

Village Head 911

Chapter 911 The Procedure (2)

Soon, Zogar's body began to undergo a transformation; his muscles spasmed and bulged uncontrollably, his veins darkened, and his skin took on an unnaturally deep glow as it blistered and cracked. His blood mingled with the Vylkr Fusion Armlet as the pain finally reached its zenith.

"ARRGGGGHHHH!!!" Zogar's agonizing scream reverberated across the room, causing everything to vibrate.

Baddum!! A faint heartbeat echoed from the Vylkr Fusion Armlet. It then began to quicken, syncing with Zogar's heartbeat as the Vylkr energy stirred the Devourer's heart to life.

At that very moment, as the Vylkr Fusion Armlet fused with his essence, the Primordial energy actively suppressed the Vylkr energy, spreading through his body and flowing into the armlet. It dominated the Vylkr Fusion Armlet, aiding in the circulation of Vylkr energy as it merged with Zogar's being. This caused Zogar's arm to light up with a reddish glow as though his right arm was burning up in an unexpected turn of events.

Fortunately, Zogar then felt an immense warmth spread from his right arm to every part of his body. Gradually, he sensed a shift within him. The Vylkr Fusion Armlet gears slowed, and the glow of the runes dimmed.

"Haaaa.... Haaaa....!!!" Zogar's screams subsided into ragged breaths.

Baaddumm!! Baaddumm!!

His Devourer's heart pulsated in unison with his heartbeat, resonating across the room before swiftly quieting.

The Vylkr Fusion Armlet had fused completely with his arm, seamlessly integrating into him. The runes continued to glow, but their light was softer, more controlled.

Witnessing this nerve-wracking scene and observing Stronghold Leader Zogar's body eased down, Seraphina asked with bated breath, "How are you feeling now, Stronghold Leader Zogar?"

Stronghold Leader Zogar turned his attention towards her, "Haaaa.... Though I feel more exhausted and broken down than I usually do after a battle, nonetheless, I feel much better than before," he responded, exhaling with ragged breaths.

"Alright, this is good. Although it wasn't what we had expected, as we were prepared for the worst, a result like this simply means that the procedure is a success," Seraphina responded, smiling brightly. She then began to slowly unbuckle the metal straps.

Even though they hadn't expected the procedure to go perfectly, as they had prepared for the worst, this only meant that they had successfully implanted the Vylkr Fusion Armlet on a Vylkr warrior without harsh consequences. Now, all they had to do was observe its healing process and hope there were no underlying severe consequences.

After the last metal strap came off, Stronghold Leader Zogar gradually pushed his body up and sat on the bed.

"Don't try to use your Vylkr energy yet. The healing process will take a day, I think. And then after that, we can activate it and test your level of prowess to see if you've gained any sudden increase," Seraphina explained.

Stronghold Leader Zogar nodded solemnly. "Is there anything else I need to know?" he asked. Considering that this concerned his life, he needed to know every detail to ensure things went smoothly.

"Fortunately, you don't need to do anything except rest," Seraphina responded, gesturing for Greta and the Healer's Association Leaders to come forward and check on his condition.

She stepped aside, signalling for Fifi to take her position on the bed so they could swiftly commence the next procedure.

Fifi nodded and stepped forward with a solemn expression, her heart beating furiously with excitement.

After witnessing Stronghold Leader Zogar's results, she felt more confident and anticipated that her results would be similar.

A wave of confidence rippled through her body as she calmly lay on the bed.

"Left or right?" Seraphina asked, her voice tinged with a similar surge of confidence.

"Right," Fifi responded, watching as Seraphina nodded and secured her body to the bed with metal straps, freeing her right hand.

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Outside the procedure room

Orion paced back and forth, his heart racing in uncertainty. A mix of hope and dread swirled within him as he awaited the procedure's results.

The tension in the air was also discernible for the key leaders present. They could feel the weight of expectation bearing down on them as they waited for the outcome.

"If anything had gone wrong, they would have halted the procedure by now. The fact that they've been in there for so long suggests that it was successful," Stronghold Leader Seth remarked, his voice tinged with a hint of jealousy and envy.

The prospect of Stronghold Leader Zogar gaining strength beyond their own capabilities meant stepping into the realm of a five-star warrior, a level of strength no one in the Village had ever attained or could ever hope to attain.

"Yes, you are right," Queen Selene nodded, agreeing with his analysis.

At that moment, the door swung open abruptly, drawing everyone's attention in an instant. Orion's heartbeat immediately quickened.

Seraphina emerged from the room, her eyes scanning the gathered leaders before she spoke, "The procedure was a success, and the candidates are all in good condition," she announced, a bright smile lighting up her face.

A collective sigh of relief rippled through the room at Seraphina's words, tension dissipating like a wave receding from the shore.

Orion's tense posture relaxed as he breathed a sigh of relief, his shoulders easing as a sense of calm washed over him.

"Can we see them?" Orion asked.

"Yes, but just briefly. They need every moment of rest for healing before we proceed to the next phase and assess any changes," Seraphina explained, stepping aside to welcome them into the room.

They all acknowledged her words with nods and followed Orion inside. As they entered, their eyes fell upon Fifi and Stronghold Leader Zogar, seated on their beds, examining the gleaming metallic bracelet on their wrists with interest. Meanwhile, the Healers' Association leaders attended to them, conducting health checks.

Sensing their arrival, Fifi and Zogar turned their attention toward the group.

"How are you both feeling?" Orion asked, his tone filled with curiosity.

"I'm experiencing an intensified craving for Vylkr vines, and I sense bizarre constant changes in my body, almost as if I've gained an additional Vylkr container that seems impossible to fill," Fifi shared, extending her right hand for them to inspect her Vylkr Fusion Armlet up close.

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"I feel the same," Stronghold Leader Zogar added. "I can sense my gift reacting, but I won't know the extent of the changes until tomorrow, as Seraphina mentioned."

"Tch!" Stronghold Leader Seth hissed fiercely, turning abruptly and leaving the room.

Orion and the others exchanged glances, sighing. They understood Seth's frustration and couldn't fault him for his reaction.

"Alright, get some rest. We'll check on you tomorrow," Orion said.

Fifi and Stronghold Leader Zogar nodded in acknowledgement. They watched as some Healers' Association members walked in and assisted them, guiding them towards the rooms where they would stay until they recovered.

After they were taken to their rooms, the remaining key leaders stayed behind to ask the Healer Association leaders questions about the procedure. They wanted to be prepared for when their own members underwent the same process.

Meanwhile, Orion exited the room with Seraphina, who escorted him out of the building.

"Did anything unusual happen during the procedure?" Orion asked, glancing at Seraphina.

"Not really. Aside from the painful assimilation of the Vylkr Fusion Armlet to their very being, everything went surprisingly well," Seraphina responded enthusiastically. She had been surprised by how smoothly the procedure had gone, which confirmed her belief that the Vylkr warriors were the ideal wielders for the Vylkr Fusion Armlet.

