

Village Head 621

Chapter 621 Gorg's Girlfriend

"Is she from our generation?" Orion inquired.

Gorg nodded, providing an explanation of who she was. Nonetheless, Orion could only vaguely remember her since they had all been together for an extended period.

"Okay, let me drop these back in the hut first before I escort," Orion said, nodding as he picked up the attires and walked back inside his hut.

Gorg gazed at the massive hut before him and couldn't help but sigh.

He now understood why he hadn't seen Orion during this time – Orion had become wealthy enough to afford such a large hut and provide for his partners.

While Gorg speculated that the Village Chief might have played a role in Orion's ability to build his hut deep within the farm, he also understood that it could be linked to Orion's six-star potential and the recent events involving Stronghold Leader Drakar.

As Gorg contemplated this, everything started to fall into place. However, his concern lingered on Orion's strange taste in women. He initially thought Orion valued kindness over physical beauty when choosing partners. However, he could only become dumbfounded upon learning that Fiona, their former teacher, and other older women, including his previous neighbours, were now his partners.

Gorg couldn't fathom why Orion had chosen them as partners, considering there had to be a limit, especially considering Orion's potential and future achievements.

"Okay, I'm done. Let's go," a familiar voice interrupted his thoughts.

Gorg turned to see Orion staring at him curiously. Gorg quickly nodded and decided to set aside these ponderings. Regardless, he believed that somehow, he would have to show Orion how to choose a suitable partner for himself in the future.

He tidied his tulga and followed Orion, who led the way after sharing the direction the girl he wanted to see had provided in case he could visit her on the farm.

After nearly an hour of walking, they finally reached their destination. However, as the sky darkened, workers and farmers were wrapping up their tasks, with some already heading home.

"There! That's her!" Gorg exclaimed, pointing toward a girl carefully uprooting a plant and placing it in a basket beside her.

Orion sighed inwardly, relieved she was still there, saving them from searching for her.

"I'll wait here; you can go," Orion said.

He wanted to give them some privacy, even though they didn't have any concept about such.

"Alright, I'll introduce her to you after I'm done," Gorg said before rushing toward the girl.

"Salvia!"

Orion noted the name Gorg had called out, understanding it was hers.

He observed as the girl turned her head in surprise, then quickly tidied herself and ran into Gorg's arms.

Orion watched as they exchanged greetings before diverting his attention elsewhere. Despite being deeply involved in a sensuous lifestyle, he had no interest in observing another man's romantic endeavours.

After a few minutes, the sound of approaching footsteps caught Orion's attention. He turned to see Gorg and his girlfriend heading towards him.

"Orion, this is Salvia. Salvia, this is Orion," Gorg introduced them to each other.

Orion observed Salvia, taking in her appearance – a slim, brown-skinned girl with waist-length black hair, nearly matching Gorg's height. However, what caught his attention was that though her tulga was tied around her waist like others in the Village, her tulga top was extremely short, revealing a glimpse of her petite breast and her soft nipples that peeked out of her tulga at intervals.

"It's really you," Salvia exclaimed.

She approached and joyfully hugged Orion for a moment, releasing herself to scrutinize him with shining eyes. "I never thought I'd get the chance to meet you, especially after the graduation ceremony. I'm curious if all the rumours about you are true. How does it feel to awaken a six-star potential?" Salvia bombarded Orion with questions while Gorg, wearing a wry smile, stood on the side.

'You are quite popular, especially in our generation, you know,' Gorg thought, passing the message to Orion with an apologetic expression.

Orion couldn't help but sigh upon hearing Salvia's question and observing Gorg's expression. While he had always known he was famous, he never expected his popularity to reach this level of having fervent fans.

Now, he truly understood why some villagers looked at him with confusion and disappointment upon discovering his partners. Because they understood that he could attract a multitude of admirers with just a snap of a finger, without even needing to spend any wealth.

Regardless, Orion wasn't easily swayed by public opinion, as he had no reason to adhere to a particular group when a diverse group was available, especially when they deeply loved him, and he felt the same way. "From his mother, Reena, Fifi, Lyra, Aunt Greta, Grandma Celia, Grandma Ingrid, and the others, there was no way he could ever imagine his life without them.

After Salvia finished speaking, Orion responded to all her questions, spending a few more minutes until he had addressed them.

By the time they were done, the sky had darkened, leaving only the bright moonlight descending from the sky to illuminate their path as Orion escorted Salvia and Gorg out of the farm.

On his way back, Orion decided to check on Caretaker Shani before he headed back tomorrow.

Knock!! Knock!!

The door was pulled open within a minute, and a familiar figure appeared before him.

"I had a suspicion that it would be you knocking at my door so late," Caretaker Shani said, looking at Orion with a warm smile.

Her breasts were exposed, with her tulga laying on top and wet signs of breast milk hanging on her dark brown nipples.

"I came to see if you enjoyed today before I head back home and prepare to return to the mountains tomorrow," Orion responded.

"Of course, I feel much better than I did yesterday. Thank you for today, Orion," Caretaker Shani replied.

She attempted to use a piece of cloth in her right hand to wipe away her leaking breast milk, but Orion immediately stopped her.

"Allow me," Orion said.

He slowly leaned forward and gently sucked away the remaining breast milk before he pulled backwards.

"Delicious," he muttered.

"Chortle..." Caretaker Shani chuckled lightly at his actions, doing her best to stifle her laughter.

Chapter 622 Caretaker Shani's State Of Mind

Orion sensed that Caretaker Shani might have found his actions amusing. He awkwardly cleared his throat several times and responded, "That's good. I'm happy that you enjoyed today."

Caretaker Shani's laughter gradually subsided, and she gazed at Orion. Besides him, no one else had managed to ensure that she was okay after her husband's death.

Yes, others had offered their sincere condolences, but it only served as a reminder of her late husband. Perhaps it was because she had opened up to him first, but even if she had, there was still no need for him to go above and beyond as he did today.

After witnessing his efforts, Caretaker Shani honestly didn't know what to say.

"Orion..." Caretaker Shani said, looking at the young man before her. She stretched her hand forward and grabbed his chin before Orion could respond.

She leaned in and kissed him firmly on the cheek before pulling back and staring at him warmly.

"Thank you for today," Caretaker Shani said again with a warm smile. "Now go and rest so that you can prepare yourself for tomorrow."

