

Village Head 861

Chapter 861 Initiating The Plan (2)

The Primordial energy spread until it reached the barrier and then, along with the barrier, began to spread outwards. As the frozen wasteland was encompassed by the barrier, everything returned to normal without a trace of the ashes remaining from the dead forest that had been razed to the ground by Stronghold Leader Seth's gift.

Soon, the barrier, supported by the primordial energy emanating from the sundial, reached the mountains and surpassed them, halting its expansion only when it was three thousand kilometres away from them. The barrier effortlessly penetrated the soil at that moment, encompassing everything surrounding it from below.

.....

Outside the barrier

Law of destruction: Annihilation lance!

Law of ice: Frostbite spike!

Law of water: Abyss tsunami!

The air crackled with immediate Vylkr energy, causing the atmosphere to shatter and reform before breaking again, unable to stabilise correctly. The laws of the cosmos transformed into various complex and intricate techniques, surging and smashing into the ever-expanding barrier.

As these techniques collided with the barrier, they dissipated, unable to penetrate or destroy the immensely overbearing barrier. Instead, they tore at the atmosphere, revealing deep chasms that added chaos to the environment outside the barrier.

The Vylkr spawns had never expected to be pushed to such an extent, not just by their opponents but by a mere barrier.

The man with Ashen skin covered his fist with the 'Law of Destruction' and instantly slammed it against the barrier.

BANNGG!! BANGG!!! BANGG!!!

Several ear-splitting collisions resounded through the atmosphere, creating shockwaves that spread from tens to hundreds of kilometres. However, despite his efforts, the barrier showed no cracks or weaknesses.

"What is this?!" exclaimed the ashen man angrily. It was inconceivable for them to think that they had been pushed back by a barrier created by their enemy. Didn't this mean that they were weaker than their enemy?

"The barrier has stopped moving," said the woman with skin as pale as snow, observing the barrier's strange movement with a look of surprise on her face.

The others also shared the same expression as they watched the barrier dig into the ground and encompass everything below it before slowly rising into the sky.

"Stop it! Whatever you do, don't allow this territory to soar further into the sky!" the ashen-skinned man ordered.

He mentally controlled the Vylkr vine variants in the surroundings, trying to lash onto the rising territory and hold it down as he soared above it, attempting to halt its advances.

The other two nodded solemnly and followed suit, utilising whatever was in their arsenal to prevent the rising territory from advancing.

.....

Village

VillageChief'sCompound

As Orion observed their ascent into the air, his lips couldn't help but part open with astounded surprise. "Amazing," he said unintentionally.

Orion instantly understood that Aegis of the Arctic Deity was not only trying to remove them from the Vylkr veil phenomenon, where they would no longer have to worry about the Vylkr vines' relentless attacks, but also protect them from forces like the Vylkr spawns, giving them the ability to kill two birds with one stone.

Although he was curious whether Aegis of the Arctic Deity's plan was merely temporary, he understood that he would have to wait until his question was answered.

Aegis of the Arctic Deity continued to fight the Vylkr energy within him, which was quickly consuming him. He also channelled his divine energy into the sundial, emptying his reserve. But he couldn't stop either because he needed a few more minutes to ensure everything was okay and that he had pulled everyone out of danger.

Suddenly, he narrowed his gaze upwards, watching as the Vylkr spawns tried to halt the territory from ascending. He focused forward and continued channelling more divine energy into the sundial.

He wouldn't allow them to delay his plan.

.....

Farm

Aerialia delved deep into the Princess of the Garden's consciousness, slowly searching for her. The last time she had been here, she hadn't noticed much about the Princess of the Garden's consciousness shrouded in darkness.

After all, she was just a cheap copy of herself, a true goddess. However, after witnessing Aegis of the Arctic Deity's memories, she realised why she had found it difficult to locate the Princess of the Garden but could easily dominate her consciousness. It wasn't just because she was a goddess and the Princess of the Garden was a failed abomination of herself; instead, it was—

Aerialia halted herself when she heard the faint sounds of crying. Without hesitation, she turned toward the direction of the weeping voice and soared towards it. The weeping voice became more apparent as she got closer until she finally arrived at the source.

Before, she was a woman with a similar appearance to the Princess of the Garden, weeping profusely, clutching her knees together.

"Prin—" Aerialia started to speak but quickly sealed her lips shut, remembering that the name 'the Princess of the Garden' was not her own but a title imposed upon her by a creator who saw no worth in her existence.

Physically and existentially, she was an individual without a true identity.

"What are you doing?" the Princess of the Garden's voice echoed from the space around her.

"Is this where you're kept?" Aerialia asked, looking around the empty space before focusing on the woman before her, who had heard her voice and scrutinised her with teary eyes.

"What are you talking about? Get away from her!" the Princess of the Garden responded, her tone anxious and filled with emotion.

Aerialia gently touched the woman's shoulder and looked into her eyes. "I know I'm the last person you want to see this, but you don't have to worry because I understand everything perfectly now... You don't need to keep holding her back," she responded, her voice croaking as she reached to wipe the tears from the woman's cheeks, still weeping profusely.

However, instead of the Princess of the Garden's calm, gentle voice, a scream resounded across the space, "GET AWAY FROM HER! I THOUGHT YOU SIMPLY WANTED TO TALK!"

"I'm sorry... Suppose there is anyone in this universe who deserves an identity the most; it's you," Aerialia responded, tears spilling from her eyes as she spread her large wings and gently laid the woman down on its side.

"You disregarded her to the extent that you left her with nothing to wear or comfort herself with," she added. "An individual's consciousness is a reflection of themselves or an emotion or memory they hold deep within them," she explained."

Chapter 862 A New Chapter

The Princess of the Garden's voice remained silent across the space this time.

"... I remember you... You are me, aren't you?" the woman?lying?on her feathers suddenly asked, her eyes staring at Aerialia with bright intensity before swiftly shaking her head. "No, it's the other way around. I'm you."

Aerialia tried to open her mouth to speak. Still, she found that she couldn't, not because?she?had nothing to say, but as the woman lying comfortably on her wings stopped weeping and spoke with her, she slowly diminished in size and appearance, looking noticeably younger than before.

"No," Aerialia shook her head in disagreement, finally finding her voice. "You are not me. There is only one person you can be, which is you."

The woman, now transformed into a young girl, blinked in confusion. "I don't understand. After all, I'm a failed replica of you. If I'm not you, then I'm nobody," she responded.

Aerialia gradually dried her tears. "You can't be a nobody because I'm holding you, right? Also, you were never me. I'm much older than you, much more knowledgeable, and wiser. So how can you be me when you are still so young?" Aerialia responded, watching as the young girl transformed into a 12-year-old and stopped there.