This success meant they could be more confident about future procedures.

Orion's expression scrunched up thoughtfully briefly before he nodded in understanding. He decided to let the matter rest, mainly since the results supported Seraphina's confidence.

"Former Village Chief Brane informed me that you asked him to gather all the scrap metal and wires they possess. Isadora told me the same thing and mentioned that you want her to teach you how they work. I'm curious why you asked for such a thing," Orion said, looking at her in confusion.

After the festival, when he had brought Tala home, he heard about Seraphina's request from Isadora the next day. Later that evening, the former Village Chief told him the same thing. Naturally, he wanted to understand why Seraphina needed all those materials.

"I knew you'd find out sooner or later," Seraphina responded with a sigh.

'I had told them to keep it a secret until I could reveal it to you,' she thought.

"The day before yesterday, while the festival was going on, I encountered a group of young Four-eared elves testing their strength on a pole with a strange screen. Every time they struck the pole with their fist, strange characters appeared on the screen. I approached them and stopped them from running away, and that's when I learned that the screen was detailing the extent of their strength. It was amazing because I never knew something like that was possible. Even if the Prismérons have a method to test their strength, it's primitive compared to this."

"So, I decided to buy it from them and contacted Isadora to gather everything for me, so I could buy it from them. Then, I learned they even had one that told the time on a strange screen and various strange components. Some of these, although different, I recognized from our race's 'Ancient Codex,' and some mechanizations seemed similar to parts of the Devourer's Bracelet's internal components."

"When I brought them back home, you can imagine my surprise when Fifi informed me that the Village possessed similar scraps and components, though in lesser qualities. So, I immediately sent a message to the former Village Chief, insisting on buying all of them for study. That pole gave me an idea for something I want to create that would greatly aid us in reconnecting with the outside world at an early stage," Seraphina explained.

"But I've only gotten so far because of my knowledge from the Devourer's Bracelet. I'm nowhere close to figuring out the concept behind it, so I can't tell you exactly what I'm working on right now."

Orion nodded in understanding after listening to all of Seraphina's explanations.

"If that's the case, you don't have to pay for them. As the new Village Chief, I'll take care of it. As for the Four-eared elves, you can use the family's treasury to settle the cost. If what you're planning works and proves helpful during our reconnection with the outside world, it might help the Four-eared elves integrate into the territory faster and demonstrate their usefulness, especially with the reconstruction of Orion's Cities still ongoing," Orion responded, his mind racing as he tried to figure out what Seraphina was attempting to create.

'Does this have something to do with the hierarchy of power indicators?' he thought.

Despite his familiarity with various mechanisms, he couldn't discern her exact plan. He decided to let it be a surprise, trusting that whatever she had in mind would be worth the wait.

"If you're okay with it, then I see no problem rejecting your offer, Chief," Seraphina responded.

Once they arrived outside, she halted and leaned in to kiss him. "I'll see you at home later, husband." With that, she turned and disappeared back into the building.

Orion took a moment to gather after all he had learned before leaping into the air to meet with Isadora and handle some Border City matters.

It had been three days since the festival. Anara had called to check their progress in regrowing the floating island's vegetation, so afterwards, he planned to inspect it before heading to meet with Gorg and Grim to see how far they had progressed in forming their next Vylkr containers, especially since Tala had already crossed the threshold and was ready to create her own Vylkr containers.

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The next day

Second Border City

In a specially designed training area for warriors, Fifi and Stronghold Leader Zogar stood apart on a stage, the tension discernible between them. Surrounding them were the Healers' Association leaders, Orion, and the rest of the Key leaders, all watching intently with a mix of interest and curiosity.

Now that Stronghold Leader Zogar and Fifi had recovered from their procedure, they were about to test their enhanced abilities against each other to see how far they had progressed.

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Seraphina, however, could only exhale tiredly. She disapproved of this arrangement, given that they only had two Vylkr vials to power the Vylkr Fusion Armlet.

It wasn't that they couldn't use their own Vylkr containers, but the purpose of this procedure was to ensure they possessed their own Devourer's heart to grow stronger like the gods' chosens, not to turn into a power battery. But, despite her reservations, she gave in to pressure from the Key leaders.

What she disliked most was having to refill the Vylkr energy into the compressed vials after they were done.

'After this, I'll have to talk to Isadora to ask the gods' chosens to guide them on using the Vylkr Fusion Armlet properly,' Seraphina thought, shooting a brief, fierce look in Orion's direction. 'But if anything goes wrong, it's on your head.'

Sensing Seraphina's fierce gaze, Orion feigned ignorance and turned to Isadora, who had been trying to get his attention.

"What's on your mind?" Orion asked.

"Chief, I'm sorry for prying, but what's happening here? The aura between them feels unusual, and that... thing on their wrists, is it what I think it is?" Isadora struggled to articulate her thoughts, her eyes fixed on the scene unfolding before her.

She had been curious about the two Devourer's bracelets Orion had obtained from them, and a sense of unease crept over her as she observed the bracelets on their right arms.

Orion nodded. "You're correct. Thanks to our brilliant minds," he gestured towards Seraphina and the rest of the Healers' Association leaders, "we've been able to study how the Devourer's bracelet works and understand its dynamics. Using that knowledge, we created our Devourer's bracelet, the 'Vylkr Fusion Armlet.' Warrior Fifi and Stronghold Leader Zogar are the first ones to possess this armlet, and we're all here to witness the extent of their newfound strength after the procedure," he explained.

Isadora felt like a resounding drum had struck her ears at Orion's words.

Vylkr Fusion Armlet!! Candidates!! Newfound strength!! It took a moment for her to process Orion's words before she turned her gaze towards Fifi and Stronghold Leader Zogar.

The first time she set foot in this territory, Stronghold Leader Zogar single-handedly decimated Captain Seig's fleet and effortlessly captured both him and his lieutenant.

Meanwhile, Fifi displayed her immense strength during Flintor's rampage and easily subdued him, even after he had overclocked his Devourer's bracelet. Now, learning that they both possessed a similar yet different version of the Devourer's bracelet crafted explicitly for them, Isadora couldn't help but gulp, wondering about the extent of power they now wielded.

Were they even mere mortals anymore?

Isadora's heart raced as she fixed her eyes on the unfolding scene, deciding not to miss a single detail.

"Are you sure about this?" Stronghold Leader Zogar's gaze remained fixed on Fifi as he spoke.

"Yes. I can feel my gift breaking through its limits, reaching levels I never imagined possible. I'm sure you can feel it, too. It's best you prepare yourself and not underestimate me," Fifi responded, her expression solemn.

Stronghold Leader Zogar nodded, "Let us begin then," he responded, smiling.

Fifi nodded. She activated her Vylkr Fusion Armlet, channelling Vylkr energy from her Vylkr container toward it. The gears whirled to life with complex, intricate, intertwining movements as the Vylkr energy flowed towards the Devourer's heart, immediately igniting it.

