

Village Head 1181

Chapter 1181: Condensed Vylkr Essence Rebirth Elixirs (2)

"Can you please tell me the consequences of consuming the Condensed Vylkr Essence Rebirth Elixirs in excess?" Orion responded.

"Death, long-term damage to your body from the sudden increase in Vylkr energy, or your void heart collapsing. And in the worst-case scenario, you turn into a tainted," Kasryn responded through clenched teeth.f

Orion nodded, his expression deep in thought. He realized that this elixir was likely made for the residents of the pocket dimension due to their tainted cells, so its side effects should primarily apply to them.

Also, no one, except the Priestess and the goddesses, knew they were from outside the pocket dimension. Explaining this now would be incredibly complicated, so Orion withheld the information until after the war. Now that they knew the situation within the Mirror Realm, there was no point hiding. Revealing the truth could help arouse public interest, potentially aiding their plans.

Orion exhaled inwardly. If he wanted to learn more about how the elixir affected him, he would need to meet its creator. However, he wasn't on good terms with them, so it seemed impossible for now.

Even if he asked, it would likely lead to him owing her a favour-something he wanted to avoid at all costs.

After all, the goddess had put him in this predicament by declaring him the key to their victory in this war. It was clear they weren't expecting too much from him and would likely step in if things got out of hand.

"That settles it, then! It would be a shame if we returned to Paradise and pretended to forget this realm existed. I'll do my best to win the goddesses' favour," he thought, clenching his fists in determination.

"I apologize. I acted foolishly without considering the consequences," Orion said, his tone genuinely apologetic.

Kasryn snorted, sensing Orion's sincerity. Her expectations of him had already hit rock bottom, and now she was focused on ensuring he didn't die doing something reckless on the battlefield.

"Since you're my responsibility now, listen closely. I expect you to follow my orders without hesitation when we're out there. Failure to do so and I will send you off the battlefield, back to the Priestess' manor. We are the guardians of the sanctuary, and we'll figure something out even without your presence," Kasryn replied coldly, her tone firm and her expression serious. "Do I make myself clear?" she asked.

Seeing her once friendly and casual demeanour shift into irritation and anger, Orion nodded in understanding. He knew he could only prove his worth during the upcoming war, so he remained silent, not wanting to worsen the strained relationship.

"I hope you don't disappoint and stay true to this agreement. Put on your armour; it's time we head into battle," Kasryn said. She turned away from Orion and leapt onto the back of the beast.

Orion summoned his morphic puppet armour. His head was also covered by a helmet connected to the armour. The only visible opening on the inky black, scaly armour were two straight lines on both sides of his visor.

But if anyone thought they could attack him through those openings, they would be making a big mistake. Orion could see through the morphic puppet itself, just as he had while exploring the pocket dimension. The visor was purely decorative.

Kasryn glanced at Orion's armour for a moment before averting her gaze. She wondered how powerful the artefact he wore was. It looked formidable and exuded a unique aura.

Orion leapt up and straddled the beast. Kasryn gripped the reins tightly and patted the beast on the side of its neck.

The beast began to move forward. Soon, they entered a broader open space near the base of the wall, where countless soldiers were mounted on fully armoured Quradactyls, wearing similar insignias. Each soldier carried a heavy shield strapped to their back and a longsword hanging by their waist, just like Kasryn.

"There are four sections of the fortress: the eastern and western gates, and the southern wall and northern gate. The Stormfall and my Ironwall Corps protect the northern gates located here. The eastern gates are guarded by the Blue Blizzard and Thornwarden Corps. The southern walls by the Night Phantom Corps and Bone Tower Corps."

"Lastly, the western gates are protected by the Flameguard Corps alone. They're the exception and are ranked the strongest of the Arch-Knight corps. I'm sure you'll recognize their leader, as you two met before coming here," Kasryn said.

Orion nodded, recalling that the ginger-haired man wielded only a longsword. He couldn't help but wonder just how powerful he was-whether he was about to step over the threshold of the fourth-star warrior or if he had already become a five-star warrior.

Orion was unsure, but he knew he would only find his answer by observing the strength of the Arch-Knight before him. No matter how powerful he was, it shouldn't be too far off from the others.

Kasryn continued, "The second corps is the Stormfall Corps. The third is my Ironwall Corps. The fourth is the Bone Tower Corps. The sixth is the Thornwardens Corps. The seventh is the Blue Blizzard Corps, and the eighth is the Night Phantoms Corps. Each corps consists of several millions of troops tasked with ensuring the safety of the sanctuary. During this war, everyone will play their part and give it their all, so you do the same and show us why the goddess placed so much expectation on you."

"I will," Orion nodded.

"Good," Kasryn responded with a nod.

The moment they arrived, the surroundings fell silent, and all the soldiers focused their attention on them. Their gazes briefly flickered toward Orion with a curious glint, and they wondered about his identity, given that he was riding their Commander's prized beast with

her.

After listening to Kasryn's explanation, Orion understood that the soldiers present were only a fraction of their total force.

Kasryn looked at the Arch-Knights before her and then spoke loudly, "The enemy has emerged in numbers far greater than any we've faced before! But do not falter! The goddess has assured us victory through one of the heroes who slew the Harbingers, saving our brothers and sisters in the outside world." She pointed toward Orion, seated behind her.

The beast turned so everyone could see him.

Fortunately, Orion's expression was hidden, concealing his twitching lips.

"I heard that the enemy is gathering more than ten million this time!"

"Ten million! Are you sure?"

"Yes. Even the Commander's words seem to support the rumours! I also heard the reports were incomplete due to the snowy dust clouds shrouding the creatures in the sky!"

"Hey, didn't you hear the rest of the Commander's words? Victory is on our side, no matter how numerous the enemy is!"

"You're right! The goddess's words will always bring us fortune. I heard that to defeat the Harbingers, one needed strength equal to a Commander, so the hero's strength must rival theirs. Having another individual with power equal to a Commander's will surely turn the tide of battle in our favour. The goddess might have sent him for another reason, too, so who knows what he's truly capable of!"

"At first, I was terrified when I heard we were facing more than ten million monstrosities, but now my heart feels calm!"

The Arch-Knights voiced their thoughts to one another one by one, their fierce fighting spirits

soaring toward the sky.

Despite efforts to keep the reports of the approaching enemies secret, it was impossible. Kasryn knew that a few might initially be frightened by the sheer number of enemies, causing their morale to plummet. After all, they were still living beings with flesh, blood, and souls capable of sensing emotions.

However, seeing how quickly they recovered, with their spirits rising higher than before, Kasryn nodded inwardly in satisfaction. She hadn't trained a weak force and was pleased with

their development.

Kasryn summoned one of the Arch-Knights standing nearby and gave him detailed instructions about the formation to deliver to the rest of the troops. Although she would lead the battle at the front, she had several brilliant minds-some of whom were her second-in-command and generals-tasked with coordinating the forces from behind.

This would ensure she could fight freely and maintain control of their formation depending

on the enemies' advancements.

The Arch-Knight nodded and left to deliver the message.

"The enemy will reach the sanctuary in less than an hour if we don't halt their advance. We are

the only shield between them and the sanctuary, so steady your hands, and follow me!

Our battle begins now!" Kasryn announced.

The Ironwall Corps Arch-Knights roared in unison.

"Hold on tightly!" Kasryn said, glancing at Orion. She then gripped the reins and urged the

beast skyward.

The Quradactyl began to ascend into the sky, its enormous wings generating powerful winds

that rushed in all directions.

The others followed, their mighty wings creating gusts that shook the surrounding air.

Orion observed as they soared over the massive fortified walls, swiftly heading toward the advancing four-star Vylkr vines and tainted creatures to confront them head-on.

Chapter 1182: Guardians Of The Sanctuary, Fearsome Battle Techniques

Kasryn took a small cylindrical bottle from a bag hanging at her waist and popped a pill into her mouth. Immediately, Orion sensed a surge of Vylkr energy within her as her aura grew fiercer. She put the bottle back and handed another bottle to Orion.

"Whatever you do, don't take another until after an hour. Do you understand?" Kasryn said, her voice clear as they pierced through the harsh, snowy winds.

It would be bad if Orion became too weakened to fight while occupied with an enemy, so she returned the bottle to him.

Orion took the box and placed it on his armour. The elixir bottle sank into a pouch he had created within the armour.

"I understand," Orion responded, his tone firm.

Soon, they could see the creatures hidden within the snowy dust clouds in the sky.

At the forefront were countless flying beasts-Qurodactyls, long-necked feathered beasts with two legs and sharp claws, four-winged grey hawk-like beasts with long spiky tails, scaly two-winged creatures with the body of a bear, elongated necks, eagle-like beaks, and long sharp claws on their paws-and many more.

All of them were covered in writhing Vylkr vines that snaked in and out of their bodies. Their hollow eyes revealed that they were controlled by the four-star Vylkr vines.

Behind them were floating four-star Vylkr vines, supported high by countless more enormous flying magical beasts. Each four-star Vylkr vine stood fifty to sixty meters tall. With the known intelligence of the four-star Vylkr vines, Orion wasn't surprised they could fly, eliminating another one of their weaknesses.

As they approached, the towering height of these creatures could make any warrior's heart shiver in despair. But Orion and the other soldiers remained unfazed.

They continued to charge forward, with countless others emerging from the Sanctuary walls to follow behind. As they drew closer to the monstrosities, Kasryn drew her long sword.

"PREPARE YOURSELVES!" she commanded.

Within seconds, they clashed with the creatures.

BANG!!

SWISH!!

Kasryn skillfully swung her long sword from side to side, tearing through wings and beheading the flying beasts. The monstrosities plummeted toward the snowy ground, unable to withstand her fierce strikes.