Although Orion hadn't expected Caretaker Shani to kiss him on the cheek out of nowhere, when he thought about it, he understood that this was probably a good thing, as it showed that she was healing gradually.

Orion understood that Caretaker Shani saw him as someone she could rely on in times like this, which wasn't something he was against, as long as it would help her return to her previous temperament.

"Okay, take care of your health and your relationship with your son from now on. I'll see you later, Caretaker Shani," Orion said before he turned around to leave. However, a hand firmly grasped his shoulder before he could make his way.

"Orion," Caretaker Shani said.

Orion turned around to meet her gaze.

"Call me Shani from now on, okay?" Caretaker Shani said with a warm smile as she released her hand from his shoulder. "And also, I'll be there to see you off when you leave tomorrow."

Orion nodded in response to Shani's words. "Okay, Shani. Goodnight," he responded.

"Goodnight," Caretaker Shani replied, nodding her head in response.

She watched as Orion flashed her a warm smile before turning around and walking away. The moonlight illuminated his figure as he disappeared into the distance among the trees and bushes.

Caretaker Shani exhaled deeply before closing her door and checking if her child was asleep. Satisfied, she prepared to sleep early so she could wake up early the next day.

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Meanwhile, as Orion walked towards his hut, he couldn't help but sigh at Caretaker Shani's actions.

Sure, he had other ways to make Caretaker Shani feel better and forget about everything that had happened; however, he had not taken that direction because he was afraid of the potential consequences.

Of course, if that were the only solution, Orion wouldn't hesitate to choose it. But unless he wanted to be in a relationship with a woman with a few screws loose or someone who might develop severe attachment issues in the future, he had to pick the most reasonable and viable solution.

This decision wasn't just for her state of mind and the child with her.

Orion hoped she would get better; then, he could start taking her actions seriously. After almost an hour of walking, Orion finally arrived at his hut.

As he walked forward and opened the door, he noticed that his partners were all drinking some kind of herbal mixture, possibly for their pregnancy. They paid careful attention to whatever Sura was narrating before they turned their heads to meet him, noticing his arrival.

"Welcome home, Orion."

"Orion, welcome back home."

"Welcome back home, Orion."

They all greeted him with warm smiles before refocusing their attention on Sura.

Suddenly, Orion felt a pair of feminine hands wrapped around him from behind, and a calm, familiar voice entered his ears alongside a wave of warm breath brushed against him.

"Welcome back home, darling," the familiar voice said.

Orion recognized the breasts pressing against his back and already knew it was Aunt Greta from the volume and softness.

"How was your day, Greta?" Orion asked as he turned his head sideways, catching a glimpse of her long black hair before locking gazes with her green eyes.

"Though I had some patients who were difficult to heal, it was fine nonetheless, especially since I was paid extra," Aunt Greta responded.

"So, are you sure that you can solve the Prismeron race problems within two months?" she asked, with a serious tone.

Throughout the day, aside from planning for the start of the structure's construction, she had been burdened with worry about the immense responsibility Orion shouldered.

He had taken on the challenge of finding a way for the Prismeron race to survive outside the mountain without desperately depending on the support of a warrior as they do, all within two months. While her sisters shared the same concerns, they decided not to bombard Orion with questions simultaneously, fearing it would only increase the pressure on him.

Aunt Greta took it upon herself to approach him, as even Celeste didn't think she could control herself in this kind of situation if she talked with him about it.

Of course, after understanding that Orion was also doing so for their Prismeron sisters, who were also pregnant and awaiting the opportunity to leave the mountain and live outside, they were initially surprised. However, considering it was Orion, they quickly understood his intentions and realized they couldn't dissuade him from such a challenging task. Their only choice was to offer their support.

"I wouldn't have said something like that if I could not handle it. So, don't worry about anything and focus on your health. Leave everything to me to handle," Orion said, reassuring her.

Aunt Greta nodded and leaned forward, closing in her lips on Orion's. He reciprocated her actions, and they melded their lips together.

After a few attempts at intertwining their tongues, they both pulled back.

"Go and take your bath so you can prepare for tomorrow," Aunt Greta said, smiling wryly as she noticed the tent forming under Orion's tula.

Although she wanted to continue, she couldn't go as far as they usually did, like yesterday, because she needed to start carefully observing their actions due to her pregnancy.

Chapter 623 Departing For The Mountains

Orion understood this and held himself back, as he didn't want anything to jeopardise the well-being of his children. He nodded and proceeded to take his bath outside, having been informed by Aunt Greta that they had already prepared the water for him.

After completing his bath, Orion returned and reclined comfortably on his mat.

Suddenly, a figure rushed to his side, tightly hugging his arms. Looking at Gina, Orion greeted her, "Good night, Gina." Another figure appeared beside him, and Orion turned to see Fiona holding his hand, saying, "Goodnight, Fiona."

Then, a cheerful Lyra threw herself on top of him, prompting a smile from Orion, who wished her, "Goodnight, Lyra." Feeling kisses on both cheeks, he looked up and saw his mother and Reena. "Goodnight, Mom. Goodnight, Reena."

A kiss on the forehead followed from Grandma Vivian. "Goodnight, Vivian." Another kiss landed on Orion's lips, and he reciprocated as Derry pulled back, saying, "Goodnight, Derry."

Afterwards, Aunt Greta, Ayla, Grandma Ingrid, Ursa, Sura, and Grandma Celia each bid him goodnight in their own way; he reciprocated before they all gradually drifted off to sleep.

Meanwhile, from the other side of the room, Grandma Meldra observed their interactions with a warm smile before arranging her mat and settling down to sleep.

With all the women now pregnant, she understood that they would increasingly depend on her assistance in the future. Knowing this, she prepared herself mentally to wake up early the next day and get used to the responsibilities that awaited her.

"Haaa..." Grandma Meldra sighed tiredly, for the stress that awaited her before she quickly fell asleep.

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"Goodbye, Orion. Please be safe," Saria said with worry as she observed Orion boarding the Orion's sky.

Having traversed the dead forest to reach the mountains, she knew the dangers that awaited them there.

Even though they previously faced several three-star Vylkr vines on their way back from the mountains due to Saria's tree, Orion understood Saria's concerns. He offered a reassuring nod, "I will," before turning his attention to Caretaker Shani, who held Rick in her arms among the other Key figures gathered to see them off.

