

Village Head 1101

Chapter 1101: The Cost of the Choice, Sentient Steel

If the unknown woman had the power to unleash such a frightening attack, she wouldn't have waited until now.

Upon hearing Ilse's words, Orion frowned at their predicament. They could quickly force the door open, but doing so would likely destroy the Sleeping Fox Runaway City. If they didn't act, the woman could regain her strength, take control of the city, and possibly endanger the other Runaway Cities.

Obviously, capturing the unknown woman would be a challenging feat.

"Supreme Leader, I think the Sleeping Fox Runaway City is a lost cause," Seth said, offering input. "We can't risk one Runaway City endangering the others. With the unknown threat posed by this woman-who defeated two Vylkr spawns-we cannot afford to let her recover even a fraction of her strength."

A wave of fear surged in Lakul's heart upon hearing Seth's words. He immediately rushed forward, dropping to his knees before Orion again.

"Please, Supreme Leader, don't abandon the Sleeping Fox Runaway City! I beg you!" Lakul pleaded, his expression filled with panic as he pressed his forehead to the ground.

The other three leaders joined him, raising their voices in desperation.

"We can't free the Sleeping Fox Runaway City from the enemy without Paradise's aid!"

"Please, don't abandon us, Supreme Leader!"

"If the Sleeping Fox Runaway City is destroyed, where will its people live?"

They knew they couldn't afford to lose their city. Doing so would place them below the Wanderlust Travelling Tortoise, Trekking Flamingo Runaway City, or even far beneath the Four-Eared Elves.

They doubted that Paradise could support about three million people without becoming overburdened, likely resulting in their abandonment.

It was better to plead now than to await the grim fate they feared if such a plan were carried out.

Witnessing the scene, Seth frowned. He felt genuine pity for the Sleeping Fox Runaway City inhabitants, knowing the grim fate that awaited them. Still, Seth also knew that this was the best course of action to secure the future of Paradise and the two remaining Runaway Cities under its command. He understood that they couldn't let their vision be clouded by sentiment.

Iris's expression, hidden beneath her helmet, morphed into pity, but she remained silent. It wasn't her place to interfere with what was unfolding.

Ilse wore an indifferent expression. The world was too dangerous, even for a goddess like her, to consider taking millions of lives under her protection. She was focused on regaining her strength, caring for her children, and safeguarding Paradise. She remained unmoved by their plight.

Orion's face showed a deep frown as he weighed the gravity of the decision. He closed his eyes for a moment in thought before opening them again. His gaze, now tranquil and steady, shifted to the prostrating Lakul and the others.

"I will send an order to Paradise's warriors to begin evacuating the inhabitants of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City into Trekking Flamingo Runaway City. You should also focus on preparing to move with your families," Orion said, his tone firm.

He had made this decision for the good of Paradise and its territory.

Upon hearing his words, Lakul and the others paled.

Lakul attempted to open his mouth to speak but sealed it shut, realizing that his words would make no difference since the decision had already been made. He couldn't argue with the Supreme Leader's command and risk incurring his wrath on top of their already unfortunate circumstances.

Lakul nodded in understanding. He stood to his feet and turned to the three others behind him. "Didn't you hear the Supreme Leader's commands? Quickly, go and spread the message to every inhabitant of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City and inform them that we will be evacuating soon," Lakul said.

The three former leaders rose to their feet. They attempted to speak but, like Lakul, swallowed their words. They nodded, then bowed toward Orion and the others in the expansive hallway. They left the area without delay, swiftly heading to the surface to deliver the command.

"I want you to take us to see the injured Forge Palace Master before you leave to prepare," Orion said.

"Follow me," Lakul replied with a nod, though his movements no longer held the same vitality they once had. He turned and led the way forward.

As they followed behind him, Orion took the opportunity to send a message to Zogar, instructing him to send warriors to lead the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City to their location. He also ordered him to send warriors to aid with evacuating items like the diluted Vylkr vials and others.

Zogar was momentarily silent before asking, "Is the Sleeping Fox Runaway City beyond saving?"

"Yes, it is. The only thing we can do now is evacuate them to another Runaway City," Orion replied, understanding Zogar's sympathy for the inhabitants of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City.

"Okay. I'll ensure your orders are carried out immediately, Chief," Zogar replied, his tone regaining firm.

Orion disconnected their communication.

They all soared through the air, taking about thirty-five minutes to reach the surface. Upon arriving at the healer centre within the Royal Den, the healers halted and bowed to greet them respectfully as they walked through the hallway until they arrived at a door guarded by two gods' chosens.

They entered through the door. Within it was a simple room decorated with a king-sized bed at its centre. On the bed lay a fox-kin man, wrapped in bandages, with severely burnt skin underneath. His four tails were hairless and burned, indicating the severity of his injuries. Various small metallic tables filled with bowls containing herbs and tools surrounded the bed. Four healers, two men and two women treated the man and prepared the herbs.

Fortunately, his injuries weren't something Paradise was incapable of handling.

"Make sure he and the rest of the workers are among the first evacuated. Paradise can treat them easily and help them recover," Orion said.

He didn't need to see the other workers to comprehend their injuries, which were likely similar or worse.

"I'll make sure of it, Supreme Leader," Lakul nodded. He recalled Sy'ra's injuries before Paradise fully healed her and her public pledge of allegiance to them.

"You can go and prepare your family and belongings to leave for when the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City arrives," Orion replied.

Lakul nodded. "Let me escort you out before I take my leave," he said.

Lakul ordered the healers and the gods' chosens outside to carry out the Supreme Leader's orders before leaving with Orion and the others following.

Within a few minutes, they emerged into an open space. Lakul respectfully bowed before Orion and the others, then widened his wings and took off, disappearing into the distance. Orion and the others ascended to the sky to observe the situation from above. Sensing their arrival, Zogar immediately approached them.

"Chief, we have securely protected the Sleeping Fox Runaway City and successfully built a wall around it to push back the Vylkr vines easily," Zogar reported, arriving beside them. Regardless of the three-star Vylkr vines or the variants that had emerged from the phenomenon, the warriors had all efficiently dealt with them.

Orion looked down at the circular walls, tens of meters away from the Sleeping Fox Runaway

City, surrounding it, and nodded.

"Our warriors will arrive at the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City in a few hours, so we have more time to wait before they return," Zogar said.

"Inform me when they return, and the evacuation is about to commence," Orion replied.

Zogar nodded in understanding.

Orion turned towards Ilse and asked, "Can you give the halo and the greatsword you captured from the unknown woman to the research centre so they can look into them?"

He hadn't mentioned it earlier during their discussion because he was too focused on devising a plan to handle the Sleeping Fox Runaway City's dilemma and monitoring Aurora's

condition.

Despite being a difficult task, he knew that if Seraphina could figure out their inner workings, they could significantly bolster their arsenal. Even if she couldn't fully decipher them, she would likely gain enough knowledge to enhance their existing equipment.

Ilse shook her head with a frown and replied, "Both weapons are sentient and capable of executing commands independently. I locked them in a chamber within my vault, but I could feel them trying to escape when we arrived at the Sleeping Fox Runaway City. If I hadn't experienced handling stubborn weapons like these, they would have escaped when I opened my vault to push back that attack. I'm aware the research centre isn't equipped to subdue such weapons, so releasing them would be risky."

Orion frowned, frustration growing on his face. He took a deep breath and exhaled, choosing

to remain calm.

Suddenly, Ilse's expression grew weary, her eyelids drooping as though she were becoming

drowsy.

"I think my time is up," Ilse said, smiling wryly. She had already exhausted her reserves and needed time to rest properly before recovering and functioning normally.

This is troublesome, Orion thought.

Chapter 1102: A Promise Of Hope, The Great Evacuation

"I'll accompany you back. We need someone to keep an eye on the Vylkr formation artefact," Orion said, his tone serious.

With his presence and the aid of the Morphic Puppet, he believed they could handle any danger as long as they didn't encounter a divine being.

"But before we leave, I need to address them so there are no issues during the evacuation," Orion added, gazing toward the Sleeping Fox Runaway City below.

"Okay, but be quick," Ilse replied, knowing she could hold on for seven more minutes. Orion nodded and soared toward the city's centre, activating his gift.

Instantly, Orion's entire figure transformed into his lightning form. Violent, rolling thunderclouds suddenly overtook the already darkened sky. Thick bluish streaks of lightning and thunder flashed across the heavens, announcing their arrival to the world below.

Soon, as though gathered by an unseen hand sweeping across the heavens, the thick streaks of bluish lightning and thunder all converged, streaking down toward Orion. They wrapped around his waist, arms, and legs like tendrils, guiding his descent into the mortal world as though he were a divine being.

Orion then cast the Divine Thunder Moon Armour technique, causing a cloak forged from lightning to envelop his body. This was the technique's initial form. Having mastered it and the Divine Thunder Tyrant Symbols, he could also create an impenetrable lightning armour, but he didn't need to. Simply speaking, using this form would achieve the desired effect.

Soon, the people below in the Sleeping Fox Runaway City raised their heads in awe at the spectacle above. Instinctively, those who had witnessed a similar sight previously and those who hadn't but had learned of it immediately recognized the figure.

It was none other than the Supreme Leader of Paradise!

Sensing countless gazes fixed upon him, Orion began, "People of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City, today marks a turning point in your lives!! For years, this Runaway City has been your refuge, your sanctuary in a world that seeks to take everything away from you!! But today, this sanctuary has

been overtaken by a divine being with ill intentions!! As such, I ask you to look beyond it!! The Sleeping Fox Runaway City is a part of you, so wherever you go, it will live on within you!!"

He paused, letting his words sink in before continuing, "I understand that change can be difficult, but we are not powerless!! Paradise will fight this battle for you, and I promise we will capture or eliminate the divine being who triggered this chaos!! Paradise does not take; Paradise protects!!! So hold your heads high as you prepare to depart from the Sleeping Fox Runaway City, knowing you have played an active role in this fight. And we will ensure that no one forgets it!!"

