

Village Head 1201

Chapter 1201 Warning, Unexpected Threat!

Brane's and Zara's expressions shifted in surprise.

"Is it Orion and Goddess Aurora? Have they arrived?" Brane swiftly asked, his voice filled with anticipation.

Zara's face also lit up with excitement. They had joined this mission in search of godhood. After spending some time here, staying vigilant for unexpected occurrences, and being idle, she was beginning to miss the comfort and familiarity of their home in Paradise.

However, Nadia shook her head, stunning them.

"No, it isn't. It's someone else. She says she has something urgent to discuss with you," Nadia replied.

Their expressions turned solemn.

"Who is it?" Brane asked, his voice tense.

Just as Nadia was about to respond, hurried footsteps echoed behind her as the soldiers gripped their weapons and surrounded them protectively. Nadia swiftly unsheathed her greatsword and turned around, her eyes narrowing at the door.

Brane and Zara frowned deeply, looking ahead.

At the entrance, a tall woman whose entire figure appeared to be made of water stepped into the room. Upon closer inspection, her feet weren't touching the ground but hovering above it as if she were walking on air.

Brane and Zara quickly noticed this, and their expressions grew even grimmer.

"Is she the one?" Brane asked, his tone tense though he remained composed. Orion had told them about his encounter with a mysterious water woman. He warned them to be cautious but hadn't provided many details.

Their masks couldn't accurately assess the mysterious water woman's energy level, which made Brane suspect she was possibly in the ranks of godhood. After all they had experienced in the pocket dimension, it wouldn't surprise him if she was a divine being.

"Yes," Nadia nodded.

"Don't you know her?" Brane asked. Despite her water-sculpted form, the water woman clearly resembled a nymph, like Nadia.

"No, I don't. However, I did meet her when I was with Supreme Leader Orion," Nadia replied.

The only reason she hadn't attacked was because her instincts urged her not to. After surviving so long by trusting her instincts, she couldn't easily ignore them. But she would have to act if the mysterious nymph showed any sign of hostility.

Meanwhile, the mysterious water woman halted before them. She gazed curiously at Brane and Zara before her eyes settled on them. "I... need to talk," the mysterious water woman said, her voice broken as though she struggled to speak correctly.

"Be careful, husband, I can't see anything," Zara's voice sounded within Brane's mask, and he subtly nodded in understanding.

"Give her space to come forward," Brane ordered.

Nadia hesitated for a moment. As a former leader, she understood Brane's current reasoning. However, knowing the woman was a nymph with extraordinary abilities, she wouldn't have advised such a course of action. Nevertheless, since she had relinquished her title as leader and was now a subordinate, she had no choice but to follow his command.

Nadia nodded and stepped aside, signalling the other soldiers to do the same. Together, they formed two rows on either side, creating a path for the mysterious woman to approach Brane and Zara.

As the mysterious woman stepped forward and stopped a short distance from them, Nadia and the soldiers immediately surrounded the group, their weapons still tightly gripped. Although they were nervous, they were more afraid of allowing anything to happen to Brane and Zara, who were closely related to the Supreme Leader of Paradise and a goddess, before they returned.

"Can you introduce yourself?" Brane asked quickly.

The mysterious woman shook her head.

Brane frowned. "Why not? I also want to know where you came from and if there are others like you here."

"I can't..." the mysterious water woman replied, shaking her head. "...only me."

Before Brane could respond, the mysterious woman quickly added, "I came to warn... you all... in danger."

"From whom?" Brane asked, eyeing her warily as he tried to make sense of her words.

"Don't know... they're powerful," the mysterious water woman replied. "No one should leave... Everyone stay inside the barrier," she urged. Hearing her words, they all looked at her suspiciously.

Brane summoned the headless winged spawns, and in an instant, his shadow expanded. Fifty spawns emerged from it, swiftly surrounding them from above, with a few standing beside them. But that wasn't all—he stretched his right hand forward, and instantly, a wave of inky black flame surrounded his upper arm. Then, something surprising transpired—the inky black flame surged out of his hand and condensed into the figure of a flaming humanoid hovering beside him.

"Is this threat more powerful than this?" Brane asked, gesturing toward the headless winged spawns and the inky black flaming humanoid figure hovering beside him.

The mysterious woman flicked her gaze toward them, then refocused on Brane. She hesitated, then shook her head. "Not sure... but they are dangerous," she said.

"And why should we believe you if you're not sure?" Brane asked.

The mysterious woman waved her hand forward, causing the soldiers to react swiftly before Brane stopped them, seeing that she had no intention of attacking.

Before their eyes, the water condensed into miniature figures of two familiar individuals, Orion and Aurora, entering a whirlpool. This sight stunned Brane, Zara, Nadia, and the soldiers present, as they fully recognized who the individuals were.

"You know where Supreme Leader Orion and Goddess Aurora went?" Brane asked, trying his best to hold back his excitement, realizing the mysterious woman before him was genuine.

The mysterious water woman nodded.

Brane's expression immediately lit up with excitement. He turned toward Nadia and commanded, "Instruct every force to remain within the barrier and for those patrolling outside to return. This is an emergency."

Nadia nodded and swiftly exited the veranda, with a few soldiers following her to carry out the order.

"Is there anything else we need to do?" Brane asked, refocusing on the mysterious water woman.

The mysterious water woman shook her head. "No. I... handle the rest."

Brane nodded. "Let's head over to a proper area so you can tell us everything you know about the Supreme Leader's and the Goddess's current location," he said. He swiftly extinguished the humanoid flame construct beside him with a wave of his hand and gestured forward.

The mysterious woman nodded and walked with them into the castle. The headless winged spawns followed and scattered around the majestic castle, with the soldiers trailing behind.

Two hours later, they returned outside after confirming that everyone was currently within the barrier of the Tidal Depths Kingdom.

Brane and Zara walked behind the mysterious woman with complicated expressions. They had known that Orion and Aurora would do something dangerous, but they hadn't expected it to be so much more than they had initially imagined. They halted behind the mysterious water woman and observed as she waved her hand upwards. Immediately, a shocking transformation occurred. The sea outside the barrier froze. The frost spread toward the surrounding waters, stretching into the distance. Outside, the entire ocean became a frozen expanse, and a chilling wave spread across the atmosphere.

The entire force observed this scene in shock and wonder within the Tidal Depths Kingdom barrier. Brane, Zara, Nadia, and the rest of the former Bastion leaders stationed behind the two formidable elderly couple couldn't help but wonder what kind of enemy they were about to face that would prompt a figure wielding such formidable power to come and warn them.

The mysterious woman turned to them, bowed, and then vanished into thin air, leaving them alone in silence.

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The atmosphere shook above the frozen desolate plain in a particular area, creating ripples that spread across the surroundings. Suddenly, dense cracks in the sky emerged and slowly expanded.

From within the fissure in the sky, three figures flew out.

The first was a woman with alabaster skin and ice-white hair cut in a sharp bob that framed her angular face. She was dressed in a form-fitting matte black bodysuit that covered her entire body except for her head. A silvery mechanical exoskeleton was attached to her limbs and joints, with thin blue lines of glowing, moving runes along the contact surfaces.

Behind her was a floating mechanical ring, rotating slowly and glowing with ever-changing symbols on its surface. The other was a woman with a slightly taller, athletic physique, golden-brown skin, and sleek, long black hair that fell loosely around her shoulders. Lastly, a woman with dusky skin and long, deep black hair flowed down her back in loose waves. They were both dressed in the same form-fitting, matte black bodysuit, each with a rotating floating mechanical ring behind them.

If Orion and the others were present, they would have recognized these mysterious individuals and connected them to the familiar woman who had attacked the Vylkr spawns invading Paradise's territory before being hunted down by Ilse and captured by Aurora.

They were the members of the Divine Corps!

Currently, the women narrowed their gazes on the frozen, desolate plain momentarily before shifting their focus skyward.

"Dimensional fabric interlocked. Mirror Barrier integrity: 93%. Commencing breach protocol," the woman with alabaster skin spoke, her voice almost monotonous.

As if in a synchronized effort, they scattered and maintained a considerable distance from each other. The mechanical halos behind them expanded, almost doubling in circumference. Light particles gathered at the edges and centre of the halos, forming a bright sphere of light that shot toward the sky.

BANG!! The heavens trembled upon impact. The clouds immediately disintegrated, revealing a crack in space that slowly expanded under the bombardment of the powerful beams.

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Two days later,

Within the Priestess Manor, Orion lay unconscious on the bed. Seated beside him was Aurora, her loving gaze fixed on him as she gently brushed her hand against his head. Aerialia hovered at the other edge of the bed, observing them closely.

Meanwhile, Zera stood at a slight distance, inwardly sighing in relief at the scene before her.

They had completed creating the Divine Embryonic Seed that morning, and all that remained was to incubate it and wait for Aerialia to take possession and reforge her body anew. Once they had finished, Aurora rushed out to check on Orion's condition.

Fortunately, Orion didn't appear to be in any serious danger. His body constantly improved, showing that he was merely adapting to the new changes. It would take some time before he could awaken, but this was enough to stabilize Aurora's emotions. Otherwise, Zera doubted she could fully bear Aurora's wrath without paying a significant price.

"Why didn't you tell me about this before doing something dangerous? Didn't I say I want to share this burden with you? Do you think I would forgive you if something bad happened? Just wait... I won't forgive you easily, even when you wake up," Aurora said, her voice tinged with anger. However, her expression showed something entirely different as she gazed at Orion with a calm and warm smile.

Suddenly, Zera turned her head to the side, her brows furrowing.

"I'll take my leave. I need to handle something. I'll be back soon," Zera said, nodding to Aerialia and Aurora. Without waiting for their response, she swiftly exited the room, closing the door behind her.

Aerialia frowned, watching Zera's departing figure with suspicion. She wondered why the demigoddess had left so abruptly but couldn't leave Orion and Aurora in their current condition. So, she stayed and continued to watch over them.

An hour after Zera exited, Aurora and Aerialia stopped what they were doing, and deep frowns emerged. Both sensed a distinct shift in the atmosphere, and it took them a moment to pinpoint it—the seal suppressing the energies within the Mirror realm had been lifted.

