

Village Head 561

Chapter 561 Rescuing Queen Selene

There had to be a glimmer of hope that Elara would succeed in freeing her daughter from this kingdom. However, if she didn't, she only found comfort in the thought that at least her husband would be meeting with their daughter, even if it was only for one last time.

As Selene continued to mull over her thoughts, several screams echoed outside the cell.

"STOP HIM!!"

"ATTACK!! DON'T LET HIM GET CLOSER!!"

Several loud noises reverberated through the air before abruptly ceasing after a few seconds.

With doubt lingering in her eyes, Selene continued to stare at the cell door, wondering about the commotion outside.

What's happening?

Is Elara here?

Did she succeed in rescuing Crystalia? If so, Selene thought, there was no need for her to be saved, as her current strength would only burden them.

Bang!!

Suddenly, the cell door in front of her was struck by a powerful force. The resounding bang echoed deeply into her ears before the locks on the cell door were shattered.

BOOMM!!

The cell door caved in before bursting into various crystal fragments. As the debris began to settle, Selene's eyes widened as she stared at the person who had appeared before her.

"Orion..." Selene muttered under her breath, her eyes widening in shock and disbelief at the scene before her.

Orion walked into the cell and noticed that Queen Selene was present, her hands and feet firmly chained to the walls.

Silently, he approached and bent down. Grabbing the chains with both hands, he instantly activated his gift, breaking them apart before doing the same to the rest of the chains that had bound her.

The moment she was free, she fell silently to the side before being abruptly caught by Orion. He wrapped his hands around her and gradually lifted her. "Are you okay?" he asked, holding her in a princess carry.

Selene stared at Orion silently for a few seconds, wondering if she was dreaming or if her mind had become so chaotic that she was now seeing things.

However, after hearing his voice, Selene shook her head. "No," she responded.

While some people's lives might flash right before their eyes before they die, hers seemed to be this: being saved by the foreigner who had come from outside the mountain, her daughter's future husband.

Regardless, since this was the last scene that she would get to witness before she died, she might as well calmly see it through until the end.

Meanwhile, Orion couldn't help but raise a brow at her because he had expected a much more exaggerated reaction apart from her initial surprise.

However, seeing her calm and stable behaviour as she processed the scene unfolding before her composedly, Orion couldn't help but inwardly nod his head in admiration at her character.

'Even in such a situation, she still manages to maintain the character of a Queen,' Orion thought.

Picking up the sound of several incoming guards, he arranged her properly in his arms before shooting forward out of the door.

"ATTACKK!!!"

The dungeon was one of the places that remained untouched during the plan, as Orion didn't want it to risk Queen Selene being used as a bargaining chip. So, after receiving her location from the Gemheart guards within the castle, he immediately came down alone to rescue her.

Now that he had ensured she was safe, Orion immediately ran towards and activated his gift, causing several bluish streaks of lightning to coil around his legs.

Orion no longer raced but glided through the narrowed space, and within an instant, he arrived before them.

CRACCKLLEE!! BAANGG!!

Without stopping, Orion jumped and landed on the head of a guard closest to him, causing it to explode in a gruesome, bloodied mess of flesh and blood. The shockwave from the explosion injured and stunned those nearby before he swiftly moved on to the next person.

"AHHHH!!!"

"RETREAT!! RETREAT!!!"

"AHHH!!!"

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As they left the dungeon and eliminated every Gemheart Clan member they came across, Selene suddenly realized this wasn't a dream, and her life wasn't flashing before her eyes.

"Orion... you are really here?" she asked, staring at Orion with wide eyes.

Orion immediately halted on top of the roof of a small stone building, hearing Selene's words and sensing her trembling figure with his arm.

He settled her down on the roof so that she could sit comfortably before he could respond. Selene stretched her hands and touched his cheeks before calmly stroking them. "You are here... You are really here," Selene muttered under her breath as her eyes glistened under the bright light emanating from the multicoloured crystals embedded high in the rocking ceiling.

"I thought you verified that before," Orion responded with a raised brow.

"No... I thought I was dreaming... I thought I was about to die, but... you aren't dead, and you are really here," Selene said, unable to hold back her emotions, tears immediately spilling downward from her eyes.

"Crystalia... We need to hurry and save Crystalia, and the king, my husband, he's..." Selene said frantically. Even though Elara had already promised her, she still wouldn't take any chances and wanted to verify if her daughter was alright.

However, Orion immediately interrupted before she could continue speaking, causing her to halt her words.

"Crystalia is fine; we were able to get to her on time. However, the king is unconscious and is currently being treated alongside Elysia by Madam Seraphina in the Prismarian Healer's sanctuary. There's nothing more we can do now but wait for them to recover," Orion said gently.

He stretched his hands and wiped away the tears rolling down her cheeks.

With women like Aunt Greta, Saria, Fifi, and the rest of his partners, Orion naturally understood what it meant to have someone care for him in a very special way. As such, Orion felt his heart grow warm, privileged to witness such a scene from another perspective.

A wonderful queen, a loving mother, and a good wife—what more could a man want?

Sighing deeply in his heart, relieved that nothing terrible had happened to Crystalia and her family, Orion added, "We have to arrive on time unless we want everyone to keep waiting for us."

Selene nodded in response, curious about what Orion was talking about.

Orion gently wrapped his arms around her, carrying her in a princess carry once more, before his body surged through the air, racing forward toward their destination.

Chapter 562 The Public Execution

At the centre of the city, where various carnivals and festivals are held, various individuals—men and women, old and young, with a diverse array of skin colours—gathered.

The crowds stretched as far as the eye could see, with more than a million Prismerions, each curious about the purpose of the gathering and what was about to unfold, as they couldn't remember when they were last summoned in such a way.

Various voices erupted from the crowd, each voicing their thoughts.

"Hey, do you think the Gemheart Clan organized this?"

"Of course, who else possesses the ability to call for such a gathering except for the Gemheart Clan? I heard that the main engagement banquet between the Crowned Prince, Zephyrion Gemheart, and the former Princess Crystalia Crystalforge is happening today."

"The Gemheart Clan is packed with people, including various powerful clans, families, and the other Five Major Clans. So, if I'm not mistaken, it seems that after finalizing the engagement and speaking with the other Five Major Clans, the Gemheart Clan has finally decided to make an official announcement about their consolidation of power," a young man with a sharp, intelligent gaze quickly analyzed the situation.