Blood splattered in the air, and the sounds of soldiers screaming at the top of their lungs and beasts roaring echoed, accompanied by the force of each blow.

ROARRR!!

Observing the battle, Orion was impressed. His gaze shifted to the flying four-star Vylkr vines at the back, understanding that they would pose a greater challenge. Despite the progress in the skies, the soldiers on the ground were being pushed back.

Orion observed as the Arch-Knights on the ground slammed their large war shields into the earth, causing it to tear open with a crack that stretched outward toward the approaching creatures, making them sink into the ground.

Moments later, the cracked earth began to heal with a green hue, burying many advancing beasts.

However, the creatures continued their relentless advance due to their sheer numbers.

"I'll be giving you the reins and heading down. Whatever you do, stay far from behind until I return!" Kasryn said, with a commanding tone, turning her head to look at Orion with a sharp gaze.

Orion nodded firmly.

Kasryn handed him the reins and walked behind him. The turbulence of the wind didn't hinder her, as her movements were agile. She gave Orion instructions on how to ride the Sky- Shattering Empress in the middle of battle, all while taking the opportunity to cut down nearby enemies.

Fortunately, Orion had experience from flying solo, which he utilized to quickly grasp how to steer the beast.

"Your handling might be rough, but it'll do. Remember our agreement-stay in the skies!" Kasryn said with a nod. She unstrapped her large war shield, buckled it to her right arm, and with her left hand gripping her long sword tightly, she leapt down from the beast.

Orion watched her descent from above.

Kasryn landed amidst the approaching creatures, her impact crushing the beasts beneath her feet without sustaining any injury, sending them tumbling backwards. With a loud shout, she raised her large shield and slammed it into the ground.

BOOM!!

An earthquake, far greater than any Orion had witnessed from the other Arch-Knights, erupted from Kasryn's position. The ground cracked open, swallowing the beasts along with

it.

The rupture expanded to over eight kilometres, plunging thousands of meters deep.

Orion was once again impressed. While the other Arch-Knights could create pits over a thousand meters wide-already a remarkable feat-Kasryn could generate one eight to nine times that size. At

this moment, Orion was unsure of their technique, as the amount of energy required to unleash such power had to be tremendous.

Suddenly, a thought crossed Orion's mind.

'It must be a Vylkr energy-based technique,' he reasoned. He was already aware of the existence of Vylkr energy-based techniques from Rimehelm, who had fought alongside the

goddess.

The goddess had likely created various Vylkr energy techniques for the Guardians of her Sanctuary, allowing them to protect themselves from divine mysteries. This also meant they could cast such techniques while expending only a minuscule amount of their energy reserves. Orion hoped such techniques would be included in her inheritance, as they could tremendously boost Paradise's strength.

Soon, another group of riders emerged from behind, bearing the navy-blue insignia of a lightning bolt splitting a storm cloud embroidered on the red cloth draped across their right shoulders and backs-the Stormfall Corps. They joined the battle alongside the Ironwall Corps riders.

Together, they pushed the advancing beasts back, dissecting them one by one without mercy.

As the cracked pit was about to close, Orion saw Kasryn lift her large war shield and slam it into the ground again. With a reverberating "BOOM" that eclipsed the sounds of clashing weapons in the air, the pit began to expand, doubling and tripling.

Orion couldn't gauge how large the pit had grown, as its accurate scale was beyond his ability to measure from above.

Kasryn swung her long sword, slicing through several beasts around her, cutting them in half. She leapt back toward her Ironwall Corps, distancing herself from the immense pit she had

created.

CRACKLE!! CRACKLE!!

A familiar sound resonated from above.

Orion turned his attention to Valer and several other Stormfall Arch-Knights, each wielding a spear in their left hand and, surprisingly, a lightning spear in their right.

As they descended, they hurled the lightning spears forward. The countless lightning bolts merged into a massive strike, piercing down from the skies into the enormous pit, electrocuting and incinerating the remaining beasts that had survived and were attempting to

escape their doom.

'Amazing!' Orion thought, understanding where their confidence came from.

An attack like that, which could be stacked individually or combined with others at a negligible energy cost, made the strength of each soldier-and their sheer numbers-a decisive factor, offering many solutions for dealing with enemies. It felt like facing the entire

might of the sanctuary itself!

Orion grinned, realizing he needed to align those goddesses with Paradise if they wanted to

grow stronger.

Orion stretched his hand outward and constructed a greatsword from the morphic puppet. Instantly, the armour on his right hand extended and transformed into a 1.4m(4.6ft) tall greatsword, its obsidian-like blade glistening under the radiant sun.

"I'll help out now," Orion said, patting the side of Sky Shattering Empress's feathered neck as

it tore through the neck of a smaller bat-like feathered beast, then cut through the air to

dodge the assault of approaching creatures.

Sky Shattering Empress let out a piercing screech that echoed like thunder, seemingly annoyed by Orion's disturbance.

Orion swung his greatsword at the wing of a beast that had gotten too close, severing it before swiftly beheading the creature.

SCREEECHH!!

The beast let out a painful shriek before plummeting toward the ground.

Orion continued cutting down beasts with his greatsword, each swing claiming a life.

Initially, Sky Shattering Empress resisted, but seeing Orion skillfully dispatch their pursuers and give them space to manoeuvre, the creature became more obedient as time passed.

Although it refused to dive deeper into the horde of monstrosities, it followed Orion's commands elsewhere.

On the ground, Kasryn and several thousands of her elite soldiers had pushed deep into the ranks of the monstrosities, getting closer to the four-star Vylkr vines.

While defending herself, Kasryn glanced back, raised her gaze skyward, and peered into the distance. Seeing Orion skillfully riding her beast and cutting down the surrounding creatures, she nodded in approval.

"At least, he is as competent as I expected," Kasryn remarked.

Valer and several other Arch-Knights tasked with observing Orion from afar and ensuring his safety kept a close eye on him.

Kasryn signalled to her elite group, resuming their charge toward the four-star Vylkr vines and the immense tainted creatures. She also signalled Valer and his elite group, who accompanied them from above.

They synchronized their techniques again, creating an immense pit stretching outward for

tens of kilometres. The pit sank into the ground, and a massive lightning bolt pierced from the sky. It struck the pit and instantly eliminated the enemies within, giving them more room to charge forward.

Chapter 1183: Backs Against The Wall

SWWISSHH!!

Orion noticed several eyes on him but paid them no mind. He focused on Kasryn, Valer, and the others charging toward the four-star Vylkr vines. The four-star Vylkr vines were just one of many, crafty and difficult to approach.

However, based on the commanders' words, they seemed experienced in handling them, which made Orion curious about the battle's outcome.

He was also prepared to step in if something went wrong.

Orion took off morphic puppet, reverting it to its standard form, and commanded it to swiftly eliminate the horde of beasts surrounding them. The morphic puppet's hands transformed into blades as it soared through the skies around them, carrying out his orders.

Then, Orion summoned miniature mountain.

Orion expanded the mountain and slammed it into the approaching beasts, squashing hundreds into mash pastes and sending them plummeting. With the relentless attacks from both Orion and Morphic Puppet, their opponents' numbers dropped drastically.

This even caused the hordes of beasts to approach with caution.

Below, Kasryn halted at a distance from the monstrous four-legged Vylkr vines and the tainteds. It was disadvantageous to face them head-on except in the skies, and the only way they had ever won against them was by utilising their techniques from afar. This way, the four-legged Vylkr vines couldn't launch a deadly attack before being sunk into the cracked ground or struck down by powerful lightning bolts.

Without hesitation, Kasryn gave a signal and raised her large, heavy war shield. But before she could activate her technique and slam it into the earth, a scream erupted from the other end of her elite group's position.

"IT'S A TRAP!!"

"FALL BACK!! IT'S A TRAP!!"

Kasryn quickly turned her head and looked into the distance. The ground was torn open, and Vylkr vines were slithering out. They converged, forming several monstrous four-legged Vylkr vines before attacking her elite group.

The Vylkr vines had laid an ambush by hiding beneath the earth and attacking when they were confident the group had fallen for the trap and could be easily ensnared.

The scene quickly became chaotic as the elite soldiers fought for their lives against the four-legged Vylkr vines.

Kasryn clenched her teeth. "RETREAT!" she ordered loudly.

With their advance failing, she had no choice but to call for a retreat so they could regroup and prepare for another devastating strike.

She could not use her gift at that moment, as it had a strict limitation-while powerful, it could not differentiate between friend and foe. It was a simple yet destructive technique that buried everything within its range, sealing them to their deaths.

Unfortunately, their momentary distraction allowed the monstrous tainteds in the distance to rush toward them with astonishing speed. It was too late when Kasryn and the Ironwall elite group noticed their arrival. The monstrosities were right in front of them.

"ROOOARR!!" Several gut-wrenching roars tore through the air.

Kasryn raised her longsword, preparing to strike, but at that moment, a thundering shout came from above. "STAND BACK!!" Immediately after, thick lightning bolts rained down from the skies, striking the tainteds and eliminating them where they stood.

However, it wasn't enough, as more tainteds and four-legged Vylkr vines rushed toward their position.

Suddenly, the Vylkr vines that had emerged from the ground exploded, scattering into numerous small, four-legged Vylkr vines that latched onto the elite soldiers' armour. They attempted to squeeze through the gaps in the armour and enter their bodies. Still, at that critical moment, the soldiers' armour lit up with a bright hue as various runes and inscriptions activated, pushing the Vylkr vines away.

This was a recurring occurrence in their battles, so they were well-prepared to deal with it. However, there was a limit to how long the armour could hold before the four-legged Vylkr vines began corroding the barriers on their armour.

Once the vines latched onto their bodies, they could transform them into tainted beings or drain their life force. Despite still being safe, the Ironwall elite group fought with all their might, pushing back the enemy while retreating toward the advancing line.