"Mother..." Aurora called, focusing her on Aerialia.

"I sense it, too. The seal has been lifted. We need to find Zera and ask her what's happening," Aerialia said, narrowing her gaze into the distance.

Chapter 1202 Unexpected Threat (2), The Ideal Proposition

"I will go and see for her," Aurora said.

"Be careful," Aerialia responded.

Aurora nodded, stood up from the bed, and exited the room.

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In the distance, away from the sanctuary, three women dressed in form-fitting matte black bodysuits with large floating mechanical rings rotating behind them surveyed their surroundings. Behind them, a wide fissure in space continued to spread into their environment.

"Mirror realm restructuring complete... Realm parameters: unstable... Primary target identified: anomaly... demigod... commencing hun—" the woman with alabaster skin and short snow-white hair said. But just as she was about to finish, a voice reverberated around them.

"You are finally here. I knew for certain that you would show up!"

They all froze in place, unable to move or speak. Within seconds, they vanished into thin air as though they had never been there.

Meanwhile, the fissure in the sky continued to expand slowly.

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Zera looked at the churning clouds and darkened sky moving closer from the distance with a deep frown. Moments earlier, she had sensed several formidable opponents breaking into the Mirror Realm and forcefully seizing a portion of authority over it from her.

But then, they had abruptly vanished.

Even their auras were gone as if they had never been present.

"This is starting to get troublesome," Zera said, sighing tiredly, her expression thoughtful.

"Can I ask what exactly is getting troublesome, Demigoddess Zera?" a familiar voice sounded behind her, causing her to turn backwards.

Behind her stood Aurora, staring with narrowed eyes filled with suspicion. "What is going on?" Aurora asked.

Zera hesitated briefly, then exhaled in defeat and swiftly recounted the situation to Aurora.

A look of understanding flashed across Aurora's face. "So, what will you do now?" she asked.

"I don't know. Something like this has never happened before. I'll need to consult the goddess before taking any action," Zera responded, her tone and expression calm.

However, having spent much time with Zera creating something as delicate as the Divine Embryonic Seed, Aurora could easily read her emotions and knew she was anxious.

Zera swiftly summoned the leaders of the Guardian Corps.

In an instant, they appeared before her.

"Send an alarm for every soldier to retreat into the Sanctuary," Zera ordered.

The Guardian Corps leaders' expressions darkened at her words. As the Priestess ordered them to abandon the fortress and retreat into the sanctuary, they realized they were under attack by a formidable enemy.

Yet, having received their orders, they didn't say a word. Instead, they nodded and swiftly left to return to their stations and pass the urgent information to the rest of their respective Corps.

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Aurora and Zera returned to the Priestess's Manor. Zera paced around the room; her expression was restless. Aurora sat on the bed and recounted everything to Aerialia.

As Aurora finished speaking, Aerialia wore a solemn expression.

"What do you plan on doing now?" Aurora asked, her gaze focused on Zera. She had been waiting for Zera to make a decision, but seeing her still walking around restlessly, she decided to ask if she had come up with anything.

Zera halted and shook her head at Aurora.

"If that's the case, why don't you and the rest of the sanctuary's inhabitants come to Paradise? You must sense that the Mirror Realm is becoming increasingly unstable due to the mysterious attackers' interference. It will eventually collapse if you don't figure out who they are or do something before they attack the sanctuary."

"Even if they don't attack and choose to hide and plot secretly, you won't be able to repair the barrier alone and will need the goddesses' help, right? However, by doing so, you would risk exposing their presence to the Will of the Divine Mysteries, which could lead to the same, or even greater, catastrophe," Aurora said with a glint in her eyes, determined to follow Orion's plan and bring the entire Sanctuary under Paradise's banner.

Zera bit her lip, realizing the reason in Aurora's explanation. She had already discussed the situation with the goddesses and realized they were at a loss for what to do. It was apparent they hadn't foreseen such an event, fully trusting in the unique Mirror Realm they had created.

Feeling a powerful tug within her soul, dragging her out of her thoughts, Zera's body trembled. She clenched her fists as various emotions surged through her in an instant.

Zera looked at Aurora and shook her head. "Thank you for the offer, goddess Aurora, but I must decline. I must remain here and protect the sanctuary and its residents. If the sanctuary falls, it means I've failed in my purpose and let down the predecessors who fought for this sanctuary to exist in the first place," she said, bowing respectfully.

Aurora was surprised by Zera's sudden refusal. She had expected resistance but not a swift rejection, especially considering that staying in the sanctuary any longer was tantamount to signing a death sentence.

"How aggravating. I might lose all respect if you continue clinging to such stubborn behaviour. You're not doing this for the races you call your children, are you? You're just trying to secure your own lives! This realm is under your control, and with Zera and your supposedly thought-out plan, you're confident the Will of the Divine Mysteries won't discover you."

"But the same can't be said outside. I should have expected no less from two goddesses who went to such lengths to preserve their own lives," Aerialia said, snorting loudly, her stern gaze fixed on Zera.

It was clear, however, that her scorn was directed at the goddesses within Zera.

Under exceptional circumstances, gods could live through countless lifetimes through reincarnation or resurrection. Because of this, they often spoke bluntly with one another unless they harboured malicious or other intentions. What couldn't be said in this lifetime would be mentioned in the next.

So, despite the apparent scorn in Aerialia's words, the two goddesses residing within Zera paid no mind to it.

However, the same couldn't be said for Zera, who was central to this confrontation.

"I would prefer it if you didn't speak ill of my goddesses, goddess Aerialia. I respect you, but I would lose my respect for both of you if you chose to continue," Zera said, looking between Aerialia and Aurora.

"The goddesses have done their best to save us from our wretched fate and survive up to this moment. We can never repay all they've done for us, but if we could, by giving our lives, we would gladly do so," she added.

"Listen closely, child; a god does not collect payment from their children. Children can only be punished if they do something wrong or ignored by others if they fail to live up to their expectations. Those goddesses might not have created you, but they saved your predecessors and chose to take you all as their children."

"So, in my view, their actions are unpleasant, and they shouldn't call you their children but rather a disposable herd meant for slaughter'," Aerialia responded, narrowing her eyes at Zera.

The demigoddess withdrew her gaze from the terrifying goddess. She turned her head to the side, her body trembling as Aerialia's words echoed in her mind.

Witnessing this, Aerialia's gaze softened into pity, and she shook her head in disappointment.

A sudden silence descended upon the room.

"The goddesses of Twilight Chorus and Fortune wish to speak with you, goddess Aerialia," Zera said, her voice breaking through the tense atmosphere as she regained her composure.

Aerialia furrowed her brows, pondering what they wanted to discuss with her.

"Very well, I will speak with them," Aerialia nodded. She turned to Aurora. "Go and get the others from the pocket dimension. We'll be ready to leave once I return."

"Okay, mother," Aurora nodded in understanding. With the Mirror Realm currently destabilized, she could freely return to the pocket dimension to check on Brane and the others and swiftly send them to Paradise.

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"I hope you didn't call me here to waste my time because I plan to leave before this realm is destroyed," Aerialia said, folding her arms under her chest. Her eyes met the goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune, who had been silently staring at her for over two minutes.

"If we accept your offer, are you certain that Paradise will be able to care for us and our children?" the goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune asked.

Aerialia curled her lips into a smile. "Yes, with our current capabilities, I'm certain we can. And once I'm done reforging my body, the number of divine beings in Paradise will skyrocket, enhancing your overall safety even more," she said.

"However, that's not the right question you should be asking. The deal for me to construct the Divine Embryonic Seed was to bring the residents of the pocket dimension we rescued to this sanctuary. And as residents of Paradise, we pride ourselves on fulfilling our agreements. So it would be difficult if you decided to change the terms of our agreement now."

Before the Twilight Chorus and Fortune goddess could interrupt her, Aerialia continued. "I believe Orion has made this proposal several times to you, even subtly. However, you have failed to grasp the opportunity to negotiate the benefits you would have received if you had initially accepted. But if I choose to accept the change in the proposal on his behalf, it would only be to ensure the safety of the sanctuary's residents and yours."

"This means you would be treated as refugees within Paradise, though slightly special. If you want any other benefits, you'll need to consider any profitable deal we could make or pledge your

servitude to Paradise. Your children will be granted similar or even greater privileges based on your contribution as a divine being."

"I'm sure that wouldn't be difficult for either of you. I'm also doing this because of your hospitality to my daughter and Orion. I'm certain you'll realize how easy a decision this is," Aerialia said, then fell silent.

This was also an excellent opportunity for Paradise, considering it was a three-in-one divine package.

Meanwhile, the goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune wore a contemplative expression. "Can we settle this matter first and give you our response once everything is over?" she asked.

"You can take your time, but we won't be staying," Aerialia replied.

The goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune clenched her teeth. "As long as Paradise can protect my children and me, we will pledge our loyalty."

"Okay. I want to hear the other one say it herself," Aerialia said.

The goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune's body distorted momentarily. With a bright light, a taller woman with flowing raven-black hair dressed in a fitted, open-chested, beautiful blue dress appeared.

This was none other than Margona, the goddess of Malevolence and Witches!

"I pledge my loyalty to Paradise as long as they can protect me and my children," Margona said, her tone cold yet genuine. Her voice softened as she added, "If I am to take the risk and move out of this sanctuary, then I'll take the opportunity to search for my children. As such, this vow also extends to them."

"Then I won't accept it," Aerialia said, shaking her head.

"You might have noticed, but just to make it obvious, Orion and I share a unique te—" Margona began.

Nonetheless, before she could continue, Aerialia swiftly interrupted, "That's none of my business. I'm simply doing this for the good of Paradise."

She pondered briefly what kind of relationship Orion had with Margona. After all, he had told her everything that had transpired during their day together, and he hadn't mentioned anything like that. Instead, he had been more cautious and wary around her.

Could it be a one-sided relationship? A thought suddenly crossed Aerialia's mind, but she quickly dismissed it.

Even if Margona, the goddess of Malevolence and Witches, tried to deceive her, it seemed far more likely than her developing feelings for Orion from such a short interaction.

