

Bloodline 1511

Chapter 1511 Back To Earth

Within the void of his consciousness, Gustav's thoughts raced. He had absorbed everything the scientists had said, their sinister plans unfolding like a twisted opera around him.

He knew he needed to act, but his current state left him with few options. At the far end of the dark void, a golden glow pulsed gently.

"Preparations will be complete soon," Gustav's consciousness voiced within the void.

...

...

...

Meanwhile, within the Alliance's headquarters, a storm was brewing. In a grand chamber filled with towering holographic screens and advanced communication devices, several Alliance leaders gathered.

Their faces were tense and their voices echoed with urgency and concern.

"We need to address the Gustav trial situation," said Zyra, a tall, statuesque figure with skin that shimmered like mercury and eyes that glowed an unsettling shade of green.

"Earth is planning to host the trial, but we cannot allow them to control the narrative," Kafuka added with a tone of distraught.

"Perhaps we should threaten Earth into handing over Gustav," suggested Lorn, an alien with elongated features and eyes that burned with an inner fire.

His suggestion hung in the air like a fruit waiting to be plucked.

Zyra narrowed her eyes. "Earth is one of the Alliance leaders. Such a move could fracture our unity and lead to open conflict. We need a more nuanced approach."

A report flashed onto one of the holographic screens, catching everyone's attention. The image showed Axarof, one of their own, lying unconscious in space outside the Alliance's territory.

"Axarof was spotted passed out in space," reported an attendant, her voice tinged with disbelief. "His injuries are severe. It appears he engaged in a significant battle."

The leaders exchanged glances, their concern deepening. "If Axarof was defeated that means those kids successfully escaped. All our plans were for nothing," Kafuka growled lightly in dissatisfaction.

"Let him get medical care," Zyra said firmly. "But first, we must deal with the immediate threat. We cannot let Earth's trial overshadow our authority."

"We need to send a delegation to Earth," Lorn suggested. "A show of strength and unity. We can pressure them without outright threats during the trial."

Kafuka nodded in agreement. "We should include representatives from planets that have grievances against Gustav. Their voices will add weight to our demands."

Zyra considered this with a thought gaze from her multiple eyes; "Very well. We will prepare a delegation."

As the plans were laid, Gustav continued to prepare. He knew the trial was drawing near despite not being informed.

It was the first time a trial would be held while the suspect was unconscious. Unfortunately, the world leaders didn't seem to care about his rights.

In the Alliance, the leaders present finalized their plans. They would visit Earth, using both diplomatic pressure and the threat of force to sway the trial's outcome. The delegation was chosen, and preparations began in earnest.

...

...

On an isolated, barren orbital body many light years away from the Alliance's main territory, a group was gathered.

The celestial landscape around them was pale silver with jagged rocks and sparse vegetation under the dim light of distant stars.

Jack stood apart from them, his expression inscrutable.

"I don't want to head back to Earth," Falco said in frustration. His damaged eyes still burned with resolve. "We haven't saved Ria yet. We can't just abandon him."

Endric, sitting on a jagged rock, shook his head. "Falco, we barely managed to escape with our lives. We need to regroup and rethink our strategy. Charging back into danger isn't going to help Ria."

Aldris and E.E. stood silently, caught between the two strong arguments. E.E. finally broke the silence. "I understand both your points. But we can't ignore the fact that Ria's capture was intended to lure Gustav out. Once Gustav learns of it, he will come charging in and I don't think we want him falling into a trap."

Jack's deep voice suddenly cut through the tension. "Listen, the only reason I knew where to find you and managed to save you was because of Gustav."

All four immediately turned to him with expressions of shock and curiosity.

Jack continued, "Gustav visited Earth and saved Angy. He seemed to already know that you would be in trouble and tried to get me to stop you four. He's currently unconscious and in captivity on Earth."

A heavy silence followed as the group processed the information.

Falco aggressive demeanor faltered; "Gustav... is back?"

"Wasn't he supposed to be at Agon?" E.E turned to face Endric with a look of confusion.

Jack nodded. "Yes he is back, and he's about to undergo trial because he is now in MBO custody. The entire Earth is already preparing for this trial."

E.E. held his chin with a disturbed look; "I've compiled testimonials and proofs of Gustav's deeds over the past year. I can't miss the trial. We need to be there to support him and make sure he doesn't lose."

Aldris finally chimed in; "Then it's settled. We head back to Earth. If we can clear Gustav's name, Ria will be freed, and we can turn the tide in our favor."

Falco clenched his fists but nodded in agreement. "Alright then let's do it."

Jack, satisfied with their decision began to gather energy around him as eight star shaped constructs glowed in the surroundings.

"You kids might be able to kill two birds with one stone."

The constructs merged and enveloped them. Soon the surroundings of the barren orbital body dissolved into a swirl of light and energy.

Swwhooooohh~

Within moments, they were transported back to Earth, landing just outside the perimeter of Plankton City.

The familiar sights and sounds of their home planet greeted them as they stepped out of the construct.

The city's towering skyscrapers and bustling streets felt both comforting and surreal after their harrowing experience.

...

...

Elevora stood on a star bustling with life. The sky above her a swirling display of colors and celestial bodies unlike anything seen from Earth.

This place, known as Aelyon and it happened to be another melting pot of species from across the galaxies. This part of space wasn't under the control of the alliance.

Tall shimmering buildings made of alien alloys reached towards the heavens, connected by floating platforms and transparent walkways.

The air was filled with the buzz of advanced technology, interspersed with the chatter of numerous languages and dialects.

The inhabitants of Aelyon were just as diverse as its architecture. Beings with crystalline skin floated alongside humanoids with metallic limbs and eyes that glowed with an inner light.

In the bustling markets, traders from various species bartered exotic goods—glowing fruits, shimmering fabrics, and artifacts pulsating with unknown energy. Creatures with multiple appendages scuttled about, their eyes reflecting the vivid lights of the city.

Elevora, blending in with a simple yet elegant disguise, had been on this star for several days, tirelessly seeking any information about the Gustavo Alliance.

Her initial inquiries had met with dead ends and wary glances. The shadowy organization proved elusive as ever.

"This is getting me nowhere," Elevora muttered to herself as she navigated through the crowded marketplace.

She had been subtly altering her narrative, now presenting herself as someone eager to join the Gustavo Alliance, hoping this might finally yield results.

Her perseverance eventually paid off. While seated at a small, out-of-the-way cantina, sipping on a drink that glowed with a inky pink hue, she was approached by a figure cloaked in shadows.

The figure moved with an eerie grace but their face was obscured by a hood.

"I hear you're looking to join the Gustavo Alliance," the figure said, their voice a low, smooth whisper that sent chills across the surroundings.

Elevora nodded while her eyes narrowed as she tried to pierce the shadows hiding the figure's face. "Yes. I want to be part of something bigger. To serve a cause greater than myself."

The figure laughed softly, a sound that seemed to echo around the small cantina. "The Gustavo Alliance is not something you join on a whim. You have to be chosen."

Elevora leaned forward, her expression earnest. "Then tell me what I need to do to be chosen."

The figure seemed to study her for a long moment before replying, "Prove your faith and loyalty to our god, Gustav."

Elevora's scoffed internally. They really thought of Gustav as their god so she had to pick her next move carefully.

"And how do I do that?" she asked with a calm voice.

The figure's eyes glinted from within the hood. "That is for you to figure out. One cannot be chosen if they don't know our god well enough to prove their loyalty. Only the truly devoted can gain our trust."

As the figure turned to leave, Elevora reached out. "Wait. Can you at least point me in the right direction?"

The figure paused, considering her request. "Our god intends to cleanse the universe. Do something related even if it is a very tiny fraction and perhaps you'll catch our attention."

With that, the figure vanished into the crowd, leaving Elevora alone with her thoughts.

Chapter 1512 Joining The Gustavo Alliance

'It would have taken me nothing to capture him but it may scare them off... I can't risk it,' Elevora thought internally.

It seemed like the Gustavo alliance carefully planned their actions so she couldn't make brash moves that might cost the whole operation.

She needed to get proof that Gustav wasn't running the Gustavo alliance as quickly as she could but now it was looking like her morals were about to be tested.

One thing she knew now for sure was that they had their eyes on her. Her next move would be what determined things.

--

Elevora spent the next few days meticulously planning her next move.

She knew that to truly prove herself to the Gustavo Alliance, she had to take decisive and visible action.

She decided her target: a nearby planet known as Zorath, inhabited by a relatively peaceful species.

Zorath was a planet with a harsh, rocky landscape, dotted with craggy mountains and deep valleys.

Its inhabitants, the Zorathians, were a hardy, reptilian race with scales that shimmered in the sunlight. Their cities were built into the sides of mountains, blending seamlessly with the natural environment.

Despite their resilient nature, the Zorathians had never developed strong centralized governance, making them an easy target for a powerful invader.

Upon arriving on Zorath, Elevora wasted no time in making her intentions clear. She stood at the center of the largest city, her voice amplified by her bloodline, echoing through the valleys and canyons. "I am Vora, and I come in the name of Gustav, the god of the Gustavo Alliance. From this moment on, Zorath belongs to us."

The Zorathians, who had gathered around in curiosity, now looked at her with a mixture of fear and defiance.

Their leader, a towering figure named Grathak with scales as dark as night stepped forward from his abode. "We do not bow to outsiders," he hissed with a deep rumble that resonated through the crowd.

The purple eye on Elevora's forehead began to glow with an intense light, and a pulse of energy emanated from her, causing the ground to tremble. "You will bow," she declared with a tone of unyielding authority.

