

Village Head 1011

Chapter 1011: The New Formula*

"Alright, I have no reason to refuse such praise then," Orion responded with a smile. "I've also uncovered something else that might be even more special than acquiring the Vylkr Fusion Armlet."

Orion proceeded to explain their current situation with Ilse. Sura listened intently, a frown forming on her face. When Orion finished, she took a deep breath and exhaled. "So it's not safe."

She hadn't expected Orion to delay his descent with the future leaders to the Runaway Cities because the goddess who had caused that terrifying phenomenon during her resurrection had awakened.

She couldn't see herself submitting to a god like that simply because she wanted strength and a longer lifespan, especially one that could be given and taken back at any time.

She knew that most others would disagree with such a thing, preferring to gather their strength by themselves, just like the Vylkr warriors. However, she doubted whether Crystalia, Elysia, Merida, Maya and Seraphina would feel the same, considering this was related to the goddess who created them.

Orion nodded. "Yes, but I plan to do my best to build a good relationship with her, so it's only a matter of time before she feels at home here. We'll have to wait and see how things turn out." He would never wish harm upon his wives, but he was anxious to see them live long lives, especially since some had already passed their prime age.

Sensing Orion's worries, Sura calmly laid her head on his chest, listening to the powerful resounding thump of his heartbeat. "You don't need to worry too much. Regardless of how far our lives stretch, it's only worth it living with you. The others might soon notice your disappearance, so we should return before they create a ruckus," she responded, snuggling against him.

Orion nodded, lifting Sura in his arms in a princess carry before heading inside. He wanted to check the matter between Meldra and Gina and find an excellent way to deal with Lyra, Derry, and Whisperwing. Then, he would inform them about the women he had chosen as his mistresses.

Three days Later

Orion remained in the manor, spending time with his children, addressing various household issues, and mastering the Divine Spectral Art to its full completion. He had planned to meet Aerilia later so she could teach him another Divine technique he could master and expand his arsenal.

The time spent at home also allowed the Runaway Cities to recover from the intense battle and gave Former Emperor Greroth time to heal sufficiently to share the valuable information he possessed.

Ilse hadn't woken up during this period, making Orion suspect it might take around the same time as before or at an irregular interval. Nonetheless, he wouldn't know for sure until she awoke.

He had also restored the relationship between Meldra and Gina. Meanwhile, Derry, Lyra, and Whisperwing were serving their punishment for their actions by working as assistants under Seraphina and Greta, helping to create a fertility suppression mixture for him.

Orion believed that his incredibly fertile semen was due to his taking over this body when, during the previous occupant's demise, his soul gained dominance over the other, mitigating the effects of the Vylkr energy by triggering another gift due to its distinct nature.

Alternatively, it might simply be an inexplicable phenomenon, much like Former Village Chieftess Zara's inability to see his future until now.

This benefited him greatly by increasing his soul potency, erasing any fertility decline that could have been fatal for someone like him, and making his future unreadable by others, thus making it impossible to judge his actions.

Even though he doubted this would work against a divine being like Naka, these were still incredibly reasonable benefits, so he didn't dwell on it too much.

He was curious, however, whether impregnating one of his tree nymph partners-Dariya, Malaia, or Saria—would result in the same experience Anara had during Grace's birth or yield different results. However, he could only push that thought to the back of his mind, as it would be too dangerous to try based on speculation alone.

Orion opened his mouth as Saria fed him a piece of fruit.

"Looks like she's finally asleep. Bring her over, let me lie down in her place," Saria said. Orion handed the sleeping Keira, Fifi's daughter, to Saria and watched as she stood up and walked toward one of the cradles to lay her down.

The door suddenly opened, and Seraphina entered with Whisperwing soaring beside her. "Fortunately, you're still here. I've changed the mixture again, so you can try it and see if it works this time," Seraphina said, opening the black briefcase to bring out a bottle filled with green and black liquid, with a few other colours mixed at the bottom. She handed the bottle to Orion.

"Is this safe to drink?" Orion asked, holding the bottle in his hand.

Saria had already returned and sat beside Orion, looking at the bottle curiously.

"Of course it is. It's a little more powerful than the last one I gave you, but I believe you'll be able to handle it," Seraphina smiled, giving him a thumbs up.

Orion's brows twitched as he shifted his attention to the bottle. He removed the cap, took a cautious sniff, and then, with a steady hand, poured the liquid into his mouth. At first, he felt nothing, but soon, a tingling sensation swept through his body, dissipating as if it had never occurred.

"Saria," Seraphina said, giving her a nod. They needed to determine if the new mixture had successfully suppressed his fertility, and there was only one way to confirm it.

Saria nodded in understanding, rising to her knees. She tied her hair back with a vine and leaned forward to unzip Orion's trousers.

As she revealed his flaccid shaft, she gently licked it, coating it with her own fluids before taking it fully into her mouth, feeling it begin to grow.

Orion stifled his moans as Saria moved skillfully. She began to bob her head up and down, the echoing sound of her lips sucking against his veiny shaft filling the room.

Her hands clutched his thighs firmly as she sensed his shaft throbbing more intensely. Knowing what was about to happen next, she took his veiny shaft entirely into her mouth, gobbling it down her throat completely.

Chapter 1012: Imminent Introduction

"I'm cuming," Orion warned, his voice excited. He released without hesitation.

A hot surge of semen erupted from his shaft, spilling into Saria's mouth and down her throat.

Gugguu~~~

Saria swallowed every drop, savouring the rich, potent semen as it flowed into her stomach. She then turned to Seraphina, who watched with eager expectation. Saria shook her head and said, "I can still sense its immense life potency. It's almost unbelievable."

Hearing Saria's words, Seraphina's frown deepened. Clearly, the current mixture still required more refinement to be effective. "I'm not entirely sure whether your extraordinary fertility is a gift," she said thoughtfully.

"Considering that no other warrior in the Village has achieved a Six-Star Potential, it remains unexplainable. So, we need to start treating it as such. Unfortunately, it's not something you can control or turn off at will. It appears to be intrinsically linked to your body. However, since Greta and I are the most knowledgeable on the subject, I'll need to attempt one final approach that I believe will work."

Orion listened intently, nodding in understanding. "I'm counting on you. Let me know when you've finished developing the new mixture." He had come to a similar conclusion and hoped Seraphina would find a solution quickly.

As for Aerialia, she recommended providing him with a Divine technique to turn him into an eunuch. Beyond that, she had no additional help to offer.

Seraphina smiled and nodded, then gathered her things. "I'll need your help heading back to my workspace, gathering the necessary equipment, and going to the Garden to collect some divine essence. I believe it might help refine the new formula."