There was almost no chance of something like that happening, no matter how capable Orion was!

Chapter 1203 Unexpected Threat (3)

"If your children are still alive and choose to pledge their loyalty to Paradise, then we will consider your request," Aerialia added.

"Awesome! Just inform me when Orion awakens so I can show my sincerity," Margona responded cheerfully. However, her gaze could send a chill into the heart of any mortal rather than uplift them.

Aerialia ignored her words and asked, "And the last one?"

Margona clicked her tongue loudly at Aerialia's behaviour. She vanished with a bright flash of light, and Zera's figure emerged, hovering above the mixed golden and black pool.

"I will pledge my loyalty to Paradise," Zera said.

"Good. Now we've all agreed," Aerialia said.

Zera nodded. With a bright flash of light, she transformed back into the goddess of the Twilight Chorus and Fortune. "When do we start?" she asked.

"After we get those in the pocket dimension to safety," Aerialia responded.

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Three hours later,

Approximately 30 million sanctuary residents, including the guardians, gathered at the centre with their belongings, painting the land and sky-like sands scattered across a beach. Since some had entered the Mirror Realm without any possessions, there wasn't much to carry except a few sentimental items. Despite several warnings since the Mirror Realm had been breached and the seal broken, they had yet to encounter the enemy forces.

Even Aerialia grew suspicious, wondering if they had made a mistake. "Do you sense anything?" she asked, looking at Zera.

Zera shook her head. "I haven't sensed anything," she responded, anxious about the situation and beginning to doubt her abilities.

She glanced at Orion, whose body was bathed in bluish lightning streaks, lying in a sealed bed container crafted by Aurora. The container floated beside four headless winged spawns guarding it protectively. One of them carried a crimson greatsword. Only those with divinity could perceive their proper form.

This scene deepened Zera's understanding of how much Aurora cared for Orion. Nevertheless, she was curious about Orion's power and felt sure that he would be no weaker than an individual about to touch the realm of godhood.

Suddenly, the space beside them cracked open, and Aurora stepped through. The fissure in space sealed up instantly. Her arrival caught the attention of the sanctuary's residents, who gasped in awe at the spectacle.

Aurora glanced at Orion before pulling out the golden key and placing it in the air. She unlocked the space leading to the Golden Palace, and a massive, square door radiating an immense golden glow emerged from thin air. The door expanded, stretching to ten thousand meters in every direction.

Aurora turned her head towards Zera and nodded.

Zera responded with a nod and stepped forward to approach the crowd.

The sanctuary's residents were once again astonished by the golden door's appearance, murmured among themselves. However, their voices fell silent when they saw Zera approaching.

"I've gathered you all here because there's something important I need to share," Zera said, her voice reverberating across the entire sanctuary. A danger far greater than anything we've ever faced is coming for our sanctuary. I know this may sound not very comforting, but please don't lose hope. The goddess has not abandoned us, and she never will. She's given us a way to survive and begin anew."

She paused, letting her words sink in as the crowd's expressions shifted between fear and uncertainty. Then, she continued.

"Before this enemy arrives, we'll leave this sanctuary behind. We'll move to a new home where the enemy can't reach us, a place that will protect us from whatever threats come our way. This new land is called Paradise, where we'll begin again, stronger than ever."

Soon, their fearful expressions softened, turning to relief, confusion, and curiosity.

"But there's something you need to know," she said. "In Paradise, we won't be the only ones there. You'll meet others who are different from us, who have never carried the Voidheart or endured the curse we've borne for so long."

"And you'll also find something else: those loved ones or close companions you had long forgotten—Your brothers, sisters, and familiars who stayed behind in the world outside from the sanctuary—they've already crossed over. They're waiting for us now, ready to welcome us."

"So, don't hesitate—cross over into this new territory, to Paradise!" Zera declared.

A wave of emotions stirred within the people's hearts. Their lips sealed; they could not utter a word at the Priestess's revelation. They could sense the urgency in her tone and knew they didn't have much time to linger before the impending threat fell upon them. Even those who wanted to ask questions, like the guardian corps leaders, remained silent. They realized the Priestess's words were directly from the goddess, and they didn't even have the authority to question them.

"But... leaving the sanctuary? Can we really survive outside?"

"You fool... if the goddess herself has provided this path, who are we to doubt it?"

"Long-lost brothers, sisters and other familiars? Could it be true? Could we finally be reunited?"

"Other races? Will they accept us? Or will they see us as enemies?"

"Paradise? A new sanctuary? Could it really exist?"

"Cross over without hesitation? Hahaha! Let's see if Paradise is ready for us!"

Suddenly, someone took the first step forward, and like a wave, others followed behind. Some rode their beasts with their belongings, while others flew through the air.

Within moments, the ten-thousand-meter-wide golden door seemed too small to contain millions of individuals making their way forward. Aurora widened the door again by another twenty thousand meters.

Aurora also summoned her headless winged spawns to help move over 30 million sanctuary residents through the Golden Gate. The migration lasted for two days.

Finally, it was time for Zera to pass through.

"You should go first," Aurora said, her gaze fixed on Zera.

Zera nodded and walked toward the golden door. When she reached its edge, she clenched her fists and attempted to step through.

A frown crept across Zera's face as she could not pass through the door.

After several more attempts, she said, anxious, "It's not working. I can't pass through the door." She turned to look at Aurora, her expression filled with worry.

"Is this a joke? Don't tell me you plan on leaving me here after everyone else has crossed! We had a deal!" Zera shouted, a feeling of betrayal welling up inside her. As the two goddesses within her voiced their suspicions, her expression became tearful.

Aurora frowned and moved beside her. She stretched her hand into the golden door, and to her surprise, her hand passed through it smoothly. "Try again," Aurora urged.

Zera swiftly recomposed herself and tried again, but the result was the same: she couldn't pass through the golden door. They both realized something was wrong.

Suddenly, the golden door shook violently and shrank, scattering into specks of golden light and coalescing back into the golden key, which landed beside them.

Aurora quickly picked up the key and channelled her divine energy into it, attempting to unlock the golden door again, but to her dismay, it was ineffective. The golden key absorbed her divine energy but did nothing. Aurora halted her actions and attempted to tear open a space to leave the realm but discovered she couldn't. She realized that the dimension was locked by someone more powerful than herself who had intervened.

At this moment, no more snow was falling from the sky.

"We are trapped," Aurora said, her expression solemn. "It seems they were waiting for us to get the mortals out before attacking," she added.

Aerialia nodded in agreement, but they couldn't understand why the attackers had taken such an action. They could have sealed off a portion of the Mirror Realm containing the mortals and led them to the other side rather than waiting for two days. It seemed the attackers weren't confident in their abilities and didn't want to risk harming the mortals for some reason.

Aurora looked at Orion with a worried gaze. She had kept him by her side to aid in his recovery quickly, but now she regretted not handing him over to Brane and the others or sending him through the golden door first.

'I will protect you, no matter who we have to battle,' Aurora thought, summoning her sceptre and clenching her fist around it.

Upon hearing Aurora's words, Zera's expression fell. A look of fear and worry emerged on her face. The assurance of the two goddesses within her wasn't enough to calm her down.

Suddenly, the clouds overhead churned violently, and a commanding voice reverberated across the Mirror Realm. "It is by my will that you cannot leave this realm."

Zera froze as though cold water had been poured over her. A chill spread from her spine to every fibre of her being as she looked around in shock and fear.

"Who are you?" Aurora asked, her calm voice reverberating across the Mirror Realm as she looked up at the sky.

"It's the Divine Mysteries," Aerialia responded. Her words created a heavy tension that suddenly enveloped the surroundings.

"It makes sense that an anomaly would fail to recognize the Will of the Divine Mysteries, even if you have previously encountered one," the voice thundered across the Mirror Realm, heavier and more oppressive than before.

Chapter 1204 Path To Freedom

Suddenly, an overwhelming wave of pressure descended, locking them in place. "The only way you can leave here is if you accept the trial to cleanse the aura of those goddesses from your body," the voice thundered again.

"It seems we won't be leaving until you make a decision," Aerialia said, glancing at Zera's trembling figure.

"I can't take that trial again," Zera whispered, touching her patched left eye with a trembling hand. She averted her gaze after briefly meeting Aerialia's and Aurora's eyes.

Aerialia narrowed her eyes at her.

"If you're not taking the trial, then we need to think of a way to get out of here," Aurora said. Though she doubted they could escape the grasp of the Will of the Divine Mysteries in their current situation, she hoped the goddesses within Zera had some plan, as they were the ones with the most experience escaping such encounters.

Zera's body twisted, and with a bright flash of light, another figure stood in her place: the Goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune. Her body was shrouded in blinding light, and an overwhelming aura erupted from her, pushing back the pressure pressed against them.

She turned to Aurora and Aerialia. "It seems our deal ends here. Take care of the sanctuary residents in my place," she said.

"I will," Aurora responded with a firm, reassuring nod.

"As you can see, I'm not dead yet. Rather than forcing my child to endure such a trial, I would rather fight you to the death again," the goddess declared, her voice resonating across the Mirror Realm.

A loud snort reverberated in the air, and in an instant, the intensity of the pressure on them increased, locking them in place again.

"To have escaped my judgment... you are truly remarkable!" the voice echoed with a light chuckle. "Are you aware of the punishment for what you have done? You are not... but fortunately, I have already prepared something for any arising issues."

The Goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune frowned, her brows furrowing in thought. She didn't know precisely what the Will of the Divine Mysteries had planned, but she knew it would be far worse than the trial.

Suddenly, the whirlwind in the sky descended as though the heavens were reaching for the earth. After descending to a certain distance, two women, one with a tall, athletic physique, golden-brown skin, and sleek, long black hair that fell loosely around her shoulders, and the other with dusky skin and long, deep black hair flowing down her back in loose waves, dressed in the same form-fitting, matte black bodysuits, emerged from the whirlwind. Then, the whirlwind dissipated.

The two women's arrival stunned everyone, especially Aurora and Aerialia, whose expressions were filled with shock and disbelief.