Grathak lunged at her with surprising speed, his claws extended and teeth bared. But Elevora was faster.

With a flick of her wrist, she unleashed a torrent of energy that sent Grathak crashing into a nearby cliff.

Before he could recover, she was upon him, her hand glowing with purple energy. She placed it on his chest, and he writhed in agony trying to free himself to no avail.

Elevora proceeded to turn around and fire a beam at a mountainous region in the distance.

Boom~

The beam tore through multiple mountains, leaving building sized holes in them and continued shooting forward with intensity.

The crowd gasped and murmured among themselves as they witnessed this in accordance with their leader's defeat.

"Surrender," Elevora proclaimed as her voice cut through the murmurs. "Serve Gustav. Defy the Gustavo alliance and face a fate worse than death."

One by one, the Zorathians bowed to her, their heads lowered in submission.

Just as she secured dominance, several figures materialized from the shadows. They were members of the Gustavo Alliance, who had been secretly observing her actions just as she suspected.

The leader of the group was a overbearing figure with dark skin covered in glowing tattoos.

He introduced himself as Valtheron, one of the captains of the Gustavo Alliance.

Valtheron's eyes gleamed with approval. "You have proven yourself, Vora. Your demonstration of power and decisiveness is exactly what we seek in our members. Welcome to the Gustavo Alliance."

Elevora bowed her head slightly, acknowledging the compliment. "Thank you, Valtheron."

Valtheron nodded. "Before we leave for the initiation, we will leave one of our own to oversee the transition of Zorath. Tormak, step forward."

A hulking figure, nearly seven feet tall with rippling muscles and skin that shimmered like polished stone, approached.

His eyes glowed with a fiery intensity, and he carried an enormous battle-axe on his back. "I will ensure that Zorath remains under our control," Tormak rumbled, his voice deep and resonant.

Valtheron gestured for Elevora to follow. "Come, Vora. Your initiation awaits."

As they prepared to leave, Elevora couldn't help but feel a chime of satisfaction.

She had taken a significant step in infiltrating the Gustavo Alliance, and now she was about to become one of them.

Valtheron and the others guided Elevora back to the star where she had originally sought to join the Gustavo Alliance.

They arrived at a secluded area on the planet, surrounded by transparent silver like rocks.

Valtheron approached an irregular looking rock formation and placed his hand on its surface. A series of symbols glowed under his touch, and with a low rumble, the rock split to reveal a hidden entrance.

"This way," Valtheron instructed, leading Elevora and the others down a narrow, winding staircase that descended deep into the heart of the star. The passage was dimly lit by bioluminescent fungi that cast an eerie glow on the rough-hewn walls.

As they reached the bottom, Elevora found herself in a vast underground cavern filled with advanced technology and bustling with activity.

The base was a hive of Gustavo Alliance operatives, each going about different tasks. The air was filled a burst of conversation in various alien languages mixed with low vibrations of technological compartments.

Valtheron turned to Elevora. "This is base #7. Your initiation will take place here, and we will verify your backgrounds to ensure you are not a threat to us."

Elevora nodded, her expression calm and collected. "Understood."

They led her to a chamber at the far end of the cavern, where a group of high-ranking Gustavo Alliance members awaited. The chamber was adorned with symbols of the Alliance, and a large, circular platform stood in the center. Valtheron gestured for Elevora to step onto the platform.

"Place your hand on the scanner," he instructed.

Elevora did as she was told, and a beam of light scanned her from head to toe. The platform whirred as it processed the data.

Thanks to E.E's meticulous precautions and the cover-up on her records, the scan found nothing suspicious.

There was not a single information about Elevora being a part of a law enforcement group or anything related to her family on Earth.

They had properly plotted to the point where all of that had been modified.

Valtheron glanced at the readout and nodded. "Your records are clean. Proceed with the initiation."

Another member of the Gustavo Alliance figure with shimmering blue skin and four arms, approached. She introduced herself as Vice Captain Lalia. "I will oversee your initiation, Vora," she said, using Elevora's alias. "This will involve a series of tests and the placement of a mark that will grant you access to our network."

Elevora nodded again, ready for whatever lay ahead. The initiation began with a test of combat skills, where Elevora faced off against various opponents, showcasing her prowess in hand-to-hand combat and her mastery of her bloodline abilities.

Next came a series of mental challenges designed to test her strategic thinking and loyalty to the Gustavo Alliance's cause.

After a few tests which Elevora scaled perfectly, Lalia deemed her worthy. She brought out a small, intricate device that glowed with a faint blue light. "This will place an invisible tattoo on your arm," she explained. "It will serve as your key to our bases and resources."

Elevora extended her arm, and Talia activated the device.

A slight tingling sensation spread across Elevora's skin as the tattoo was applied. When it was done, there was no visible mark, but Elevora could feel its presence.

"Welcome to the Gustavo Alliance, Vora," Talia said, her voice warm with approval. "You are now one of us."

Valtheron stepped forward, handing Elevora a small data pad. "This contains information about our hierarchy, our goals, and your first assignment. You will be part of Squadron Alpha, one of our most elite units. Your task is to assist in our operations and gather intelligence."

Elevora accepted the data pad. "I understand. I will do my best to serve the Gustavo Alliance."

As they left the chamber, Valtheron and Talia continued to brief her on the workings of the Alliance.

"Each squadron reports to a Captain, and captains report to commanders while each commander reports to the Council. Our ultimate goal is to bring the cleansing to the universe as our Lord Gustav would," Valtheron explained.

Talia added, "We have many enemies, and trust is hard to come by. Prove yourself, and you will rise through the ranks."

Elevora nodded, absorbing the information. She knew that her true mission was to gather evidence that the Gustavo Alliance was not being run by Gustav. Her infiltration had been successful, but now the real work began.

Elevora moved to the area where her squad was said to group up so she could introduce herself.

She was not in a rush so she properly took in the details of her surroundings in the process.

Chapter 1513 Trial Day Nears

The sun was beginning to set, casting a warm, golden glow over Plankton City. In E.E.'s apartment, the atmosphere was charged with emotions.

Angy stood at the entrance with her newly regrowing horns barely visible through her silver and pink hair. The door opened before her, and E.E, Aildris, Falco, and Endric appeared.

"Angy!" E.E. exclaimed, rushing forward to embrace her.

Aildris, Endric, and Falco crowded around her as well and it soon turned into a group embrace.

Angy's eyes welled up with tears as she hugged them tightly. "I missed you all so much," she said as her voice trembled.

Aildris's usually calm demeanor was replaced by a rare display of emotion. "We tried to rescue you, Angy. We really did. But we failed. We could only save Falco."

Angy's tears flowed freely now as she turned to Falco, who looked guilty and relieved at the same time. "I know," she said, her voice choked with emotion. "I faintly recall and I'm glad."

Falco stepped closer. "We're just glad you're safe, Angy."

"Jack informed us of what Gustav did... We couldn't believe our ears."

Angy wiped away a tear as she responded; "Gustav sacrificed himself to bring me back. He absorbed all the darkness from me, taking it into himself."

Endric had a disturbed look on his face as he nodded. "We need to catch up on everything, Angy."

Angy took a deep breath. "I want to know everything and I want to help. But first, tell me about Ria... what happened to him?"

E.E.'s face darkened. "Ria was captured by the Alliance. We've tried everything to rescue him, but it's been impossible so far. We almost got captured ourselves."

A sense of determination filled Angy's eyes. "Then we'll have to find another way. We can't leave him behind."

Aildris, who had been observing Angy's regrowing horns, spoke up. "Your horns... they're growing from scratch. What does that mean?"

Angy touched the base of one horn gently. "Gustav had to absorb me to get all the darkness out and in the process, I lost power. But I'm starting to feel my bloodline abilities coming back..."

E.E. leaned forward. "That's a relief. But first, we need to focus on Gustav's trial. We need to clear his name. If we succeed, it will make rescuing Ria easier."

Angy's eyes burned with resolve. "What do we need to do?"

...

A few minutes later, they were all seated in E.E.'s apartment discussing.

The boys had stated how they were shocked when Jack revealed to them that Gustav was back. News about Angy was a bonus of relief.

Learning that Gustav only returned because of them and Angy, they couldn't help but feel guilty. Their decisions had further delayed his plans of getting to the Stagnant Siterus void so they all swore to do whatever it took to save him.

Endric pulled out a data pad and placed it on the table." E.E. has compiled all of Gustav's deeds over the past year. We've documented every planet he's saved, every life he's touched. We need to present this evidence at the trial."

Aldris added, "But it's not going to be easy. The Alliance and many others have already branded him a criminal. We need to convince the whole universe that he's innocent."

E.E chimed in; "We also need to expose the truth about the Gustavo Alliance. Elevora is already working on gathering evidence from within but I fear it might not be ready when the time comes so we have to do the best with what we have."

"Don't forget how the world government will probably want to convict Gustav so they have him in their hands. We need to be prepared for anything," Falco pointed out.

They nodded in response. This was something they really needed to look out for.

If they were going to be debunking all of the false allegations so far, they had to be ready to counter any new ones the opposition may include.

Those old geezers were very cunning so this needed more indulgence.

The group spent the rest of the evening strategizing and preparing. They reviewed the evidence E.E. had gathered, discussing how to present it most effectively.

...

In the blink of an eye, a week had gone by. The day before the trial, ships across the galaxies and aircraft arrived in multitudes, filling the skies above Plankton City.