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Below,

The inhabitants of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City felt their emotions surge as they listened to the Supreme Leader's words.

"I knew it! Paradise wouldn't ask us to leave our homes without a reason. But who would have thought our enemy would be a divine being?"

"It makes sense if it's a divine being. Haven't you heard about the strange Sleeping Fox Runaway City occurrences? The sudden collapse of several buildings, the phantom beast that suddenly appeared and the immense pressure that knocked out tens of thousands of people?"

"Hey! Someone help me find Mr Itloc! He sold me false information and promised to help me secure a good place in the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City because he does business there in exchange for marrying his eldest cousin as a second wife."

"Is she beautiful?"

"Beautiful? I agreed to marry her for survival!"

"What are you two talking about? Didn't you hear? Our Runaway City is under attack by a divine being, and we need to get out of here as quickly as possible because this place is about to become a battleground! If you're not preparing to leave immediately, be prepared for a grim fate, and don't blame Paradise for it."

"If I were strong enough, don't you think I would have chosen to stay and fight?"

The voices of the inhabitants of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City echoed into the air one by one, causing the atmosphere to tremble as everyone voiced their thoughts while preparing for evacuation.

Somewhere within the Royal Den,

Lakul looked at the sky, his eyes fixed on the lightning-forged being. A myriad of complicated emotions passed through his face as he held a woman and a little boy in his arms.

"You've done your best. If this is the end of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City, then so be it. Since the Supreme Leader has promised to take care of us and seek vengeance for us, we should trust him and not doubt it," said a Sloth Demon woman with long flowing violet hair, dressed in light pink with golden embellishments, her wings folded behind her back.

Lakul sighed in reply, "I suppose you're right. Let's go and prepare so we can leave on time." He turned around and led his family into their home.

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After his speech, Orion lingered high above for a while, satisfied with his words, before deactivating his gift, dispelling the rolling clouds of lightning and thunder, and returning to Ilse and the others.

"You two will aid with evacuating the Sleeping Fox Runaway City to the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City," Orion said, focusing on Seth and Iris.

"Okay, Chief," Seth and Iris nodded in unison.

Orion turned to Ilse. "Let's go."

"That was an amazing speech. You seem to have the qualities of a good leader," Ilse replied, tearing a rift through space.

"Thank you for the compliment. I've had a lot of practice," Orion responded.

Ilse nodded, turned around, and led the way into the rift, with Orion following behind her. As they passed through the rift, the space quickly sealed up.

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Ilse dropped Orion before the Vylkr artefact magical formation and returned to her Golden Palace to rest.

Orion summoned the Morphic Puppet and instructed it to protect him. He could use the Morphic Puppet to create a distraction and return to Paradise immediately if he sensed another unknown arrival. He didn't want to take any chances now that Ilse was resting and he

was alone.

Suddenly, the whirlwind of Vylkr energy began to compress, drawing Orion's attention.

'Is the formation finally going to be completed?' Orion wondered to himself.

The compression lasted for twenty-five minutes before stabilizing again. Just as Orion thought it was over, he noticed rays of sunlight penetrating through the darkened sky, raining down on the whirlwind of Vylkr energy and him.

Orion frowned, noticing the strange turn of events. Despite its size decreasing significantly, he could not catch a glimpse of the artefact. He remained vigilant, worried about what would transpire next, as the Vylkr artefact's formation appeared incomplete.

Suddenly, wisps of divine energy from the surroundings began to infuse into the whirlwind of Vylkr energy. They didn't clash against each other; neither did the Vylkr energy try to subdue the divine energy. Instead, they intertwined, forming a mesmerizing whirlwind of pure white

and inky black.

Orion's eyes widened in shock as he witnessed the scene before him. He understood what this meant: the Vylkr artefact's magical formation had now transformed into a Divine Artifact Magical Formation.

Orion felt both fortunate and disappointed that Ilse wasn't here with him to confirm what was transpiring. He knew she would have struggled to handle the sudden influx of unknown

information, even as a goddess.

It was probably for the best that she wasn't around.

He couldn't summon Aerialia as she watched Aurora and Liora.

Suddenly, an intensely bright light, intertwining vibrant white and inky black, radiates from

the centre of the whirlwind.

It is the artefact within the formation.

Orion finally makes out its presence; it appears to be about seven feet long. Orion turned to look at the Morphic Puppet at his side before refocusing on the artefact.

No, it can't be! Orion thought, shaking his head. He had already concluded that the Morphic Puppet's emergence was due to the handiwork of the Vylkr spawns. This was an entirely different phenomenon. What were the odds that another Morphic Puppet would emerge from

it?

Orion tried to disprove his thoughts, reasoning that the formation of an artefact could result in something with its unique capabilities unless specific conditions triggered the formation. However, even with that, the resulting artefact would still be vastly different.

Finding no answer, Orion calmed his thoughts, took a deep breath, and exhaled. He wouldn't know if he was wrong until the formation of the artefact was complete, so the only thing he

could do now was wait and continue to observe.

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Several miles away from the Vylkr alloy mine,

It took seven hours for the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City to arrive at the Sleeping Fox Runaway City's location. Once preparations were completed to ensure the safe evacuation of the inhabitants of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City, with hundreds of thousands of bridges connecting both Runaway Cities, the evacuation plan commenced.

Chapter 1103: Recovery, Flipping the Trap

Upon learning about the plight of the inhabitants of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City, the

people of the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City welcomed them with open arms. They were eager to fulfil the Supreme Leader's orders. As devoted followers of Paradise, they considered the newcomers as one of their own, with no prejudice.

They were also keen to hear about the divine enemy that had caused such turmoil. Nevertheless, due to the nobles' recent execution, the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City had a significant amount of space to fill. Greroth was handling the construction of new structures to restore Runaway City to its former glory, so they greatly appreciated their arrival.

The evacuation took about three and a half days.

Within the Forge Palace,

It was difficult to deduce its appearance in one of its chambers with destroyed and scorched walls except for the wide monitors, wires, and control panels that remained as clues.

At the centre of the chamber was a large, glowing white sphere of lightning that constantly attempted to shift forms while maintaining its spherical shape. Surrounding it was a spherical glass with large mechanical constructs and tendrils stretching down to the floor, connecting to various sections of the ruined chamber.

Surprisingly, beside the encased sphere of glowing, morphing white light, there was a woman with three missing limbs-two legs and a left arm-sprawled on the floor.

Vein-like structures unnaturally pulsed around her body, connected to the ground below, which also possessed similar vein-like structures pulsing with a soft light as though channelling some unknown power into her. Scattered around her were particles of light dust emerging from the veiny structures on the ground.

In an astonishing sight, the metal scraps scattered around her began to draw towards her as if held by some invisible hand. They transformed into a liquid metallic substance that flowed to her body and began to merge with her limbs, reconstructing them.

As the minutes passed, her worsening condition began to improve.

Meanwhile, behind the spherical sphere, the metallic liquid merged to create a unique structure suspended in the air. Upon closer inspection, this structure resembled the mechanical halo captured by Ilse, albeit much smaller and with a less intricate design.

The woman was none other than the divine being who had eliminated and incapacitated two Vylkr spawns before being chased by Ilse. Her eyes were closed, with various glimpses of images flashing through her mind as she slowly recovered.

You either adapt, or you perish; failure only comes once!

These were the rules of the current world, ones most familiar to the inhabitants of the Drelyal Mountain Range.

"They are coming," said a man with a humanoid hairy beast-like appearance. He had four arms and was dressed in hard brown-black armour made from mixed leather-like fabrics and other materials.

His arms were padded with the same material, and one of them bore a Devourer bracelet. Strapped to his back was a large mechanical sword, a Gearweaver, indicating that he was a god's chosen.

The man turned his head to the side and nodded at eight others-men and women of the same race-all dressed in similar leather-like material but with varying styles. Each of them also had a Devourer bracelet on one arm and a Gearweaver strapped to their backs, signifying that they were also the gods' chosens.

They were the 1st Unit of the Vanguard team from the Korsan Blade Stowaway. The man who had spoken was Aric, the Captain of the 1st Unit.

The Drelyal Alliance had sent their Stowaway to investigate the whereabouts of three Runaway Cities that had wandered deep into their territories almost a year ago and showed no signs of returning. The plan was to wait in hiding with other Stowaways to ambush the Runaway Cities and seize them, as a meeting between all three Runaway Cities would surely not be friendly.

However, after nearly a year with no sign of the Runaway Cities, they grew impatient and decided to uncover what was happening.

"It's good that they are still around. I almost thought they had escaped," said a woman. Her name was Mirr, and she was the Vice Captain of the 1st Unit of the Vanguard Team of the Korsan Blade Stowaway.

The only way out of the Drelyal Mountain Range was through the Lars Desert, filled with sinking sands and countless Vylkr vine variants writhing underneath. It was a dreaded zone avoided even by Grade One Runaway Cities; if the Runaway Cities had passed through such an area to escape, it would have genuinely been a missed opportunity.

"Still, it's surprising that rather than the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City, a Grade One city about to advance to Grade Two, which rumours from the higher-ups of the alliance indicated we would likely face, it is instead the Wanderlust Traveling Tortoise Runaway City that has emerged and made it this far. I feel like there's something amiss," Mirr added, her lips morphing into a deep frown as her eyes fixed on the advancing Wanderlust Traveling Tortoise Runaway City below the steep cliff.

Her senses were flaring with each passing minute. As the Vice Captain of a Stowaway, a role far more demanding than their counterpart of a Runaway City, Mirr had always trusted her senses because they had never failed her.

"Captain..." she called out, turning to look at the man observing the scene intently below.

