

Village Head 891

Chapter 891 Orion's Consciousness

The man holding the crystal ball was stunned but quickly announced, "Four-star potential."

The crowds roared in excitement, gasps of shock and surprise resonating across the area.

"Impressive, two four-star potential awakenings. The future of the next generation is truly bright," the Village Chief said, looking at Orion and Tala with a satisfied expression.

Even the Village Chieftess nodded in approval as she narrowed her eyes at them.

Aerialia stared at this unfolding scene in confusion. According to what she knew, Orion possessed a six-star potential, so she couldn't understand what she was currently witnessing. Unable to control herself any longer, as she could sense his consciousness weakening by the minute, she swiftly appeared before him as he walked out of the line.

Orion halted briefly and stared at her briefly before walking straight through her ethereal being.

Aerialia remained stunned for a minute before she turned around and looked at him. "HEY, I KNOW YOU SAW ME; YOU BETTER START TALKING AND TELL ME WHAT ALL OF THIS IS ABOUT!!" She shouted angrily. She had come here to save his life, so seeing him totally ignore her was enough to cause her heart to be ignited with rage.

To her expectations, Orion halted his steps. However, he immediately resumed seconds later as though his ears had simply picked up something unknowingly, which he then decided to ignore.

Witnessing this scene, Aerialia boiled with anger. However, after remembering Orion's current physical state and the dire situation, she gradually calmed down and decided to investigate what was happening.

If this was Orion's consciousness, then there had to be a reason why such a scene, which had never transpired, would suddenly become important at this very moment.

All she had to do was discover what it was, and then maybe she could get him to speak and figure out how to fix his current dire condition.

Nonetheless, Aerialia distanced herself from the unfolding scene and continued to watch. Once the evaluation awakening ceremony was over, she observed what had transpired on the farm until Orion's return home. She observed how he indulged in Kushi with his mother, neighbour, and even the tree nymphs.

Aerialia knew that Orion was a lecherous man with unknown depths, but she didn't fault him for it; after all, she had lived long enough to witness mortals, and even the divines indulge in much deeper debauchery than him. What she found strange was that he was young and possessed more bizarre tendencies than anyone she had ever witnessed.

The scene continued, showing how Orion met some of his partners and proposed to them. Some of these scenes were ones Orion had told her about, so she immediately ascertained that there were some lies mixed with the truth in what she witnessed.

The scenes unfolded, showcasing Orion awakening his elemental gift and operating under the radar much more than Tala. His star potential and gift were the only things that made him unique among the other warriors. Soon, Aerialia began to notice something strange.

Contrary to what she had heard and witnessed herself, Orion was a young man with a brilliant mind who slowly changed the village with his inventions. However, she hadn't witnessed him perform anything like that here. Instead, all she saw was Orion enjoying his training to become a warrior, indulging in kushi with his wives, and a diverse variety of women, ranging from young to old, some of whom were the tree nymphs.

Eventually, he and his best friend, Gorg, joined the Leftward stronghold, while the other two applied at the Rightward Stronghold.

Aerialia didn't know how long she had watched the unfolding scenes; it could have been a month or several months, but she didn't care because, as a goddess, she viewed time differently from others. The scene soon changed, showing the warriors discovering the existence of a four-star Vylkr vine, leading to Orion's first exploration with his comrades.

They found a mountain which was the source of the four-star Vylkr vines. Upon entering, they soon uncovered the remains of several dead decomposed individuals.

Aerialia gulped as she saw that the dead individuals were the remains of the Prismerion race. Seeing the large Crimson Greatsword within the corpse of one of the skeletons, whom she remembered from her attire, her heart began to quicken.

"What is going on?" Aerialia asked herself, unable to wrap her head around the unfolding scenes before her.

From the looks of it, the Prismerions had chosen death over remaining within the mountain for their protection. Aerialia observed the scenes unfolding as Orion and the others struggled to seize the Crimson Great-sword before they ultimately decided to protect it from allowing the Vylkr vines around it to feed on its pure emanating divine energy, causing them to grow even stronger. She watched as they explored the entire region within the mountain, discovered the sealed Garden, and attempted to open it.

Aerialia observed as Orion and his comrades guarded the Crimson Greatsword, which was their task. However, they were ambushed by several more powerful Four-star Vylkr vines, which resulted in Orion's death and the loss of a few lower-

ranked warriors from their team.

Aerialia frowned, unable to make sense of everything she had just witnessed because none of it truly made sense. It didn't make sense because none of what she had seen had transpired. It was all inexplicable!

The scene took another unexpected turn, reverting to the evaluationawakening ceremony with Orion stepping forward to place his hand on the black crystal orb.

"Three-star potential!" announced the man holding the crystal orb. He nodded at Orion as though congratulating him for his chance to become a warrior before gesturing for him to step aside and wait with the others who had also been assessed.

At that moment, Aerialia remained stunned before gradually regaining her composure. This time, she decided to stay silent and quietly observed the unfolding scene.

Everything that had previously transpired unfolded again, but this time, Orion was no longer the centre of attention.

Chapter 892 Orion's Consciousness (2)

Instead, he was regarded as just another ordinary warrior, albeit with a high standing within the Village, enabling him to forge a good life for his family and partners. Unlike before, Orion didn't embark on an expedition this time, leaving that opportunity to Tala.

Apart from his persistent warrior training, he indulged in debauchery even within the strongholds, where life was good and beautiful.

Then, one day, they learnt that Village Chieftess was unable to use her gift to foresee the Village's future, which sparked an argument to burn down the entire dead forest, given the rampant growth of the Four-star Vylkr vines. With only two warriors—the stronghold leaders—able to fight against them, the decision was made to burn the dead forest.

This action led to the emergence of the Vylkr veil phenomenon. Before they could halt its progress, it was too late. The Village and everyone within it were ravaged to their deaths by the Vylkr vine variants. There were no survivors.

The scene shifted once more, reverting to the evaluation awakening ceremony where Orion stepped forward, placing his hand on the Crystal orb.

Two bright stars shimmered within it.

"Two-star potential!" announced the man holding the crystal orb.

Although Aerialia was stunned by the unexpected turn of events, a sudden revelation emerged in her mind. She had just witnessed scenes of events that had never transpired emerging within Orion's consciousness. Each time he died, not only did his star potential decrease, but his influence within the Village also diminished. Everything he had participated in was handed over to another individual while he continued living the rest of his life until a calamity struck or something led to his death.