These visitors, both from distant planets and from all corners of Earth, converged to witness the trial that had the universe abuzz with anticipation and tension.

Aldris had spent the past week meticulously preparing for the trial. He had secured one of the best lawyers on earth, a renowned advocate named Jareth Cole. They had provided him with all the necessary information to build a strong defense for Gustav.

The next morning, the atmosphere in Plankton City was electric. The largest hall in the city, a towering structure of gleaming metal and glass, stood as the focal point of this monumental event.

Crowds gathered outside, and media outlets had set up their equipment, broadcasting live streams to billions of viewers across the galaxies.

Reporters interviewed anyone and everyone going into the hall, capturing the diverse opinions and emotions of the crowd.

Many were vocal in their condemnation of Gustav, their voices rising above the din. "Lock him up forever!" shouted one man, while others nodded in agreement. Amidst the chaos, there were also pockets of support, with groups holding signs that read, "Free Gustav" and "Justice for the Savior."

Aldris, Falco, and Angy arrived in a creamy black hover car. As soon as they stepped out, reporters swarmed them, microphones thrust forward, cameras flashing incessantly.

"Angy, do you really believe Gustav is innocent?" a reporter from Galaxy News Network shouted.

"Angy, how do you respond to the accusations against Gustav?" another pressed.

Angy took a deep breath, trying to remain calm amidst the chaos. "Gustav is not guilty of the crimes he's been accused of. He has saved countless lives, including mine. We are here to prove his innocence."

Falco's face was set in a determined expression as he nodded in agreement. It hadn't been revealed to all that Falco had returned and this happened to be one of their trump cards for today.

Aldris added with composure; "We have substantial evidence and testimonies to support Gustav. We are confident that justice will prevail."

The reporters continued their barrage, but the trio managed to push through the crowd, making their way to the entrance of the hall.

The grand building loomed above them, its architecture a towering classical grandeur.

The facade was adorned with intricate carvings and holographic displays that shimmered in the morning light.

Inside, the atmosphere was no less tense. The hall was packed with spectators, each eager to witness the proceedings.

The walls were lined with banners from various planets, each representing a faction or group with a vested interest in the trial's outcome. The seating area was divided into sections, with dignitaries and high-ranking officials occupying the front rows.

The air buzzed with whispered conversations and the occasional outburst of emotion.

The hall had a capacity for nearly twenty thousand people and was almost completely full.

MBO officers, high-ranking government officials, and many important figures from various sectors filled the seats.

The interior of the hall was an architectural marvel. The ceiling arched high above was adorned with holographic displays that depicted the galaxies and their many planets, highlighting the interconnectedness of the alliance.

Behind the judge's position sat six panel members representing the six leading planets of the alliance.

Each one was an imposing figure, radiating authority and power. Earth was, of course, one of them, and the person seated there was World Leader 2.

His appearance was a shock to the entire planet since the world leaders on Earth were rarely ever seen. He was a figure with purple hair and a stern, unyielding expression.

His eyes, a piercing blue, scanned the crowd with a mix of curiosity and judgment.

Gustav was brought in within a gigantic tube, floating in his unconscious state.

The crowd gasped upon seeing his darkened body, which oozed with oppressive energy. The sight of Gustav elicited a range of emotions from the audience.

Angy, Falco, Aildris, and others who supported Gustav had their row. Angy whose eyes were red from sleepless nights sat beside Falco and Aildris with his usually stoic expression showing hints of worry.

E.E. was clad in his MBO uniform and stayed in the row of MBO officers. The MBO, of course, was unaware that he was on Gustav's side, and he maintained a composed, professional demeanor to avoid suspicion.

Endric couldn't attend due to the risk of arrest, so he witnessed the ongoing proceedings from the top of a high-rise building in the distance. He could keep watch of everything without having to be there physically.

The absence of Jack was notable. His presence would have added a layer of complexity to the trial, but his whereabouts remained unknown.

Angy was expecting him to be here so she didn't understand why he was running late and now the trial was about to begin.

Chapter 1514 Heated Courtroom

Angy was expecting Jack to be here so she didn't understand why he was running late and now the trial was about to begin.

The chief judge was an elderly woman with a regal bearing and flowing white robes. She proceeded to call the court to order.

Her voice echoed through the hall, commanding immediate silence.

"Order in the court," she announced, her tone firm. "We are here today to address the charges against Gustav Crimson. The prosecution may begin."

The lead prosecutor, a sharp-featured man with a calculating gaze, stood and approached the front.

His name was Veran Kess, known for his ruthlessness in the courtroom. He wore a black suit that contrasted starkly with his pale skin, and his eyes glittered with a cold, determined light.

"Members of the court, esteemed panel, and citizens of the alliance," he began, his voice carrying an air of authority. "We are gathered here to seek justice for the countless lives affected by Gustav Crimson. He stands accused of heinous crimes that have brought turmoil to our universe. Today, we will present evidence that will leave no doubt about his guilt."

He gestured towards the tube containing Gustav. "Look at the man before you. Once a hero, now a symbol of destruction. We must hold him accountable for his actions."

The crowd murmured in agreement as doubts of Gustav's innocence rippled through the hall.

Veran Kess continued, detailing the accusations against Gustav with a meticulous, almost cruel precision. He painted a picture of a man whose powers had led to chaos and death, emphasizing the destruction of Planet Ozious and other incidents that had been attributed to Gustav.

...

Jack floated in the outer atmosphere of Earth, surrounded by a chaotic melee of spacecraft and assailants.

His body glowed with blue energy as he moved with devastating intensity. Blasts of energy erupted around him as he ripped through the enemy ranks with unparalleled power.

He spun in mid-air, dodging a barrage of powerful bolts, and retaliated with a devastating wave of force that disintegrated a nearby spacecraft. "Where did these guys come from?" Jack muttered to himself, his eyes narrowing as he scanned the surroundings.

All he knew was that when he was about to head for Gustav's trial, the MBO higher-ups had contacted him.

They informed him of a threat in Earth's outer atmosphere that needed immediate attention. No further information was provided, just that these were people with nefarious intentions.

"They could've sent anyone else," Jack thought, effortlessly deflecting an energy beam with a flick of his wrist. He punched through the hull of another ship, sending it spiraling into the void. "Why me, and why now?"

His suspicion grew with every attack he parried. The timing was too perfect. "This has to be a delay tactic," he mused, realizing the MBO's ploy. They knew he was on Gustav's side, and by keeping him occupied, they ensured he missed the trial.

Everyone knew that Jack was someone who followed the rules and obeyed commands so this was a tactic that was most likely to work.

"Nice try," Jack said aloud with a growl of determination. "But you can only delay me, not stop me."

As if responding to his thoughts, the assailants intensified their assault.

A group of them, humanoid and beast alike, converged their powers, combining their abilities into a massive net of energy.

The net crackled with ominous power as it hurtled toward Jack.

Before he could react, the net ensnared him, the energy tendrils wrapping tightly around his form. Jack struggled against the binding force, his muscles straining as he tried to break free.

"Got you now," one of the assailants who was a reptilian figure sneered with glowing red eyes. "Let's see how powerful you really are."

Jack's eyes blazed with fury. "You think this will hold me?" he roared, his voice echoing through the void.

With a surge of raw power, he pushed against the net while the energy around him flared brighter.

The net tightened in response as if it was absorbing energy from him. "It's not just about strength," another assailant who happened to be a Mixedblood with cybernatic looks, voiced.

...

Veran Kess stood at the center of the courtroom, his presence commanding and his voice steady. He had already detailed a long list of accusations against Gustav, but he wasn't done. "Furthermore," he continued, "Gustav Crimson did not turn himself in when he was accused. Instead, he eluded the pursuit of the MBO for over a year. This in itself is also a crime."

Gasps and murmurs echoed through the hall. Angy clenched her fists, her knuckles turning white. She exchanged worried glances with Aildris and E.E. Each of them felt the weight of the accusations piling up against Gustav.

Veran Kess wasn't finished. "In addition, Gustav's actions have led to numerous confrontations with the Alliance. He has been responsible for the destruction of several Alliance fleets and the deaths of both MBO officers and Alliance corps members who were simply doing their duty."

Gustav's defense lawyer, a seasoned advocate, Jareth Cole, stood up. "Objection, your honor!" He called out. "These claims are exaggerated and lack proper evidence!"

The judge banged her gavel. "Overruled. Mr. Kess, continue."

Veran Kess smirked. "Thank you, your honor. Not only did Gustav wreak havoc in space, but just weeks ago, he attempted to destroy Earth itself. Were it not for the intervention of Jack, the world's strongest, who then took Gustav into custody, we would not be here today."

The hall erupted in a combination of gasps and murmurs. People leaned toward each other, whispering in disbelief.

Jareth Cole rose to his feet once more. "Objection, your honor! This is a blatant lie! Jack can testify to the truth!"

Veran Kess turned towards her with a triumphant smile. "Then let's call upon Jack to testify," he said with his tone dripping in confidence. He looked towards the judge. "Your honor, I request that Jack be brought forward to verify these claims."

The judge nodded. "Agreed. Please bring Jack forward."

Everyone in the hall turned expectantly towards the entrance, but Jack was nowhere to be found. An uneasy silence settled over the room.

Angy's heart pounded in her chest. She looked to Aildris and Falco, her eyes wide with worry. "Where is he?" she whispered.

Falco shook his head. "I don't know, but if he doesn't show up soon, things could get even worse."

Veran Kess seized the moment. "It seems that Jack is unavailable. Convenient, isn't it?" he said, his voice carrying a tone of mock concern. "Without his testimony, we must proceed based on the evidence and witnesses we have."