Aric nodded. "I see what you're getting at. Suppose the Wanderlust Traveling Tortoise Runaway City has made it this far, and there are no signs of the Sleeping Fox or the Trekking Flamingo Runaway Cities. In that case, they must have defeated them and are returning with whatever they came here for."

"This suggests they are hiding a secret that would harm us if we ambush them, thinking they are weakened." He added, "I think it's best to return and inform the alliance about this. I doubt they haven't considered what actions to take if either of the Grade One Runaway Cities returned. Let's return to the city. We can't waste any more time here."

"CAPTAIN, WE HAVE BEEN EXPOSED....!" one of the unit members shouted, his voice echoing across the atmosphere.

The moment his voice echoed, a projectile shot through the air, and the sound of the air being torn apart resonated in the atmosphere. The projectile hit the ground beside them with a

resonating "BANGG!"

The Unit evaded to the side.

Dust rose into the air.

Unfortunately, only five of them managed to escape uninjured.

Soon, the dust settled, revealing a thirteen-meter-wide crater with a broken devourer gear embedded in its centre. The reaming Unit immediately grabbed their Gearweavers in

alertness.

Raising their head upwards, they saw an astonishing sight. High in the sky was an orc woman dressed in leather and Vylkr alloy mixed armour that tightly hugged her body, accentuating her curves. She firmly gripped the handle of her Gearweaver, which had a slightly strange and intimidating design, making them doubt if it was indeed the Gearweaver they were familiar

with.

The realisation that she was flying despite not possessing any wings filled them with dread, as they couldn't fathom the rank of the technique required to demonstrate such a skill.

Nonetheless, they had been informed about the details of the Sleeping Fox, Wanderlust Traveling Tortoise, and Trekking Flamingo Runaway Cities. Hence, the identity of the intimidating green-grey-skinned woman quickly came to mind.

Her name was Sy'ra, the Wanderlust Traveling Tortoise Runaway City commander. She was much stronger than Commander Vargoth, the Sleeping Fox Runaway City commander, and was also said to be one of the top ranks within the Grade One Runaway Cities.

The realisation that they were facing a commander made them gulp in fear. They couldn't help but feel confused as they observed the black mask she was wearing, pondering its use, as it would be foolish to consider it merely an accessory.

Turning their heads to the side, they noticed Sy'ra wasn't alone. She was accompanied by tens of gods' chosens, all wearing slightly revealing outfits except for a few, like those of the same race as Sy'ra. They also wielded the strange Gearweavers, and their numbers increased rapidly, from dozens to several hundred within seconds.

Aric's heart raced as he tried to understand how they had been discovered. He seriously pondered whether the Wanderlust Traveling Tortoise Runaway City knew their plans.

A chill ran down his spine at the thought of a mole within the Drelyal Alliance. However, he didn't have time to dwell on that and could only focus on how to escape their sudden predicament.

"Stowaways, you have dared to plan an ambush against the Wanderlust Traveling Tortoise Runaway City, and you will pay dearly for that! You have only one option: surrender!" Sy'ra's voice reverberated through the air, shaking the hearts of the 1st Unit of the Vanguard Team of the Korsan Blade Stowaway.

"Captain, what are your orders?" one of the members of the 1st Unit asked, his eyes blazing with a desire to fight as he turned towards Aric.

"I don't mind dying here today, Captain. I've already said my goodbyes when our Stowaway accepted this mission," another member added, her eyes fixed above as she tightly gripped the handle of her Gearweaver sword.

The members of the 1st Unit of the Vanguard Team of the Korsan Blade Runaway City gripped their Gearweavers tightly and activated their Devourer's Gears as they watched the number of chosen ones in the sky continue to rise.

Three hundred!

Four hundred!

Five hundred...

"Captain... what are your orders?" Mirr could no longer hold back and shouted. Her Vylkr

energy emerged from her Devourer's Bracelet, spread to her arms, and wrapped around her

entire body. But...

"We... surrender!" Aric shouted, throwing his Gearweaver aside and dropping to his knees.

"Everyone, go down on your knees immediately!" he ordered the rest of his Unit. Upon hearing their Captain's words, they gritted their teeth in anger, their expressions filled

with reluctance. Yet, within moments, they threw their weapons aside and knelt one by one. Seeing this, Aric exhaled in relief. They were already cornered, so there was nothing more they could do. There was no need for regrets; they had already lost because...

Failure only comes once.

...The next brings death!

Chapter 1104: Flipping the Trap, Dual Vylkr and Divine Artefact

Above, Sy'ra observed the scene below expressionlessly as she commanded, "Capture them and take them to the City!"

The gods' chosens beside her descended to apprehend their ambushers.

A few months ago, after Sy'ra declared her loyalty to Paradise, a ripple effect spread through the city just as Orion had predicted. The gods' chosens of the Runaway City followed suit, pledging

their loyalty to Paradise without hesitation. In return, they were granted the opportunity to gather Celestial energy, one of the top five highest ranks of energy.

They were also taught the technique 'All-Round Harmony Energy,' which enabled them to align the quantity and quality of Celestial energy with their already accumulated energy. Although they had only comprehended up to ten per cent of the technique, they still felt its effects. This allowed them to learn Arts and Techniques related to Celestial energy, like the 'One-Wing Sky Art,' which enabled them to fly without wings. Also, they were provided with new, more powerful Gearweavers, even stronger than their previous ones.

Despite the feelings of betrayal that arose when they pledged themselves to Paradise, they all admitted that the rewards were tremendous. Especially since they were still allowed to protect and influence the Wanderlust Traveling Tortoise Runaway City as they saw fit. This also put them at the forefront as a Runaway City with the most profound relationship to Paradise.

Watching as the captured Stowaways were flown upwards, Sy'ra sighed with emotion. The 'One-Winged Sky Art' was more powerful than her former 'Skystride Technique,' which she had once taken great pride in.

Sy'ra didn't regret her decision to pledge loyalty, as the Supreme Leader was faithful to his word. However, this only deepened her curiosity about the vastness of Paradise's foundations. With the numerous phenomena that now felt like natural occurrences, she wouldn't be surprised if a god-or even multiple divine beings-resided within Paradise. The realization sent a chilling emotion through her, causing her hair to stand on end. It was both terrifying and oddly reassuring.

"Commander, we can use this opportunity to press forward and capture the remaining Stowaways in this territory to bring them to Paradise," said one of the Unit Captains, an incubus, in a serious tone. "This way, we'll warn others to mind their actions, and we won't have to worry about further ambushes."

Without the warning from Paradise, they wouldn't have known they were being stalked by a Stowaway. Stowaways often ambush in groups, meaning more Stowaways were likely hiding.

The incubus knew it was best to deal with them all simultaneously to prevent another ambush. After all, it would be embarrassing to fall into such a trap after all the support Paradise had given them.

"No. Our orders are to capture the ambushers and return. If Paradise wanted us to traverse the entire territory and capture all the Stowaways, they would have given us the orders to do so," Sy'ra responded. "But do you think Paradise is unaware of the Stowaways dwelling within their territory?"

Deep within the mountain range are countless three-star Vylkr vines, and with the recurring phenomena, there are likely multiple Vylkr vine variants, and more than enough to keep them from approaching the heart of the territory."

"We couldn't locate Paradise until we foolishly tried to take their resources. This means Paradise considers their presence insignificant and allows their existence as an act of benevolence."

The gods' chosen eyes widened in realization.

"If you understand, then join the others and bring the captured Stowaway back so we can return to Paradise quickly," Sy'ra added, her tone strict.

Though unable to see her expression, the gods' chosen nodded swiftly, turned, and soared into the sky, disappearing into the distance.

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"It's finally over," Orion muttered as he observed the scene below. He stood high above the clouds, observing the whirlwind of Vylkr and divine energy below.

The morphic puppet stood beside the artefact formation, ready to attack if his assumptions were correct.

Soon, the whirlwind began to expand outward, revealing the artefact within. At first, it was too blurry to make out. But as the seconds passed, it became clearer until the entire structure of the artefact at the centre of the whirlwind was revealed.

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'Is this it?' Orion thought. The artefact that had emerged from the dual formation of Vylkr and divine energy was a... staff. It was about two meters (seven feet long), with an inky black surface, a mix of wood and metal, and white vein-like structures stretching upwards toward its head, which arched gracefully into a 'C' shape.

At the centre of the curved head was a bright ball of light. One half emitted an inky black radiance and the other a soft white glow. The two sides of the ball radiated a calm yet chilling aura. The staff resembled a ceremonial sceptre.

Realizing his concerns had been unnecessary, Orion exhaled in relief, dropping his shoulders. He glanced around to make sure he was alone. Fortunately, he was, and no one else witnessed the Supreme Leader being scared over what turned out to be nothing.

Orion soared down and landed beside the morphic puppet.

"Go and retrieve the artefact," Orion commanded morphic puppet.

Without hesitation, the puppet soared into the air and approached the sceptre. Numerous Vylkr flower-type variants emerged from the dissipating whirlwind, attempting to block its progress. But the morphic puppet pressed on undeterred, its arms transforming into blades that effortlessly cut through the tendrils with simple swings.

Arriving before the sceptre, morphic puppet grasped it. At that moment, the whirlwind of dense Vylkr and divine energy trembled briefly before slowly beginning to collapse. Morphic puppet turned and soared toward Orion, landing beside him within seconds.

Morphic Puppet presented the sceptre with both hands extended.

Orion took the sceptre, sensing the familiar energies of Vylkr and divine power surging into his body as though the artefact was trying to communicate its immense potential. He briefly considered binding it to himself to test the limits of how many artefacts he could wield, but he dismissed the thought.

Aurora's phenomenon had triggered this artefact formation, so it rightfully belonged to her. In fact, he could offer it as a gift to her, a token of gratitude for bearing the burdens of their

child's birth.

Due to the dual formation, Orion didn't know the artefact's exact rank, but he had no doubt it was of the highest grade. It was uncertain whether it was more powerful than the morphic puppet, especially considering the artefact formation had been influenced by Vylkr spawns and its continuous growth in strength.

