

Village Head 521

Chapter 521 Orion's Decision

White Flame spoke, his gaze fixed intently on Orion and the others.

Nonetheless, Orion felt a sense of déjà vu.

"What is he talking about?" Fifi asked.

She couldn't fully understand most of the words that White Flame had just said, so she figured Orion might have an explanation.

Seth furrowed his brows as he also shifted his attention toward him.

"It's a long story; I will explain everything to you two later on," Orion responded, shaking his head as he looked at both of them.

Fifi looked at him with a raised brow while Seth's frown deepened.

"Have you made a decision yet?" Fifi asked.

Hearing Fifi's words, Orion glanced at the bowing figures of Iris and the other Crystalforge Clan warriors. Since Iris and the others were here without any help, Orion believed that his guess about the Prismarian Kingdom being in upheaval right now might not be that far off from the truth.

Nonetheless, no matter how much Orion pondered it, he could only arrive at one decision.

Even if he had to do it earlier than expected, it appeared that he would have to defeat White Flame first before they rescued Saria.

"Considering our current situation, it does not matter anymore which one we decide to do first; as such, we will deal with White Flame first, then rescue Saria," Orion responded.

"Humph! And how do you suppose that we will deal with him? Or don't tell me that you know a way to get through that impenetrable shell of his?" Seth snorted, squinting at Orion.

Orion nodded in response, "All you have to do is hold him down for me, and I will take care of the rest," he replied.

"You ---" Seth wanted to say, but quickly shut his mouth.

Although he was pretty surprised that Orion had a way to get past the humanoid White Flame's defence, he was also curious to see which means he would use. Besides, things would easily work out as he had planned if Orion failed.

As such, Seth nodded in response, "Alright, just be prepared for whichever result that might be," he said.

Fifi also wanted to say a word; she agreed that it was much more reasonable to get out of here, rescue one of the injured Prismers, and head to the underground Kingdom as quickly as possible to save Saria since they could do so.

However, hearing Orion's response and seeing his resolute expression, she held back her words, turned her head, and focused her gaze back at White Flame upon hearing his voice again.

"It seems that you have no shame? Or perhaps you have been brainwashed to believe they are not your enemies?" White Flame said, stretching his hand towards them.

"If that's the case, then no matter what, even if I have to use the 'Divine mysteries,' I'll ensure that you all regret this foolish betrayal of yours."

The moment White Flame's words ended, his hands glowed, and countless specks of white flames erupted from his arms like withered leaves, scattering into the air. Wherever these specks of White Flames touched the ground, a wave of light flashed, spreading out into the air until, one by one, every single bit of White Flames burst, brightening up all four directions and almost causing Orion and the others to squint their eyes at the disturbance.

"Although I don't know what he is planning to do, it doesn't seem like anything good," Fifi said, squinting her eyes at the bright, expanding light source.

"I agree," Orion responded, nodding as he also stared at the bright source, watching as the space around it appeared distorted, seemingly unnatural and bizarre.

"Try your best to restrain him in whatever possible way you can once he's done, and leave the rest to me to handle," he added.

He then shifted his attention towards Iris and the rest of the kneeling Crystalforge warriors, who were bowing down on all fours and shouted, "IF YOU ALL STAY HERE, YOU WILL ONLY HINDER US, SO YOU SHOULD CARRY WHOEVER IS STILL ALIVE AND LEAVE HERE AS FAST AS YOU CAN!"

His words resonated like a bell ringing in the ears of all the Crystalforge clan warriors, sending a surge of emotions flowing through their hearts. Waves of gratitude and relief overflowed throughout their bodies as they all nodded collectively, stood up, and assisted those still alive but unable to move towards the cave entrance where the rest of the warriors were.

As Iris was about to leave, she bowed down again, at a full ninety degrees. "Thank you, Mr. Orion," she said.

A deep wave of gratitude filled her heart as she stared at Orion with intense emotion in her eyes. Although she didn't know how he planned to defeat White Flame, considering the strength of the individuals before her and Orion's unwavering confidence, she figured he had a plan in mind.

As Orion nodded in response, she immediately turned around and left with an injured Crystalforge warrior. She turned her head a few more, her eyes briefly lingering on him until she was at a certain distance.

Fifi noticed the woman's intense gaze, and as she recalled Orion's attempt to rescue her, she couldn't help but furrow her brows in deep thought, wondering how he had already become acquainted with such a woman in the short time he had been here.

Despite being able to see only her armour, she could discern from the outlines of the woman's breasts and buttocks she wasn't exceptionally beautiful or ugly.

Given that she came from a completely different race and appeared much older than Orion, it wouldn't be surprising if Celeste suddenly began complaining upon learning about this.

Regardless, it seems she would have to find a way to teach him how to actively approach some beautiful young girls.

Meanwhile, Orion, whose mind was already occupied with thoughts of the best way to share the news about Anara and Grace with the rest of his family and how to introduce Merida and the others, didn't naturally notice Iris's gaze.

Chapter 522 Defiant To The End

Instead, his eyes were squinting toward the direction of the bright light as it gradually began to dim.

Considering that White Flame's gift had strengthened after he became a god, to the extent that his ability to cast illusions wasn't fake but could be imposed upon reality itself, although Orion didn't understand the limits of what he could do, he understood that whatever White Flame was planning, it wasn't anything good.

The brilliant light gradually dimmed.

Just as Orion was on the verge of instructing Fifi and Seth, his words hung in his throat, and his eyes widened in astonishment at the unfolding scene before him.

He had expected White Flame to alter the landscape to his advantage, considering he could already transform a mountainous route into a grassy expanse. Heck, he had even anticipated it would become a series of colossal mountains ready to crush them into mincemeat...

But not this!

Orion found himself confronted by at least a hundred men and women dressed in camouflage uniforms, each appearing either tattered, worn out, or adorned with various patches. Every one of them looked human, their eyes focused intently on him.

"SOLDIERS! BEFORE YOU ARE BETRAYERS WHO HAVE SIDED WITH THE INVADERS. UPON ALL OF OUR SACRIFICES, THEY HAVE BEEN BRAINWASHED TO BELIEVE THAT OUR ACTIONS ARE EVIL! SOLDIERS, BRING THEM BACK TO THEIR SENSES AND

SHOW THEM THE MIGHT WE HAD USED TO HOLD OFF THESE FILTHY INVADERS!" White Flame bellowed loudly in the air.

As Orion listened, he became suddenly dumbfounded as a thought struck him. White Flame wasn't trying to kill them!

Of course, as he pondered it, he understood that it made sense since he and the rest were essentially the first humans that White Flame might have seen in several millennia.

Even if he intended to kill them, after his fight with Seth, given his current level of strength, he might have realized that he couldn't do so. The White Flame now was much weaker than he was in the past.