"What are they doing here?" Aurora asked, her expression morphing into realization. "Are they the ones who broke into the Mirror Realm?"

Aerialia's expression darkened with understanding, a solemn air lingering around her as she realized things were getting out of hand.

"Do you know them?" the Goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune asked, her tone filled with curiosity and apprehension as she glanced at the mysterious women hovering in the air.

"They are called the Divine Corps. We don't know much about what they do. Nonetheless, one single-handedly killed two Vylkr Spawns and managed to escape being hunted by goddess Ilse before being killed after considerable effort. They are not only powerful but also notoriously hard to kill," Aurora explained. She noticed they didn't carry the rotating mechanical rings behind them. Hearing this, the Goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune's expression morphed into surprise. She nodded, refocusing her attention on the two women.

"These two are here to kill you for attempting to upset the balance already set in stone. However, their motives are hidden and vile, something I cannot tolerate. So, I will give you a chance to erase the grievous sins you have committed: eliminate the two of them, and you will be free to go."

"Their powers have been suppressed to that of the Priestess, but they are still formidable opponents. Be cautious if you don't want to lose your life," the voice of the Will of the Divine Mysteries resonated across the Mirror Realm. "And if you don't think it's a fair matchup, you can also request help from your new companions to aid you."

The Goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune turned to look at Aurora and Aerialia, her gaze clearly conveying her intent.

"It doesn't seem we'll be able to leave this realm until your trial ends. I'm willing to give it a try," Aurora said. She was certain they would have many unpleasant encounters with the Divine Corps in the future, so it was best to use this opportunity to familiarize herself with them.

Aerialia remained silent, but it was clear she supported Aurora's decision.

The Goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune nodded, returning her attention to the two women. "We are ready. I hope you don't go back on your word."

"Henceforth, by my Will, as long as you can eliminate the members of the Divine Corps, whether through your efforts or with the help of those around you, you will be granted freedom from this long-age torment," the Will of the Divine Mysteries declared.

The overwhelming pressure surrounding them dissipated into thin air.

"Strangle yourselves to death," the Goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune commanded, her voice transforming into powerful vibrations that shot through the air, slamming into the two women, destabilizing them, and tearing apart the earth and sky. The women fell to the ground, struggling to stop their hands from gripping their own necks.

Aurora was taken aback by the scene, but she swiftly took action. She cast her divine skill—Eternal Chaos Legion—and instantly filled the entire Mirror Realm with headless, winged spawns. Some were the same height as Aurora, while others towered from earth to sky, casting immense shadows. Without hesitation, the spawns surged forward, attacking the two women and burying them under their massive bodies.

The sound of the air tearing apart resonated loudly, followed by explosions as the ground where the two women once stood was carved deep and expanded. The entire scene resembled the beginning of an apocalyptic event.

The Goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune was surprised and impressed by Aurora's divine skill, realizing the young goddess was far more powerful than she had initially assumed.

Meanwhile, Aurora kept her focus on the two women. Knowing she was facing two powerful opponents, she didn't let her guard down, aware that this might not be enough to defeat them.

Within moments of the battle's onset, their combined had cornered the two women successfully.

Suddenly, a powerful sword arc sliced through the mounting pile of headless, winged spawns, cutting them in half and causing their bodies to slide to the ground, revealing a gap in the air. The two women members soared out of the gap, surrounded by a thin transparent light resembling a barrier. Their bodies looked untouched. In their hands was a curved sword with a mechanical handle and a 110cm (43 inches) long curved, gleaming, sharp blade. Their eyes shone with killing intent, fixed on the goddess of the Twilight Chorus and Fortune, and Aurora.

"Atta—" The Goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune began. But before she could finish her words, she froze, her eyes widening in disbelief. The woman with black, loose, wavy hair appeared before her and swung her blade downward, slicing through her with a single, clean swing.

SWOOSH!

The goddess's bisected body fell backwards to the ground. For the first time, a wave of fear gripped her heart as she realized she couldn't properly heal. Her divine energy was unstable, and though her Vylkr energy could still flow freely, it sluggishly attempted to heal her wounds.

The woman scanned the area and focused on Aurora's dissected body, slowly transforming into a headless winged spawn. Realizing it was a clone, she noted that her companion was already chasing the honest Aurora. With the Mirror Realm sealed, escape was impossible, so she turned her attention back to the recovering goddess. Positioning herself above her, she plunged her sword into the goddess's body again. With her abilities sealed and equipment seized, the goddess could be continuously eliminated, preventing her from recovering before delivering the final blow.

Meanwhile, far away at the boundary wall of the Mirror Realm, Aurora clenched the crimson greatsword in her hand as she blocked a strike from the Divine Corps member's blade. The impact sent her flying backwards, slamming into the boundary wall.

"AHHH!" Aurora gasped as the blade sliced through her shoulder, tearing away a portion of her feathered wings before she managed to escape to another position.

Her mind raced as she rose into the air to gain distance from her opponent. She hadn't underestimated their strength, but even with their abilities sealed to such a degree, she hadn't expected them to be still so powerful.

A layer of barrier also surrounded their bodies, blocking Vylkr energy from penetrating. Fortunately, the barrier seemed to be corroding under the Vylkr energy. After her earlier attack, it was only a matter of time before she could deal as much damage as she had taken.

Chapter 1205 Anomalies! They Are All Anomalies!

The woman swiftly caught up, arriving before her.

Suddenly, Aerialia emerged between the two.

"Mother, what are you doing?" Aurora asked, wiping the blood from her mouth with her hand.

"Your injuries aren't healing as quickly as they should because of her strange weapon. You cannot defeat her at your current level. But I can," Aerialia said, glancing at the woman, who was watching them intently and then back at Aurora.

The crimson greatsword soared out of Aurora's grasp and into Aerialia's hands. Instantly, a crescent crimson moon appeared in the sky, bathing the entire Mirror Realm in a crimson hue.

Two broad, shimmering white wings emerged from Aerialia's back, and her entire form became even more ethereal.

Aurora clenched her teeth and shook her head. "I would rather stay and fight with you, Mother," she said, gripping her sceptre tightly and stepping forward to stand beside her.

Seven thousand years ago, the Princess of the Garden was without a name—an imperfect imitation of a great goddess. She could not master divine energy or any other forms of energy, nor could she bear a child.

Yet, after meeting Orion, her fate changed. Seven thousand years later, she stood ready for battle as her own person: a formidable goddess, a wife, a daughter, and a mother—alongside her own mother, the great goddess—facing a powerful enemy brought by the Will of the Divine Mysteries.

An anomaly that, through external help, defiled her fate!

The woman glanced at Aurora and Aerialia, then vanished from her position, reappearing in front of Aurora. Before either of them could react, she thrust her curved blade into Aurora and ripped out her heart.

"AURORA!!" Aerialia screamed, her face twisting in horror as she watched the look of pain and disbelief on Aurora's face as she fell from the sky.

The woman glanced at them briefly, then tore through space, vanishing from her previous position as though heading toward a specific location.

Aerialia quickly sent the crimson greatsword toward Aurora, enlarging it to catch her body. She swiftly arrived beside her to check her condition.

"Mother... Orion..." Aurora muttered, realizing the woman was heading straight toward where she had safely hidden Orion.

Aerialia understood but hesitated. Due to the nature of Aurora's injuries, which disrupted the energies within her and slowed her divine regenerative abilities, the attack was severe.

Aurora would surely die if she wasn't healed, leaving Aerialia uncertain about whether to leave her side.

"Damn it! There's still a way out of this," Aerialia said, seeing the resolve in Aurora's gaze. "Leave everything to me. I'll save you, Orion, and handle them myself."

Without hesitation, she entered Aurora's body, her divine soul taking control and channelling her powers into it.

Aurora's body began to glow with a transparent, ethereal light that enveloped her half-white and half-black wings. She emanated a blinding brilliance, like a radiant star shining across the entire Mirror Realm. While Aurora's divine soul was now resting in a corner of her vast divine consciousness, her injuries healed rapidly, and she regained her balance in the air.

The crimson greatsword returned to her hand, and she gripped it firmly.

The one in control of the body now was no longer Goddess Aurora but Goddess Aerialia, the Goddess of the Hunting Moon!

This kind of possession was what Aerialia had once attempted when she first met Aurora—intending to erase Aurora's failed divine soul and consciousness and replace them with her own, thereby securing a new body without the need for reincarnation or the use of her Divine Embryonic Seed.

However, Aurora's divine soul and consciousness remained intact at this moment. Aerialia had only completely controlled the body, carving out a portion to use some divine abilities without suffering the usual repercussions.

Even Margona, the Goddess of the Malevolence and Witches and the Goddess of the Twilight Chorus and Fortune, wouldn't dare attempt such an act without risking harm to Zera or eroding her will.

They could only take possession of a small portion of Zera's body, limiting their ability to fully wield their divine powers and rendering them much weaker than they should be.

Without hesitation, Aerialia tore open a space before her and swiftly disappeared. The tear in space closed soon after.

Meanwhile, the woman had already found Orion's hidden location elsewhere in the Mirror Realm. She swiftly eliminated the thousands of Vylkr spawns positioned to guard him. Hovering above Orion, she swung her blade, cutting his body in half.

There was no need for flashy attacks when her opponents could be dispatched with a single stroke. As she withdrew her curved blade, a radiant figure appeared behind her, swinging her crimson greatsword forward and slicing the woman in two.

The woman fell to the side, attempting to turn and see who had attacked her. Hovering behind her was the familiar goddess she had previously dealt with, renewed in strength and vigour. Her skin was flawless, as though no injury had ever been inflicted.

A wave of realization washed over the woman as she collapsed to the ground, and two words escaped her lips, "Anomaly detected..." She stabilized her feet firmly on the ground and mended her body together, slowly healing her injuries. Where Aerialia's sword had struck, a massive arc tore through the sky and deeply into the earth, showcasing the extraordinary power of her swing.

Aerialia refocused on Orion, a flicker of concern in her eyes, noticing that his injuries were already healing rapidly.