Suddenly, her body transformed into a watery form, showing Fifi had genuinely ascended into the realm of a Four-star warrior.

Then she stepped forward, abruptly vanishing from her position and reappeared before Stronghold Leader Zogar, tightly grasping his neck within her watery grip.

But that wasn't the end of it; Fifi's watery hand suddenly began to solidify.

Witnessing this scene, Isadora, Orion, the other key leaders, and all the Healers' Association Leaders couldn't help but widen their eyes in astonishment.

"Ice! She can control ice now!" Seraphina exclaimed, amazed by the unexpected turn of events.

Orion's expression turned pensive as he realized that since Fifi's gift was centred around water, it was normal for her to control ice as well, especially considering Stronghold Leader Seth could cool down or intensify his molten lava.

A smile crept onto his lips as he realized the territory's strength had grown again. His anticipation now focused on witnessing Stronghold Leader Zogar's own strength.

Meanwhile, Stronghold Leader Seth observed the scene with folded arms, teeth gritted in annoyance. He quickly regained composure, knowing they still had the chance to acquire another Devourer's bracelet. If necessary—

Looking at a stunned Isadora in the distance, Stronghold Leader Seth remembered they had more gods' chosens who could volunteer for such a role.

Sensing a sudden fierce dread and bloodlust, Isadora snapped out of her daze. She briefly locked eyes with Stronghold Leader Seth before averting her gaze, a shiver running down her spine.

Onstage,

Fifi's entire body had transformed into a being of glowing blue ice. At the same time, Stronghold Leader Zogar found himself entirely frozen, encased in a massive block of ice that covered the rest of the stage.

"I'm sure you can escape, so go ahead and show us the newly uncovered abilities you have unlocked with your gift," Fifi stated, her breath forming a frosty mist in the air. She gazed at his frozen form with her ice-blue eyes, curious to see how he could break free.

She knew facing a five-star warrior like Stronghold Leader Zogar in actual combat would end in her defeat. However, in this controlled battle to test their new powers, she had more tricks up her sleeve than he realized.

Suddenly, Fifi's eyes widened in shock as another frozen figure of Stronghold Leader Zogar emerged from the ice to stand beside her. He swiftly grasped her hand, cracking her frozen arm with his icy grip.

"Are you ready to let go, Fifi? I sense your eagerness to test your new abilities and the urge to prove yourself, but my strength is not to be trifled with," Stronghold Leader Zogar said, his breath forming a frosty mist in the air.

Seeing Fifi's shocked expression as he demonstrated his ability to split his body, he tightened his grip, shattering her arm. It was clear he had made his point.

Chapter 914 Five-Star Warrior

Fifi immediately jumped back, widening the distance between herself and Stronghold Leader Zogar. She immediately healed, regrowing her frozen, shattered arm.

On the other side of the stage, another frozen form of Stronghold Leader Zogar split from his body, emerging from the ice. It flicked its finger against the massive lump of ice surrounding the real Stronghold Leader Zogar, instantly shattering it.

Witnessing this scene, Fifi couldn't help but audibly gulp.

The three Stronghold Leader Zogars stood side by side on the stage.

"As a Five-star Warrior, my gift no longer limits me to absorbing the characteristics of the material of anything I touch. It now allows me to absorb multiple materials, remember the ones I have previously touched, transform into them at will without needing to touch them again, and split myself into multiple forms, each made from different characteristics," Stronghold Leader Zogar stated.

He lifted his icy, frosty arm outward, showing as part of it transformed into rock. Then, his entire body shifted, transforming into molten lava. Another molten lava form of Stronghold Leader Zogar emerged from his body and stood beside him, bringing the total to four, each possessing a terrifying attribute.

"Of course, these are only my recently discovered new abilities. I still don't know their limits and haven't figured everything out yet. So, do you want to continue this battle, Warrior Fifi?" Stronghold Leader Zogar added, lightly smiling.

Stronghold Leader Zogar's voice echoed across the surroundings, ringing in the ears of everyone below the stage.

"This is the strength of a five-star warrior. It's frightening!" High King Kael muttered, gulping unconsciously after hearing the shocking revelation of Stronghold Leader Zogar's new abilities.

Orion, the other key leaders, and the Healers' Association leaders couldn't help but ponder the same thing, their hearts trembling as they watched Stronghold Leader Zogar.

They even began to feel unsure who would emerge victorious in a battle between Stronghold Leader Zogar and all the Vylkr warriors within the Village. At this point, unless they encountered a god, it was fair to say he was invincible.

Seraphina squinted her eyes at the unfolding scene with a pondering expression.

Unlike the others, she knew Stronghold Leader Zogar's weakness lay in his Vylkr Fusion Armlet. Because the Vylkr Fusion Armlet was the source of his newfound strength, it meant that if someone could precisely locate where he had hidden it during his transformation and had enough power to destroy or temporarily destabilize it, they could incapacitate him and reduce him to his former level of strength.

Thus, even though he was extremely powerful, he was not unbeatable.

She shifted her eyes towards Fifi and immediately noticed a shine in the centre of her belly, understanding that this was where she had hidden her Vylkr Fusion Armlet.

On stage, after absorbing Stronghold Leader Zogar's words briefly, Fifi snapped out of her daze. A solemn expression emerged on her face as she shook her head and uttered, "You win." She morphed back to her human form and stepped down from the stage.

Stronghold Leader Zogar's smile stretched into a grin as he stepped down from the stage.

Orion observed Fifi approaching him and asked, "Are you okay?" His eyes lingered on her now healed right arm.

"I'm fine," Fifi nodded, shifting her attention to Seraphina, who had arrived before them.

"Let's head back to the health centre so we can check on the Vylkr Fusion Armlet's condition and correct any issues," Seraphina said, her voice stern as she looked at Fifi before shifting her attention to Stronghold Leader Zogar, who had also heard her words.

"I'll visit later in the evening to check on your overall condition," Orion said, his eyes fixed on Fifi and Stronghold Leader Zogar.

They nodded and followed behind Seraphina and the Healers' Association Leaders as they stepped out of the training ground.

The key leaders bid farewell to each other and soon began to depart from the training ground one by one. They soon realized that Stronghold Leader Seth had already left once the battle ended, as he was nowhere to be found.

'I hope he doesn't do anything stupid,' Orion thought, understanding what was going through his mind right now as even he might have felt a little jealous of Stronghold Leader Zogar's sudden increase in strength had he not possessed a Six-star potential.

Orion turned his head towards Isadora, still trapped in her daze. "Isadora, we are leaving," he uttered a bit loudly.

Isadora snapped out of her daze and nodded her head anxiously before realizing that Orion was no longer in his previous position. She was nodding at empty air, so she turned towards Orion's current position.

"I'm sorry about that, Mr. Orion. We can get going," Isadora responded, slightly fumbling over her words as though she was still having trouble recovering her composure after witnessing everything that had just transpired.