Everyone naturally knew that the Gemheart Clan had already seized control of the castle and had destroyed and completely suppressed the Crystalforge Clan due to the chaos that had erupted a few days ago.

Although they had their doubts at first, after noticing that the guards from the Gemheart Clan had slowly begun to patrol the streets, while the Crystalforge guards were being taken off the road one by one, they all immediately understood.

However, a loud snort suddenly rang out in the air around them.

"On my way here, I witnessed several Gemheart Clan guards being taken down by the Crystalforge Clan's guards. They weren't even able to resist before they were killed. Fortunately, I could escape the scene because they were too focused on their task and hadn't noticed me," an old man said, sighing deeply.

"What?! Are you sure?"

The older man nodded. "If I'm not wrong, I would say that the Crystalforge Clan has decided to launch an ambush against the Gemheart Clan and fight them with everything they have. As for why they summoned us here, I don't think I know yet," he said, with a frown on his lips.

They were already aware of how power-hungry the Five Major Clans were, especially during the battle for the throne among the Prismarian Young Heirs.

However, who would have thought that in this battle for the throne, the Gemheart Clan would not only defeat the strongest Prismarian in the kingdom, Queen Selene, but also destroy the Crystalforge Clan, capture the Prismarian Kingdom, all the while being supported by the Luminaris Clan, with the other Five Major Clans remaining silent?

Nevertheless, if the Crystalforge Clan had summoned everyone here because they wanted to organize a rebellion, then he was sure that everything would naturally become worse, with the involvement of the ordinary citizens of the Prismarian Kingdom.

"Well, it seems we will have to wait to find out."

"Hey, look, isn't that the Princess?"

"SHHH!! I want to understand what this is about."

Meanwhile, from within the crowd, two young women with crystal-white bangs listened to the conversation as they shifted their attention towards the makeshift stage.

It was far from their position, but not so far that it strained their eyesight before their gaze landed on a familiar figure.

They watched with interest, curious about what was happening.

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Crystalia looked around as she waited patiently on the stage for Orion to show up with her mother.

"Princess, we have to start and hope that he arrives early," Iris whispered behind Crystalia before returning to her position.

Crystalia nodded her response with a sigh escaping her lips. She could sense the tension in the air and understood that the Prismarian citizens were each waiting anxiously for an explanation for this gathering. However, she had wanted to wait for Orion's arrival before she addressed them. Still, seeing that Orion hadn't arrived yet, she decided to continue with the public announcement, hoping he would arrive early.

Crystalia cleared her throat before addressing the crowd, "I know many of you have questions about the purpose of this gathering, but there's no need to overthink it because the purpose is simple."

She paused, taking a deep breath, before speaking even louder, "The Crystalforge Clan will conduct a public execution of the Gemheart Clan for plotting to kill the royal family, attempting to annihilate the Crystalforge Clan, and committing numerous atrocities. Some of these acts are beyond what the Crystalforge Clan can tolerate. Therefore, you are all here to witness... the end of the Gemheart Clan."

Boom!! Boom!! Boom!!

Crystalia's words resonated in the ears of the citizens below like the beats of a loud drum, shocking them into a momentary daze before they snapped out of it, continuing to stare at the stage in disbelief.

"Wait, did I hear correctly? The Crystalforge Clan intends to execute every member of the Gemheart Clan publicly."

"Is this real? Didn't the Gemheart Clan completely crush the royal family and suppress the Crystalforge Clan, even going so far as to wipe out over half of the Crystalforge Clan?"

Various voices rang out in the air, attempting to make sense of the current situation.

However, no matter how hard they tried, they couldn't come up with anything except that the Crystalforge Clan had someone as strong as the Queen, hidden secretly and used to bring down and capture the Gemheart Clan.

Yes, that should be it! After all, the Crystalforge Clan had Queen Selene, the strongest Prismion within the kingdom, so who is to say that they don't possess another one?"

"HAHAHAHA!! I knew it! I knew that the Crystalforge Clan wouldn't fall so easily."

"Of course, even if the Crystalforge Clan is also among the Five Major Clans, it should be obvious by now that their strength runs deeper than any of the other Five Major Clans. After this, I doubt that the rest of the Five Major Clans would dare to go against the Crystalforge Clan."

Chapter 563 The Reunion

"I think that number has now been reduced to the Four Major Clans, considering the Gemheart Clan's fate, but what about the Luminaris Clan? Weren't they the only ones to publicly support the Gemheart Clan and the reason why the Gemheart Clan was able to consolidate their power quickly?"

Various voices erupted from the crowds before they spread, causing the surroundings to buzz as numerous others voiced their thoughts.

Even the two- white-haired bangs, cloaked young women couldn't help but look surprised, stunned at what they had just heard.

The Crystalforge Clan had defeated the Gemheart Clan, and now the Gemheart Clan were being publicly executed!

Immediately, the image of a charming young man emerged into their minds, causing them to suddenly look at each other with the same stunned and emotional look in their eyes.

Suddenly, Crystalia's voice cut through the air, immediately silencing the crowds.

"Bring them forward!"

The Gemheart Clan suddenly appeared and were all led towards the stage by Seth and the others, alongside the Crystalforge elite warriors following behind. Seth grabbed Garnet and threw him toward the centre of the stage before raising his head and looking at the crowd before him with a frown.

From what he could see, the crowds before him numbered above a million, and if he were to give a proper estimate, they should be close to one and a half million at best.

However, considering that they all seemed weak, the frown on Seth's face eased up. He was worried that the population of the Prismerion race might be too much for the Village to handle, causing the Village to be outnumbered if a battle happened between the two.

However, just as Orion had said, they were weak, far weaker than he could say that a group of two-star warriors was enough to handle the people before him.

Meanwhile, only a group of three-star warriors was enough to handle the Five Major Clans and the rest of the smaller clans and families. In short, if the Prismerion race ever tried to go against the Village, it wouldn't even be called a battle but a one-sided massacre.

Nonetheless, he was sure that Orion had thought of this, which was why he had brought them along with him to demonstrate the strength of the Village and show the Prismerian Kingdom that, despite their numbers, the Village didn't need to spend much manpower to handle them in case they decide to have any odd ideas.

Slowly, a grin found its way to Seth's face.

'Humph, despite being so young, he's as smart as the key figures had said,' Seth thought, still remembering that Orion had only completed his graduation ceremony a month ago. Reflecting on it, Seth understood that Orion really had more potential than him, so he would have to work harder not to lose the Village Chief's position.