Then, a wisp of white fire appeared above him and descended, enveloping him in dense white flames that shrouded his entire body and exploded outward. Startled by the sudden occurrence, Aerialia distanced herself from the bed. Looking at him again, she saw a figure bathed in blue lightning and flaming white fire soaring out of the bed.

"Anomaly detected..." the woman muttered again.

The woman fixed her gaze on Orion and immediately charged at him with her curved blade.

Orion's flame-covered hand shot forward and caught her wrist. The white flames on his body spread to her arm, consuming it. The woman's eyes widened in shock for the first time as she ripped her captured arm free, trying to distance herself from Orion. But it was too late—the white flames had already spread throughout her body, bypassing the protective barrier around her.

Within seconds, her body was burnt to a crisp, and her entire body turned to ash, scattering into the air.

"Orion, are you okay?" Aerialia asked, her voice filled with worry and shock as she observed Orion's current state. A wave of apprehension filled her heart as he soared and approached.

Despite her question, Orion didn't respond. He scrutinized her and the crimson greatsword in her hand, a range of conflicted emotions flickering in his eyes.

Seeing this, Aerialia gripped the crimson greatsword tightly, and her divine power flared, causing her to shine with an even more ethereal light. The crescent crimson moon hanging in the sky had reached its zenith, transforming into a full moon.

As if painting a surreal picture, a figure bathed in white flames, reminiscent of the former great god of Illusion and Creation, stood face to face with another figure shining with a blinding ethereal glow—the goddess of the Hunting Moon.

Their intentions at this moment remain unclear.

Meanwhile, Margona, the Goddess of Malevolence and Witches, stood face to face with a Divine Corps member in the distance. After being repeatedly killed an unknown number of times, the Goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune had fallen into a deep slumber, trying to restore her soul.

Fortunately for Margona, the woman abruptly halted her attacks just as the crimson moon appeared, dyeing the sky a deep red. Distracted, she allowed Margona to take possession of Zera's body, fully heal herself, and launch an attack.

Margona was dressed in her open-chested, blue-fitted shirt that flared slightly under her hips, tucked into thick black leggings. Her right hand rested on her hip as she smiled at the injury she had inflicted on the woman's abdomen.

"It seems your friend on the other side couldn't make it. Don't worry, I'll end this quickly and send you to join her," Margona said, raising her hand.

Instantly, a myriad of mysterious runes and inscriptions formed above her, covering the entire sanctuary and radiating an eerie energy.

Countless figures materialized around her—ghastly shadowy creatures with obscured faces, impossible to fully discern. These were Margona's night creatures—shadowy beasts of varying sizes and shapes, some walking on four legs, others on two or one, and some soaring through the sky.

These creatures could attack opponents and brand them with a seal, cursing them with misfortune. The curse would grow potently over time, worsening until it consumed its victim. Even the slightest injury could accelerate its effects. This meant the longer the battle lasted, the more the tide would turn in Margona's favour.

"That should be enough to erase your existence. If you're reborn, next time, choose your battles more wisely," Margona said, stepping into a cloak of darkness that emerged from thin air and folded around her before disappearing.

The woman tried to chase after her, but she was swiftly overwhelmed by the mass of shadowy figures and the accumulating curse marks on her body.

Chapter 1206 Against All Odds

She gritted her teeth in frustration as she continued to be swarmed by the night creatures. She would have easily handled the situation if her powers hadn't been sealed to such an extent, and she still had her halo. But alas, she didn't—resulting in her current predicament. She had sensed that one of her companions was already dead, and it seemed that she, too, would soon follow.

'Primary target: Anomaly... demigod... still alive... More anomalies uncovered... Sending report.. interference detected... Data integrity compromised... Access denied...' The woman thought as the hordes of night creatures consumed her. Meanwhile, Margona observed from her position as mysterious blue markings covered the woman, causing her to attack herself with her own arms. The scene was brutal, enough to send chills down the spine of anyone who witnessed it, making them

question whether Margona's attack had just been actual or merely an illusion. It was a terrifying thought to ponder!

As the woman tore herself apart and collapsed limply to the ground, Margona narrowed her gaze in a specific direction.

...

Soon, the white flame surrounding Orion began to dim, eventually reducing to mere wisps before vanishing. Emotion flickered back into Orion's eyes, and his frosty expression softened.

"What's going on?" Orion asked, his voice and expression filled with confusion as he clutched his head in pain.

Aerialia quickly let go of her crimson greatsword, pulled Orion into her embrace, and wrapped her arms around him.

"Are you okay?" Aerialia asked, her voice and expression filled with relief.

Orion shook his head and responded, "It feels like my skull is about to split apart, and something is ripping my body from the inside out." As he finished speaking, he realised the voice wasn't Aurora's. He stared wide-eyed at Aurora, who was in a strange form, exuding immense power he had never sensed before. That familiar gaze etched on her features made him realise that Aerialia had taken possession of Aurora.

Orion then turned to survey his surroundings. All around him were ruins and upturned land that stretched toward the sky like mountains. It looked like a frightening battle had occurred here not long ago.

"Why are you in this form? Where's Aurora? What happened to the sanctuary?" Orion asked, remembering Aerialia previously warning him about the strain her divine soul would endure to release her overwhelming power. Although a perfect body to execute the technique could mitigate much of the strain, it still wouldn't fully alleviate the risk to her divine soul. This could affect her chances of successfully reforging her body through the Divine Embryonic Seed or prolong the process. The longer she remained in this form, the riskier it became! So naturally, Orion was anxious and concerned.

Instead of responding verbally, Aerialia transferred detailed information about everything that had transpired since Orion fell unconscious after creating two more Vylkr containers and advanced into a six-star warrior until he awakened.

Orion was stunned by all that had occurred. He checked his body and saw six Vylkr containers—the last two were twice the size of the others. He had become the first to advance to a level of strength that no one in Paradise had ever reached. The white flame within him burned even more vigorously as though his body had become a perfect container for its embers. He could feel its warmth permeating every fibre of his being. Yet strangely, he still couldn't find a way to use, remove, or peer into it. It felt as profound as Vylkr energy itself.

Orion activated his gift, and blue lightning streaked through his fingers. It no longer lashed about violently but felt alive, somehow under control. Even the world around him felt different, like everything was beneath him—like clay waiting to be moulded. It was an instinctive feeling.

As he noticed this, he realised other subtle changes in his condition that he had previously overlooked.

"But everything is okay now. We've successfully aided Zera and the others in completing the trial. We should be ready to leave any second," Aerialia said, releasing Orion from her embrace and gently rubbing her hand against his head, then down his cheeks, confirming his current condition. "Congratulations on taking your first step towards attaining godhood. The Supreme Leader of Paradise has become more capable of caring for his residents and territory. I'm so proud of you," she added, smiling softly as she stared at him.

Orion nodded but suddenly froze. Processing her words, he realised he had attained godhood, and the strange changes he had felt must be related to it. Countless questions passed through his mind about how he had attained godhood without the aid of the Divine Mysteries, and he could only narrow it down to one thing: the remnant ember of the White Flame.

It made sense when he thought about it this way. After all, the White Flame's ember wouldn't only be there to miraculously heal him from life-threatening injuries or react violently to foreign divine power entering his body. This must be the opportunity Aerialia and Aegis of the Arctic Deity had spoken of. Orion decided to speak with Aerialia about it later since she didn't know the exact details of the opportunity, only that it would aid him on his path to godhood. Nonetheless, after witnessing the various trials and experiences that the divine beings around him had undergone to achieve new levels of strength, Orion felt his godhood attainment was surreal.

"Can you release the possession for now? I'll handle the situation from here on. We'll discuss the other matters when we return to Paradise," Orion said.

Aerialia nodded, her expression relieved, and released her possession of Aurora's body. Instead of appearing beside him, she scattered into countless specks of light and re-entered the small crimson mark on his body. This confirmed Orion's suspicion that she needed time to rest and recover.

Orion swiftly caught Aurora as she fell unconscious into his arms. Her white and inky black wings drooped downwards, unable to retract due to her current state. He controlled the crimson greatsword to hover by his side. Orion sighed in relief, realising she wasn't in critical condition. However, he still wanted to leave this place as quickly as possible.

Suddenly, Orion frowned and turned his head, sensing someone approaching.

A figure came into view. It was none other than Margona.

Margona arrived beside him and narrowed her gaze, scrutinising him from head to toe. "You look different," she said, briefly lingering on Aurora's unconscious form. Margona vanished momentarily, reappearing before Orion and placing her hand on his shoulder. A look of realisation gleamed in her eyes, and a smile emerged on her face.

"You 'are' different. Congratulations on taking your first step to attaining godhood. Considering your abilities, I wonder how powerful you are now as a seventh-order demigod. We can take the time to find out later. I wouldn't mind being your teacher again, educating you on the necessary steps to godhood. That goddess will be unconscious for a while as she heals, so we have all the privacy we need. What do you say?" she asked.

"Thank you for the offer, Goddess Margona, but I'll have to dec—" Orion began, but Margona interrupted.

"I'll give you time to think about it. I'm offering my help because of the familiar stench you're exuding, which is even stronger than before. You'll need aid in controlling it, or other divine beings might think you're the reincarnation of a certain great god," Margona said, her voice sharp and expression frosty.

Orion frowned, quickly deducing what she meant. It was obviously the aura of the White Flame burning vigorously within him. He realised that he would need to speak with Aerialia before deciding. "I will think about it then and give you my answer later," Orion nodded. "Wonderful. I

know you won't refuse after thinking it through," Margona said with a smile. If Orion wasn't used to her flirty tone and attitude, he might have believed she genuinely cared about his wellbeing. He knew that she was a petty goddess waiting to have her revenge. Suddenly, a reverberating voice thundered from above. Surprised, Orion focused his attention on the sky, recognising the voice.

"Amazing! I knew you were the ones capable of pulling off something like this! Hahaha..." The Will of the Divine Mysteries said his laughter wild. "Do you know the probability of your victory in this battle? It was zero—an event so unlikely to transpire that it was impossible. Yet, I knew this task wasn't too difficult for you."

"And congratulations on attaining godhood and awakening during such an intense moment. Hahaha..." the voice boomed, clearly directed toward Orion.