Understanding his current situation and intentions, this might as well be his last stand and how he chooses to face it.

The ground rumbled as the soldiers charged towards their direction, each of them wielding a firearm that they held like a club. The speed of their advance increased by the minute.

Orion cleared the thoughts from his head. There was no need to be emotional at this point, given the high stakes.

"Do whatever you can to hold him down for me," Orion spoke calmly, breaking Fifi and Seth out of their daze as they stared at the scene before them.

"Hey, I might not understand what is going on here, but it seems like you have a lot of explanation to do once we get back to the village," Seth said, briefly glancing at Orion with a serious gaze before focusing once more on the men and women charging towards him, surging forward.

"I would also like to get a proper explanation about everything from you once this is over," Fifi said seriously, looking at Orion.

Seeing him nod in response, she shifted her attention back forward, and instantly, her body surged towards the figures furiously, charging towards their direction.

Up ahead, Seth unleashed his Vylkr energy from all three of his Vylkr containers and activated his gift.

Out of thin air, ripples of molten lava emerged from Seth's skin, slowly seeping into the ground.

It didn't matter if it was a drop or two, as they all began to expand. Like a furious wave bent on removing everything in its path, it advanced towards the charging men, along with several cracks on the ground filled with molten lava also appearing below them.

When the two sides collided, the wave of molten lava consumed them with a "roar," swallowing them before the ground beneath tore open and submerged them into the pit of lava.

The ground boiled.

Seeing this, Seth couldn't help but smile wryly. Unfortunately, he had expected something more from the 'so-called god.'

"Huh!" Seth's suddenly frowned as he squinted at the scene before him.

The several individuals he had buried within his pit of lava reappeared on the surface, thrusting their hands forward to advance.

They were swimming within the molten lava pit!

"Tch! They are just as impenetrable as him," Seth muttered.

Just as he was about to use his gift and submerge them in another wave of molten lava, a large volume of water erupted from the ground and collapsed onto the molten lava pit. It quenched the fiery pit and hardened the molten lava until it turned into solid rocks, trapping the soldiers within it.

Regardless, that... was far from enough.

RUMBLE!

RUMCRACK!!!

The ground tore open as they strengthened to free themselves from the volcanic rocks. Witnessing that even that was futile, Seth activated his gift, this time heading straight towards the flickering figure of White Flame.

Fifi was not far behind as she activated her gift and directed it straight at White Flame, realizing they could do nothing to halt the advancing figures. Her only hope rested on Orion having a plan for handling this, or else he might struggle to establish his place as a warrior in the future.

Meanwhile, Orion, who lingered behind during their futile attempt to halt the advance of the impenetrable soldiers before shifting their attention towards White Flame, immediately activated the small crimson greatsword mark on his arm.

Instantly, the persistent itch that had been bothering him vanished, replaced by a weighty sensation within his grasp.

Turning his head to the side, Orion beheld the four-meter-long crimson great sword in his hand, observing as it collided with a muffled "bang," creating several spiderweb cracks that stretched outward for about a meter.

"Where are we?" a familiar feminine voice sounded beside him.

Orion shifted his gaze slightly to the side, and there she was—the captivating figure of the winged goddess, Aerialia.

Her wings were unfurled, stretching majestically as she hovered in the air, a frown creasing her features as she surveyed the unfamiliar surroundings.

Chapter 523 Defiant To The End (2)

Aerialia's gaze shifted, landing on the distant figure of White Flame. Squinting her eyes at the humanoid being, a sudden realization crossed her features, leaving her visibly stunned.

She turned her attention swiftly toward Orion, her eyes wide with disbelief. She questioned, "Why doth that being appear familiar?" Aerialia stared skeptically at Orion.

Though the figure was obscured by white flame, she sensed a strangely familiar divine energy emanating from him.

Orion observed Aerialia, recognizing the realization dawning in her eyes. Confirming her unspoken suspicion, he nodded in response, saying, "That's the god that had stopped you and your children from entering into this world."

At his words, Aerialia's body stiffened, her expression turning solemn. Grinding her teeth together, she spat, "Is that him?"

Her gaze snapped toward White Flame, currently engaged by Seth and Fifi.

"Yes, that's him," Orion affirmed.

"Now, can you reduce the weight on this thing? I won't be able to swing it properly if I have to use all of my strength to carry it," he added, glancing at some soldiers approaching his position.

Having confirmed that White Flame was indeed the god who had attacked them, Aerialia nodded solemnly and promptly lifted the restriction on the crimson greatsword.

Instantly, Orion felt the greatsword become significantly lighter in his grasp and raised it. He looked at Aerialia and asked, "I've been wanting to ask if I'm the only one who can see you."

"For now, yes. Although I can make myself visible to others, considering that I still don't understand my current situation, it would be unwise for me to do so suddenly," Aerialia replied as she gazed down at Orion.

Orion nodded with a sigh of relief, then redirected his focus forward.

After inhaling deeply, his body surged forward, gradually accelerating as he released his Vylkr energy from his two Vylkr containers, allowing it to fill every part of his being.

As he approached the soldiers, he swiftly activated his gift.

CRACCKKLLEE!! CRACKLLEE!!!

Bursts of bluish lightning shot out from his body, entwining around his arm. The lightning extended down his right arm, wrapping around the four-meter-long crimson greatsword in his grasp, casting it in a radiant bluish energy.

BANG!

The four-meter-long crimson greatsword crashed into the upper bodies of two soldiers, charring and tearing them to shreds. As their lifeless, severed bodies plummeted to the ground, they immediately transformed into several specks of white flames that gradually dimmed before disappearing into thin air.

Although Orion had caught a glimpse of this, he had already expected such a result. The four-meter-long crimson greatsword had been forged from Aerialia's divine essence, blood, and soul, which was why she had retained a considerable portion of her remaining self even while she was dead.

Added to the fact that Aegis of the Arctic Deity had said that the divine blood would be able to help defeat White Flame and escape this mountain, Orion no longer had any doubt that the thing capable of killing White Flame—a man-made god who, although currently at his weakest, was impenetrable, resistant even to Seth or Fifi—was not just any divine blood scraped from Aerialia's injured body, but the divine blood now within his grasp.

Knowing he possessed the only means to pierce through White Flame's defences, Orion continued to swing his blade, tearing through the hundreds of soldiers with the lightning-coated, four-meter-long crimson greatsword within his grasp.

Its power, currently immeasurable, stunned everyone watching intently as they witnessed how Orion dealt with the impenetrable, strange groups of individuals that had appeared out of thin air.

What was this?

Where did that sword appear, from? How was Orion able to break through their defences and utterly tear them to pieces?