However, thinking about the battle between them yesterday, Seth internally frowned once more. He would have to try harder and find a way to ensure that Orion didn't inform the key figures about what had happened.

Meanwhile, Seth and the other warriors' appearance had aroused the suspicions of the citizens, especially since his short black hair was uncovered. Naturally, they had yet to be told about the individuals who had come from outside the mountain, so their thoughts didn't naturally shift to the idea that Seth and the others were foreigners.

They would be crazy to entertain such thoughts since it's been a very long time since, due to Naka's curse, they have all been trapped within this mountain, for a very long time, far longer than even their great-grandparents could remember. Regardless, that didn't stop them from trying to come up with an explanation for Seth and the others behind him.

Seeing the bloodied Garnet, who was now kneeling on the stage waiting to be executed, Crystalia was about to speak when her eyes picked up something at the corner of her eyes.

Bang!

A figure landed on the stage beside her.

"Mother! Orion!!" Crystalia exclaimed loudly as she swiftly arrived before her mother and hugged her tightly.

"You are okay," she added.

Selene nodded and reciprocated the gesture, wrapping her arms around her daughter while nodding her head in response. "Yes, I'm fine. And it's good to see that you are okay, too," she replied, calmly brushing her daughter's hair bangs.

After wiping away the tears from her eyes, Crystalia walked toward Orion and buried herself in his chest. Witnessing this scene, Selene could only smile before shifting her gaze toward the bloodied, kneeling figure of Garnet and the multitude of Prismerions in front of her.

She instantly understood what Orion intended to do.

Her lips curved into a vicious smile before her mood shifted once more as she turned her head and saw Elara, her son, and the rest of the Gemheart Clan kneeling, causing her to furrow her brows together.

Elara noticed Selene's arrival and sighed within her heart before bowing her head downwards, a sense of defeat covering her expression.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Gemheart Clan lowered their heads in shame and fear.

However, the citizens of the Prismerian Kingdom had a completely different reaction.

"The Queen has arrived!"

"Haa! It seems that today really marks the end of the Gemheart Clan. What a shame how one of the Five Major Clans has fallen."

"But who is that young man? Look at his hair. Why does he look the same as that strange-looking man and the others."

Two women with white hair bangs, in particular, couldn't help but stare at the stage, unmoving, stunned at the sight in front of them.

He's alive!!

Orion is alive!!

Nevertheless, the two wanted to scream from their current position at the top of their lungs and run towards the stage. However, after realizing the tension and delicacy of the current situation, they

immediately stood their ground. They waited for all this to end so that they could reunite with their husband.

Regardless, their bodies trembled, their eyes never leaving his form, especially for Merida.

Chapter 564 The Public Execution (2)

Back on the stage, Selene learned all the crucial details from Orion and Crystalia. Though she had fallen into a daze for a few minutes, she immediately regained her composure. She decided to take charge, explaining everything that had taken place to the citizens of the Prismerian Kingdom, while leaving out some crucial bits.

Her eyes were calm and steady, her posture straight, exuding a regal elegance that hadn't diminished in the slightest, even during her days locked up in the dungeon. The moment her calm and convincing words concluded, every citizen of the Prismerian Kingdom gained an understanding of what had happened.

However, that didn't stop shock from covering their faces as they processed all that Queen Selene had uttered.

Foreigners from outside the mountain! So, such a thing had happened, and none of them knew about it.

However, Queen Selene's following words left them exceedingly dumbfounded.

"White Flame is dead!"

This time, there wasn't an eruption or a loud, repetitive beating drum. Instead, their minds instantly collapsed as soon as they stared at the Queen in shock and disbelief.

It took a whole five minutes for the crowd to digest the information they had just learned.

"White Flame is dead! He's dead!!!"

"HAAHAHAHHA!!! At last, after several years of living, who would have thought that I would be the only one in my family to make it out of this mountain!!"

"HAHAH!! Naka be praised, the curse has been broken!!"

Seeing her citizens erupt joyfully, Selene released her next important piece of information.

"These are the foreigners from outside the mountain," Selene said, stretching her hands towards Orion and the others.

"And it's all because of Mr. Orion, the leader of the warriors that had come outside the mountain, that all of this was possible," Selene added, not wasting any time giving the whole credit for the event to Orion. After all, if Orion hadn't returned with the warriors from his village, they would never have had the chance to kill White Flame, not to mention being here since the Gemheart Clan would still have controlled the Prismerian Kingdom.

"No wonder they looked unfamiliar; as it turns out, they were all foreigners from outside the mountain who had helped our Prismerion race kill White Flame and get rid of the curse."

"No matter what, they helped us since they had assisted us in getting rid of the curse that had troubled us for several thousands of years; they are our saviours."

"ALL HAIL THE FOREIGNER FROM OUTSIDE THE MOUNTAIN... ALL HAIL ORION!!"

"ALL HAIL THE FOREIGNER FROM OUTSIDE THE MOUNTAIN... ALL HAIL ORION!!"

Within seconds, the whole avenue erupted with praises and gratitude, thanking Orion and the warriors for their help, freeing them from the curse that had plagued them for thousands of years.

While the majority of the praise was directed towards Orion, the other warriors couldn't help but feel a sense of accomplishment in their hearts. Seth, in particular, smiled lightly, not shying away from their thanks. 'Coming here was not as bad as I had expected,' he thought to himself.

After the passionate praises had settled, Selene proceeded with the punishment for the Gemheart Clan. The Crystalforge Clan, once boasting 1,800 members, had been significantly diminished by the Gemheart's actions, leaving a mere 850 survivors.

In contrast, the Gemheart Clan still numbered around 1,500 members. Selene, instead of opting for a total execution, decided on a punishment that would strategically benefit the Crystalforge Clan. Recognizing the need for strength and assistance as they prepared to leave the mountain, she concluded that leaving only one-third of the Gemheart Clan intact would serve their purpose.

It wasn't out of pity; instead, Selene was practical in her decision-making. The Gemheart Clan, now reduced to a vassal, would act as a 'subordinate clan' or, in harsher terms, a 'slave clan.' The title offered a glimmer of hope for eventual freedom, but in reality, they would serve the Crystalforge Clan until the latter reclaimed its former glory. The Gemheart Clan, once powerful, would now be at the beck and call of the Crystalforge Clan, forever eclipsed in their defeat.