Orion re-summoned the morphic puppet and flew into the sky, heading back toward Paradise.

.....

Paradise

Orion landed before the Golden Palace, knocked on its elegant doors, and watched as they parted open, welcoming him inside. Ilse had granted him the privilege of freely entering her palace so he could check on Aurora while she was unconscious.

However, Orion wanted to maintain such a privilege in the future, as this suggested a budding relationship between them. Walking through the bright light, he arrived at the bedroom. Looking around, he noticed Aerialia hovering over Liora's cradle, playing with her.

Liora's cheerful laughter filled the air, showing she enjoyed the attention.

Orion glanced around, but to his surprise, Aurora was nowhere to be seen. His heart raced as he wondered if something had happened in his absence.

Sensing his arrival, Aerialia turned to look at Orion, her eyes instantly locking onto the sceptre

in his hand. Her lips curved into a frown as she sensed the strange aura surrounding it.

"What happened? Where is Aurora?" Orion asked, his voice filled with worry. "Don't worry, she's fine. She needed more space to test her abilities and went outside," Aerialia replied, pointing at the open sky above the palace's roof.

"Is that...?" Aerialia started to ask, but Orion interrupted with a nod before she could finish. "This is a dual Vylkr and Divine artefact, formed from a dual Vylkr and Divine artefact formation triggered by the phenomenon caused by Aurora's delivery. I'm not sure if it's the first of its kind, but it's certainly the first I've ever seen."

"Dual Vylkr and Divine Artifact Formation..."

Aerialia's mind froze as she processed Orion's words. Despite her vast knowledge of the Vylkr energy, she had never imagined such a thing was possible. But recalling Aurora's transformation upon awakening, Aerialia realized this occurrence was plausible.

"I'll go see Aurora so I can give this to her," Orion added.

"Wait! Take Liora with you. I want to observe too," Aerialia said before Orion could take off.

Orion nodded in understanding. He utilized the One-Winged Sky Art on the sceptre, allowing it to hover beside him, then walked over to the cradle and gently picked Liora up. Holding her carefully in his arms, he smiled warmly at her.

Liora observed him with bright, curious eyes, her small hands gently grabbing and squeezing his fingers.

Orion refocused upwards and rose into the air, soaring out of the bedroom.

Chapter 1105: Aurora's Transformation

As Orion rose into the sky, he looked down at the majestic golden castle adorned with precious rubies and gemstones stretching far into the distance. Beyond it was an enormous and equally beautiful city, vast in its expanse. He rose higher, realizing just how endless it seemed. He could not see its boundaries. It appeared as though this kingdom spanned the entire land.

Despite already knowing how wealthy Ilse was, Orion felt he had gained a deeper insight into the true extent of her wealth. It was easy to understand why a divine being like Naka would require her funding for his experiments-she was practically a walking treasure chest.

Although he could envision countless ways to use such a treasure, which functioned like a portable dimensional world, it would all be futile if he didn't deepen his relationship with Ilse for Paradise's sake.

Orion's eyes were immediately drawn to the outline of an immense figure towering high in the clouds. Furrowing his brows, he ascended, with Aerialia following close beside him. The moment Orion emerged from beneath the clouds, he was stunned and froze in place.

Aurora stood as a colossal figure, hundreds of meters tall. Her massive legs, capable of crushing mountains, pressed against the clouds, while her head seemed as though it was trying to touch the world's imitation of the remnants. Behind her stretched two broad wings -one side, inky black, the other shimmering white, with tendrils spread over the edges like delicate webs. Her gown hovered around her ankles, appearing like curtains in the high skies. Her right arm extended across tens of miles, and within her open hand, massive strands of energy intertwined with wisps of divine power. Yet from below, it was difficult for Orion to discern precisely what was happening.

Orion had witnessed many gods transform into enormous beings, so the size alone didn't surprise him. The fact that this colossal being was Aurora left him astounded. Nonetheless, he quickly regained his composure.

Liora seemed to be enjoying the scene before her, stretching her hands as if trying to reach Aurora's gigantic form.

Sensing their arrival, Aurora dispelled the ball of energy gathering in her palms and glanced downward. A smile curved her lips as she looked at Orion, Aerialia, and Liora. Then, her wings retracted into her back, and her enormous body began to shrink until she returned to her average height and form, landing gracefully before them.

Without hesitation, Aurora wrapped her arms around Orion, pulling him into a tight hug. "I'm so glad to see you, darling," she said, pulling back slightly to kiss his lips.

Witnessing Aurora's affection, Orion reciprocated the gesture.

Moments later, she pulled back.

"What happened?" Orion asked, his tone filled with curiosity.

He needed an explanation for everything Aurora had experienced and how she had transformed so dramatically. Though he had suspicions, he preferred hearing it directly from

her.

Aurora nodded and eagerly began to explain everything that had transpired-from the moment she went unconscious to her encounter with the Will of the Divine Mysteries, her Ascension trial, and

how she had emerged victorious, transforming into a goddess capable of wielding both Vylkr and Divine energy.

An anomaly! The Will of the Divine Mysteries!

Orion mulled over these concepts deeply as he digested her words.

"Does that mean I'm also an anomaly?" Orion thought to himself.

He knew Aurora would never have gotten pregnant without his seed, meaning she would never have had the opportunity to experience any of this. He also remembered that his presence had rendered the village chieftess's gift to foresee the future useless, which had caused her to develop feelings of doubt-doubts that only lessened as his progress with Paradise advanced and their frequent meetings continued.

From what Aurora had explained, he was sure he was also an anomaly.

For now, Orion kept these thoughts to himself, assured that Aurora and Aerialia had come to similar conclusions.

"It's good that you're safe and well. I was worried something terrible might happen to you," Orion said, exhaling with relief.

"I have a gift for you. Tell me if you like it," he added, gesturing for the sceptre to float toward Aurora.

Aurora had already fixed her gaze on the sceptre, sensing a strange connection, but had focused on her husband and daughter first. Now, she turned her attention to it.

Curiously, she reached out and grasped the sceptre. Instantly, the bright ball of inky black and warm white light at its centre glowed with intensity. A dusting of light from both sides emerged, swirling around the sceptre momentarily before returning to the shimmering ball of energy.

"In my many lives, I have never witnessed the birth of an artefact of this calibre during a divine being's ascension," Aerialia said, her eyes fixed on the unusual changes taking place in the sceptre within Aurora's grasp.

Typically, artefacts are formed during a divine being's ascension trial due to the tremendous energy gathering around their environment. However, the ranks were usually at the epic, unique, or legendary artefacts due to the condensation of various lesser energies that accumulated in a fixed location during such moments.

If every ascension trial led to the formation of a divine artefact, every divine being would look forward to it--but that was not the case.

Because of this, Aerialia couldn't help but gaze at Aurora with admiration and emotion. She also glanced at Orion, wondering what kind of phenomenon his ascension trial would create.

Considering that Orion was an even more significant anomaly than Aurora, Aerialia knew his trial would be anything but ordinary. Despite the challenges they might face that day, she couldn't help but look forward to it, hoping she would have fully recovered her body by then so they wouldn't face the same problems they had today.

"Go ahead and bind with it," Orion said with a smile. Judging by the artefact's reaction, he knew he had made the right decision by giving it to her.

Aurora nodded. With the sceptre in her right hand, she pressed her left palm against it, and immediately, bright crimson blood emerged, flowing out and smearing across the sceptre's surface. The blood was swiftly absorbed into the artefact.

Aurora felt her energy-both Vylkr and Divine-flow into the sceptre.

The artefact, which had appeared dull previously, gained a peculiar lustre on its metallic sheen. The small, bright ball of light expanded until it nearly touched the edges of the arched 'C' structure at the head of the sceptre.

A wave of pure Vylkr and divine energy surged into Aurora's body simultaneously, filling her reserves and causing it to spill over her form. Dramatic changes began to unfold. Her white and inky, black feathered wings, with tendrils spread over their edges like webs, sprang from her back and widened broadly behind her.

Her eyes had a dual appearance-one side tinted with inky black, the other glowing with white. Only faint white pupils shimmered at the centre of the latter. Both energies overflowed from her body, scattering into a fog that hovered around her, following her every movement.

Within the fog, tendrils of Vylkr energy formed as though attempting to grasp the white mist, or Orion, Liora, and Aerialia, before being dispelled and reforming again. The fog shrouded the sceptre, revealing only its head.

"Are you okay?" Orion asked, breaking the tense silence after Aurora's sudden

transformation.

"Hah... I'm fine!" Aurora replied, controlling her voice to prevent it from creating powerful sound waves from the rush of excitement flowing through her. Fortunately, she had some time to calm herself before Orion's arrival.

"Are you sure?" Orion asked again, his tone filled with concern. He felt unsettled by Aurora's cold and indifferent expression, a stark contrast to her previously gentle but firm demeanour. Her entire transformation made it seem like he was gazing at a different woman. Aurora nodded confidently. "I feel even better than I did before. The artefact was created from the balance of Vylkr and Divine energy. Not only does it empower me with an additional personal reserve several times my own, but it also allows me to properly control both energies simultaneously. In other words, it's the perfect gift for me," Aurora explained,

leaning in to kiss Orion.

"Thank you for the gift, darling. With this, I'm confident I'll be able to help shoulder your responsibilities in supporting Paradise and its territories," she added, pulling back with a

sweet smile.

Feeling Aurora's lips on his, Orion experienced a sudden chill spreading through his body, causing him to stiffen and freeze. He immediately released his Vylkr energy from his containers, allowing it to flow through every fibre of his body.

Gradually, Orion regained his movement.

"Are you okay?" Aurora asked, a frown appearing as she sensed the Vylkr energy surging

through him. She couldn't help but worry.