Orion nodded, understanding that it would take time for her to get used to what was occurring, just as he had once done when he first arrived at this Village.

"Let's go. The Four-eared elves' gods' chosen, Captain Seig and his lieutenant, are waiting for us to meet them," Orion said, stretching his hand towards Isadora.

Isadora nodded in understanding and reached out to hold onto Orion's hand with a firm grip.

Orion immediately activated his power and transformed into his lightning-shaped form. Almost instantly, the two of them disappeared from their position, leaving behind the scorched ground and the faint crackling sound of lightning.

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Outside of the Orion's Cities

Seig took a deep breath as he gazed at the lush vegetation surrounding him, his eyes moist with emotion. He had never imagined that such a beautiful scene, previously only heard about in legends, would be right before him.

"Captain, are you crying?" Evadne asked, raising her brow sceptically as she observed him.

She hadn't expected her captain to become so emotional upon encountering the overgrown vegetation nurtured by the tree nymphs.

However, she wouldn't blame him for feeling moved by the serene beauty of the place; she felt tempted to lie down on the grass and let the cool breeze lull her to sleep with its gentle melodies.

Chapter 915 Guides For The Outside World

The cold air whipped around, rustling the tree branches and causing the thick grass to sway.

Instead of answering directly, Seig let out an audible sigh and asked his own, "If we were given the chance to go back to the moment when we first learned about the conspiracies against us, would you still choose to follow me?"

Evadne fell momentarily silent, her brow furrowing as she wondered about the significance of her captain's question. Nevertheless, she nodded firmly, "Yes, I would. As the lieutenant of the 2nd unit of the Vanguard team in the Sleeping Fox Runaway City, I'll continue to stand by your side no matter what challenges or enemies we face."

Seig's lips curled into a faint smile as he acknowledged, "Thank you for your loyalty. However, moving forward, we'll be operating under new leadership. As a result, you won't answer me anymore, and you won't have the option to follow me in every decision I make."

"Captain—" Evadne's eyes widened in surprise at his words, ready to retort. Still, Seig swiftly interrupted, "Regardless of what they say, this place might as well be a sanctuary and the safest location in the world. I don't trust myself to avoid making a stupid decision that would end with me being thrown out of here. So, if that time comes, I want you to stop me from my foolishness or act swiftly to prevent further harm. Do I make myself clear?"

Evadne bit her lip and nodded, "Understood, Captain."

Seig's smile grew even brighter as he turned to the Four-eared Elves' gods' chosen, who exchanged brief glances with them at a cautious distance.

Suddenly, lightning struck the earth nearby before dissipating, revealing Orion and Isadora.

Seig, Evadne, and the Four-eared elves vanished from their positions and reappeared before them. They all bowed respectfully to Orion and his assistant Isadora, a gesture they had learned during their time with Stronghold Leader Zogar and Seth.

Orion motioned for them to straighten up. "Stronghold Leader Seth and Zogar have assured me of your loyalty and competence. Although I doubt other factors influencing you, I believe them. Today, I'm here to inform you that during our reconnection with the outside world, you'll be tasked with being our guides."

Orion observed the stunned expressions that immediately appeared on their faces.

Flintor quickly regained his composure and said, "This would be an honour, Village Chief. We'll do our best to fulfil our roles as guides to the outside world."

The others nodded in agreement with his words.

"Alright. You might wonder why I asked you to hold the meeting here, right?" Orion's gaze swept across all of them.

They nodded curiously. All of their tests had been within Orion's Cities, so they were curious about why they had suddenly been brought out on the last day.

"As you already know, the warriors are free to explore outside of Orion's Cities as they desire, as long as they help map out each land to create a detailed map of our entire territory. Additionally, they are to observe and assist the Four-eared Elves as they reconstruct Orion's Cities. However, since you will join us below in the outside world as our guides, I will allow you to explore outside Orion's Cities without any restrictions. As long as you follow the rules that Stronghold Leader Seth and Zogar have drilled into you, you can do as you wish until the next two weeks, when we expect the Vylkr Veil phenomenon to disperse," Orion said, observing their swift nods in response.

Though he didn't mind being a little harsh and strict with them, Orion knew they were individuals who had never experienced a world like his. They had been fighting at the forefront for their lives and others, and he realized that to motivate them to do their best, he needed to allow them to experience the soothing serenity of the vegetation and greenery.

This would help them understand that if they were guided correctly, they always had something like this to return to.

With the territory's current strength, they were far more powerful than before and could even survive against the Vylkr vines on earth without the help of the Primordial barrier. However, that didn't mean they were invincible before the gods, who could easily crush them like flies.

Therefore, instead of charging in blindly and recklessly, Orion approached the situation cautiously.

"Thank you, Village Chief. You have no idea how much this means to me... Sniff," Seig said, his tone filled with gratitude as he bowed. Tears filled his eyes, streaming down to the earth below.

Meanwhile, Evadne and the others bowed even lower, their bodies trembling slightly as they struggled to respond to Orion's words.

'You truly are a good person, Mr. Orion,' Isadora thought, her eyes becoming a little teary as she gazed at Orion.

After spending so much time together each day, saying she wasn't interested in a man like Orion would be a lie. Of course, he had his faults that she disliked, but the things that made her like him were far more significant.

However, she still found it challenging to inform him about her discussion with her father regarding the Four-eared Elves' new living settlement.

"Okay, we'll be leaving. I'll see you all in 15 days," Orion said, taking Isadora's hand and activating his gift. With a flash of lightning, they disappeared from their spot.

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Two weeks later

Orion stood atop the towering wooden walls of the Second Border City, gazing skyward as his eyes pierced through the Primordial barrier toward the direction of the dissipating whirlwind of Vylkr energy.

Beside him stood Stronghold Leader Zogar, Stronghold Leader Seth, and Fifi.

"The Vylkr Veil phenomenon is dissipating as expected," Stronghold Leader Seth remarked, his eyes narrowed at the dense whirlwind of Vylkr energy.

Witnessing the formation of the Vylkr artefact was a first-time experience, and he was curious about its appearance.

"Yes, as we expected. However, we can't be certain if other Vylkr spawns are still hidden. So, only Stronghold Leader Zogar and I will retrieve the artefact while you and Warrior Fifi stay behind," Orion responded.

Chapter 916 The Bizarre Vylkr Artefact

Stronghold Leader Seth nodded in agreement. "I have no issue with that, especially since I haven't yet mastered the flying technique you taught me previously," he replied.

"Me too. I'll need more time to study the technique before I can fly. Besides, with Stronghold Leader Zogar accompanying you, there's no need for us to come along," Fifi responded, echoing Seth's sentiments.

A week ago, Orion had collected numerous flying techniques from Aerialia, who seemed genuinely happy to share them when he asked. He had initially assumed it was because he could fly without them.

Still, he didn't dwell on it and swiftly distributed the techniques to those who had cultivated considerable amounts of Celestial energy. However, learning everything in a week was impossible; even he was just grasping the basics.