Caretaker Shani smiled and nodded at him, and he reciprocated before stepping onto the Orion's sky.

The warriors accompanying him this time were those who had returned from the mountain with him. However, on this occasion, each boarded a separate Orion's sky, including Seth, who was provided with another Orion's sky prepared specifically for the journey.

This arrangement was one of the important reasons why the Village Chief insisted on their departure today.

"May Naka guide you all," the Village Chief proclaimed loudly, his gaze fixed on the ascending Orion's skies.

The warriors responded with solemn nods towards the Village Chief and other key figures.

They then refocused on the control systems before them, using the burners to propel their Orion's sky toward the mountains.

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After a day and a half, they finally arrived at their location. As Orion guided the other three Orion skies to descend onto the upper terrains of the mountain, he instructed Seth to stabilise his hot stones and burner and tether his Orion sky to the others, ensuring they remained linked until their return.

This arrangement gave them peace and offered a quick response in case of unforeseen events. It allowed them to manage the Orion's sky around them efficiently and land safely on the ground.

Once the preparations were complete, they immediately leapt out of their respective Orion skies, landing on the ground below.

After Seth had destroyed the one-star and two-star Vylkr vines ahead, they immediately made their way through the familiar cave they had used previously because of the scattered fragments of Seth's hardened molten lava around its entrance. They navigated through the familiar cave.

Progressing further, they encountered a section that took them by surprise. Within the cave were rows of guards donned in light armour, armed and ready on both sides.

Their presence didn't go unnoticed; the guards, initially startled, widened their eyes in astonishment before promptly bowing down.

"WARRIORS FROM OUTSIDE THE MOUNTAINS, WE WELCOME YOU BACK TO THE PRISMERIAN KINGDOM!!" Their collective voice echoed in unison through the cave.

Observing the familiar armour worn by the guards, Orion identified them as members of the Crystalforge Clan. He immediately figured that the Queen had stationed guards in the upper regions of the mountain to safeguard and monitor the area, especially now that White Flame was no more.

Nonetheless, they didn't need to trace their way back to the previous passageway they had created to leave the Prismarian kingdom, as they could have one of the guards lead them back to it.

As though understanding Orion's thoughts, the lead guard gestured for them to follow. "This way," he said, leading them through the passage they had created, ultimately bringing them back to the Prismarian kingdom.

Upon their arrival at the beautiful crystal castle, two figures suddenly appeared within view and suddenly drove into Orion, pushing him towards the ground.

"Orion!"

"Orion!"

Orion lifted his head to see that the two figures were Maya and Merida.

"How are you two doing?" Orion asked before he gently got up from the floor and embraced them. He wasn't surprised that Maya and Merida were still residing in the castle with Crystalia and the others and had yet to return to their clans.

"I'm okay now that you've returned," Maya replied with a relaxed expression.

"Me too. It's difficult to rest knowing that your partner is somewhere out there, among the Vylkr vines," Merida added.

"Okay, I'm back now, so there's no need for you to worry," Orion reassured Merida as he gently rubbed her back before continuing to walk forward.

Although he would have preferred to speak with Queen Selene immediately upon his arrival, he decided to head to the garden first and handle some important matters before anything else.

Within a few minutes, they all stood before the entrance to the garden, guarded by two Crystalforge Clan guards.

"You guys can go and inform Crystalia and the others that I have arrived," Orion instructed Maya and Merida.

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He observed as they nodded in response before swiftly racing through the castle.

Orion then shifted his attention to Seth. "You can wait; I will come out to meet you when I am done," he said, turning around and entering the Garden, with the large stone closing the entrance behind him.

Observing Orion's departure without waiting for a response, Seth furrowed his brows, appearing troubled before exhaling in defeat.

"What are you looking at?" Seth asked, directing his words at the two Crystalforge Clan guards, who immediately directed their gaze forward without uttering a single word.

Seth snorted before moving forward, positioning himself to stand guard beside the large stone door.

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As Orion stepped into the Garden, he immediately encountered the Guardians of the Garden, whom he greeted with a wave of his hand.

Although the Guardians still disliked Orion, the recent events had rendered them unable to expel him from the Garden. So, they chose to ignore his presence, paying him no heed.

Orion, who had thought about finding someone to direct him to the Princess of the Garden, could only smile wryly as he was ignored. Undeterred, he focused his attention forward and searched for the Princess of the Garden himself.

After less than thirty minutes of exploring her usual spots, he found her near the Divine Lake Essence.

As he silently approached her from behind, he noticed she was alone and lost in her thoughts. Once he arrived right behind her, she hadn't sensed him yet, leaving Orion to wonder about what occupied her current thoughts.

Nevertheless, he extended his hands forward and covered her eyes, surprising her. The Princess of the Garden initially wanted to react, but she felt the familiar touch and immediately recognized who it was.

After all, only one person would dare to approach her in such a way.

"Orion, is that you?" The Princess of the Garden asked gently, with a smile on her face.

"How can you tell it's me when you are so lost in your thoughts?" Orion asked.

Orion observed as the Princess of the Garden raised her right hand and used it to guide his hands downward. She then turned around and stared at Orion.

"You're back."

Orion nodded in response, observing as the Princess of the Garden leaned in for a kiss. He reciprocated, sealing their lips for a moment before they pulled back.

"Since you suddenly appeared here by yourself, that means you have only just arrived. So, to have come here immediately means you want to seriously talk, right? What is it?" the Princess of the Garden said, staring at Orion.

Seeing that the Princess of the Garden had seen through him, Orion breathed out deeply before he positioned himself properly, sitting on the ground.

"It's a complicated matter that we three need to discuss together," Orion responded.

He watched as the Princess of the Garden furrowed her brows in confusion before her eyes immediately widened, as though realizing who the third figure Orion wanted to join in their discussion was.

Although the relationship between the Princess of the Garden and Aerialia was no longer fierce, Orion decided to let her know beforehand, understanding that the Princess of the Garden might still feel uncomfortable in Aerialia's presence.

The Princess of the Garden took a deep breath and exhaled before nodding towards Orion.

"I'm alright; you can go ahead and summon her," the Princess of the Garden responded with a resolute expression.

Orion nodded in response and instantly summoned the four-meter crimson greatsword from the small crimson greatsword mark on his right arm.

