

Village Head 1191

Chapter 1191: Crafting the Next Move

Zera bit her lip and suddenly vanished into thin air.

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Within the room, as Orion felt Aurora slowly regaining her composure and resting quietly on him, he drifted asleep, feeling a slight tug from within. He closed his eyes, and when he opened them, he found himself standing on a vast crimson plain shaped like a greatsword within a void expanse.

Aerialia stood before him. She immediately wrapped her arms tightly around him, embracing him. His stature looked small against her tall figure, and his head was buried in her bosom.

"I feared something bad had happened to you under my watch, but thankfully, you weren't harmed. When I saw how much your soul had strengthened, I knew you'd be okay," Aerialia said, sighing in relief.

"My soul has strengthened?" Orion asked, his voice filled with surprise. He raised his head and looked at her curiously.

Aerialia nodded. "You'll be able to sense the increase if you practice soul-based techniques or arts or when you begin your journey to attain godhood," she explained.

Orion nodded in understanding. "Can you tell me how much it has strengthened?" he asked.

"Your soul had been strengthened once due to White Flame's previous interference. Now, after this event, I'd say it's comparable to that of a five-star warrior," Aerialia responded thoughtfully.

Only when one's soul reached a certain level of strength could one survive outside one's body for long periods, wander the universe untethered, or live without a physical form, just like Aerialia. Such feats were impossible unless one attained godhood or became a divine apostle. "My soul is as powerful as Seth's and Zogar's?" Orion said, surprised.

Aerialia nodded. "When you reach the threshold of being a four-star warrior and prepare to become a five-star warrior, I have no doubt your soul will strengthen again to the level of a six-star warrior. I wonder how much more powerful your gift will become at that time," Aerialia mused.

"The Omnithriallins truly sired powerful seeds," she sighed.

Although Vylkr energy had played a part in it, humans had always been formidable. Since their arrival in this universe, they had fought against beings more powerful than themselves, including divine entities.

Orion absorbed the information. "Does that mean the number of artefacts I can contract has increased?" he asked.

"Yes, but be cautious when contracting divine artefacts. After all, you're still a mortal," Aerialia warned.

Orion took her words seriously. Nonetheless, after meeting with the Will of the Divine Mysteries, he was pleased with the unexpected improvement and relieved he could contract more artefacts.

Depending on their quality, he could store weaker ones within Miniature Mountain and use them when employing the Divine Spectral Blade Arts for an attack.

"Okay, now that it's just the two of us, can you tell me what happened? I've already told you that it's easy for divine beings like us to tell when a mortal is lying. Aurora hasn't said anything because she trusts you have a reason for hiding it. Zera remained silent because she felt responsible for your unconsciousness."

"But I am neither of them, and I possess no such restraints, especially since I felt your soul strengthening after the event. You glowed strangely before any of this transpired, so tell me everything," Aerialia said, releasing Orion from her embrace.

She created a wide crimson cushion on the plane and sat down, gesturing for him to join her. Orion sat down on the other side. He met Aerialia's stern yet determined expression. It was clear she wasn't taking no for an answer. Fortunately, Orion hadn't planned to hide the truth from her. He had simply been waiting for the perfect moment when they could be alone to discuss it.

He recounted his encounter with the Will of the Divine Mysteries, telling her everything from the beginning to the moment he fainted.

When he finished speaking, a sudden silence enveloped the surroundings.

"I had doubts about the entity capable of attacking you right under my nose, but I never expected it to be the Will of the Divine Mysteries. Why would the Will of the Divine Mysteries go so far as to communicate with a mortal?" Aerialia said, furrowing her brow in confusion. Even though Orion hadn't directly seen who he was speaking to, unlike Aurora, the fact that he had communicated with the Divine Mysteries was a phenomenal event.

Things weren't so similar in her time. The Will of the Divine Mysteries didn't need to reveal itself, as most gods were already familiar with its sequences and understood how events would unfold.

Even newly ascended gods were rarely granted the privilege of direct communication unless they had done something truly extraordinary. Yet, both Orion and Aurora had spoken with and, in Aurora's case, seen the Will of the Divine Mysteries, making it seem like a recurring

occurrence.

Aerialia searched her memories for anything related to the term

'Anomalies' but could only recall its connection to various divine beings who had dared to challenge the Divine Mysteries. Associating with them was seen as supporting their rebellion against them.

At the time, she had gathered various pieces of information about these beings, believing that the Divine Mysteries were merely guiding them back to heaven.

Nonetheless, the only way to rid oneself of the status of an anomaly was to undergo a cleansing, which could mean many things. If they refused, they would face the same fate as the two goddesses who had earned the ire of the Divine Mysteries, causing heaven to turn against them. For a divine being, this fate was equivalent to death.

Aerialia could find a suitable reason for Aurora's gain of the status of an Anomaly. However, she could not understand why Aurora hadn't been allowed to be cleansed. Instead, she was granted an ascension trial to help rid her of her imperfections and gain better control of her abilities.

She was also confused about how someone like Orion could become an Anomaly. Was it because he had killed a god? That was the most likely answer!

But it didn't make sense at the same time-she had witnessed several demigods doing the same with support, gaining recognition to ascend without earning the ire of the Divine

Mysteries.

Orion had even received a blessing from the Divine Mysteries, strengthening his soul. Even

gods hardly experienced such a phenomenon.

Both of their cases left Aerialia in a state of confusion.

Aerialia's eyes widened as another thought crossed her mind.

Could it be the Vylkr energy? She suspected it might also be part of the reason, but there had to be other specific requirements, or else everyone, including the residents of the Runaway Cities, would be considered Anomalies.

Aerialia didn't believe the Divine Mysteries would allow them to remain alive to this point, even as mortals, if they were indeed Anomalies.

Orion hadn't informed her of the valid reason, which might be because of his transmigration, a secret he was determined to keep. So no matter how much Aerialia raced her mind, searching for answers, she couldn't come up with a suitable explanation for why Orion had become an

Anomaly.

Pushing the thoughts to the back of her mind, Aerialia refocused on Orion and asked, "And after that encounter, you would still choose to remain here?"

After hearing the reasons for the constant attacks on the realm, which exceeded what the goddesses had initially revealed, Aerialia wasn't surprised. She hadn't expected them to be entirely truthful in their first meeting.

Orion nodded silently, his expression filled with determination.