Jareth Cole stepped forward again. "Your honor, Jack's testimony is crucial to this case. If we could wait for a bit..."

The judge frowned as her patience wore thin. "We will proceed. Mr. Kess, you may continue."

Veran Kess's smirk grew wider. "Thank you, your honor." He turned back to the court. "I will now bring forward several witnesses who have firsthand accounts of Gustav's crimes."

One by one, people took the stand, each recounting stories of destruction and chaos allegedly caused by Gustav.

Each story was more damning than the last, and it was clear that many of these witnesses were either coerced or lying outright.

However, there was little they could do about this.

Angy could barely contain herself. She wanted to scream, to shout the truth, but she knew that any outburst could make things worse.

Jareth Cole did his best to cross-examine the witnesses, poking holes in their stories and highlighting inconsistencies, but the damage was done. The jury, and the public watching the live broadcast, were swayed by the sheer volume of accusations.

Veran Kess gave a final statement. "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, it is clear that Gustav Crimson is a danger to our society. His refusal to submit to justice, his violent confrontations with our forces, and his attempts to destroy our very planet all point to one conclusion: he must be held accountable for his actions."

...

Deep in space, a strange calm washed over Jack as he thought of a way out. He couldn't afford to waste time here. The trial was too important to miss. He needed to break free and fast.

"Alright," he muttered to himself, "Let's see how much power you can really take."

Drawing on the deepest reserves of his strength, Jack concentrated his energy on a single area. The air around him crackled with electricity as he suddenly burst forth with unprecedented energy.

The tendrils tightened and strained... then began to tear under the pressure of absorbing way too much energy.

The assailants watched in shock as Jack's aura expanded, growing more intense by the second. "Impossible!" the reptilian leader hissed, trying to reinforce the net.

They begin to feel the energy choke them as overbearing pressure swept across the surroundings from Jack's position.

With a final, explosive burst of energy, Jack shattered the net, sending shards of energy flying in all directions.

Chapter 1515 Slowly Turning The Tide

Jack lunged at his attackers as his fists moved with blinding speed. The first assailant fell with a single blow, their body crumpling like a ragdoll. The second tried to counter, but Jack was too fast, disarming and incapacitating them in an instant.

"You're done," Jack growled as his eyes emitted an infuriating glow.

He grabbed the reptilian leader by the throat. "Who sent you?"

The leader struggled as their eyes widened with fear. "You can't...stop us," he choked.

Jack's grip tightened. "I don't have time for this," he said with a cold voice before hurling the leader into the void, sending them tumbling away into the darkness.

Turning his attention back to the remaining foes, Jack unleashed a flurry of attacks.

He moved with unseen blur while dismantling the enemy forces with precision and efficiency.

As the last of the assailants fell, Jack cast a glance back at Earth, his resolve hardening.

"I will keep my promise."

Activating his communication device, Jack sent a message to the MBO. "The threat has been neutralized," he reported, his tone clipped. "I'm heading back."

-"Oh hold on Jack, there is still somethi..."

"I'm going off duty for the rest of today. I have earned it,"

Without waiting for a response, Jack launched himself towards Earth, cutting through the atmosphere like a comet.

The ground below blurred as he sped towards the trial. His mind was focused on one thing: ensuring Gustav received a fair hearing.

...

When the prosecutor finished, Jareth Cole, Gustav's lawyer, rose to his feet.

He was a distinguished man with graying hair and a calm, authoritative presence.

His deep brown eyes radiated wisdom and determination. His tailored suit and calm demeanor commanded respect.

The prosecutor had said his but now it was his turn.

"Esteemed panel, members of the court, and citizens," he began, his voice steady. "We are here today not to condemn an innocent man, but to seek the truth. Gustav Crimson is not the monster he has been portrayed as."

He continued; "You've heard the prosecution's claims. You've listened to their accusations. Now, let me tell you about the real Gustav Crimson. The man who, for the past year, has dedicated his life to protecting the universe against the true forces of evil."

He paused, allowing his words to sink in before continuing. "Gustav evaded pursuit not out of guilt, but because he was on a mission. A mission to protect the universe from those responsible for the destruction of Planet Ozious. Had he been captured earlier, countless lives would have been lost, and planets would have been doomed."

Veran Kess, the prosecution lawyer, stood up. "Objection, your honor. There is no concrete evidence to support these claims."

The judge glanced at Jareth. "Mr. Cole, do you have evidence to support these claims?"

Jareth nodded confidently. "Yes, your honor, I do. I present to you documented evidence of Gustav's deeds over the past year, compiled meticulously by one of his closest allies, E.E." He gestured to the large holographic projection behind him, which began displaying various documents and images of Gustav's heroic acts.

The projection showed a planet with a dark sun looming and then another instance when the sun was nowhere to be seen. Multiple images of what seemed like native species of that planet could be seen cheering for him. Some fuzzy images displayed him battling against a bunch of rough looking aliens.

Each image was accompanied by detailed reports where the Lawyer explained the significance of his acts.

"As you can see," Jareth continued, "Gustav has been a force for good. He has saved countless lives and protected protected people. And we have witnesses who can attest to these deeds."

Veran Kess stood again. "Objection, your honor. These are just images and documents. There is no way to verify their authenticity."

The judge turned to Jareth. "Do you have witnesses, Mr. Cole?"

"Yes, your honor," Jareth replied. "I call upon our first witness, an Ozis who was among the Siefiling captives."

An elderly humanoid looking figure with insect like head and large, soulful eyes, took the stand. She introduced herself as Xetra. She had taken the stand from where the people from the Ozious ring were couped up.

"Please tell the court what you witnessed," Jareth said.

Xetra nodded. "Gustav Crimson saved millions of us from Siefiling. We were abducted when our great Planet was being consumed by the darkness. The infamous Siefiling had made use of the ruckus to take us away and turned us into slaves. Siefiling had been at large for thousands of years and we met many others who had been enslaved by him. The alliance had never been able to catch him. Even our people had searched for us but we're unable find us. Gustav Crimson ended the reign of Siefiling. Without him, we would still be enslaved."

The jury listened intently as Xetra detailed the rescue operation, describing Gustav's bravery and determination.

"He put his life on the line for us and didn't save us alone. He also saved other species that had been captured by Siefiling all these years. Billions in number..."

Veran Kess stood to object but was quickly overruled by the judge.

"Thank you, Xetra," Jareth said. "I now call upon our next witness, a former child slave from the Nereus sector."

A young alien girl with green skin and bright yellow eyes took the stand. She looked nervous but determined. "My name is Aelara. I was a slave on Nereus to be sold off to a master. Gustav Crimson rescued me and many others. He fought against our captors and ensured we were safe."

The jury watched as Aelara described her ordeal and the heroic efforts of Gustav to free her and other children.

Veran Kess tried to interject again, but the judge silenced him with a glare. "Let the witness speak."

"Thank you, Aelara," Jareth said, turning to the jury. "And now, I call upon another witness, an elder from Planet Orion."

An elderly woman with wings a glowing halo above her head stepped forward. Her presence was calm and serene. "My name is Elder Seraphine. Our planet, Orion, was on the brink of destruction as you may have seen in the images. Our sun had turned dark and sought to consume us. We couldn't escape, we couldn't move... we couldn't even communicate with the Alliance to ask for help. We were doomed until Gustav Crimson arrived and saved us. He took our world out of harmway and braved the darkness with his allies."

Elder Seraphine's testimony was powerful, her words resonating deeply with everyone in the room.

She spoke of how Gustav's took the burden upon himself and rescued a world that had formerly condemned him to be a planet destroyer.

"Sir Gustav, if you can hear me..." She turned to face the tube Gustav was kept in, floating unconsciously.

"Thank you once again," she bowed with a look of appreciation.

"No matter how much the world condemns you... We from Planet Orion will forever stand with you."

Jareth turned to the jury with a deep expression. "These are not just words. These are firsthand accounts of the heroism and bravery of Gustav Crimson. He did not run from the law out of guilt. He was on a mission to protect the universe. And now, he stands accused of crimes he did not commit."

Veran Kess, looking increasingly frustrated, stood up. "Your honor, these are all compelling stories, but they do not prove Gustav's innocence. We need concrete evidence."

Jareth faced Veran Kess, his eyes blazing with determination. "We have concrete evidence, Mr. Kess. These witnesses have provided undeniable proof of Gustav's deeds. Their testimonies, combined with the documented evidence, paint a clear picture of a man who has risked his life over and over and yet still stands accused of distasteful crimes."

The judge nodded, looking thoughtful. "Mr. Kess, you will have your chance to cross-examine the witnesses, but for now, Mr. Cole's evidence stands."

Angy felt a glimmer of hope. The tide seemed to be turning in their favor. She looked at Gustav, still unconscious in the tube, and silently prayed that justice would prevail.

Veran Kess, realizing he was losing ground, tried to regain control. "Ladies and gentlemen, we must remember that Gustav Crimson is still responsible for countless deaths. Even if he did some good, it does not erase the fact that he evaded the law and caused destruction."

Jareth stepped forward, his voice rising with passion. "Gustav Crimson is a hero. He saved lives, protected planets, and fought against true evil. He is not a criminal. He is a protector. And we must not condemn him for doing what was necessary to save our universe."

The courtroom fell silent as the jury pondered Jareth's words. The judge looked at both lawyers before speaking. "We will take a recess before proceeding with the cross-examination of the witnesses."

As the court adjourned for the recess, Angy and the others gathered around Jareth. "You did great," Angy said, her voice filled with gratitude.