Suddenly, a bright flash occurred, and along with the appearance of the crimson greatsword, Aerialia also materialized, hovering in the air with her wings spread apart, staring at both Orion and the Princess of the Garden.

"Is there something that requires this goddess's attention?" Aerialia asked, her eyes focused on Orion.

Orion nodded in response to Aerialia's question.

"I need to figure something out, and I would very much appreciate your help solving it," Orion responded.

Aerialia became thoughtful momentarily, realizing that there was only one reason Orion would seek her assistance in figuring something out.

"If you're thinking about extracting information about the gods, you are mistaken. As you've heard before, it is forbidden for a mortal to possess that kind of knowledge," Aerialia said, staring at Orion with a resolute expression.

However, contrary to her expectations, Orion asked, "What do you want me to do before you can reveal that information to me?" Despite receiving assurance from Aegis of the Arctic Deity that the last ember of White Flame, which had entered his chest after White Flame's death, wouldn't harm him—a sentiment Aerialia also seemed to share—Orion couldn't continue living with such ignorance about something so integral to his being.

Above all, he harboured reservations about Aegis of the Deity's words, contradicting everything White Flame had conveyed. Even though doubting White Flame's words crossed his mind, the man-made god had expressed himself with indescribable emotion. Since he lacked alternative sources to validate either perspective, Orion needed to solve the mystery before solving every other issue piece by piece.

To hell with 'a knowledge which no mortal could possess.'

Meanwhile, Aerialia furrowed her brows as she observed Orion's stare.

"If you were a god or demigod, then I would have shared such knowledge with you; however, I cannot share such sacred knowledge with a mortal..." Aerialia said.

However, Orion's words were immediately interrupted before she could finish her statement.

"Then our journey together ends here."

Aerialia was stunned.

"What... do you mean?" Aerialia asked, her expression one of dumbfounded confusion as she stared at Orion.

The Princess of the Garden herself was bewildered by the meaning behind Orion's words.

Orion stared at Aerialia with a serious expression.

"What I mean is that I am terminating our relationship here," Orion said.

Although they didn't share a close relationship due to the previous circumstances between them, and their connection was more transactional than personal, there was no reason to continue such a relationship if Aerialia wasn't willing to help now, especially when he found himself in such a serious predicament.

This time, Aerialia and the Princess of the Garden couldn't help but gaze at Orion in shock and astonishment.

They were aware of the connection between Aerialia and Orion through the Crimson Greatsword, but Aerialia knew it was currently impossible to separate either of them from the other, having tried and failed before.

Regardless, as Orion spoke with conviction and displayed unwavering determination, Aerialia understood that he meant every word.

Meanwhile, the Princess of the Garden felt a foreboding within her heart as she observed Orion's determined expression.

"Orion..." The Princess of the Garden said, but Aerialia immediately interrupted.

"And how do you plan on doing that? I have tried countless times to sever the bond, tying us together. Although I marked you and blessed you with the Crimson blade, the god Naka had already tampered with it. What makes you think that something I, a goddess, find impossible is achievable by you alone?" Aerialia questioned, narrowing her eyes at Orion.

Orion shifted his attention toward the slightly distressed Princess of the Garden. He gave her a slight smile before closing his eyes.

Without hesitation, he suppressed the strange energy, releasing the Vylkr energy within his two containers, allowing it to flow and fill every part of his body. Suddenly...

Boom!

A terrifying surge of chaotic and vile energy erupted from within Orion, instantly enveloping every inch of his body, from head to toe.

Vylkr warrior mode!

As the chaotic energy expanded, inky black threads rose upwards from his body, causing the plants around him to wither and lifelessly fall to the ground. The atmosphere became still, sending a shiver

through Aerialia and even the Princess of the Garden, who watched the scene with a pale expression.

The Guardians of the Garden sensed the emergence of the Vylkr energy and immediately rushed towards the disturbance with makeshift weapons. However, the moment they appeared, eager to identify the troublemaker, they were stunned at the sight before them.

They observed as the Princess of the Garden dragged Orion towards the Divine Lake Essence. Despite the skin on her hands peeling piece by piece due to the proximity of the Vylkr energy around Orion and the direct contact, she held onto him until they reached the edge of the Divine Lake Essence.

Without hesitation, she threw Orion into the Divine Lake Essence.

THUMB!

After doing so, the Princess of the Garden noticed the Guardians of the Garden's arrival and instantly turned to the hovering Guardians and commanded, "Stand back!" Her eyes held a fierce glare.

Although she wanted to confront Aerialia at this moment, she dipped her hands into the Divine Lake Essence to heal them before doing so.

In a matter of two intense minutes, her arms were healed. However, just as she was about to pull them out, a hand suddenly grasped hers.

The Princess of the Garden was startled before realizing it was Orion and immediately pulled him up.

"Are you okay?" The Princess of the Garden asked anxiously, laying Orion comfortably on the ground with his head resting on her thighs.

"Are you okay, Orion?" She stared worriedly, awaiting his response.

"HAAAA... HAAAA..." Orion took in various sharp breaths and exhaled. He focused on the Princess of the Garden and nodded at her, hearing her question. Despite his worn-out appearance and feeling less vigorous, he still retained some energy, having prepared himself for this situation.

"Please, Orion, don't do that again. Please, don't do that," the Princess of the Garden pleaded, her moist eyes fixed on Orion.

As Orion looked at the Princess of the Garden with his weakened eyes, he gently grasped her hands that were calmly resting on his chest.

However, he was immediately interrupted before he could respond.

"In exchange for not giving the information you require, you resorted to giving up your body to the Vylkr energy, hoping that doing so would lead to my demise, even though it ultimately results in your own death," Aerialia said, her firm gaze fixed on Orion.

"Although I still find it hard to believe that you are prepared to go through with such a thing regardless of the feelings of those around you," Aerialia added, shifting her gaze towards the trembling Princess of the Garden.

Truthfully, she was a little worried that Orion would actually go through with his plan, causing her to permanently disappear from this world just soon after getting a sliver of life that she could hold on to, especially when she also found a chance for her children to join her in this world once more.

She hoped that Orion was bluffing!! Yes, he only did so to influence her emotions and make her change her decision, but, unfor...