Of course, it wasn't a matter of distrust in Orion's strength or that of his village. The issue lay in the discomfort of having to rely on another person's protection and strength, clinging to their thighs without a sense of dignity.

The thought of depending on others for survival would make it difficult for Selene to sleep peacefully at night.

However, since Orion had yet to explain the problems of the outside world thoroughly, Selene remained oblivious to the forthcoming shift in her perspective. Little did she know that, in the outside world, their strength would soon prove meaningless, forcing her to reconsider her preconceived ideas.

Naturally, it took several pleas from Selene before Orion reluctantly handed over the matter of the Gemheart Clan to her, particularly after hearing her plan. While he had no qualms about wiping out a clan, especially one like the Gemheart Clan, he recognized the delicate situation of the Crystalforge Clan and the Prismerian Kingdom.

Strength was important, especially after the formidable display by him and the warriors. Rather than exterminating the Gemheart Clan entirely, Selene proposed using them as hardworking slaves until they could regain their former strength, at which point they could decide their fate.

Satisfied with the plan, Orion was more relaxed, especially given the suffering the Gemheart Clan had caused his partners. It seemed fitting to reciprocate the same before their eventual death.

"PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!! DON'T KILL ME, I WANT TO SEE OUTSIDE THE MOUNTAIN!" Garnet's desperate plea echoed loudly before abruptly halting, his body trembling under Selene's cold gaze.

"If you want to escape death, then tell me how to remove this artefact from my neck and my husband's as well," Selene stated with an icy stare that sent a shiver down Garnet's spine.

"I... don't know. The artefact was discovered by the Gemheart Clan's elite warriors somewhere within the mountain."

Chapter 565 The Public Execution (3)

Listening to Garnet's response, Selene's eyes became fiercer as she locked her gaze on him. "So, how were you able to know its effects if you don't know?" she asked, her teeth grinding against each other.

"I knew about its effect because we tested the artefacts on a guard, and the only way to get rid of the artefact was for them to become corpses," Garnet responded truthfully.

Selene immediately became stunned. No wonder he was so confident in attacking the royal family and gaining control of the Prismarian Kingdom with such an artefact because, as it turns out, the only way to get rid of the artefact was for the victim to die.

"And my husband?" Her voice turned icy.

Garnet lowered his head even more in fright and muttered, "It's the same."

Selene's mood suddenly shifted. She felt her chest rising with emotion before instantly calming herself down. "Where did you find it?" she asked.

"At... the first level of the third entrance that leads towards the upper region of the mountain," Garnet responded.

Selene furrowed her brows, narrowing her eyes at Garnet. "Are you sure?" she asked. Seeing him nod his head anxiously, Selene nodded in response. She shifted her gaze towards Orion and Crystalia, gripping the cutlass tightly before refocusing on the Crystalforge Clan nearby and ordering them to hold Garnet down.

"Wait!! WAIT!!!" Garnet screamed, struggling for his life. However, Selene did not mind his words and raised her hands before swiftly bringing them down.

SLICE!!!

Garnet's head fell and rolled off the stage before coming to a stop as he continued to stare wide-eyed. His headless body slumped down to the ground, bright crimson blood spilling from his severed neck.

"Next."

The whole avenue fell silent as Selene's voice rang in the air, sending a chill down everyone's spine, except for Orion and the warriors who watched the scene without batting an eye. For the warriors, they had already witnessed worse at the sight of their comrades being butchered or dying a horrific death at the hands of the Vylkr vines, so this was tame for them. For Orion, after killing several individuals and exploding various heads, he had already become very used to it.

The following person to be brought forward was Zephyrion.

Just like his father, Zephyrion screamed at the top of his lungs, begging for life, before Queen Selene swiftly beheaded him.

"Next."

With the brutal execution of her family before her, Elara could only look face downwards. Her body, however, trembled when she heard Queen Selene's voice, understanding that she was next. Silently, she allowed herself to be carried and laid at the centre of the stage, before the crowd.

Slice!!

Elara waited for the feeling of her head being severed from her body; however, all she received was a sharp, arching pain in her left arm, causing her to scream out loudly, "AHH!!" Turning to the side, she stared wide-eyed at her severed right arm.

"Next."

"Next."

As Selene's firm voice reverberated deeply in the air, Elara turned her head to stare at the Queen's stern and resolute expression before she was carried to the side, and another Gemheart Clan member was brought to the stage.

"Next."

The scene continued until about one-third of the Gemheart Clan, approximately 500 clan members, were spared. The rest who had died were all taken to a pit that had been dug up and thrown into it, burying them in a manner that did not in any way match the burials, befitting one of the Five Major Clans. At this time, the Crystalforge Clan, which had been deemed as a dying clan, soared back up to the top of the Kingdom, becoming an existence that everyone in the Prismerian Kingdom continued to look up to. Also, from this point on, no one was stupid enough to attempt to go against the Crystalforge Clan, as they had already witnessed the consequences of doing so.

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Upper regions of the mountain

After three hours, Orion, Seth, and some of the other warriors—excluding those who stayed behind, such as Fifi, Gemma, and the rest—to guard Saria and her tree, Princess Crystalia, Queen Selene, Flintor, Clan Mistress Olivia Quartzwraith, Clan Head Jadues Quartzwraith, Clan Head Ralias Prismaflow, Clan Mistress Dailia Prismaflow, Merida, Maya, Iris, along with some of the Crystalforge elite warriors, all stood within the narrow rocky passage. Their attention was entirely focused on Orion, briefly taking note of their surroundings.

"What have you been keeping from us?" Selene asked, her curiosity evident as she looked at Orion. Now that White Flame was dead, she couldn't resist the desire to explore the outside world before entirely focusing on managing the situation within the Prismerian Kingdom. She was also the reason the other clans were present as well. Having relinquished their positions of power and authority, they were no longer the Five Major Clans or smaller clans and families; instead, they had

all become vassals of the Crystalforge Clan, with a few, like the Luminaris Clan, becoming subordinate clans.

"To better understand, it's something you all must see before leaving the mountain," Orion explained. He felt a tight grip around both arms, looking with a smile at Maya and Merida, each holding a side of his arm as though afraid he would disappear again.

On the other side, Orion noticed Crystalia looking at them with jealousy, prompting him to let out an internal sigh.

Selene narrowed her eyes at Orion for a moment. She had always been curious about the outside world, but Orion had kept tight-lipped about it, only revealing short snippets of information. This curiosity persisted even when she was locked up in the dungeon with nothing to do. "Alright," she responded, eager to see what the outside world looked like.