Iris and the other Crystalforge Clan warriors stared at the four-meter-long crimson greatsword within Orion's grasp with a dazed look of realization in their eyes. They understood that this was the missing piece that would have enabled them to achieve victory against White Flame, a piece they had been unable to collect during the trial.

This meant that if Orion hadn't bothered to search around and risk his life to obtain it—

Every one of them gulped deeply.

Iris collapsed to her knees, her eyes fluctuating with intense emotions as she stared at the mesmerizing scene before her. She suppressed so many feelings within her, her mind racing with various thoughts about what would have happened if Orion hadn't followed them into the trial or hadn't appeared within the mountain.

Iris's lips quivered open, "...Thank you," before she slowly sealed her lips shut, not daring to take her eyes off the ongoing battle, afraid of missing every detail that led to their freedom.

Some distance away, White Flame had skidded backwards from Fifi's and Seth's barrage of attacks and came to a halt. His almost non-existent eyes shrunk to the size of a needle as his countenance started to warp uncontrollably, watching as the human tore through his hundreds of soldiers as easily as a hot knife slicing through a piece of butter.

Impossible! Utterly impossible!!

That human... how is he able to....

TEAR!!

The sound of the air being violently torn apart resounded within his ears as the next attack approached. White Flame's mind trembled with a tinge of madness as he took the lava fist-shaped punch head-on.

BOOOOMMM!

White Flame was shot backwards again, forming a deep crater where he landed.

A terrifying gleam shot out of Fifi's eyes at that moment.

A golden opportunity!

Countless drops of water emerged from the ground, forming various water tentacles that soon turned into a sphere, caging White Flame within it before gradually compressing.

Although she had attempted this several times before, all of which had ended in futility, so what? As long as they could restrain him until Orion arrived, that was all that mattered at that moment.

SWOOSHH!!

A dense gush of wind flashed by her side, causing her eyes to widen in surprise immediately as she witnessed Orion racing towards the caged, flickering figure of White Flame with a lightning-coated, four-meter-long crimson greatsword in his grasp.

Chapter 524 White Flame

Turning her head to see how Orion had managed to make it past the hundreds of men and women, all in strange attire, Fifi was instantly stunned.

The ground was utterly scorched and littered with countless bottomless pits and large sword marks that had formed a gash within the earth, stretching for about tens of meters.

As for the hundreds of impenetrable men and women in strange tulga—

They had disappeared! It was as though they hadn't been there in the first place, and if not for the landscape now riddled with the aftermath of the battle, it would have been hard to guess what had really happened.

Fortunately, she quickly understood that Orion clearly had a way to take care of the White Flame before them.

Withdrawing her eyes away from the scene, Fifi caught hold of Seth's dumbfounded expression as he beheld the sight behind him. She then shifted her attention to Orion, who was charging straight towards the caged White Flame.

Unfortunately, the sphere of water she had used to imprison White Flame had broken off once more and fallen back into the earth.

White Flame, of course, wasn't planning to avoid the attack as he saw Orion charging at him with a strangely familiar crimson greatsword that stirred something within him. He stood up, stretched his hand to grab the sword, and met the attack head-on.

At this moment, Orion gleamed with intensity as he focused his gift on the four-meter-long crimson greatsword. Even more, lightning generated out of his body as he surged towards White Flame like a bluish crimson flash of lightning.

In an instant, Orion arrived in front of White Flame.

His eyes gleamed. He leaned forward highly close to the ground and swung the four-meter-long crimson, lightning-coated greatsword upwards from under White Flame's arm.

White Flame's arm was severed.

Lightning erupted from the blade and shot towards the sky.

And for the first time since the beginning of this battle —

"AHH!!!"

White Flame screamed out in pain.

But Orion was not done. He halted his body and repositioned himself by the left side of White Flame's body. With his arms angled right above his hips, Orion swung his blade downwards without hesitation.

SLICE!

BANG!!

A scorched sword gnash, about eighteen meters in length, was formed behind White Flame as his upper body severed from his hips.

With a nonexistent dazed expression that could have been filled with disbelief and shock at what had just happened, White Flame could only part his lips with a deep exhale from having his body wholly severed into two.

"AHHHH!!!"

For the second time since this battle had begun, the man-made god screamed out in pain.

From a distance, at the cave entrance, even through the dust that had erupted from the ground, partly covering their view, the Crystalforge warriors felt as if they had been plunged into an absurd dream.

Even though they had anticipated it, the sight before them was something none could entirely grasp or comprehend—

But at this moment, anyone with eyes could witness that White Flame, the god who had tormented them for countless unknown generations, the god who stood as the primary obstacle to breaking the curse, the god who had crushed their hopes repeatedly, was now being subdued by the foreigner, Orion.

Bang! Bang! The echoes of countless knees hitting the rocky cavern floor reverberated through the air. Each remaining Crystalforge warrior collapsed, fists clenched, turbulent emotions surging from the depths of their hearts and spreading through their entire beings.

One thing was sure after today—

The curse that had shackled them for generations was finally on the verge of being shattered... Freedom was within their grasp!

Meanwhile, on the other side, Orion poised the four-meter crimson lightning-coated greatsword for another attack.

Unlike the previous slashes, this one aimed to be a piercing stab, intending to impale White Flame's head and obliterate the rest of his body.

The crimson blade crackled with intensified lightning at its tip as Orion turned his head, asking, "Before I end this, do you have anything you'd like to say to him?" He addressed the question to Aerialia, who had been standing by him since the summoning of the crimson greatsword.

Gazing at the defeated White Flame, Aerialia nodded at Orion before redirecting her gaze toward the fallen god with a menacing intent.

"Oh, god, that dwelleth on earth, dost thou remember me?" She asked. Already aware that White Flame could see her, she chose not to reveal herself.

White Flame directed his gaze toward the tall, winged woman beside Orion, emanating a familiar divine energy. Despite sensing a gap in his memory, he struggled to fill it, only encountering obscure shadows that refused to make sense.

Even as his face glowed with burning white flames, his lips parted in a hoarse question, "Who... are you?" The question left Aerialia visibly frustrated, her expression shifting from annoyance to anger.

Angry shivers coursed through Aerialia's body as she retorted, "Art thou telling me thou dost not remember me or what thou hast done to me and mine offspring?" Her wings folded as her feet gently touched the ground.

Shaking his head, White Flame replied, "Didn't he tell you? There are many things I can't remember now, including a significant part of who I was before being trapped in this mountain."

He redirected his focus back to Orion.

Orion furrowed his brow.

The sudden transformation of White Flame into a humanoid form had led him to believe that the completion of the trial might trigger the recovery of some memories.

However, it appeared that this wasn't the case.