Third Border City

Queen's Palace

"Can't we postpone it a little longer?" Queen Selene asked, her lips forming a deep frown.

"No, there's no need to worry about Crystalia. I'm confident she'll be more receptive," Orion said reassuringly.

After dropping off Seraphina at the Garden, Orion arrived at the Queen's residence to inform her about the family introduction event later that evening. He had already notified them of his decision a few days prior but had kept the identities of his mistresses shrouded in mystery. Selene bit her lip thoughtfully before nodding. "I'll be there this evening. I still have some matters to attend to. You should also inform Shani; she'll be thrilled to hear the news." "Alright. Don't be late, or I'll come and pick you up myself," Orion said, leaning in to plant a kiss on her lips before leaving. He soared into the sky, heading swiftly toward the Village.

He felt unparalleled freedom within Paradise, knowing they were shielded from danger. This starkly contrasted his experiences outside, dealing with the Runaway Cities and the ever-present threat of the Vylkr vines. If this was the outcome Aegis of the Arctic Deity had envisioned, then the plan had proven to be a success.

With a little more effort, this territory would resemble even more a Paradise—an oasis of safety amid the chaos of the outside world.

Orion arrived at the farm and began his search for Shani, quickly spotting her among the fields. He then descended near her.

As Shani sensed a shadow overhead, she saw Orion descending, a smile spreading across her lips as he landed beside her.

"I wasn't expecting to see you here today," Shani said, her smile broadening as she leaned in to kiss Orion briefly before pulling back.

As the new Village Chief, and with his notable achievements, Orion had become one of the most sought-after men in the Village. Women of all ages were eager to be close to him, whether by having kushi to bear his children or working under his command.

Their actions only drew envious, disappointed, or defeated glances from onlookers. Everyone on this side of the farm knew of Orion's interest in Caretaker Shani, and they viewed her as incredibly fortunate to capture the attention of such an incredible young man.

"I need to handle every important issue today because tomorrow will be hectic...." Orion said, beginning to explain the situation to Shani.

Shani's eyes widened in surprise. "It's happening today?" She couldn't help but feel anxious about being introduced to Orion's main partners. Ever since Orion informed her about his family hierarchy, she had expected that a time like this would come soon. However, she swiftly realized their reactions might be even more intense than she had imagined.

Orion raised an eyebrow. "You're not considering backing out now, are you?"

"No, of course not," Shani quickly replied, regaining her composure. "I was just taken aback by the timing and trying to decide what to wear." She had come too far in her relationship with Orion to back down now. So, she could only steel herself for the upcoming introductions. She wasn't alone in her nerves and suspected Queen Selene might be as anxious as she was. "Good. I was starting to think you might back out at the last moment, and I'd have to chase you down," Orion responded with a mischievous smile.

"Humph! Since you're here, why don't you keep me company for a bit before you head off?" Shani responded, taking Orion's hand and guiding him toward her hut.

She planned to inspect the surrounding vegetation to ensure everything was in order and check her storage supplies. However, with Orion by her side, she put that off for later. She wanted to enjoy his company before his schedule became too hectic.

"Hold on a moment. I can't do so right now," Orion said, suddenly stopping.

Shani stopped in her tracks, her eyes wide with concern. "What's wrong? Did something happen?" she asked anxiously. It was unusual for Orion to refuse to have Kushi when she initiated it, and her worry grew as she wondered if something serious had occurred.

Orion tried to stifle his reaction to Shani's intense concern. His shoulders dropped as he realized how unusual it was for him to decline Kushi during his visits.

"It's nothing as serious as you think," Orion said, his tone reassuring. "I'll explain it to you on the way back." He gently picked Shani up and soared into the sky, heading towards her hut.

Chapter 1013: Shani's Decision**

"Are you sure about this?" Orion asked as he looked at Shani, who was bare under him. Her dress has already been removed and thrown to the other side of the room. Her feminine juice leaked from her narrow cave, her small, perky chest heaving and falling as she stared at Orion with baited breaths.

"Yes, I believe this is the best course of action I must take to properly integrate into the household. Chieftess Reena and the others from our village might not mind, but I don't think your main partners and the Pixies you've recently engaged with will be as willing to accept or allow me to integrate smoothly, especially since they already know I have another child." "Although Selene might face the same challenges, she has Crystalia and some of her former subjects, so her integration will be faster and smoother. However, your partners trust this decision, so they will try to develop a relationship with me when they find out I'm carrying your child. I have no doubts they might have already suspected I would be among those chosen to become your mistress due to the amount of time we have spent together, considering the kind of person you are," Shani explained.

"I promise to love this child as much as I love you, and since you already know everything about me, I trust that you are aware of this. Of course, I am not forcing you to do this, Orion. I'll still follow you to your manor today, take the oath, and wait until you are ready for me to bear your child."

She poured out her thoughts, telling him everything she was thinking. She felt a little ashamed because two other individuals were in the room observing her most intimate moment.

One was her assistant, Melta, the Village Chieftess' best friend, with whom she had built a stable relationship, anticipating a day like this would come. The other was one of the caregivers she had hired to care for her son, Rick, while she was away due to her hectic schedule.

They both stared at her with wide eyes. She could feel their gazes penetrating her skin, causing her shame to deepen with each passing second.

No, I can't face them like this!

If she needed to face Orion's partners and profess her love for him before all of them, she had to handle a small audience like this. The only difference was that she would be facing women who could psychologically break her down and make her do their bidding, but she planned to survive even if it meant joining one of their factions.

Orion had a pondering expression for a moment before he nodded. "Alright, I promise to do my best to help you fit into the household. Also, why do you think I'll hesitate to get you pregnant if you're willing? Have you forgotten one of my most potent talents already?"

Shani nodded at Orion's words, then smiled brightly. "It seems I have. Can you remind me what it is again?"

Orion smirked, leaned towards her ear, and whispered, "It doesn't matter how low your fertility is. As long as I want to, I can make you bear my child."

Hearing Orion's words, Shani's smile didn't fade, but a shiver rushed down her spine and spread to every fibre.

Orion's smile widened. He paid no attention to the audience in the room and positioned his throbbing shaft beside Shani's folded, narrow cave, slowly plunging inside. All his attention was given to Shani at that moment.

"Aah~~" A sensual moan tore from Shani's lips as she felt her soaked vagina being penetrated, immediately filling her up. "Uhh~~"

Orion lowered his neck and sucked Shani's perky breast while his right hand stretched downwards toward her small, plump buttocks, grabbing it firmly, then descended to her thighs. He gently pulled back his waist, withdrawing his veiny shaft, before plunging back in again.