Jareth smiled. "We're not done yet. We still have a long way to go, but we're on the right path."

Chapter 1516 The Empress' Arrival

Jareth smiled. "We're not done yet. We still have a long way to go, but we're on the right path."

Falco nodded. "We need to keep pushing. We can't let them condemn Gustav for crimes he didn't commit."

"We also have to be careful, we don't know what they may have planned. Let's use everything in our arsenal," Aildris chimed in.

As they prepared for the next phase of the trial, the thick tension in the air threatened to choke everyone present. The fate of Gustav Crimson hung in the balance.

...

The ruler of Albruikis planet, Empress Dahria and Matilda had just arrived in Earth's orbit.

Their spacecraft, a smooth golden vessel adorned with the royal crest of Albruikis, glided gracefully towards the entry checkpoint, where they were met by a squadron of MBO officers.

Matilda was clad in her distinctive MBO uniform when stepped towards the hatch to address the officers. "We are here for the trial of Gustav Crimson," she announced, her voice steady and authoritative.

One of the MBO officers with a stern expression, stepped forward. "I'm sorry, ma'am, but you do not have clearance to enter at this time."

Matilda's eyes narrowed in suspicion. "I am an MBO officer, and this is Empress Dahria of Albruikis. We have every right to be here."

The officer remained unyielding. "Your division does not operate in this sector. We are just following protocol."

Empress Dahria who had lots of imposing looking guards surrounding her, stepped forward with a composed bearing, "This trial is of great importance. We must attend."

The officer shook his head. "We are unable to give clearance at this time."

Matilda's frustration grew as other spacecrafts were granted entry while theirs remained detained. "This is ridiculous. You're intentionally delaying us. Who gave you these orders?"

The officer's face remained impassive. "We are just doing our job, ma'am."

Matilda attempted to contact E.E and the others but found her communication efforts blocked. "This is deliberate," she muttered under her breath, her annoyance mounting.

"Calm down, Matilda," Empress Dahria said gently. "We will find a way."

As they continued to argue with the officers, a sudden presence was felt....

A very powerful presence descended from the void in the distance, radiating with power and authority.

The MBO officers visibly tensed at his arrival.

"Is there a problem here?" Jack's voice was calm but carried an undeniable weight.

The officer hesitated, clearly intimidated by Jack's presence. "We were just following protocol, sir."

Jack's gaze was unwavering. "That is a fellow MBO officer. I'm sure they have important business on Earth. Let them through."

"But, sir—"

Jack's eyes flashed dangerously. "I said, let them through."

The officer stepped back, clearly understanding that further resistance was futile. "Yes, sir," he said reluctantly, signaling to his subordinates to clear the way.

Matilda, though surprised, wasted no time. "Thank you."

She had no idea why Jack was here and why he helped but this was no time to bother about the schematics. She had received news from E.E over a week back and since it was so impromptu, they had little time to mobilize themselves and get down here.

It was a miracle that she was able to bring Empress Dahria herself here as well.

Empress Dahria still felt overwhelming gratitude for Gustav so she couldn't miss this for the world.

Jack nodded. "I noticed your spacecraft as I was returning to Earth. Recognized you from Gustav's company. It seemed suspicious, so I intervened."

Empress Dahria offered a gracious smile. "You have our gratitude, sir."

Jack's expression softened slightly. "Just get to the trial. Gustav needs all the support he can get."

With that, the spacecraft resumed its descent towards Earth, finally free from the unjust delay.

As they approached Plankton City, the view of the sprawling metropolis filled with towering skyscrapers and bustling streets came into view.

...

The courtroom buzzed with tension and anticipation as more witnesses took the stand to testify on behalf of Gustav.

Each testimony painted a vivid picture of selfless deeds, challenging the accusations leveled against him.

Another person took the stand.

Captain Mardok, a rugged and grizzled man with scars crisscrossing his face. His deep voice commanded attention as he began his tale. "I am Captain Mardok from the Nereus sector. Gustav Crimson saved our sector from annihilation at the hands of an escaped convict. This man didn't stop there. He swept the entire sector clean of all crime kingpins and he didn't ask for anything in return."

The jury listened intently as Captain Mardok recounted the harrowing events, describing how Gustav risked his life to transform the Nereus sector.

This further challenged the image of Gustav as a villain.

"My turn," Falco slowly stepped forward while the technological mask he'd been wearing this whole time dissolved to reveal his true face.

The crowd gasped in shock, recognizing him as one of the vanished during Planet Ozious' destruction. His father was well known as one of the richest businessman on Earth and had caused a lot of ruckus back then asking the MBO to bring back his son.

Everyone thought he was gone forever... No one could have expected to see him here at Gustav's trial.

"My name is Falco," he began with a steady tone. "I'm sure it is well known that I was on Planet Ozious when it was destroyed. Gustav and many of our friends did everything they could to save others during that catastrophic event. Myself and Angy were swallowed by the darkness and yet Gustav never gave up trying to rescue us.

He traveled to the dark plane, risking everything to rescue me from the being truly responsible for Ozious' destruction."

Falco's words painted a vivid picture of the chaos and destruction on Planet Ozious.

Furthermore, hearing about the tales of the other plane struck deep fear in the hearts of everyone.

The spectators were captivated, their perceptions of Gustav beginning to shift.

The six panels behind the judge bore grim expression as they listened to Falco recount these tales.

This was information they didn't want revealed to the public and now, right before the eyes of everyone here as well as the whole world which was streaming the trial, Falco was spitting out such details.

They didn't see this coming in the slightest because Falco's return had been kept completely secret from the rest of the world.

- "What is he talking about?"

- "A dark Lord?"

- "This is scary..."

All across the world, people who were watching the live feed couldn't help but wonder about who they were truly up against.

'Cut the feed,' Leader two voice resounded in the minds of the MBO officers around.

Some of them quickly scrambled to action in order to do as instructed. E.E had heard this too and moved. However, it wasn't to obey the order, instead it was to prevent the others from doing so.

After Falco, Angy took the stand as well. "I was trapped in the other plane under the influence of the dark ruler," she began. "I visited Earth to wreak havoc, driven by the dark ruler's influence. The MBO never revealed this to the world but I was actually the one who threatened to destroy it and not Gustav.

I wasn't in my right senses and confronted Jack in battle... I'm sure they never revealed that my existence in that state was so much of a threat that they had to call Jack back to Earth..." She paused briefly.

"But Gustav saved me. He stopped me from causing more destruction and brought me back to myself. He risked his life and getting captured just to save me."

The hall was silent as the weight of Angy's words sunk in.

Suddenly, the doors of the courtroom opened, and all eyes turned as the ruler of Albruikis planet, a beautiful purple skinned feminine figure with an aura of authority, entered with Matilda by her side.

She walked with purpose as her presence commanded respect.

"Your honor, I apologize for my lateness," she began, her voice clear and resonant.

"I am Empress Dahria of Albruikis planet and I am here to testify."

Chatter! Chatter! Chatter!

The hall was loud briefly till the judge ordered silence once more. She wanted to dismiss the Empress and prevent her from testify but Jack happened to just appear behind Dahria.

His gaze of iciness and presence of unparalleled power caused the surroundings to wince. Now the judge was feeling pressure from both behind and ahead.

But the one from Jack was no doubt much more superior, causing her to choke on her next words.

The look from Jack was no doubt a silent threat, asking her to follow normal procedure... Wasn't he supposed to not appear here today? Didn't they claim he'd be delayed?

"You may... Proceed," The judge managed to maintain a calm demeanor as she voiced out.

"Thank you..." Empress Dahria said before starting.

"Gustav Crimson rescued my planet from a tyrant who had stolen the rulership from my family and led us into tyranny for over twelve years."

Chapter 1517 Gustavo Alliance Allegation

Empress Dahria continued;

"At a young age I watched my family get slaughtered. I was brought to earth to hide out until I was old enough to take back the throne which was where I met my friend Matilda.

Unfortunately, after a couple of years I was discovered and forcefully taken back. I was on the run again and I did my best to seek for help even from planet Earth and the alliance but... No help came. I was ignored because the tyrant put money in the pockets of any alliance investigator. For over a decade, I was imprisoned... I had lost all hope.

Until he came. When the entire universe ignored my plight... The plight of my people...He restored peace to our world and brought justice to our people. Are you going condemn such a man on false basis and lies spinned by people who haven't done half the things he has?"

The entire hall was briefly thrown into silence after her testimony. It had no doubt caused a stir in their minds. Earthlings were sheep who followed the narrative of superior authority.

They rarely ever questioned it when leaders made a particular claim. This was why a lot of them accepted it when Gustav was proclaimed a planet destroyer.

All of these testimonies had them wondering if they had been wrong all this time. Had they foolishly swallowed the lies of the world government without giving it any proper thought?

Veran Kess suddenly attempted to interject, but the judge silenced him with a stern look. "Let the witnesses speak."

Jareth Cole seized the opportunity to strengthen Gustav's defense. "These testimonies are not isolated incidents. They are part of a larger pattern, a pattern of heroism and selflessness that defines Gustav Crimson. He has saved countless lives, protected planets and fought against true evil. These witnesses are undeniable proof."

"Gustav Crimson is not a criminal. To condemn him would be a grave injustice."

Gustav's lawyer paused briefly before turning to stare in Jack's direction.

Jack nodded, signalling that he was prepared.

"I will now call on Jack Shirwin to give his testimony of what happened on the day of Gustav's capture..."
Jareth Cole slowly moved away as Jack stepped forward.