"But..." White Flame's voice echoed once more, "I think I remember this sword." White Flame weakly extended his hand to touch the crimson greatsword. His hand pressed against the blade, seemingly unaffected by the bluish lightning, before retracting due to the extreme sharpness.

"Covenant!... I remember... This blade, I called it Covenant..." White Flame suddenly uttered before swiftly shifting attention to the side, "Then you... You are the first god that I killed."

Chapter 525 White Flame (2)

Upon hearing White Flame's words, Aerialia's expression transformed into pure hatred, her gaze piercing through White Flame like icy daggers.

"Good... Good... 'Tis well that thou dost finally remember who I am and what thou hast done to mine children, for I am here to exact my revenge," Aerialia responded fiercely.

The atmosphere became silent.

"Hahahah!!"

White Flame suddenly burst into laughter, his fiery gaze fixed on them.

"ORION!!" a familiar voice rang out behind Orion.

Orion immediately snapped his head to look behind him and was instantly shocked to see Fifi screaming at the top of her lungs as she ran towards him. What startled Orion wasn't the distressed look on Fifi's face but the fact that he could see the already ruined grassy plains gradually disappearing, replaced by the broad, stony cavern walls.

Despite the close distance and Fifi's speed, she could arrive beside him in less than a minute. However, the grassy plain space had already collapsed within two short breaths. When he noticed her, the area had vanished, leaving only a black, empty void around them.

Withdrawing his gaze back forward, Orion could see that the ruined grassy land he and White Flame stood on was the only thing that remained within the black, empty void.

"Fear not, he is not able to sustain the space that he constructed any longer, and that's why it collapsed," Aerialia assured Orion, observing his concerned expression.

She could tell by White Flame's diminishing strange divine energy that he couldn't maintain the independent space he had created. It was necessary for it to collapse to conserve the rest of his remaining energy.

Upon hearing Aerialia's words, Orion nodded, visibly relieved.

He was worried that White Flame was about to do something dangerous, but it seemed that wasn't the case. Refocusing his gaze on White Flame, he noticed his laughter gradually dying.

"Although I have no idea how you may be here after so many years, I can only guess that it's possible because of that lousy god and him," White Flame said, refocusing his attention on Orion before shifting it back towards Aerialia.

"Regardless, Though I find it quite ironic that I will be killed by the first god I had first killed, you are here to take your revenge, right? You can go ahead with it," he added.

Seeing that the god was willing to die without remorse or hesitation, Aerialia couldn't help but clench her intangible teeth together.

"As a god, dost thou feel no remorse? After all that I and mine children have endured, thou hast ruthlessly slaughtered us all, and thou thinkest that I will simply exact my revenge and slay thee in kind?" Aerialia said, her voice growing icy by the minute.

Seeing Aerialia's sudden shift in mood, her body shivering in anger, Orion, still holding the lightning-crimson-coated greatsword above White Flame's forehead, furrowed his brows, wondering about Aerialia's intentions and how she planned to carry them out, considering her current restricted form.

However, the four-meter crimson great sword within his grasp felt almost weightless. Thus, he decided to wait until she finished, as he, too, had things he wanted to discuss with White Flame.

"Remorse," White Flame muttered before shaking his head. "On the day that I killed you and those mortals, I don't regret any of it. And when I did the same to several others, I didn't regret any of it. And even if there are some humans who have been brainwashed to side with you all."

White Flame immediately shifted his attention to Orion before refocusing on Aerialia.

"As long as I cleanse every filthy invader off this earth, I don't and will never regret doing whatever I have to do to achieve it. So, if you are waiting for an apology, then you are wasting your time," White Flame said, his tone filled with a tinge of resolution.

"Very well," Aerialia said, her voice unnaturally cold as she nodded at White Flame. She then shifted her attention towards Orion. "Let him perish in the most agonizing manner conceivable. I am done," she said emotionlessly.

Orion nodded at her before focusing his attention back on White Flame.

"Since you have gained some parts of your memories, do you remember how you ended up this way and locked up in this mountain?" Orion asked as he observed White Flame.

White Flame stared at him momentarily before shaking his head in response to Orion's question. "The crimson blade might have been enough to trigger my memory, but I still don't know how I ended up this way, as my memories are still hazy," White Flame responded. "But... I think that I can vaguely remember some things."

"What are they?" Orion asked.

Whatever White Flame remembered, no matter how small, considering that as a god, he might not keep things in memory unless necessary, he was sure that it would be beneficial information.

"Naka... I remember him. He and I worked together for a while, but unfortunately, our alliance was broken off when he betrayed me," White Flame said, his voice tinged with anger.

Orion nodded, absorbing this new essential piece of information.

"Do you remember anything else?" he asked again.

White Flame nodded before he continued, "He's strong. Probably one of the strongest gods that I've ever come across. However, unlike the rest, who were more focused on establishing their lands and being the centre of mortal worship, he was one of the most benevolent gods, who held a helping hand to whoever required it without asking for anything in return."

"Fortunately, I was lucky enough to see through his facade, and although I still don't understand his ulterior motives for doing such a thing, probably because some of my memories are still hidden, it isn't difficult for me to say for sure that it wasn't anything good."

Orion's expression immediately became solemn after hearing White Flame's words. He understood that things would not be the way they seemed after hearing things from different perspectives, so he suppressed the thoughts within his mind and asked once more, "Anything else?"

"No, that's all that I could remember," White Flame replied as he shook his head with a sigh escaping his lips.

Orion solemnly nodded in response and, without hesitation, increased the intensity of the lightning and stabbed the four-meter-long crimson greatsword down.

Chapter 526 White Flame (3)

"Wait!"

Orion's hand halted mid-strike, the blade's tip slightly piercing White Flame's forehead while his lightning flickered violently around his body.

"What is it?" Orion asked with a raised brow, wondering what else White Flame wanted to say.

White Flame tightened his lips, enduring the pain of the lightning current wrecking through his being and the crimson blade that could easily cut through his current form, and said, "I have a request."

Before Orion could respond, Aerialia's voice sounded beside him, "A god devoid of remorse like thee deserves no plea and should be dispatched without mercy," Aerialia said, looking at White Flame with a sharp, emotionless glint.

Orion, however, shook his head with a sigh escaping his lips, naturally understanding Aerialia's thought process. Regardless, he was willing to hear White Flame as long as it wasn't anything too preposterous.

"What is it?" Orion asked.

Before White Flame could speak, Aerialia's voice sounded again, "What thinkest thou art doing?" she asked, staring angrily at Orion. "Dost thou mean to tell me thou dost plan on granting his requests?"

Orion turned to the side to look at Aerialia's furious, trembling gaze. A deep sigh escaped his lips as he nodded in response, "I am, as long as it isn't anything too outrageous."