"Alright, so what's your plan?" Aerialia asked, sensing that he had something in mind after encountering the Will of the Divine Mysteries.

"I don't plan on confronting Zera about this because the two goddesses can experience whatever she does. Instead, I will speak directly with one of the goddesses-Margona, the Goddess of Malevolence and Witches. This way, they'll be able to keep each other in check," Orion responded, then explained his plan to Aerialia.

He had yet to speak with the Goddess of Malevolence and Witches, so he didn't know what she was like. He could only bet his plans on her because he knew they wouldn't work on the Goddess of the Twilight Chorus and Fortune. Zera might as well be a puppet in her own body so that he couldn't inform her about it either.

After Orion was done speaking, he observed Aerialia's pensive expression. Aerialia was familiar with the Goddess of Malevolence and Witches, so he valued her input regarding the

plan.

"If she's anything like I remember, then it might work. But we can't be too certain as much about her could have changed since then. After what you've experienced, don't approach her with restraint. They should fear our retaliation after hiding such important information from

us."

"As my student and someone very close to this goddess, show them you're not afraid of their presence. If they want to retaliate, I don't mind fighting back. We'll simply watch them deal with the consequences of their actions," Aerialia said, agreeing with his plan. Her eyes carried

a terrifying glint.

Chapter 1192: The Inheritance Ceremony

Aerialia wanted to beat those goddesses in the face, but she was willing to wait until Orion achieved his goal. She was the Goddess of the Hunting Moon, and no prey had ever escaped her hunt.

"You should go get some rest," Aerialia said, waving her hand toward Orion. In an instant, Orion vanished from the space.

Aerialia rested her beak against the couch and closed her eyes. Her heart was troubled, and she pondered plans to counter any other secrets the goddesses might be hiding. She wouldn't allow them to toy with her own as they wished.

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The next day,

Tens of millions of individuals of distinct races stood around an elevated stage at the centre of the Sanctuary. On top of the stage was Zera, addressing the crowd at the forefront.

Orion and Aurora stood behind her, and behind them were six leaders of the Arch-Knights, except Kasryn, each holding a medium-sized metallic box in their hands and standing in two rows on both sides.

"Now, let us officially begin the inheritance ceremony and bestow upon our heroes their rewards!" Zera announced.

The moment her words ended, the crowd erupted in cheers. Zera diverted her attention and gestured for Orion and Aurora to step forward before doing the same for the rows of Arch-Knights. Orion and Aurora nodded and stepped forward, halting before Zera.

The Arch-Knights now stood in a row behind Zera, awaiting her orders.

The first Arch-Knight, leader of the Flameguard Corps, stepped forward. The ginger-haired man glanced at them, especially at Orion, with caution.

If it had been before, he might have contested the event, believing the goddess's inheritance should go to someone capable and qualified to protect it. However, after observing Orion's astonishing prowess on the battlefield, he understood that no one was more deserving of such a reward.

Like Valer, Kasryn, and several others, he wondered if such power was even meant to be wielded by a mortal. Nonetheless, this motivated him to work harder, realizing that his current strength wasn't the ceiling of what a mortal could achieve. The limit was far higher than he had imagined.

As for the woman beside him, he had only received information that she had never left Orion's or Zera's side whenever they left the manor. It was suspected that she, too, possessed significant power.

Zera opened the chest held by the Commander of the Flamegaurd Corps, revealing its contents: a golden coin engraved with the image of a radiant sun and a beautiful orange scroll tied with a crimson ribbon.

Zera took them out and placed them in Orion's and Aurora's outstretched hands. "Today, I hand over to you one of the Goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune's most prized possessions-Coin of the Eternal Providence-and the Vylkr energy-based Inkflame battle technique!" she declared.

As her words ended, the crowd erupted in even greater excitement.

"A divine artefact and one of the Arch-Knight Corps' battle techniques! The goddess's inheritance is just as extraordinary as I imagined!"

"Hah! I wish it were me! I'd do anything to receive such a reward!"

"Could you kill the Harbingers and face countless hordes of monstrosities alone?!" "..."

"Exactly what I thought. It would have been disgraceful for the goddess's inheritance to be given to someone like you!"

"YOU...!"

Even the Captain of the Flameguard Corps couldn't help but be momentarily stunned that his corps' most prized battle technique was being given away. He remained silent, understanding it wasn't his place to speak.

Orion received the golden coin, and Aurora received the Vylkr energy-based battle technique. Zera made a gesture, and the Flameguard Corps Commander straightened his back and turned to leave, taking his place on the other side of the stage in a new row.

Valer, the Commander of the Stormfall Corps, stepped forward and stopped beside them, holding two medium-sized golden chests. Zera opened the chest, revealing a golden liquid in two large glass jars and another beautifully wrapped scroll.

"This is the Divine Fountain of Evergold, and this is the Vylkr energy-based Stormfall battle technique!" Zera explained, handing the inheritance over to them.

They accepted it.

Zera opened the second chest. Inside the chest were two beautifully packaged scrolls tied with golden and purple ribbons.

"This is a rare pill formula for the Condensed Vylkr Essence Rebirth Elixirs and the Vylkr energy-based Mountain-Breaking battle technique!"

"This is the Under Heaven Sealing Chains and the Vylkr energy-based Bone Ascension Strengthening technique."

"These two large jars are filled with Condensed Vylkr Essence Rebirth Elixirs, and this is the Vylkr energy-based Corroding Pasture battle technique."

"This is Inkstorm Piercer and the Vylkr energy-based Blue Blizzard Vylkr battle technique."

"This is the Vylkr energy-based Night Phantom Vylkr energy-based battle technique, along with important research documents."

"And lastly," Zera turned, accepting a box Morriel brought to her, then faced them and opened it. "This is for both of you," she said with a smile.

Inside the box were two translucent crystals filled with specks of light that danced mesmerizingly within.

Aurora's eyes widened when she saw the crystals, but she quickly composed herself, not wanting to reveal any emotion.

Orion noticed her reaction and suspected that the crystals must be very special.

Pleased with their expressions, Zera turned to face the crowd. "The first half of the inheritance ceremony has been completed. The second half will be a two-week celebration to honour this event. Celebrate earnestly with your family, friends, or loved ones during this time. That is all."

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In Priestess Manor,

Orion and Aurora returned to their rooms to examine the inheritance Zera gave them on behalf of the goddesses.