Rather than retreating immediately, Kasryn surged toward the soldiers still held by the small four-legged Vylkr vines.

SWISHH!! SWISHH!!

As Kasryn fought, she glanced skyward with a grimace. The four-legged Vylkr vines in the air had also scattered into numerous smaller forms, swarming and attacking the Stormfall elite group. She realised she could no longer rely on their help-they were alone. Kasryn grudgingly realised this was a well-executed trap by the monstrosities before them. Soon, the sun was blotted out by the sheer number of monstrosities. Fortunately, The sky darkened. The soldiers could still see in the darkness, and their relentless attacks continued.

Sensing something was amiss, Kasryn scanned the battlefield and saw a wall of Vylkr vines forming in the distance, blocking their exit. "KEEP GOING! BREAK THROUGH THE WALL!!" Her voice echoed across the battlefield.

The elite soldiers raised their shields and slammed them into the earth, tearing apart a sizable section of the monstrous wall. Then, they retreated through the gap.

Several other walls were also destroyed in different areas.

Kasryn and four other elite soldiers surrounded a forming four-legged Vylkr vine. They slammed their shields into the ground, causing the earth at the edge of their shields to crack open and sink into a pit, burying the forming four-star Vylkr vine.

As they turned to retreat through one of the exits, a swarm of Vylkr vines, flowing like a river of thorny black tendrils, crashed into their bodies, latching onto them and restricting their

movements.

Kasryn gritted her teeth as she struggled to free herself from the grasp of the thorny vines. No matter how many vines were repelled by the barrier on her armour, more emerged seconds later, latching onto her. The tendrils climbed, reaching her torso, then her helmet, before

pulling her down into their depths.

The darkness within was suffocating.

Kasryn groaned as the armour's barrier activated forcefully, dispelling the Vylkr vines' assault. However, she could feel the barrier slowly being eroded. But this didn't weaken her resolve. She knew she could last long enough to be rescued by the others, who would eventually track her down.

And if she wasn't? It didn't matter. From the moment she became the Commander of the Ironwall Corps, one of the sanctuary's guardians, she had already prepared herself for death.

As the minutes passed, the battlefield grew eerily silent. The only sound was the slithering of the thorny Vylkr vines, which continued eroding her armour's barrier and steadily draining her energy.

Kasryn realised she might indeed die at this moment. She closed her eyes and exhaled in quiet defeat.

CRACKLLEE!! CRACKLLEE!!

Suddenly, the sound of lightning pierced the silence, reverberating through the air. An armoured hand bathed in fierce bluish lightning plunged into the swarm of thorny Vylkr vines and grabbed hold of her. The lightning electrocuted and eliminated the vines one by one,

leaving them lifeless on the ground.

Kasryn's eyes snapped open as she gripped the hand that had saved her. She gasped as she was pulled from the snare of the thorny Vylkr vines and brought back to solid ground.

Kasryn collapsed, breathing heavily as she tried to catch her breath. "Thank you..." she managed to say, but her words faltered as her eyes locked onto her rescuer.

"Orion!" Kasryn exclaimed in surprise. "What are you doing here? Where's Valer?" She glanced around anxiously, searching for him, but standing before her was Orion, clad in his black, scaly armour, with the Sky Shattering Empress standing by his side.

"I couldn't locate him," Orion replied. "After seeing your group scatter and noticing the strange occurrences in your position, I decided to come help, and it seems I was right. You wouldn't have survived if I hadn't started searching for you sooner." He then pointed skyward

in a specific direction.

Kasryn was stunned by his words. She followed Orion's hand and noticed several flashes of

thick lightning erupting from the swarm of monstrosities. She realised that Valer and the rest of the Stormfall Corps elite group were still locked in battle with their enemies and had no time to come to her aid.

Realising that Orion had rescued her, Kasryn refocused on him with a strange glint in her eyes, recalling the bluish lightning.

Had the Priestess already taught him the Stormfall Corps' Vylkr energy-based techniques?

No, that should be impossible! Even if she had, Orion had only been here for four days. Mastering a Vylkr energy-based technique in such a short time was unthinkable.

It was thousands of times harder than learning a high-rank legendary or mystical technique.

Kasryn remembered the gruelling effort she had gone through to master the Ironwall Vylkr energy-based technique. What kind of monster would he be to grasp even the basics in a few

days?

However, if the goddess had helped him, then maybe...

As Kasryn's thoughts raced, she quickly snapped out of her reverie and nodded at Orion. The battlefield was no place to entertain such thoughts.

Chapter 1184: Phenomenal Battle Prowess

"Thank you for saving me," she said, bowing slightly to Orion.

She whistled, and the Sky Shattering Empress immediately flew to her position. Kasryn swiftly mounted the creature and looked back at Orion.

"After this, I'll properly repay you for saving my life. But for now, let's leave this place quickly and return to the advancing line," she said.

"You already promised to protect my life, so I have no reason not to return the favour," Orion replied, shaking his head. "Besides, I'm not planning to leave, so you can go on without me." Kasryn was surprised by his response and swiftly shook her head. "We don't have time for this. You might be strong, but you have no experience fighting Vylkr vines. They're much stronger and craftier than you think, and fighting them at such close range is suicide." Unlike the tainted, whose hearts you could crush or dismember to kill, the Vylkr vines would constantly reassemble unless

they were utterly destroyed at once. This wouldn't be a problem if there were only a few, but with so many, it was practically impossible to do so.

"It may not be the same, but I have experience fighting monstrosities like these at close range. Don't worry, I can handle them better than you think," Orion reassured her.

Kasryn frowned, deep in thought. 'Is he talking about the Harbingers?' she wondered. She was sure there were no Vylkr vines outside the sanctuary, so how could he have encountered something similar?

It didn't make sense! But still, she had witnessed him save her and eliminate the Vylkr vines that had ensnared her. He could also use a powerful, strange lightning technique, so she couldn't properly gauge the extent of his power.

Kasryn quickly surveyed the battlefield. At this moment, the elite soldiers Orion had freed were straddling their flying beasts and soaring toward the vanguard.

'I hope I don't regret this,' she thought, clenching her teeth before leaping down from her mount.

"Go on without me. I'll meet you there," Kasryn said, patting the side of Sky Shattering Empress, who let out a piercing shriek before soaring into the sky and disappearing into the distance.

Kasryn picked up a longsword and a heavy war shield, then looked at Orion. "What's your plan of attack? I'll do my best to help," she asked curiously. She wanted to see if the goddess was right—if he was indeed the key to their victory.

"I'll push back their advances and eliminate as many as possible. You stay behind and finish off any that escape," Orion responded.

Kasryn's expression darkened, but before she could respond, her words froze in her throat as something unexpected happened. Orion's black, scaly armour detached from his body and hovered beside him as if it had a life of its own.

Kasryn was too shocked to move or speak. Although she knew the armour had unique attributes, she had never realized it could be used this way.

Then, another surprise unfolded. Sparks of bluish lightning erupted from Orion, snaking around his body and bathing him in its fierce glow.

Orion activated the Divine Thunder Moon Armor technique. Instantly, some fierce bluish lightning shifted to a deep purple hue. The arcs of lightning converged, transforming into a bluish-deep purple-scaled armour that covered his entire body, leaving not a single patch of skin exposed.

A detailed crimson full moon stood out on the back of the armour, glowing brightly.

At 25%, the threshold for learning the technique, one could emit a constant low static electric field that numbed attackers and reduced physical and energy attacks by 10%.

At the 45% threshold, they could emit a much stronger electric field, shocking attackers and reflecting 20% of both physical and energy attacks back to their attackers.

At 75%, they could reflect 40% of damage back to attackers as high-voltage shocks. They could also create a natural electric field with a 5-meter radius that affected all enemies within range and differentiated between friend and foe.

At 100% completion, one could reflect 60% of damage back to their attackers as a lethal electric discharge and expand their electric field to a 10-meter radius domain capable of incapacitating attackers with powerful electric shocks.

However, these results were for an average individual with little to no affinity for lightning. For Orion, who could manipulate lightning into constructs, the results were vastly different.

At 25%, he could reduce physical and energy attacks by 50%. At 45%, he could emit a much stronger electric field and reflect 100% of both physical and energy attacks back to their attackers.

At 75%, he could reflect 150% of the damage back to attackers, and his natural electric field would scale with the range of his own electric domain. The divine technique would naturally merge with his electric field as he grew stronger.

Lastly, at 100%, he could reflect 200% of the damage. The Divine Thunder Moon Armor had drastically adapted to merge with his gift. Combined with the Divine Thunder Moon Tyrant Symbols, an offensive technique, these were perfect techniques for him.

As Aerialia said, they were unparalleled defensive and offensive divine techniques.

CRACCKKK!! BOOOMM!!

Storm clouds emerged overhead as the heavens churned. Thick arcs of bluish lightning twisted within the darkened clouds. Fierce streaks of lightning rained down from the skies, creating a lightning domain that stretched across the sky above Orion.

For a four-star like Orion, who could easily take down Grade-One Runaway Cities and create phenomena capable of overturning the heavens, his lightning domain, merged with the Divine Thunder Moon Armor, covered roughly 100 kilometres.

Every four-star Vylkr vine and tainted creature within this range was electrocuted and instantly eliminated. Those who survived the initial onslaught attempted to retaliate but were vaporized to ashes, their remains scattering into the wind.

Orion then activated the One-Winged Sky Art and ascended into the air, summoning a miniature mountain beneath his feet and expanding it. The mountain surged forward, toward the advancing monstrosities, and skyward until its peak pierced through the clouds.

The lightning domain dispersed the clouds, allowing bright rays of sunlight to penetrate the once-darkened land.