"I'm alright," Orion replied swiftly with a confident nod. There was no way he was going to tell his wife that her kiss had felt like he had brushed with death.

Meanwhile, witnessing this bizarre exchange between husband and wife, Aerialia couldn't help but feel frustration building, almost as if veins were throbbing on her forehead-if she

had any.

Chapter 1106: The Art Of Taking Chances

"Does that mean you'll be able to cast techniques using Vylkr energy solely through your control and with the sceptre's assistance?" Orion asked, his expression stern.

Upon hearing Orion's question, Aerialia's ears perked up, and her eyes fixed on Aurora. The Vylkr energy made the villagers' gifts so powerful, allowing them to grow stronger after reaching a certain threshold.

However, due to its fierce and uncontrollable nature, they could still not use it to cast techniques. The gods' chosens were slightly similar; while they couldn't store Vylkr energy, they used it to temper their bodies, making them stronger containers for its accumulation. Without the help of vials, they were just powerful bodybuilders.

Thanks to Paradise's aid and the technique they had been given, which allowed them to accumulate Celestial energy in both quality and quantity up to the level of any other energy within them, they were formidable in their own right, even without Vylkr energy. If Aurora could cast techniques and arts solely utilising the Vylkr energy, it would be a game-changer.

Aurora pondered Orion's question for a moment before shaking her head. "I'm not sure. I haven't tried it yet."

"Then how about I teach you a technique? I would have liked to teach you how to grasp one of the laws of the cosmos and turn it into your domain, but I'll save that for later. Still, I doubt your

comprehension is any less than that of the villagers now, especially with your status as a goddess. It should surpass theirs," Aerialia said, her face filled with anticipation.

Orion coughed slightly, clearing his throat. "Aurora has been through a lot and needs to rest before training. Can't we leave that for another time?" he suggested.

"Even though only a few days have passed outside, it's been nine days in here. But you're right. It's her first time experiencing something like this, so she needs all the rest she can get and time to adjust to her new form before we begin training," Aerialia agreed, a thoughtful expression emerging on her face.

"I promise to train hard in the future, Mother," Aurora said.

Aerialia nodded in approval.

"How is the situation with the Runaway Cities?" Aurora asked, refocusing on Orion.

She felt responsible for the terrible phenomenon that had attracted the attention of the Vylkr spawns and the unknown woman who had caused chaos by taking control of one of the Sleeping Fox Runaway Cities. She wanted to understand the current situation and see if she could help.

"They're already on their way and will arrive in a few hours," Orion replied, providing a detailed explanation of the current situation with the Runaway Cities, particularly the Sleeping Fox Runaway City, and the danger it posed if they didn't handle it soon-or hope that nothing serious transpired until Ilse awoke.

"So, you have to destroy the Sleeping Fox Runaway City?" Aurora asked, her tone serious and thoughtful.

Orion nodded. "Yes, unfortunately, Ilse is currently asleep, so we have to-" He paused, noticing Aurora's look.

"How about I help? Destroying the Sleeping Fox Runaway City wouldn't be too difficult with my current capabilities," Aurora offered when she saw Orion stop speaking.

Contrary to her expectations, two sharp voices cut through the air in unison: "NO!" Orion and Aerialia looked at each other and nodded in agreement, their expressions solemn.

"As I said before, you need to rest before doing anything else," Orion said firmly.

"Yes, listen to your husband and your mother. You might be exceedingly stronger than most beings right now. Still, until you begin mastering the laws and establishing your domain, your abilities will be below that of a god who has already established theirs, though still above that of a first-order demigod. That's already impressive for your first ascension," Aerialia chimed in.

"Ilse is different. She has already begun grasping the laws of space and time, among others that I'm certain she's keeping hidden from us. Coupled with her knowledge and physique, even a god who has mastered two per cent of the law of the cosmos would struggle against her. And if she manages to trap them within the Primordial Barrier, she could immobilise them directly. Most importantly, the enemy we're facing is someone who managed to escape Ilse while she was severely injured."

They understood what Aurora was trying to convey and acknowledged that she did indeed have the strength to accomplish such a feat. With the help of the sceptre, they were confident the task would be easier, but they weren't willing to let her face such an opponent alone.

Hearing the words from her husband and mother, Aurora bit her lip. "But I think I can do it. Who knows what will happen before Ilse awakens or how much strength the enemy could recover by then? All we need to do is destroy the Sleeping Fox Runaway City to render her defenceless, right?"

A frown appeared on both Orion's and Aerialia's faces. Seeing Aurora so determined, they had no choice but to reconsider.

"Fine," Orion said reluctantly, "but first, we have to wait until the Runaway Cities return and ensure they are properly hidden so that she doesn't approach another city if she manages to escape again. Do you have a way to arrange that?" His expression was solemn.

Aurora pondered for a moment before responding, "You mentioned sending Ilse to deliver a message to the Wanderlust Travelling Tortoise Runaway City, and the enemy approached that Runaway City first because it was the slowest among the Runaway Cities, trying to get as far away from Paradise as possible."

"But she immediately left for the Sleeping Fox Runaway City. Doesn't that mean she sensed Ilse's lingering aura and assumed she was hiding within it? That's why she escaped to the closest option-

the Sleeping Fox Runaway City." Aurora was confident Ilse hadn't entirely erased her presence, given the situation's urgency, which had led to this outcome.

"So, I need to mark the Trekking Flamingo and Wanderlust Travelling Tortoise Runaway Cities with my aura and fool the enemy into making the same decision. We'll then have the chance to chase her down until we capture her. If we can't capture her, we can be certain that if she's smart, she'll flee as far from this territory as possible," Aurora concluded. Her plan was elaborate, utilising all the information at hand.

She had been managing the entire Garden and advising the Prismerion leaders during her free time, so she was no stranger to handling such matters, especially when it concerned countless

lives.

Orion mulled over her words.

Aerialia wore a solemn but thoughtful expression.

They both found Aurora's plan reasonable.

They exchanged tired looks, sighing and shaking their heads.

Aurora's expression was peculiar as she observed the silent exchange between her mother and husband. Her inner thoughts, however, remained her own.

"Alright, I don't see any harm in trying it. I'm also curious to witness your capabilities,"

Orion said, nodding in agreement.

Aurora then shifted her focus towards Aerialia.

"Fine, you can do as you wish. But if anything goes wrong, return to Paradise as soon as you

can," Aerialia said, her expression serious, arms folded.

Aurora nodded firmly.

"Let's wait here until the Runaway Cities return. In the meantime, you can show me your abilities," Orion added.

Aurora's eyes lit up with excitement as she nodded in understanding.

.....

After spending two hours inside the Golden Palace, which was forty minutes, Orion returned to his manor to spend time with the rest of his family. Aurora wanted to prepare to take care of the issues at hand before she could follow him home.

Orion returned after a day.

Orion gently placed Liora into the cradle before turning to Aurora and saying, "Let's go." He nodded at Aerialia before walking to the door and opening it. A bright light shone from the entrance.

Aurora kissed Liora on the forehead, eliciting joyful laughter from the baby. She nodded at Aerialia before exiting the bedroom. The door closed softly behind them.

Watching the scene, a mix of complex emotions flickered in Aerialia's eyes. She shook her head to calm herself. The worst-case scenario was that she'd become a babysitter, and they

would be back soon.

....

As Orion and Aurora emerged on the other side of the Golden Palace, they soared into the sky. Once they passed through the Primordial barrier, they surveyed the landscape below. Immediately spotting the Trekking Flamingo and Wanderlust Travelling Tortoise Runaway Cities, they descended toward them.

As they approached, Seth, Zogar, and Iris came out to meet them. Their expressions filled with surprise as they saw Aurora and sensed the unique aura surrounding her.

Iris's eyes widened as if sensing something, and she swiftly bowed her head toward Aurora.

"Congratulations on your ascension, Goddess Aurora. Paradise is blessed to have you in its ranks," Iris said, her tone respectful.

Zogar and Seth's eyes widened in astonishment. They quickly followed suit, bowing deeply and saying in unison, "Congratulations on your ascension, Goddess Aurora."

They realised that the phenomenon wasn't solely due to Aurora's delivery but also because of her ascension.

Chapter 1107: The Runaway City's Arcane Defense, Aurora's Divine Mastery

Excitement bloomed within them-Paradise had gained another divine being, which meant their forces would become even more powerful. With the threats they encountered growing ever stronger, this was a blessing for them.

Aurora nodded. "You may raise your heads," she said, gesturing for them to straighten their posture.

They straightened their postures.

"What's going on, Chief?" Zogar asked, refocusing on Orion. Even though the atmosphere was calm now, with beautiful rays of sunlight shining down on them, he knew Orion wouldn't bring Aurora out without a reason, especially with the unknown enemy still at large.

"We have a plan to handle the enemy..." Orion replied, explaining how they intended to defeat the unknown divine being within the Sleeping Fox Runaway City.

After he finished, thoughtful expressions appeared on their faces.

"If Goddess Aurora believes she can do it, then I see no reason not to try it," Zogar responded.

"I'll help in any way I can to ensure the plan goes smoothly," Seth added.

"I'll do the same," Iris agreed.

"Alright, we'll start with the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City," Orion said, leading the way. Aurora followed him, with Seth, Zogar, and Iris soaring behind.

Soon, they arrived above the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City and landed at the main gates of the Royal Cave.

Immediately, a Dragmin man with bronze skin, leathery wings, and hooves dressed in dragon armour appeared before them.

It was none other than Greroth. Behind him was a group of God's Chosen, consisting of other Dragmins and Aarakrocas.

Surprisingly, Lakul was also among them. They both bowed respectfully towards them. "We greet the leaders of Paradise!" Greroth shouted, his tone filled with deep reverence. "We greet the leaders of Paradise!" The Gods' Chosens and Lakul echoed behind him. Orion gestured for them to stand straight.