Orion nodded in response. Turning around, he led the way forward, Selene and the others following closely behind, while the warriors remained beside him. After a few minutes of walking through the narrow rocky passage, they finally arrived at the edge where the light from the sun penetrated and covered everything with its brilliance.

Chapter 566 Outside The Mountain After Several Millenia

Seeing the bright source of light, Selene, Crystalia, Flintor, Merida, Maya, Olivia, Ralais, Jadues, and the Crystalforge elite warriors felt their bodies shiver in excitement as they walked forward, eager to finally see the outside world that had been kept from them for over several millennia. As they made their way towards the light, they raised their hands over their eyes to protect them from the rays of sunlight. Their eyes had already grown accustomed to the bright light that emanated from the multicoloured crystals below the mountain. It took them a few minutes to properly adjust to the intense sun rays, fighting off the stinging sensations that threatened to pierce through their eyes.

"We are here," Orion said.

As Orion's voice rang out in the air, their eyes were wide open, no longer hindered by the sunlight, allowing them to take in the breathtaking view before them.

"What is this?" Selene asked, voicing the question that lingered on everybody's mind. She snapped her head from side to side, trying to make sense of the unfamiliar surroundings before focusing back on Orion.

"Where are the beasts? Where are the trees? Where are the rest of the other races?" Selene anxiously fired off questions, her thoughts racing in all directions as if she were experiencing a mental breakdown while trying to understand the situation.

Crystalia, Flintor, and everyone else turned their attention to Orion, awaiting an answer. Even Merida and Maya couldn't help but tighten their grip around his arm anxiously as they stared at him.

However, the response they received only deepened their despair and shattered whatever reasoning they had left.

"They are all gone," Orion responded, shaking his head with a sigh escaping his lips. He felt Merida and Maya's slight tremble, acknowledging the weight of the revelation.

"...All Gone," Ralias repeated as he collapsed to his knees, staring at the scene below with disbelief. All around him were blackish small, alongside large thorny vines slithering in every direction, with no signs of life except for the dead trees and the ash-like soil.

He couldn't fathom what his eyes were witnessing, but it was undeniably real no matter how he looked at it. This was the supposed world outside the mountain, the world they had longed for and sacrificed everything to return to. According to the 'Ancient Codex,' the land was meant to flourish with greens, trees, and fruits, while various beasts overflowed, occupying both the land and the sky. That was what the Ancient Codex had promised, yet this...

This was a dead world!

"But... But what about what you had said? Runaway Cities, individuals aspiring to become legends, creatures capable of battling against the Vylkr vines... What about it?" Selene asked anxiously, staring at Orion as she tried to cling to the last remaining hope within her heart.

After all, this couldn't be the world they fought so hard to return to!

This couldn't be the world they sacrificed everything just to catch a glimpse of!

This couldn't...

"That information was given to us by another race. As for its authenticity, it's something that even I haven't confirmed yet," Orion responded, sighing for the umpteenth time.

Selene felt her mind instantly shattering into pieces, causing her to continue staring at the scene in front of her in a daze.

Witnessing her behaviour, Orion exhaled deeply as he continued, "That was why I was hesitant about telling you anything about the outside world. If I had told you that this was all that remained, you wouldn't have believed me and would have been convinced that I was making up things. However, even if what I told you hasn't been confirmed yet, that doesn't mean it might not be true."

The light regained within Selene's eyes. She immediately turned her head and focused her gaze on Orion's figure. "You mean..." Selene said before she swallowed back her words, not daring to complete her sentence.

Orion nodded in response.

"I know someone who sacrificed everything he had just for those few pieces of words. He left everything behind, not even bothering to look back in search of those pieces of words because he believed with his heart that they existed. However, if it doesn't exist, then it would only mean that he would die a fool's death, in regret as his life flashes before his eyes."

"And... if it exists, then..." Selene said, finally having the courage to voice her thoughts as she stared at Orion.

The rest of the Prismeron race besides her also had hopeful expressions as they listened in on their conversation.

"Then it only means that he gets to live without regret as he found what he was searching for, which means that we will have to explore on our own in search of it," Orion said, with a chilling glint flashing past within his eyes.

"...So that I can find him and kill him myself."

.....

Far east

On a vast, desolate sandy plain stretching as far as the eye could see, a man, emaciated and appearing as though he hadn't eaten for days, pressed forward through a light sandstorm. He tightly gripped a cutlass, swinging it with determination as he mercilessly cut through the one-star Vylkr vines surrounding him. At this juncture, his swings were so fierce and rapid that his arms moved almost instinctively, slicing apart the Vylkr vines before they could draw near.

BOOOOMM!! BOOOOMM!!

Suddenly, the ground shook, sending ripples of vibration across the hard sandy plain, as if a colossal pestle were striking heavily against the earth.

The intense vibrations prompted Drakar to scan his surroundings, attempting to pinpoint the source of the disturbance. However, his hands continued their relentless swinging of the cutlass, almost instinctively.

BOOOOMM!! BOOOOMM!!

Drakar's gaze halted abruptly, fixing his eyes forward as he squinted in a particular direction, attempting to discern the sight within the light sandy storm.

Unexpectedly, the sandy storm started to subside, unveiling a more transparent view ahead. Drakar peered into the distance, and as the ground vibrations intensified, the scene before him gradually became clear.

Finally, as he discerned the view before him...

Drakar's eyes widened, his heart quickened, and the rhythmic swinging of the cutlass in his hands gradually slowed down.

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BOOMM!!

Soon, Drakar's breathing quickened, his chest rising and falling rapidly. His hands, once fiercely swinging the cutlass, suddenly stopped, falling limply to his sides. He stood there, eyes wide with awe, gazing at the extraordinary scene before him.

Before him stood a behemoth, moving contraption whose body seemed crafted from several large pieces of sturdy metal. The rectangular torso featured a smaller rectangular shape at one end for its head. Its neck, a slightly curved cylinder connecting head to body, had smaller, pointed triangles on top resembling ears.

A long, gigantic tail extended from the back like a flowing, tapered triangle. The creature's towering legs resembled long, vertical cylinders ending in hooves shaped like rounded ovals. However, it wasn't the sheer size of its body or the fact that its head almost pierced the clouds that left Drakar more astounded.