Aerialia sat cross-legged in the air beside them. At that moment, Orion held the two translucent crystals, filled with specks of light, with wide-eyed astonishment. He was surprised to learn that these were the divine essences of the two goddesses.

The only other divine item he possessed was the divine greatsword, and with how powerful it was, he expected these divine essences to be equally astounding.

"It's valuable, but it's too dangerous to use now. We should wait until we've returned to Paradise and have Ilse examine it. She might find something I've missed," Aerialia said,

staring intently at the two crystals.

Orion and Aurora nodded in agreement.

"All the items are impressive, including the Vylkr energy-based techniques. This is enough to elevate Paradise's power to another level," Orion remarked, glancing at the items spread across the bed, ranging from powerful consumables to divine artefacts and Vylkr energy-

based techniques.

He hadn't expected them to easily hand over the Condensed Vylkr Rebirth Elixir formula and two additional large jars. If this was an apology for what had happened, he had no intention of refusing their apparent gesture. Fortunately, all the artefacts and items came with instructions, so there wouldn't be any difficulty learning what they were for.

"Do you want to look at the Vylkr energy-based techniques?" Orion asked, looking at Aurora.

He wasn't overconfident in thinking he could master the Vylkr techniques on his first try. But with Aurora's near-perfect control of Vylkr energy, she could confirm their authenticity and pave a better path for learning them with the groundwork that had been laid.

"I could easily get distracted if I start learning them now. Let's wait until we're back in

Paradise," Aurora replied, shaking her head.

"Are you still going ahead with your decision?" she asked.

Orion met her gaze and answered, "My decision remains the same."

Aurora clenched her fist and nodded. "If that's the case, I'll accompany you during your research with her."

"Alright, but I've heard that creating a Divine Embryonic Seed is no easy task. If you feel tired, don't push yourself to stay with me," Orion said with a nod, not refusing her request.

"I promise you, the goddesses won't lay a hand on Orion, so you don't need to stress yourself," Aerialia said, her tone firm. However, her eyes held traces of worry as they focused

on Aurora.

"Don't worry, I won't push myself beyond my limit," Aurora responded firmly.

Orion and Aerialia exhaled in unison.

"I'll be entrusting the inheritances to you to guard until we return home," Orion said. He had initially considered placing them inside Miniature Mountain, but putting them in a sealed,

separate dimension seemed much safer.

"Alright. I will ensure they are guarded until we return home," Aurora responded. Orion, Aurora, and Aerialia continued examining the inheritances from the two goddesses for

the rest of the day while also preparing for their meeting with Zera the following day.

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The next day, Morriel, the manor's housekeeper, led them to a secluded area and into an underground

room.

"It's going to take a while before we can begin, but in the meantime, you're free to do whatever you want-explore the Sanctuary or outside of it. Just make sure to take the Arch- Knights with you so I can contact you when I'm ready," Zera said, her eyes fixed on Orion with

a smile.

Aurora was wielding the Crimson Greatsword and had Aerialia by her side, so Orion wasn't concerned about her safety.

Chapter 1193: The Other Half Of Her Divinity

"Alright, take care," Orion said.

With a nod, he watched as they entered the hall and sealed the door with various runes and mysterious encryptions that appeared on the surface.

Once he could no longer sense their presence, he turned and followed Morriel out of the hallway, heading back to the surface.

Orion returned to his room and took out a pill bottle containing forty-four Condensed Vylkr Essence Rebirth Elixirs, which he had saved from the battle against the monstrosities. He didn't need to use the two large jars Zera had given them, so he left them untouched.

The elixirs would last him several weeks, and he planned to use them to hasten his Vylkr energy accumulation and reach the threshold of a Five-star warrior.

Such an attempt would have been reckless, as consuming immense amounts of Vylkr energy without giving the body enough time to adapt could lead to deterioration or cause irreparable damage. However, the Condensed Vylkr Essence Rebirth Elixirs were designed to be safe and effective if the prescribed dosage was followed, suppressing the menacing ferocity of Vylkr energy and making it much easier to use.

During his examination with Zera, they had tested what would happen if he took four Condensed Vylkr Rebirth Essence Elixirs in a day. The side effects had been disastrous-it felt as if his body was about to implode from within.

Fortunately, Aurora was present and swiftly absorbed the excess Vylkr energy, making the situation less threatening. Even then, the Vylkr energy was far more intense than other higher-ranked energies, including divine energy.

Orion guessed that even the diluted Vylkr energy used by the gods' chosen was much tamer than this. He took the Condensed Vylkr Rebirth Essence Elixirs thrice daily for six days.

Orion could feel his body growing stronger, the ferocity of the Vylkr energy becoming gentler, and he was slowly approaching the threshold of a five-star warrior. He regulated the intake with the help of the Purifier.

On the sixth day, Morriel came to inform him that Zera had emerged and was ready to meet him. He swiftly tidied himself up and with her.

Zera gestured for Morriel to leave once they arrived.

"Where are they?" Orion asked.

"Before we begin, she is grasping the basics I've given her. It's a delicate procedure, and we don't have materials to waste, so it's best she takes her time," Zera replied.

Orion nodded in understanding. He had been updated on Aurora's progress every night by Aerialia within the space of the crimson greatsword mark.

He had pretended to be oblivious, making it seem as though he had no idea what was happening to not alert Zera. This way, he could also update them on his own situation.

"I called for you so we can begin attempting to concoct your elixir with the data we've collected," Zera said.

"Okay," Orion responded.

"Follow me," Zera said, gesturing for him to follow her.

They walked toward another area within the manor, down a secluded staircase leading underground. Soon, they arrived at a room tightly sealed with thick, metallic doors.

Its exterior was similar to the one Aurora and Aerialia had previously entered.

Zera gently pulled the door open by the handle, seemingly unbothered by its immense weight. After they walked in, she closed the door behind them.

Zera clapped her hands, and the lanterns hanging on the walls and ceiling of the hall illuminated with a bright glow, lighting up the entire room.

"This is our private room, where all the elixirs within the Sanctuary are made," Zera said, her gaze fixed on Orion as he took in his surroundings.

There was a sizeable alchemical table at the centre of the room, filled with vials of various sizes, each containing strange substances that glowed fiery red, green, orange, and many other colours. They shone with an otherworldly hue. Some of the walls were shelves filled with neatly arranged tomes, scrolls, and other files.

Beside them were glass cabinets displaying arrays of ingredients that Orion had never encountered. There was also a fireplace with a cauldron adorned with beautiful inscriptions alongside various tools such as ladles, tongs, and others.