"You!" Aerialia felt her words quivering out of her lips.

At this point, she felt as though she was going to explode in anger from the fact that Orion planned to listen to the request of the god that had killed her and her children.

It didn't matter what he had to say because any kind of request he wanted to make was unacceptable to her.

"Kill him!" Aerialia said, with an icy tone as she tried to regain her composure.

Exhaling deeply, Orion shook his head and withdrew his gaze away from Aerialia's icy glare, focusing it on White Flame.

Although he didn't want to be on Aerialia's wrong side because of the four-meter-long crimson greatsword currently within his grasp, he still wanted to listen to what White Flame's request was.

"Go ahead and speak."

White Flame suppressed the urge to grunt out in pain as he opened his mouth.

"I have been trapped in this mountain for a long time, far longer than I can remember, and I have lost sense of what the outside looks like." He paused before he sighed and continued, "So, I hope that you could grant my last request to see what the world looks like now before you proceed to kill me."

Their surroundings became silent as Orion pondered for a moment.

As though he could understand what Orion was thinking about, White Flame said, "Just as the Crimson blade was about to pierce me, I could feel the restrictions placed on me to trap me in this mountain begin to loosen up gradually. Although it was too faint that I couldn't notice it when you first attacked me the first two times, now I can feel it."

"Dost thou truly intend to grant his request?" Aerialia said, her voice carrying a cold and emotionless tone.

"His request isn't anything too outrageous. Besides, if he tries to do anything else, I will immediately stab him to death," Orion said, instead of responding directly.

"Fine," Aerialia responded.

However, when her voice sounded out in the air, the weight of the four-meter-long crimson greatsword within Orion's grasp suddenly increased.

Orion instantly channelled all of his strength into his grasp and tightened his grip around it, quickly stabilizing the situation and preventing it from falling.

A loud snort echoed from beside him.

"Although I would like to grant your request, considering it's an easy one, I don't think that it would be possible considering where we are currently," Orion spoke as he withdrew his gaze from White Flame and focused on the black, empty void around him.

White Flame nodded immediately, understanding what he meant, and dispelled the independent space. The black, empty void began to distort gradually before the rocky cavern walls slowly emerged. Even the partly ruined grassy plain beneath their feet scattered from existence as they reappeared within the mountain's wide rocky walls.

"ORION!!" Fifi's voice immediately sounded behind him.

Orion turned around to see Fifi racing towards his direction, with the rest of the warriors and the Crystalforge warriors at a distance behind her.

Fifi arrived in front of him within a few short breaths and instantly enveloped him with her arms. Feeling her tight, bulking muscles alongside her voluptuous breasts that seemed as though they might squeeze out of her tulga at any moment, Orion allowed himself to relax for a few seconds within them before freeing himself from her grasp.

As soon as Orion was out of her hold, Fifi observed the battered White Flame flickering on the rocky floor beside them and promptly positioned Orion behind her, shielding him warily as she assessed the injured White Flame. Fortunately, she couldn't spot Aerialia.

Orion immediately halted her from doing anything rash, causing her to furrow her brows in confusion and worry.

"Don't worry, I'm okay. Just wait here for me with the others, and I will be back within a few minutes," Orion said as he gently stroked her back.

He focused his attention on White Flame and nodded at him.

Despite his injuries, White Flame turned around and began crawling forward with his one remaining arm.

"I can sense the closest cave out of here," his voice echoed within the cave, reaching the ears of Fifi and the others.

They all stopped as they arrived at Fifi's position, wondering what was happening. They witnessed Orion walking calmly behind the crawling humanoid White Flame.

However, after Fifi had conveyed Orion's message to them, they decided to wait, understanding that Orion probably knew what he was doing.

Seth frowned as he watched Orion and the humanoid White Flame slowly disappear from his view.

He wanted to rush over there since they couldn't waste any more time. Still, considering that Orion was the current mission leader and had already proven himself capable of the role, he could only wait until he returned.

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Meanwhile, after a few minutes of walking through the rocky cavern, they finally arrived at a path that led outside the mountain.

Seeing the bright, sunny light at the edge of the cave, Orion and Aerialia followed, watching White Flame arrive at the border and walk out before freezing.

"What... is this?" White Flame asked with a tinge of surprise, turning his head from side to side to take in the desolate, dead land that stretched into the horizon.

He then shifted his attention towards Orion, who stood behind him.

"Why is the earth like this? Where are the animals? What happened here?" he asked frantically.

Orion shook his head in response, "This is how it's been for a very long time, and unfortunately, no one knows why it became like this," he responded.

Even during the awakening ceremony, when he had learned all the necessary information about the village and the Vylkr vines during the Warriors' training, there was no telling how it came to be.

White Flame stared at Orion in disbelief before shifting his attention back towards the desolate land before him. His lips cracked open as he began to speak, "Hah! So this is what the earth looks like now. Everything that I've worked so hard to protect now... all lays in ruins," he said, observing the Vylkr vines as they slithered around on the earth aimlessly.

From his observations, he could see that they were the cause of all this destruction. However, even if he felt he might have a clue about what they might be, the fact that his memories were too vague to recall anything made him feel extremely helpless.

Orion continued to observe as White Flame stared at the dead forest stretching to the horizon below them.

His gaze shifted towards Aerialia, watching as she advanced as though she wanted a better view of the scene before her.

"Is this what thou wert speaking of?" Aerialia asked, with a dumbfounded expression.

The view before her was so shocking that she found it hard to believe. If it weren't for the fact that she had already seen the fresh green grass and the beautiful tall trees back at Orion's village's farm, she would have mistaken this place to be the same as the dead world she had sacrificed so much to escape with her children.

She turned her head backwards to look at Orion as he slowly nodded at her in response.

"Unfortunately, the world now is different from the one you and your children tried to enter previously. You could say that it's practically dead," Orion said, his voice ringing loudly for the god and the manmade god before him.

A dead world! That was what this world had become now.

While Aerialia was unsure about how she should proceed and wondered what would have become of her children if they had made it to this world, White Flame couldn't help but shake his head and chuckle. He turned around, let himself collapse on the ground, and roared out in laughter, "HAHAHAHA!!"

Although Orion couldn't fully understand the reason for White Flame's laughter, he could still discern the pain within it.

After a while, a loud, deep sigh escaped his lips.

"You can go ahead and kill me," White Flame said, his words directed at Orion.

Orion nodded, slowly advancing with the four-meter-long crimson greatsword within his grasp.

He stopped once he arrived beside White Flame and raised the Crimson greatsword with his full strength, immediately activating his gift.

CRACKKLEEE! CRACCKLEEE!!!

Thick bluish lightning gathered at the great sword's handle before it stretched down the blade, wrapping around the blade's tip.