"If what you say is true, then who am I?" the young girl asked curiously.

Aerialia stretched and gently placed her trembling hands against the girl's cheeks. "I've thought about it deeply and decided that since you are everything I am, would you like to be my daughter?" she asked.

The young girl's eyes widened, her brows furrowing as she spoke. "Your daughter?" she questioned, surprised.

"Yes," Aerialia nodded, her expression gentle yet determined. "Apart from my children, I've never had anyone?else?directly related to me except you. So, what do you think about it? Do you want to be my daughter?"

"Your daughter!" The young girl sat upright, her curiosity piqued as she looked at Aerialia with wide eyes.

"Yes. I, Aerialia, the goddess of the hunting moon, proclaim you as my daughter today," Aerialia responded with a light smile. "And from this day onward, because you are my daughter, I'll call you Aurora. That is your identity now, and if anyone wants to take it away from you, they would have to pry it from my heart and lips first."

"Aurora," the young girl spoke softly as if savouring the sound of the name. "What does it mean?" she asked, delighted.

"It means dawn, the break of day that signifies a new beginning," Aerialia smiled. "Although Orion might get annoyed at this, I don't think he would be that angry when he realizes why I took such action. Nonetheless, I can't wait to see the look on his face when he finds out," she added, chuckling lightly.

The young girl shot upwards and threw herself against Aerialia, wrapping her arms around her and pulling her into a hug.

Suddenly, she pulled away and looked at Aerialia with furrowed brows. "Wait! If you're my mother, then who is my father? Is it Orion?" she asked with a confused expression.

Hearing the young girl's words, Aerialia blushed deeply before swiftly shaking her head. "Humph! Why do you think you have a father? Didn't I tell you that I'm a goddess? Do you think I need anybody's help before I can give birth?" she responded with a snort.

"But Orion..."

"Forget about what Orion said! You are my daughter, mine alone, and that is final!" Aerialia responded firmly, her tone serious.

She couldn't believe that even if he wasn't here, Orion could still interrupt such a peaceful moment.

"Okay, I understand, mother. I won't argue anymore," the young girl responded, nodding timidly.

Suddenly, the space around them brightened, and the scene that had just transpired between Aerialia and the young girl began to reenact itself. Aerialia stood up and observed this, watching as the scene appeared in the corner of the space and gradually spread outwards until the entire space around them was filled with the unfolding scene of the event that had just transpired.

"Mother," a familiar voice said behind Aerialia, and a familiar pair of arms wrapped around her.

Aerialia turned around, her gaze falling upon the more mature Aurora weeping on her bosom. She wrapped her arms around her, embracing her tightly.

"It's alright. I know it must have been hard, but everything will be alright from today onwards," Aerialia responded, gently wiping away Aurora's tears from her eyes like a caring mother would. "Come on, it's time we get out of here and announce to everyone who the new you are," she added, smiling brightly.

Aurora nodded, her voice soft but resolute. "Okay, mother," she responded.

.....

Farm

"Uhm! Are you sure she is going to be okay?" Gina asked, her concern apparent as she looked at the weeping Princess of the Garden, who strangely also wore a bright smile.

"Well, Orion said that no matter what happens, we shouldn't touch or awaken her until she wakes up herself," Celeste responded. Though she shared Gina's worry, Celeste trusted Orion's judgment, knowing he wouldn't give such an order without reason.

A bright light suddenly flashed before them, revealing the appearance of an incredibly tall woman, much taller than Fifi, with large brilliant white wings stretched outwards. She was clad in clothing that appeared to be loosely wrapped around her body.

Crystalia widened her eyes, immediately recognizing who the woman was.

Meanwhile, the other women cautiously took several steps back, forming a defensive stance against the Princess of the Garden. Fifi, Ursa, Seraphina, Anara, and the tree nymphs stood ready to attack if anything went wrong.

Soon, Aurora gradually stirred awake and sat upright. She observed everyone, noting the wariness in their postures. Instantly, she understood that Aerialia had chosen to reveal herself to everyone present.

Aurora pulled herself to her feet and dusted herself off before standing beside Aerialia. She then addressed the surrounding women. "Everyone, I want you all to meet my mother, Aerialia, the goddess of the hunting moon," she announced, directing her hand towards the woman hovering beside her.

Chapter 863 Aegis Of The Arctic Deity's Final Stand

Crystalia, Seraphina, and the other women were stunned when they heard her words.

"Princes..." Crystalia attempted to speak, but her words were swiftly interrupted.

"Call me Aurora, that is my name... and my identity from now on," Aurora responded, looking at Crystalia with a smile.

Crystalia swiftly nodded in understanding and cleared her throat, quickly correcting herself, "Aurora, is Aerialia, the goddess of the hunting moon, really your mother?" she asked, feeling beads of sweat gathering on her forehead.

After all, she and almost every important member of the Prismarion race were part of the Divine apostle of the goddess of the hunting moon, so she was earnest about confirming the authenticity of Aurora's words.

"Yes, I am telling the truth. But nonetheless, if you still choose to doubt me, you can ask her," Aurora responded, pointing towards Aerialia, who had narrowed her eyes at Crystalia.

Crystalia swiftly shook her head in response, "No, I believe you. I just wanted to ensure that I had heard your words correctly," she responded, feeling the weight of Aerialia's gaze on her.

The rest of the women also nodded their heads in agreement. After all, who would have expected that the Princess of the Garden, now named Aurora, was the daughter of Aerialia, the goddess of the hunting moon? Doesn't this mean their husband had charmed a goddess's daughter?

BANNGGG!! BOOOOMMM!!

Several resounding explosions echoed above, casting bright light flashes into the atmosphere. The women lifted their heads and gazed skyward. At first, they couldn't discern what was happening, but as they peered deeper, they noticed the thunderous, inky black clouds drawing closer. However, it only took them another second to realize that it wasn't just the clouds approaching; instead, they were slowly rising into the sky.

They were too stunned to speak once this realization hit them.

"Aurora, let's go!" Aerialia said, shifting her attention towards Aurora.

Aurora nodded in agreement. Aerialia instantly merged into Aurora's body again, taking partial possession of it. Large, brilliant white wings emerged from her back, and they took off into the sky, quickly locating Orion and heading towards him.

"Wow!" Grace exclaimed, observing the entire scene of Aurora taking flight into the air. She couldn't help but wonder where her father had gotten all these amazing mothers from.

.....

Village?Chief's?Compound

As the Vylkr spawns struggled to halt the floating territory, they only succeeded in slowing it down due to the cracks they had formed in the atmosphere.

This caused Aegis of the Arctic Deity to channel more divine energy to heal these cracks through the barrier, allowing it to safely advance without any problems. However, as he continued, Aegis of the Arctic Deity gradually became weaker, prompting the Vylkr energy to consume him rapidly, already taking away his left leg.