"Aerialia!" Orion called out her name, stunning Aerialia, as this was the first time he had ever called her name with such intense emotion. However, it didn't stop there. Orion continued, "Three times you blessed me. In your words, I bless you – may no enemy you strike weaken you. Instead, may they fuel your strength and empower you with the courage to continue your march forward."

"I bind you and this blade. May you never carry the same resentment I have endured while wielding this sword.

I bless you, my child. Run as swiftly as you can to the other side and lay claim to the land that awaits you, for I, your creator, shall eternally guide and shield you on your journey."

"Three times you failed in fulfilling your blessings, and three times I overlooked it because I understood that you were still trying to recuperate and get your senses back together."

Aerialia's emotions suddenly stirred as Orion's words hit her.

The first time that Orion had asked her for information regarding the gods was when the speck of White Flame entered his chest; the second was during their meeting with Aegis of the Arctic Deity, and the third was present. Even though she had somehow been unknowingly tricked by an extremely powerful god called Naka, that didn't change the fact she had uttered two words to Orion.

However, Aerialia couldn't help but despise the fact that Orion had used such an argument, and her body began to tremble in anger uncontrollably.

Chapter 626 Confronting Goddess Aerialia (3)

"How dare you use words against me?" Aerialia asked, her eyes staring at Orion furiously.

Orion stared at Aerialia with a smile.

"Yes, I dare. What are you going to do about it? It's not my fault that you were tricked despite being an acclaimed goddess," Orion responded.

Aerialia felt her blood boil as she listened to Orion's words. Her whole body trembled uncontrollably, so it was extremely difficult to utter a complete sentence properly.

"How dare you..." Aerialia began.

However, she was quickly interrupted by Orion once more.

"Oh, and I don't plan on killing myself. I've already deduced that this mark connects me and the crimson greatsword. So, I plan on using the Vylkr energy, whose nature is to consume, to try and see if it could get rid of the mark or sever our connection before it tries to kill me," Orion said as he sat upright and stared at Aerialia.

"That is what you are betting hopes on?" Aerialia asked with a stunned expression.

Orion nodded in response.

"This..." Aerialia said, trying her best to understand what was currently going on in Orion's mind.

Orion closed his eyes and went into Vylkr warrior mode again, shrouding his whole figure with an aura of inky black threads.

Although the effect on his body wasn't as severe as before due to the Divine Lake Essence, the Vylkr energy retained the same essence, consuming all life around him.

Witnessing this sight, Aerialia stared for a moment, slightly dazed, that he was willing to go through with such a stupid plan, all because she had refused to give him the piece of information that he wanted.

This was beyond recklessness!

After a minute, Orion's condition soon showed signs of edging towards the situation that he was in previously. As Aerialia noticed this, she could no longer hold back any longer.

So, it was at this moment...

SWISSHH!

Aerialia flew towards the Princess of the Garden's body and immediately disappeared into it, partly taking control over her body. Without hesitation, a burst of beautiful incorporeal two large wings emerged from her back, increasing her speed several times more as they grabbed Orion and dragged him towards the Divine Lake Essence, instantly plunging their bodies into it.

Orion opened his eyes as he felt a thick, soothing liquid around him. However, he was also met with the Princess of the Garden's enraged stare.

Orion turned his eyes towards the two large incorporeal wings behind her and immediately understood that Aerialia had possessed the Princess of the Garden's body.

However, his thoughts were abruptly interrupted as the Princess of the Garden suddenly grabbed him and pulled him back to the surface.

Once his back gently touched the ground, Orion watched as she stared at him with a scowl and frustration etched deeply on her expression.

However, her grip suddenly loosened. She pulled back and hovered in the air near Orion, "What is it that you want to know about?" the Princess of the Garden asked, her voice sounding like a mixed vibration of two voices that resounded deeply in the air.

Orion could feel two different emotions coming from both sides of her eyes. "Well, you can start by first telling me what the white flame in my body is," Orion responded.

He winced in pain as he slowly straightened himself to sit back up.

He was beginning to feel the aftereffects of using the Vylkr warrior mode twice.

A sigh escaped her lips as she slowly descended. Once her feet touched the ground, she immediately released herself from the Princess of the Garden's body and stared at Orion.

"First, you have to swear that you'll never share the information I'm about to share with you with anyone else, not even a god," Aerialia responded seriously.

"I swear not to share this information with anyone else, not even with a god," Orion responded abruptly, without hesitation.

"Can you even be a little bit serious?" Aerialia said, her brows twitching.

However, seeing the serious expression on Orion's face, she sighed, not saying anything as she nodded at him before shifting her gaze towards the Princess of the Garden.

The Princess of the Garden furrowed her brows, noticing Aerialia's gaze. 'I'm you, aren't I? Besides, what will I gain from telling others about such information?' she thought.

Nonetheless, seeing as Orion and Aerialia both awaited her response, the Princess of the Garden sighed deeply and responded, "I also swear not to share this information with anyone else, not even with a god."

Aerialia nodded in satisfaction. She then explained, "The wisp of White Flame in your body is remnant energy from White Flame's ascension into becoming a true god. I guess he might have triggered the 'Divine mysteries' and attempted to transcend to become a true god; however, he failed, rendering his body into what you see today."

"So you are saying that the reason his body is covered his body with White Flame, and also in the same state that he is currently in, was because he had somehow failed to transcend to a true god after triggering the 'Divine mysteries'," Orion replied.

"Yes," Aerialia nodded in response.

Orion furrowed his brows, asking, "What are the 'Divine mysteries?'"

Aerialia had already been expecting Orion to ask such a question, so she only released a sigh, "Do you remember what the Aegis of the Arctic Deity had told you before?" Aerialia asked.

Orion abruptly nodded in response. If he remembered vividly, Aegis of the Arctic Deity had explained how the Divine Mysteries were an unconscious plane of existence and non-existence from which the gods drew their power.

"For you to properly understand what I'm about to say, I'll first need to explain the beginning and how everything came to be," Aerialia explained. "In the beginning, the birth of primordial energy gave birth to the first heavens and universe. While the heavens were already full of life, the first universe was lifeless, devoid of anything except darkness. As you've already guessed, we gods occupied the heavens, and we observed everything below it."

Chapter 627 The First Race

"However, unlike the gods you are aware of now, the gods of before were beings with only one personality. As such, even though we could understand the complexity of the things around us, we were still simple-minded beings who could focus only on one thing, no matter how far our minds could stretch."