As he stared at the crimson lightning-coated blade about to impale him, White Flame questioned, "Do you know why I called this Crimson blade, Covenant?"

Orion shook his head in response.

"It was because I swore upon the blood of the first god I killed that I would kill every being that isn't human and send them back to the world they came from, as this world isn't theirs," White Flame explained.

"As a god, I wanted to do what no man could because no man could."

"But since the world is already like this, it means my worst fears have manifested, and that means it's already beyond saving," White Flame said, his gaze fixed on Orion.

"So, you should probably look for a new name for that blade because my covenant has been broken." After he finished speaking, he suddenly fell silent.

Seeing that the time had come and White Flame lying before him had accepted his fate, Orion plunged the Crimson greatsword downward without hesitation.

BANG!

The crimson greatsword effortlessly pierced White Flame's forehead, driving into the ground with a thunderous impact. Bluish lightning emanated, swirling around his severed upper body in chaos. The white flames erupted into several wisps that floated in the air, gradually vanishing until only a single, flickering wisp remained.

Hovering before Orion, it seemed to have a mind of its own.

Without warning, the wisp of White Flame darted into Orion's chest. Bewildered, Orion released his grip on the Crimson blade and frantically touched his chest, trying to understand the unexpected intrusion. Channelling the Vylkr energy, he searched for any changes within him but found nothing.

A deep frown creased Orion's brow as he pondered the meaning of the wisps of white flame entering his chest, staring down at the scorched earth imprinted with the outline of White Flame's severed upper body.

Perplexed by the mysterious occurrence, Orion turned to Aerialia, seeking answers. However, her scrutinizing gaze met his, as if she were attempting to unravel the secrets within him.

"What is it? Do you know what that white flame that entered my chest was?" Orion asked, a hint of uncertainty in his eyes.

"While I had my doubts before now, I can now say that I at least have some understanding of what just happened," Aerialia replied, nodding thoughtfully.

Her focus shifted to the scorched imprint on the ground. "Though, I might still be mistaken since I don't fully understand his situation and how he ended up like this," she added, furrowing her brows in contemplation.

Chapter 528 The Final Ember of the White Flame (2)

"Okay, then tell me what you know if you understand what just happened," Orion said eagerly.

Even if Aerialia looked confused, any explanation he could get about what had occurred would be welcomed.

Aerialia raised a brow at Orion as she stared at him intently.

"Why should I tell thee? I believe I possess no reason to do so," she asked, narrowing her eyes at him. "And even if I did, why should I tell thee after thou granted that remorseless god's request?"

Orion was about to open his mouth to respond when he quickly snapped it shut, noticing storm clouds gathering above the mountain and gradually spreading into the distance.

At this moment, Orion was stunned by the scene above him.

Since he had appeared in this world, this might as well be the first time he had witnessed such a phenomenon. Judging by what he had just done, Orion knew it wasn't anything natural. So, he stood rooted in his spot, watching the unfolding event.

Storm clouds gathered, darkening the sky with their ominous shade. Gradually, the sky thundered as bursts of thunder and lightning streaked through the heavens, booming continuously in his ears.

"RUMMMBBLLEE!!"

"CRRAACCCKKLLEE!!! BOOOMMM!!!"

"It's the Divine Mysteries!" Aerialia stated as she gradually advanced, stopping beside Orion with her head raised toward the sky. "Each time a god doth meet its demise, the Divine Mysteries unleash their wrath, typically in the form of fury against the world for permitting one of their own to perish within it. Although I know not how the Divine Mysteries ventured this far into the world, it is not an impossible feat. However, that doth only affirm my suspicion about how he might have ended up in the state he is in."

Divine Mysteries!

The first time Orion heard about the Divine Mysteries was from White Flame during the battle within the independent space. He kept that information in mind, realizing it was an important piece of knowledge he needed to hold onto, as it might become crucial later.

As the storm clouds rumbled with life, plunging everything into darkness as though it were night, the clouds opened, and the rain poured down.

As the rain slowly descended, hitting Orion's body, he stretched out his left hand and cupped it, catching the rain within. His eyes widened in shock when he stared down to see the water he had caught.

Blood!

Blood and water!

The rain that poured down from the sky wasn't ordinary; it was mixed with blood and water. Was this the calamity that Aerialia was talking about?

He could have said that the sky was bleeding, but it felt as if... it was crying. Tears so painful that they turned into blood rained down onto the earth from the heavens.

On the ground below him, within the gaping holes in the jagged rock, Orion could see a pool of blood and water forming.

"Incredible," was the only word that could come out of Orion's mouth at this very moment.

Ever since he had become accustomed to this world, although he had yet to explore it entirely, there were little things that could send a tremble of surprise through his heart, and this had become one of them.

Still, what bothered him was that he knew White Flame was a man-made god. That meant he should be different from other gods.

However, given what Aerialia had said, something she should have experienced during the 'Great War' since she had only just stepped into this world recently, it seemed that White Flame possessed something not much different from other gods.

As for what it was, Orion knew that he would have to find a source of information, considering that Aerialia didn't seem as though she would be opening her mouth to respond to any of his questions anytime soon. Fortunately, he knew another god who owed him an explanation, so Orion wasn't worried.

He just watched the darkened sky as the lightning and thunder streaked through it, producing enough force to boom into the ears of any being within several thousand miles and more.

Meanwhile, Aerialia, who had been silent all this while, couldn't help but stare at Orion from the corner of her eyes.

Even if Orion had mentioned that White Flame was different from the god she knew, from what she had just witnessed, it seemed as though he was not far from becoming a true god; the fact remained that he had just slain a god.

A mortal had slain a god!

And yet, instead of relishing in the glory that even demigods would have to toil for with their blood and sweat, he seemed so... so... amazed that the sky was pouring with rain and blood, as though that in itself was even more magnificent than slaying a god.

'Hah!' Aerialia exhaled deeply within her heart.

At this moment, she really wanted to find out who this god, Naka, was and what had happened in this world for it to look the way it was.

"Come on, let's go; the others are waiting for us," Orion said. His words rang loudly amidst the 'pitter-patter' of raindrops of blood and water, snapping Aerialia out of her thoughts.

She noticed that he had already turned around and begun to walk back into the cave. Wordlessly, she nodded and followed beside him, hoping to discover other strange things hidden within this world.

...

Fifi and the others exhaled in relief as they saw Orion's figure approaching until he arrived in front of them.

Before Fifi could open her mouth to speak, Seth had already said, "What happened to White Flame?" His fixated gaze lingered briefly on the four-meter-long Crimson blade within Orion's grasp.

"He's dead," Orion said, his words echoing through the air, unleashing an uncontrollable wave of intense emotions within the hearts of the Crystalforge warriors.