What truly amazed him was the presence of various homes scattered all around its body, on and in this colossal moving contraption. They oddly resembled the tree houses from the four-eared beings who had come to trade with the village within the farm.

The scene before him appeared so surreal that he wouldn't have believed it if someone had described it. In fact, he was certain that anyone who hadn't witnessed this spectacle wouldn't believe his words. It was truly...

Unbelievable!

BOOOMM!! BOOOMM!!

"Runaway Cities, individuals aspiring to become legends, creatures capable of battling against the Vylkr vines," Drakar said, his body shivering with intense excitement. "I've found it."

Suddenly, a smile curved his lips, and he roared in happiness, "I'VE FOUND IT!! HAHAAHA... I'VE FOUND IT!!" Drakar screamed joyfully, swinging the cutlass to sever the Vylkr vines and free himself. With resolve, he made his way toward the colossal moving metal contraption.

Meanwhile, within minutes, the colossal contraption that was initially far away had drawn close, causing Drakar to raise his head further upwards, gazing at its long legs.

Suddenly, Drakar snapped his head to the side and noticed several figures approaching him.

Narrowing his eyes, he saw about four figures rapidly heading toward him, skillfully dodging the Vylkr vines in their path until they finally arrived and came to a halt before him.

The four figures were draped in milky white cloth, covering them from their legs to their necks, with only their forearms and faces exposed.

However, what captured Drakar's attention wasn't their peculiar clothing but the thick, odd bracelets on their wrists and the remarkably large weapons they effortlessly wielded.

It became evident to him that the people standing before him were not opponents he could easily deal with.

"Who are you? How are you here alone?" a robust, ragged voice echoed through the air, emanating from the man at the forefront of the group. He wielded a strange two-meter (6.5 feet) long spear with several detailed metal contraptions moving within it, clearly establishing himself as the leader.

Drakar, curiously, asked, "Who are you?" as he gazed at the individuals before him.

The man furrowed his brows and frowned before shaking his head in response. "Look here, we asked you a question first, so who are you?" he demanded again.

Drakar entered deep thought before nodding in understanding.

"Okay then, I am Drakar," he responded.

"...Drakar," the man repeated as though getting used to the name before nodding in understanding.

"How are you here? Which runaway city do you come from?" he asked, eyeing Drakar warily.

Drakar pondered momentarily before responding, "I come from far away, within the mountains."

The man and the group fell into deep thought upon hearing Drakar's reply.

"Now, I've answered you; tell me who you are. And if you are from that thing?" Drakar asked curiously, pointing at the behemoth moving contraption, as he awaited their response.

The man furrowed his brows.

"I'm sorry, but you'll have to come with us before we can tell you anything," he said.

Drakar looked at the man who had ignored his questions, along with the three figures now approaching him.

Gripping his cutlasses tightly, he asked, "Aren't you going to answer my questions?"

The man shook his head in response. "Before I answer any of your questions, there are still some things that we would want to know about. So please come with us, and we can get this done as quickly as possible," the man said.

Drakar frowned deeply.

"And what if I said I'm not going anywhere until you've answered my questions?" Drakar responded.

"Then we will have to capture you by force and bring you back. However, I would advise that you come with us peacefully because, from the looks of it, it seems as though you don't have it in you to fight properly," the man responded as he looked at the other four figures and gave them a silent signal.

"We'll see," Drakar said as he raised the cutlasses in both hands.

"Capture and restrain him. However, be careful. For him to stay out here too long, he must have some skills," the man ordered.

Instantly, all four individuals raced towards him, intending to confront him head-on.

Witnessing this, Drakar gritted his teeth, released his Vylkr energy from all three Vylkr containers, and immediately activated his gift.

.....

After ten minutes, the area around them was filled with deep gnashes and pits that extended for several meters deep and long. Within the centre of these deep pits, three individuals lay unconscious on the ground with several injuries around their bodies, and their large weapons lay at the side beside them.

Meanwhile, beside them, two individuals stood on their feet, staring at each other as they breathed out raggedly.

Drakar had several pierced wound marks around his bloodied body, including the piece of cloth tied around his waist that wasn't spared and was riddled with several sword marks that seemed as though it would fall apart at any second.

Meanwhile, the man standing in front of him didn't look too good either, as the grey clothes that were wrapped around his figure had been torn severely, exposing his injured, bloodied figure. However, the most eye-catching thing was that his two-meter (6.5 feet) long spear was now about three and a half meters long (11 feet) and vibrated with an intensity that caught Drakar's attention.

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"Who are you?" Although his body was frozen, the man asked as he stared at Drakar with traces of blood spilling out of his lips.

"Haven't I already answered your question?" Drakar responded as he narrowed his eyes at the man.

"Now, if you don't want to end up like your comrades, answer my question and tell me who you are," Drakar said, glancing at the Vylkr vines that were slowly surrounding them after being blasted away by the intensity of the battle.

The man narrowed his gaze back at Drakar before he burst out in laughter, "Hahahaha!! Luckily, I've already fixed one vial before coming here," he said.

Seeing that the man's confidence had not diminished in the slightest, Drakar couldn't help but frown.

As a warrior, he could tell that the man's confidence was not born from ignorance but absolute certainty that he wouldn't lose this battle.

The man suddenly uttered, "Boost," the thick bracelet around his left arm instantly vibrated intensely, drawing Drakar's attention and causing him to frown deeply, as his instincts were immediately triggered.

Abruptly, before he could react or take action, a wave of inky black strands of violent, destructive energy erupted out of the position of the thick bracelet around his arm, spreading from his wrist to his forearms, and covering every inch of his body.

Even his eyes were covered entirely with an inky black tint.

Strangely, it looked similar to the warriors' 'Vylkr warrior mode,' which only warriors who had achieved their full potential could activate.

Staring at the familiar blackish inky energy around the man's body, Drakar's frown deepened even more before he suddenly sighed tiredly, "Very well, since this is how you want to do it, then, I'll play along too," Drakar said before he allowed his Vylkr energy to course through every vein, tissue, bone, and fibre of his body, and erupt outside of his being.

Vylkr warrior mode!

Although he didn't want to use it, fearing falling into 'Warrior's addiction' and going on a deadly rampage with no one around to stop him, seeing as the man in front of him wasn't planning on going down anytime soon, Drakar understood that he needed to go all out to win this battle.

"I don't think I need to say this twice, but if you don't surrender..." The man was about to speak; however, his words were immediately stuck within his mouth as he witnessed Drakar's body being

completely covered by several inky blackish strands of violent energy erupting out of his body and covering every single inch of it.