"However, several hundred million years later, as the first universe became clearer and clearer after its first light had pierced through it, we no longer wanted to merely observe but interact with it. After all, this was a place that had yet to be touched by the gods, so our curiosity for what lay within was unfathomable. However, when we tried to infiltrate and interact with the universe, we encountered an unimaginable problem," Aerialia said.

"Can you guess what it is?" she asked.

Orion shook his head in response.

"We couldn't get into the universe no matter how hard we tried. To us, who thought that our powers were boundless, this was the first time we had encountered something like this. In short..." Aerialia said, but Orion continued, completing her sentence for her.

"You were trapped in the heavens," Orion said wide-eyed.

Aerialia nodded in response, "Yes. Since this was something new to us, we tried with all our might to break through; however, no matter how hard we tried, we were unsuccessful. Seeing that we couldn't get into the universe, we decided to see if our powers could, and surely it worked."

"Since only our powers could interact with the universe, we decided to use them to the fullest, causing the once dull universe to spring into life as every god wanted to see how far they could go. This continued for several hundred million more years until we discovered that no matter how much we interacted with the universe, it remained lifeless and empty, unlike the heavens that brimmed with life."

"The discussion about creating life in the universe sprang into a debate because we had never created anything like another life before, so no one knew how to go through with it. After a while, several hundred million years later, various gods, myself included, who had settled, came together to create life in the universe."

"The first life was born. Like the gods who observed the universe from above and viewed it as a plane below them, the first life was created to be larger than the universe and given the divine might to interact with it, just like the gods did. However, we overlooked something."

"Unlike the gods who were in the heavens and sustained by it, this being, possessing even more personalities than the gods and larger than the universe itself, was not in heaven. For sustenance, this being could not survive on anything other than the universe itself."

"But the gods didn't care. We aimed to fill the universe with life and allow them to interact with it, so regardless of his sustenance, our goal was complete. However, because of this, the universe went through countless rebirths. When he was lonely, they created another to be with them. And then another problem arose. Unlike the gods, who were all-powerful and all-seeing, several hundred million years were nothing but a few seconds within their patient existence."

"The first beings, created to interact with the universe in the presence of the gods, grew tired not only because their whole existence was under the control of the gods but also because the universe did not provide them with enough sustenance. Although the gods couldn't do anything about their control over the first race, as that was their purpose, they helped expand the universe into countless more universes so that the first race would not lack sustenance."

"And because of the complexities of creating beings that would interact with the universe in their place, they interfered in their creations, giving them a way to multiply and spread so that they could interact with more universes."

"However, after several hundred million years of watching the birth and rebirth of countless universes while being under the control of the gods to interact with the universe in their place, one by one, the first race soon succumbed to weariness. They died on their own accord, their bodies merging with the universes and expanding into countless others."

Orion's eyes widened. His mind raced as he thought about the first created race in existence, who was larger than the universe itself. It was more than absurd compared to the other races he had seen.

And most of all, considering how powerful the gods were before, he couldn't help but wonder how they had become like this, which were far weaker than how unbelievably powerful they were before.

Nonetheless, as Aerialia continued to speak, Orion kept his ears open, understanding that he would get some clues to his question.

"As this was the first time we had encountered mortality, unlike the rebirths of the universe which we had seen previously, we decided to see if there was anything that we had done wrong that had led to such an outcome. After a million years passed by, we decided to create our second race."

"This time, the second race was created within the confines of the universe, endowed with the will to either accept or reject the commands of the gods who sought to use them to interact with the

universe. Unlike the first race, this new creation found everything they needed within the vast expanse of the universe."

"As they multiplied, the expanding universe, fueled by the remnants of the first race, ensured an unending supply of sustenance. However, after several hundred million years, we soon encountered another problem," Aerialia sighed.

"As the second race was granted the will to obey or refuse the commands of the gods, they gradually grew tired of following orders and began to rebel. Initially, it wasn't a significant issue, but as more and more of them chose to defy the gods, a debate arose among the gods on how to regain control over the race they had created."

Chapter 628 Destruction Of The Second Race, Creation Of The Third Races

"Some advocated for their extinction, erasing them from existence just as the first race had met its end. Meanwhile, others contemplated the creation of a new race. However, as the disobedience of the second race continued to spread, it became obvious that the disobedience of the second race would influence any new beings they created. Thus, the gods decided to erase every member of the second race from existence."

"The second race, unable to face the wrath of the gods for their disobedience, fled. However, there was no place in the vast universe for them to hide from the omniscience of the gods who observed the countless universes from above. With nowhere to run and hide, the second race resorted to the unthinkable, shocking us all to our core," Aerialia added. She took a deep breath before continuing, "They threatened to kill the gods and waged war against us."

This time, not only did Orion draw in a deep breath, but even Aerialia, seated nearby and listening attentively, widened her eyes in surprise.

They waged war against the gods!

Neither of them would have believed it if they hadn't heard it from Aerialia herself. Nonetheless, they listened as she continued.

"The gods hadn't expected such a development, so we were startled when we first learned about it. Just like the first race, although the second race was created within the confines of the universe, they were still given the powers to interact with the universe. Within several hundred thousand years, the second race rallied together and decided to use their unparalleled powers to break into the heavens."

"Although the gods doubted if such a feat could be accomplished, how could they allow it? Soon, a battle erupted between the second race and the gods, a conflict unlike anything we had ever witnessed. While the gods managed to push back the second race, they couldn't completely subdue them. Some of the second race managed to get too close to the heavens, forcefully slamming their powers against it to break through. Unexpectedly, the heavens trembled for the first time," Aerialia explained with a sigh escaping her lips.

"The gods were shocked. They realized that if the second race broke through the heavens, they would be free to wander and interact with the universe on their own. The gods slowly restrained themselves in response, creating an illusion that the second race was gradually winning the war."

"This newfound confidence spurred them to attempt to break into the heavens. After a million years, they successfully broke through the first seal, much to the gods' pleasure. Another million years passed, and the second seal was broken. At this moment, the second race breached the heavens. The gods, no longer underestimating them, fought them with everything that they had."

"Despite being immensely powerful, the second race met their demise faster than they could comprehend the situation. Nevertheless, their intention to kill the gods persisted. A half-million years later, the battle between the gods and the second race concluded. Can you guess who emerged victorious?" Aerialia asked, locking eyes with Orion.