The sound of his thrusts, his waist clashing against hers, resonated softly in the air.

"Ahhh~~ Uhhh~~" Shani moaned ceaselessly, surrendering her body to Orion's care as he touched every part of her, leaving no single place undiscovered.

She enjoyed his touch because it always felt as though every Kushi was their first time. It was exhilarating, almost incomprehensibly satisfying!

Orion's thrusts began to quicken until he finally reached his limit and released his semen deep into Shani's wet cave.

Sensing the familiar but most intense sensation she had ever experienced, Shani's eyes widened in shock and pleasure. Her legs shot upwards and trembled as a fierce scream of bliss tore from her lips, "AUHHHHHHHH~~~"

This time, Orion's semen was so hot that she felt it burst into her womb and settle there before cooling down, leaving an indescribable warmth, unlike anything she had felt before. Her legs gradually relaxed and rested on the floor while her arms fell to her sides.

"Haa... Haa..." Shani breathed heavily, trying to catch her breath from the intense session that had just transpired.

On the other side of the room, the two women observing the scene couldn't help but widen their eyes in astonishment. Their understanding of Kushi had broadened due to their exposure to different races.

However, witnessing the Village Chief and Caretaker Shani, in such an intimate moment-far beyond mere knowledge-left them in awe. They could tell that the Village Chief's movements were instinctual as if he knew Caretaker Shani's body intimately.

Despite this, he showed exceptional care, making anyone unfamiliar with their relationship doubt that they had ever had kushi. Although there was something else they couldn't quite pinpoint, they were united in one belief-

The Village Chief was truly capable of everything!

'Is this what you've been enjoying every day, Reena?' Melta wondered, thinking about her best friend. It felt like just yesterday when she had aimed for a promotion on the farm, and now she had achieved her dream of becoming Village Chieftess and partnering with an

incredible man.

Fortunately, she arrived on time while searching for Caretaker Shani, or she would have missed this scene.

Suddenly, a baby crying pierced the air, pulling her out of her thoughts. "Uwwaahhhh!!"

The caregiver immediately stood up and rushed into the room to attend to the child. It would be disastrous if she failed to perform her task properly and interrupted the Village Chief and Caretaker Shani's session.

Chapter 1014: Shani's Decision (2)*

After a few minutes, Rick's crying ceased, as though he had gone back to sleep, making Shani sigh tiredly in relief. She turned her head to the side and noticed someone else had arrived.

"Let me help you clean up," Melta said, holding two pieces of cloth. She had thought they would continue, so she had rushed in to get some materials and water to wipe the stains off their bodies.

Shani nodded in response. She wanted Orion's semen to remain within her for an hour longer before taking her bath.

Melta immediately went to work cleaning their bodies. The caregiver had already returned and rushed to help out. It took about twenty minutes before they were done. However, Melta couldn't tear her eyes from Orion's body, particularly his erect, veiny shaft, which had

regained vitality after their touch.

"Sigh! You are still as healthy as ever. It appears that I don't need to worry about not receiving your affection or touch anymore when I join the household," Shani sighed, though her face was covered with an anticipating smile as she caressed her stomach.

"The Village Chief shouldn't leave like this, but it would take much effort for one person to drain him, so you two should handle it together," she added, shifting her gaze toward the two

women.

While she rested, she left the two to help Orion release so he could leave and handle the rest of his busy schedule.

Melta and the caregiver nodded in understanding before shifting their attention back to Orion's stiff, veiny penis. They had already anticipated this but were afraid of incurring the ire of two of the most influential figures in the Village. However, after receiving Caretaker Shani's orders, they immediately desired to accomplish their task.

Melta immediately took Orion's throbbing penis into her mouth, sucking on it as though her life depended on it.

Orion looked at the two women kneeling before him. While Melta's curves appeared slimmer like Reena's, the other woman, who seemed slightly younger, was more bountiful. At this moment, the latter was using her fingers to massage her folded cave under her tulga while the former sucked on his throbbing spear like a vacuum.

Melta bobbed her head back and forth, relishing the sensation and the pleasure that coursed through her. After a few minutes, with the Village Chief's veiny penis still twitching and showing no signs of climax, she pulled back to catch her breath.

Witnessing this scene, the other woman immediately took charge, wanting to take Orion's veiny shaft into her mouth, but Orion stopped her, gesturing toward her breasts.

She nodded with a smile, feeling appreciative, as she pulled down the piece of cloth tied around her chest, revealing two youthful, bountiful breasts, her small brown nipples erect and protruding forward.

She immediately took them into her hands and sandwiched the Village Chief's manhood between them. Then she began to move them back and forth, creating the scene as though Orion's scorching veiny spear was thrusting between her bountiful breasts.

Melta took the chance to take care of herself, thrusting her fingers in and out of her wet, folded cave as she observed the scene.

After a few minutes, Orion felt his balls tingling, understanding that he was about to come. He swiftly pulled his waist backwards, freeing his scorching shaft from the woman's breasts, and released on top of her, spraying his semen on her face, hair, and upper body.

Melta's eyes shone brightly observing this scene. She swiftly removed her tulga as Orion shifted the target of his ejaculation toward her, spraying his hot semen around her upper body, causing a slight shiver to flow up her spine before it disappeared.

"Haaa...." Orion breathed in relief, "That should be it." Looking at the two women painted with his fertile semen, with Shani resting in the corner, now pregnant with his child, he felt that the journey was even more satisfying.

Orion leaned downward to kiss Shani on her lips, "I'll see you this evening," he said, pulling back.

Shani nodded quietly and watched Orion leave the room and close the door behind him. Shani then turned her attention to the two women, who were still covered in Orion's semen. "You two should snap out of your daze and clean yourselves up. Melta, help me look after the farm until I return. Frielia, be ready; Rick might wake up any moment now. I need to rest a bit longer," she instructed.

"Okay, Caretaker Shani," they replied in unison.

Melta and Frielia immediately snapped out of their stupor and nodded before quickly exiting the room to clean themselves up.

Outside the Orion's Cities, deep within the vast forest,

Orion wielded the Divine Greatsword and thirty pseudo-legendary bladed artefacts, utilizing the 'Divine Spectral Blade Art'. The artefacts whirled around him with astonishing speed, spinning, thrusting, and slashing in near-instantaneous response to his thoughts.

He felt he could wipe out every god chosen on the battlefield from three days ago in an instant, using only these artefacts-without even needing to activate his gifts.

Suddenly, the artefacts shifted, taking on a faintly ethereal form before they shot toward the trees. Instead of cutting through them, they passed through as if they had become ghosts. They sliced through several trees before suddenly converging and tearing down a final tree with a devastating strike.