The floor was polished and clean. Nevertheless, the room was broad enough that it only divided into two sections-at the far wall was a cushioned bench with a small table neatly arranged with a teapot and teacups. A wide rug lay underneath, transforming it into a resting

area.

Zera walked over to one of the shelves and returned with a simple golden circular brooch with a red gem at its centre. "Wear this. It will protect you from any accidents in the alchemical room."

Orion nodded, attaching the brooch to his golden-embroidered black shirt. Suddenly, mysterious runes surrounded him, swirling around with a shimmering hue before wrapping against his body like an extra layer of skin.

Orion pinched his right hand with the other and noticed an invisible obstruction, halting his movements.

'If Seraphina and the rest of the Research Center had this, I wouldn't have to worry about their experiments with the Four-star Vylkr vine,' Orion thought.

"Please remain calm for what is about to happen, Mr. Orion. The goddess will meet you soon," Zera said, pausing several steps back. She took a deep breath in and exhaled.

Orion nodded, curiously observing her, wondering how he would meet the goddess of Malevolence and Witches.

Suddenly, a radiant glow emanated from Zera's body, enveloping her entirely. It was bright enough to make Orion shut his eyes.

The glow lasted several seconds before its intensity diminished and eventually vanished. When Orion opened his eyes, he was astounded by the sight before him. Standing there was no longer Zera but a fair-skinned woman with long, flowing raven-black hair.

She was incredibly voluptuous, with curves in all the right places. She wore an open-chested, blue-fitted shirt that flared slightly under her hips, tucked into thick black leggings made from an unknown material. Her shirt had long, tight sleeves, and netting on the other half of her arms extended to her wrists, revealing her fair skin.

Over her gown was a black leather waistpiece with mysterious blue embroidery resembling a corset, held together by a beautiful blue gem at the top and centre. It cinched loosely around her waist but still emphasized her curves. In fact, the slight imperfections in her attire only highlighted them even more.

The blue embroidery was too complex for Orion to look at it made him dizzy the longer he stared.

Behind her, on her shoulders, was a fur-lined cape nearly the same length as her dress. On her legs were black-heeled boots laced with blue eyelets. Atop her raven-black hair was a blue diadem with a crystal amethyst and numerous other jewels that matched her slanted eyes, which were dangerously fixed on him.

Despite her change in attire, Orion recognized her face. He had seen her within the memories of Aegis of the Arctic Deity, and she was one of the divine beings he could never forget. Her beauty was comparable to Zera's and the goddesses of the Twilight Chorus and Fortune. This mysterious woman was none other than Margona, the goddess of Malevolence and Witches!

As Orion scrutinized her, she, too, studied him from head to toe. Without hesitation, she stepped forward and halted before him.

A subtle scent of jasmine filled his nostrils, intoxicating him. This was enough to make anyone of the opposite gender fall into a daze. But Orion's mental fortitude had been strengthened to an astronomical degree from spending time with Aurora, Aerialia, and even Ilse.

As a result, the charms exuding from her body had little effect on him. Margona observed Orion's scrutinizing expression with an expressionless face and calm yet curious gaze. "My abilities are sealed in this form, rendering me comparable to a mortal. So, if you wanted to take advantage of me, I would have no chance of resisting," she said. Hearing her words, Orion was stunned by her last sentence. Despite the suggestive nature of her statement, her expression remained cold and rigid. Her eyes carried a hint of curiosity and calmness, which sent a shiver through him. Orion couldn't tell if she was joking or subtly

threatening him.

Nonetheless, Orion withdrew his gaze and recomposed himself, adopting a calm demeanour. He saw no reason to be afraid, believing Margona would do nothing to harm him if she were wise. And even if she did, they had already anticipated certain variables, and he hoped Aerialia's plans would work.

As the silence between them stretched, the tension in the air grew dramatically. With her right hand on her waist, Margona leaned forward and pulled the chest of her shirt open, revealing two large, fair breasts with deep pink nipples at their centres. Each exuded an unnatural allure that caused Orion's heartbeat to stop momentarily.

A distinct flowery scent, mixed with jasmine, filled his nostrils, and this time... Orion found himself entering a daze, staggering backwards, his heart filled with uncertainty and fear. "You're bold enough to sire a child with a goddess who isn't so different from the goddess of the hunting moon-a literal battle maniac-and could now be considered her daughter. I didn't expect you to be this timid," Margona said, straightening up. She let go of her shirt, covering up her voluptuous peaks.

Chapter 1194: The Goddess Of Malevolence And Witches Sharp Insight

Margona's expression shifted into a solemn frown, her gaze hardening, adding another layer of rigidity to her features. "How did you do it?" she asked.

"I don't know. It just happened," Orion responded, shaking his head.

Margona's expression turned cold again, and she snorted in response.

"You don't know?" she asked, her tone laced with ridicule. "Unlike mortals, getting a divine being pregnant is much more difficult. Our physiques are incredibly powerful yet unfit to carry something as delicate as a developing fetus, which would either be absorbed into the body or destroyed before it even has a chance to grow."

"This is because our bodies operate under laws beyond nature and are seen as perfect, so even the slightest imperfection in the divine essence or structure of the child could lead to its cessation," she explained.

"To bear a child, divine beings either choose to reincarnate before beginning their journey to godhood, giving birth to mortal children with divine heritage, capable of achieving godhood in the future. Or, both divine beings choose to learn the Law of Fertility to ensure the child is properly incubated, allowing us to control the child's entire existence until we can give birth."

"The stronger the divine being, the stronger the Law of Fertility must be before they can bear a child. This is why most newborns are born as demigods, as they are formed by laws beyond nature. There are other divine beings who, like their children, can reproduce with or without an opposite gender."

"Nonetheless, we reconstruct and reshape the laws within us to bear a child. Yet you, a mortal, somehow impregnated a goddess who hasn't even grasped the Law of Fertility. And your response is that 'it just happened.' Do I, the goddess of Malevolence and Witches, look like a fool to you?" Margona asked, her sharp gaze fixed on Orion.

As if not waiting for his response, she quickly added, "The only reasonable explanation I can think of is that you are a reincarnated god. From your astounding strength, incomparable to other mortals, to your unique use of the Law of Fertility-it all points toward that conclusion."