As he walked up to the witness stand, the hall fell silent as anticipation hung heavy in the air.

Jack finally took the stand and his presence commanded the attention of everyone in the courtroom.

Jack began speaking in a deep tone that resonated through the hall. "I want to clear the air about my last encounter with Gustav Crimson."

He paused, making sure everyone was listening intently. "At the time, I was about to kill Angy because she was a threat to the entire Earth. She was under the influence of a dark power, wreaking havoc, and endangering countless lives."

There were murmurs among the audience, but Jack's steady gaze silenced them quickly. "Gustav interfered and saved Angy. He didn't just stop her; he brought her back. He saved her and, in doing so, also saved the Earth."

The prosecutor, Veran Kess, jumped to his feet. "Objection! This doesn't change the fact that Gustav has been responsible for countless crimes. He's a danger to society."

Jareth Cole, Gustav's lawyer, stood up to interject. "Your Honor, what Jack is saying is crucial to understanding Gustav's actions. He didn't act out of malice or self-interest. He acted to protect and to save."

The judge nodded; "Continue."

"As I mentioned, Gustav saved Angy from the dark influence by absorbing it into himself and went into an unconscious state to prevent himself from being a threat to this world. I didn't capture him. I merely took him back to see if the MBO could be of any help," Jack's statement caused a visible stir across the world.

Everyone could hardly believe their ears but since it was coming directly from the mouth of the world's strongest, it had to be true, right?

Jareth turned to the audience with a firm and clear voice. "You've heard the testimonies of those Gustav has saved. You've seen the evidence of his heroism. Gustav evaded pursuit not because he was guilty, but because he was on a mission to protect us all. His actions were necessary to stop greater evils."

Jack nodded in agreement. "Gustav has been fighting battles we didn't even know existed. He has been dealing with threats that the MBO and the alliance have overlooked. Without him, many more lives would have been lost."

The room was silent as Jack's words slowly sunk in. Veran Kess, however, was not ready to give up. He stood up again, his voice dripping with skepticism. "And how can we trust that Gustav's intentions were pure? He has a history of violence and destruction."

Jareth Cole stepped forward, his eyes blazing with conviction. "Gustav's actions speak for themselves. He saved Angy, he saved countless others, and he has been protecting us all this time. The real question is, why are we so quick to condemn a man who has done so much good?"

The audience murmured among themselves as the doubts and suspicions were slowly being replaced by a sense of admiration and respect.

But as the courtroom buzzed with this new perspective, a conspiracy was slowly brewing. Hidden in the shadows, a group of powerful individuals plotted to ensure that Gustav would never be free. They whispered among themselves, their plans taking shape as the trial continued.

Meanwhile, back in the courtroom, Angy, Aildris, Falco, and E.E. watched with bated breath. They could see the shift in the atmosphere, the growing support for Gustav.

"This is going well, we might not even need evidence of Gustav not being in control of the Gustavo alliance," Aildris whispered.

Angy and Falco nodded, feeling relieved with every second that went by.

Angy turned to where Gustav was being held with a look of hope; 'Hold on for a little longer my love... You'll be free soon.'

As the hearing continued, the tension continued to grow. The mix of humans, aliens, and other extraterrestrial spectators hung on to every word spoken.

A panel member seated behind the judge with emerald skin and elongated features leaned forward. "And what of Gustav Crimson's connection to the Gustavo Alliance?" he demanded, his voice echoing through the room.

Veran Kess seized the opportunity. "Exactly, Your Honor. This question goes to the heart of the matter. There is no concrete evidence proving that Gustav isn't the leader of the Gustavo Alliance. Given their actions, this is a crucial point."

"Looks like I spoke too soon," Aildris muttered with a look of dejection at his position.

Angy turned to where E.E was seated trying to give him a signal.

E.E who was seated among the MBO officers, had been discreetly trying to contact Elevora through his communicator.

He muttered under his breath, "Come on, Elevora, pick up..." But the transmission kept failing, adding to his growing frustration.

It seemed like Elevora was in a position where she couldn't accept this transmission and E.E understood how dangerous it was but the situation demanded for it.

Jareth Cole stood to counter Veran's accusations. "Your Honor, this is a baseless claim. We have presented extensive evidence of Gustav's heroism and his continuous fight against real threats. The Gustavo Alliance is merely using his name to instill fear and confusion."

The spectators murmured among themselves. Many had already begun to doubt the villainous portrayal of Gustav, especially after hearing the testimonies of those he had saved. But the shadow of the Gustavo Alliance's atrocities still loomed large, casting doubt on his innocence in this regard.

Leader 2 finally spoke; "We need substantial proof that Gustav has no ties to the Gustavo Alliance. Until then, these allegations hold weight."

The back and forth between Veran Kess and Jareth Cole grew more heated. "Mr. Cole," Veran pressed, "you cannot deny the Gustavo Alliance's actions. They have taken over multiple planets, killed innocent species. How can you absolve your client of these connections without irrefutable evidence?"

Jareth responded firmly, "We are working on providing that evidence. But we must remember that mere association, without proof of command or involvement, does not make someone guilty."

Suddenly, a crackling noise filled the hall.

The ceiling began to tremble as the ominous crackling noise filled the vast hall. Spectators, officials, and security personnel alike looked up in confusion.

Everyone wondered where the sound was coming from but outside the hall, the crowd gasped in surprise as a crack appeared in the sky.

The crack widened, causing blistering winds to swept across the surroundings.

From the rift emerged a swirling vortex of dark energy, pulsating with malevolent power.

The atmosphere grew colder, and the lights flickered, casting eerie shadows across the vicinity. Through the widening crack, a figure began to descend, cloaked in an aura of darkness that seemed to absorb all light around it.

The figure was draped in a hooded robe as black as the void of space. The robe flowed and billowed, as if alive, and its edges seemed to shimmer with a dark, ethereal energy.

Chapter 1518 You Will Listen!

The hood was deep and shadowy, obscuring the face beneath, but as the figure drew closer, the faint outline of a mask could be seen.

The mask was an intricate piece of craftsmanship, carved from obsidian and adorned with swirling patterns that glowed with an inner crimson light.

The eyes of the mask were hollow voids, emanating a chilling glow that pierced through the darkness.

As the figure descended further, the masked eyes seemed to scan the surroundings, instilling dread in all who met their gaze.

Lightning crackled around the figure, dancing in colors of deep purple and blue, creating an electrifying display that illuminated the courtroom with flashes of unnatural light.

The sound of the crackling energy was deafening, and the air buzzed with its intensity.

With a final, thunderous crash, the figure broke through the hall's ceiling, landing with a resounding impact that shook the entire building.

The floor beneath its feet cracked and splintered, and a shockwave of energy rippled outward, causing those nearby to stumble and fall.

The figure stood tall and menacing in the center of the courtroom, its presence commanding immediate attention and fear.

The robe continued to flow around it, defying gravity and logic, while the mask's glowing eyes surveyed the chaos it had wrought.

"The Gustavo Alliance has come to retrieve our god!" the figure announced in a deep and resonant voice, that echoed through the hall like a death knell.

As it spoke, the lightning above intensified, casting a surreal, apocalyptic light over the scene.

The entire hall erupted into chaos. Spectators screamed and scrambled for cover, and security personnel rushed forward to confront the intruder. But the figure raised its hands, summoning a barrier of lightning that repelled them with ease.

"Futile," it declared with an air of absolute authority. "We will take back our god and leave this place. Any interference will be met with severe consequences."

Angy, Falco, Aildris, and E.E. sprang into action. "We have to protect Gustav!" Angy shouted, her voice filled with determination.

Jareth Cole tried to maintain order. "Everyone, stay calm and remain in your seats!"

But the hooded figure's presence and proclamation had already thrown the courtroom into disarray.

The alliance panel members and the judge looked on in shock, their authority momentarily shattered by the sheer force of the intruder's arrival.

Veran Kess, seizing the moment, pointed at Gustav. "See? This is exactly what we've been talking about! Gustav Crimson is undeniably linked to the Gustavo Alliance!"

Jareth Cole retorted, "This is an orchestrated attempt to frame my client!"

In the midst of the pandemonium, the masked figure moved toward Gustav, who floated unconscious in the containment tube. "Our god must awaken," the figure intoned.

Angy lunged forward, trying to stop the intruder.

"No! You can't take him!"

Swwoooovv~

Her speed was still a far cry from it's original level but no normal person would be able to follow it. She had been the fastest to react to the intruder.

Unfortunately...

Pah!

The figure swatted her away with a wave of its hand, sending her crashing into the wall in the distance. "Do not interfere."

"It's that guy from before," Endric recalled the Gustavo alliance member they battled with on the planet where Gustav's spacecraft underwent repair.

Falco summoned a wave of dark energy, directing it at the intruder. "Get away from him!" he roared.

The masked figure turned, raising a barrier to deflect the attack. "Meaningless. Haven't we done this before?"

"You are all mere mortals. You cannot stop the will of the Gustavo Alliance."

Veran Kess continued to use the chaos to his advantage. "Ladies and gentlemen, I implore you to see the truth. Gustav Crimson is the leader of this terror!"

Jareth Cole, undeterred, shouted back, "This is a staged attack! Do not be deceived!"

"Be reduced to ash... All those who would slander our god!" The figure voiced out while pointing at the prosecutor.

The prosecutor eyes widened in terror as a powerful lightning bolt descended from the skies above.

Outside the courtroom, the media scrambled to report on the unprecedented events. The cut live feeds only fueled speculation and conspiracy theories. The world watched in horror and fascination, unaware of the true stakes within the hall.