The mountain expanded to a staggering 12,000 meters (41,010 feet) and a base diameter of 50 kilometres. Since this was a divine artefact, Orion could continue to increase its size as he saw fit, but this was enough for what he intended to achieve.

He wanted to capture the goddess's interest. He realized he could do so by overturning the battle in his favour with minimal effort.

Orion looked down, his gaze piercing through the clouds toward the sanctuary. "This should be enough. The view should be better from up here," he nodded.

He turned his head forward and created myriads of lightning-forged bladed weapons. Fortunately, Orion used two sources of energy-the Celestial energy to cast his techniques and the Vylkr energy to channel his gift and artefacts. The cost of his attacks was minimal.

With the Morhic Puppet at the forefront, slaughtering the monstrosities in the hundreds of thousands without restraint, Orion sat at the mountain's peak, guiding it forward, its massive base grinding the creatures' remains to bits.

Orion then released his lightning constructs, piercing through the monstrosities beyond the reach of his lightning domain, electrocuting them to death. The remaining survivors were soon ensnared within the domain, entirely eliminated by its power.

Even those in the sky weren't spared, obliterated to ashes when they entered the lightning domain or cut down by the Morhic Puppet's blade.

Orion didn't concern himself with those that had slipped through earlier. With the guardians' strength, he was confident they could handle them.

As Orion surveyed the onslaught before him, he realized it was so-so.

Behind him, Kasryn had already dropped her heavy war shield and longsword, collapsing to

her knees. Her eyes were wide with shock and disbelief, focused on the mountain's peak that pierced through the now-cleared skies. Her mouth gaped open, unable to comprehend the scene unfolding before her.

One moment, she was prepared to deal with whatever clever or foolish plans were thrown her way. Yet, in the next, the entire battlefield had shifted. The monstrosities were being pushed back effortlessly by a young man wielding power capable of creating such an immense

phenomenon.

'How could a mortal possess such power?' Kasryn thought.

Witnessing his effortless advance, she couldn't help but wonder if he was still holding back. It would be utterly incomprehensible and ridiculous if he were.

At the northern gates,

"What's happening? Why has a storm appeared out of nowhere?"

"This isn't right! We've never encountered such an extraordinary phenomenon during our battles with those monstrosities or at any time!"

"This is terrifying to witness! Has the enemy brought on someone capable of overturning the sky and the earth?"

"Someone, inform the Priestess! Alert the other corps about the situation-we need reinforcements!"

As they observed the stormy lightning domain blanketing the skies and the earth in the distance, the soldiers gasped in surprise.

As several raced down to inform the corps stationed at the other walls, a voice suddenly

resonated. "There's no need to be afraid! The advancing troops are fine! The goddess has already promised us victory in this battle, so you should be rejoicing instead, witnessing her words come to fulfilment once again."

Chapter 1185: Divine Thunder Moon Tyrant Symbols

The one who had spoken was none other than Zera.

The soldiers halted in their tracks, remembering an announcement they had heard before the war began.

"To witness one of the goddess's words come to fulfilment before my eyes in such an

incredible way is something I never thought I'd experience!"

"What are you talking about? The goddess's words have always been fulfilled in extraordinary ways!"

"Hahaha! Arch-Knight Orion truly is a hero! He's something else!"

"Arch-Knight? With power like that, he far surpasses the commanders! He should be ranked much higher!"

As the soldiers cheered vibrantly at the sight of their adversaries being pushed back, Zera, who had spoken earlier, couldn't help but stare forward. Her gaze was filled with shock and disbelief, fixed on Orion hundreds of kilometres away in the distance. She took a deep breath. "How can a mortal wield such incredible power?" Zera muttered to herself, barely audible. Aurora overheard her and explained, "The lightning is his gift."

"Gift?" Zera turned her head, her expression twisting in confusion as she looked at Aurora.

"It seems the goddess didn't tell you everything," Aurora responded, meeting her gaze. "During the Great Migration, when the gods used the stellar gates to bring their children into this universe, humans awakened a myriad of abilities linked to their ancestry, the

Omnithriallains, the strongest race that once existed."

"However, due to Naka's experimentation on the humans here, they've lost the ability to activate their gifts. But those living outside can still awaken them. With Vylkr energy, their gifts develop as they grow stronger. Orion is a four-star warrior-in simpler terms, his power has long surpassed what should be considered within mortal limits."

For Orion, who had reached this realm with raw talent without the Vylkr fusion armlet, there's no comparison, even with divine apostles and demigods, as even they have the assistance of a divine being, one way or another.

Zera nodded in understanding, a thoughtful look in her eyes. She knew the goddesses wouldn't share anything that wasn't beneficial to them with her. Since they had failed to mention this, she

realized they must have tried and were unable to undo the damage done to the humans, or they had simply decided it wasn't worth remembering.

Knowing the goddesses, Zera had no doubt it was the former.

"My mother taught him his arts and techniques. As for the artefacts, he gathered them all through his own strength," Aurora added.

Zera nodded, her gaze returning to Orion. "If that's the case, then his achievements as a mortal are incomparable to anyone else," she said.

She hesitated before refocusing on Aurora. "...Can I ask if he's your husband?" she asked hesitantly.

In her opinion, no matter how extraordinary Orion's achievements were, he was still a mortal, and it didn't seem right for a powerful young goddess like Aurora-backed by her mother, the goddess of the Hunting Moon-to have any interest in him.

It would have made more sense if he were a demigod or a newly ascended god. Even if he were an investment for future godhood, it didn't seem worthwhile when she could cultivate divine apostles to suit her needs.

Zera believed Orion was a toy she was playing with.

"He's my husband, the one I've promised to spend my eternity with. So, if you have any foolish thoughts, it would be wise to terminate them immediately," Aurora said, noticing Zera's pensive expression.

Zera gulped and nodded quickly in understanding. "How long have you been together?" she asked, looking at Aurora anxiously.

After hearing Aurora's clarification, Zera cleared her thoughts and was now eager to converse with another divine being, one that wasn't the overly strict goddesses inside her.

"It's been almost a year now. But every second feels like forever," Aurora responded, chuckling lightly as Zera subtly rolled her one good eye.

"We also have a beautiful child," Aurora added, watching Zera's reaction.

Zera froze, her eyes wide and her mouth agape.

It wasn't just Zera who was intrigued by the revelation-the goddesses within her were also in disbelief. She could feel her soul stirring as the two goddesses urged her to ask more questions.

"How? Is he the father?" Zera asked.

"Yes. Although I can't reveal the details, he's quite capable, though his mortal limitations restrain him," Aurora replied with a smile.

Seeing the troubled look on Zera's face, she understood that Zera was being pressured by the goddesses, who were also keenly interested in their conversation. It wasn't surprising to her as it would be even more suspicious if they weren't paying attention.

Zera snapped her gaze toward Orion, her eye fixed on him. Realizing Aurora was telling the truth, she couldn't help but wonder if Orion was a reincarnated divine being.

Even the goddesses within her seemed tempted to agree with the thought.

Suddenly, the storm in the sky grew fiercer as countless purplish lightning clouds gathered in the distance.

The lightning domain was already filled with countless thunder and lightning strikes, and it was raining down as if it were alive. With the appearance of the purple thunderstorm, it seemed as though a cataclysm had descended-yet this was merely the power of one mortal

man.

Thick, purplish lightning bolts struck the ground, creating scorched immense pits.

Although they couldn't see the full extent of the damage from the purple clouds, the soldiers realized that the once dire war had now become a one-sided battle.

The relentless downpour of thick purple lightning left Zera, the Knights, and the Arch- Knights on the fortified walls dumbfounded.

'Orion... What kind of mortal are you?' Zera thought, her mind racing with questions, her curiosity growing as she watched him.

Even the two goddesses within her couldn't help but observe with heightened interest. If Orion had only been worth a glance before, he had their full attention now.

...

Within the lightning domain, Valer and the rest of the Stormfall elite group continued to watch the ongoing destruction with fear in their eyes. As someone capable of casting a Vylkr energy-based lightning technique, he understood the harsh requirements and the mental and physical strain he had endured to reach his current abilities.

Thus, he couldn't comprehend how Orion had achieved something on this scale.

From a glance, Orion seemed to be doing it effortlessly, which made it even more terrifying,

as it meant there was no comparison between them.

'Is this the level of power needed to defeat a Harbinger?' Valer couldn't help but shiver at the thought.

If true, it would mean they were far more powerful than they had initially believed, and their defeat would be inevitable, even if they returned to the outside world. Valer clenched his fists tightly around the reins.

He wondered what it would take for someone to possess such prowess. He briefly considered who would emerge victorious in a fight between the strongest Arch-Knight and Orion before quickly dispelling the foolish thought. Without a doubt, it would be a one-sided victory, even if they all fought against him together.

The entire Stormfall elite group shared his feelings, clenching their fists.

Below, Kasryn observed the catastrophic scene before her, absently standing beside Sky Shattering Empress. Her eyes were filled with countless flashes of bluish and purplish lightning, illuminating the figure seated at the peak of a distant, moving mountain.

Her mind and body were exhausted from trying to comprehend everything that had transpired, and all she could do now was absorb it all in silence.

At the peak of the distant, moving mountain,

Orion cast the Divine Thunder Moon Symbol: Symbol of Destruction. Holding his right hand, he touched his first two fingers together and cast another, the Symbol of Precision.

He had skipped the basic symbols-Symbol of Shock, which released a burst of lightning and thunder to stun enemies; Symbol of Surge, which fired high-voltage lightning bolts at a target; and Symbol of Chain, which created chain lightning capable of hitting multiple enemies.

These were entry-level symbols and unneeded for someone like him with a wide range of abilities.

The advanced symbol, the Symbol of Destruction, unleashed a powerful purple lightning storm capable of disintegrating enemies and devastating large areas. The Symbol of Precision created a concentrated beam of lightning that could travel vast distances and penetrate an

enemy's defences.