Orion was taken aback by her words but processed the information, knowing it would be helpful later. Aerialia hadn't mentioned this before, and Orion suspected it was because it was too unusual for her to comprehend. She didn't want to dwell on it.

Noticing his expression, Margona added, "No mortal can do all this unless they are an anomaly."

"What's an anomaly?" Orion asked, swiftly regaining his composure. None of them had revealed their status as an anomaly to Zera, so he was cautious about Margona's quick deduction.

"I believe you already know the answer to that, right?" Margona asked, her piercing gaze locked on him.

Orion remembered Aerialia's words and chose to remain silent. He didn't need to answer this question.

Seeing his silence, Margona's expression grew even frostier. "I know you encountered the Will of the Divine Mysteries after the monstrosity beast hordes were annihilated," she said. "You fainted without sustaining any injuries, only showing a hint of exhaustion. Goddess Aurora rushed to your side to check on you and found you unharmed."

"So unless I'm foolish enough to believe you didn't meet the Will of the Divine Mysteries at that moment, you can choose to speak and prove me wrong."

Orion's frown deepened. How had she gathered all this information? He was certain Aerialia hadn't told her anything.

If Margona knew, then Zera, the Twilight Chorus, and the Fortune goddess would likely be aware, too.

"You don't need to waste time worrying about how I figured everything out," Margona continued. "Arriving at this conclusion didn't require extensive experience. Do you think you can stall until you speak with Zera and inform her about whatever the Divine Mysteries told you?"

Without giving Orion the time to respond, she continued. "As for why I believe you're an anomaly, it's because we've been consciously avoiding the Divine Mysteries. From its constant meetings with Zera, we can tell when a being or thing has been touched by it." "Your incredible achievements—including your vitality strong enough to impregnate a goddess—are proof. You must have survived many life-and-death battles, and your powerful life force is what kept you alive," she said, her eyes never leaving him.

"Zera became an Anomaly because of interference from me and the goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune. Goddess Aurora must have become an Anomaly because she gave birth to your child. She was supposed to remain as she was created—a failed goddess unable to ascend."

"Every Anomaly has a distinct scent that's difficult to detect, and with enough time and something to work with, I believe we can learn how to sense it. So, is everything I've said correct?" Margona asked, her cold gaze scrutinizing Orion as she awaited his response.

"Yes, everything you've said is correct," Orion nodded. There was no use playing ignorant, given how detailed Margona had been.

"The Will of the Divine Mysteries informed me that I'm an Anomaly and also told me about Zera's situation. But it never told me to speak with her about anything." He was telling the truth-there had been no explicit instruction, and he hadn't thought about doing so with the two goddesses' presence within Zera.

"You're... telling the truth," Margona responded, surprise flickering across her expression. She then fixed her cold, sharp, amethyst-blue eyes back on Orion, unable to thoroughly read him fully, and asked, "Then, what's your plan? Surely, you weren't just looking forward to this new elixir from the start, correct?"

"Yes, I was looking forward to meeting with you," Orion answered, meeting her gaze. Suddenly, Margona paused, her expression morphing into shock. She blinked momentarily as if to fully absorb Orion's words before a wide smile spread. "That's unexpected. After 7,000 years of this torment, I hadn't thought a mortal would look forward to speaking with me instead of that goddess."

Her smile widened, revealing her perfectly aligned, shimmering white teeth. "Or do you think I'll be easier to manipulate than her? Aren't you afraid they can hear your words?"

As Orion was about to respond, Margona added, "And even if we agree, that goddess is in control. So, if she doesn't like what you've said, you might find yourself in trouble, even with your goddess protecting you."

"Then, you have a way to ensure this conversation stays between us," Orion said.

"Oh? Does that include your two goddesses as well?" Margona asked.

Orion remained silent.

Margona sighed and shook her head. "I guess it's too much to ask to have our discussion in private and risk those two goddesses thinking you've been brainwashed by me. Although it would be entertaining to watch, the trouble isn't worth the effort. Instead, I'll have to be the bigger goddess and ensure everything stays a secret."

Margona closed her eyes briefly, then reopened them.

"From this moment on, no one can eavesdrop on our conversation, so go ahead and speak," she said. She was intrigued by his eagerness to meet her.

"I want to offer you my help. Paradise is protected by a powerful Primordial barrier. Because of this barrier, our goddess Ilse survived the wrath of the Divine Mysteries during her first resurrection. With her help, I have no doubt that you could survive whatever the Will of the Divine Mysteries throws at you," Orion said, his expression determined.

"There are countless more like me outside, and if they were to attain godhood, the strength of our forces would increase countless folds, thereby increasing the safety of the Sanctuary's residents and your own."

Margona's cold expression broke again, and she looked at Orion in surprise, her gaze

thoughtful.

CLAP!! CLAP!!

Margona gently clapped her hands together. "Truly impressive!" she said, her voice edged with excitement. For you to consider going against the Divine Mysteries even after encountering its Will proves you are truly an anomaly."

"Despite being a human-one of the beings I despise most-such boldness and reasoning are enough to place you among the few people I like. However, this is not enough to solve our current situation," she ended with a defeated sigh.

"Aren't you curious why none of the Arch-Knights have ascended to demigod status and why none of the previous demigods have ascended to godhood? It's because the moment the Divine Mysteries sense Zera's growing strength and support, its Will will manifest again and send even greater catastrophes consistently.

"Or worse, it might make ascension to godhood even harder for your forces. It's best not to drag them into this with your decision. Besides, with the inheritance we've bestowed upon you and goddess Aurora, you should be able to strengthen your foundation and achieve that

feat easily."

Hearing her words, Orion frowned. "That's not all.." he began.

"I don't want to hear it," Margona swiftly responded, extending her right hand toward him. "As long as you are mortal, every plan you devise will be ineffective against the Divine Mysteries. You are not divine, so you should have no business planning against the divine."

Chapter 1195: Concocting A New Elixir

"I'll do your goddesses a favour and advise you to rid yourself of such thoughts, or you might one day put yourself and everyone around you in a dangerous situation."

Orion wanted to speak but remained silent. Realizing Margona wasn't interested in listening, she began arranging the alchemical tools on the table for them.

"Let's begin our experiment," Margona said, turning and walking toward the table.

"The Condensed Vylkr Essence Rebirth Elixirs are made from ingredients such as Vylkr vines, powdered Vylkr ores, mistleaf sap, two drops of the Divnie Fountain of Evergold, and finally, divine essence resistant to Vylkr energy," Margona explained as Orion mentally took notes.