The only reason the will of the Omnithrialian—the Vylkr energy

—had not entirely devoured him was the Primordial energy he had previously consumed, holding it at bay.

Suddenly, Aegis of the Arctic Deity let go of the sundial and gradually landed on the ground.

Orion rushed to catch him and assist his descent to the ground; however—

"Don't touch me," Aegis of the Arctic Deity shouted. "I know you can resist the Vylkr energy, but we shouldn't test your resistance to them," he added.

Orion nodded and took several steps back.

Aegis of the Arctic Deity gradually recovered some of his strength, slowly soaring into the air again.

BOOOMMM!!! BAANNNGGG!!

Several resounding sounds accompanied by bright light flashes erupted outside the barrier again, drawing their attention skyward again.

"If this continues, not only will I have to expend more of my strength to hasten the ascent of the territory, but their ruckus will surely attract the attention of other gods, who would want to check it out, regardless of whether they are afraid of Naka's presence or not," Aegis of the Arctic Deity said.

"So, there's one thing left, isn't there?" Orion responded. He recognized that Aegis of the Arctic Deity had done his best for their protection, and regardless of whether he chose to attack the Vylkrspawns, he would still die due to the Vylkr energy consuming his body from the inside out.

So he could already guess the necessary decision they needed to make without even being told.

"Yes. The only way to solve this issue is for me to finally face these Vylkr spawns and show them the power of 'Aegis of the Arctic Deity.' I've already modified the use of the manmade god with the sundial, and it won't stop rising until it has reached a certain level."

"Because the shield is now driven by Primordial energy rather than Divine energy, you don't need to worry about any attacks breaking through it unless you are being attacked by a true god. Also, you don't need to worry about it being seen; I've ensured that the barrier blends with its surroundings," Aegis of the Arctic Deity responded.

The only reason he was willing to attack the Vylkr spawns was that they were supposedly Naka's creation for a perfect race and that they had dared infringe upon a territory under his protection. And as a god sworn to be the imposing shield protecting all those behind him, how could he continue to watch their futile attempts from a corner?

Also, if there was indeed a god who had come to watch what was occurring, he would use this opportunity to deter and scare them off from trying to do anything stupid.

Orion nodded. Just as he was about to speak, he was interrupted by a familiar figure landing beside them.

"Aerialia," Orion said, watching as Aerialia instantly separated from the Princess of the Garden's body when she landed and immediately approached them.

"What's going on?" Aerialia asked, her voice tinged with worry.

Although she hadn't expected them to raise the territory into the sky, she wanted to ensure they had thought everything through despite it being a credible option considering their previous and current dilemmas.

Chapter 864 Aegis Of The Arctic Deity's Final Stand (2)

She didn't want a situation where the territory would suddenly collapse from the sky, killing everyone in the process.

Aurora, her heart pounding, took a step forward.

Orion proceeded to explain the current situation to both of them.

They nodded understanding and focused on Aegis of the Arctic Deity, preparing to leave the barrier. They realized this was the last time they would ever see him again.

Aurora bowed towards his direction, saying, "Thank you. I'll never forget your sacrifice and all you've done for us," her voice tinged with sadness.

"I'm sorry for ever looking down on you because you were a manmade god. Despite everything that has transpired in the past, you've proven to be worthy of your divinity over and over again. I'm sure god Aerendir would be proud to learn that his children had inherited his ideals without flaws," Aerialia also said, looking straight at Aegis of the Arctic Deity with a nod.

Aegis of the Arctic Deity nodded at Aurora and Aerialia one last time before shifting his attention towards Orion.

"I don't have much to say except thank you. It's been amazing knowing the kind of person you are, Oberon," Orion said, bowing slightly towards Oberon.

"Take care of the Orion Cities and the Pixie race, Orion. I know they might be a handful at times, but as long as they remain useful, which I'm sure they always will, I know you won't have a problem handling them," Aegis of the Arctic Deity responded before nodding one last time at Orion.

He focused his gaze skyward and instantly vanished from their sight, materializing outside the barrier.

Before the Vylkr spawns could attack again, Aegis of the Arctic Deity opened his lips and muttered, "Mirror realm." Instantly, all three Vylkr spawns before him were sucked into the Mirror realm so their attacks would not affect the world around them.

Below, Orion observed the scene and sighed, "It's finally over," he remarked.

Aerialia and Aurora nodded in response. Aurora turned her attention towards Orion and cleared her throat, catching his attention.

Orion focused on her. "What is it?" he asked, raising his brows in confusion as he noted her hesitant expression.

Aurora shifted her gaze towards Aerialia. Sensing Aurora's intent, Aerialia sighed and redirected her eyes towards Orion. "We want to tell you something," she said, gesturing towards Aurora.

"From today onward, her name is no longer the Princess of the Garden, but Aurora; it's the name I've given her as her mother," she added.

Hearing Aerialia's words, Orion was instantly astounded. He shifted his attention towards Aurora and Aerialia, unable to deny their striking resemblance. However, it wasn't just Aerialia's words that puzzled him, but the idea of their familial roles that baffled him.

Rather than mother and daughter, they seemed more like sisters, so he struggled to understand how they had established their new family dynamic.

However, despite feeling slightly disappointed about being unable to use the name he had planned for her, Orion's heart softened as he saw Aurora's happy yet nervous expression awaiting his response.

Her happiness was what truly mattered.

Orion smiled in response, "If you're her mother, then who is the father?" he asked playfully, directing his mischievous gaze at Aerialia.

Aerialia narrowed her eyes at Orion. "Remove any ridiculous thoughts from your mind, or else I'll ensure that I remove the reason for them," she responded, her gaze pointedly directed downwards.

Orion snorted in response. "You're just a ghost now. How do you plan on doing that?" he retorted.

"Are you testing me? Or have you forgotten that I'm not just a ghost but a goddess?" Aerialia shot back, her fist clenched with a surge of emotion.

Suddenly, peals of laughter echoed through the air, breaking the tension. They turned to see Aurora laughing hysterically. As her laughter subsided, she said with a light chuckle, "Husband, perhaps it's best not to tease your mother-in-law too much and avoid complicating the family relationship further."

"Alright, I'll stop," Orion responded, throwing a playful wink at Aerialia, much to her displeasure.

Hearing Aurora and Orion's banter, Aerialia's lips twitched lightly. She suppressed her emotions, finding the need for a dignified demeanour amidst their teasing.

Aerialia soon turned her gaze upward and watched the ongoing battle solemnly, hoping for the victory of Aegis of the Arctic Deity despite his weakened state.