Thrraahhh!

After the powerful lightning descended, the courthouse became a scene of utter chaos. Dust and debris filled the air, and the sound of shouts reverberated through the vast hall.

Everyone had expected the prosecutor to be reduced to ash but when the dust died down, Jack could be seen in the initial position of the prosecutor.

Meanwhile the prosecutor was in an entirely different position.

Jack stood poised, ready to confront the unexpected guest who had descended from the crack in the sky.

The figure, cloaked in dark robes and a menacing mask, seemed unfazed by the feat Jack had just displayed.

More figures began to emerge from the crack above, each one draped in robes bearing the Gustavo Alliance sigil.

They descended with an eerie fluidity, surrounding Jack and positioning themselves around Gustav's containment tube. The atmosphere grew tense, the air thick with impending violence.

Jack's presence spread wide, releasing an aura of power and authority. "Only one will be left alive when I am done with you lots," he declared, his voice resonating with an unyielding threat.

The Gustavo Alliance members showed no fear. Their resolve remained unwavering as they tightened their circle around Jack.

Several moved closer to Gustav's tube, ready to make contact and take him away. The tension reached a fever pitch, and it seemed like the situation was about to explode into a full-blown battle.

Just as a member of the Gustavo Alliance reached out to touch the tube, a blinding golden light erupted from within.

Gustav's body turned a radiant gold, emitting a powerful blast of energy that swept across the hall.

The closest person was sent flying, crashing into the far wall with a sickening thud. Others around Gustav were thrown back, their bodies slamming into the crumbling walls of the hall.

The sheer force of the blast caused the walls of the courthouse to crack and crumble, sending chunks of stone and metal raining down.

The entire structure groaned under the strain, and the once grand hall was reduced to a scene of utter devastation.

Amidst the rubble, Gustav floated in place. His three in one golden body was activated. He radiating with an aura of unmatched power and authority.

"Quiet down!" Gustav's voice boomed, not just in the hall but across the entire earth.

Every living being heard his command in their minds, a voice that brooked no disobedience.

The chaos halted, and a stunned silence fell over the scene. Even the most hardened warriors of the Gustavo Alliance were left in awe, their confidence shaken by the display of raw power before them.

The hall was stoked with powerful figures, ranging from MBO officers to the alien spectators to the alliance leaders and yet not a single one of them could deny the chill that permeated their bodies.

"It is time I reminded you lot of who you are dealing with!" Gustav's voice echoed, carrying a weight that demanded absolute attention.

Jack, though prepared for battle, couldn't help but be impressed by the sudden turn of events. He stepped back, allowing Gustav to take center stage.

The members of the Gustavo Alliance hesitated, uncertainty creeping into their eyes as they faced the radiant figure before them.

Gustav surveyed the scene with a mix of amusement and disdain.

"You really had the audacity to hold a trial for me while I was unconscious, unable to participate in my own defense?" Gustav's voice was calm but carried a steely edge.

One of the alliance leaders sitting behind the judges, a stern-faced woman with crystalline eyes, stood and addressed him. "There is nothing wrong with proceeding so long as you were present, even in an unconscious state."

Gustav's laughter rang out, deep and resonant, shaking the very ground beneath them. The earth trembled as if sharing in his mirth. His grim expressions on the faces of everyone in the surroundings increased the longer he laughed.

The prosecutor, seizing the moment, attempted to regain control. "You see, Your Honors, this is precisely the kind of behavior we are dealing with. Gustav is unpredictable, unstable, and dangerous. He uses his power recklessly—"

Before he could continue, Gustav raised a hand, and a wave of pinkish-red energy swept across the entire earth.

The energy radiated from him in powerful surges, enveloping every living being. Instantly, everyone fell to their knees. Their wills were overwhelmed by the force of Gustav's cosmic superiority.

"I will speak, and you will all listen!" Gustav's voice echoed across the globe, resonating in the minds of every creature, human and alien alike.

Silence fell over the courtroom, the only sound being the faint vibration of Gustav's energy. He took a deep breath and began to speak, his tone grave and contemplative.

"You accuse me of heinous crimes, yet you fail to see the truth. I am not a good person. I have never claimed to be. Most of the acts I performed were not out of some misguided sense of heroism. No, they were for the handful of beings in this vast universe who mean something to me..."

Chapter 1519 The Right Verdict

Gustav paused briefly, allowing his words to sink in. The spectators, still on their knees, listened with rapt attention, unable to tear their eyes away from the figure before them.

"I care little for the rest of the world, but for those few, I would move mountains. It is for them that I have fought, bled, and sacrificed. Not for the applause or the accolades. Not to be branded a hero."

Gustav's eyes scanned the faces before him which were mostly filled with fear before he continued.

"The allegations against me are false. The crimes you claim I committed are fabrications. I am no saint, but neither am I the monster you make me out to be. My deeds, whether good or bad, were driven by my own motives, not by a desire to bring harm to the innocent."

He let out a sigh, his gaze growing distant as he spoke of deeper truths. "The world is full of fools and greedy bastards. Those who are never satisfied with what they have. They seek to claim benefits wherever they can, trampling over anyone who stands in their way. This is the nature of living beings: selfish, insatiable, and short-sighted."

The crowd was spellbound, unable to look away from Gustav's commanding presence. His words cut through them like a blade, forcing them to confront uncomfortable truths.

"We live in a universe driven by greed and selfishness. You all scramble for power, for wealth, for status, without a thought for the consequences. You damned me because it was convenient, because it served your purposes. But now, you must face the reality for I am no one to be trifled with."

Gustav's golden aura flared brighter, casting long shadows across the courtroom. His eyes, filled with a deep wisdom and an even deeper sorrow, bored into those of the alliance leaders.

"You call for my trial, but I stand here today to put you all on trial. You accuse me of crimes, yet your hands are far from clean. You seek to use me as a scapegoat for your own failures and fears. But I will not be your pawn."

The alliance leaders exchanged uneasy glances, their confidence wavering under the weight of Gustav's words. Even Veran Kess, who had been so sure of his victory, seemed at a loss for words.

Gustav continued, his voice steady and unyielding. "You must understand that the universe does not revolve around your petty squabbles and power plays. There are greater threats out there, forces that seek to annihilate us. Forces that I am giving my all to face. Forces that should be focused on and yet your sights blurred from greed."

He paused, looking around the hall, at the judges, the spectators, and his allies. "I do not seek your approval nor your forgiveness nor your hero beliefs. I seek only to protect those who matter to me, and if that makes me a villain in your eyes, so be it. But know this: I will not bow to your judgment."

The hall remained in stunned silence as Gustav's words hung heavy. It wasn't like they could speak even if they wanted to.

"Let me tell you a story," Gustav began, his voice resonant and clear. "A story of a boy who was always a loser, always at the bottom. He was laughed at, mocked, and pushed around. He had nothing. No power, no influence, no friends. Just a dream that someday, somehow, things would change."

He paused briefly once more while hovering around.

"Then, one day, everything did change," Gustav continued. "An unexpected stroke of fortune brought me power beyond my wildest dreams. But I hid it. I kept it a secret because I knew the greed of people. I knew that if they discovered what I was capable of, they would come for me. And so, I waited. I grew stronger, fought battles within and outside of Earth, and saved this planet time and time again. Not once did I think of conquering it. I fought because I wanted to protect those few who mattered to me."

Gustav's gaze hardened, and he spoke with more intensity. "I was skeptical about revealing that I had many bloodlines and could extract bloodlines from Mixedbloods. I knew what that kind of power would do to people. But I believed that one day, I would be powerful enough to no longer need to hide it."

He raised his hand, and a glowing orb appeared, the sacred Jewel. "And yet, here we are. I am not surprised that the alliance and Earth authorities have tried to pin false allegations on me. They want to dissect me, take my power for themselves and their selfish gains."

With a flick of his wrist, the orb projected a holographic image. The footage played out before the stunned crowd, showing scientists discussing their plans for Gustav once he was found guilty.

"...and once he's declared guilty, we'll finally have him," one scientist said, his voice dripping with anticipation. "We can dissect him, unlock his secrets, and take his power for ourselves."

Another scientist chimed in, "The world government wants a big cut of the pie, but they'll let us do the dirty work. It's a win-win for them."

The alliance leaders and the judges struggled against the hold of Gustav's cosmic superiority, their faces contorted in frustration. But they were powerless.

The footage continued to play out all across the world. Every one could clearly see how these scientists spoke of him like he was some kind of resource.

They added that the world government had their eyes on Gustav since he saved the earth from Yung Jo and now Gustav had finally given them the chance to legally turn him into their specimen.

The entire world had watched, and the truth was now undeniable. The allegations against Gustav were false, fabricated to serve the greedy ambitions of a few.

Gustav looked around the room. "Time and time again, I tried to give living creatures the benefit of the doubt. I believed that maybe, just maybe, they could change. But all you have proven is that you cannot. You are driven by greed, by selfishness, by a lust for power."

He took a deep breath as his aura flared brighter. "That is why I was okay with the universe perishing. If it weren't for my loved ones, I would let it all burn. But because they exist, because they matter to me, the universe gets another chance."

[Five Years Quest Completed (1/2): Become The Most Powerful Mixedblood ✓]

Gustav's voice grew colder, more resolute. "I am now the most powerful Mixedblood on Earth. Anyone who comes for me will meet a very gruesome end. I have no more patience for your schemes and deceit. I could have destroyed this planet a hundred times over if I wanted to. But I didn't."