The Symbol of Conduction produced an electric field that enhanced speed and agility-useful when he didn't utilize his lightning form.

Lastly, the Symbol of Tempest summoned a whirlwind of lightning, cutting through and eliminating enemies.

These were more were more fitting for him.

Suddenly, a spark of purple lightning appeared at the edge of Orion's lightning domain, 100

kilometers in the distance. It condensed into a brilliant purple lighting beam that pierced forward, reaching hundreds of meters into the enemy ranks and striking them. Orion couldn't see what was happening at that distance, but he knew his attacks had dealt a heavy blow to the enemy. He fired three more consecutive strikes before pausing. He retrieved an elixir bottle from his clothing and summoned his crimson greatsword.

Chapter 1186: Divine Thunder Moon Tyrant Symbols(2)

Aerialia appeared alongside the crimson greatsword. She glanced at the lightning domain, the stormy purple clouds, and the grand chasm left behind by the moving mountain. Then, she looked into the distance, where Aurora and Zera stood shoulder to shoulder atop the fortified walls.

"You didn't disappoint me in front of those overly proud goddesses," Aerialia said,

refocusing her gaze on Orion. "They must have already realized you're far stronger than their so-called Arch-knights combined."

"The only repercussion we need to watch out for is that they may become too interested in you, which could lead to some cunning plots. But that's not a problem for you, is it? This is exactly the result you were aiming for, right?"

Orion nodded, knowing that Aerialia had initially determined his intentions.

"Can I know the full context of your plan? Have you thought it through?" Aerialia asked, her voice tinged with curiosity.

"I haven't worked everything out yet. If the goddesses are interested in me after this, it will be for a specific reason. Once I know the reason, I can formulate a plan," Orion replied.

"Let me know when you do. I'll be able to lend you a hand. I know you won't back down, but I'll advise you to be careful not to anger them and, above all, be honest. They can easily detect lies without much effort. Unlike me, they won't let you off lightly if you're dishonest. So don't speak unless you're genuine in your words," Aerialia warned, her expression serious.

She then clenched her hands together. "As long as they keep their end of the bargain, we have no reason to enter into conflict. But if we have no other choice, leave the rest to me. I'll handle them while you and Aurora return safely to the Golden Palace."

"I will keep that in mind," Orion nodded in understanding. He opened the elixir bottle, took out the mixed golden and black pill, and showed it to Aerialia. A purple aura spread from the pill, enveloping its surroundings.

Orion explained the effects Kasryn had informed him of to Aerialia. "Initially, I planned to take another one, but I decided not to until I know the full effects it might have on me."

"I was wondering how they could defend themselves against the divine mysteries. So, this is it," Aerialia muttered, narrowing her eyes at the elixir. "Although I don't sense anything harmful, it's wise that you didn't retake it immediately. You should meet with the goddesses and question them directly about its effects."

"Given your contributions on the battlefield today, I'm certain they will gladly entertain you so you can return to the battlefield as quickly as possible."

Orion nodded and refocused his attention on the battlefield. He prepared to cast one final symbol before leaving.

The Symbol of Tempest!

Instantly, the stormy blue and purple clouds overhead converged into massive whirlwinds. A heavy gust of wind swept the area, uprooting countless monstrosities and pulling them into the tempest, forcing the riders to flee from the lightning domain.

Though the cataclysm hadn't physically harmed them, the immense mental pressure it exerted on them and their beasts became unbearable. They retreated as fast as they could. Among the fleeing riders was Valer, who found the situation absurd. They weren't fleeing because they were injured or facing a formidable enemy-the formidable enemy was one of their own. It was the overwhelming mental pressure that neither they nor their beasts could withstand.

As the whirlwinds grew in intensity, expanding to several kilometres wide and reaching toward the heavens, Orion sent them forward. He watched as they effortlessly cut through the ranks of monstrosities for ten minutes before dispelling the technique.

It would be nearly an hour before the seal on his energy would return, and he needed to reach the fortress.

Orion dispelled his techniques one by one and then re-summoned his artefacts. The Morphic Puppet returned to his side, merging onto him like armour.

Gazing at the exceedingly vast chasm he had created with full strength, Orion nodded in satisfaction.

This battle had allowed him to realize that he was much more powerful than he had initially assumed, to the extent that even countless four-star Vylkr vines were no match for him.

Orion was curious about what a five-star Vylkr vine would be like, as its existence didn't seem too far-fetched anymore. However, he wasn't foolish enough to seek out such a challenge, at least not until he became a five-star or six-star warrior-if he found the perfect conditions to form two Vylkr containers with another of his potentials.

He was also glad, as this would delay the advancement of their adversaries, allowing them to handle those in the skies with ease before focusing on those on the ground.

Orion spotted Kasryn kneeling atop a jagged rock that had remained untouched within the surrounding chasm. Sky Shattering Empress was also beside her.

Orion had controlled the lightning domain to protect her from the onslaught. He swiftly approached her.

"Commander Kasryn, are you alright?" Orion asked, landing before her.

However, Kasryn remained silent. It was as though she hadn't heard a word. Her eyes were fixed on the sky as the brilliant sun rays, no longer obscured by stormy clouds, rained below.

Sky Shattering Empress attempted to shrink herself and hide behind Kasryn. Still, due to her immense size, it appeared more comical than practical.

"She seems to be in shock from witnessing your abilities. I've seen this countless times when I tease the mature ones with my powers before revealing that I'm their goddess. It seems what you've done has upended her understanding, as well as that of many others," Aerialia said, scrutinizing Kasryn and her beast.

Noticing Orion's curious gaze, Aerialia shrugged and added, "It used to be fun and exciting when I first discovered such reactions, but over time it became dull."

Orion wanted to ask a question but stopped, realizing this wasn't the best time. He decided to wait until they returned to Paradise.

Aerialia noticed his hesitation and chose not to press the matter. She silently wondered if she had said something wrong.

"I'll take them back with me since that's the case," Orion said, casting the One-Winged Sky Art on Kasryn and her beast, lifting them into the air.

He soared high into the sky, heading forward. Spotting Valer, his elite group, the Stormfall Corps, and those of the Ironwall Corps, he immediately flew in their direction.

Orion arrived and hovered in the path of Valer and the advancing groups. The flying beasts were startled and attempted to turn back in fear before being tamed by their riders, who also didn't seem in good condition.

They gulped, shivering in fear and sweat, subtly glancing at Orion's soaring figure and the motionless Kasryn and her beast.

"Commander Valer, I will be returning to the fortress because the seal appears to be

reemerging," Orion said, his eyes fixed on the pale-looking man.

"Of course, it's already close to an hour. How about we escort you back so we can return to the fortress together?" Valer replied with a wavering smile, his sweaty and shivering hands clenching tightly on the reins as he awaited Orion's response.

He didn't even question how Orion, the crimson greatsword, and the others were flying without support or wings or why Commander Kasryn's eyes seemed full of emotions yet devoid of life. For someone who had single-handedly unleashed such a cataclysm on the battlefield, Valer realized it must be... natural.

Of course, it must be! Otherwise, why would Orion hover so effortlessly, as though he had executed such actions countless times?

Valer's gaze became duller as he came to this realization.

"No, you don't need to. I'll be quicker if I return alone. I came to inform you about the other soldiers who might need your help leaving the area. It would be bad if they were caught by the monstrosities regrouping and soaring in again," Orion said, pointing toward several

directions where more soldiers were stuck.

He noticed their beasts refusing to take off, leaving them stranded, and decided to swiftly

handle the situation before the monstrosities regrouped.

"Okay. We'll handle it swiftly. Thank you for kindly looking after our soldiers," Valer responded with a hint of appreciation.

With a nod, Orion turned around and soared forward, vanishing from their sight like a

shooting star.

"He can fly," a soldier said, echoing the same thought they all shared at that moment.

The group remained still for a few minutes before Valer gathered them and soared in the direction Orion had pointed to rescue the others.

After several minutes, Orion swiftly arrived at the fortress. He spotted Zera and Aurora nearby and landed beside them, gently placing Kasryn and her beast on the ground.

Orion noticed that the fortress walls were eerily silent upon his arrival.

"You will need to take care of her treatment. She hasn't suffered any serious physical injuries but seems to be struggling psychologically. The same seems to be the same for her beast,"

Orion said, looking at Zera.

Zera scrutinized Orion for a few seconds before nodding. "We will take care of it," she replied, shifting her gaze toward the commander and the beast with a look of pity.

Chapter 1187: A Well Earned Reward

She had been taken aback by Orion's astonishing feat, having witnessed it from afar. She had no idea what the effects would be on Kasryn or when she might recover.

Zera gestured for several guards, silently observing from behind, to come forward. They immediately advanced.

After listening to the priestess's orders, they picked up the dazed Kasryn and her beast and left.

Zera bowed respectfully to Aerialia before refocusing on Orion.

"You returned because the seal is reemerging, right?" she asked.

"Yes. I planned to take another one, but I have no idea what its effects would be on me, so I want to find out first before doing so," Orion responded with a nod.

Zera knew Orion came from outside the pocket dimension and swiftly understood his words. It was best to uncover the effects of the condensed Vylkr essence rebirth elixirs on him before he consumed another one.

"Follow me," Zera said, turning and gesturing for them to follow.

They followed her, leaving the top of the fortified walls and heading to the other side, toward an empty room next to one of the meeting halls.

...

An hour later,

Inside a room furnished with comfortable chairs around a small table in the centre, a chandelier hanging above, and softly glowing lanterns in the corners, Aurora sat on one of the chairs while Aerialia hovered beside her, observing Zera's actions.

"You can take another elixir so I can directly observe its effects on your body. Don't worry about any consequences-I can remove its effects from your system if anything dire happens," Zera said.