Orion and Aurora also calmed down, their focus shifting to the sky, where the territory continued to rise. They shared Aerialia's concerns; losing this battle meant being trapped within the barrier even after the Vylkr veil phenomenon ended, which was a future they wished to avoid.

After twenty minutes, the sky above them suddenly trembled again, showcasing that the 'Mirror realm' had been broken.

Aegis of the Arctic Deity appeared, visibly grasping the neck of the ashen-skinned man whose lower body had now been brutally torn off. The other two assailants were nowhere to be seen, making it evident that Aegis had successfully taken care of them. After a few seconds, the ashen-skinned man was dead, his body scattering into the air.

Witnessing this scene, Orion, Aurora, and Aerialia sighed in relief.

"He did it," Orion remarked.

Aurora and Aerialia nodded in agreement.

They had been worried that Aegis of the Arctic Deity would be too weak to dispose of their assailants, but their worries had been for nought. Suddenly, as Aegis of the Arctic Deity slowly descended towards the barrier, the stormy clouds above them grew stronger.

Aegis of the Arctic Deity halted his movement and furrowed his brows, shifting his attention towards the storm clouds and the frenzied lightning and thunder flashing through the sky simultaneously.

CRRAACCCKKKK! BBOOOMMMM!

Orion, Aerialia, and Aurora immediately sensed something was amiss, and a surge of suspicion filled their hearts.

"Don't tell me there are more of them," Orion muttered, his throat feeling heavy as he spoke.

Aurora and Aerialia clenched their fists tightly together, quietly coming to the same conclusion as Orion.

As if in response to their questions, several bolts of lightning and thunder gathered in the sky like lances and struck down at the Aegis of the Arctic Deity.

Chapter 865 The 1st Unit Vanguard Team of the 'Wanderlust Travelling Tortoise' Runaway City

"BASTARD! I'LL KILL YOU!" A resounding feminine voice echoed from within the clouds, hidden from view as she gathered more Vylkr-infested clouds, firing down frightening sky-splitting lightning and thunder on Aegis of the Arctic Deity.

The remnants of her attacks struck against the Primordial energy barrier, tearing the atmosphere around it and causing the ascending territory to slow down even further.

.....

Outside the Vylkr Veil Phenomenon stood 260 individuals divided into 10 squads, each with thirteen members. These squads comprised three distinct races: succubus, incubus, and Orges.

The succubi and the incubi possessed distinct bodies ranging from a muscular yet voluptuous physique with curves accentuated by their toned muscles and sensuality to a leaner, athletic build, with toned muscles and a lean, sinewy frame, muscles defined and well-toned that rippled beneath their skin.

All of them were adorned in revealing armour crafted from sleek leather and gleaming metal, tailored to enhance their seductive appeal while offering protection and freedom of movement.

Meanwhile, the Orges among them, both men and women, boasted massive physiques that spoke volumes about their strength and resilience. Some had bulkier frames, showcasing raw power, while others possessed leaner, more streamlined builds that misrepresented their immense strength.

They were all dressed in armour forged from rugged leather and sturdy metal, designed for maximum protection with thick plates and reinforced padding.

They were the 1st Unit Vanguard Team of the 'Wanderlust Travelling Tortoise' Runaway City. Despite their diverse appearances, they all shared one common feature: thick metal bracelets adorning their wrists. They also wielded massive Gearweaver weapons, with the Gearweaver sword being the most prevalent choice among them.

As others dealt with the relentless Vylkr vines, which seemed to have gained more vigour with the emergence of the Vylkr Vine Phenomenon, encroaching towards their direction, they observed the thick Vylkr Veil Phenomenon before them.

It obscured their vision, preventing them from seeing what was transpiring inside. However, the ear-splitting thunder and lightning tearing the skies above it and the violently trembling ground beneath their feet indicated the intensity of the situation within.

They all wore solemn expressions, sharing an understanding that whatever was happening inside was beyond what they could handle.

Suddenly, a booming voice resonated across the area.

"REMEMBER, EVEN IF WE CAN'T ENTER THE VYLKR VEIL PHENOMENON, MAKE SURE NO ONE FROM THE SLEEPING FOX RUNAWAY CITY GETS THROUGH! IS THAT CLEAR?" shouted a voluptuous, brown-skinned succubus.

She was dressed in seductive leather and metal-plated armour that barely covered her ample cleavage but securely protected her arms and body. She wore a leather-like mini skirt around her waist and a garter belt-like undergarment underneath it.

A Gearweaver spear, about 1.8 meters (5.9 ft) long, was strapped to her back as she scanned her surroundings with a stoic expression, ensuring everyone heard and understood her orders.

"YES, CAPTAIN!" they responded in unison, their voices echoing loudly through the area.

"Alright! Let's start securing the surroundings until the Vykr veil phenomenon dies down. Then we can advance and search for the item!" announced the Captain of the 1st Unit Vanguard team of the Wanderlust Traveling Tortoise Runaway City.

They all nodded and began to spread out, each squad patrolling the border of the Vykr veil phenomenon.

"Captain, I don't know why, but my instincts are screaming at me to get out of here with each passing second," a gruff voice sounded from one of the gods' chosen Ogres beside her.

He had thick green skin and wore heavy leather and metal armour covering his upper body, upper legs, and forearms. His right arm had a full metal-plated shoulder guard. Two well-

groomed tusks protruded from both sides of his lower jaw. His expression was clouded with worry as he awaited the Captain's response.

"It's not just you, Azarok. My instincts are screaming, too, as if urging me to run not as far as I can and not look back. With the recent earth-shaking tremors now subsiding, the deafening thunder above, and the tense air around us, I'm inclined to trust those instincts."

"But we can't leave until we secure the Divine artefact from either Patriarch Rylan or the 2nd Unit Vanguard team Captain of 'The Sleeping Fox Runaway City,' Captain Seig, along with his lieutenant, Evadne. That is, if they haven't turned into corpses by now," the Captain replied, folding her arms to steady her slightly trembling figure. She focused on the Vykr veil phenomenon before returning to Azarok, her lieutenant.

Azarok nodded thoughtfully. "It's impressive they've come this far on their own, considering the challenges and the intel we've gathered," he remarked, his gaze fixed on the Vykr veil phenomenon.

"But it's hard to overlook how 'The Sleeping Fox' Runaway City stupidly lost one of their best gods' chosen due to politics," he added, a hint of disdain in his expression.

"The story surrounding this is quite fascinating," the Captain responded, glancing at the corpses left along their path.

"Surviving this Vykr veil phenomenon would be a feat in itself. If they manage that, I might even offer them the opportunity to join our forces at the Wanderlust Travelling Tortoise Runaway City. I doubt the Queen or the Inner Circle would object. However, we'll have to wait until the Vykr veil phenomenon clears before we can make any decisions," she added, glancing at the immense figure of the Sleeping Fox Runaway City in the distance before returning to their immediate surroundings.