He didn't want to rely on his gift whenever he wanted to fly, so he worked hard to master the technique quickly.

According to Aerialia, they were learning the technique faster than usual because they had her as their teacher, as she had created the techniques herself.

"Let's go then," Stronghold Leader Zogar responded.

Orion nodded and immediately activated his gift, his body transforming into his lightning form.

CRACKLE!

Almost instantly, Stronghold Leader Zogar's body began to shift, transforming into a being that appeared to be made of lightning, just like Orion.

CRACKLE!

Orion turned to look at Stronghold Leader Zogar and couldn't help but sigh inwardly. As a five-star warrior, Stronghold Leader Zogar could effortlessly utilize his gift, and its effects and range were several times more powerful than his own.

Nonetheless, Orion didn't feel defeated. After all, he was a two-star warrior with the prowess of a four-star warrior, and when he created his next Vylkr container, he would surely be able to go toe-to-toe with Stronghold Leader Zogar.

Of course, that depended on how quickly Stronghold Leader Zogar developed with the help of the Vylkr Fusion Armlet.

They both focused on the Vylkr artefact and instantly disappeared from their positions, transforming into bolts of lightning that shot through the sky.

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When they arrived at the partly dimmed clouds, still swirling with dissipating Vylkr energy, the sunlight piercing through created a radiant hue—a breathtaking sight from below.

Observing the immense whirlwind of dense Vylkr energy and its countless Vylkr vine variants, both familiar and new, Orion turned to Stronghold Leader Zogar.

"Are you ready?" Orion asked, his voice booming like thunder.

Even before the Vylkr vine variants could approach, they were obliterated by the lightning bolts streaking around him.

Stronghold Leader Zogar nodded, a smile cracking across his electrified lips. "I'm ready," he responded.

Despite the overwhelming Vylkr energy, he was confident that none could genuinely harm him or block their path.

"Remember, this is a Vylkr artefact, so the Vylkr vine variants we encounter here will be much stronger than their predecessors," Orion cautioned. "This is our first time harvesting a Vylkr artefact, so we must be careful. We have no idea how things might unfold."

Although confident in Stronghold Leader Zogar's strength and their combined might, Orion recalled Aerialia's warning: she had no idea what harvesting the Vylkr artefact entailed but was sure it would be dangerous, possibly more powerful than a Divine artefact.

They couldn't afford to relax in case things went south instantly.

"Hahaha! I know where my confidence lies, and I trust my instincts," Stronghold Leader Zogar replied, bursting into laughter. "I wouldn't have made it this far or become a Stronghold Leader if I were blind or overly reliant on my gift. So you don't have to worry."

He added, "My only concern is that we aren't being watched. But since no one has attacked us so far, it means that Aegis of the Arctic Deity must have taken care of all potential threats."

Orion nodded solemnly, focusing on the centre of the immense, slowly dissipating whirlwind. He immediately spotted a large, bizarre ball with a shimmering, translucent surface that appeared to move like waves in strange directions.

"Can you see it too?" Orion asked.

"Yes, I can," Stronghold Leader Zogar responded, narrowing his eyes at the Vylkr artefact.

"On my mark, we're going to drag it out of there and immediately return to the Primordial Barrier," Orion said.

He wasn't sure if the Primordial Barrier would allow any foreign object within it, but they could bring back any Vylkr vine when they were still on its surface through the Divine barrier so he hoped it would work.

However, he knew he had to try and find out.

"Ready?" Orion asked, his eyes fixed on the artefact.

Stronghold Leader Zogar nodded solemnly.

"Go!" Orion's voice rang across the surroundings as he vanished from his previous position, leaving behind a resounding trail of lightning.

Stronghold Leader Zogar had already gone ahead of him.

They arrived at the centre of the immense whirlwind within seconds before the shimmering, translucent ball. However, just as they were about to grab it, sharp gleaming spikes, sharper than those on a two-star Vylkr vine, instantly appeared on it, causing them to immediately distance themselves.

At that moment, countless Vylkr variants launched towards them, attempting to drain their life force. However, a protective sphere of lightning formed around Orion and Stronghold Leader Zogar, instantly frying and destroying the Vylkr vine variants.

Ignoring the chaos around them, Orion and Stronghold Leader Zogar focused on the Vylkr artefact before them.

The sharp spikes soon retracted, and the waves on the shimmering, translucent ball began to spread faster until they suddenly halted.

The ball then expanded, reaching about a meter before compressing itself. Surprisingly, it began to take shape, morphing into a sleek, dark puppet with a humanoid figure, approximately 1.8 meters (6 feet) tall. It had elongated limbs and a lithe body, with smooth, obsidian-like skin shimmering with an eerie, iridescent sheen. Its eyes glowed with a faint, malevolent light.

A faint aura of Vylkr energy swept outwards, like a hurricane in every direction, capable of creating a sense of unease and fear in those who came into contact with it.

The clouds in their surroundings and in the distance parted, revealing the bright sunlight shining on the puppet's glistening skin and the earth below them. Then, the transformation halted.

Chapter 917 The Bizarre Vylkr Artefact (2)

Orion and Stronghold Leader Zogar tensed as the Vylkr artefact shifted its attention toward them.

'What is this?' Orion thought to himself, a deep frown appearing on his face.

He knew from the beginning that obtaining the Vylkr artefact would be challenging. However, he had never expected that they would have to fight or possibly even kidnap it. He didn't even know if he could consider it a Vylkr artefact.

Suddenly, the humanoid Vylkr artefact disappeared from its position and reappeared before Stronghold Leader Zogar, its fist aimed at his head.

Stronghold Leader Zogar solemnly strengthened his barrier, not wanting to take any chances as the humanoid Vylkr artefact's fist landed on his lightning barrier.

WHOOSSH!!

BANNGG!!

The air split and shockwaves emerged and spread across the sky as though a hammer had struck against the heavens.

"That's strong," Stronghold Leader Zogar muttered as he observed the Vylkr artefact.

Although he was surprised by its astonishing strength, he couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief as he witnessed that he could effortlessly withstand its blows.

Seeing that its initial attack had no effect, the Vylkr artefact withdrew its fist before exploding again, sending rapid punches toward the lightning barrier.

BANNGG!! BANGG!!! WHOOSHH!!!

BANNGG!! BANGG!!! WHOOSHH!!!

Each fist carried an immense, overwhelming force that reverberated through the heavens.

Stronghold Leader Zogar's expression turned grim as he observed the Vylkr artefact's swift punches. Previously, it had seemed like a baby throwing its fists, hoping to cause some damage. Now, however, it appeared like an experienced warrior, mastering its strength and effortlessly using it to maximise the output of its devastating punches.

Each blow was now capable of creating a ripple on his lightning barrier.

Turning to Orion, Stronghold Leader Zogar yelled, "THE STRENGTH OF THE VYLKR ARTEFACT IS COMPARABLE TO A FIVE-STAR WARRIOR! I WILL FIND A WAY TO SUBDUE IT. MEANWHILE, GET OUT OF HERE AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN!"