"Can you really do that?" Orion asked, his tone curious. Though Zera seemed formidable in her own right, Orion had encountered many individuals more powerful than her, like the goddess within her, so her presence didn't feel as imposing as it had when they first met.

Orion was more wary of the two goddesses within her than of Zera herself.

"I can. I was the one who created it, albeit with some help. The goddesses made sure to impart their knowledge and teach me everything I need to manage the sanctuary and protect it from Divine mysteries," Zera replied with a smile, noticing Orion's curiosity.

Orion nodded in understanding, finding it reasonable. His relationship with Aerialia gradually developed as he absorbed her impartations to grow stronger and help her reconstruct her body to its current state.

If Zera had received similar direct guidance from the goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune and the goddess of Malevolence and Witches, her strength would be formidable.

Aurora and Aerialia didn't react much to Zera's words.

Orion took out the elixir bottle from under his clothing and consumed one pill before putting it away. Sensing the changes within him, he closed his eyes, carefully observing them.

Zera seized the opportunity and stretched her hand forward, placing it over Orion. In an instant, a pulsing golden rune emerged on her hand, followed by several more that appeared atop Orion, moving up and down his figure, expanding and retracting.

After several minutes, Zera dispelled the runes and withdrew her hand, her expression filled with fear and disbelief.

Orion opened his eyes and frowned, noticing her reaction.

"The elixir has permanently increased your Vylkr energy reserves and detoxified the Vylkr energy within your body, making it less aggressive. Normally, it's only meant to cleanse tainted cells and infuse a more stable Vylkr energy. It also temporarily boosts Vylkr energy reserves through those cells, slowing the corruption and enhancing resilience against the Vylkr energy. However, since you have no tainted cells, the elixir has produced these effects," Zera explained.

"Does this mean I would gain more benefits without the drawbacks like the others??" Orion asked.

Zera nodded. "Most likely. I haven't noticed anything negative, except that you need to be careful about taking the pill excessively, or you might risk increasing your Vylkr energy beyond what your body can handle. There's a reason why it's only meant to temporarily boost Vylkr energy reserves."

"No matter how much the Vylkr energy gets cleansed and becomes easier to use, it's still a curse at its core. You could cause irreparable harm to your body if you overuse it. At most, you're allowed to take three elixirs a day. I'm sorry, but this is my first time observing something like this, so I'll need more time before I can confidently make an accurate report." Orion nodded in understanding. Noticing her pensive expression, he asked, "I'd like to know if the two goddesses are satisfied with my performance."

"They are. They also said that if you help push back the hordes of monstrosities brought by the divine mysteries, they're willing to create another elixir that would provide the same effects without the side effects as a reward."

£You have an incredible affinity with the Vylkr energy, but not more than her, so it should be feasible. Of course, that's assuming I can continue to observe the effects of the condensed Vylkr essence rebirth elixir on you," Zera said, pointing toward Aurora before refocusing on Orion.

"Can you tell us who initiated such a promise? After meeting that goddess, I doubt she would give such a promise that easily," Aerialia asked, narrowing her eyes at Zera.

"It was Goddess Margona," Zera responded, her shoulders slumping tiredly as the tension in the room suddenly rose.

"I thought she was going to stay silent until we left," Aerialia scoffed, clicking her tongue in ridicule. "If you want to make such a promise to one of my people, wouldn't it be better to reveal yourself and say it directly?"

Unlike Orion, Aerialia was eager to meet the other goddess.

Aerialia wanted to know if her condition was similar to that of the Goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune. This would help her formulate a plan to aid Orion in achieving his goals. Most importantly, she wanted to meet one of the Eight Greed Gods who had stood against the Seven Great Gods and Naka.

Regardless of the circumstances, Margona's survival up to this point proved her strength and that she was worthy of her title and achievements.

"She said she doesn't want to speak with a 'low-tier goddess' who couldn't even make it through the Stellar Gate," Zera replied with a wry smile as the temperature in the room

dropped again.

Seeing Aerialia's intense gaze and Aurora's fixed stare, Zera wanted to cry, not understanding why her goddess was putting her in the middle of this argument.

'If you wanted to say something like that, why not come out and say it yourself? You're Goddess Margona, one of the Eight Greed Gods and strongest goddess from a lost era. I'm sure they would

hide their intentions if you met them face to face and said this,' Zera thought, berating her goddess inwardly.

Zera winced in pain as she felt a tug on her soul, realizing her emotions had been sensed. She quickly dispelled her heartfelt thoughts.

"I didn't just protect my children; I also protected several other races who had sworn their loyalty to me. I did so alone, all the way up until the brink of crossing the Stellar Gate. If I had been in full health and hadn't been attacked by one of the Seven Great Gods, we would have

crossed safely."

"The last I heard of you during the Great War, you formed alliances to cross over. So don't you dare look down on me!" Aerialia retorted, gritting her teeth in anger.

"If Goddess Margona wants to say something to my mother, then she should come out and say it herself," Aurora said, summoning her sceptre and stirring up the Vylkr and divine

energies within.

Zera could almost feel the tears welling up in her eyes.

"Ahem," Orion cleared his throat, drawing their attention. "If Goddess Margona meant what

she said, then I will gladly accept this reward," he added.

Zera sighed in relief and looked at Orion appreciatively.

"I don't mind either. However, I will need to be present during each checkup. This goddess has already proven herself untrustworthy in our first conversation, and it would be foolish to assume she wouldn't try something while we're not around," Aerialia said.

Aurora nodded in agreement. "I agree."

"It's fine. You can stay during the checkups," Zera said, subtly clenching her hand into a fist as a faint smile appeared on her lips. Upon closer inspection, the smile seemed a little pained. Zera suddenly froze before sighing slightly. "She said she would also reward you if you keep your end of the bargain and aren't swayed into making the wrong decision by your goddess. Rather than simply giving you the elixirs after they're produced, you'll be given the recipe and the entire production process will be taught to you from start to finish as part of your reward. Is that sufficient for you?" she asked.

Listening to her words, Orion adopted a pensive expression. He admitted that the reward was too good to pass up, especially since he would receive the elixir formula and learn the process

firsthand.

"And who will be teaching him the process? You or her?" Aerialia asked, her face darkening with a deep frown.

Chapter 1188: The War Has Ended!

Orion's eyes perked up at the question. He, too, wondered who would be teaching the method directly. The most practical answer seemed to be Zera. Still, given the situation, he felt a lingering sense of doubt and unease.

"It will be handled by goddess Morgona," Zera responded.

The tension in the room rose again.

Orion's expression became solemn. 'Is this really a good idea?' he thought. If it were an ordinary person, they wouldn't hesitate to learn directly from a goddess. However, for Orion, who was aware of the dangers of the situation, it was a difficult choice.

Aerialia's expression became pensive.

"If the goddess of Malevolence and Witches wants to instruct you herself, then I think you should accept the reward as long. They will think before thinking about harming you. But that's just my opinion-it's still your choice," she said, looking at Orion. Only he could hear her voice at this moment.

Orion nodded, contemplating.

Zera observed them with a curious gaze.

"Wouldn't Goddess Morgona, instructing me, alert the divine mysteries again and lead to another invasion of monstrosities?" Orion asked, turning to Zera.

"Your first encounter with the goddess ended that way simply because she was being cautious. We can ensure that doesn't happen, so you don't need to worry," Zera responded calmly.

Orion nodded in understanding. "In that case, I will gladly accept the reward. Please help me thank Goddess Morgona for offering such an amazing gift," he said.

"She's already heard you. She said she'll ensure no one, including 'her', interferes with her decision. And if you're still cautious, you can bring your goddess to ensure your safety, as long as she doesn't cause unnecessary trouble," Zera replied.

Orion nodded again.

"You all seem so confident she will be able to create an elixir like that," Aurora said, her gaze fixed on Zera.

"She is confident she can. And if she says so, I trust her judgment," Zera responded seriously. Aurora nodded. "I hope Goddess Morgona lives up to your praise."

"Since we're done, I'll leave to check on the other sections of the fortress and their assigned corps to see how well they're doing. I'll be returning to my manor afterwards, as I'm certain there won't be any need for me to intervene with you both here," Zera said, standing up from her seat, her gaze fixed on Orion.

Zera bowed towards Aurora and Aerialia respectfully.

"We should get going, too," Orion said. They stood up from their seats and exited the room. They walked out of the building.

Zera nodded at them before stepping forward and vanishing into thin air.

"She's fast," Orion said. Knowing that Zera was born as a demigod, he wasn't surprised by her astonishing speed.

"Those two goddesses have worked hard to train her well," Aurora nodded, following Zera's movements until she withdrew her gaze.

Despite Zera being much stronger than the average demigod, she was a goddess, so following her movements was easy.

They soared into the sky, returning to the fortified walls.

The battle against the monstrosities lasted one and a half weeks. They fought around fifteen million monstrosities, five million more than they had initially estimated. The war was expected to last several months, but thanks to Orion's intervention and Morphic Puppets' drawing the attention of the monstrosities attacking other sections of the walls, the war ended much sooner.

If it hadn't been for the fact that Orion could only utilize his energies for three hours a day, the war might have ended even faster. At this point, Orion's name had spread throughout the Sanctuary. Rumours circulated that he was on a path to godhood, destined to achieve demigodhood due to his astounding prowess.

However, because the Priestess was the only recognized demigod within the Sanctuary, such rumours were whispered from person to person for fear of incurring her' or the goddesses' wrath. Many people believed the rumours because Orion was soon expected to receive the inheritance of their goddess.

This belief gained considerable traction among the residents. The northern gates had become a gathering place for soldiers and other corps members to witness Orion's phenomenal battle against the advancing monstrosities.