"That bastard!" Aerialia gritted her teeth in anger as everything became more apparent and made sense.

Without giving Orion time to take another step forward, Aerialia lunged forward, her fist connecting with his face.

Bang!!

The punch flung Orion backwards and landed on the ground with a resonating "Bam!" The scene around them immediately shattered and reconstructed itself.

Although they were still within the Village Chief's compound this time, the others had vanished.

As Orion attempted to get back on his feet, his face filled with confusion, Aerialia appeared beside him and sent another punch toward his face.

Orion shot backwards, his consciousness trembling as he broke through one of the Village Chief's huts, collapsing the entire structure.

As she was about to soar toward him again, she begrudgingly held herself back, remembering why she had come here in the first place. If she mistakenly caused the collapse of his consciousness, there would be no way to get Orion back.

"STAND UP!" Aerialia screamed at the top of her lungs.

Orion gradually stood up from the broken pile of the collapsed hut and looked at her, his expression still filled with confusion.

"It's good that you finally have your eyes on me so you can tell me yourself, what is this?" Aerialia asked, her expression stern.

Orion attempted to speak but quickly sealed his mouth and shifted his attention to the other side.

"Oh, you don't want to talk? Okay, I'll tell you my assumptions, and you can correct me if I'm wrong," Aerialia snapped, her voice laced with disdain.

"Your deepest desire is to rectify everything that has led to your miserable encounters. You think you've hidden it well, but I've seen everything. Every moment of pain, every instance where your

freedom was stripped away, buried among fleeting memories. But that's not the whole story, is it? To chase this illusion of happiness, you abandon your responsibilities, forsaking your partners and leaving them to their fates, all in the name of a stress-free, debauched life. You're willing to sacrifice anyone and anything for your so-called perfect life."

"Have you not learned anything from Aegis of the Arctic Deity?!" Aerialia's voice thundered through Orion's consciousness, her eyes fixed on him. "His sacrifices and struggles were all for the sake of cherishing what he values the most. And yet, here you are, forsaking those who depended on you, ready to cast aside everything and everyone for the illusion of a perfect life. Do you truly believe you can find happiness in selfishness and cowardice?! ANSWER ME!"

If she were an ordinary mortal, it would have taken her more time to fully understand what she witnessed, but she wasn't. She was a goddess who had seen the highs and lows of life, making it easy for her to grasp the meaning behind Orion's consciousness quickly.

Orion's eyes cleared as he looked at Aerialia and heard her speak. He wanted to respond yet found himself unable to counter her words effectively.

"Right now, I can't help but hate you more than you know," Aerialia said, her voice tinged with emotion. "I thought you were the perfect one for Aurora, but I was wrong because even she wasn't spared. In your search to avoid pain and stress and enjoy a life of freedom and debauchery, you've been teetering on the edge of your consciousness, wondering which fabricated event of the past would bring you the most fulfilment before your own life extinguishes."

As she spoke, Aerialia's eyes grew red, a wave of sadness hitting her like when she discovered her children's extinction. She spread her wings wide, gradually levitating off the ground, and suddenly appeared before him.

Orion flinched, stepping back before he halted as Aerialia pulled him into her arms.

Aerialia enveloped Orion in her arms, his body pressed against her tall figure. "Please, Orion... I beg you to reconsider," she whispered, her voice softening with tenderness, pleading, and affection.

"I've witnessed your life, and I promise you it's not as bad as you think. The struggles and pain have shaped you and made you stronger. Your partners, children, key leaders, and the Orion's Cities are all there because of you. Everyone is waiting for your arrival. Do you want to let them down and show them that all this time, your feelings and words towards them were fake?"

Chapter 893 The Spark of White Flame

At that moment, Orion finally opened his mouth and spoke, "No, I don't." He wrapped his arms around Aerialia, burying his head against her bosom. "It's all just too... difficult," he admitted.

Aerialia took a deep breath and leaned in closer, her voice becoming earnest. "I know, I've witnessed everything, and from what I've seen, there's one thing that made it even more difficult for you: your mortal grasp on freedom and debauchery. True debauchery is about embracing life's pleasures and joys without shame, unshackled by fear and restraint. It isn't just about excess and indulgence, but about embracing the chaos and messiness of life and letting yourself live fully within it," she responded.

She continued, "Freedom isn't about running away from challenges or pain but choosing the path that brings you fulfilment and joy, even if it's not the easiest one. It's about having the courage to unapologetically be yourself, to follow your heart's desires without fear or hesitation. True freedom is not found in escaping your responsibilities and abandoning everyone you hold dear, so please, don't abandon everyone and everything."

"I won't," Orion responded, his voice resounding across his consciousness.

"I know you won't once I talk some sense into you," Aerialia responded, her expression tinged with happiness and sadness. She could sense Orion's consciousness weakening even more, which meant he would soon be entirely consumed by the Vylkr energy.

At this moment, there was little she could do; the only option she had was to sacrifice herself for his recovery. However, like any Vylkr warrior, Orion was so intertwined with the Vylkr energy that the only way to make him recover at this moment was to entirely rid him of the Vylkr energy, rendering him back to that of an ordinary mortal.

As for whether he would be able to become a Vylkr warrior again, that would depend on how much of his body had been spared from the ravages of the Vylkr energy. Also, if Orion dies here, then she follows him as well.

After pondering for another solution for a while, Aerialia discovered none. With no other choice left, she gritted her teeth. Suddenly, her wings wrapped around Orion and expanded dramatically, multiplying in size several times over, disrupting the space within Orion's consciousness until the only thing that remained was her two enormous folded wings with Orion and herself within them.

As though sensing what was happening, Orion looked around him, his gaze settling on Aerialia in bewilderment.

"Don't say anything," Aerialia whispered, silencing Orion's words with a finger before wrapping her arms around him even tighter.

"I'll handle everything from here on," she added.

An incredible light emanated from her, spreading outward and taking shape as it formed a protective sphere around Orion's consciousness before expanding outward.

Outside, the small Crimson Greatsword mark on Orion's right hand shone brightly, and a wave of divine energy emerged, pushing and opposing the Vylkr energy.

It spread through his body, dousing the ferocious surge of Vylkr energy attempting to consume him. However, as the divine energy tried to mend Orion's ruptured veins and cracked skin, a flicker of white flame began to glow deep within his heart.

This was the essence of the half-true god, known as the Great God of Creation and Illusion - the manmade god, White Flame.