Orion nodded. Although the sacrifices made to eliminate the two members of the divine corps weren't small and wouldn't have been possible without the limitations on their strength to Zera's level, it allowed Aerialia and the others, who were more experienced in battle, to gain the upper hand. Despite the cost, they had emerged victorious.

"Can we finally leave here now, or are you going to go back on your word?" Margona asked, narrowing her gaze at the sky.

Chapter 1207 Divine Archetype, A Terrifying Backer

"Keep quiet. I'm not done talking yet," the Will of the Divine Mysteries' voice thundered, slightly irritated.

Margona fell silent, though her fierce scowl remained. If she could, she would have eliminated the Will of the Divine Mysteries right then and there.

"Have you noticed anything special about your new state?" the Will of the Divine Mysteries asked.

Orion nodded. "I feel completely different, as though I've transformed from my previous self, and I'm in a new body." He had sensed the changes inside and outside himself when he awakened, and he realized the Will of the Divine Mysteries was asking because there might be something he hadn't noticed yet. So, Orion asked, "Is there something you want to tell me about my current state?"

Margona's ears perked up at his question. Though she didn't speak, she was just as curious about how Orion had gone from being a mortal to attaining godhood, gaining a massive leap in strength as if it were the most natural thing in the world.

"Considering the unique way you ascended to godhood, it inadvertently led to the development of a new divine archetype," the Will of the Divine Mysteries explained. "To create something so extraordinary without even realizing it—you anomalies never amaze me." He chuckled softly.

Orion was astounded. He had heard these words when Aurora recounted her meeting with the Will of the Divine Mysteries. Since it had drawn the Will of the Divine Mysteries's interest, he planned to conduct extensive research once they uncovered what it was. However, he had never expected to hear such words again, and certainly not directed towards him—let alone by the Will of the Divine Mysteries itself.

Hearing this, Margona frowned and narrowed her eyes at Orion, absorbing this new information. 'This is getting interesting,' she thought.

"What is a divine archetype?" Orion asked, his tone filled with curiosity.

"Archetypes are the manifestations of an individual's path to ascend to godhood. They do not conform to the already established rules of divine ascension but instead force the rules to adapt to their existence, making them unpredictable and difficult to counter directly," the Will of the Divine Mysteries responded. "But because of this, they are also inherently flawed. This means obtaining one isn't necessarily good, as they can cause more harm than good to their bearers. Only Anomalies are capable of possessing divine Archetypes. Of course, anomalies who have chosen a path similar to godhood can possess similar archetypes."

"However, when that happens, more information about the Archetype is created, and restrictions are placed on that path to prevent more from emerging."

"Do you know what my divine archetype is then?" Orion asked.

"Unfortunately, I don't. You will have to uncover that yourself," the Will of the Divine Mysteries responded.

"Does that mean our little girl also possesses a divine archetype?" Margona asked, her tone tinged with excitement.

"I'm not certain. She would have to find out whether she possesses an Archetype by herself," the Will of the Divine Mysteries replied.

"If Archetypes exist in such quantity, why haven't I heard of them before?" Margona frowned and asked.

"You hadn't because sharing information regarding their existence is forbidden. Chaos would erupt if their existence became known. Also, they are not aided by 'me' in their ascension to godhood, which is why even you had never heard of them before."

"Nonetheless, there are more now than aeons ago. If that weren't the case, it would be impossible for three Anomalies of their calibre to meet so easily," the Will of the Divine Mysteries explained.

To say that Margona was older than countless universes would be an understatement, so learning about such sensitive information, guarded by the Will of the Divine Mysteries for so long, without her knowing, made her understand its weight.

"Can I ask why you freely share this information with us now?" Margona asked, her eyes fixed skyward.

"Because I chose to. Besides, you would have discovered this information sooner or later. I decided to shorten the time it would have taken," the Will of the Divine Mysteries replied.

Before Margona could respond, Orion said, "Thank you for sharing such sensitive information with us." He paused, letting his words sink in before asking, "May I ask a question?"

"What would you like to know?" the Will of the Divine Mysteries responded.

"I'd like to know why you did all of this. Are you at odds with the Divine Corps, or is there some other reason?" Orion asked.

Even though it seemed unreasonable for anyone to challenge the divine mysteries, everything Orion had experienced—especially with Zera and the two goddesses' situation—made him unable to rule out the possibility.

"My intentions are something I would rather not reveal. But since you're curious, I will tell you. I did it because I cannot kill the Divine Corps myself without creating some unavoidable issues, which I choose not to handle at the moment. You don't need to worry about those issues."

"You're fated to encounter numerous Divine Corps members in the future, so be glad that you had the opportunity to face them in such an environment," the Will of the Divine Mysteries replied, making it clear that he had orchestrated the deaths of the Divine Corps members they had slain.

"How can we believe you're telling the truth? It's hard to trust you again after everything you've put us through," Margona asked, her voice laced with doubt.

"Then treat your trust issues. I have no reason to lie to you," the Will of the Divine Mysteries responded.

Margona's expression shifted to anger and annoyance, but she chose not to reply. Instead, she contemplated the information she had just received.

To Orion, the Divine Mysteries—an entity born after the heavens underwent their rebirth—possessed abilities far beyond any god or divine being he had encountered. He couldn't understand how the Divine Corps could threaten it.

"But you're the Divine Mysteries. Why should you be wary..." Orion began. Before he could finish, the Will of the Divine Mysteries completed his sentence, "Why should I be wary of the Divine Corps, right?"

Orion nodded solemnly.

"The Divine Corps is backed by immensely powerful beings who could do more than those two goddesses who hid their presence from me. So, it would be troublesome to go after them in my current state," the Will of the Divine Mysteries explained.

Its words made Orion's heart grow cold. This gave him enough reason to avoid the Divine Corps in the future.

"You may already be aware, but I will explain. I am the Supreme Leader of Paradise, a force rapidly expanding in territories and numbers. Several individuals have surpassed mortal limitations for strength and are on the verge of attaining godhood."

"However, considering our unique situation, we have no idea how to accomplish this. Perhaps with your aid, we could make a difference, and in return, Paradise will assist you should you encounter situations like this in the future," Orion said.

Yes, Orion had realized that to survive, simply having Aurora, Aerialia, Ilse, and the others on his side wasn't enough. He could guarantee the future of Paradise and its inhabitants only with the Will of the Divine Mysteries' backing. He couldn't think of any other more solid guarantee.

Margona raised an eyebrow and looked Orion over from head to toe. She had never imagined the day she'd hear an Anomaly ask a Will of the Divine Mysteries to be their sponsor.

Wasn't he afraid that the Will of the Divine Mysteries would one day turn against them, choosing to eliminate them?

Like Aerialia, Margona also began to feel that nothing made sense anymore, not as it once did.

Even the Will of the Divine Mysteries fell silent momentarily before a soft sigh reverberated through their surroundings. "Although my principles may change, balance is still something I must uphold. So, I will have to refuse your offer. For your forces to ascend to godhood, that is something you or your forces will need to figure out on your own."

Orion nodded, disappointment etched into his expression. At least he had tried.

Nonetheless, Orion pressed on, asking another question. "Do you know who Naka and the Vylkr Spawns are?"

At the mention of Naka, a wave of unpleasant memories surged in Margona's mind, causing her to tremble involuntarily. If there was anyone she hated more than the Divine Mysteries and a particular goddess, it was Naka, the reason for her current condition. It had become a deep scar that would never heal until she eliminated Naka. Margona swiftly recomposed her emotions and listened attentively.

"Yes, I know about them. They are just as troublesome as the Divine Corps. Their forces are on par with the Divine Corps, so you should be careful when encountering them. When you stepped into the pocket dimension, I noticed someone casually spying on you before I blocked it," the Will of the Divine Mysteries replied, understanding the reason behind Orion's question.

Orion and Margona froze, the Will of the Divine Mysteries's words echoing through their minds as they realized they had been watched and wouldn't have known until now if not for its intervention.

Chapter 1208 Seeking Favor, Divine Mandate!

Orion clenched his fists, feeling conflicting emotions coursing through him. He could sense that the being the Will of the Divine Mysteries was talking about likely belonged to Naka, even though it hadn't explicitly said so.

Margona didn't ask who had been monitoring them, afraid of the answer she might receive. For a great goddess like herself, this was a shame she must wash off by growing far stronger than Naka and his forces and taking his head by herself. And one of the fastest ways to do that now was through Paradise.

"If you wish, I can make it so no one can spy on you. Consider it my aid to Paradise, a debt to be repaid later. What do you think of this offer?" the Will of the Divine Mysteries asked.

Orion was surprised by the proposal. "If you don't mind, I will accept it," he agreed.

Orion had more to lose if he refused the offer based on the Will of the Divine Mysteries' unknown intentions and risked their every moment being surveilled by Naka or another unknown entity. It was better to accept and owe a favour to be repaid. Having already steeled his heart, Orion accepted without hesitation.

Suddenly, the space before Orion cracked open, revealing a rift in the void. From it, a medallion emerged; it possessed a rough, stony disk filled with mysterious inscriptions. Three concentric rings that resembled crystals surrounded its surface. Along its edges were engravings of twisting branches and feathers. It hung on a chain of luminous threads, each radiating a soft glow as if woven from starlight. On the back of the medallion was an intricately etched infinity symbol.

The chains of the medallion expanded as it draped itself over Orion's neck, then shrank to fit perfectly around him.

Orion gazed at the medallion in wonder, mesmerized by the ethereal sensation it exuded.

"I have given you a special item known as the Divine Mandate, which can only be bestowed upon extraordinary individuals who have proven themselves worthy under certain intense conditions. It

appears in various forms, so not all Divine Mandates are the same," the Will of the Divine Mysteries explained.

With Aurora still in his arms, Orion bowed slightly and said, "Thank you for considering me worthy of such a special item. I promise to treasure it for as long as I can."

Meanwhile, Margona stared wide-eyed, her lips agape at the medallion hanging around Orion's neck. A Divine Mandate! As a goddess, she knew exactly what it represented and had witnessed others receive a Divine Mandate. But she never expected to see a mortal man who had just stepped into godhood receive such a gift. Judging by Orion's calm reaction, he likely didn't grasp the full significance of what he had just been given. Otherwise, he would have reacted quite differently.