The continuous sound of armour clashing against the earth instantly resonated in the air as every Crystalforge warrior dropped to their knees, facing Orion and the rest of the warriors.

Chapter 529 Answers

"FOREIGNERS FROM OUTSIDE THE MOUNTAIN, THANK YOU!" they all screamed at the top of their lungs, their voices carrying varied emotions within their hearts.

While Orion was the one who had dealt the final blow to White Flame, the strength displayed by the other men and women beside him in holding off the formidable foe contributed significantly to their victory.

They were cautious not to let complacency seep into their expressions of gratitude.

Iris, in particular, gazed at Orion with intense emotion, as if she had made a resolute decision that grew stronger with each passing second.

Acknowledging their heartfelt appreciation, Orion nodded. "Alright, now that we're done, I want someone to give me a detailed explanation of what happened in the Primerian kingdom while I was away," he requested.

Upon hearing his request, Iris promptly took the lead, recounting the events that unfolded during Orion's absence in vivid detail.

She described how the King and Queen had taken special care of them upon learning of their success in the trial after confirming that they possessed the power to confront and defeat White Flame.

Iris continued to narrate the subsequent attack by the Gemheart clan, which resulted in the Castle's capture and the Crystalforge clan's devastating defeat. She also delved into the current predicament of the royal family, Princess Crystalia, Flintor, Maya, and the others.

Furthermore, she explained how they escaped the Primerian Kingdom, crediting the King's arrangements for their covert departure. This explained their mission to confront White Flame, devoid of additional forces, prepared to fight to the death.

After Iris concluded her detailed explanation, she fell silent, allowing Orion to process the information.

On the other hand, Fifi, Seth, and the rest of the warriors wore perplexed expressions, their brows furrowing in confusion.

Nevertheless, they decided to absorb the information and keep it at the back of their minds for now, trusting that Orion had promised a proper explanation later for them to understand.

Nonetheless, Orion's face scrunched up into a deep frown.

He knew things would be bad due to his disappearance; however, he never expected them to be this dire. The Queen was locked within the dungeon, and the King had his strength suppressed by a similar artefact that had been used against the Queen but was even more vicious, slowly eating away at his life.

Meanwhile, Maya and Merida had disappeared during the attack on the Castle and were now nowhere to be found. Princess Crystalia had an engagement with Zephyrion Gemheart.

After processing the information, he asked about Elysia and Madam Seraphina to understand their current situation.

Iris responded, telling him how Elysia had made their escape possible while Madam Seraphina and the rest of the Primerian Healers Council were taking care of the individuals who had survived the fallout between the Gemheart Clan, the Castle, and the Crystalforge Clan.

Absorbing the information once more, Orion sighed before nodding in understanding.

"Okay, lead the way back to the Primerian Kingdom. We will handle it ourselves now that we are here," Orion said.

Upon hearing his words, the Crystalforge warriors couldn't help but shiver with excitement. Iris immediately nodded and stood up from her kneeling position. The rest of the Crystalforge warriors followed suit, rising to their feet. Just as they were about to turn around and lead the way toward the entrance they could use to return to the Prismerian Kingdom, a slight tremble reverberated around the cave.

They all stopped, feeling the tremor beneath their feet before they immediately noticed a gaping hole, big enough for even Fifi to pass through without any discomfort, suddenly on the side of the cavern walls beside them.

The gaping hole was filled with a dense darkness that made it even harder for the warriors to see through, causing them all to become wary.

Fifi instantly arrived by Orion's side, guarding him with a frown appearing on her face as she looked at the sudden hole.

"Do you know what that is?" she asked with a frown as she stared at the Crystalforge clan's warriors.

Iris and the other Crystalforge warriors were also stunned before shaking their heads in response.

"Unfortunately, we don't know, as we have never encountered anything like this before," Iris responded, her face morphing into a deep frown.

She took anything pertaining to the mountain extremely seriously.

Meanwhile, Orion observed the gaping hole seriously. Although he didn't dare to approach it, unsure of what it was or where it could lead, he felt a familiar nagging feeling at the back of his mind.

Still, he remained wary and wisely avoided it, opting for another path.

"Let's ignore it and continue on our way," Orion suggested.

Despite their curiosity, especially among the Crystalforge clan warriors who had never witnessed something like this within the mountain, the recent events with White Flame's demise kept them sombre.

They all nodded in agreement, and the Crystalforge Clan warriors led the way forward.

After a few minutes of walking, the rocky cavern walls trembled again, and a gaping hole appeared on their sides again. Nonetheless, they pressed on, continuing to move forward.

It wasn't until the fourth time that they finally stopped after noticing the gaping hole had reappeared, and Orion decided to walk towards it.

Observing this, everyone halted their steps. They focused on the hole, wondering what Orion had in mind.

"What do you have in mind?" Fifi asked with a frown.

She was even more suspicious of the cave, especially since it seemed to follow them.

"I think we should check it out," Orion responded, looking at Fifi. "With our combined strength, I don't think it would be anything too much for us to handle. Besides, I still have this."

He gestured towards the crimson blade still in his right hand. To allow Aerialia to look around and follow him, he couldn't return the crimson blade within the crimson great sword mark without her doing the same, so he chose to continue holding onto it.

Fifi observed Orion for a moment, exhaled deeply, and nodded, understanding that it would be difficult for him to change his mind.

"Alright, we'll go together then," Fifi added, with a tinge of resolution in her eyes.

Orion nodded with a slight smile before grabbing Fifi's outstretched arm. As they prepared to walk through the gaping hole, with his hands clenching onto the crimson blade and Fifi, Orion silently gestured for the rest to follow.

Then, he silently took a deep breath and walked through the gaping hole in the cavern walls.

Their vision immediately turned blurry, causing them to snap their eyes shut as an immense headache hit them. Before they knew what was happening, it felt as if their bodies had been submerged in a dense, thick liquid before they suddenly felt free again.

Opening his eyes to look around, Orion observed his surroundings and was immediately surprised when he saw the familiar space they had entered before going into the trial.

He watched as they all opened their eyes one by one, taking in the scene before them and displaying the same emotion.

"Where are we?" Seth asked, having some clue about their current location as he remembered the explanation that Orion had first given them when he had woken, but he still needed confirmation.

"This is where we entered before we took the trial," Orion responded, looking around and pondering why Aegis of the Arctic Deity had summoned all of them here.

Suddenly, he felt Fifi's grip on his hands tightening and looked at her, only to find her eyes looking upwards.

Orion followed the direction of her gaze, and as he looked upwards, a pair of large golden eyes stared down at them. Everyone's gaze followed suit as they looked up, their eyes landing on the large pair of golden eyes staring at them from above.