"The gods," Orion replied without hesitation.

Aerialia nodded in response. "During that half-million-year war, the gods successfully eradicated the second race. With the countless universes now lifeless once again and the heavens torn open from the outside, the gods finally saw a chance to escape the heavens and interact with the universe by themselves. Without hesitation, they seized that opportunity. However..." Aerialia sighed, "...no matter how close they came and how hard they tried to break out of the heavens through the gaping hole, they were still ultimately pulled back in, lacking enough strength to escape."

"After countless trials and failures, the torn hole in the heavens began to heal. It was at this moment that we realized the heavens were not only designed to trap us but also to keep us away from the universe. As all-powerful beings, accepting such a revelation was unimaginable."

"And so, as we searched for a way out of the heavens, we soon realized that the only path to freedom was relinquishing our primordial powers. Without our primordial powers, we would cease to be considered gods, and there would be no reason for the heavens to confine us."

"However, letting go of their powers seemed inconceivable for beings whose sole purpose for entering the universe was to interact with it. In pondering the steps to take, the gods stumbled upon a solution. Without hesitation, they embarked on creating their third race – or rather, the creation of the third races," Aerialia explained.

"We drew upon their experiences from creating the first and second races to create races that suited our desires individually. Although each race was unique and special, they were not designed to be as vast as the universe or confined within it. Instead, they were created to be a part of the universe."

"As such, we could not bestow upon them powers that would allow them to interact with the universe like the first and second races. Instead, the third races were each endowed with the potential to become even more powerful than the first and second races. The goal was for them to eventually attain the strength necessary to breach the heavens, similar to what the second race had accomplished.'

"Since they were not part of the heavens, they could enter and leave as they pleased. After the creation of the third races, the universes were partitioned into countless planes to allow each race to develop without being influenced by the others."

"After that, are you aware of what the gods did?" Aerialia asked Orion.

Orion shook his head in response.

"They utilized half of their primordial powers to prevent the torn hole in the heavens from healing, and the other half to end their own existence, leaving behind their essence to reincarnate into the bodies of the races they had created. As gods, they knew they would surely be able to return to their former place in heaven. However, it was easier said than done."

"Once all the gods departed from the heavens, it collapsed. With all the gods in their respective planes, no other gods were trapped inside, rendering its purpose useless."

Chapter 629 The Divine Mysteries

"How did the gods regain their powers if it collapsed?" Orion asked, furrowing their brows in confusion.

Although he finally understood why Aerialia looked like the winged race with some unique features. From what he had witnessed, the gods still possessed their divine powers, enabling them to

accomplish feats and were easily recognizable; one could tell them apart from any other race with just a glance.

"As the heavens were slowly phasing out of existence, the primordial energy left behind by the gods halted it and brought it back into existence. It was like an object was being forcefully compressed and torn apart before being restored to its previous state.'

'Soon, healing the heavens back to their previous state was no longer a viable solution, and after it collapsed for the umpteenth time, the heavens finally went through its first rebirth and was restored to existence."

"However, because the heavens were now lifeless after being restored to existence, the heavens became sentient. No..." Aerialia shook her head, "Even before that, it was already sentient, providing us gods with everything we needed while keeping us trapped away from the universe. However, this time, it was as though it had become even more aware of its existence."

"With the gods no longer in heaven, its existence was no longer needed. However, with the gods still recovering their primordial powers, its existence was still something that the gods needed. The heavens gradually settled on it as it could not break out of that state."

"Although the difficulty in getting back our powers had increased exponentially due to the heavens going through its first rebirth, entangling our primordial powers together, strangely, it helped us recover them."

"For us gods, the higher we transcended, the more we tried to understand what had happened to the heavens. Those who have transcended are called true gods because they have returned to their original selves. However, due to its state of bordering the line between existence and non-existence, consciousness and unconsciousness, it was difficult to comprehend what it was."

"We knew that, although we were the cause of what had happened, for us to return to the heavens, we needed to navigate the border of existence and non-existence, consciousness and unconsciousness. However, doing so for a long time for us gods was dangerous."

Hearing Aerialia's words, Orion's eyes opened as he finally understood how the gods had recovered their powers. However, one thing still struck him from Aerialia's words.

Seeing Aerialia's surprised and thoughtful gaze, as though already understanding the question he wanted to ask, Aerialia nodded in response.

"Yes. A few gods managed to return; however, what they saw wasn't the heavens we left behind. Due to its state, the heavens became a strange, lifeless void where everything existed yet didn't exist because it occupied both states simultaneously. It now extends even further than the universe itself and left even the gods baffled," Aerialia said.

"The heavens were no more, and all that remained was the 'Divine mysteries,' a place where the gods do everything in their powers to grasp and return to. It's ironic, isn't it?" Aerialia added with a smile on her face as she shook her head.

Suddenly, her expression became serious as she continued.

"As time continued, the 'Divine Mysteries' not only helped the gods recover their powers and transcend but also guided those related to the divine toward godhood, leaving the gods even more puzzled. But there was nothing we could do about it except give our best and try to grasp the might of the 'Divine Mysteries.'"

Orion exhaled deeply as Aerialia finished her explanation. Although he had expected to find the origin of the 'Divine Mysteries' exceptionally mind-boggling, he couldn't help but agree that this was something else.

"So, White Flame gained the opportunity to become a true god because the 'Divine Mysteries' granted him that chance?" Orion asked.

"Yes. Although I still don't know how White Flame managed to achieve such a feat since he was previously only a mortal, considering that the 'Divine Mysteries' even unleashed its wrath upon this world after his demise, it meant that he had incredible potential to become a very powerful god once he transcends. It's a shame that he couldn't complete the trial," Aerialia responded, shaking her head with a sigh escaping her lips.

"What trial?" Orion instantly questioned.

"The 'Divine Mysteries' guides us through trials that we must succeed in to recover our powers. Did you really think it would guide freely after abandoning the heavens?" Aerialia responded with a raised brow.

Orion was immediately surprised before suddenly becoming thoughtful as Aerialia's words ended.

"Humph! How naive," Aerialia said, witnessing Orion's expression.

Orion, however, didn't pay any heed to her words. Instead, he asked, "So, you mean..."