Even though they hadn't encountered anyone –god or Vylkr spawn– if anything were to go wrong, he expected them to face a Four-star Vylkr-level threat. With a threat like this potentially rivalling the strength of a five-star warrior, he had to handle it alone and ensure Orion was as far away from this place as possible.

Upon hearing Stronghold Leader Zogar's words, Orion was instantly stunned. He had witnessed the Vylkr artefact's attacks and thought it resembled a four-star warrior. However, from Stronghold Leader Zogar's words, it became clear that it was instead similar to a five-star warrior. It was a frightening revelation!

'But how could such a thing happen?' Orion thought, his mind racing to determine the cause for such a development.

Nonetheless, he had no reason to stay after hearing Stronghold Leader Zogar's words, as a Five-star warrior could easily overpower him no matter how hard he tried to resist.

His heart raced at the realisation that the Vylkr artefact had attacked Stronghold Leader Zogar because he posed more of a threat than himself.

Orion immediately decided to leave his current position before the Vylkr artefact could shift its attention towards him.

Orion transformed into a streak of lightning and darted out of the dispersing whirlwind of dense Vylkr energy. However, at that critical moment—

"CHIEF–!!" A resounding roar of lightning erupted from behind Orion before the sudden appearance of the humanoid Vylkr artefact right before him. Orion realised it hadn't teleported but moved with sheer speed alone.

Its clenched right fist launched forward, hurtling a punch in his direction.

Regardless, Orion was already prepared, his senses heightened for any danger. Instantly, his body split into countless streaks of lightning bolts, dispersing in all directions.

CRACCCKLLEEE!!!

The humanoid Vylkr artefact's fist struck empty space, generating a compressed air vacuum that shot toward the earth like a cannon blast.

WHOOSSSH!!! BOOOMMM!!!

The humanoid Vylkr artefact remained fixed in its position, seemingly bewildered by the sudden disappearance of its foe.

CRACCCKLLEEE!!! CRACCCKLLEEE!!!

Suddenly, countless streaks of fierce bluish lightning converged back into Orion's lightning form behind the humanoid Vylkr artefact. Without hesitation, Orion summoned the Crimson Greatsword from its small crimson greatsword mark, coating it in his bluish lightning to counter the humanoid Vylkr artefact's attempts to absorb divine energy.

Then, he swung the sword downward with a swift, precise motion.

Before the humanoid Vylkr artefact could comprehend what was happening, Orion was already behind it. The lightning-

coated Crimson Greatsword, known for its ability to cut through anything, demonstrated its power again, slicing through the artefact from its shoulders down to its lower back.

As the sword cut, the intense bluish lightning surged through its body, electrocuting it from within.

Within its divided body was a material that appeared to blend dark, shimmering, and translucent, ever-shifting substances. The humanoid Vylkr artefact remained motionless in its position, seemingly unsure about which actions to take next.

Meanwhile, witnessing this scene from the other side, Stronghold Leader Zogar was momentarily astounded by how Orion had quickly incapacitated the humanoid Vylkr artefact with strength and endurance comparable to a five-star warrior.

Then, he burst into laughter, his voice booming across the heavens with faint crackles of lightning and thunder as though a particular god of lightning had descended, proudly defending his mountain against an adversary.

Yes! How could he have forgotten that Orion was not just the new Village chief but also the youngest warrior with the prowess of a Four-star warrior despite being only a two-star warrior? He was a friend of a god who sacrificed himself to protect them and was responsible for the village's rapid growth and development into a new civilisation that he didn't even think was possible. And not only that, but he had achieved all of this only at 20 years old!

Forget about being surprised that Orion had effortlessly incapacitated the Vylkr artefact; it would have been even more surprising if he hadn't become seriously injured. Orion was an absurdity that defied all common sense. As such, any other absurdity that encountered him would be like an absurdity facing an absurdity itself.

Noticing that the humanoid Vylkr artefact was suddenly healing rapidly, Stronghold Leader Zogar's laughter slowly died.

"CHIEF!! LET'S FINISH THIS AND SUBDUE THIS VYLKR ARTEFACT!!" Stronghold Leader Zogar yelled, his resounding voice echoing across the atmosphere, reaching Orion and causing the sky to tremble.

Chapter 918 Capturing The Vylkr Artefact

Orion nodded and said, "I have a way to capture and hold him down!" He yelled back.

He wanted to try pouring his blood on the Vylkr artefact to see if it would enable him to claim ownership of it. He would have to find another way to bring it down if that didn't work.

Stronghold Leader Zogar nodded with a broad smile on his face. He vanished from his position and immediately appeared before the Vylkr artefact. Then, he wrapped his arms around its body, securely holding it in place, and unleashed all his lightning upon it.

Numerous powerful lightning bolts erupted from him, piercing the sky and the earth below.

CRACCCKLLEEE!!! BOOOMMM!!

The Vylkr artefact was electrocuted, instantly becoming motionless again.

Orion saw an opportunity and reverted back to his human form. He cut his palm to draw blood and then approached the Vylkr artefact, which was being held down by Stronghold leader Zogar. He placed his bloodied hand on the back of the Vylkr artefact, ensuring that its entire back and head were dyed with his blood.

After a few seconds, Orion flew backwards to observe what would happen and signalled for Stronghold Leader Zogar to do the same.

Stronghold Leader Zogar released his grip on the artefact and distanced himself, staying on high alert in case anything went wrong.

The Vylkr artefact began to tremble before coming to a halt and slowly converging back into a large ball with a shimmering, translucent surface. However, this time, its surface was calm without any waves forming.

A mark detailing a small, inky black puppet with its limbs outstretched was suddenly imprinted on Orion's right chest. In the same way as all of his other divine artefacts, a strong mental link was formed between him and the Vylkr artefact.

Just as Aerialia had informed him, an influx of information detailing vital information about the Vylkr artefact before him surged into his mind, allowing him to understand the difference between naturally formed artefacts and artefacts created by divine beings or mortals.

"It worked. The Vylkr artefact is now under my control," Orion announced, shifting his attention towards Stronghold Leader Zogar.

Stronghold Leader Zogar sighed in relief. He vanished from his position and appeared beside Orion. "So, it's really an artefact," he remarked.

Orion nodded in response.

"So, what else can it do? I'm curious," Stronghold Leader Zogar asked, his eyes fixed on the Vylkr artefact.

"The Vylkr artefact is a puppet that can transform its shape and structure at will. It can morph into weapons, mimic other objects, alter its size and appearance, and even change its density and composition to serve different purposes. I have just received all the information I need to know about it into my mind. As for anything else, I need to first give it a name and uncover the depths of its capabilities," Orion explained with a pondering expression.

Hearing Orion's explanation, Stronghold Leader Zogar's eyes widened in shock. "So powerful," he responded, surprised by the Vylkr artefact's robust capabilities.