Azarok hummed, nodding in understanding.

.....

Village Chief's Compound

Flashes of deafening thunder and lightning continued to pour down against Aegis of the Arctic Deity, accompanied by a downpour of swirling ice hail that appeared out of the Primordial barrier before vanishing into thin air upon contact.

Aegis of the Arctic Deity managed to dodge some of these attacks. Still, it was clear that his recent battle had weakened him significantly, leaving him unable to defend himself adequately or retaliate against his assailant. The Vylkr energy had already consumed half of his body, leaving only his right side and upper right leg intact.

"Isn't there anything we can do?" Orion questioned, clenching his jaws and fists in frustration.

Chapter 866 Death Of Aegis Of The Arctic Deity

After hearing his words, Aurora observed Orion's expression beside him, and her concern grew. Frustration and anger tightened her features as she wondered why she couldn't do anything to help Aegis of the Arctic Deity and the floating territory. Wasn't there something she could do besides standing by and watching?

"You don't need to blame yourself. Aegis of the Arctic Deity would prefer knowing you're all safe rather than risking your lives needlessly; after all, he is the divine shield," Aerialia said softly, her words directed at Aurora as she shifted her gaze toward Aegis of the Arctic Deity enduring the stormy assault from above.

She concealed her emotions and anger, deciding not to add to their worries at such a critical time.

Aerialia understood that Orion was deeply affected by her decision, so showing her own worry in addition to their already dire circumstances might lead to impulsive actions from him.

"But mother, won't she try to attack us after taking down Aegis of the Arctic Deity?" Aurora asked, concern etched across her face as she glanced at Aerialia.

"Humph! Have you forgotten what Aegis of the Arctic Deity said before? Our territory is currently within the Primordial Barrier, so we'd be unharmed even if she risked her life force to attack us. Unless we face any true gods, we might be in the world's most secure and safest location," Aerialia replied confidently.

"Yes, she's right. Aegis of the Arctic Deity mentioned that the Primordial Barrier will also blend in with the surroundings to hide our location, so even if a god comes, they won't easily discover us. If they emerge victorious, whether she's willing to wait for us to attempt to leave the Primordial Barrier is something we'll have to wait and find out," Orion replied, agreeing with Aerialia's assessment. Given Aegis of the Arctic Deity's sacrifice, he felt justified in being selfish about his life.

"Right now, all we can do is keep our emotions in check, watch how things unfold, and strive to become stronger regardless of the outcome," he continued, unconsciously clenching his fists.

After witnessing everything that had happened, he vowed silently to grow stronger no matter what it took.

In a world where gods shape destinies, he was determined to shape theirs himself, whatever it took.

Outside the barrier, Aegis of the Arctic Deity finally pinpointed the location of his assailant.

He instantly disappeared and reappeared behind a slender woman draped in a robe woven from ethereal clouds. Whirls of air swirled around her form, and feathery wings of translucent air extended from behind her back. Her skin was as light as wispy clouds, and like tempestuous winds, her hair billowed like wind-blown clouds.

Her expression shifted from surprise to fear and caution as Aegis of the Arctic Deity suddenly appeared behind her. Her eyes, shimmering with the colours of a sunrise sky, widened as she tried to

widen the distance between them, but it was too late. Aegis of the Arctic Deity wrapped his right arm around her, locking her in his embrace.

"LET ME GO!!" Grylen screamed in fright, struggling against Aegis of the Arctic Deity's grasp.

Despite her attempts to break free, he seemed determined to hold onto her.

"You should have run away when you had the chance. Now, this will be your burial ground," Aegis of the Arctic Deity responded calmly. "Mirror realm," he added before detonating his body, sensing another presence suddenly appearing within his senses.

He didn't have time to check if they were the gods he had predicted would come due to the impacts of their battle or another Vylkr spawn before throwing them into the 'Mirror realm.'

As their surroundings shattered like glass shards, a deafening explosion split the clouds, shaking the sky and spreading out into the Mirror realm, tearing it apart because the Mirror realm had not yet fully formed; meanwhile, the remaining force of the explosion scattered into the natural world, ripping the atmosphere apart - clouds were overturned, and winds split and spread outward, following the shockwaves as they expanded, extending their grip into the distance. Fixtures appeared, cracking open the space around them.

For a brief moment, the Vylkr Veil Phenomenon was torn apart, revealing the bright, beautiful, sunny sky above and a strange cyclone of Vylkr energy trembling and dissipating before reforming.

Gradually, as if time had reversed, the Vylkr-infested clouds covered the sky again, darkening and submerging the area with countless Vylkr vine variants.

.....

Outside the Vylkr Vine Phenomenon, the catastrophic event had also reached them, forcing everyone to the ground as they shielded their eyes and ears, struggling to control their spasming bodies.

After several minutes, they regained their composure and began to rise one by one, while others remained weakly on the ground, needing more rest.

Azarot extended his hand to his Captain as she stood up, watching as she grabbed onto it to pull herself up.

"Thank you," appreciatively said the Captain of the 1st Unit Vanguard Team of the 'Wanderlust Travelling Tortoise' Runaway City.

She dusted off the dirt and tore away the one-star and two-

star Vylkr vines that had tried to ensnare her while temporarily disoriented.

Azarot nodded in response. "If you choose to fall back now, I'm sure no one would blame you. I'm certain even they must have felt the devastating impact from their end," he said with a gruff tone, shifting his attention towards the 'Wanderlust Travelling Tortoise' Runaway City in the distance, which seemed to have been shaken slightly by the sudden impact, alongside the Sleeping Fox Runaway City.

He then refocused on his Captain and the Vylkr Veil Phenomenon, which seemed to disappear momentarily before reappearing.

"Of course, I know that. However, abandoning the task we've been given will not only risk severe punishment but also, despite our reasons, we will surely be mocked by others for abandoning our mission out of fear and returning home," the Captain responded.

She sighed heavily, "Also, since this involves a divine artefact, we shouldn't depend on their reasoning."

Chapter 867 The Formation Of An Artefact

Azarok nodded thoughtfully. "As a god's chosen, I am always prepared for death. Since this seems like a mission of certain death, I was simply ensuring that you were prepared and not leaving anything behind," he responded gruffly.

"Well, you don't need to worry about your Captain being afraid of death because I am more than prepared for it. Nonetheless, some of us might not make it out alive, and the ones who do might do

so with life-crippling injuries. So, ensure that everyone is prepared to encounter anything within the Vylkr Veil Phenomenon," the Captain responded.

"What if we encounter a god or demigod?" Azarok asked, furrowing his brows. He was aware that the scale of this disruption could not be produced through ordinary means.