The artefacts returned to Orion but did not take on an ethereal form this time. Instead, they continued penetrating the trees as though their previous appearance was merely a trick to mislead onlookers. They hovered briefly before coming to a halt before him.

"How did I do?" Orion asked, shifting his gaze to Aerialia.

"You did well," Aerialia replied with a nod. "With the Celestial Embre Forge Technique and the Divine Spectral Blade Art mastered to completion, and with your gift, your offensive prowess has significantly advanced. This means you should be well-prepared against potential future adversaries, as long as they aren't overwhelmingly powerful. I'll teach you the other two techniques just to be safe."

Typically, it took several months for someone who had mastered the Divine Spectral Blade Art to switch their weapon between ethereal and physical forms at will to deceive enemies who thought they had the technique figured out. However, Orion had achieved this mastery in just a week, confirming Aerialia's expectations.

As a goddess who had seen and experienced much, she was tempted to teach Orion every formidable technique she knew. However, she restrained herself, focusing on enhancing his prowess against the outside world rather than satisfying her desires.

Chapter 1015: Improved Prowess

Orion nodded, summoned his miniature mountain and placed all the artefacts within it. Sitting beside Aerialia, he asked with a voice brimming with anticipation, "Alright, what are they?"

"They are the Divine Thunder Moon Armour and the Divine Thunder Tyrant Symbols," Aerialia smiled. "The former provides multiple defensive techniques, while the latter offers multiple offensive techniques. Together, they grant unparalleled defensive and attacking capabilities, further increasing your prowess."

With the Celestial Embre Forge Technique, Orion could attack from long range with flames as radiant as the sun. They granted him unparalleled movement and protection in the sky, enabling him to traverse vast distances within minutes or seconds.

The Divine Spectral Blade Art enhanced his weapons, providing extraordinary capabilities. And now, with these two techniques and the numerous minor techniques and arts he had mastered to escape tricky situations, Aerialia felt reassured. She had full trust in his abilities and no longer needed to worry about him.

As he grew stronger, his prowess would continue to rise, further amplifying the capabilities of these techniques.

Aerialia then began explaining the intricacies of both techniques to him. The entry threshold for the Divine Thunder Moon Armour was much more challenging than any previous technique she had taught him, requiring about 25% mastery.

However, once this threshold was crossed, one could summon a cloak of lightning and thunder that provided protection and reduced any physical and energy attacks by 10%. At the 45% threshold, merging this thunder force with one's body became possible, enhancing defences and creating a numbing effect against attackers with each contact while also reflecting 20% of their attacks.

From the 75% threshold to the 100% threshold, the wielder's defensive prowess would keep increasing until it was truly unparalleled.

On the other hand, the Divine Thunder Tyrant Symbols involved condensing lightning into seven thunder symbols that could be unleashed in various combinations to deliver devastating attacks. The symbols were: the Symbol of Shock, the Symbol of Surge, the Symbol of Chain, the Symbol of Destruction, the Symbol of Precision, the Symbol of Conduction, and the Symbol of Tempest.

The entry threshold for this technique was just as difficult as that of the Divine Thunder Moon Armour.

Aerialia's detailed explanations increased Orion's anticipation. Mastering these techniques would enhance his offensive and defensive capabilities and solidify his standing as an

unmatched warrior.

"With your gift and your lightning form, I don't doubt that the effects of these techniques will rise astronomically. So, what do you think about them?" Aerialia asked with a smile. She could tell he had been anticipating this moment, and seeing his reaction, she knew she hadn't been disappointed.

"They're absolutely amazing," Orion responded, his voice filled with deep appreciation.

With these two techniques, as long as he didn't encounter an opponent far beyond his capabilities, he was confident in defeating them. He didn't doubt Aerialia's words, as with his gift, the effects of the techniques would be far more terrifying than in the hands of an ordinary individual.

Even though he could reproduce some of these techniques with his gift alone, it was clear that the techniques' amplified power and intent made them a beautifully wrapped present for him. He was deeply grateful for Aerialia's guidance and support.

After several discussions with Aerialia and asking her numerous questions about the techniques, Orion fell into a contemplative silence, focusing intently on understanding them. Fifteen minutes later, he reached the 25 per cent threshold. Suddenly, a lightning cloak appeared, adorned with an illustration of a full moon with two wings-one small and the other extending outward-emerging on his back. The cloak also enveloped his arms like long sleeves.

Orion felt the transformation within his body as the technique took effect and couldn't help but be fascinated.

15 per cent!

28 per cent!

He marvelled at the changes but couldn't gauge the full extent of damage reduction until he faced an opponent powerful enough to test the technique.

Orion activated his gift, and his body became a being seemingly forged from lightning. The cloak seamlessly integrated into his form, amplifying the initial stage of the Divine Thunder Moon Armour to even greater heights.

30 per cent! 40 per cent!!

Again, he couldn't yet measure the exact increase in damage reduction as he had only reached the initial stages and had no one to try them on. Orion deactivated his gift, returning his body to its normal state, and continued to study the Divine Thunder Moon Armour.

He eagerly anticipated the level of damage he could deflect once he reached the next threshold.

Meanwhile, Aerialia observed Orion with a nod of appreciation. Thanks to Orion's gift, his learning curve for the divine technique was significantly shorter. If he continued at this pace with diligent training, he might achieve mastery within half a week, faster than with previous techniques.

Although his progress could be accelerated if he paused his other tasks, Aerialia knew that was not feasible.

After four hours of intense training and study, Orion deactivated his gift and heaved a weary sigh. The technique's intricacies were as challenging as ever, but he could sense that he was nearing the next threshold.

He decided not to overextend himself and wrap things up for the day. He still needed to return home early for Selene's and Shani's introduction into the household.

"Are you finished for the day?" Aerialia inquired.

Orion nodded. "I'll continue tomorrow. I have other matters to attend to before I push myself further," he replied.

Aerialia nodded in understanding. She knew his family's importance to him, much like his training, and recognized that pressing him further would be counterproductive. She immediately transformed into a stream of light and flowed into the mark of his small

greatsword.

Orion re-summoned the Crimson Greatsword and ascended into the sky, making his way toward the third border city.

Orion's Manor

The women sat quietly, gazes fixed on the two individuals standing before them. Some expressed shock and disbelief, others looked dumbfounded, while a few seemed to have reached a sudden realization. A handful wore nonchalant faces as if indifferent to the

unfolding scene.

Chapter 1016: Shani's And Selene's Introduction

Orion observed their varying reactions with a wry smile.

"How long has this been going on?" Reena asked, her raised eyebrow sharply focused on Orion.

