and muttered, "So that's what you meant."

Aria smiled at Zach and said, "So you did the right thing by hiding it. And I am glad it worked out in the end."

"So... are we good?" he asked with a judging look on his face.

"I am not sure, honestly. I still love you, but you are technically my nephew, and it feels... weird." Aria let out a weary sigh and asked, "What about you? I am sure you referred to me as your aunt in your thoughts. I bet you fantasized about me too."

Zach averted his gaze and said, "I would never do such things."

SIGH!

"You can't be more obvious."

"Anyway." Zach looked into Aria's eyes with a serious look on his face and said, "I love you, and I want to spend the rest of my life with you. Would you take my hand and do the same?"

After seeing the earnest look on Zach's face, Aria let out a soft chuckle and uttered before kissing him on the lips:

"You are so smooth at this stuff, my dear husband."

Chapter 310 His Wife

Zach and Aria were kissing passionately on the bed after resolving all the issues between them.

Aria was holding Zach's hand with her fingers gripping his hair. While Zach was squeezing Aria's breasts, seemingly trying to get her in the mood.

"It's time to take your panties off," Zach said with a grin on his face.

"What about you? You haven't taken off your clothes yet."

"I was waiting for you to take them off with your tender hands."

"How romantic of you." Aria began to strip Zach while kissing him, but she was having trouble doing both things at once, so she stopped kissing him and focused on undressing him.

"How can you do both at once?" she asked curiously.

"You can say I am experienced in taking off girls' clothes," Zach said with a proud face.

"I pity the girls who fell for your charm."

"Hey, that hurts!" Zach pulled Aria's cheeks and said, "I believe I have become a better person compared to how I was when we first met."

"Maybe. But I don't care either way." Aria shrugged her shoulders and asked, "But I am curious."

"Hmm?" Zach hummed in amusement and raised his brow as he eagerly waited for Aria to speak.

"If... suppose... umm... argh!" She sighed and asked, "Let's say if we haven't met the way we did. And I had met you in the game as Ameria; would you still have fallen in love with me?"

Zach pondered for a while and asked, "I will answer that honestly, but first, you have to answer my question."

"Shoot."

"Why would you come into the game as Ameria in the first place? You said you came here because you were feeling lonely or something. So if we had never met before, you wouldn't meet me in the game since you chose to fool Aurora and joined our party."

Aria's face flushed a little, but that didn't stop her from responding to Zach's question.

"Forget about all that. I am asking if I somehow ended up joining your party by a miracle. Would you still have fallen for me?"

"I don't think so, to be honest." Zach shook his head and said, "When I met you as Ameria, I was suspicious of you, and that's why I went as far as stabbing you. But looking back at that, I shouldn't have done that."

Aria smiled at him after hearing his response.

"You know, there are a very few things I regret, and most of them are about how I treated you."

Aria hugged Zach and said, "But all that was before you fell in love with me, so it doesn't matter."

"I want to talk about a lot of things, but let's start our dual cultivation. We don't have much time, and it's your first time, so I am nervous," he muttered.

"Why are you nervous?" Aria asked with a curious yet confused look on her face. "You have already slept with two virgin women, so you should be used to taking virginity, right?"

"That's not how it works. And mind you, when I took Victoria's virginity, she cried a lot. And I don't remember anything about my first night with Ruli. So you can say I still hold the same anxiousness I held when I lost my virginity."

"Hmmm... you don't have to worry much, to be honest," Aria reassured in a calm voice.

"Hmm?"

"I mean, I have endured worse pain than that. And I don't think losing virginity would hurt that much. What does it feel like anyway?"

Zach shrugged and replied, "How would I know? You should have asked Ruli or Victoria."

"You know, I have never done anything a normal girl would. Like, I have never masturbated or touched myself. So..."

"But you know about all that, right?"

"Indeed," she nodded.

"So you are not exactly innocent. It's kind of weird, though... I expected a... nevermind," he sighed.

Zach pushed Aria onto the bed and pulled her panties in one go.

"Hey!" she yelled with a flushed face and covered her cave with her hand.

"What are you embarrassed about? I have already seen your naked body once, remember? In fact, it was you who showed me."

"I also remember what you said after that," she remarked.

'I am not interested in looking at your naked body.' Zach recalled what he had said to Aria when he accidentally saw her naked in the bathroom.

"Yeah. That's on my regret list as well. But in my defense, I said that because I was still troubled after finding out that you were my aunt."

"There is no need to feel bad. I wanted you to notice me, that's all."

Zach bumped his forehead on Aria's forehead and said, "Thank you for stepping into my life. Really, I mean it."

"..."

"If you weren't there for me after Aurora went into rehabilitation, I would have gone berserk. You have no idea how much you have helped me, and I promise you that I will make you happy, no matter what happens. I love you more than you think but can't do anything to prove it. That's why, I will show you my love during dual cultivation."

Zach's sincerity in his voice and the earnest look on his face was enough for Aria to fall in love with him even more.

'Even if we had met in different circumstances. Even if we were related by a different relationship or bond, I would have fallen in love with you, my dear husband,' Aria uttered inwardly, but she used telepathy to tell that to Zach.

"I know I said I wouldn't have fallen in love with you if we had met differently, but I think it would have turned out the same eventually. We may have crossed paths before, but perhaps, we would have bumped into each other one day and watched the world together, my lovely wife."

Zach and Aria hugged each other naked and looked into each other's eyes before kissing and starting the act called Dual Cultivation.