The Captain snorted in response. "If we encounter a god or a demigod, then I'll tie myself to a rope and hang myself because there would be no use fighting. However, you shouldn't be using your delusions to judge our current dilemma as though such beings are like sand and are easy to find. The highest we should be ready to encounter is a Divine apostle, and even that is a stretch considering where we currently are."

"My guess is either two unknown extremely formidable gods' chosens fighting against each other, or we are about to be the first to witness another catastrophe brought on by the emergence of the Vylkr vines. Neither of these is a comforting assumption since it means that we lose the chance to collect the divine artefact and complete this mission," she responded, glancing back at the Sleeping Fox Runaway City in the distance, which remained idle and appeared to make no effort to move from their position.

"Also, I'm beginning to think that the Sleeping Fox Runaway City has not yet sent their gods' chosen ones over because they want to use us to test the waters before making any movements. How irritating!" she added, clicking her tongue against her cheeks in annoyance as she refocused her gaze forward.

Azarok briefly shifted his attention to the Sleeping Fox Runaway City before refocusing on his Captain and nodding. "It's irritating indeed. But unfortunately, there's nothing we can do about it. I'll go and prepare the rest of the unit so they can give their last prayers before we proceed," he replied with a gruff, turning around to walk away and speak with the others.

The Captain nodded, watching him leave before shifting her attention toward the Vylkr veil phenomenon. "Tch!" she clicked her tongue against her cheek in annoyance again as she folded her arms together and calmed down her trembling body.

.....

The Village Chief's Compound

"It's finally over," Orion muttered, his gaze fixed on the unfolding scene above as the Vylkr-infested clouds reclaimed the sky.

Since they were shielded by the Primordial barrier, they saw only the temporarily cleared sky and the distant cyclone of Vylkr energy, at a distance from the floating territory. Orion knew anyone looking up at that moment would have seen it before the darkness returned.

During that brief respite, he failed to catch sight of Aegis of the Arctic Deity or his assailant. At that moment, Orion didn't need confirmation that Aegis of the Arctic Deity was no more.

"He's dead," Orion murmured to himself, his heart heavy with the loss of a god who had left a lasting impact on him since their first meeting.

"Yes, he is. It seems that he sacrificed his life for one final attack to eliminate the last remaining Vylkrspawn that had attacked him," Aerialia responded, her expression filled with sadness.

Aurora shifted her gaze from the sky to Orion. "Are you okay, Orion?" she asked, concern evident in her voice.

"Yes, don't worry, I'm fine," Orion replied, nodding firmly.

"I'm asking because your eyes are a little wet," Aurora pointed out, extending her right hand towards Orion's face to wipe away the tiny tear droplets around his eyes.

"Oh! It's nothing. I might have looked at the sun too long, and it stung my eyes," Orion explained, feeling Aurora's warm palm as she gently wiped away the moisture.

Aurora nodded silently and withdrew her hand once she was done.

"Did any of you notice that other thing as well?" Orion redirected the conversation.

Aurora nodded knowingly. "I saw it too, but I couldn't quite figure out what it was."

"I know what it was," Aerialia interjected, drawing Orion and Aurora's focus.

"You do?" Orion turned to Aerialia, curious about her revelation.

Aerialia nodded, "I initially doubted my eyes, but since both of you saw it too, I must have seen it correctly. What you all just witnessed was the formation of an artefact. As you know, artefacts are created by natural beings or beings who can shape them based on their strengths. While I had my reservations initially, considering the Vylkr energy as a manifestation of the Omnithriallian's will and a destructive force in the natural world, it is still a form of energy."

"Under certain conditions, it's conceivable that Vylkr energy could also produce an artefact. Based on what we've observed, burning a four-star Vylkr vine alongside other Vylkr vines seems to be one of those conditions," Aerialia explained, observing the shocked expressions on Orion and Aurora's faces.

"A Vylkr artifact!" Orion exclaimed, his expression filled with shock and disbelief. "But... there's no way that should be possible," he added.

The Vylkr energy was already extremely vicious and dangerous, so the idea of it potentially forming an artefact was hard for Orion to accept.

Beside him, Aurora's lips parted in disbelief, her face reflecting astonishment.

"Whether you choose to believe me or not, you witnessed the formation yourself. All that's left is for us to wait until its completion and then confirm whether it's truly a Vylkr artefact," Aerialia responded, shaking her head wearily.

"Doesn't that mean the main reason why the Vylkrspawns appeared here was because of the emergence of a Vylkr artefact?" Orion responded, his eyes widening in realization.

Chapter 868 Arriving At The First Border City

"I think so, too," Aerialia responded.

Aegis of the Arctic Deity had mentioned that some creature had emerged in the village before the arrival of the other Vylkrspawns, so it was easy for them to deduce that they had all come here for a specific purpose.

"If that's the case, what will we do?" Aurora asked, her attention fixed on Aerialia and Orion.

"We'll have to wait until its formation is over before we check it out and confirm," Orion responded. "Come on, let's go and meet the rest to inform them that everything is over," he added, resummoning the Crimson Greatsword into its small mark on his right arm before carrying Aurora in a princess carry, then leaping high into the sky.

.....

First Border City

As Orion landed amidst the bustling crowd, the Village Chief, Stronghold Leader Zogar, Stronger Leader Seth, Queen Selene, High King Eldrrc, High Queen Rowena, and other key figures of the territory instantly spotted him and strode forward to greet him.

They had witnessed Orion and his entire family vanish, initially causing chaos until they received a reassuring message from the Village about Orion's safety. They knew that Aegis of the Arctic Deity was with Orion, likely discussing a solution to their current predicament.

Having witnessed the spectacular battle unfold in the sky and seeing their home ascend further into the clouds, they were now as concerned as any ordinary resident of the Orion Cities, wondering if this signalled their potential end. Therefore, they immediately sought an explanation to comprehend the situation.

Orion gently set Aurora down, letting her stand alone before focusing on the approaching leaders.

"Ahem! How is everything?" The Village Chief's throat clearing cut through the tense air, his expression serious as he awaited Orion's response.

The others fell silent, their eyes fixed on Orion, waiting for his words.

Orion nodded confidently. "You don't have to worry anymore; everything has been taken care of," he assured them, his gaze sweeping the gathered leaders.

"And what about Aegis of the Arctic Deity? Is he alright?" High King Eldric's voice held a hint of fear.

The recent intense battle in the skies had left them all on edge, making it clear that their protector was dealing with formidable foes on the same scale of power.

High King Eldric was especially concerned about Aegis of the Arctic Deity's well-being, given the powerful impact of the last attack that had shaken their floating territory to its core.

Orion remained silent momentarily, his expression grave, before shaking his head. "Aegis of the Arctic Deity is dead. He died protecting us from the assailants," he announced.