Although he could not become a true god, his essence still contained remnants of Primordial energy that responded fiercely to divine energy. Like a slumbering giant awakening from its sleep, the flicker of White Flame ignited with a fierce, cleansing fire that spread through his veins.

As though sensing what was occurring, Aerialia halted her actions in shock. She hadn't expected that trying to help and restore Orion back to a safer condition would cause the flicker of White Flame within him to react fiercely, seeing her as a threat.

Aerialia initially thought that the flicker of White Flame would only be helpful if Orion ever embarks on a journey to become a god, yet it turned out she was wrong.

It knitted his cracked skin together, mended his broken bones, and healed his ruptured veins, making them stronger and more robust than they were before.

Then, it subdued the overbearing wave of Vylkr energy, guiding it steadily toward his heart and brain, stabilizing them as Orion unconsciously completed the two Vylkr containers in both positions.

Outside, Aurora gradually lost her strength as she observed the immense surge of Vylkr energy around Orion's body growing more potent, threatening to consume his entire being.

The Pixies, including High King Eldric and the rest of the Pixie Kingdom's most influential individuals, hovered beside her, observing the scene before them with a complicated gaze, unsure of what to say or do.

At that moment, a bright bluish streak of lightning shot out of the dense surge of countless inky threads of Vylkr energy, stretching outward until it reached the shore.

Witnessing this sudden scene, Aurora quickly picked herself up from the ground and gazed forward hopefully.

Meanwhile, the Pixies stared in disbelief and shock.

Another wave of bluish lightning streaks streaked outward on the outside, stretching across the Divine Essence Lake before dissipating once it reached the shore.

Moments later, the immense surge of Vylkr energy unexpectedly began to subside as several more flickers of bluish lightning crackled and spread outward. Orion was now covered in a brilliant bluish hue, causing the weakest among them to shut their eyes.

The others continued to observe as the intensity of the emerging bluish streaks of lightning around Orion increased, enveloping the entire Divine Essence Lake until it looked like nothing but a bluishsea of flickering lightning.

"ARRGGGHHH!!"

A guttural roar suddenly tore through the area around the Lake, echoing towards the heavens.

Within the bluish sea of flickering lightning, Orion finally regained consciousness. "...I will not give up!" he growled, forcing his body to endure unimaginable pain as the white flame healed and restored his body. Gradually, the agony subsided and was replaced by a fierce, unyielding strength.

Chapter 894 Formation Of The Four Vylkr Containers

After sensing the Four Vylkr containers within his body--two in his heart and two in his brain--and confirming that Aerialia was safe within the small Crimson Greatsword mark, Orion felt his gift shifting his attention towards the sky, and he immediately focused upward.

Outside,

Observing the Vylkr energy disappearing into Orion's body and his restoration to full health, Aurora attempted to call out to him as she hovered atop the surface of the Divine Essence Lake, with his attention focused on the sky. However, before she could, a brilliant, dazzling pillar of lightning formed on the entire surface of the Divine Essence Lake and stretched into the sky, vanishing from their eyes in the blink of an eye.

CRAACCCKLLEE!! BOOOOMMM!!!

The brilliant bluish pillar of lightning stretched out of the Primordial barrier and into the Vylkr-infested clouds, creating a spectacular scene as several consistent streaks of bluish lightning spread across the sky.

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Second Border City

Orion's Manor

Seraphina stood before the entire household with the Pixie women flying beside her.

"Everyone, this is Maeve, Willow, Breezeflutter, and Whisperwing. They were brought here by Orion because of a special condition that requires immediate treatment. As for the condition, I'm sorry, but I can't disclose it," Seraphina said, introducing the Pixies to the household.

She then introduced Celeste, Reena, Gina, Ursa, Ingrid, and the others to the Pixies one by one.

After Seraphina finished the introductions, Gina abruptly raised her hand. "What's their relationship with Orion?" she asked, holding back the irritation in her voice.

The other women perked their ears up, awaiting Seraphina's response.

"Orion hasn't informed me of any relationships with them," Seraphina responded, furrowing her brows as she observed the women's expressions.

Despite wondering about their relationship with Orion--since bringing people to the manor was something he rarely did--she had pushed it to the back of her mind, too focused on her projects to dwell on it. However, listening to Gina's question, she couldn't help but admit she was curious.

"If you don't know, then how about we ask them? They must surely know the answer to that question, right?" Gina suggested, shifting her focus toward the Pixies with a sharp glint in her eyes.

The other women also turned their attention toward the Pixies.

Maeve and the others suddenly tensed, noticing the sharp gazes directed at them. They instinctively took a deep gulp.

Sure, they were strong, but this was Orion's household, and it would be foolish for them to use their strength as they wished. Also, they didn't know how powerful these women were.

Breezeflutter clutched her attire and lowered her head, unable to hold the intensity of their gazes any longer.

"As much as I want to learn about their relationship with Orion, unfortunately, although they can hear us, we can't hear what they say," Seraphina responded, shaking her head.

Nonetheless, she couldn't help but ponder why that was the case and if she should study more about the Pixies in the future. She abruptly shook her head inwardly as Queen Selene's and Aegis of the Arctic Deity's faces appeared in her mind.

Although she wouldn't have had the courage to entertain such thoughts before, everything that had transpired made her realize it wasn't the best time for such things, especially since she still had her hands full.

"It's true. However, the Pixies possess an innate racial ability called 'Dust Morphosis,' which they can use to reduce anyone to their size," Crystalia responded, countering Seraphina's words.

Gina, Lyra, Ursa, Sura, Celia, and the others furrowed their brows, hearing this for the first time. Although they were aware of the Pixie race, they didn't know much about them due to the Pixies' tendency to confine themselves to the Garden and the Palace Manor, unlike the Primserions and the newly arrived Four-eared Elves who were beginning to socially interact with others.

"Is that true?" Lyra asked curiously, her gaze fixed on Seraphina.

Seraphina sighed and nodded, "Yes, it's true," she responded.

At that moment, Gina dashed from her position and arrived before Maeve and the others, causing them to flinch backwards slightly.

"If I become as small as you, will I also be able to fly like you?" Gina asked, her eyes shining as she momentarily forgot the question she had been asking moments ago.

Whisperwing regained some courage, flew forward, and nodded in response.

Gina's eyes widened and shimmered even more brightly. However, just as she was about to ask another question, a thundering, sky-splitting roar of lightning tore through the air.

Everyone—Seraphina, Gina, Maeve, Whisperwing, and the others within the manor—remained rooted in their positions, stunned momentarily before snapping out of their thoughts.