"I'm here to introduce you to one of Paradise's divine beings, Goddess Aurora. She's here to cast a protection spell over the entire Trekking Flamingo Runaway City before we confront the enemy," Orion said, gesturing towards Aurora.

The moment Greroth and the God's Chosen heard his words, their eyes widened in shock and amazement.

After the inhabitants of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City had migrated to their Runaway City, they were informed of everything that had transpired, especially Greroth, who was told about the goddess the Supreme Leader had brought to their Runaway City.

Now, another goddess had come to the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City, entirely different from the one they had heard about, leaving them dumbfounded by the number of divine beings in Paradise's ranks.

Was there a goddess factory in Paradise?

However, as their thoughts calmed, relief and security soon washed over them. Their devotion and confidence in Paradise grew even stronger.

Lakul and Greroth wore relaxed expressions, their shoulders visibly dropping as they exhaled in relief. They believed that with the goddess's protection, the enemy wouldn't target the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City, which eased their hearts.

Regardless of who the enemy was, they were confident that Paradise would handle them.

Aurora released her divine energy, and a suffocating sensation filled the air. The entire Trekking Flamingo Runaway City trembled as a transparent dome appeared in the sky above it before vanishing. The trembling subsided, and the oppressive atmosphere lifted.

A few of the God's Chosen coughed violently, some collapsing to catch their breath.

Seeing this, Aurora waved her right hand, and a wave of divine energy flowed into them, revitalizing their bodies.

The Gods' Chosens immediately stood, bowing respectfully toward Aurora for her care. They were now even more confident of the divine nature of Paradise's protectors.

Aurora nodded and turned to Orion. "I'm done. I'm confident the enemy won't attempt to infiltrate the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City like it did with the Sleeping Fox Runaway -City."

Hearing her words, Greroth, Lakul, and the others clenched their fists in excitement. They wanted to roar with laughter at the thought of being under the direct protection of a goddess, but they restrained their emotions and kept their lips sealed.

"Let's move to the next," Orion said, sweeping his gaze over the individuals before them with a nod. He then soared into the sky, with the others following behind.

....

Elenora, the previous leaders of the Wanderlust Travelling Tortoise Runaway City, and a group of Gods' Chosens all felt their emotions stir, eyes widening in shock as they heard the Supreme Leader's words.

Soon after, a wave of divine pressure descended upon them, causing their knees to grow weak and collapse to the ground. A transparent dome appeared above the Wanderlust Travelling Totoirse Runaway City. But as quickly as it came, the transparent dome and pressure vanished, and a wave of strength entered their bodies, revitalizing them and forcing them to stand upright.

"Thank you for your direct protection, Goddess Aurora!" Elenora said emotionally, being the first to speak. Even though this was all because they were now under Paradise's protection, she didn't forget to appreciate the goddess's efforts.

The others behind her followed suit. They realized it would be disastrous to lose the favour of a goddess while still being under Paradise's protection.

Aurora nodded at them before turning her attention to Orion. "I'm done," she said.

Orion nodded in understanding and turned to Zogar and the others. "We'll be leaving," he said before soaring high with Aurora. They both vanished into the sky, disappearing on the horizon.

.....

It took several minutes before they arrived at the Sleeping Fox Runaway City. Looking down at the city below, Orion said, "Here you go. You're free to do as you wish."

Aurora nodded and summoned her sceptre, gripping it firmly. Immediately, the bright ball of light at its centre expanded, her colourful wings emerged, and a burst of Vylkr and divine energy overflowed from her body, transforming into a fog that lingered around her, following her every gesture.

Her eyes took on an inky black and warm white tint. Focusing her gaze on the Sleeping Fox Runaway City, Aurora stretched out her sceptre and tapped its bottom in the air as though tapping the ground beneath her.

Thick, tendril-like Vylkr energy flowed from the base of the spectre, accompanied by several wisps of divine power, which dissolved into the tendrils, enabling them to grow larger. Soon, the countless tendrils began to take the shape of winged figures, their faces obscured by the wisps of divine energy, though their dread-filled forms were undeniable.

It seemed like a dreadful calamity had descended upon the still and silent Sleeping Fox

Runaway City.

"Since the Vylkr energy can feed on other attributes and materials to grow stronger, I shape it into constructs and allow the divine energy to act as a catalyst for their ever-adaptive forms. This way, I don't need to expend the required amount of Vylkr energy for continuous growth, and the adaptive constructs can adjust to whatever enemy or obstacle they encounter. However, I still retain some control over what form they take," Aurora explained. "This is a divine skill I've created-The Eternal Chaos Legion," Aurora added, looking at Orion with a smile. Though she had shown Orion her abilities before, she had been working on this while he spent time with the rest of their family at the manor.

Upon hearing Aurora's explanation, Orion was shocked and left speechless. This was the nightmare of every warrior in Paradise. He focused his eyes on the large winged constructs, which shrank and split into countless more miniature Vylkr vines when they touched the Sleeping Fox Runaway City, staring at their energy levels.

[Energy Level - ???]

Unfortunately, like Aurora's energy, it was unreadable. Although Orion understood the difficulty in constructing an Energy Mask Spectrometer capable of reading those on the level of the divine, he hoped Seraphina would make progress soon.

With no way to quantify their abilities except through the scale of the disastrous power they had displayed, it was left to their imagination whether they could ever bridge that gap. After a few moments of silence, Orion finally spoke. "You're amazing. I didn't expect you to develop such a terrifying divine skill."

Aurora's smile widened at Orion's praise. "With my capabilities, it was only a matter of time before I created such a divine skill. But you're right, darling—I am amazing." In terms of power, she was now one of Paradise's strongest, so she wasn't about to be modest in the face of her husband's admiration.

"Do you want to observe what happens to the enemy while I crush it all at once?" Aurora asked, knowing Orion wouldn't be satisfied until he witnessed the destruction firsthand. This was her way of ensuring that he did.

The countless Vylkr winged constructs, with vine-like tendrils, had completely ensnared the Sleeping Fox Runaway City in their grip. The wings were wrapped around its structure, forcing it to compress with every passing second. The sound of metal bending and grinding against

itself echoed for miles.

Fortunately, there was no life nearby to investigate what was happening.

This was the end of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City.

Chapter 1108: Eternal Chaos Legion, The Phantom Fox Appears

"How are you going to do that?" Orion asked, curious. He wanted to know how Aurora planned to observe what was happening within the Runaway city, given that her Vylkr constructs had trapped it so thoroughly that even sunlight couldn't penetrate.

With a widening smile, Aurora shifted her sceptre to her other hand and gently placed her free hand on Orion's shoulder. A soft glow radiated from her hand, infiltrating into Orion's pores.

Orion's vision spun at that instant, and the scene before him distorted. A bright light flashed before his eyes, forcing him to snap them shut.

"Open your eyes, husband," Aurora's charming voice echoed in his ears.

When Orion opened his eyes, he was taken aback by the scene. The view before him was of the tall, metallic structures of the ensnared Sleeping Fox Runaway City, racing from one location to another. Initially, he thought it was his own vision, but the collapsing structures, the two inky black hands, and the tendrils beneath him made it clear it wasn't.

"Since they are my creations, I can share my senses with them," Aurora explained. "I can sense the intertwined Divine energies in the air-likely where the enemy and Ilse clashed." As soon as she finished, the scene moved even faster.

Orion watched as they dove deep underground, swiftly heading toward the forge palace. Swarms of winged Vylkr constructs accompanied them, tearing down the surrounding structures as they advanced.

"Is this the place?" Aurora asked, her voice resonating in his ears.

They arrived before the familiar thick gates of the forge palace.

"Yes," Orion replied firmly.

"Okay, I'll handle the rest," Aurora said. Immediately, several winged Vylkr constructs crashed against the door, prying it open and devouring it.

As the door widened, a bright light from within condensed into a beam, instantly striking the constructs and vaporizing them. Even those nearby were reduced to nothing.

Orion was blinded momentarily but quickly regained his vision.

The Vylkr constructs outside the entrance filled the space once more. This time, they tore down the door and made their way inside. However, another beam shot forward before they could advance, vaporizing them again.

This time, the beam didn't stop, extending into the distance.

Yet, the relentless Vylkr constructs continued their advance. The collapsing surroundings briefly held the beam back before it tore through them. Soon, even a hole was ripped through the surface of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City.

Though the beam overpowered the Eternal Chaos Legion due to the vast difference in strength, it was clear that if this continued, the Sleeping Fox Runaway City would surely fall, leaving the unknown woman defenceless.

Aurora removed her hand from Orion's shoulder, allowing him to regain his vision as the chaos intensified.

Orion looked around and saw that the walls raised around the Sleeping Fox Runaway City had been crushed and were nowhere to be seen except for the debris of giant stone slabs scattered in the surrounding area. The Vylkr vines outside swarmed in, joining the onslaught.

Apart from Aurora's power, the Vylkr vines were also under her control, as they were formed from Vylkr energy. So, even without using her full power, she could command the Vylkr vines to incapacitate the enemy.

Orion gained further insight into why beings like the Vylkrspawns were so feared. The only way to eliminate them was to pull them into the mirror realm, away from the excess Vylkr vines, and deliver a decisive blow. It was a nightmare for anyone not powerful enough to defeat them.

Aurora wasn't a Vylkrspawn, but she had a similar ability to control the Vylkr vines, which, combined with her already formidable abilities, made her a terrifying opponent.

A smile emerged on Orion's lips, satisfied with Aurora's display of strength.

Soon, metal bending and grinding ceased, and a bright light spilt through the encased Vylkr constructs.

"Let's go!" Aurora's urgent voice echoed in the air as she took Orion into her arms, spread her broad wings, and soared swiftly into the distance, covering several miles in seconds.