It was identical to the recipe Zera had given them down to the last detail. Initially, he had been surprised that one of the ingredients was divine essence resistant to Vylkr energy, but he soon realized it made sense.

The Condensed Vylkr Essence Rebirth Elixir purified raw Vylkr energy, suppressing it from within. So, it stood to reason that one of its ingredients would come from a divine essence resistant to Vylkr energy purifying and could work wonders in a mortal with Mother Seed cells, temporarily increasing Vylkr energy within them while permanently increasing Vylkr energy for individuals like him, who were naturally resistant to it.

Orion was surprised that Margona was willing to show him firsthand how to create the Condensed Vylkr Essence Rebirth Elixirs. Nevertheless, he listened attentively, not wanting to look a gift horse in the mouth.

"First, we boil the Vylkr vine and Spiritleaf dew until the mixture turns thick and inky black with a purple hue..." Margona explained, bringing out the ingredients from one of the glass cabinets and demonstrating how to create the elixir at the table.

On the first day, Margona taught Orion the Condensed Vylkr Essence Rebirth Elixir recipe. Orion managed to create one by himself after several mistakes. Thanks to Seraphina, Orion was more skilled in alchemy than the average person.

However, compared to a divine being who did such things as a pastime, his skills were still inadequate, leading to countless scoldings from Margona, who took her time to refine his techniques before they moved on to the main experiment.

The lessons lasted for three days and nights before coming to an end.

"Take your time mastering the skills I've taught you before we proceed. This way, you won't have any issues when we begin the main experiment, and you'll spend less time learning a new recipe in the future. My refined teachings are enough to make you more skilled than any mortal who has ever existed, so I hope you take my words seriously and don't disappoint." "Suppose you fail to accomplish something this simple. In that case, we will still proceed with the main experiment. But don't blame me if you encounter errors that lead to dire consequences when you experiment later. Morriel will check in on you frequently to see if you need anything and ensure your well-being," Margona said before turning and leaving the laboratory without waiting for Orion's response. He didn't see her transform back into Zera.

...

One week later,

Orion spent the week in the alchemy lab, practising the skills Margona had taught him and taking the Condensed Vylkr Essence Rebirth Elixir daily, as prescribed, to increase his Vylkr energy.

Even though the Vylkr energy wasn't as abundant as that from the Vylkr vines, Orion found the process far more enjoyable.

The next day, Margona returned. After observing Orion successfully create a perfect Condensed Vylkr Essence Rebirth Elixir by himself, confirming the significant improvement in his skills, they moved on to the main experiment.

They spent another three days and nights testing and sorting out the ingredients needed for the new elixir. However, on the last day, the experiment was deemed a failure.

...

Margona sat on a wide cushion, scribbling with an ink pen in a thick book on her lap.

Orion stood nearby, observing her actions seriously. He knew the goddess beside him was a domineering divine being who had stood at the top of the heavenly hierarchy more than seven thousand years ago, towering above all other divine beings.

However, Orion had never expected her to be such a good teacher, capable of making him absorb all of their lessons within minutes and put them into practice within hours. Orion couldn't help but admit that she was far better than Aerialia. However, he would never willingly utter such words aloud.

After a while, Margona stopped writing, briefly reviewed her notes, and then closed the book, handing it over to him. "Study this for the next experiment. I'm also expecting some ideas from you," she said.

Orion nodded and accepted the book. She granted him management over the alchemy lab to experiment, allowing him to experiment with some of the common ingredients before leaving.

Orion opened the book and read through it carefully. It documented their trials and errors during the experiments and the possible outcomes and results if they took a different approach or used smaller or larger doses of the ingredients.

Orion immersed himself in the book, absorbing the alchemical knowledge while developing his ideas for the recipe.

Six days later,

The Sanctuary was attacked again by approximately 700,000 thousand tainted beings and beasts. Orion's intervention wasn't needed, as the Arch-Knights Corps could dispatch the threat. They saw it as an opportunity to display their strength again to the residents. Although the numbers weren't as

large as the horde Orion had handled by himself, it was still enough to reinforce their role as the guardians of the Sanctuary.

Zera spent a day observing the battle before returning to meet with Orion to continue developing the new recipe.

This routine continued for a month and a half.

Margona always spent three or sometimes four days and nights working with Orion before returning to meet with Aurora and Aerialia.

With Aerialia constantly updating Orion on Aurora's whereabouts and progress and doing the same for her, neither of them was worried about their situation.

....

It had been three months and three days since Orion and the others entered the pocket dimension. To prevent those back home from worrying, they attempted to send updates about their situation once a week using the golden key to the palace. Unfortunately, this triggered the Will of the Divine Monstrosities to send another monstrosity attack.

However, the Arch-Knights Corps could still handle the situation, as the number of enemies was approximately two million.

They didn't want to rely on Orion's formidable prowess. Still, unbeknownst to them, Aurora was the reason for the monstrosity attacks. Zera discovered this but turned a blind eye, telling her they would handle it.

Feeling guilty, Aurora decided to only send information about their whereabouts when the hordes attacked naturally instead of provoking one herself. Orion and Aerialia naturally

agreed with this arrangement.

As a result, the attacks only lasted for slightly more extended periods.

On the fourth day of the first week of the tenth month of the year,

Margona poured purple and silver powder, one after the other, from a mortar into a cauldron filled with boiling, dense black liquid and stirred it with a blue ladle. She was testing the

reaction of one of the few remaining ingredients for the new recipe.

After three months, they had made significant progress, especially since they had the Condensed Vylkr Essence Rebirth Elixir foundation to build on. This shortened what could

have taken years into several months.

Orion stood beside Margona, observing her actions closely. Suddenly, the cauldron began to shake, and the chemicals reacted violently, bubbling up sparks of black and purplish smoke. Margona responded swiftly and stepped back as Orion moved before her, shielding her as the cauldron exploded with a loud "Bang." Inky black and purple smoke filled the air, and remnants of the ingredients burst into the air, staining the surroundings.

As the smoke cleared, Orion waved the remaining fumes away with his hand before turning to

look at Margona.