Whenever Orion returned to the battlefield, the monstrosities attempting to surround the fortress would sense him and attack, turning it into a battle where Orion faced them alone. Yet, within his formidable lightning domain, he dealt with them effortlessly.

During this time, Orion also conducted his required checkup with Zera whenever he took a condensed Vylkr essence rebirth elixir. He would begin after the war ended when the preparation was done.

He didn't know how the goddesses planned to construct Aerialia's divine embryonic seed simultaneously. Still, he wasn't in a hurry to find out, as every moment they spent here was of critical use to him.

.....

At the mountain's peak,

"After today, the war should end," Orion said, gazing at the scorched, desolate expanse below him.

There was no snow, even though it continued to fall from the sky. On a few standing jagged rocks were the burnt remains of four-star Vylkr vines, gigantic tainteds, and magical beasts.

In the distance, several monstrosities were still relentlessly advancing towards his position, though their numbers were few. Despite that, they would still give an elite corps a challenging time before being entirely eradicated.

Orion stood up and glanced in the direction of the northern gates before refocusing his gaze ahead. During this time, he had uncovered that the ravaged ground would slowly heal after each war, and the trees and vegetation would regrow as though nothing had transpired.

Initially, he was curious about how it worked, but he soon discovered that the ever-falling snow was the reason. It ensured this realm always remained pristine, just as its creators had intended, no matter what transpired within.

After thoroughly investigating, Orion confirmed that the snow did not affect him.

Orion refocused his gaze forward and controlled his mountain to soar ahead, reaching the edge of his lightning domain. He halted and activated the Thunder Moon Tyrant Symbols, making a series of intricate hand gestures with one hand.

Combining all seven symbols, he could unleash a devastating, unparalleled lightning explosion capable of obliterating his enemies. This was the Thunder Moon Tyrant Symbols'

most potent and final skill!

The Symbol of Shock!

The Symbol of Surge!

The Symbol of Destruction!

The Symbol of Precision!

The Symbol of Conduction!

The Symbol of Tempest!

After completing the final gesture, Orion watched as the stormy blue and purple clouds above became eerily still. The icy winds transformed into a warm breeze that tingled the skin. Sensing the power of the Thunder Moon Armor technique reduced by 50 per cent, Orion recognized one of its weaknesses.

"The two techniques were created to complement each other. However, utilizing the final skill of the Thunder Moon Tyrant Symbols expends a considerable amount of energy and lightning force, which, in turn, weakens the power of the Thunder Moon Armor technique. But it shouldn't be much of a problem for you," Aerialia said.

Orion nodded in understanding and unleashed his gift, causing the lightning domain to

regain its ferocity.

The purple lightning and thunder gathered before him, forming a single streak. Despite sensing the immense power surrounding him, Orion remained composed. Without hesitation,

he sent the streak of purple lightning forward.

It shot ahead without pause.

CRACKLE! BOOM!

An explosion of unimaginable proportions erupted, muting all sound in its trail. A dome of purple lightning radiated an intense, blinding light as it slowly expanded, sending a powerful gust of wind that even stirred the stormy clouds overhead.

Orion had anticipated the devastating effect of combining all seven symbols into one attack, so he had positioned himself at the edge of the lightning domain to observe its magnitude. However, he realized that even if he had stayed in his previous position, he would still have been able to see and feel it.

The purple lightning dome continued expanding for thousands of meters, obliterating everything in its path until the world turned white.

BOOOOMMM!!!

When Orion's vision returned, he saw debris clashing against the lightning domain, only to be incinerated instantly. He surveyed the massive swath of land that had been completely erased—an area large enough to fit several mountains. He scanned his surroundings, finding no

trace of any monstrosity.

The final skill of the Thunder Moon Tyrant Symbols was too powerful!

The war had finally ended!

"It's over. Let's return-" Just as Orion was about to finish his sentence, he froze. He couldn't move. The world around him had suddenly become still. No sound, no movement.

Suddenly, a voice echoed in his ears.

"What a surprise. I didn't expect you to be that formidable! What did the Priestess promise you to participate in this war?" a mature, masculine voice asked, filled with curiosity and solemnity.

"... Who is it?" Orion, struggling to move his body, discovered he could still speak. He immediately tried to uncover the stranger's identity.

Contrary to his expectations, no response came. The voice remained silent.

Realization dawned on Orion, and he took several deep breaths, exhaling slowly to calm his racing heart and trembling body. After regaining his composure, he asked, "Are you the Divine Mysteries?"

Chapter 1189: Meeting The Will Of The Divine Mysteries

The world before his eyes appeared dull, and he could no longer feel his environment, as though everything around him was in stasis. Yet, he could still hear the voice speaking.

"I am the Will of the Divine Mysteries, an extension of them. It's impossible for one to fully embody the concept of the Divine Mysteries, so in a way, you could still say it is 'I,'" the voice responded, this time with clarity.

The Will of the Divine Mysteries! He had heard the Goddess of Twilight, Chorus, Fortune, and Aurora mention something like this. Still, he had initially thought it was similar to the Will of the Divine Mysteries that Aurora had encountered.

Hearing this entity's voice, Orion realized they were different.

Could various wills of the Divine Mysteries be assigned to different divine beings?

"I had only made a simple agreement with the Priestess to defend the Sanctuary against the monstrosities. However, I would have done the same even without the agreement," Orion responded, sensing the silence from the entity.

"You are an anomaly," the Will of the Divine Mysteries said.

Orion perked up in surprise at the words. He had already come to a similar conclusion, but hearing the Will of the Divine Mysteries confirm it made him even more certain. Nonetheless, Orion chose to feign ignorance.

"Can you explain what you mean by 'I am an anomaly'?" Orion asked, his tone filled with curiosity.

"Anomalies are disruptions... errors in existence. They are born from circumstances that defy the natural order. Some are created by forces beyond comprehension, while others... are born of desperation and divine interference," the Will of the Divine Mysteries responded.

Orion absorbed the words. They aligned with what Aurora had told him about her encounter with the other Will of the Divine Mysteries, and they seemed just as profound.

Orion suspected that his transmigration-which had saved him from the death originally fated for him-was what made him an anomaly.

The Will of the Divine Mysteries continued speaking.

"Interesting... In their despair, after being entangled by the curse of the Omnithriallain-the Vylkr energy, the goddesses bound their divine souls together to survive. And they did, thus becoming anomalies themselves. I was tasked with eliminating their existence, as it could disrupt the natural order."

"But those two conniving goddesses fractured themselves and linked their existence to an unborn demigod infant, turning her into something new... an anomaly," the Will of the Divine Mysteries said with an annoyed tone.

"And you, mortal... you are here because you are the same. I sense another... three anomalies... Yes... I see it now."

As the Divine Mysteries spoke, Orion was stunned by the revelation. Countless questions flooded his mind, but he remained silent, uncertain if this 'Will of the Divine Mysteries' was as sociable as the one Aurora had encountered.

"Zera is also an anomaly?" Orion asked.

"Yes, she is. And yet, as improbable as her existence is, your presence near her was inevitable," the Will of the Divine Mysteries responded as if stating the obvious.

"Inevitable? You make it sound as though we have no choice. Besides, I've been doing my best to survive," Orion said.

He had heard something similar from Aurora that anomalies are drawn to each other, and he wanted to know if there was a way to avoid this. He remained cautious about any formidable individuals they might encounter. After all, he could only speak with the two goddesses because of their agreement and Aerialia's support.

"You misunderstand, mortal. Anomalies are drawn to one another like shattered stars naturally pulled together. Their existence amplifies and reflects one another-a moment of impossibility, a fracture in the design. Like fractured shards of the same mirror, they are compelled to complete a picture that should not exist. It's in your nature."

"You are not bound by the laws of the natural order. You step where others fall. You rise where others perish. Your presence defies fate. Do you think your survival up to this very moment was of natural design? No, it wasn't! Do you understand?" the Will of the Divine Mysteries responded.

"I think I do," Orion replied. "Are you here to kill me?" he asked, his tone calm.

"No, you are not my priority," the Will of the Divine Mysteries responded.

Orion inwardly sighed, but his heart remained tense. "Are you here to kill the Priestess?"

A brief silence followed before the Will of the Divine Mysteries responded.

"I am here to eliminate the traces of the two goddesses. The Priestess is still alive because I have allowed it."

"Then why..." Orion began, but the Will of the Divine Mysteries interrupted before he could finish.

"Why did I send several hordes of monstrosities to attack them?" the Will of the Divine Mysteries said, completing Orion's question. "I have given the Priestess a chance to cleanse herself, rid herself of the status of an anomaly, and become anew, but she refused. It is her decision that this domain is always under constant threat."

Orion remained silent, his mind racing as he absorbed the sudden revelation.

"Is it possible for someone deemed an anomaly to cleanse themselves?" Orion asked.

"Yes, it's possible, but it depends on the circumstances. Suppose you're thinking about cleansing yourself, as I said before. In that case, you are not my priority," the Will of the Divine Mysteries responded.

"But you just spoke about all the problems surrounding anomalies. Wouldn't it be better for you to give me a way or a hint on how to cleanse myself?" Orion asked.

"Perhaps I should... or the Divine Corps will deal with you before I do. But anomalies, for all their disruption, are also... possibilities. They force change upon stagnation. And in your case, I sense something... unique. I'm sure the last anomaly present should understand this," the Will of the Divine Mysteries replied.

"The Divine Corps? You know who they are?" Orion blurted out, his heart filled with surprise. He knew the Divine Corps weren't ordinary, especially if they could stand against the Vylkr

spawns.

It appears his assumptions were correct. Most of all, he was shaken by the fact that the Divine

Corps might search for him in the future.

What does the Divine Corps have to do with this?

What secrets do they hold with the Runaway Cities?

How are they related to Naka and the Vylkr spawns?