"It's been ongoing for some time," Orion replied. "For Shani, it started around the time we managed to rescue her child. As for Selene, it began when the Prismarions started settling within the Orion Cities."

Reena nodded. She was merely curious about the timeline of Orion's relationships with the two women. She had heard rumours within the farm about Caretaker Shani's and Orion's Kushi session. However, it wasn't strange for the Village Chief to be desired by all, including the Caretakers, and with the Village's culture, she had swept it under the carpet.

However, she now recognized her oversight, realizing that Orion's tastes were far from conventional.

As for Selene, Orion already had his clutches on Ursa and Lyra, her, their mother, and Gina, so she wasn't surprised by his ability to grasp both mother and daughter. Her interest shifted to how Crystalia and others would react to this revelation.

Noticing the mixed reactions from Celeste, Gina, Celia, and Vivian, who were seated beside her, Reena shook her head with a tired smile. "I apologize for not catching on sooner. He managed to keep it well-hidden."

Celeste sighed deeply, her shoulders slumping with exhaustion. She could have been more accepting and even pleased if Orion had brought home an unknown woman who could

seamlessly fit into one of the existing household factions.

But with the two women he had chosen, both a Key Leader-one being a Caretaker of Paradise managing resources and the other a ruler of her race-how could she not be concerned? Thankfully,

they would initially hold the positions of Mistresses; otherwise, she feared the household's power dynamics would be thrown into chaos.

That boy was truly testing her patience!

Celeste glanced at Orion, noting how he deliberately avoided her gaze.

It seemed she would need to talk seriously with him about the types of women he should consider, or else he might bring home a goddess one day, further unsettling the household's balance.

"Do you want to handle this discussion later, or should I?" Celia asked, her fierce gaze briefly fixed on Orion before turning to Celeste.

Despite her temperament mellowing to Vivian's level after giving birth, she was ready to use it to ensure Orion fully understood the implications of the women being introduced to the household.

"I'll take care of it," Celeste nodded.

On the other side of the room, Elysia's eyes sparkled with excitement as she observed Selene, while Crystalia's gaze was as sharp as daggers, focused intently on her. Merida and Maya wore sour expressions, realizing that despite their roles as Mistresses, the power dynamics in the household were shifting away from their former status.

As the household began to bombard them with questions before they could deliver their prepared speeches, Shani and Selene lowered their heads, overwhelmed with shyness and embarrassment.

They quickly realized that the women's appearance outside the household wasn't the same as inside. They were blunt with their words, displaying every bit of their emotions, and, most of all, as individuals who possessed far more power and authority than an ordinary inhabitant of Paradise, they could sense their calculating gaze.

With such a diverse mix of races and ages, the atmosphere was far more intense and complex than either Shani or Selene had anticipated. Under Crystalia's searing gaze, Selene's head drooped even further, her fingers nervously fidgeting.

Suddenly, a voice rang out, cutting through the tension in the main room.

"Welcome to your new household. I know you both have prepared a lot to say, but I have pressing matters to attend to, and I don't think I need to stay any longer. I'll be taking my leave," Seraphina said, rising from her seat.

Although she was also stunned by Orion's choice of mistress, she had a good relationship with both women and saw no reason to remain. She decided to return to her lab, as she could catch up on the details later.

Whisperwing perched on Seraphina's shoulder as she exited the room. Initially, she was displeased with Orion's punishment, but Whisperwing had come to appreciate it.

Spending time with Seraphina allowed her to observe and learn valuable skills-knowledge that would otherwise require payment from the alchemist and healer. She understood this was far preferable to spending time with Lyra and Derry, who had little regard for anyone's feelings and frequently got on others' nerves.

Willow and Breezeflutter have been spending time with Fiona and are already blending into the household. Meanwhile, Maeve, due to her role as the Vice Guild Master of the Gardeners Guild, has been slowly integrating into the household, but her progress was impressively fast. Seraphina had already promised to help her explore the Pixies' racial ability, so who knows, they might eventually find a way to shrink Orion so that he could give her his seed also.

"I think it's best to return to look after the children. Shani, Selene, please make yourselves at home," Saria said, her voice echoing through the main room.

She rose from her seat, Grace cradled in her arms. Although the children upstairs were still asleep, she could already anticipate the impending chaos and preferred to be in the calming presence of the children rather than here.

Grace gazed at Shani and Selene with wide, bright eyes. While she didn't fully grasp the details of the conversation around her, she understood that the two women, one of whom she recognized as a Caretaker from the farm, were now her new mothers. This realization thrilled her. It meant she would be free to visit her favourite sections of the farm and play to her heart's content without her mother's usual strictness during playtime.

She thought that if only her father could make all the Caretakers on the farm her mother's, she'd be free to explore every corner of the farm without restrictions.

'I believe in you, Daddy,' Grace thought, smiling brightly as she raised her thumb toward Orion as if reaching out to him.

Anara, Malaia, and Dariya stayed behind. It wasn't every day they got to witness such a moment, especially since their tasks often demanded their constant attention, making it challenging to attend household meetings. They appreciated the thrill amidst the chaos, which helped them bond with their sisters and make up for their time away.

Chapter 1017: Shani's And Selene's Introduction (2)

Tala sat awkwardly beside Fifi, her expression firm. However, she was grateful she didn't have to endure this when she joined the household. She just couldn't wait until she conceived to

return to her training.

"You might be a Queen and a Caretaker and among the Key Leaders, but here in this household, titles mean nothing," Ingrid said. "We have many more questions, but we're truly interested in who you are beyond your titles. So, go ahead-introduce yourselves. We're waiting."

Ingrid's tone was serious. As one of the few who felt genuinely threatened by the two women's arrival, she wanted to understand their genuine relationship with Orion and dispel doubts about their intentions before addressing the more pressing concerns.

Selene and Shani couldn't help but furrowed their brows at Ingrid's words. It's been decades since they heard someone speak to them in such a manner and tone.

Nonetheless, before they arrived, they knew what they would face. As such, they swiftly suppressed their reactions and nodded in understanding.

Selene spoke first, introducing herself and revealing some personal secrets. She explained how she would prefer remaining a mistress to becoming one of the main wives. Although some women felt relieved after this revelation, they knew their opinions about her might change. However, they couldn't make such a decision themselves now.

After Selene had finished speaking, Shani proceeded to do the same. After she was done speaking, she made a shocking revelation. "Also, I am pregnant with Orion's child. I promise to care for my child with as much love as I had given my first, and it would be a blessing if I could also experience the care and support of my sisters."