Orion was about to ask what was happening when he saw an enormous, bright, phantom fox - almost identical life-like to the Sleeping Fox Runaway City-tear a hole through the ensnaring Vylkr

constructs and move past their previous position, ascending into the sky. It roared, causing the surrounding atmosphere to tremble. The moment it reached the heavens-

BOOM!!

It exploded. The clouds were overturned, splitting apart to reveal the blue sky and bright sunrays raining down the earth. Terrible shockwaves spread, collapsing nearby mountains and reaching Aurora's and Orion's positions within seconds.

Aurora swiftly wrapped her arms and broad wings around Orion, pouring out all her dual Vylkr and divine energy to form a powerful shield around them. The shockwave collided with the barrier with a thunderous 'BANG!!' They were knocked backwards, and the shield trembled violently before stabilizing.

Fortunately, it remained unbroken.

After a few seconds, the inky black and white shield began disintegrating, dispersing into the air. Aurora unfurled her wings, freeing Orion, and stretched them behind her.

Orion took a sharp breath at the sight before him. The entire land, stretching for hundreds of miles, had been flattened, including the mountains. Dust filled the air, obscuring parts of the landscape, but Orion was sure the explosion had transformed the area into a vast, empty plain. He had never imagined that the Phantom Fox emerging from the Sleeping Fox Runaway City would carry such terrifying destructive power.

Several miles away, the Vylkr winged constructs that had ensnared the Sleeping Fox Runaway City had also been pulverized. The Runaway City lay on the ground, its structure broken and scattered like metal scraps. It no longer resembled the Sleeping Fox Runaway City it once was. Orion turned to look at Aurora, who had protected him and borne the full brunt of the attack with her abilities.

"Are you okay?" Orion asked, his voice tinged with concern.

"I'm fine. I was just caught off guard," Aurora responded with a nod. If it had been before, she was sure she would have barely escaped with severe injuries. However, as a newly ascended goddess, it only cost her some energy for protection.

"It seems the enemy is somehow connected to the Sleeping Fox Runaway City for her to be capable of releasing such a destructive attack through it. Unfortunately, we have to kill her to prevent more trouble, or else we might have uncovered a clue regarding the origins of the Runaway Cities," Aurora added, her lips forming a frown.

"You're right. Letting such an enemy live will do more harm than good," Orion nodded. "Are you still able to continue?" He asked.

Aurora nodded, her expression serious.

A wave of anticipation and excitement coursed through her body, allowing her to experience the thrill of battle she had only seen in the Pixies and the Warriors.

It was intoxicating!

They focused their gazes on the Sleeping Fox Runaway City, struggling to rise. Unfortunately, all four legs were bent and twisted at horrendous angles, incapacitating it. Like an injured

beast, it began to crawl forward.

"You're not getting away," Aurora said, activating her divine skill.

Eternal Chaos Legion!

Countless Vylkr winged constructs emerged from the tip of her sceptre, transforming into inky black waves that covered the sky like a dark curtain, dimming the light below as they advanced toward the Sleeping Fox Runaway City.

They covered the considerable distance within seconds and crashed against the city, ensnaring it again. As a bright ray of light began to spill from the sleeping Fox Runaway City again, Aurora appeared before Orion, and an inky black and white shield materialized before

them.

This time, she was prepared to counter any attack from the unknown enemy. Soon, a phantom fox emerged from the Sleeping Fox Runaway City, roaring into the sky and causing the

atmosphere to tremble.

With a bright flash of light, it exploded.

...

After thirty minutes of repeatedly attacking the Sleeping Fox Runaway City-its head severed

and thrown a great distance away, its body and limbs broken and torn-it finally stopped

moving, looking even worse than before.

"It's over," Aurora said, exhaling lightly. Considering it was her first battle, she had held nothing back, but the fact that they had managed to resist her relentless attacks for thirty

minutes astonished her.

The enemy and the city's durability and vitality were extraordinary.

Nonetheless, Aurora realized that despite her terrifying abilities, she needed to grow

stronger. This meant taking her training with her mother seriously to defend Paradise and its territories from future enemies.

"Is the enemy still alive?" he asked, his tone serious. He wouldn't be surprised if the enemy were still hanging on by a thread from the battle he had witnessed.

Orion swept his eyes across the plain, which had compressed by tens of meters into the ground, forming a massive, bottomless pit stretching for hundreds of miles. He was confident it would slowly transform into a lake when the next turbulent rainy season arrived.

Chapter 1109: High-Risk, High Reward

"I don't sense her energy signature anymore, so I don't think she's alive. Wait here, let me verify," Aurora said before vanishing from her position, crossing several miles in seconds.

Within a few minutes, she returned and looked at Orion.

"I've checked. She's dead," Aurora said with a nod, her expression firm.

"Take me to see her so I can look," Orion replied.

Noticing the hesitation on her face, Orion frowned and asked, "What is it?"

Aurora's shoulders slumped slightly as she shook her head. "Although she's dead, I'm not certain she won't come back to life through some strange means. I don't think it's a good idea for you to get too close to her."

Orion's face was filled with realization. He remembered slicing Ilse in half after her awakening, yet she could still reassemble herself.

"In that case, we can use this opportunity to test if she's truly dead," Orion said. He summoned the Morphic Puppet and willed it to wrap around his body as armour. He wanted to thoroughly eradicate the enemy to prevent any future trouble.

Aurora furrowed her brows but eventually nodded. "Alright. I'll do my best to protect you if anything happens," she sighed.

She understood her husband's mindset all too well. A good enemy was a dead one, and after facing such a formidable opponent, she couldn't disagree.

Aurora and Orion soared forward and arrived above the defeated enemy within minutes.

The woman lay amidst the debris of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City, battered and broken. Her limbs were twisted at unnatural angles, clearly the result of Aurora's Divine Skill.

At first glance, she appeared very much dead. However, given the nature of their enemy, it would be foolish to make any immediate judgments.

Orion narrowed his eyes, noticing that the woman's limbs, which had been wholly shattered earlier, were now partially healed. Nearby, a more petite mechanical halo, similar to the one Ilse had sealed, lay beside her. Despite her horrific condition, it was difficult to determine whether she had also faced the previous battle with the Vylkrspawns and Ilse.

Orion's gaze focused on the mechanical halo. He realized that this more petite halo was responsible for the beam of light that had clashed with Ilse and Aurora's Divine Skill. Considering he had witnessed the more giant halo release beams capable of threatening Ilse, his suspicions grew.

But the power needed to fuel such a weapon had to come from somewhere. It couldn't have been the woman herself, as she was still trying to recover.

Scanning the surroundings, Orion soon found his answer. Several hundred meters away stood an enormous sphere of light encased in a glass-like structure with mechanical tendrils and structures surrounding it.

The enormous sphere of light itself was strange, constantly shifting as if trying to change form while maintaining its spherical shape.

Despite the devastation around the Sleeping Fox Runaway City, the sphere appeared utterly unharmed, which was surprising.

Orion recalled Isadora mentioning an enormous sphere of light acting as a power core for the Runaway Cities. It must have powered the beam of light. Its user's incapacitation, along with the incomplete mechanical halo structure, was likely the reason why the beam was so weak.

"Do you know what that is? I can sense strange auras, and it's making me feel uneasy," Aurora said, a frown appearing on her face.

She had followed Orion's gaze and was now fixated on the encased sphere of light. The more she stared at it, the more discomfort she felt.

"Strange auras? What do you mean?" Orion asked, turning toward her with a frown.

"I can't quite describe it, but the best way to put it is that the auras around the sphere don't seem to be from this world," Aurora replied. "My senses are going haywire. Let's do what we need to and return to Paradise quickly."

Aurora could sense the world's laws like a goddess, making identifying anything foreign to this realm easy. If something made her uncomfortable, it was worth considering.

"Not of this world," Orion muttered, his expression thoughtful.

'What secret do you hold?' He refocused on the encased sphere of light.

Initially, he had planned to destroy the enemy's body completely, but he reconsidered after piecing together their connections. Opportunities like this-securing the body of a being that had nearly wiped out two Vylkrspawns, escaped Ilse's grasp, and somehow used the Sleeping Fox Runaway City to fend off Aurora's attacks-didn't come often.

To survive in this world, risks had to be taken. Orion felt that if he let this chance slip through his fingers, he would regret it.

"Do you have a way to trap her and make sure she can't escape if she comes back to life?" Orion asked, turning back to Aurora.

Aurora frowned but responded, "I can try, but with my mother's help, I might be able to keep her in stasis. Mother has a lot of tricks up her sleeve. Are you seriously considering taking her back with us?"

Orion nodded. "This could be our one chance to uncover secrets that might benefit Paradise. Even if we don't learn everything about the Runaway Cities, I'm sure we'll find something even greater," he said. "Of course, we'll have to wait for Ilse to awaken before bringing her to Paradise so she can be fully suppressed."

If the woman made no strange movements until Ilse awoke, they would no longer have anything to fear.

"Alright, I'll do my best," Aurora nodded, agreeing with Orion's plan. Besides, this could be an excellent opportunity to train her powers. She grabbed the sceptre floating beside her and activated her Divine Skill.

Numerous Vylkr constructs formed around the enemy, the sphere of light, and the halo, while others emerged across the debris of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City. These constructs partially assimilated the objects into their bodies before soaring into the sky and advancing.

Another Vylkr construct appeared beneath their feet, transforming into an inky black platform that steadily rose into the air. Orion looked down, realizing they were not standing on a platform but on the headless, winged form of a towering, tens-of-meters-tall Vylkr

construct.

Orion shifted his attention to the winged constructs around him, impressed by the versatility of Aurora's Divine Skill. Aurora continued to lead the way forward, but their focus was still on the woman, the mechanical halo, and the sphere of light.

...

Zogar, Seth, and Iris stood shoulder to shoulder in the air above the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City, discussing among themselves while intently observing their surroundings.

They had felt the aftershocks of the distant battle, making them realize the scale of the ongoing conflict. Although they had faith in Aurora, who had just ascended to goddesshood, they knew the enemy's capabilities weren't to be underestimated.