Crystalia immediately rushed out of the room, followed by Elysia, Sura, and the others. They arrived outside and noticed a sweaty, worn-out Fifi looking skywards with her weapon lying beside her.

They also shifted their attention skyward.

Instantly, they were greeted by flashes of brilliant bluish streaks of lightning dancing wild and consistent through the Vylkr-infested clouds.

"Orion?" Celeste muttered, her eyes wide open as she recognized the brilliance of the bluish streaks of lightning.

The remaining women also thought of the same name in their hearts, understanding that this was not a natural incident. Their hearts were immediately swept by an immense sense of worry.

Due to the sudden disturbances, their children's cries began to resound through the manor, pulling them out of their thoughts and redirecting their attention back to the manor.

Fifi swiftly leapt into the air toward the direction of the Third Border City, her words trailing behind her as she disappeared from view.

"I'll go and investigate."

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Second Border City Healer Association Headquarter

Greta deactivated her gift and withdrew it from Grace's sleeping form. She then shifted her attention towards Anara.

"There's nothing wrong with her; she simply went into shock for some reason and is now asleep due to the strain," Greta responded, shaking her head after assessing Grace's condition.

Hearing Greta's words, Anara breathed a sigh of relief. If Greta said Grace was okay, she believed she was truly fine. However, she couldn't help but doubt that Greta had been unable to discover what had caused Grace's shock.

Chapter 895 Emergence Of A Four-Star Warrior

"Can't you figure out what happened to her?" Anara asked, her expression filled with hope.

"The only explanation I could come up with is that this might have something to do with her abilities, or perhaps it's one of the conditions of being a half-human, half-tree nymph child. It's hard to tell since I have no reference, but I can assure you that nothing is wrong with her, and this condition might rarely occur again," Greta responded.

"Okay, if you say so. I'll be taking Grace back to the farm then. Please, help Orion with this when you--" Anara began, but as she was about to complete her sentence, a reverberating sound of lightning tearing through the air resonated across the room and within their ears.

Grace's body jerked slightly before slowly relaxing.

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Second Border City

Patriarch Rylan's Mansion.

"Was it really that bad?" Patriarch Rylan asked, looking at his daughter as he carefully fed Eyva a piece of Kalna fruit.

"Yes, it was. I practically disgraced myself when we arrived at the Garden and went in. These stupid ears were the cause of all this," Isadora cried out, holding her two ears on her right side and attempting to pull them off her head.

Patriarch Rylan sighed as he witnessed this scene. He could tell that there was something else his daughter wasn't telling him. However, as long as it wasn't harming her and appeared to be a

problem she could handle, he respected her decision to keep it a secret, especially when it had something to do with Orion since she was working as his personal assistant.

Patriarch Rylan asked, "So, how were the Garden and the Pixie Kingdom?" His voice was filled with curiosity.

"It was beautiful, more than anything I've ever witnessed. If I could, I'd want to live there forever," Isadora responded, remembering everything she had witnessed.

Patriarch Rylan nodded, his expression pondering as he continued to feed Eyva her Kalna fruit. "You know, I've been thinking about something."

"What is it?" Isadora asked, focusing her eyes on her father curiously.

As the former leader of the Four-eared Lone Rabbit Runaway City, her father could easily decide on whatever he wanted to do, even without the council's approval, and he rarely sought her opinion. So, for him to suddenly mention something like this, she understood it must be extremely important.

"Earlier today, I checked the entire race to see how they adjusted to the new environment. The results of this investigation were surprising; they were extremely uncomfortable, not because of the abnormal sky-splitting events that have been occurring for a while now, but because they found it hard to switch from the metal scraps they once called home to these beautiful, magnificent structures."

"Also, since many haven't met other races, they find communicating with others living in the Orion's Cities difficult. Some even begged to live outside the Orion's Cities without shelter, now that the entire territory was devoid of the Vylkr vines," Patriarch Rylan responded.

He paused before continuing, "Of course, I am well aware that all these are natural responses due to their previous circumstances. However, I've come to realize that after the tree nymphs are done regrowing the vegetation outside the territory and the expansion of the Orion Cities begins, many of them might choose to live outside of it."

"So, I am considering asking Mr. Orion if we can be allowed to live within the grown vegetation. However, since this also implies securing a refuge for the Four-eared elves race, I don't know if he would agree."

He shook his head tiredly when he finished speaking. He didn't dare ask for land outside the Orion's Cities since this meant they would be on equal footing with the Village and the other races within the Orion Cities. So, he could only settle and plead to see if they would allow him to move their refuge outside of it.

Hearing Patriarch Rylan's words, Isadora suddenly had a pondering expression. She understood why her father had shared this with her, as it was a tricky topic.

Suddenly, as Isadora was putting her thoughts in order, a resounding, immense roar of lightning reverberated through the atmosphere, astounding them briefly before they quickly disappeared from their position, appearing outside the mansion with their eyes focusing skyward in bewilderment.

"What's going on now?" Patriarch Rylan asked, his voice filled with worry at the unexpected turn of events.

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Looking at the vibrant, chilling streaks of lightning consistently flashing through the sky and spreading across the horizon, Seig shook his head, turned around, and walked back home.

"Captain, don't you want to find out what's happening?" Evadne asked, observing Seig's actions in confusion.

"Of course, I do want to know what's going on, but I feel that it isn't something we should concern ourselves with and will resolve itself later. I thought staying here would be more peaceful than living in the 'Sleeping Fox' Runaway City, but it's even more suspenseful and filled with more tension than back home. I'm going to rest before the next test commences," Seig responded, grumbling as he walked into the building, closing the door behind him.

Evadne exhaled deeply at his words, feeling the same way, but she focused her attention skyward, continuing to observe what might occur next.

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The resounding roar of lightning spread across the entire Orion's Cities, reaching even the Village. The Village Chief, Stronghold leaders, and various warriors immediately raced towards the direction the pillar of lightning had risen from, doubt covering their expressions.

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As Orion raced through the atmosphere at unimaginable speeds, his body dissolved into countless streaks of raw, unbridled bolts of lightning. They darted in and out, twisting and twirling into thick, rolling Vylkr-infested clouds.

It was as though they moved with a mind of their own yet were all connected, sometimes converging to form a fleeting silhouette of his human form before scattering into wild, joyous streaks. He couldn't help but feel an overwhelming sense of euphoria wash over him.

Chapter 896 Orion's Recovery

In this form, he was no longer shackled by physical limitations or gravity but had become a living embodiment of lightning - the purest and most untamed force of nature.