Ingrid held back her twitching lips, her narrowed gaze shifting towards Orion and peering through with a sharp glint in her eyes. It wasn't just her; all the women present turned their attention towards Orion. Although they bore no ill will towards Shani and her child, they could all immediately guess this was preplanned.

Even Selene couldn't help but give Orion a side glance. She had thought about such a thing, knowing she would sooner or later carry Orion's child, but she held herself back from taking such actions. Unlike Shani, she had to know her daughter's reaction.

With all the varying gazes focused in his direction, Orion suddenly felt his hair stand on end. He shifted his attention towards the ceiling high above. Now that he looked at it carefully, its edges were a wonder of art.

On the other side of the room, Greta sighed tiredly. She understood that she would be responsible for taking care of Shani and ensuring a safe delivery. Fortunately, she no longer needed to study goddess Ilse, so she had some free time for one more family patient.

"I can help you if you need any assistance," Meldra said, looking at Greta with a warm smile. "Thank you," Greta responded, returning the smile.

After Selene and Shani finished their introductions, they were immediately bombarded with questions again. At that moment, Celeste stood up from her seat and walked towards Orion, pulling him out of the main room.

"You! Do you have any idea what you've just done? Even if you didn't want to bring home just any woman, you decided to bring two of the most influential figures in Paradise home," Celeste chided, pouring out her frustration on Orion with a fierce glare.

After she finished, she added, "Do you have something you want to say for your actions?" Although the rest of them hadn't said so, they had already welcomed Shani and Selene into their household. Her task was to ensure Orion understood where his errors lay and how things might become disastrous if he continued on such a path.

Just thinking about Orion deciding to capture the hearts of the remaining Key Leaders and bringing them home was enough to make her heart shudder.

"I'm sorry," Orion responded, his shoulders falling in defeat. It seemed his plan had worked a little too well and backfired.

Celeste took a long breath at Orion's defeated expression before pulling him in for a hug, wrapping her arms around him.

"You know I can't stay angry at you for long," Celeste said. "However, you need to calm the other women's agitations, as they all feel threatened by Shani's and Selene's arrival. I won't help you speak with them, and I will gladly support whatever circumstances they choose to make you go through." Even if they didn't do anything extreme, she knew the women wouldn't let Orion off easily for his actions.

"Cough! Won't you help me? Don't tell me you want me to suffer at their hands?" Orion said, his expression looking pitiful. His hand descended, gently grasping Celeste's left butt cheek under her dress, moulding it softly.

Celeste wore a flowery knee-length dress that did little to conceal her curves. Feeling Orion's touch, she let out a soft moan. "Mmm~~ As their mother-in-law, it's my duty to ensure that my daughter-in-laws are treated well. And as their fellow sisters, it's also my responsibility to help correct any wrongdoings of our partner. So rather than letting you suffer, I'm actually letting you off quite lightly," she responded, her warm breath mingling with Orion's before she leaned in, kissed him briefly, and then pulled back.

"Although your touch is still as amazing as ever, I'm so mad at you that I won't allow you easily escape the mess you've created," Celeste said, freeing herself from Orion's grasp and turning to walk back towards the main room, her hand still holding Orion's.

Just as they reached the edge of the door, a loud feminine voice erupted, "I SAID LET'S TALK OUTSIDE!"

Recognizing the owner of the voice, Celeste and Orion quickly entered the room. They saw Crystalia and Selene heading outside, with Elysia trailing behind them.

"Fix this," Celeste said, her tone laced with worry as she glanced at Orion.

Orion nodded, his expression serious. He had no intention of sitting idly by and observing. He immediately went after them.

Chapter 1018: Make A Choice!

Crystalia's fierce gaze pierced through Selene like daggers. According to Orion's explanation, his relationship with her mother began just a few months after her father's death. How could she not be infuriated by this revelation?

"Don't you have anything to say?" Crystalia spat out. While she also blamed Orion partially for the situation, given his background and what she knew about him before deciding to become his partner, she placed more blame on her mother. She felt her mother should have known better than to get involved in such a mess.

"I..." Selene attempted to speak, but her words faltered. She realized that anything she said might only make the situation worse. She had anticipated this confrontation, but she had underestimated the intensity of the reaction.

Crystalia's voice trembled with a mix of anger and hurt as she confronted her mother, "How could you do this after Father's death? You were supposed to mourn, not... not jump into the arms of another, especially not Orion, who is also my partner!" Her emotional turmoil was discernible.

Selene's head hung even lower, unable to meet Crystalia's fiery gaze.

Elysia, standing near the door, exhaled deeply. As Crystalia spoke, Elysia understood that she felt more betrayed than hurt. Even though the Prismerions were no longer a matriarchal race and had a culture as distinct as the Village's, their possessiveness was not entirely surprising, especially in a free-spirited young woman like Crystalia.

Suddenly, the door beside her swung open, and Orion stepped out. Feeling a slight twinge at his waist and catching Elysia's gaze, urging him to fix the situation, he took a deep breath.

The other women, observing from behind the door or their positions within range, watched the unfolding scene intently.

"Crystalia, please calm down. I understand your feelings and don't blame you for being upset," Orion began. As Crystalia's fierce gaze shifted toward him, he continued, "Selene and I didn't intend for this to happen. After your father's death, your mother found herself in a difficult position, struggling to maintain her role and responsibilities while grappling with her grief. Initially, I tried to hold back, understanding what this situation meant to you, but--"

"You couldn't hold yourself back?" Crystalia interrupted, gritting her teeth in anger.

Although she remembered how her mother had struggled when her father died and how she seemed to regain strength whenever Orion was around, she now realized that it was during that time their connection had gradually formed.

Orion shook his head. "No. I realized our connection was inevitable, and my feelings for her grew naturally. If I hadn't reciprocated, her situation might have worsened even more."

"Oh, if that's the case, then make a choice: it's either me or my mother," Crystalia demanded, her arms folded angrily as she awaited Orion's response, her heart trembling.

"Crystalia..." Selene tried to intervene, but her voice was instantly cut off. "I'm not asking your mother. Let him answer." Crystalia refocused her gaze on Orion.

"How can I make such a choice? You know the kind of man I am, Crystalia. My love for you won't diminish, even if Paradise itself were to crash against my chest. Besides, forging a bond between a mother and daughter is like capturing the moon and its reflection on water. If you were given the choice to forever rid yourself of one and keep the other, would you?" Orion responded.

As Orion's words echoed through the surroundings, Crystalia's heart trembled even more. Selene stood rooted in place, a deep blush on her cheeks as her heart raced.

The women observing from the manor blushed, exchanging glances of admiration, especially Lyra, Ursa, Celeste, Reena and Gina.

As expected, their husband was still as impressive as ever!