However, Aerialia immediately interrupted.

"Yes. The last ember of White Flame that had entered your chest contains traces of the 'Divine Mysteries.' This means that if a time should ever come when you have grasped the divine and are considered worthy by the 'Divine Mysteries' to transcend into godhood, then you will be given the same trial that White Flame failed to accomplish to step into another stage of godhood."

"Of course, you can reject it if you feel you are not yet ready. But I just want to remind you that it is almost impossible for the 'Divine Mysteries' to consider the same person twice, as those who reject the opportunity to be divine are not meant to become one in the first place," Aerialia said.

Orion nodded seriously in response to Aerialia's words. Although he didn't know if he would ever be qualified to go through the trial and successfully become a god, Aerialia's words were meaningful enough to take to heart.

"Also, one more thing. Although it is incredibly hard for a god to sense that you possess a trace of the 'Divine Mysteries' in you, for your own safety, it's best that you don't reveal this information to anyone else. And should it even come to light, you should deny it, even if it manages to come to light," Aerialia added.

Chapter 630 The One-Winged Race

Orion furrowed his brows in response, "Why didn't you tell me about this before?" Orion asked.

"Well, I wanted to, but for some reason, it slipped my mind later on," Aerialia said as she looked at Orion with a broad smile.

Seeing her broad smile, Orion felt his brows twitching at the thought that if Aerialia hadn't told him about it, he might have gone searching for answers, which could have led to unwelcoming issues like this.

Witnessing the frown on Orion's face, Aerialia's broad smile became even wider, 'Humph! You think that you can play with me that much and get away freely,' she thought.

Neither she nor the Aegis of the Arctic Deity had given Orion such a warning because no god would believe that a mortal possessed the 'Divine Mysteries' in his body. Nonetheless, she didn't know the current situation of this world, so it was much better to play it safe and not reveal anything to anyone.

After all, before she could find a way to her previous appearance, wouldn't that mean she would also be in danger if anything terrible happened to Orion?

Orion soon released a deep sigh.

"Alright, I understand," Orion responded.

"Is there anything else you want me to know?" Orion asked, wondering if Aerialia was hiding anything else from him.

"I can't remember anything for now, but when I do, I promise to let you know about it," Aerialia responded with a smile.

Orion sighed deeply.

"Is there anything else you would like to ask about?" Aerialia inquired.

Orion nodded in response.

"What were the names of the first and second races?" Orion immediately asked.

"The first race was called the 'Celestiarachs,' meanwhile, the second race was called the 'Omnithrallians.' Unfortunately, I cannot show you how they looked in my current state, so you must see for yourself to visualize their appearances. However, since they are already dead, I don't think that will be possible," Aerialia responded.

Orion nodded disappointingly. He was looking forward to seeing how the first and second races looked.

Nonetheless, though he knew it was impossible, he hoped he would at least come across something that would help him visualize the appearances of the first and second races.

"Do you have any other questions?" Aerialia asked.

"Do you think Aegis of the Arctic Deity is lying about the account he told us?" Orion asked.

Aerialia furrowed her brows. Unlike Orion, she had only been in this world for a short period and was still trying to make sense of the immense quantity of information she had been receiving.

Though she doubted Aegis of the Arctic Deity's words a little since he was hiding his identity from her, she couldn't determine which information was accurate and which was false. Unless she received more information from someone else or came in contact with more gods willing to share information, Aerialia couldn't make a definitive judgment.

"I don't think I can determine whether he is lying. But we should be doubtful of his words, especially since he refused to share his true identity with us," Aerialia responded.

Orion nodded in understanding as he had been contemplating the same thoughts.

"Which energy did the winged race use?"

"One-winged race," Aerialia corrected.

Realization dawned upon Orion as he nodded in understanding, "Which kind of energy does the One-winged race use?" Orion asked again, correcting himself.

"The One-winged race utilizes Celestial energy," Aerialia responded.

Orion's eyes instantly sparkled with excitement.

According to Aegis of the Arctic Deity, a fact Aerialia hadn't disagreed with, there were various energies, with Primordial energy, Divine energy, Magical energy, Celestial energy, Dragonic energy, Elemental energy, and Nature energy ranked from strongest to weakest.

Among them, Celestial Energy held the fourth rank, and Orion couldn't be happier. If he could convince Aerialia to teach his wives the techniques associated with Celestial energy, they could potentially become formidable warriors, significantly boosting their strength.

Moreover, Orion himself could learn these techniques, expanding his own skills.

"Since you have apostles, will you teach them to control and utilize Celestial energy?" Orion asked, carefully approaching the topic to avoid arousing suspicion from Aerialia about his intentions.

Aerialia furrowed her brows, a frown suddenly etching across her face. Despite acquiring several apostles directly under her command, they held little significance to her.

Her primary concern was the child growing within the Princess of the Garden's womb. While she harboured no doubt about the Princess of the Garden's true identity, her focus remained on ensuring the child could facilitate the resurgence of her own children.

Only after confirming this, understanding how to sever the bond between her and Orion, and reverting to her previous state would she address the matter of her apostles.

Observing Aerialia's contemplative expression, Orion's own brow furrowed in suspicion.

"Don't tell me you have nothing planned for them?" Orion asked.

Orion hoped that Aerialia would consider teaching Iris and the other Crystalforge clan warriors who had become apostles, as their strength would undoubtedly prove valuable when the Prismarions settled outside the mountains.

Aerialia sighed in response.

"I wasn't the one who made them my apostles, so I don't care about them or what they decide to do with their newfound abilities. They should be glad that as apostles, they can act freely as they wish without worries," Aerialia replied, causing Orion's frown to deepen.

"No, that won't work. You might say that; however, I am very sure that the Crystalforge warriors want to find a way to learn how to utilize their new abilities and would even be willing to follow you if given the chance. Besides, even if our children succeed in bringing about the re-emergence of the One-winged race, don't they need someone to protect and guide them in this world until they become ready to do it themselves?" Orion responded.

Aerialia ignored some parts of Orion's words while contemplating the others momentarily. Apart from the Princess of the Garden and the child in her womb, the Crystalforge Clan warriors might be the only ones related to her.

So, it would be a good idea to participate in the growth of the Crystalforge Clan warriors. This way, when her children rekindle in this world, there would be someone to look after them before they have the strength to do so themselves.