Immediately, the other warriors were ready to activate their gifts and attack, but Orion noticed their actions, and immediately shouted, "STOP!" gesturing for them to deactivate their gifts.

Hearing Orion's orders, they instantly deactivated their gifts but held their guards up.

Suddenly, a loud ancient voice resonated above, shaking the space around them.

"It's good that you are all finally here. Although I understand your reason to be cautious, considering the current situation, I find it tiring," Aegis of the Arctic Deity spoke.

His pair of golden eyes swept across everyone gathered before landing on Orion again, lingering briefly on Aerialia before shifting towards the crimson great sword within his grasp.

"I understand you have some questions you'd wish to ask, but first..." Aegis of the Arctic Deity said, "Go to sleep."

Suddenly, a large wave of mana pressed down from the heavens above them, spreading across the space.

Instantly, every Crystalforge clan warrior dropped to their feet, falling unconscious as they landed on the ground.

The rest of the warriors knelt, struggling to keep themselves from falling unconscious.

Seeing Orion's worried gaze as he looked at the woman beside him, Aegis of the Arctic Deity said, "Don't worry, I am only putting them to sleep for a while so we can talk."

He soon snorted, noticing Seth was the only person left trying to keep himself from falling unconscious.

Aegis of the Arctic Deity sent another denser wave of magical energy pouring from the heavens like a tidal wave onto the space, immediately rendering Seth unconscious.

"Now we can talk," Aegis of the Arctic Deity said as he focused his attention back on Orion, "You can go ahead and ask me whatever questions you have in mind, and I will answer them truthfully," he added.

As the only one who wasn't affected by the wave of magical energy, Orion fixed his attention on Aegis of the Arctic Deity. He immediately asked the question that has been bothering him ever since he came to this world.

"Who is Naka?" He asked.

Chapter 530 [Bonus] Answers (2)

Upon hearing Orion's question, a loud sigh echoed through the space.

"I had a feeling that you would ask this," Aegis of the Arctic Deity said. "Unfortunately, I can't answer that question because I have no idea who Naka is."

Orion's face suddenly deepened into a frown.

"Don't get me wrong; I've spoken to him several times, so, I don't mean I know who Naka is. What I'm trying to say is that I don't know what kind of god he is," Aegis of the Arctic Deity clarified, observing Orion's expression.

Orion pondered for a moment before his eyes suddenly widened in realization as he quickly understood what Aegis of the Arctic Deity's words meant. "You mean..."

"Yes," Aegis of the Arctic Deity interrupted, "Naka might be a god. However, whether he is a man-made god or a true god is something I do not know about," he added.

Witnessing Orion's stunned expression, Aegis of the Arctic Deity released a sigh, "For you to properly understand what I'm trying to convey, I will need to explain everything from the beginning," he said before he continued, "After the 'Age of Migration,' a time when we all ventured through the stellar gates and found our way to this world, we waged war upon the humans, the only beings surprisingly living on this world by themselves."

"Upon finding out the earth was a godless world, the gods decided to take it for themselves and settle their children upon it. Piece by piece, they shared the land, and all those who could take a huge portion of this world successfully were called the 'Nine Greed Gods.' Each of these gods was well-known for their actions and contributions during the 'Age of Migration.' Of course, although this name was given to them by the humans, considering what they had done, it's not too far-fetched for one to disagree with it."

Orion stood rooted in his spot in shock and understanding as he learned about what had happened in the past before the world ended up the way that it was.

"After a period of the 'Nine Greed Gods' sudden rise, several new figures, all of which were powerful gods, capable of contending with even the 'Nine Greed Gods', suddenly appeared out of nowhere. They were called the 'Seven Great Gods'," Aegis of the Arctic Deity said. He narrowed his large pair of golden eyes on Orion, who was staring at him with eyes full of surprise, and asked, "Do you have any idea what their race was?"

Listening to Aegis of the Arctic Deity's question, Orion shook his head in response, "No," Orion responded.

He awaited Aegis of the Arctic Deity's response with a bit of foreboding.

"The 'Seven Great Gods' are all humans."

Aegis of the Arctic Deity's voice resounded through the halls, causing Orion's body to freeze as his eyes widened in disbelief.

"Although it is unknown where they all came from, or how you humans had done it, or how you had managed to fully harness the Divine Mysteries into that of a mortal body, however, one thing that was certain is that the 'Seven Great Gods' were all... man-made gods," Aegis of the Arctic Deity said. "After their emergence, it could be said that there was a global push favouring the humans, causing the maltreatment that they had suffered from other races and gods to suddenly come to a stop, as no being, whether god or mortal, would want to go against several powerful gods at once during such a volatile time.

Nine Greed Gods!

Seven Great Gods!

As Orion listened to Aegis of the Arctic Deity's voice, he absorbed everything he could, not daring to miss a single detail.

"After a while, to reclaim their lost lands, the 'Seven Great Gods' fought against the 'Nine Greed Gods,' resulting in a cataclysm that could destroy the earth several times. They halted their advances and decided to eliminate the 'Nine Greed Gods' one by one. Their clash was inevitable from the first time they emerged into the world, and although they preserved the world from being annihilated, the aftermath of their clash was enough to turn the earth upside down."

"Who won?" Orion asked.

Although he didn't know when his lips had parted to speak, Orion didn't stop himself, as he knew deep within his heart that that was what he wanted to say.

"No one," Aegis of the Arctic Deity responded.

Orion's eyes widened in disbelief at Aegis of the Arctic Deity's response.

No one! Could both the 'Nine Greed Gods' and the 'Seven Great Gods' be responsible for shaping the earth into its current state?

Orion wanted to open his mouth and ask; however, seeing as Aegis of the Arctic Deity hadn't finished speaking, he sealed his lips and paid attention to every word he uttered.

"Naka was already present before the emergence of the 'Seven Great Gods,' however, despite his strength, he didn't obtain a vast majority of territories and make himself the ruler over them like the 'Nine Greed Gods.' Instead, he was more focused on lending a helping hand to races that could not survive on their own and sometimes forging alliances with gods who were not strong enough to protect their children or provide the necessary sustenance for their daily lives," Aegis of the Arctic Deity said.

"Therefore, Naka wasn't well known for his strength, but rather for the alliances he forged with several other gods, and the forces gathered around him, making them no lesser, if not comparable, to the 'Nine Greed Gods. Fortunately, one of the races that Naka had lent a helping hand to were humans. Once the 'Seven Great Gods' emerged, instead of opposing him as they did against the 'Nine Greed Gods,' they forged an alliance with him, further making him a threat that the 'Nine Greed Gods' could no longer ignore," Aegis of the Arctic Deity added. "Do you know why neither side emerged victorious in the battle between the 'Nine Greed Gods' and the 'Seven Great Gods'?"