"Fine! Since you can't make a decision, I'll remove myself!" Crystalia responded defiantly, soaring into the air and dashing off into the distance.

Selene attempted to follow, but Orion quickly stopped her, saying, "I'll handle this. You can return and get to know the others."

Orion shot into the sky, immediately streaking toward Crystalia's direction. He could sense that she needed time alone to process everything, so he planned to follow at a safe distance, ensuring her safety before approaching her once she had calmed down.

The next morning

Orion and Seth descended and landed in front of the multilayered building beside the Vylkr alloy mine, which was used to secure the precious Vylkr alloys.

"Are you okay, Chief?" Seth asked, frowning with concern.

"I'm fine," Orion replied. "I was just contemplating what valuable information the former Supreme Leader of the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City might have about the Two Grade Two Runaway Cities."

Even though he didn't need to sleep like an ordinary person, he was still emotionally drained from tailing Crystalia throughout Paradise the previous day.

Fortunately, the results were favourable; otherwise, he wouldn't have come here today.

Seth nodded in understanding. "I'm curious about many things regarding them as well. However, I hope he doesn't disappoint and wasn't just putting on a show to have a chance at victory. But we won't know until we begin questioning him."

Orion nodded in understanding. If the former emperor had deceived them, he would have no reason to remain alive; they would use the situation as a lesson for others.

Orion returned the warriors' greetings as one escorted them to the room on the second floor where the former emperor was staying.

When they opened the door and entered the room, they saw the former emperor lying on the bed, bandaged without all four limbs and his leathery wings; he looked incredibly pitiful compared to his former domineering self.

Greroth's gaze fixed on the masked figures. One figure wore an inky-black mask, while the other had a familiar fiery red mask. Both masks featured Vylkr vine carvings, ranging from one

star to three stars.

Orion sat chair opposite the bed, while Seth stood behind him.

Greroth recognized the feiry red masked man as the one who had thwarted his Runaway City's victories against the Sleeping Fox Runaway City and the Wanderlust Travelling Tortoise Runaway City, leaving him in this wretched state.

His face flushed with intense rage, but he managed to suppress his emotions as he redirected his focus to the inky-black masked man seated across from him. The man shared the same unsettling presence as the other individual.

Chapter 1019: Unearthing The Conspiracy

"Who are you?" Greroth asked, his voice filled with caution. Having already witnessed Paradise's power, he was reluctant to jump to conclusions.

"I am the Supreme Leader of Paradise," Orion responded.

Bang!

Greroth felt a wave of memories crash over him, his expression shifting to fear and trepidation. Even without the terrifying echoes of lightning and thunder, he recognized the voice with startling clarity. This was the figure behind the complete subjugation of all three Runaway Cities.

The Supreme Leader of Paradise!

"Since you're awake and ready to talk, it means you're capable of keeping your end of the bargain by answering each of my questions," Orion stated.

Greroth grimaced at Orion's words. He had made such a bold declaration because he was confident of emerging victorious. However, after his defeat, he hesitated to share some of his most vital information.

Witnessing Greroth's reluctance, Seth narrowed his eyes. "If you intend to return on your word, we have other ways of extracting the information. We can start by ripping your lies out from your tongue one by one or dismantling your mind piece by piece," he said, his tone cold and threatening.

Although Seth had initially hesitated to use those with gifts to peer into minds when the Four-eared Elf refugees first arrived-due to the inherent dangers and disastrous consequences of delving into powerful mental states-things had changed. With a better understanding of what they were dealing with and the emergence of the Vylkr Fusion Armlet, they needed more time to grow their gifts. Soon, they wouldn't have to rely on such stressful interrogations.

Greroth bit his lips, refusing to speak. He knew he was going to die regardless, so he would instead take his secrets to the grave.

Seth was about to speak, but Orion stretched out his hand, gesturing for him to remain silent. Orion then focused on Greroth.

"It's okay if you don't want to speak. I've made plans in case you lied or refused to keep your end of the bargain. This way, I can rest easy by ordering the extermination of every being within the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City. We will eliminate its roots and replace its inhabitants with people from Paradise, who will be more than capable of uncovering the information we need," Orion said calmly.

Hearing these words, Greroth's expression paled. It didn't matter whether they were bluffing or trying to threaten him; he had witnessed Paradise's extraordinary strength and understood that such a task was not impossible for them.

Greroth's shoulders slumped in defeat, a long sigh escaping his lips. "You don't need to go through all those obstacles. I'll give you all the information you need," he said, staring at the two individuals before him.

Orion nodded, gesturing for him to continue.

Greroth took a deep breath and began, "We were sent here to retrieve the Divine Artefact by the Wandering Wolf Borough Runaway City, from the Sleeping Fox Runaway City and the Wanderlust Travelling Tortoise Runaway City, who were acting on orders from the Journeying Jaguar Runaway City. As for the identity of the god chosen from the Wandering Wolf Runaway City who was killed, I don't know. He was sent in a way that wouldn't draw too much attention to the Divine Artefact, making it look like a god chosen had defected to fulfil his selfish desires."

"Do you have any knowledge about the genocide of the Four-eared Elves?" Orion asked.

"According to the information I possess, Patriarch Rylan's search to uncover the secret of the Divine Artefact in his possession attracted the attention of the Wandering Wolf Borough Runaway City. However, they couldn't act directly without reason or risk attracting the attention of other Grade Two Runaway Cities that might also be eager to acquire the Divine Artefact."

"As such, they decided to indirectly use one of their closest allies, the Sleeping Fox Runaway City, by brewing conflict. Unfortunately, their fears were confirmed when the Journeying Jaguar Runaway City discovered this intel."

"Due to the Wandering Wolf Borough Runaway City's plot, it was impossible for the Journeying Jaguar Runaway City to act without doing so directly. They approached the Sleeping Fox Runaway City, proposing an even greater deal than the Wandering Wolf Borough Runaway City offered."

"I don't know what happened after that. Still, the only information I possess is that they pulled out from their deal with the Sleeping Fox Runaway City and decided to approach us for a deal to secure the Divine Artefact and Patriarch Rylan. The fate of the Four-eared Lone Rabbit Runaway City was sealed when the information about the Divine Artefact became known," Greroth explained.

Orion nodded, filling in the gaps with the information he had received earlier. Everything Greroth explained matched perfectly with what he already knew.

It was clear that Greroth was truthful and provided all his information about the situation.

"Is there anything else?" Orion asked.

Greroth hesitated before continuing, "The Wandering Wolf Borough Runaway City is so determined to retrieve the Divine artefact because they're in a dire situation. The Wandering Wolf Borough is

one of the few Runaway Cities with access to a Vylkr alloy mine, which has enabled them to forge numerous trade relations and solidify their position as a Grade Two Runaway City."

