Chapter 40

Now Serving: Would you rather be cursed to forget by Mira's God or Ramiel's God?

Voice of Mira (Level 100)

Mira's voice was soft, but it carried across the square. Her wooden prayer beads were wrapped around her hand, and her eyes were closed, as though she were in deep conversation with someone only she could see. "The Weaver of Fate does not curse. She simply remembers what others would rather forget. That is a kindness, not a punishment."

She opened her eyes and looked directly at the player who had asked the question. "If you forget, you can begin again. You can make new choices, form new bonds, and walk a path that is entirely your own. Is that not a gift?"

"...I don't know how. The Weaver gifted me – I asked a new thing. I asked to remember. I asked to never forget. I asked to be the one who remembers for everyone else. And I thought it was a blessing. I thought it was the most beautiful thing I could ask for."

She was now standing in front of the player, her hands clasped tightly together. "But I remember everything. Every loop. Every death. Every time I failed to save someone I loved. And I am so tired. I am so tired of carrying it all alone. I am so tired of being the only one who knows what is coming."

Her voice cracked, and she looked away, blinking rapidly. "I asked for this. I begged for this. And now I would give anything to be like you – to wake up tomorrow and not remember today. To start fresh. To be free."

She turned back to the player, her expression hardening with resolve. "So no, I would not choose to forget. I would choose to remember, because someone has to. Because if I am the only one who remembers, then I can make sure that no one else has to suffer alone. That is the only reason I am still standing here."

Voice of Ramiel (Level 100)

Ramiel's voice was a low rumble, like distant thunder rolling across a valley. He stood with his arms crossed, his expression unreadable, but his eyes were fixed on the player who had asked the question. "I would choose to forget."

The words hung in the air. For a moment, no one spoke.

"I would choose to forget because remembering has cost me everything I ever loved. I remember every battle I have ever fought, every ally I have ever buried, every time I have failed to protect those who trusted me. I remember the faces of the dead, and I remember the sound they made when they fell. I remember it all, and I would give anything to be free of it."

He uncrossed his arms and took a step forward, his gaze sweeping over the crowd. "But forgetting would not make me a better person. It would not make me wiser or stronger. It would only make me a coward who runs from his own past. So I remember, and I endure, and I keep fighting, because that is the only thing I know how to do."

His voice softened, and for the first time, there was a hint of something almost like sadness in his tone. "I envy those who can forget. I envy those who can start over with a clean slate. But I am not one of them, and I have made my peace with that. I am the Warrior of Remembrance, and I will carry this burden for as long as I must