The clouds—cirrus, cirrostratus, cirrocumulus, altostratus, altocumulus, stratocumulus, nimbostratus, cumulonimbus, fractus, and mammatus, all infested with the Vylkr energy, parted and shone with an almost blinding brilliance that illuminated his presence. And in response to the emergence of lightning—

CRAACCCKKKLLEE!! BOOOMMM!!

Thunder rumbled through the heavens.

Suddenly, Orion noticed the silhouette of an object in the centre of countless swirling Vylkr vine variants within a swirl of Vylkr-infested clouds.

The Vylkr artifact!

He wanted to look closer at the Vylkr artefact to see what it was. However, after advancing into a new stage and testing his abilities, he began to feel fatigue catching up.

After accurately pinpointing its location, his body dissolved into countless streaks of lightning bolts and returned to the floating island at an unimaginable speed.

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Garden

Aurora observed the scene above as the clouds were brightened with brilliant bluish lightning bolts that consistently stretched their grasp far and wide, a smile lighting up her face. She was aware that Orion had survived and successfully advanced to the next stage, given his new form and extraordinary abilities.

"Thank goodness," Aurora muttered, sighing under her breath.

She glanced at the position where the Crimson Greatsword had been before it disappeared, feeling grateful that her mother had succeeded in saving Orion.

Bam!

Aurora turned to the side and looked at Fifi, who had just landed within the Garden.

"Where's Orion?" Fifi asked, her eyes fixed on Aurora.

Despite her weariness from intense training, she focused more on Orion's whereabouts than her own need for rest.

"You don't need to worry; Orion is fine," Aurora assured her.

Fifi observed the calmness and happiness in Aurora's eyes and was reassured by her tone. She then shifted her gaze skyward.

Bam! Bam!

The Village Chief, Stronghold leader Zogar, Seth, and two other unknown warriors landed before them.

"What's happening? Is that lightning storm—?" The Village Chief started to ask, but the sky roared with thunder and lightning before he could finish. An immense bluish crackling pillar of lightning descended from the sky, piercing through the Primordial barrier and striking the land before them.

The lightning transformed into a human silhouette, gradually taking the form of Orion until his entire figure materialized. As the lightning dissipated into him, he stood there naked, looking dazed as he stumbled and fell forward.

Fortunately, Fifi appeared beside him, catching him before he hit the ground. "Thank goodness you're okay," she sighed, holding Orion securely in her arms.

The Village Chief and the others witnessed the scene and calmed their racing hearts upon seeing that Orion was okay.

Turning to Aurora, the Village Chief asked, "Can you explain what is happening?"

Aurora refocused on the Village Chief and others, explaining how Orion had attempted to advance to the next stage and utilize his star potential to create two Vylkr containers.

The Village Chief's expression grew solemn as she listened to the explanation. Soon, Aurora completed her explanation.

"I see. Although we've spoken about this before, this is precisely why I can't risk the special properties of the lake being made known to the public. Who knows how many warriors would survive their next advancement if they had that knowledge," the Village Chief responded.

He then shifted his attention to Fifi, who was carrying Orion in her arms and had already arrived before them. "Take him to Healer Greta so he can be well taken care of and recover faster," he added.

Fifi nodded, as she was already about to do so. Immediately, she leapt into the sky toward the Second Border City.

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As Orion roused from his slumber and opened his eyes, he was immediately greeted by Aerialia's tranquil expression.

"You are finally awake," Aerialia remarked, her hand combing through his hair while her other hand rested on his chest as he lay on her thighs.

Orion gradually sat up, feeling less tired than before. "What happened?" he asked, glancing around and noticing they were in the space within the small crimson Greatsword mark before refocusing on Aerialia.

"After you completed your advancement and tested your new abilities, you immediately lost consciousness and have been like this for a few days now," Aerialia responded.

"How many days have I been unconscious?" Orion asked, frowning.

"Six days. It would have been a week if you hadn't awoken today. But thank goodness you did," Aerialia responded.

Orion's shoulders slumped as he understood what Aerialia was trying to convey. Considering the spectacle he had created, if he had remained unconscious for a week, regardless of his current well-being, his partners and others close to him would surely have questioned his health.

"Can you tell me what happened during the advancement? Unfortunately, my memory is fuzzy, and I can't remember anything," Orion asked, refocusing on Aerialia.

Aerialia nodded, "It happened like this..." she began, explaining everything that had transpired, from how he had almost died to her attempt to save him, unknowingly triggering the ember of White Flame within him and causing it to retaliate. She described how it dispelled her efforts and expelled her divine energy before immediately subduing the chaotic Vylkr energy, which then helped him fully form his two Vylkr containers.

After that, how he had fallen unconscious because of the strain he had accumulated going through the process.

"But I thought you said it would remain dormant unless I someday step on my journey to become a god?" Orion asked, furrowing his brows in confusion.

"Yes, I mentioned that. However, that was the only logical solution, considering that it's only a remnant of White Flame and has nothing of its former self. However, it seems I was wrong. I should have known that it would be the case considering who White Flame was and how he had almost ascended into becoming a true god," Aerialia responded, sighing in defeat.

Orion frowned, his mind racing as he tried to figure out what other things the ember of White Flame could be able to do in his body. After all, if it could heal him, then it must surely be able to do the opposite.

Chapter 897 Orion's Recovery (2)

"But I don't think it's something you should feel burdened about because rather than harming you, it had healed you and brought you to full health. If it had any plans of harming you, it would have done so at that very moment. Also, while you were unconscious, I took my time to look at it again carefully, and it appeared weaker than it currently is," Aerialia responded.

Hearing Aerialia's response, Orion immediately looked at the weakly burning White Flame in his heart, noting that it appeared less vibrant than it had previously been. He retracted his senses.

"You are right. It is less vibrant than it was previously. I'll just have to be more watchful of it in case it reacts more intensely like that in the future," Orion responded.

"Also, did you truly mean everything you said previously?" Orion asked, recalling Aerialia's explanation about true debauchery and freedom.

Ever since entering this world, he had always wanted to live unbothered by what was happening within it. Even as his horizon kept expanding, he unconsciously narrowed it.

After Aerialia's words, he realized that his mental constraints had made him nothing more than a child and a fool.