Orion nodded in response. The Divine Crimson Greatsword, forged by Aerialia as a part of her very being, could cut through anything. The mountain, refined by Aegis of the Arctic Deity, had immense defensive capabilities and was a portable wallet.

Therefore, he wasn't surprised by its capabilities for a Vylkr artefact that had caused such a stir.

Orion wondered if the Vylkr spawns or their clash with the Aegis of the Arctic had influenced the Vylkr artefact to develop in this way.

"Its strength rivalled that of a Five-star warrior, coupled with its capabilities. With this, our reconnection with the outside world is more reassuring. Of course, that is if we don't encounter any gods," Stronghold Leader Zogar responded, his expression solemn.

"We'll just have to be careful and keep our emergence as subtle as possible until we gain a foothold. Let's head back," Orion responded, summoning the Vylkr artefact into its mark before turning around and heading back to their floating territory.

Stronghold Leader Zogar followed behind him. They successfully passed through the Primordial barrier, making Orion sigh in relief and finally relax his tense mind.

They soon arrived before Stronghold Leader Seth and Fifi, who had been patiently waiting for them at the top of the Second Border Walls.

Upon their arrival, Fifi swiftly bombarded them with multiple questions before Stronghold Leader Seth could utter a word. "What was going on up there? Did you encounter any enemies? Did you manage to get the Vylkr artefact?" Fifi's concerned gaze was fixed on Orion and Stronghold Leader Zogar.

Orion knew their battle had caused a tremendous ruckus in their surroundings, so he wasn't surprised by Fifi's concerns. "Although we encountered a few challenges, we have successfully obtained the Vylkr artefact," Orion responded, bringing out the Vylkr artefact.

The 1.8(6ft) meter-tall humanoid Vylkr artefact suddenly appeared next to Orion, startling Fifi and Stronghold Leader Seth. Their bodies tensed with caution.

"Is this the Vylkr artefact? Did you fight with this?" Fifi asked, her eyes widening as she scrutinised the Vylkr artefact with heightened senses.

"Yes, although it was incredibly powerful, Stronghold Leader Zogar and I were able to hold our own against it and subdue it," Orion replied.

"Its strength was equivalent to that of a Five-star warrior, but we were still-" Stronghold Leader Zogar started; however, before he could finish his sentence, Stronghold Leader Seth interjected, "Five-star warrior!" his eyes fixed on the humanoid Vylkr artefact in horror.

Even Fifi couldn't help but be momentarily stunned upon hearing his words.

Stronghold Leader Zogar nodded solemnly. "I was surprised too at the beginning; however, with the Vylkr artefact by our side, our territory now has two five-star Vylkr star warriors protecting it," he responded.

Stronghold Leader Seth inwardly gulped as Stronghold Leader Zogar confirmed his words again. He had previously tried to push the thought of missing the chance to become a five-star warrior earlier away. Yet, he was reminded once more that his strength steadily became insufficient as the territory developed.

He tightened his fists as his raging emotions flowed through him again. He resolved to quickly find a god's chosen and take their Devourer's Bracelet so Seraphina and the other Healers' Association Leaders could develop a Vylkr Infusion Armlet for him.

Chapter 919 A Good Friend

"Yes, Stronghold Leader Zogar is right. We have two days until the Vylkr Veil Phenomenon completely dies down. Our main focus should now be to continue preparing to leave the floating island in search of other Runaway Cities with Captain Sieg, his lieutenant, and the Four-eared elf gods' chosen ones assistance."

"We do not know how long it will take before we encounter another Runaway City, so in the meantime, the three-star warriors who can shapeshift and fly should prepare to head down to harvest as many Vylkr vines as they can and bring them back. We do not want these valuable Vylkr vine variants to go to waste," Orion responded seriously.

He recalled that Seraphina had already begun filling up Stronghold Leader Zogar's and Fif Vial's with the potent Vylkr energy obtained from the Vylkr vine variants. The results were frighteningly amazing as they helped them strengthen their Devourer's bracelet, which made them stronger.

Actually, Orion was briefly considering starting another Vylkr vine fire outbreak. However, he quickly dismissed the idea because he wanted to avoid encountering any Vylkr spawns or going through something like that again, at least not until he had the strength to ensure his and everyone's safety before doing something so foolish.

Fifi, Stronghold Leader Zogar, and Seth all nodded in understanding.

Stronghold Leader Seth felt instantly relieved because he would be among those going down to the surface, so his time to grow stronger and stand on equal footing with Stronghold Leader Zogar would soon come.

"That's all for today. I'll be heading back home to get some rest. You can send me any important messages if anything comes up," Orion added, summoning back the Vylkr artefact into its mark.

The humanoid Vylkr artefact vanished into thin air, turning into a stream of light that entered his right chest.

At this moment, Fifi and Stronghold Leader Seth relaxed their bodies.

"I'll be coming with you then. I need to take a break and rest before we commence our journey," Fifi said, walking and halting beside Orion and taking his hand.

Orion nodded at her and then proceeded to activate his gift. Almost instantly, he turned into a fierce bluish lightning bolt that shot into the sky, the sound of lightning trailing behind him.

"I'll be going to inform the warriors who can shapeshift into flying beasts and those who can fly to prepare to head down," Stronghold Leader Seth said.

However, just as he was about to turn around and leave, Stronghold Leader Zogar called, "Can you wait for a second? There's something that I want to talk to you about."

Stronghold Leader Seth furrowed his brows as he turned to look at Stronghold Leader Zogar. "What is it?" He asked.

"I understand you're frustrated about not getting the Vylkr Fusion Armlet earlier when I could. I also know that you want to become a Five-star warrior to protect the Village, but I don't want you to make any impulsive decisions you might regret," said Stronghold Leader Zogar.

It was evident to everyone that Seth was furious about not being chosen for the Vylkr Fusion Armlet. Knowing Seth's personality, it was clear that if no one spoke to him about it, he might do something rash to obtain a Devourer's Bracelet and bring it back to get his own Vylkr Fusion Armlet, hoping to become a Five-star warrior.

Upon hearing Stronghold Leader Zogar's words, Seth's face crunched into a frown before he sighed tiredly. "Is it that obvious?" he asked.

"I'm sure everyone can tell, which is why your assistant seemed less available nowadays, so she doesn't incur your wrath," Stronghold Leader Zogar nodded, briefly chuckling.

"I'm saying all of this because, from the information we know, there are still beings out there just like the Vylkr spawns, whom we still don't know about. Since you'll be part of the group escorting Orion to the outside world while I stay behind to guard the floating island, I don't want you to be the reason for any misfortune the group may encounter," he added, stretching his hand towards Stronghold Leader Seth.

"I've lost one Stronghold Leader due to his boneheadedness, and I don't want to lose another prematurely,"

"It seems I'd unknowingly lost control of myself," Stronghold Leader Seth responded, sighing heavily.

He stretched his hand and held Stronghold Leader Zogar's hand in a tight grip. "Thank you," he added.