High King Eldric's expression shifted to shock upon hearing Orion's words. "Impossible! Aegis of the..." he began, his voice trailing off as if he couldn't believe what he was hearing.

He stumbled in mid-air, nearly falling. Luckily, his wife, High Queen Rowena, was nearby and managed to catch him, preventing a potential disaster.

The shock on her face mirrored that of the Village Chief and the other key figures.

Orion watched this unfold wearily. He knew it would take time for everyone to process such devastating news. Meanwhile, he needed to address the increasingly agitated crowd who noticed his arrival.

Accompanied by Aerialia, Orion walked forward and stood on the platform previously used by the Village Chief and the others to address the crowds.

"EVERYONE, PLEASE BE QUIET!" Orion's voice boomed through the crowd.

Instantly, the bustling crowd fell silent, their eyes fixated on Orion.

"Ahem! You may all return to your homes and rest assured that the crisis has been resolved, so there's no need for incessant worry! However, if anyone is found using this event to instigate trouble, they will face severe consequences or even banishment from Orion's cities."

"Please, let's avoid any disturbances during this sensitive time!

Any further updates will be communicated by your designated representatives!" Orion shouted, his eyes scanning the crowd as they absorbed his message and breathed in relief.

After hearing Orion's words, the tense atmosphere dissipated, replaced by a calm that settled over the crowd. Though curious about the mind-boggling events they had witnessed and the mysterious rise of the territory into the sky, they trusted that their leaders would provide explanations in due time. For now, their safety and the promise of another day were important.

One by one, they gathered their belongings and began the journey from the First Border City. Knowing it would take a day or more for non-warriors to reach the Second Border City and even longer for those going to the Third Border City, they hastened their departure to return home and rest.

The four-eared elves, lacking knowledge of the correct route back and having been unexpectedly teleported, joined the crowd. Aware of their limited authority in this territory, they were keen to avoid complications and didn't want to be found anywhere they weren't supposed to be.

As for everything they had just witnessed in the sky and experienced, which had defied and overturned every common sense they had, as long as the key figures of this territory told them that they hadn't seen anything, they would pretend as though they hadn't seen anything. And if they chose not to explain, they would also remain quiet as it wasn't their place to ask.

From within the crowds,

"If I hadn't seen it, I wouldn't have believed it myself," Leona said, her expression still in disbelief as she tried to comprehend everything she had witnessed.

From how they were instantly teleported here, effortlessly, to the beings capable of engaging in such an immense battle that had created fissures in the atmosphere and overturned the skies, the rising territory—everything appeared too surreal for her to simply take in without any difficulty.

Everyone else shared the same sentiments.

"They were right; our worries were for nothing. Even if we hadn't informed them about the Vylkr veil phenomenon, they would still have been able to survive it," Leif said, his eyes filled with raging emotions.

Chapter 869 Unexpected Allegiance

He attempted to laugh at their ignorance, thinking they could find a way to help the territory if they were unable to properly avert their dilemma. However, his expression remained rigid and stern.

Patriarch Rylan nodded. "They really are more capable than the last time I came to see them," he responded.

Even though he previously had doubts that the Orion cities were being protected by a god rather than an extremely powerful individual, after everything they had just witnessed and experienced, there was no longer any trace of doubt in his heart.

In fact, even if he were informed that they were about to be attacked by a multitude of Grade 2 Runaway Cities, he would most likely put a mat down and go to sleep rather than worry about the outcome of a futile attack.

Patriarch Rylan sighed inwardly, thinking it might be good for the Divine artefact to remain in Orion's hands since they possessed the backing of a god. He was also glad again that he had decided to come here; if everything went smoothly for the Four-eared elves without encountering any problems, they would finally be able to live a peaceful life in this dead, broken, unforgiving world.

"Sister, are you okay?" Lyndon asked, his eyes fixed on Isadora, who had been silent throughout the mind-boggling event, even as they returned home.

Hearing Lyndon's question, they all focused their attention on Isadora.

Isadora instantly snapped out of her thoughts and nodded in response. "Don't worry, I'm fine; I'm just having a hard time understanding everything that transpired," she responded, nervously biting her lip.

Lyndon silently nodded in understanding, feeling the same way but unable to find the right words to comfort her.

Suddenly, Isadora halted her steps, causing everyone to stop and look at her with concern.

"Is there anything wrong, Isadora?" Patriarch Rylan asked, noticing his daughter's pensive expression.

"Father, you all can return home without me. There's something I need to do before I leave here," Isadora responded, her gaze fixed seriously on Patriarch Rylan and the others.

"If you're tired and need to rest, Leona or the others can swiftly take you back home," Patriarch Rylan responded, shaking his head in disagreement.

"Also, what is it that you want to do?" he asked, curious about her intentions at such a desperate moment.

"Father, I—" Isadora began, but her words were instantly stuck in her throat. Her eyes widened in fear as she saw something alarming.

Patriarch Rylan furrowed his brows in confusion and followed her gaze. His eyes widened in shock as he noticed Captain Seig and his lieutenant, Evadne, approaching with weapons strapped to their backs.

Leif and the others also noticed their arrival and immediately formed a protective formation around Patriarch Rylan and the others. They drew their weapons, ready to attack, and stared warily at them.

Although they wouldn't be foolish enough to provoke trouble for themselves and the Four-eared Elves race by attacking Captain Seig and his lieutenant, they would have reason to defend themselves if attacked.

Contrary to their expectations, they walked past them without glancing at them.

Leif's expression darkened. He was ready to seize the opportunity to rush toward them. However, he halted instantly, gritting his teeth angrily as he remembered the consequences of his previous actions.

They all turned their gaze toward them and instantly noticed they were headed toward Orion and the other key figures.

Witnessing this scene, Isadora's eyes widened in understanding. She swiftly broke through the crowd and raced forward. "You all can return home without me! I promise I won't cause any problems and will quickly return to let you know what I want to do!" Her voice trailed behind her as she moved ahead of Captain Seig and the others toward the direction of the key figures.

.....

As Orion discussed plans with the Village Chief and other key figures to prepare for a post-crisis meeting, his attention was abruptly drawn to Isadora, who was sprinting toward him. Behind her, Captain Seig and his lieutenant followed closely.

Orion's brow furrowed in confusion, wondering why they were approaching him.

Isadora arrived before him and immediately knelt down. "Mr Orion, please, I want to resume working under you immediately!" she exclaimed, her voice hurried.

Orion and the other key figures were taken aback by her sudden request. Deciding it might be a personal matter, they stepped back to give them some privacy, focusing instead on restoring order in the Orion Cities.

Aurora remained by his side throughout.

back to give them some privacy, focusing instead on restoring order in the Orion Cities.