Aerialia nodded in response. "Yes, I meant every word I said. True debauchery isn't just about the excesses and indulgences; it's about embracing life's pleasures and joys without shame, free from fear and restraint. If you must give up those you hold dear or neglect those who depend on you just to indulge, then it's not true debauchery but a hollow pursuit of selfish desires. I've witnessed many misguided individuals on that path to self-destruction."

"And if you can't follow your heart's desires without fear or hesitation, running from challenges or pain, that's not freedom but a delusion, a form of cowardice. After being with you for a while now, Orion, I know you are neither of those," Aerialia responded.

Orion stared at Aerialia in a daze, silent as he digested every word she spoke.

Aerialia leaned in abruptly and kissed Orion's cheek, pushing him forward before he could react. "Go. The rest are waiting for you out there," she said with a smile.

Orion felt himself being pulled out of the space within the small Crimson Greatsword mark. In the next moment, he opened his eyes again and looked around.

He glanced to the side and saw Greta, Fifi, Reena, Celeste, Ingrid, Fiona, Elysia, and several others asleep beside him. It only took him a moment to realize that he was currently at home and in his master bedroom.

Suddenly, as if sensing his movements, they all began to wake up one by one.

Fifi opened her eyes wide as she stared at him, then swiftly jumped into his arms. "Orion!" Her voice awakened the others from their sleep.

"Orion, you're finally awake!"

"Orion!!"

They all leapt into his arms one by one, surrounding him from every angle and holding him tightly. Some cried, tears streaming down their faces, while others clung to him emotionally.

"I'm okay now, so you all calm your hearts down," Orion reassured them, gently wiping away their tears.

They nodded in understanding and slowly released their hold on him.

"How are you feeling?" Fifi asked, wiping the last of her tears.

"I feel much better now," Orion replied, attempting to stand up only to be pulled back down.

"What are you doing?" Celeste asked, her tone serious.

"I said you don't have to worry. I feel much better now and can walk normally, so please believe me," Orion responded, smiling wryly as he observed his mother's stern expression.

However, Celeste shook her head. "Whether you're alright or not is something we'll judge. We've watched you unconscious for the last six days, after all. I'd rather not take any chances," she stated, a fierce glint in her eyes.

"Rest for a bit longer, and if you need anything, just let us know so we can take care of it. You may be a warrior, but what you attempted was dangerous. We shouldn't unnecessarily risk anything," Fifi added, agreeing with Celeste's concerns.

Greta also said, "Even if we know you're healthy and there's nothing wrong with you, as the healer here, I suggest you rest for another day to ensure everything's truly alright. I'll also delay the announcement of your recovery to ensure no one disturbs you in the next few hours," she advised.

Reena, Lyra, Gina, Ursa, and the others echoed similar sentiments, urging him to rest at least another day and ensure everything was okay before resuming his activities.

Observing their concern, Orion relented with a nod. "Okay, I'll follow your advice," he said, settling back onto the soft pillow behind him.

He welcomed the break, using the time to reflect on Aerialia's actions before she had pushed him out of the space within the small Crimson Greatsword mark and to properly process everything she had told him.

Suddenly, Lyra darted to one side of the bed, clutching Orion, while Gina mirrored her on the opposite side.

"I'll stay close to ensure nothing happens to Orion. Fiona, please help me and breastfeed Alden. He'll be waking soon, and I won't be leaving until Orion's fully recovered," Lyra said, her gaze fixed on Fiona.

"Okay, I make sure to do so," Fiona nodded.

"Me too," Gina interjected, but just as she was about to complete her sentence, she stumbled over her words. "Ahem! I'll remain here for now, to make sure no one disturbs Orion until he feels much better."

Lyra clicked her tongue, biting back the retort she wanted to make. She was sharp-tongued but wouldn't stoop so low, especially not in front of her daughter and Orion.

Out of nowhere, Sura leaped onto Orion, snuggling against his chest. "I'm not causing you any discomfort, right?" Sura asked, her eyes fixed on Orion with a coquettish gaze.

"You aren't," Orion shook his head in response. He leaned down to kiss her forehead and then repeated the gesture with Gina and Lyra. He embraced them all and closed his eyes, thinking deeply about Aerialia's words.

Chapter 898 Greta's Shocking Request

898 Greta's Shocking Request

The other women nodded with smiles before exiting the room to attend to tasks they had neglected for a while.

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One day later

"So, have you figured out what was wrong with them?" Orion asked curiously.

"Yes. Your semen is far more potent than I initially thought. For me and the other women, it might simply taste delicious, but for them, it contains a compound that significantly increases their likelihood of fertilization and induces an intense euphoria. This isn't safe in the long run if it's abruptly introduced into their system. So to solve it, I simply removed it from their bodies," Greta explained, nodding.

"Another solution could be creating an herbal mix to suppress their fertility and temporarily weaken their euphoric response to your semen, but that would require a lot of work."

She shifted her attention to the Pixies, who listened closely to her words.

Orion nodded in understanding.

"I would've asked you how they became addicted to your semen, but Maeve and Whisperwing already explained it to me," Greta added, lightly smiling as she looked at Orion. "Nonetheless, the rest of the households are curious about this too, so do you want me to help explain what I've learned, or would you prefer to do it yourself?" she asked, teasingly.

Orion cleared his throat slightly and glanced away at her words before refocusing on her. "Can you help me with that?" he asked.

"I can assist you and handle any potential issues that may arise, but only if you promise me one thing," Greta responded with a smile.

After her conversation with the Pixies, she knew that they might have a new Pixie sister in the future, but she decided to focus on the present opportunity.

"What is it?" Orion asked, feeling a bit apprehensive. Greta rarely made requests; when she did, they were usually quite significant.

"It's simple. Once we reconnect with the outside world, there's a good chance we'll encounter more gods' chosens, and possibly acquire more Devourer's Bracelets. So, when that time comes, I want to be considered for the next Vylkr Fusion Armlet," Greta replied, her tone serious.

"No," Orion responded immediately and firmly. He hadn't anticipated Greta asking for such a reward, especially considering the demanding procedure required to obtain the Vylkr Fusion Armlet.

There was no need for him to hesitate in declining her request.

Greta bit her lip in response. "I'm not just saying this because you agreed to Fifi's request about wanting to do the same. I'm saying this because I can't keep up. The stronger you all become, the less effective my gift is on you. Fortunately, you didn't need my aid to recover this time, but if you face another terrible incident, I might be unable to save you," she explained.

Orion let out a deep breath. "I understand, but I won't allow you to undergo such a procedure until we've thoroughly tested the Vylkr Fusion Armlet to ensure it's perfect. You can ask for anything else except that," he responded.