Margona was speechless, unsure of how to respond to the unfolding scene.

The Will of the Divine Mysteries hummed softly. "You needn't worry about losing the Divine Mandate or having it taken from you. No one can claim it unless you willingly hand it over yourself. Even if you are in a situation where you're being controlled, it won't work."

"If you die, the Divine Mandate will either be destroyed or returned to the Divine Mysteries, depending on certain conditions. If you are resurrected or manage to reincarnate, the Divine Mandate will reappear, bonded to you once again."

"As for its functions, it will help mask Paradise from all forms of external surveillance—divine or mortal—and prevent any attempts to peer into your past or future actions. It can create false illusions or completely cloak your presence unless you allow someone to see through it."

"It also provides an accurate, real-time count of all members under your command. Suppose they pledge loyalty to your force and become part of your Paradise. In that case, you can view their exact location or observe their actions."

"There are many other functions that will assist you in managing Paradise and ensuring its steady growth," the Will of the Divine Mysteries concluded.

Orion's eyes widened in shock and surprise as he listened. The functions of the Divine Mandate were incredible, far exceeding his initial expectations. This was truly a unique item meant for someone like him!

"Thank you for your aid. I will ensure I use it to the best of my abilities and guard it well," Orion said gratefully. He could feel a bond forming between him and the Divine Mandate, a gentle stream of information flowing into his mind, confirming everything the Will of the Divine Mysteries had said.

Meanwhile, Margona frowned, realizing that Orion would monitor all her actions from now on. Suddenly, she sighed, accepting that it was better for him to have such an item—someone she could keep an eye on—rather than an unknown entity continuing to observe them.

Orion glanced at Margona warily. She was the only one who currently knew about his Divine Mandate, which should be kept secret, especially from someone like her.

Sensing his gaze, Margona snorted. "I can't believe you'd think so little of your teacher. I intend to keep my promise and locate my children. Besides, didn't you hear what it said? No one can take it away from you unless you willingly hand it over," she said, her voice tinged with irritation.

Orion nodded but chose to remain silent. He would still be cautious around her and not lower his guard.

Refocusing his attention skyward, Orion spoke again.

"If you don't mind, I'd like to make another request," he said firmly.

"Oh... What you wish to say must be interesting, then? Go ahead," the Will of the Divine Mysteries responded.

Orion nodded. "Now that the matter with the Zera is settled, would it be possible to halt the destruction of this realm? With the effort that went into its construction, it would be a waste to see it destroyed. Also, since many of its members will soon be under my command, we'll need a way to suppress their death plague until we find an effective way to help them recover or manage it. This realm is the perfect place for that," Orion explained. With the help of the various divine beings in Paradise, they could further develop the pocket dimension, transforming it into a genuine sanctuary for Paradise's forces while eliminating one of their primary security concerns.

They wouldn't have to worry about Vylkr spawns, divine corps attacks, or any other unknown enemies within the pocket dimension. Once this issue was resolved, Orion was confident Paradise's growth would progress by leaps and bounds. Of course, he couldn't say this directly and had to

provide a suitable reason. After all, the Will of the Divine Mysteries before him wasn't charitably giving out gifts for free.

"He's right. Without the Mirror Realm's suppression effect, many would become tainted and die. It would happen frequently until they became plagues themselves. That would be detrimental to Paradise's growth, especially if we are to repay the favour you have granted us in the long run," Margona agreed, echoing Orion's thoughts.

The Will of the Divine Mysteries paused.

A tense silence descended upon their surroundings.

After a few moments, the Will of the Divine Mysteries spoke, his voice cutting through the tension. "I will return the pocket dimension to its former state. Whatever becomes of it will be left to you to decide. You may consider it a gift for the pleasing results you've delivered."

"Thank you for your generosity," Orion responded with a slight bow, exhaling inwardly in relief. With this matter settled, he was confident that Paradise would grow into an unstoppable force.

Margona wore a slight smile, a striking disparity to her previous angered expression.

"I have no more questions. I am ready to take my leave," Orion said.

Suddenly, Margona's body twisted, and with a bright flash of light, she transformed back into Zera. Then, Zera fell unconscious, but before she could hit the ground, Orion caught her, levitating her gently without casting any techniques.

"Although I have completed my task with her, the events have unfolded differently than I expected. Rather than cleansing her of those two conniving goddesses inside her, I will ensure she is unharmed by either of them and regains full control of her body. They will regret deceiving me for so long," the Will of the Divine Mysteries said with a slight chuckle.

Hearing these words, a shiver ran down Orion's spine. He had no idea what sort of revenge the Will of the Divine Mysteries was plotting. But, he had no interest in being on the receiving end of it or discovering its nature.

A rift in space appeared beside them.

The Will of the Divine Mysteries added, "I will inform you when I'm done so you can return. "

Orion nodded, turned, and walked through the spatial rift with the others.

The rift sealed up swiftly, and the desolate, ruined Mirror Realm was immediately enveloped in silence.

In an expansive void, a figure shrouded in blinding white light, illuminating the surrounding void, gazed at an alabaster-skinned woman with short ice-white hair.

Chapter 1209 Returning To Paradise

She was dressed in a black matte bodysuit and chained by a rope that seemed made of light, clinging to nothing but the space around her.

The woman was one of the Divine Corps members who had broken into the Mirror Realm.

"My patience has worn thin over several thousands of years ago. So you should begin handing me every bit of information regarding them," the figure said coldly.

The ice-white-haired woman didn't respond. She continued to glare at him with a piercing glare.

"It's okay if you don't speak. I'll take my time and take you apart piece by piece until I uncover what I need. I doubt they sent you out here without a way to communicate with them," the Will of the Divine Mysteries said.

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As Orion stepped out of the crack in space, it swiftly sealed behind him.

Orion narrowed his eyes at his surroundings with a frown. The land where the first city was built for the residents of the Runaway Cities to mix before it was destroyed by the emergence of the entrance to the pocket dimension now had enormous deep pits at various corners and was completely

levelled. It almost looked like the ruined Mirror Realm after the battle with the Divine Corps members.

Even with his enhanced physique, which allowed his vision to span thousands of miles, he couldn't detect any signs of life or the Runaway Cities that were supposed to be in the area.

An ominous feeling surged within his heart, causing it to grow cold. He realized that the Divine Corps must have arrived here first, leading to their encounter with the Runaway City and the others before they broke into the pocket dimension and then the Mirror Realm.

'I'll wait and speak with Seth and the others before jumping to conclusions,' Orion thought. He believed that with Seth, Zogar, and Ilse present, they should have thought of something during his absence. If things were as he imagined, he couldn't blame them. Having encountered the Divine Corps members, even while their powers were heavily restricted, he knew firsthand how powerful they were.

Orion soared toward Paradise in the sky, with Aurora still unconscious in his arms and Zera levitating behind him. As he entered the Primordial barrier, he immediately sensed two familiar energy signatures approaching.

Seth and Zogar flew from the distance and arrived before him, their eyes lighting up in recognition as they bowed in unison.

"Welcome back home, Supreme Leader," they both greeted.

"Are you okay, Chief?" Zogar asked, straightening his back and glancing at the unconscious Aurora and the unknown woman levitating behind Orion with a frown. He could feel a domineering presence radiating from Orion, far more powerful than the last time they met. It made him realize that his Supreme Leader had grown unfathomably stronger in such a short time. Yet simultaneously, he felt oddly normal, almost like the aura of a mortal walking on the street.

Even Seth sensed something similar.

"I'm fine," Orion responded. "What happened to the Runaway Cities and the others outside Paradise? Why is the area in ruins?" he asked, swiftly diverting the conversation.

Zogar and Seth exchanged glances and nodded.

"After Goddess Ilse awakened and discovered that the residents of the pocket dimension were now within the Golden Palace, she was pleased, praised our hard work, and decided to bring the Runaway Cities and the Stowaways into the Golden Palace for their safety, considering the reemerging disasters."

"Fortunately, she made the right choice, as a group of Divine Corps intruded into our territory a few months later and destroyed the area while trying to break into the pocket dimension," Seth explained, his expression solemn. "Did you encounter them, Supreme Leader?" he asked.

"I did. Fortunately, we had tremendous aid, which helped us eliminate all of them," Orion replied with a nod.

Zogar and Seth stared at him in stunned silence. They had assumed that Orion and the others had narrowly escaped the Divine Corps' onslaught, knowing how terrifying their strength was, especially with two unconscious women, one of which was a formidable goddess beside him. But they never imagined that they had managed to eliminate them.

"Haha! In that case, I would love to hear everything after you've rested," Zogar said with a broad smile.

Seth nodded in agreement.

"I'll return to the Golden Palace to meet with Goddess Ilse, and once I'm done, I'll call for a meeting with you all," Orion replied with a nod.

Suddenly, the space beside them twisted, and a rift cracked open. Ilse stepped out of it. She stared at Orion for several seconds with a sharp glint in her eyes before focusing on the two unconscious women beside him with a deep frown. It took a full minute before she finally broke the silence.

"Come with me. We have a lot to discuss," Ilse said, gesturing for Orion to follow. She nodded at Seth and Zogar, who bowed respectfully.

Orion realized that Ilse had sensed his arrival. He nodded at Seth and Zogar before soaring through the portal. The rift sealed shut behind them.

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Orion and Ilse emerged beneath the imaginary clouds, high above the immense, beautiful city gates adorned with jewels and precious stones, surrounding the vast city within the golden palace. Unlike before, when it was devoid of any visible signs of life, the enormous kingdom was filled with individuals from numerous distinct races. A massive line at the two main gates stretched far into the distance, numbering in the tens of millions. Numerous flying beasts ascended and descended, travelling from one destination to another. They couldn't see Orion and Ilse, as their presence was cloaked.

Orion quickly discerned the features of the people below and realized they were all residents of the Pocket Dimension.