"Miss Isadora, I mentioned that we would discuss this matter at another time when I visit Patriarch Rylan's home," Orion replied, nodding in agreement. While he wanted to offer her a role, he was unsure what tasks would be suitable at a time like this.

Isadora shook her head firmly. "I won't leave until I have a position working under you, Mr. Orion," she insisted.

Orion paused, turning his attention to Captain Seig and Lieutenant Evadne, who had also approached. Before he could inquire about their intentions, they swiftly knelt before him, bowing with their heads to the ground.

"Mr. Orion, please accept us as your warriors; Evadne and I are prepared to swear our lives to protect the Orion Cities. Should anyone—even the gods—dare to attack, we will stand firm!" Captain Seig said, his expression determined and committed, indicating that he wouldn't leave without a definitive answer.

"I fully support my Captain's decision as well. It would be an honour to contribute to protecting such a magnificent city like Orion's Cities!" Evadne said, her tone serious and expression resolute.

Captain Seig, Evadne, and Orion briefly exchanged determined glances, a fierce resolve shining in their eyes.

Orion was left momentarily speechless by their commitment. He studied them intently, trying to understand the sudden reason for their decision. Before he could respond, he noticed several more familiar figures approaching their location, causing him to furrow his brows in curiosity.

Soon, Leif, Leona, and the remaining four gods' chosen of the Four-Eared Elves arrived and immediately knelt before him.

Chapter 870 Newcomers to Consider

"Warrior Orion, we humbly offer our service as warriors to the Orion Cities. We pledge to defend this territory with all our strength!" they announced in unison.

Orion was taken aback by their unified statement. He glanced at each of the six Four-eared Elves' chosen gods, Captain Seig, Evadne, and Princess Isadora, and it dawned on him why they had made this bold move. The presence of Aegis of the Arctic Deity and his fight against the Vylk spawns and the floating territory had clearly spurred them into action.

They must have realized that to secure their place in these cities and enjoy the privileges they offered, they needed to prove themselves or risk expulsion from this territory, which was arguably the safest refuge they knew.

At that moment, Orion inwardly smiled. Even though Isadora, Captain Seig, and his lieutenant had previously made their intentions clear to him, he couldn't easily grant such a request, especially to the other gods' chosen among the Four-eared Elves, for fear of potential misuse.

Orion turned his head to the side and called over Stronghold Leader Zogar and Seth.

"Since you all are eager to join the warriors in safeguarding this territory, I'll give you the chance to prove yourselves. I'll entrust you to the care of Stronghold Leader Zogar and Seth, as I believe they are the best judges of whether you are qualified for this task," Orion said, gesturing towards Stronghold Leader Zogar and Seth, who had arrived before them.

Hearing Orion's words, Captain Seig and the others' expressions darkened. Despite understanding that Stronghold Leader Zogar and Seth were not the strongest individuals within the village, they were still aware of their formidable strength due to their gift, which made them terrifying opponents. They couldn't help but wonder what kind of trials they would subject them to to determine their qualification to guard the Orion's Cities.

"Do any of you have any problems with that?" Orion asked, awaiting their response.

They hesitated before shaking their heads in unison.

"That's good. Stronghold Leader Zogar and Stronghold Leader Seth, I'll be leaving them in your capable hands. Please ensure that they are qualified enough to protect this territory and the Orion's Cities," Orion said, his eyes fixed on Stronghold Leader Zogar and Seth with a smile on his lips.

Stronghold Leader Zogar and Seth understood the hidden intent behind Orion's words and actions. Their expressions lit up with a smile almost instantly.

"Don't worry; if they are truly prepared to lay down their lives for this territory, then we'll handle them to the best of our abilities," Stronghold Leader Seth responded, a sharp glint in his eyes.

Stronghold Leader Zogar nodded in agreement.

"However, considering we have much to deal with today, you can all head home and rest properly. I'll meet you all tomorrow at this very location immediately after sunrise, so don't be late," Stronghold Leader Seth added, shifting his attention towards Captain Seig and the others.

Captain Seig, Evadne, and the others all nodded in understanding.

"Okay, if you don't have anything else, you can leave," Orion said.

They all stood up one by one and returned to their previous tasks.

Orion turned his attention towards Isadora. "Miss Isadora, you can stay. I have something else planned for you," he responded.

Isadora hesitated momentarily before nodding at Leif and the others, subtly signalling them to leave without her. She then turned around and went back on her knees before Orion.

After Stronghold Leader Zogar and Seth returned to their previous activities, Orion refocused on Isadora.

"Miss Isadora, I'll allow you to work under me as my personal assistant. This means you'll handle all minor internal affairs regarding the Orion's Cities while I focus on other important matters. Of course, I'll expect you to give your best, and if you can't perform at your very best, then I'll have no choice but to replace you from such a position," Orion said, his expression serious.

Isadora's eyes widened upon hearing Orion's voice, and she instantly nodded. "Thank you, Mr. Orion. I promise I won't disappoint you," she replied.

Orion nodded. "I hope so too, Miss Isadora. I'll be really looking forward to your progress. You can leave," he responded.

Isadora nodded again and stood back up, turning around to meet with Patriarch Rylan and the rest of the Four-eared elves.

"Are you sure she'll be able to handle such demanding work?" Aurora asked, observing Isadora as she walked away before shifting her attention towards Orion.

"No, not when she hasn't gotten used to Orion's cities yet. But since she wants to prove herself, this is her first chance to surpass my expectations. Then I'll look for a less demanding position for her where she can continue to help maintain the prosperity of the Orion City and ensure the well-being of the Four-eared elves," Orion responded, carrying Aurora in a Princess carry as they prepared to head back to the Garden to meet up with his wives and children.

Also, their post-crisis meeting will take two days, so he has time to spend with his family until then.

Aurora nodded in understanding. "She seems like a good person, so don't go too hard on her," she replied.

Orion halted his steps and looked down at Aurora with a raised brow. He had never heard her talk about someone she had never met in such a good way. The least he usually received was unbiased opinions of an individual.

Nonetheless, he nodded. "I'll keep that in mind," he said before leaping into the sky.

.....

Two days later

In a spacious chamber, the key figures of the Orion Cities—

Orion, the Village Chief, the Village Chieftess, Stronghold Leader Seth and Seth, Queen Selene, and the Caretakers—sat in their respective seats.

Orion recounted everything that had transpired with Aegis of the Arctic Deity, including the secrets within his sealed memories. He didn't hold back any details from the past, including Naka's identity and the events that led to their current situation.

After discussing it with Aerialia, he concluded there was no reason to keep Aegis of the Arctic Deity's revelations a secret, especially since recent events may have exposed their location. It would be foolish to withhold this knowledge from the others now.