Fifi had endured experiences and pain beyond what an ordinary individual could endure, so he had faith that she would successfully complete the experience. However, he would never allow Greta to undergo such a thing until they could find a less excruciating and perfect way to do it.

Greta shook her head firmly. "That's what I need, and I'm not changing it for anything. Unless you no longer want me to take care of you when you're injured, please let me know so I can figure out my next steps alone," she stated, turning her attention to the Pixies. "Let's go," she added, rising from her seat and heading toward the door.

Orion nodded thoughtfully. "I'll think about it. Just give me some time to sort through my thoughts and decide," he replied, watching Greta pause in her steps.

"Thank you," Greta said before leaving the room, followed by the curious Pixies who had been intently observing the scene.

Orion immediately felt relieved, knowing he had avoided what could have become a much larger problem.

He checked the new tulga crafted for him by Seraphina, Crystalia, Elysia, and Merida for the festival, ensuring it was free from dirt before leaving the room. His purpose was to find Reena, as they were supposed to attend the Aegis of the Arctic Deity's memorial Ceremony and then head to the Village for the festival.

He reached her room in just a few minutes and lightly tapped on the door.

Knock!! Knock!!

"Wait, we're not quite finished yet," a voice echoed inside the room.

Orion immediately recognized it as Derry's voice.

Within five minutes, the door swung open, revealing Reena stepping out. She wore the typical Village women's tulga with a few changes— a brown crop top with beautiful milky-white tribal strips along the edges. Around her waist, an elastic band held a long tribal cloth that reached below her knees, tied on one side to reveal the curve of her left leg and waist.

And around her neck, wrists, waist, and legs was golden jewellery encrusted with sparkling gems. Her feet were covered in beautiful brown sandals, equally embellished with precious gems and jewels, giving her the appearance of a goddess descended upon the mortal plane.

"How do I look?" Reena asked, quickly adding, "I wanted to keep it simple, but the others insisted that I properly represent the Village Chieftess with the wealth we possess."

At the doorstep, Derry, Celia, Gina, Fiona and Maya observed the scene with smiles.

"You look gorgeous," Orion replied, reaching out to take Reena's hand.

"Thank you," Reena blushed. She had never imagined becoming the Village Chieftess, but today, that dream was becoming a reality, and it wasn't just authority over the Village but the entire floating territory.

Orion leaned in and kissed her lips before stepping back and nodding at Derry and the others.

"We're heading out now," Orion said.

They all nodded in response.

"Take care," they all responded simultaneously.

Orion and Reena nodded in response. They quickly exited the building and arrived outside of the manor.

Chapter 899 Aegis of the Arctic Deity's Memorial Ceremony

899 Aegis of the Arctic Deity's Memorial Ceremony

Orion immediately scooped Reena up in a princess carry. "Are you ready?" he asked mischievously, looking at her.

Reena timidly nodded, her body tensing unconsciously. It was her first time experiencing Orion's new ability, so she felt a little apprehensive.

"Don't worry, you won't feel anything until we arrive," Orion reassured her with a smile.

He activated his gift, releasing Vylkr energy from four Vylkr containers. Almost instantly, bluish lightning streaks erupted from his body, transforming him into a being seemingly constructed from pure lightning. Despite this transformation, Reena didn't feel harmed by the lightning; instead, she felt slightly warmer and ticklish.

"Hold on tight," Orion muttered before abruptly disappearing with a crackling sound, rising into the sky with her.

Within seconds, they zoomed past Third Border City and arrived far from the towering wooden walls encircling the border cities.

Orion instantly spotted the Village Chief and the others and landed before them.

Boom!!

A crackle of lightning announced his arrival before it dissipated, retracting back into him.

"Orion, you're finally here! How are you feeling?" the Village Chief exclaimed joyfully as he approached Orion, followed by the Village Chieftess and the others.

Orion nodded, "I'm feeling much better, Chief," he replied, shaking the Village Chief's hand as he stood before him.

Orion then proceeded to greet each of the others one by one.

He was a little surprised that instead of High King Eldric and High Queen Rowena, the individuals who showed up were High Prince Kael and his lover, whom High King Eldric had previously forbidden from seeing each other again.

They were also dressed in attire resembling High King Eldric and High Queen Rowena's regal attire.

'It seems like they finally found a way to resolve the crisis,' Orion thought, internally relieved.

He had thought that he might need to step in if the entire Pixie Kingdom descended into total chaos, but it seemed that after the second prince's arrest and his accomplices, they found a much more suitable way to resolve their issue.

It also made him trust their abilities to handle their situations independently.

The Village Chief hummed thoughtfully, nodding in understanding. "That's good. It seems not only do you feel much better, but your gift has also dramatically increased after the risk you took. I hope that no matter the reasons, you never take such a risk again, no matter how dire the situation may be. Just because you survived now doesn't guarantee luck next time," he responded, his tone grave.

"I understand, Chief," Orion nodded seriously.

"Good," the Village Chief nodded, relieved that Orion had decided to heed his advice.

He then shifted his attention towards Reena, sweeping his eyes over her attire before nodding in admiration. "Impressive. You might just be the most stunning Village Chieftess in history," he commented, offering a compliment.

Reena lightly smiled and nodded respectfully at his remark, "Thank you for your kind words, Chief," acknowledging the praise.

The Village Chief nodded in return. Just then, he felt a fierce stare briefly from the side, causing him to pause in speaking, knowing who it was from. "Ahem! Why don't we begin before heading to the Village and starting the festival," he quickly cleared his throat and suggested.

Orion and Reena nodded in agreement and followed beside the Village Chief and the others as they walked toward the table, which had medium-sized lanterns resembling the Orion skies placed on top of it.

"These are all modelled after the Orion sky, your creation. We wanted a memorable way to honour his sacrifice and legacy for this territory. So, we decided on this special tribute since he was a god and left no physical remains," the Village Chief explained, gesturing to the lanterns.

"We hope these flying contraptions will soar into the sky, reaching him wherever he may be, to convey that we will always celebrate his sacrifice and never forget his deeds."

Orion nodded in agreement. "I'm sure he would appreciate this gesture," he replied with a heartfelt tone.

"I truly hope so," the Village Chief responded, motioning for Stronghold Leader Seth to begin lighting the lanterns one by one and handing them out.

As Stronghold Leader Seth started, Orion took a lantern and handed one to Reena, igniting the basket at the centre with his lightning.