Vylkr energy!

Even without taking a second glance, he could tell what he was currently looking at.

His lips couldn't help but part as he muttered, "Impossible."

.....

Hours after witnessing what the outside world looked like, heavy-hearted, they all returned to the mountain and focused on stabilizing the Prismerian Kingdom.

Within that day, a ritual was held for the Gemheart Clan, the Luminaris Clan, and the vassal clans under them, binding them as Subordinate Clans to the Crystalforge Clan and placing them under the authority of Queen Selene. This also meant that everything they owned and occupied was seized by the Crystalforge Clan, making their lives not only owned by the Crystalforge Clan but also reliant on them for their daily needs.

Usually, such a decision could only be made after the acceptance of the top clans of the Prismerion Kingdom; however, none of them dared to voice objections considering their current situation.

They kept their lips tightly sealed and went along with the Crystalforge Clan's plans because they were all aware of the consequences of disagreeing.

Not only did they consider Flintor's current strength and that of the surviving Crystalforge Elite Warriors, which was formidable enough to contend with or take down any clan or family despite their modest numbers, but they were also aware that behind the Crystalforge Clan stood Orion.

Even the Crystalforge Clan did not dare to refute or challenge him. As such, this was not merely a meeting, but the Crystalforge Clan further consolidated its rule as the single authority within the Prismerian.

Regardless, the efficiency in stabilizing the Prismerian kingdom improved so much that what could have taken several days was accomplished in a single day.

.....

Within the Prismerian Healer Sanctuary

As Orion waited outside the door with Fifi, he couldn't help but be impressed by the scenery.

Various flowers adorned the hallway alongside beautiful gems and crystals that had been placed to decorate the walls and ceiling. Observing the Prismerion healers walking back and forth along the hallway, each adorned with what looked like an identity badge on their chests, he shifted his attention towards Fifi.

She appeared to observe everything around her with a serious and intense expression.

"What are you thinking about?" Orion asked.

Fifi immediately snapped out of her thoughts and shifted her attention to him.

"I'm just thinking about whether Greta and Lola would love to have something like this," Fifi responded.

"Considering that Greta usually stays at the farm or back at her hut where those who are sick or injured are brought unless they possess enough wealth to invite her over, I think that having a place like this in the village where every individual who is injured or sick can be brought to, and would only be given treatment based on their wealth, would work wonders."

Orion nodded in response.

What Fifi had just suggested was something akin to a healthcare centre. However, thinking he could enhance the idea further, his thoughts wondered momentarily, before he responded, "Alright, I also think that it's a good idea, and it would save her some stress, especially since she's pregnant. When we return to the village, I'll speak to her and the Village Chief about it and see if we can make it even better."

"Even better?" Fifi asked with a raised brow.

"Yes, there are some ideas I have in mind that could greatly benefit the village," Orion responded.

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Fifi nodded in response. She understood that Orion was an intelligent young man; thus, she didn't say anything else.

Instead, she patiently waited until they returned to the village to discover what Orion had in mind.

"Is there anything else currently on your mind?" Orion asked as he observed Fifi's thoughtful expression.

They had been together long enough for him to read her shifts in mood and thoughts just by looking into her eyes.

"It's nothing serious; I was just thinking about something else," Fifi responded.

"What is it?" Orion asked.

"I was just thinking about how their culture is just as strange as you've said. Most of them leave their waist downwards exposed, and although they cover up their breasts, they suffocate their vaginas with those tight waistbands. If we do find a way to settle them outside of the mountain, I don't think it would be easy for them to mix with the rest of the villagers," Fifi mused, voicing her thoughts as she observed another healer walking past them.

Her gaze trailed downwards to the strange pink waistband that hugged the woman's buttocks and confined the view of her vagina.

She shook her head in puzzlement at the scene.

After looking at the waistband, she couldn't help but wonder how it would look like around her waist, and how it would feel against her skin. Fifi quickly shook those thoughts out of her mind.

No matter how she looked at them, those tight waistbands still appeared weird and even weirder to put on.

Orion smiled at Fifi's words, expecting her commentary on the Prismerion race's dressing style. However, he didn't expect her attention to be fixated on their panties.

Lowering his gaze, he observed her extremely muscular thighs and protruding backside, unable to resist imagining what Fifi would look like in her own pair of panties under her tulga.

'I can ask the Queen or Crystalia to make one for me later,' Orion thought.

Despite noticing Fifi's weirded-out expression, suggesting she would never want to wear such a thing, he also detected her curiosity about how it might feel.

Orion took things seriously, and one of them was exploring ways to enhance his partner's already immense appeal, taking it to a whole new dimension.

"I've already considered that, and I don't believe they need to integrate with the villagers. While we can communicate with each other, imposing our way of living on them or forcing them to coexist with the villagers might not be a good idea. Instead, since they can benefit the village, it's best to see how things work out in the future," Orion replied.

Fifi pondered Orion's words for a moment before nodding with a smile. Suddenly, she turned to the side and pulled him into her arms, saying, "Come here," her smile grew as her arms slowly tightened.

"Sometimes, I wonder what your mother did to give birth to such a smart young man like you. But it makes me happy to know I have such a brilliant husband," she added, paying no mind to the glances and stares from various individuals passing by.

Orion, with his face comfortably nestled against Fifi's soothing large breasts, didn't make any effort to resist. Instead, he wrapped his arms around her waist and rested his head contentedly upon Fifi's immense breasts.

Suddenly, the door beside them swung open.

Crystalia stood at the doorway, observing Fifi and Orion. She cleared her throat loudly, successfully drawing them out of their own world.

"Ahem!"

Fifi and Orion, realizing the interruption, quickly disengaged.

They turned to face the door and saw Crystalia, who stood there with a dull expression.

"How is he?" Orion asked, attempting to shift the focus away from the sudden awkward atmosphere.

Crystalia swiftly realized that her thoughts were apparent on her face. She briefly felt embarrassed before shaking her head and responding, "He's not doing too well," accompanied by a sigh. Crystalia stole several glances at the extremely muscular woman beside Orion.

Despite Orion's explanation that she was his partner, Crystalia found it hard to believe. The woman was incredibly muscular, revealing the outlines of her muscles, and she seemed to be almost the same age, if not older than her mother.