He knew that his fiery temper sometimes erupted beyond his control. For example, his disobedience almost led his team into danger, causing his father to send him on a prolonged exploration. He also almost lethally attacked Orion during their journey to the mountains, which would have had severe consequences if Fifi hadn't intervened.

"We are Stronghold Leaders, so it's our job to stick up for one another, especially now that we are consistently expanding. Who knows when we'll get the chance to speak to each other again," Stronghold Leader Zogar said with a smile, knowing they were about to become busier.

"Alright, I understand. I'll see you later then," Stronghold Leader Seth nodded. He retracted his hand and then leapt into the sky.

Stronghold Leader Zogar activated his gift and instantly ascended into the sky, streaks of lightning crackling where he once stood.

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Orion's Manor

Orion swiftly entered his master bedroom when he arrived home, locking the door shut. He summoned the Crimson Greatsword, and Aerialia appeared out of thin air along with it.

"What happened? Are you hurt?!" Aerialia asked anxiously, looking at Orion's body to ensure he was okay.

She knew that Orion was going to retrieve the Vylkr artefact today. Since she had sensed the immense Vylkr energy, and when he summoned the Crimson Greatsword, she immediately determined that Orion had encountered danger.

"No, I'm alright. We only came across a little challenge when collecting the Vylkr artefact," Orion responded, showing his body to Aerialia, who was becoming more protective of him to show that he was alright.

Aerialia exhaled in relief upon not seeing any severe injuries on Orion's body. Her expression immediately turned serious as she positioned herself on the bed and looked at him.

Chapter 920 Heavy Suspicions

"What kind of challenge had you encountered?" she asked, awaiting his response.

"The Vylkr artefact tried to stop us from capturing it. I wonder if you have any information on artefacts that fight anyone who approaches them after their formation," Orion asked, summoning the Vylkr artefact within his room.

Aerialia flinched at the sudden appearance of the lifeless humanoid filled with dense Vylkr energy in the room. She quickly regained her composure, realizing this was the Vylkr artefact.

"Is this...?" Aerialia asked, turning her head sharply toward Orion for confirmation.

"Yes, this is the Vylkr artefact," Orion confirmed with a nod. He then explained everything that had occurred, detailing the Vylkr artefact's abilities.

After he finished, Aerialia nodded in understanding. "Yes, some artefacts are known to fight with any beings approaching them after awakening until they are subdued and claimed by an owner. However, they aren't usually as powerful as this when they complete their transformation," she remarked, her brows furrowing in deep thought.

A Vylkr artefact with the strength of a five-star warrior was absurd in every way. During the 'Great War,' when the influx of various energies was high, mortals led by several demigods made it their life's work to secure artefacts upon their formation to exchange for necessities or favours.

Although they tended to avoid artefacts sentient enough to attack any being who dared to approach, depending on the risk involved, none would have survived if the artefacts possessed the strength of a five-star warrior.

Of course, she had only heard of this from her children, who were divine apostles. Unless they possessed divine artefacts, coveted by all gods, any other artefacts were useless and not something she would usually pay much attention to.

Still, even attributing it to the unpredictability of Vylkr energy, an artefact with the strength of a five-star warrior, was extraordinary.

"Do you think the Vylkr spawn might be somehow related to it? Since they came to retrieve the artefact," Aerialia asked.

"I've considered that, but we won't know until we question a Vylkr spawn. And frankly, I'd rather not encounter one right now," Orion replied, his shoulders slumping tiredly.

Aerialia nodded in understanding. "At the very least, with its abilities, it's safe to say it was worth the effort."

Orion nodded and re-summoned the artefact into its mark. "The only thing left is reconnecting to the outside world. Maybe we'll find a way to help Aurora with our child and perhaps even find a way to restore your body," he said.

Hearing Orion's words, Aerialia exhaled. She knew finding information like that wouldn't be easy, but she didn't dissuade him from his goals. After all, his persistence might uncover something interesting.

"I really hope you find something helpful," Aerialia replied.

After Orion finished informing Aerialia about all the necessary details, he summoned the Crimson Greatsword back, causing Aerialia to return with it, and stepped out of his room.

As he did, he immediately noticed a group of small flying individuals hovering beside his door. It was Maeve and the other Pixie women. Surprisingly, Gina was among them in a tiny pixie form with two delicate wings behind her back.

In fact, he had already sensed them waiting outside his room, so he had stepped out after his conversation with Aerialia.

"Mr. Orion, we need to speak with you," Maeve said, moving forward when she noticed Orion's arrival.

The others followed behind her.

"What is it? Have you finally come to a decision?" Orion asked, raising an eyebrow.

Maeve had informed him that she needed more time before making a decision. However, now that it appeared he would be descending the floating island too soon, she had finally decided and had come to inform him.

Maeve nodded with a solemn expression. "We've made our decision."

"We?" Orion asked, raising an eyebrow.

He didn't recall proposing to Whisperwing and the others; he had simply told them they could visit the manor whenever they wanted since it was not every day his wives had to make new friends from an entirely different race.

"I, Whisperwing, Breezeflutter, and Willow have made our decision," Maeve responded.

After her words, the others behind her flew forward and hovered beside her.

"I, Whisperwing, Breezeflutter, and Willow have made our decision. Mr. Orion, I've chosen to accept your proposal and become your partner," Maeve said firmly. She flew forward and kissed Orion on the side of his cheek.

Although Orion had previously imagined being kissed by a Pixie woman, he had expected it to be much more exciting and stimulating. However, the reality was more disappointing than he had imagined. Still, even if the kiss wasn't sensational but cute, his heart was at ease knowing Maeve had accepted his proposal.

Regardless, upon hearing her words, Orion suddenly realized what they all wanted to say. Orion swept his eyes over Willow and Breezeflutter, observing as they nodded in response, confirming his guess.

"I have something I want to say as well," Whisperwing said, gathering her courage. "Will you be my partner?" she uttered, lowering her head to the ground when she finished her sentence.

Although Breezeflutter and Willow didn't have much hope that he would accept their proposals, they decided to try it after Whisperwing's and Maeve's persuasion.

"I... would also like to propose to you, Mr. Orion," Breezeflutter stuttered.

"I also want to propose to you Mr. Orion's partner and will do my best to learn from my future sisters... to become the best wife," Willow said slightly more confidently.

Gina observed the scene with a sigh before suddenly feeling happy as she remembered that she would be going through her awakening ceremony this year. Once she awakens her gift, she can show the love she's been suppressing for Orion all these years.

Orion looked at the three Pixies who had proposed to him, his expression thoughtful.

"Are you sure about this? While I can assure you of my love and have no issue sharing it among my women, and promise that I'll always be there whenever you need me, I can't guarantee that you wouldn't encounter any problems within my large family," Orion responded, briefly focusing on Maeve, who flew towards him and settled on his right shoulder near his neck, before turning his attention back to Breezeflutter and the others.