He paused, his gaze sweeping across the room. "And that is the reality you must face. I am not your enemy. I am not your conqueror... But cross me, threaten those I care about, and you will know true fear."

"Let this be the last time anyone dares to mess with me," Gustav declared, his tone brooking no argument.

As his words reverberated through the air, a binding process began. Cosmic strings, shimmering with a light that defied the spectrum, shot out from Gustav's fingertips.

They wrapped around the masked figure in dark robes first, encasing him in an unbreakable cocoon. The figure couldn't even struggle as the strings tightened, rendering his supernatural abilities useless as well.

One by one, the members of the Gustavo alliance met the same fate. Each was bound tightly, their powers nullified.

Finally, Gustav deactivated his cosmic superiority. The oppressive weight lifted from the Earth, and people everywhere gasped for breath as their bodies slowly regained motor functions.

Chaos gave way to a tense stillness as everyone tried to process what had just happened.

In the courtroom, the judge and the alliance leaders were at a loss. They exchanged wary glances, unsure of how to proceed.

Gustav's display of power had left them speechless, their carefully laid plans shattered.

Suddenly, a figure broke through the tension. Angy ran towards Gustav with a look of relief.

Her arms had wrapped around him before anyone could even understand what was happening. She locked him in a fierce embrace as her breath hitched with emotion.

"Gustav," she whispered, her voice trembling. "You're back..."

Gustav's rigid stance softened as he returned her embrace. His eyes closed for a moment as he enjoyed the solace of her warmth. "Angy," he murmured, his voice heavy with the weight of recent events. "I'm here. I'm not going anywhere."

The judge cleared his throat, attempting to regain control of the situation. "Gustav," she began cautiously, "what do we do now?"

Gustav gently disentangled himself from Angy, turning to face the judge.

"I think you know what to do. I don't think anyone here dares stop the final verdict... The right verdict."

Chapter 1520 After Trial Reunions

The courtroom still lay in ruins due to the cosmic power that had been unleashed within. Debris and rubble were strewn across the floor with scorched patches marked in Gustav's position.

Despite the destruction, a sense of awe permeated the air.

Spectators ranging from MBO officers to aliens, important dignitaries to alliance leaders, all stood in silent reverence, their gazes fixed on the central figure who made the entire world freeze.

In the midst of this chaotic scene, Gustav stood with his arm wrapped protectively around Angy.

After a moment of stunned silence, the judge regained her composure and raised the gavel.

Her voice, though trembling slightly, carried the weight of finality. "In light of the evidence and the actions witnessed here today, I declare Gustav Crimson innocent of all charges."

The sound of the gavel striking the surface echoed through the courtroom, a signal that justice had been served.

MBO officers moved swiftly with looks of urgency as they began to cater to the tied-up Gustavo Alliance members on the ground.

The Gustavo alliance members, once a formidable threat, were now powerless. Their supernatural abilities had been rendered useless by the cosmic bindings.

As the officers escorted them away, three familiar figures made their way through the wreckage toward Gustav.

Falco, E.E., and Aildris approached, their faces lighting up with relief and joy. The sight of their friend, victorious and vindicated, brought a warmth to their hearts.

E.E. was the first to reach Gustav, throwing his arms around him in a bear hug. "Gustav, you did it! You're finally free!"

Gustav laughed, the sound rich and full of life. "E.E, it's good to see you're alive."

E.E. clapped Gustav on the back with a wide grin on his face. "You were amazing out there man,"

"I've never seen anything like that before. You really showed them."

Aldris nodded in agreement, his eyes reflecting admiration. "You've always been strong, Gustav, but today, you were unstoppable."

"Are you truly the strongest now?" Falco was still in disbelief even though he was very happy about how it all turned out.

Gustav smiled in gratitude for his friends. "You guys are the best. I am aware of everything you did while I was out. Your support means everything."

As they shared a hearty reunion, laughter and light-hearted banter filled the air. The tension that had gripped the courtroom melted away, replaced by a sense of camaraderie and relief. It was a moment of triumph.

Gustav's expression grew serious as he turned to face the alliance leaders, who had been watching the reunion with mixed emotions. "There's something else that needs to be done," he said, his voice firm. "Ria needs to be freed. He's been held captive for too long. I am sure you know what will happen if I decide to head there myself."

Leader two piercing blue eyes remained imposing as he responded. "We promise, Gustav. We will ensure that Ria is released as soon as possible."

Gustav nodded with a steady gaze. "See that it's done."

No one ever spoke to the alliance or world leaders this way. Not even Jack. So this sight was quite shocking but seeing how Gustav had proclaimed he was now the most powerful on earth, it made sense for him not to cower to anyone.

With that assurance, the tension between Gustav and the alliance leaders eased slightly. They had witnessed his power, and now they saw his resolve to protect those he cared about.

They couldn't truly gauge Gustav's strength but someone who was able to bring every single person on Earth to their knees, wasn't someone that be trifled with.

Amid the ruins, Angy turned to Gustav with love and affection gleaming in her eyes. "I'm glad you're okay, Gustav. I've missed you."

He looked at her as his heart overflowed with warmth. "I have missed you too, Angy. It's been a really long year without you."

Without another word, they leaned into each other, sharing a passionate kiss. Their lips entangled as they softly puckered away with Gustav's arms wrapping around Angy's waist.

She wrapped her arms around his neck and glued to his body tightly as the world behind them faded in this passionate moment.

It was a kiss filled with all the emotions they had kept bottled up – relief, love, and the promise of a future they would face together.

Falco, E.E., and Aildris exchanged knowing smiles, their hearts warmed by the sight of their friends' happiness. The courtroom, though still in disarray, felt a little brighter, a little more hopeful.

As the kiss ended, Gustav and Angy remained close, their foreheads touching. "What now?" she whispered with a soft tone.

Gustav took a deep breath as his gaze swept over the gathered crowd. "There's a lot to do but the problems of the universe can wait. Let's spend some time together first."

The sun was starting to set and the sky painted itself in hues of orange and pink.

Gustav and the others gathered outside the courthouse.

Falco looked up at the sky. "You know, after all this, I think we deserve a break."

E.E. chuckled. "A break sounds good. Maybe a little vacation? Somewhere far away from cosmic battles and courtroom drama."

Aildris nodded thoughtfully. "We should take some time to rest and recharge. But we also need to stay vigilant."

Gustav smiled at his friends, grateful for their unwavering support. "A break sounds perfect. We've earned it."

The scene outside the courthouse was one of chaos giving way to celebration. Spectators, dignitaries, and MBO officers were milling about, talking in hushed, excited tones, all eyes occasionally darting to Gustav and his friends as they stood together, basking in the aftermath of their victory.

Endric who had been watching everything from the top of a high-rise building in the distance, decided it was time to move.

With a leap, he launched himself off the building.

Fwwhoomm~

His body traveled in an elongated arc as he flew over multiple buildings lined up across the city.

He proceeded to blink in mid-air and vanished from sight. In the blink of an eye, he reappeared right before Gustav and the others, landing with a light thud.

"Big brother!" Endric's voice rang out with a mixture of joy and relief as he rushed forward.

Gustav turned just in time to catch his younger brother in a tight embrace. "Hey kiddo," he exclaimed with a voice filled with warmth.

They held each other close, their bond as brothers reaffirmed in that heartfelt moment.

"It's good to see you," Gustav said, pulling back slightly to look at him.

Endric's eyes sparkled with happiness. "I'm so glad you're safe and finally free of all charges."

It wasn't long before others began to join the group. Matilda approached, her eyes bright with emotion as she took in the sight of her friends.

"Matilda!" Angy exclaimed while rushing forward to hug her.

Matilda embraced Angy tightly, tears spilling down her cheeks. "Angy, it's been too long," she said, her voice choked with emotion. "I thought I'd never see you again."

Angy held her friend close, her own tears flowing freely. "I'm here now, and so are you. Although a lot has happened, it all worked out."

As the emotional reunion continued, E.E., couldn't resist lightening the mood. "You know, Gustav," he said with a mischievous grin, "you must have been so horny since Angy vanished. Must have been a long, dry spell for you... Did you make use of your left hand?"

"That's wild man!" Gustav gave E.E a light jab while Laughter erupted from the group.

The tension of the past days that Gustav's trial had brought was melting away in this moment.

Even Gustav, who rarely indulged in such jokes, couldn't help but chuckle.

Gustav shook his head with a smile. "But you're right. Having Angy back is more than I could have hoped for."

As the laughter subsided, the gathering grew even larger. Empress Dahria, the elder from Planet Orion, Ozious natives, the former alien child slave, and other witnesses who had testified to Gustav's innocence began to huddle around him.

Their expressions were filled with gratitude and admiration.

Empress Dahria stepped forward with a friendly but authoritative bearing. "Gustav," she said with a melodic tone; "Your actions in the past have saved not just yourself but countless others. You have my deepest thanks... The people of Abruikis will forever be grateful."

Gustav nodded with a light smile. "Thank you, Empress Dahria. Your support and testimony were invaluable. I truly appreciate it."

The elder from Planet Orion, a wizened being with eyes that seemed to hold the wisdom of the ages, nodded in agreement. "You have done great things Gustav. We are honored to have stood by you."

The alien child, with wide, curious eyes and a shy smile, approached and tugged at Gustav's sleeve. "Thank you once again mister," the child said in a small voice. "Eloisa is free because of you. You made the bad people go away."

Gustav squatted, meeting the child's gaze. "You're welcome," he said gently. "I'm glad I could help."