After ensuring everyone's lanterns were lit, Seth returned to his position with his lantern in hand.

"Orion, do you have any words you'd like to share? Among us, you knew him the best," the Village Chief asked, his gaze fixed on Orion.

Orion nodded solemnly. "Aegis of the Arctic Deity wasn't just a god at the peak of power; he was also Oberon, a mortal who understood servitude to a god. While I don't know if he ever considered it, I regarded him as a friend. At times, he was like an elder brother, always ready to help me solve problems or provide answers. But beyond that, he was a protector of this territory. He never hesitated to take drastic measures, even if it meant risking his life, to defend us from unimaginable threats."

"His legacy lives in the safety and prosperity we enjoy today, free from the Vylkr vines and above any potential harm. May Aegis of the Arctic Deity's memory endure for generations to come, and may his sacrifice be remembered as a legend. Thank you," Orion concluded, his voice filled with emotion.

Reena, the Village Chief, and the others felt the depth of emotion in Orion's words, revealing the strong bond he had formed with Aegis of the Arctic Deity.

"Everyone, lift your lanterns into the sky at the same time! Three, two, one, go!" the Village Chief announced, releasing his grasp from his lantern and sending it soaring into the sky.

Orion, Reena, Stronghold Leader Zogar and Seth, Queen Selene, High King Kael, and High Queen Celeria all followed suit, releasing their lanterns to float into the night sky.

They watched as the lanterns ascended higher and higher, passing through the Premordial barrier before disappearing into the stormy depths of the Vylkr veil phenomenon.

Chapter 900 The Ordination

"Now that we're done, let's head to the Village to begin the festival," the Village Chief announced with a smile.

"We'll be taking our leave then, Chief. We'll bring our gifts to visit after the festival ends," High King Kael responded.

High King Kael and High Queen Celeria bowed respectfully to the Village Chief and the others before flying away toward the Garden.

"I'll be taking my leave as well. I'll make sure to deliver my gift in person after the festival," Queen Selene said, nodding at the Village Chief and the others before rising into the air and flying back toward the third border city.

The festival was part of the Village culture, not hers, so Queen Selene saw no reason to force herself to attend. However, many of their own festivals have been cancelled due to the current situation. She needed to ensure they would begin celebrating their traditions again in the future.

After Queen Selene left, only Orion, Reena, the Village Chief, the Village Chieftess, the Stronghold Leaders, and the Caretakers remained.

"Why don't I take everybody there?" Orion suggested, observing them as they prepared to leap into the air or rely on the help of some warriors. His offer caused them to halt and turn around, looking at him in surprise.

"Are you able to do that?" Caretaker Ivor asked, his voice filled with curiosity.

"Yes, I can. I discovered it while I was uncovering more of my abilities. All you need to do is gather near me and ensure we are all connected by touching each other," Orion responded, nodding confidently.

Although they were all sceptical about how Orion would transport them to the Village on time and all at the same time, they didn't see any reason to doubt him. They walked towards his position, curious to witness his newfound ability in action.

Caretaker Shani joined him before the Village Chief and the others gathered around. They all placed their hands on him and one another, forming a linked chain of connection.

After confirming everyone was holding onto him, Orion took Reena in a princess carry and immediately activated his gift. A thick wave of lightning exploded out of him, and in an instant, he and the others vanished from their position, leaving behind a scorched ground in their wake.

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The Village

Market Square

Thirty minutes later

In the wide-open space of the market square, fewer than 1,500 villagers had gathered, creating a bustling and cheerful atmosphere. Some had travelled from the Border Cities to the Village for the yearly festival celebration, which had been delayed due to recent events, prompting them to extend their stay. This delay allowed them to reconnect with those they hadn't seen.

A broad wooden stage stood before the crowd, where all the key leaders were positioned. They overlooked the entire gathering with all eyes fixed on them.

"Ahem! Everyone, please be silent! The ordination is about to commence," the Village Chief announced, his voice carrying across the surroundings.

The crowds immediately hushed, creating a profound silence that one could hear a pin drop.

The Village Chief nodded in acknowledgement and continued, "Today, we gather not only to celebrate our annual festival, marking another year of resilience against the challenges posed by the Vylkr vines and other unknown adversaries that have threatened us but also to honour our past and embrace the future—a future shaped by the strength and wisdom of our future leaders."

Suddenly, the Village Chieftess stepped forward, clutching a black crystal orb and a beautifully crafted staff about one meter tall adorned with vibrant colours—red, orange, black, white, purple, and green. She turned to face Orion and Reena, her expression filled with complex emotion before a sigh passed her lips, and her face gradually brightened with a smile.

She vividly recalled the moments of doubt when she discovered how his influence rendered her gift useless, prompting her to entertain various dark thoughts to ensure she could still predict the Village's future and ready it against impending dangers.

She remembered the foolish bet she made with him, the times her resentment towards him surged. Still, after witnessing the emergence of the Prismerions leading to the creation of Orion's Cities, the rise of the four-star Vylkr vine, the manifestation of the Vylkr phenomenon, the appearance of the Vylkr spawns, and their territory ascending into the sky as a floating island, a literal paradise, she couldn't help but want to bang her head against her past self's, berating her foolishness.

What good was her foresight without Orion? Without him, they would have been doomed from the start.

A god had also recognized his worthiness and granted him respect; making her personal judgement was essentially laughable and unacceptable.

The young woman, who was Orion's sister and partner, initially learned that she once competed for a coveted position on the farm and had a unique gift for communicating with plant life. However, she had to withdraw due to Orion's growing influence and the various significant events unfolding around him.

Understanding this, Village Chieftess Zara recognized her leadership experience, intelligence, and strength, dispelling any doubts about her suitability as the next Village Chieftess.

In fact, she felt pleased that Orion chose Reena as his partner for the role, seeing it as his respect for the Village's traditions. While she harboured no ill feelings towards Orion's other partners and considered them friends, she understood that tradition upheld Reena as the most suitable candidate, given her beauty and qualities.

Village Chieftess Zara's smile brightened even more, her happiness discernible as she stood before the Village Chief and handed him the black crystal orb.

The Village Chief then signalled for Orion to step forward. Within moments, Orion stood before them, facing the assembled crowd.

"Orion, you have shielded us with your strength and guided us with your wisdom. You've confronted unimaginable challenges for the sake of our Village and emerged victorious. Do you pledge to continue serving this community, to lead with honour and integrity, and to safeguard our people and territory?" the Village Chief asked, his voice carrying across the square.