She was calmly scribbling in a book with a pen, her eyes occasionally darting toward the debris of the failed experiment. Sensing his gaze, Margona looked at him and said, "Be faster next time. My clothes would have been soiled if you were a few seconds slower." Orion nodded, sighing inwardly at her words. Early in their experiment, he discovered that there was only one brooch, which was the one she had given him. They hadn't anticipated another person joining them and didn't have the time or resources to prepare another. With nothing to protect her from disastrous mistakes during experiments, every time they attempted an experiment and encountered an error, Orion would step in and use his body to shield her since her body was no different from a mortal's at this point.

Of course, Orion sometimes doubted her words, suspecting she was toying with him. But since he hadn't been harmed thus far and had seen the precautions Margona took for her own safety, Orion knew better than to question a goddess's words and risk creating a situation that could easily be avoided.

Chapter 1196: Concocting A New Elixir (2)

Nevertheless, the only thing that bothered him was that Margona was no longer wearing the attractive attire she had worn when they first met. During their meetings, she switched to wearing blue pyjamas with a robe. Unable to suppress his curiosity, he asked her why she was dressed that way.

Her response was, "Do you know how uncomfortable it is to wear such extravagant clothes for long periods? You're also too timid to make any advances, so it's best to dress in the most comfortable attire to reduce the chances of making mistakes during our experiments and risk getting them soiled."

Even her hair was tied up in a scarf to prevent it from falling into the experiments or getting in the way.

Once again, Orion saw no reason to start an argument that would go nowhere, so he remained silent. He was beginning to think that divine beings naturally had thick skin and were filled with pettiness.

Suddenly, Margona paused, staring at the cauldron with a thoughtful expression. She shifted her gaze away and jotted something down in the book again before turning to Orion.

"Handle the mess," Margona said, then turned and walked toward the couch. She placed the book on the table and lazily laid down. Grabbing a teapot, she poured herself some tea.

Orion nodded and grabbed a towel from the hanger beside the shelves. He brought it over to the area where the chemicals had stained the surroundings and began cleaning.

Fortunately, the towel was enchanted to clean anything it touched, absorbing the residue no matter how difficult. All it took was a single swipe on each section to make the area spotless. Orion took the cauldron, mortar, and other materials they had used for the experiment. He placed them in a large covered bowl at the edge of the room filled with a mysterious liquid solvent that cleaned them instantly within seconds.

He recalled asking Margona about leaving the mess for Zera to handle, as she was a demigoddess and could easily clean up the area with her abilities.

Margona had responded, "Zera is not our servant to clean up after our mess. She's a demigoddess. It's already generous enough that she provides her body and time for our use."

Hearing her response, Orion kept silent and continued cleaning up the mess from their experiments.

On the couch, Margona placed her tea back on the table, grabbed the book and pen, and wrote for several more minutes before stopping.

"Orion, come and take this," Margona called.

Orion swiftly finished his task and walked over to her. He received the book and opened it without hesitation, scanning through it thoughtfully.

With his growing skills in alchemy, he could now determine the results of various ingredients combined without needing to test them with equipment.

Margona had taught him this skill, which helped him understand why she often looked at her book with such focus.

"So eager, but not an ounce of respect," Margona muttered with a soft sigh.

Orion closed the book and bowed respectfully toward her. "Thank you for sharing your knowledge with me."

However, Margona didn't respond directly. Instead, she said, "The divine and Vylkr energy synergy might improve if we add another drop from the Fountain of Evergold. It could pre-purify the base, making it smoother."

"It's risky, but it might work. However, if we add too much, we might destabilise the entire mixture, so let's use half the usual amount. We can also try delaying the infusion of the final ingredient. Suppose we add it while the elixir is still cooling. In that case, it might stabilise the synergy," Orion responded thoughtfully, offering his own input.

Margona turned to him with a grin. "That's even riskier. It could explode," she responded thoughtfully. "However, the cauldron's enhancements should be able to handle that level of amplification. It's worth a try. We might be close to success and even develop a new synergy state."

Orion was briefly dazed by her wide grin but quickly recomposed himself and nodded. "I hope it works," he said.

Margona suddenly narrowed her eyes at him. "Stop taking the elixirs for now, or you might die," she warned.

Orion nodded solemnly. He wasn't surprised that Margona could sense the Vylkr energy buildup within him, even in her current form. It only made him question whether her body was indeed comparable to a mortal's while in this form.

"I have everything under control, so it's not something you need to worry about," Orion replied.

Margona's expression shifted to a more serious look. "Aren't you being too arrogant? Despite your natural resistance to Vylkr energy, there's still a limit to how much you can tolerate before your body reaches its breaking point, right?" she asked.

Orion realised that Margona had misunderstood his breakthrough in reaching the threshold of a five-star warrior as a looming disaster.

He decided to explain the situation to her.

Margona was surprised and entered into deep contemplation. After a moment, she refocused on Orion and asked, "Can I observe when you advance to the next stage?"

Orion hesitated.

"I understand it's a crucial phase, so I won't do anything reckless like trying to harm you. I only want to observe. Understanding how Vylkr containers are formed could benefit us in the future. Besides, I'm sure your partner and goddess will also be present to observe, and they'll watch over you closely," Margona responded, assuring him.

"I still need to prepare a few things before I'm ready to advance. I'll let you know when I'm done and ready," Orion replied.

Margona stared at her teacup momentarily before drinking the last of its contents. She set the cup aside and rose from her seat.

"We're done for today. We'll continue next time," Margona said, glancing at Orion.

Suddenly, a bright flash radiated from her, forcing Orion to shut his eyes. When the light faded, he opened them to see Zera standing before him.

"How was your experiment with Margona this time?" Zera asked, smiling brightly. Her eyes quickly scanned Orion and the book in his hand.

Orion wanted to respond, but as he remembered something, he remained silent. He wished there was a way to complain about the goddess without her overhearing.

Zera chuckled as if she could read his mind. "You can tell me about it on our way out," she said.

Orion nodded and walked out of the alchemy laboratory with Zera beside him. Zera rarely emerged, as Margona usually left in a hurry before transforming. He carefully chose his words as he began recounting what had transpired over the past few days.

With a vast void with countless stars scattered overhead, two women radiating divine formidable pressure stood opposite each other on a white plain that stretched far into the distance.

The first was a woman with dark skin and shoulder-length golden hair, dressed in a knee-length black gown as dark as night, with rough edges at the hem.

The other had fair skin with raven-black hair adorned with a blue diadem set with a crystal amethyst and numerous other jewels. She wore an open-chested, blue-fitted dress that flared slightly at the hips.