"I hope the Chief is successful, or else we risk endangering this territory in the future," Seth

sighed.

If the enemy escaped, they would return for revenge, possibly with enforcements. And if the Vylkrspawns were still intent on coming despite the deaths of their comrades here, Paradise's territory could become a battleground, which wouldn't be good for them in the long run.

"No matter what transpires or who the enemy is, I will stand with the Supreme Leader to defend Paradise, even if it means forfeiting my life," Iris said firmly.

Hearing Iris's words, Seth nodded in approval. Though he was familiar with Iris and the other divine apostles, he was reassured by her convictions. The least a warrior of Paradise should be ready to do is sacrifice their life for it and the Supreme Leader.

Zogar shared the sentiment, nodding with a satisfied smile. "If that's the case, you'd better be ready to do so at any moment." He turned his head, sensing something approaching.

Seth and Iris sensed it, too, immediately turning with sharpened awareness. Countless enormous figures emerged from the distance, advancing toward them and darkening the sky. The three tensed, fists clenched, ready to activate their gifts and battle the

unknown threat.

However, they quickly received a message through their masks, calming their riled emotions. "What is it?" Iris asked, raising an eyebrow as she sensed Seth and Zogar relax.

"No need to worry. The Chief just informed us that it's him arriving with Goddess Aurora,"

Zogar said, smiling. "They've done it. They've defeated the enemy!"

"The Supreme Leader of Paradise and Goddess Aurora have returned!" Zogar's voice thundered through the air, reverberating across the surroundings and the Runaway Cities

below.

Almost instantly, the inhabitants of the Leaders of the Wanderlust Traveling Tortoise, Trekking Flamingo Runaway City, and the previous Sleeping Fox Runaway City emerged from their homes to witness the arrival of the Supreme Leader of Paradise and Goddess Aurora, a genuine goddess of Paradise.

Even the leaders of the three Runaway Cities emerged. Others took to the skies to observe the

situation more clearly.

Gasps filled the air as each one held their mouths wide open, watching the unfolding scene in the sky. Numerous individuals pinched themselves to ensure they weren't dreaming; however, their efforts were futile.

The scene unfolding before them was undoubtedly real.

Chapter 1110: Heads Held High, A Future To Rebuild

"People of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City..." Orion's voice reverberated through the air. "This is Goddess Aurora, one of the goddesses of Paradise. She single-handedly dealt with the divine being who dared to seize control of your Runaway city!" He gestured towards Aurora.

Orion then pointed to the unknown woman's body, held by the Vylkr winged construct. "This is the fallen divine being beside me," he continued. "You once believed them untouchable, beyond your reach. But even she could not escape the power of Paradise. The invincible cannot evade our strength!"

He lowered his hands and spoke again, "You have lost your foundation, your home, and you have every right to grieve. However, I am here to show you what has been won, not lost. So, regardless of what has transpired, hold your heads high. You participated in the defeat of a divine being. Share this privilege with your fellow brethren from the other Runaway Cities, for they, too, serve Paradise as you do.

"To the inhabitants of the Wanderlust Traveling Tortoise and the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City, welcome your brethren as though you've reunited with beloved, long-lost family. They have sacrificed much for you to share in this glory, so treat them as if they were your blood kin!"

Orion's voice cut through the air, echoing in the ears of everyone below, etching itself deep into their hearts, leaving an unforgettable memory.

The people of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City, heartbroken at the sight of their ruined home, suddenly felt their spirits lift. As they gazed at its remains, their sorrow transformed into exhilaration.

Lakul clenched his fists, his eyes brimming with emotion as he looked at the Supreme Leader and the shattered remains of their Runaway city. He had already sworn allegiance to Paradise, so why mourn the destruction of a Runaway City when it had helped them achieve such a grand feat?

They had slain a divine being!

Who else could proudly make such a claim?

Even the gods' chosens of the former Sleeping Fox Runaway City observed the scene above, their eyes filled with hope and reverence.

'That should be enough,' Orion thought.

"You can drop the remains of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City near the Outward Stronghold and choose a place to keep the enemy's body in stasis in the meantime," Orion said, shifting his attention to Aurora.

Aurora nodded and commanded the Vylkr constructs forward. They flew towards the destroyed Outward Stronghold, dropping the remains of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City beside it, except for the mechanical halo and power core. Once Ilse awakened, the core, the unknown woman's body, and the miniature halo would be handed over to the research centre. Meanwhile, the rest of the scraps could be recycled.

Then, the Vylkr constructs are dispersed into countless strands of Vylkr energy, wisps of divine energy, and drawn into Aurora's body.

Aurora then flew twenty kilometres from the Vylkr alloy mine and descended. With a wave of her hand, the darkened, ashy sands surged to life, rising into the air in a bellowing sandstorm. Soon, the swirling sands merged, forming complex structures that became more discernible with each movement.

After a few minutes, the shape became clear.

It was a two-story building.

Utilizing her power over the world's laws, Aurora transformed the sand into wood, creating a two-story building with a tower to house the unknown woman's body, the mechanical halo, and the power core.

"Although I can watch over her from Paradise, I think it's best to stay nearby, considering the enemy's unknown capabilities. You can help me bring Mother and Liora here so I can learn more about the divine and properly care for our daughter while I'm here," Aurora said, turning her gaze to Orion. Her spectre turned into a ray of light and vanished into her.

Orion nodded. In the past, he would have disagreed with letting his wife and newborn stay outside the protection of the Primordial barrier. But with Aurora's current abilities and Aerialia's presence, he no longer had reason to worry.

He noticed a new confidence and divine aura in Aurora, one he had only felt from other divine beings. This change wasn't present before, and it was clear to him that Aurora was evolving and was a natural result of her new divine status.

As he looked around, Orion saw the Vylkr vines retreating from Aurora's building. Even the distant Vylkr vines, crushed beneath the enormous feet of the Runaway Cities like ants, were receding like a tidal wave.

The Wanderlust Traveling Tortoise and the Trekking Flamingo Runaway City soon halted as they, too, noticed the abnormality of the situation.

Orion turned his focus to Aurora.

"While I'm here, I've decided to eliminate the Vylkr vines in this territory. I can handle it easily, so you don't need to worry. If the warriors want to gain experience, they must go to the border. It will be created soon," Aurora said, indicating her involvement.

Orion smiled in response. Truly, adding one more divine being in Paradise had caused tremendous, almost unbelievable changes. He couldn't help but imagine what would happen once Aerialia rebuilt her body.

Soon, Seth, Zogar, and Iris landed beside them.

"Chief, what's happening?" Zogar asked, his tone filled with astonishment and disbelief.

Seth and Iris also wore similar expressions.

It was apparent they were reacting to the retreating swarms of Vylkr vines.

With a smile on his lips, Orion gestured toward Aurora. "To show her benevolence and care for Paradise and its development, goddess Aurora has decided to clear parts of the territory of the Vylkr vines."

Upon hearing his words, all three were momentarily stunned before joy lit up their faces.

They immediately bowed silently to Aurora. There was no need for words-Aurora was part of Paradise, and her actions naturally worked toward its betterment. They bowed to show their respect and reverence for her newly attained divinity. Moments later, they raised their heads. "Chief, we came to inform you about the spies captured by Commander Sy'ra and the rest of the gods' chosen from the Wanderlust Traveling Tortoise Runaway City," Zogar said. They hadn't informed him earlier due to their previous unfortunate circumstances.

Orion listened intently as Zogar explained the apprehension of the Stowaways. Now that their previous issue has been dealt with, they can focus on lesser issues.

After Zogar finished speaking, Orion nodded and turned to Aurora.

"I'll be taking my leave. I'll bring Liora and Aerialia myself," Orion said, removing his mask. He raised his head to give Aurora a kiss.

Feeling her incredibly tender and succulent lips and their lingering pleasant aftertaste, Orion admitted it was divine.

"Alright, I'll be waiting," Aurora replied, leaning forward. "Now that I'm fine, we should fulfil our parents' roles and give Liora some siblings. Don't forget we must fulfil Mother's

dream of bringing back the One-winged race."

Orion gulped. Liora already has siblings at home, he wanted to say.

But he knew better than to utter such words. Despite Aerialia's promise to help him only when he rebuilt the One-winged race, she assisted him regardless, providing countless techniques and arts, personal guidance, and information regarding the divines. Paradise's entire growth was primarily thanks to her.

Even Aurora's current state and growth were due to her guidance. Having grown attached to Aerialia due to their unique connection, Orion also desired to rebuild the One-winged race-

and her body.

But-

Aurora's fiery gaze as she spoke left him unsure whether to advance or retreat. Her previous physique was already formidable enough to handle their battles, no matter how much effort

he put in.

Orion knew his limits and wasn't sure if he could go toe-to-toe with a goddess.

Aurora's eyes flashed with a glint as though she had read his thoughts. "Don't worry; I'll go easy on you," she said with a smile.

"... We'll revisit this conversation later when everything is settled," Orion said, clearing his

throat.

But the smile never left Aurora's lips. She simply nodded, straightened her posture, and walked toward the front door of the building.

Orion's eyes focused on her feet as she entered the building and closed the door. They had never touched the ground! It was a minor detail he had noticed with Ilse and other divine beings he had seen in Aegis of the Arctic Deity's memories.

They had been constantly soaring around earlier, so he hadn't had the chance to notice until

now.

Suddenly, a familiar desire grew more powerful within Orion's heart.

He needed to grow more powerful. He couldn't leave the burden of protecting Paradise solely on Aurora and Ilse while he played the role of Supreme Leader.

The only way to do that was to throw caution to the wind and consume as many Vylkr vines as he could daily or grasp the opportunity to use the information Aerialia had given him to be recognized by the Divine Mysteries. It shouldn't be too hard for him to accomplish... right?