Orion wanted to uncover everything now that he had the opportunity.

The Will of the Divine Mysteries remained silent.

Orion clenched his teeth, frustrated at the Will of the Divine Mysteries' refusal to explain. This only heightened the danger the Divine Corps posed in his mind.

"Does this also apply to why you haven't taken direct action against the Priestess?" Orion

asked.

"Yes," the Will of the Divine Mysteries responded, offering no further explanation. "Can I know why you've decided to grace me with your presence?" he asked, his tone calm. "I was curious about the mortal with such a powerful scent of an anomaly, and since you intervened, I wanted to speak to you myself. But disappointingly, it seems that the Priestess hasn't told you anything of value," the Will of the Divine Mysteries replied, tinged with pity. "I cannot force her hand to decide, as it isn't in my 'Will' to do so. But if she continues like this, the outcome will be unavoidable."

"You want me to convince her to accept your offer and cleanse herself," Orion said as sudden realization struck him.

"If she fails to cleanse herself, she'll die one way or another, and the mortals she has gathered in this realm will slowly lose their sanity and die, one by one, until this realm collapses, eliminating them entirely. It is not my 'Will' for mortals to be harmed in the affairs of the divines," the Divine Mysteries said, neither denying nor confirming Orion's question. Orion remained silent momentarily before asking, "Can I know how she could cleanse herself?" He didn't know Zera well, but during his time with her, while concocting a new elixir, he had learned enough about her to know she wouldn't put the Sanctuary in harm's way if there were another way out.

He suspected it had something to do with the goddesses within her, but from the looks of it, the Divine Mysteries seemed to believe they were dead. This meant their plan had worked, and some of what they had previously said was true.

However, it seemed the two goddesses didn't love the residents of the pocket dimension as they claimed, or Zera would have accepted the Will of the Divine Mysteries years ago. Nonetheless, Orion didn't fully trust the words of the Will of the Divine Mysteries.

After all, the stronger the opponent, the darker their intentions.

"Her cleansing will be a trial. If you want to know the details, you can ask the Priestess

directly. I'm curious to see what changes your presence will bring here," the Will of the Divine

Mysteries responded. "That is all. My curiosity is satiated."

Before Orion could reply, the dull world before his eyes regained its brightness, and his body was suddenly freed. He could finally sense his surroundings. However, he remained still, his conversation with the Will of the Divine Mysteries lingering.

Chapter 1190: A Frightening Moment

Suddenly, Aerialia's voice broke through his thoughts.

"Orion, are you okay? How are you glowing?" Aerialia asked, her tone anxious as she looked at him in surprise.

"Huh?" Orion looked down at his hands and body, realizing he was glowing with a bright white hue. Instantly, his mind became dizzy, and he fainted.

Orion awoke and looked around the strange room he was in. As the memories of what had transpired before he went unconscious flooded his mind, he clutched his head and sat upright. He noticed that Aurora and Aerialia were also present in the room.

Their eyes widened the moment they saw he was awake.

"Orion..."

"Orion..."

Aurora leapt from her seat and wrapped her arms around him. "Are you okay? What happened? I was afraid you would never wake up," she asked, her expression weary yet filled with happiness.

Aerialia hovered above them, scrutinizing his body. "I couldn't figure out what had happened to you either after you suddenly started glowing and then fainted. I thought something bad had happened," she said.

Orion wrapped his arms around Aurora's waist, comforting her.

"I'm okay. I just fainted," Orion replied. He looked up and nodded at Aerialia, reassuring her that he was fine.

Aerialia sighed in relief. "You've been unconscious for a week, and we were starting to worry something had happened to you. It's good to hear that you're fine," she said.

Orion frowned, hearing that he had been unconscious for a week. He hadn't expected his encounter with the Will of the Divine Mysteries to leave him unconscious for so long. He felt that if he had spent even another minute talking with the Will of the Divine Mysteries, he would have remained unconscious even longer.

"Let's leave this place after you both have taken those goddesses' inheritance. It's too dangerous to stay here any longer. I'm sure we can find another way to rebuild my body," Aerialia added.

Aerialia didn't care about breaking their agreement with the goddesses and was only concerned with returning to Paradise safely with Orion and Aurora. At least with the Primordial barrier and Ilse's presence, she could rest assured of their safety.

"I agree with mother. Let's leave as soon as we finish the inheritance ceremony," Aurora said, supporting Aerialia's words. She pulled back and looked at Orion with a firm gaze, clearly having decided.

Orion looked at both of them, struggling to make a decision. Although he had initially been afraid, after his conversation with the Will of the Divine Mysteries, he was more than ready to see everything through to the end.

As Orion was about to respond, the door suddenly swung open.

Zera entered the room, her gaze fixed on Orion and Aurora sitting on the bed.

"I came as soon as I sensed you had woken up," Zera said with a light but strained smile. "How are you feeling?" she asked.

"I'm alright. I don't think it's anything serious. I fainted because I might have overused my abilities," Orion responded.

Aurora and Aerialia looked at Zera with hostility. They had made it a point to keep an eye on her, especially when she was near Orion. They had known Orion long enough to understand that he didn't overuse his abilities or faint without a reasonable cause. So, they could only suspect that Zera or the goddesses within her had directly or indirectly caused it.

Aerialia believed the goddesses were using underhanded methods against them, so she saw no reason to fulfil her end of the agreement and wanted to leave as quickly as possible. Zera remained unbothered by their reactions. "I have spoken with the goddesses, and they said they won't stop you if you choose to leave after the inheritance ceremony. They will cancel the previous agreement, and you will no longer have to return the residents of the pocket dimension or receive the divine embryonic seed for your goddess. However, they wish for you to care for them like your own. Nonetheless, the choice is yours," she said calmly. Listening to her words, Orion frowned and narrowed his eyes at Zera.

Aerialia and Aurora nodded thoughtfully, showing their approval of her words.

Silence filled the room as Orion wore a pensive expression. After a few moments, he spoke. "I will be staying. This is especially important for Aerialia in recovering her body. I don't know when or if we'll get another chance like this without encountering dangers, but I'm not willing to take that risk." His words resonated, causing an eerie chill to settle in the room. Aerialia shuddered, her eyes widening in disbelief. She dropped her shoulders, swiftly regaining her composure as she closed her eyes. "You don't have to worry about me. I assure you, we will find another way to solve my situation," she said, opening her eyes and staring at Orion.

Before Orion could respond, Aurora grabbed his head and shoved his face into the centre of her bust, silencing him instantly. "You... What are you even talking about?" she demanded, her voice trembling with frustration.

"You should stay quiet and return home with us after the inheritance ceremony! What do you expect us to do if you suddenly faint again and don't wake up? Do you know how restless I've been since you went unconscious?"

"How am I supposed to deliver that kind of news to the others when they expect good news upon our return? Despite my status as a goddess, do you think I can endure the judgment in their eyes when they look at me and ask where I was and what I was doing if something happens to you?"

Her voice cracked as tears began streaming down her face. "You're the one responsible for the development of Paradise! Can anyone else take your place and accomplish what you have if you're gone? Mother doesn't mind waiting longer to recover her body, either, so why are you choosing to stay?" she continued, tightening her grip around him as her tears fell profusely. Orion withdrew his head and used his right hand to wipe away the tears streaming down Aurora's face. He hadn't seen her express such extreme emotions in a long time, which made his heart ache.

He couldn't reveal his meeting with the Will of the Divine Mysteries to her since doing so might only heighten Aurora's caution, possibly leading her to forcefully leave with him before the inheritance ceremony.

Looking at her with a gentle smile, Orion said, "No matter how many times I'm struck down or slip into unconsciousness, I will rise again. I'm not a man destined for tragedy, and I will never allow the people I care for to be consumed by it. That's a promise I'll keep, no matter

what."

He had worked too hard in this life to abandon everything now. Besides, now that he understood what it meant to be an anomaly and was sure he was one-knowing his fate wasn't set in stone gave him a strange sense of confidence.

This meant he had to be careful with his choices, especially when encountering other

anomalies and facing groups like the Divine Corps, which he was confident he would experience in the future. The only way to prepare for those challenges was to grow stronger, face them head-on, and not run away just because they were weak.

Aurora collapsed onto Orion's arms, weeping profusely.

Aerialia remained silent, her expression tinged with weariness.

Orion turned his head to the side, looking at Zera.

Zera stared at him absentmindedly, tears slowly rolling down her cheeks. The moment their gazes met, she averted her eyes, looking away. She swiftly wiped her tears with both hands

before refocusing on him.

"You don't need to make a hasty decision about such a complex matter. I'll give you time to consider it until we complete the inheritance ceremony. I doubt you'll choose to stay after seeing what the inheritances are," Zera said.

"Okay," Orion responded with a nod, though he already knew his decision wouldn't change.

"Please, get some rest," Zera said.

With a nod, she turned and exited the room, closing the door behind her.

"I'll be back soon," Aerialia added before moving forward, her ethereal body passing

effortlessly through the solid door.

Watching Aerialia swiftly follow Zera, Orion exhaled and refocused on Aurora. At that

moment, she was straddling him, her long legs wrapped tightly around his waist, her arms firmly around his neck, locking him in place. He tried to move, but each attempt only made her tighten her grip.

Orion laid back on the bed and gently wrapped his arms around her, comforting her.

Aerialia returned moments later. "Get some rest today, and make sure she's okay. The inheritance ceremony will take place tomorrow," she said, glancing at Aurora, still emotionally distraught. She sighed for the umpteenth time before dispersing into bright specks of light and vanishing into the small crimson greatsword mark.

Outside the door, Zera walked with a slightly dazed expression, her emotions in turmoil. A

swirl of distinct feelings arose within her soul, but she ignored them. Her mind replayed the conversation she had just had with Aerialia.