"However, this has also attracted a lot of enemies and schemers who want to seize the Vylkr alloy mine for themselves. Initially, this wasn't a major issue for a Grade Two City like theirs. But they've struggled to meet their quotas over time, indicating that the mine is depleting. They managed to keep this secret for years, but as their failures accumulated, their trade agreements and relationships began to crumble."

"This prompted their enemies to realize the truth and execute their schemes against them," he explained. "Fortunately, the Wandering Wolf Borough Runaway City still has connections with the Wandering Coalition."

"Wandering Coalition?" Orion asked curiously.

"The Wandering Coalition is an alliance formed by the highest-ranking Grade Two Runaway Cities," Greroth explained. "This alliance guarantees stronger and more favourable trade contracts and protection against rival Runaway Cities. Each member city supports the others in times of need. While Grade One Runaway Cities can also form alliances, their benefits aren't as deep or extensive as those of a Grade Two alliance."

Chapter 1020: Unearthing The Conspiracy (2)

"Given the nature of the Wandering Coalition, they can't simply accept the Wandering Wolf Borough Runaway City into their ranks without reason. They require substantial proof that the Wandering Wolf Borough Runaway will add significant value to the alliance as a new member."

"That's why they're putting effort into acquiring the Divine Artifact. The Wandering Wolf Borough Runaway City is even utilizing their remaining Vylkr alloys, sending them to various territories for information on other valuable items and Timeworn Ruins."

A look of realization crossed Orion's face as he nodded in understanding. Though he had grasped that the Wandering Wolf Borough Runaway City wanted to keep the existence of the Divine Artifact under wraps, he had been puzzled by their decision to send only one individual to retrieve such a valuable item, given its immense value.

It turns out they were sceptical about the artefact's authenticity but couldn't afford to let it slip away. As for their method of retrieval, it wasn't due to carelessness. They had dispatched the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City capable of overpowering two Grade One Runaway Cities and a god chosen with a 2,100 BEM, a level surpassing any gods' chosen in the three Runaway Cities.

Regarding the Journeying Jaguar Runaway City, it was clear they might be one of the Wandering Wolf Borough adversaries, possibly trying to hinder their progress. Their spies, who infiltrated the Sleeping Fox and Wanderlust Travelling Tortoise Runaway Cities, were tasked with retrieving the artefact, monitoring the situation, and reporting on developments.

Luckily, Orion had already arranged for the capture of any spies implanted within the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City.

"And where does the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City fit into all this?" Orion asked. "As a Runaway City on the brink of promotion to Grade Two, shouldn't you be interested in acquiring the Divine Artifact yourself and securing a place in the alliance?"

Greroth smiled wryly. "I've considered it. As a Grade One Runaway City on the verge of promotion to Grade Two, we face our share of adversaries scheming against us. Like the Wandering Wolf Borough Runaway City, we need protection until we're stable enough to confront them independently."

"However, unlike the Wandering Wolf Borough Runaway City, we have no ties to the Wandering Coalition. Betraying them to claim the Divine Artifact for ourselves would only escalate our enemies and attract unwanted attention. If word got out about the Divine Artefact, we'd be far from safe within our territory. The Wandering Wolf Borough Runaway City has promised us promotion and protection through the alliance, a much safer and more strategic option. So, pursuing the artefact isn't worth the risk."

He continued, "In a way, we're in similar situations, making this a mutually beneficial deal. Unfortunately, we didn't anticipate the interference of such a powerful, mysterious force; otherwise, our plan might have succeeded."

"That's all the information I have on the Wandering Wolf Borough Runaway City," Greroth said. "Information about a Runaway City is scarce and highly confidential, often guarded closely to prevent it from being exploited by others."

He cast a doubtful glance at Orion, wondering if the Supreme Leader of Paradise would find his insights relevant, given the scale of the forces under his command.

Orion nodded, absorbing the details he had been given.

Even Seth appeared lost in thought.

After a few moments, Orion broke the silence. "Do you have any knowledge about Grade Three Runaway Cities?"

Greroth furrowed his brows and shook his head. "No. The gap between Grade One and Grade Two Runaway Cities is immense, and the disparity between Grade Two and Grade Three is even greater. Acquiring information on a Grade Three Runaway City would require extraordinary resources or something equally valuable. It's simply not worth the investment, so I don't possess any information about them."

Inwardly, Greroth couldn't help but speculate about Paradise's capabilities. The lack of information about Grade Three Runaway Cities made him wonder if his suspicions were correct that Paradise might be merely a stowaway or a mysterious force possessing only the strength of a Grade Two Runaway City.

That would certainly simplify matters!

"Is there anything known as a Grade Four Runaway City?" Orion asked. Although Patriarch Rylan had informed him that knowledge about Grade Four Cities was unlikely at best, Orion was eager to explore the possibility.

"I don't know if Grade Four Runaway Cities exist," Greroth explained, shaking his head. "But if they do, their existence is beyond anything I can fathom. Getting information about a Grade Three Runaway City is challenging enough; how could I possibly grasp the nature of a Grade Four Runaway City?"

If such information were available, Greroth mused, he would have shared it with a powerful Grade Two alliance for protection rather than making the long journey to fulfil the Wandering Wolf Borough Runaway City's request.

Orion nodded in understanding, then asked. "What about sanctuaries? Do you have any information on them?"

Greroth frowned, casting a sceptical look at the masked man before him. "Sanctuaries are the stuff of legends. If such a place existed, every Runaway City would sacrifice everything just to find it, hoping to escape the horrors of this ruined world. But as far as we know, no sanctuary exists. We must do our best to survive with what we have," he responded.

Orion nodded, disappointment etched on his face. "Do you have any information about gods, divine apostles, or demigods?" he asked.

Having seen the power of a divine being in the Wanderlust Travelling Tortoise Runaway City, he hoped to find some information.

"I'm afraid I don't possess any information about gods, apostles, demigods, or any divine beings," Greroth replied, shaking his head. "They are considered mere legends, much like the sanctuaries. One of the many legends is 'Runaway Cities are all wandering, searching endlessly, driven by the hope rather than concrete knowledge of finding a Sanctuary—a place hidden from mortal eyes, where the divine walk among mortals, where forgotten races seek refuge, and where salvation from our desolate reality might finally be found.'"

Greroth continued, "You might have better luck trading with various alliances or a Grade Three Runaway City for such information. However, I doubt you'll uncover anything substantial."

As Greroth finished speaking, he inwardly frowned, sensing that he was being toyed with.