In the distance, outside the city gates, stood the enormous visible structures of the Runaway Cities—the Trekking Flamingo, the Wanderlust Traveling Tortoise Runaway City, and other unknown Runaway Cities he was seeing for the first time. There were also multitudes of Stowaways, who he presumed were all from the Drelyal Alliance that Zogar had subjugated and brought back home. Surrounding each structure were dense clusters of buildings, with individuals going about daily activities.

At the other end was a large lake with numerous buildings beside it. By peering into the water from his position, Orion could see many individuals swimming, both humanoids with aquatic lower bodies and limbs and aquatic humanoids diving beneath the surface or emerging and heading towards the buildings by the lake.

"Initially, I only wanted the Prismerions to reside within the city," Ilse began, glancing at the city's entrance and the multitudes of individuals. "But after discussing with Warrior Fifi and Divine Apostle Iris, who made it clear that they've all become part of Paradise, I decided to allow them all to reside within the city. "The newer residents must be checked before they are allowed in. They seem more powerful and cooperative with one another, so it wasn't a wasted effort to bring them here."

"As for the Runaway Cities and Stowaways, my palace is not open to them. I merely brought them into the golden palace to show that I'm willing to do everything possible to support Paradise and on a gut feeling. Nonetheless, You've proven your capability by making all of this possible," she concluded softly.

"In that case, Paradise has gained more from this trip," Orion responded with a nod, smiling broadly. Just as he had expected, they had fully won over Ilse's support, and now he wouldn't hesitate to make use of her.

"I have read through their memories, including those who have just arrived, and I know you gained much more from within the pocket dimension. But amidst that, I've also uncovered a few things," Ilse said, her expression serious as she narrowed her eyes on the unknown woman levitating beside Orion. "However, I want confirmation— is she the Priestess serving under the goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune, that false goddess?" she asked. Ilse had seen the statues of the goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune in the many memories she had witnessed, which eerily resembled her own. After piecing together the information she had collected, it took her a moment to grasp the truth. Unfortunately, like the residents of the mirror realm, who were oblivious to the enormous secrets Zera was carrying, Ilse, too, had been unaware.

Orion nodded, but understanding her intentions, he quickly interjected, "It's more complicated than you think. We need to discuss this so you can fully understand everything."

"There is nothing to discuss! The sooner she is eliminated, the better! Or are you saying that a demigod who claims to speak to a false me is more capable than I am? That I am not enough for Paradise?" Ilse retorted, her voice filled with irritation.

Orion shook his head and immediately launched into an explanation. He guessed that Ilse believed Zera was a fraud who had twisted her identity to manipulate the masses within the mirror realm, or perhaps Zera had been genuinely speaking to another version of her through a mysterious method, similar to Aerialia's communication with the help of the Crimson Greatsword.

Chapter 1210 Returning To Paradise (2), Mysterious Crest

But use was too prideful to admit it might be the latter. Orion carefully explained the truth about Zera and everything that had transpired within the Mirror Realm.

Ilse was shaken, her wide, astonished eyes fixed on Zera. "Is everything you've just said true?" she asked, seeking confirmation.

Orion responded with a nod.

Ilse finally understood why she could not sense a familiar aura on Zera but was still stunned by the revelation.

The goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune! The goddess of Malevolence and Witches!

The former claimed to be the original version of her, while the latter was one of the strongest divine beings during the 'Great War.' She had held the title of one of the Nine Greed Gods, having possessed a vast portion of the New World. She fought against the Seven Great Gods and Naka several times and lived to tell the tale.

"As expected of myself, to be able to pull off such a formidable feat," Ilse said. "But isn't that all the more reason we should eliminate them? They cannot be trusted. Besides, who's to say they won't try to kill me too? Would you rather they do so and take my place?" Her tone was sharp, and her expression turned cold and rigid as she glared at Orion.

"No, that won't happen. I promise you, I've already thought of a plan that will work. You just need to trust me to handle this," Orion responded, shaking his head.

Ilse was silent for a moment. She stared at Orion briefly before responding, "Since you're confident your plan will work, I'll leave this to you. But if they attempt to attack me under any circumstances, I won't hesitate to kill them."

"Okay," Orion agreed after a brief contemplation.

"You seem different. Have you...?" Ilse asked, hesitating as though she had difficulty completing her sentence.

"Yes, I've taken my first step of ascension towards godhood. It will take some time before I can fully utilize my abilities," Orion replied.

But he knew what she meant. As a divine being, it was apparent that Ilse could sense the divinity radiating from him now that he had stepped into godhood.

"I knew it. You never stop surprising me," Ilse sighed in defeat. After everything she had witnessed since awakening, Orion's ascension to godhood seemed almost inevitable.

"Let's go. I'll provide them with a place to rest," Ilse said, tearing open a rift in space and stepping through it.

Orion wasn't surprised that she hadn't noticed his Divine Mandate. One of its functions was to conceal itself from other divine beings until he chose to reveal it. He was multitasking, sorting through all the crucial information that the Will of the Divine Mysteries hadn't mentioned, which astounded him. He had also learned the name of his Divine Mandate.

As he unravelled the secrets of his Divine Mandate, Orion couldn't help but shiver at the thought that there were other Divine Mandates out there, each with its own distinct functions, just as powerful as the one he possessed. This gave him a deeper understanding of the power of the Divine Mysteries, the Divine Corps, Naka, and his forces, which could oppose it.

Orion followed her through the portal. He placed Aurora and Zera in separate rooms. Though Zera's room appeared much more tightly secured, Orion saw no issue. It was best to restrict the two goddesses from leaving when they awakened and found themselves in an unfamiliar environment. Nonetheless, he informed Ilse to tell him when they woke up, as he wanted to be the first to meet and speak with them.

Ilse understood his reasoning and agreed. She seemed pleased to keep them sealed in the room for even a second longer.

After they finished, Orion and Ilse met with Fifi, Iris, and the others.

As soon as Fifi saw him, she leapt into his arms, wrapping her limbs around him. They shared a deep kiss for several moments before pulling back.

"I thought it would take another month before you returned. I'm glad you're back," Fifi said. Due to the time dilation within the Golden Palace, time stretched longer. They controlled the population with the help of Seth, Brane, Zara, and numerous other four-star warriors. What should have been more than three months had felt like approximately nine months. This didn't include when she left the palace to spend time with her children or rest from the mental strain. Managing such a large population, even with Goddess Ilse's assistance, who could now remain awake for an extended period, became far more challenging than before. So it made sense that Fifi missed Orion the most, having gone the longest without seeing him.

The other key members had been handling Paradise's affairs.

Orion embraced her tightly. He nodded and whispered into her ear, "I'll make sure you're well taken care of when we get home."

Fifi blushed furiously but gathered the courage to whisper, "Can't we do it here?"

She was wearing ripped pants with black and brown stripes, clearly made from the fur of some magical beast, paired with a beautiful blue blouse. Vylkr-alloyed armoured padding protected her ankles, knees, and other vital areas. Fifi had bought the outfit at a fair price from one of the Runaway Cities, eager to try clothing from different cultures. With so many options before her, it would be distasteful and foolish not to explore the new delicacies and attire of the many races soon to be assimilated into Paradise, especially after years of eating only Kalna and Lipry fruits.

In terms of exploration, this was the most fun she'd had in years.

"Though I don't mind," Orion responded with a playful grin, "I don't want to give our new residents cultural shock." He gently slapped Fifi's firm, toned rear as a tease before setting her down.

Fifi clung to his arm, her toned, muscular figure holding onto Orion's lean, athletic build as if she were keeping him hostage. Regardless, a warm, romantic aura surrounded them.

"Welcome back, Supreme Leader," Iris greeted with a respectful bow. Unlike Fifi, she was still clad in the bronze suit of armour Ilse had given them, showing no intention of giving it up anytime soon.

"Welcome back, Supreme Leader," Brane and Zara also greeted.

Orion responded to their greeting with a nod.

"You seem different. Did something happen within the Mirror Realm?" Zara asked, noticing the mysterious and domineering aura surrounding him. It felt more impenetrable when she tried to peer into his future, similar to Ilse's.

Brane nodded in agreement, as did Fifi and Iris. They were aware that the Divine Corps had broken into the Mirror Realm. But, they were concerned that Orion and the others had encountered something that might cause unpleasant changes.

"I'll address this during the meeting with everyone so I won't have to repeat myself. You four will also be attending, so go and prepare," Orion said.

Brane and Zara would attend based on their previous positions as heads of the key leaders. Iris would participate because of her position as a divine apostle and her participation in the mission.

Fifi would also attend for similar reasons, even though he intended to make the same announcement to the household later.

As for Ilse, her inclusion was obvious.

"Send someone to summon the rest of the Key Leaders here. We'll be having the meeting here," Orion ordered.

They nodded understanding and departed individually, leaving only Orion, Fifi, and Ilse.

"I want to see the nymph demigoddess who arrived with the others," Orion said, looking at Ilse.

Ilse nodded. "Follow me." She tore open the space before her and stepped through.

Orion shielded Fifi from the spatial rift and followed Ilse.

They arrived above the enormous lake that had appeared some distance from the city. They released their auras, and almost instantly, a figure shot out of the water and appeared before them. She was the water woman who had taken him and Nadia to Naka's former laboratory and informed them of the situation within the pocket dimension.

The woman's eyes widened as she bowed respectfully toward Orion. "Welcome... back," she said. "Is... it over?" she asked hesitantly.

"Your goddesses are fine. I'll inform you when they awaken," Orion nodded.

"Thank you," the woman replied, her lips smiling.

"What do you think of her?" Orion asked, glancing at Ilse.

"She is a Water Nymph who ascended to godhood using a unique method, a mysterious crest, which I presume was created by those two goddesses. Their presumed deaths, along with the injuries they sustained during the war against the Will of the Divine Mysteries, must have caused damage to the crest, resulting in a backlash that left her partially impaired. "

"Nonetheless, like Goddess Aurora and the various newcomers who arrived after her, she is adept at using Vylkr energy," Ilse explained.

"I've discovered that the crest is similar to those on my children, so I'm not sure if it's appropriate to continue calling her a demigod rather than a divine apostle. Due to limited time, I haven't been able to figure out anything more. We'll have to wait until they awaken."