Moreover, Crystalia had heard from Iris and the other Crystalforge Elite warriors that this woman was among the few who had confronted White Flame directly with Orion and had assisted in his defeat.

This meant she was strong, even stronger than her mother could ever imagine to be.

Orion furrowed his brow as he listened to Crystalia's response, noting her defeated expression. According to what Iris had conveyed to him, King Brylon had orchestrated the escape of the Crystalforge Elite warriors. He had also arranged for Crystalia and Elysia to leave the mountain, heading towards the upper region.

While the plan might not have been foolproof, Orion couldn't deny that the Crystalforge Elite warriors had successfully made it out of the kingdom, enabling them to return to the Prismarian Kingdom swiftly and stabilize the situation before it worsened.

"Can we see him?" Orion asked, contemplating a solution that could handle Selene's and King Brylon's predicaments.

"Of course, that's why I came to call you. He wants to see you," Crystalia responded, nodding her head. She stole another glance at Fifi, marvelling at the size of her incredible breasts.

How big is it?

As Orion acknowledged Crystalia's words with a nod, he walked into the room, with Fifi following closely behind. Crystalia couldn't help but gaze at Fifi's voluptuous figure from behind, her eyes lingering on the prominent buttocks that occasionally peeked out from the piece of cloth tied around her waist.

It was obvious that Fifi wasn't wearing any panties, and Crystalia found herself mesmerized by the most voluptuous figure she had ever seen, surpassing even her mother's and Madam Seraphina's.

And at this point, she couldn't help but wonder what Orion's other partners even looked like.

Quickly snapping out of her daze, she closed the door and swiftly arrived beside them.

Chapter 570 Searching For A Solution (2)

Orion looked at the sickly middle-aged man lying on the bed, his various exposed bones and injuries, the effects of the artefact bound to his body slowly eroding away his skin.

King Brylon stared back at Orion and replied, "Sorry for meeting you like this. I would have thrown the best banquet in the kingdom for you and the help you have managed to provide to the Prismerian Kingdom upon your return. Unfortunately, I can't do anything in my current state."

Orion shook his head in response, "There's no need to worry about something like that; just focus on getting better," Orion responded.

He glanced at Madam Seraphina and two other familiar healers close to her, whose names he didn't remember. Then, he looked at Queen Selene, who was standing by the side of the bed with a defeated and distraught expression on her face, before shifting his attention back to King Brylon.

King Brylon let out a wry smile. "That's actually why I called for you. I want to bless you and my daughter so that I can leave this world peacefully, knowing that she and the Prismerian Kingdom will be in safe hands," King Brylon said with a tired sigh escaping his lips.

"Although I understand that you may have your own plans for the Prismerian Kingdom, whatever it might be, I'm sure it's something much better than what the Gemheart Clan or any of us could have planned," he responded.

Orion smiled wryly.

"Of course, I will try my best to keep the Prismerian kingdom safe," Orion responded. Crystalia, Maya, Merida, Elysia, Madam Seraphina, and the Princess of the Garden were still his partners, so he naturally didn't want anything to happen to them or their fellow race.

Although he did have plans for the Crystalforge Clan, that didn't mean he was sure of the outcomes. Besides, he didn't need to go to any extremes, as the heirs of the former major clans still owed him some promises that he was sure they would gladly want to fulfil.

King Brylon exhaled deeply, "Thank you," King Brylon said with a deep breath of gratitude.

After that, he gestured for Crystalia to come closer and stand together with him. Then, he signalled to a guard at the corner of the room who seemed to be carrying a perfect ebony gem on a pillow towards them, before gesturing for the two of them to place a drop of their blood on the gem.

Orion nodded in understanding and went first, pricking his fingers, letting a drop of his crimson red blood fall onto the ebony gem. He observed as it sank inside unnaturally and settled in the middle, awaiting Crystalia to perform her part. She followed suit, allowing her radiant crimson blood to drop onto the gem, strikingly contrasting with Orion's.

Strangely, upon closer inspection, he saw that the two blood drops didn't mix but hovered close, as though confined in the same space.

"The engagement ritual has been completed. Please do well to complete the rest in private," King Brylon said.

Before Orion could respond, he added quickly, "Apart from that, that is the only thing I wanted to see you for. Thank you for allowing me to fulfil my final wish."

Orion pressed his lips together and nodded in response. He watched as Crystalia walked forward, gripping her father's hand tightly, her tears flowing freely.

Orion frowned, contemplating what to do. If things continued as they were, it was probable that they wouldn't be able to remove the artefact from his body, and Queen Selene might never regain her strength.

He briefly considered asking Aerialia for help but quickly dismissed the idea, realizing that, given the current stage of their relationship, she might demand something more significant in return.

After careful consideration, Orion decided to see if the Aegis of the Arctic Deity held a solution to their dilemma.

Despite his wariness about the god, particularly in light of the revelations about the Princess of the Garden's identity and Aegis of the Deity's statements about Naka, Orion acknowledged that Aegis of the Deity might be the only being present capable of offering assistance. Reserving his doubts, Orion decided to see if Aegis of the Arctic Deity could provide any help.

"I think I might have a solution to this matter," Orion said.

The moment his words hung in the air, every eye in the room turned toward him.

Crystalia hurriedly approached him and immediately gripped his hands tightly. "Are you sure? Do you genuinely have a solution in mind?" she asked.

"Yes. While I can't guarantee its success yet, it's still worth a try," Orion replied.

Meanwhile, Selene wiped away tears from the corners of her eyes, then fixed her swollen eyes on Orion.

"Don't worry. I know you want to help, but you've done enough for us. There's no need for you to stress over finding a solution when it might be beyond reach," she reassured him, shaking her head while a gentle smile adorned her lips.

However, Orion shook his head in response.

"I wouldn't be saying this if I wasn't certain that there's at least a way to remove the artefact," he asserted.

Selene remained silent for a moment.

Although she had initially wanted to object, the possibility that Orion, or the place he came from, might genuinely hold a solution to their predicament made her reconsider.

"Alright, we're all ears. Tell us what you have in mind," Selene responded, curiosity evident in her voice as she awaited Orion's explanation.

Orion felt the grip of both of his hands tighten before he spoke again. "Since there's nothing we can do to get rid of the artefact, how about we seek the help of a god."

Selene was immediately stunned.

A god?

She had assumed that Orion might have a solution from his village, but hearing him suggest seeking help from a god left her momentarily breathless.

Suddenly, a thought crossed her mind, prompting her to swallow nervously.