The dress had long, tight sleeves, and netting extended over the other half of her arms down to her wrists. Over her dress, she wore a black leather waistpiece with mysterious blue embroidery resembling a corset, held together by a beautiful blue gem at the centre.

A fur-lined cape nearly the same length as her dress was draped over her shoulders. Her legs were covered in strappy heels that stopped just above her ankles.

These women were the goddess of the Twilight Chorus and Fortune and the goddess of Malovence and Witches.

Margona's attire differed slightly from the first time she had met Orion, indicating that her choice of clothing was intentional. Nonetheless, both women stared at each other intently, their expressions cold and emotionless.

"When will you stop this nonsense?" the first woman asked.

"I and Zera have already come to an agreement. I'm not forcing her. Also, I'm not the one who advised you to make a bad first impression. You have only yourself to blame for that," Margona responded, her tone cold and devoid of emotion.

It was enough to send a chill down the spine of any individual that had heard it. If Orion was present, he would swiftly realise that the Morgana radiated a more intense eerie aura than in

their meetings.

Listening to Margona's words, the other woman narrowed her gaze. "I'm curious to see what you're planning, so I'm willing to let it go for now. However, you should be careful. The long-term effects of manifesting using Zera's body aren't something even you could handle," she

warned.

Margona nodded, fully aware of what she meant. With her divine soul, she could manifest using Zera's body, but because she had to seal her power to avoid detection by the divine mysteries, manifesting as a mortal masked by Zera's divine aura subjected her to Zera's

emotional states.

This meant that if Zera were angry while performing a particular task, Margona would feel a slight surge of anger within herself.

Chapter 1197: A New Course Of Action

Even for tasks she wanted to do, Margona would feel frustrated, as if she were being forced to do them. On the other hand, if Zera was happy, Margona would find herself acting

nonchalantly, influenced by Zera's joy.

However, manifesting through Zera's body for too long could have disastrous effects, making Zera's emotions feel as though they belonged to Margona.

In such a case, her manifestation would fully succumb to Zera's divine will because this body still significantly belonged to Zera, along with a goddess who would not sit idly by if Margona tried to impose her will.

The only way to eliminate this effect was to use the Divine Fountain of Evergold, which would alert the Will of the Divine Mysteries due to the leakage of their aura, leading to other disastrous consequences.

Considering Zera's current chaotic emotions, this only made things more troublesome for Margona. In short, she was reminded that her plan could fail with severe repercussions.

"As I have informed you earlier, you don't need to worry. I have everything under control," Margona said confidently.

The goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune nodded in response, "If you say so, But don't forget that I will deal with you myself if you do anything too drastic that I haven't authorized," she responded nonchalantly.

...

Zera gained consciousness in her mother's womb even before her first breath. She sensed the presence of two divine beings who promised to care for her for the rest of her life, telling her she was destined for something extraordinary.

True to their words, Zera was born a demigod with immense divine potential. From the day she was born, the world bent to her will. Her feet never needed to touch the ground, and her hands were never sullied by labour. Servants, both mortal and divine, attended to her every whim.

At five, Zera was taught by the goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune. By thirty, her lessons were complete. At thirty-five, she turned to the tutelage of the goddess of Malevolence and Witches. By sixty, her training was finished. Although she had watched countless individuals be born and live out their entire lifespans during this time, compared to mortals, she was still young.

Her demigoddesshood allowed her to live for tens of thousands if not hundreds of thousands, of years. Zera was certain that she had been born with everything.

Then, she became the Sanctuary Priestess, devoted to serving her goddesses. On the day of her ordination, the Will of the Divine Mysteries descended upon her and peeled back the layers of her life and the two goddesses' plans.

Zera learned that her life was never her own. Every choice she thought she had made, every step she believed was hers, had been preordained, predicted, and puppeteered. The goddesses who had nurtured her from the moment she awakened had orchestrated her entire existence. The realization shattered her, and soon, her devotion turned to despair.

The Will of the Divine Mysteries had called her an anomaly, but Zera knew better. She had been born with everything she thought she desired, yet... she had nothing of her own.

Still, Zera tried to accept her role. She performed her duties as the Sanctuary Priestess, honouring the goddesses' legacies and fulfilling their dying wishes. This, she believed, was her purpose. But then, her turning point came when two strangers-one mortal and the other divine-completed the trials belonging to her goddesses' legacy.

For the first time, Zera glimpsed a world beyond her sanctuary. She saw divine beings who lived freely and a mortal who carved out his own path-things she had been denied.

The longer Zera spent with them, the heavier the truth gnawing within her became. For the first time, Zera felt something stir within her- a purpose of her own. Zera wanted to have a child!

A child who would be born without the goddesses' influence. One who would serve herself, unbound by their will. An untethered legacy left behind by 'Zera' alone. This was the only way she knew she could truly live for herself and find freedom, no longer a mere reflection of the goddesses' will.

And the only way to make such an impossibility a reality was through a mortal. He was an 'anomaly.'

...

As Orion continued speaking about his day with Margona, Zera cast subtle glances at him with a smile, though her thoughts wandered elsewhere.

Whenever Margona and Orion were ready to begin their experiments, Margona would blind their vision, preventing them from witnessing what transpired in the outside world. Regardless, Zera could still hear every detail of what was happening outside.

Even Margona couldn't control this without utilizing her full divinity. Depending on Margona's conversation with Orion, Zera's emotions would react accordingly, influencing Margona and determining the feelings she could express and whether or not she could suppress them.

In short, Zera knew about everything that had transpired and was merely using the opportunity to participate in their discussion.

For anyone else, this might have been a nightmare, but for Zera-whose life had always been like this since her awakening-seeing the goddess succumb to the will of her emotions while having the opportunity to monitor and spend time with the man she had set her eyes on, was much better than her previous days alone within the sanctuary.

"I still don't know how you put up with her. She's a handful to deal with," Orion said, sighing tiredly.

Zera chuckled, inwardly amused, as she felt the slight tug in her soul.

"How is the progress with the Divine Embryonic Seed?" Orion asked.

"We are making some changes to the seed. Nonetheless, thanks to Aurora's rapid learning, we will be finished in a few months, and goddess Aerialia will be able to possess and reforge her new body," Zera responded.

Orion had hoped that Zera would talk more about these changes to the Divine Embryonic Seed, as Aerialia had kept them a secret from him. He had tried asking Margona, but she had ignored his question and left the room before he could finish his sentence.

This further intrigued him about the changes, but it seemed he could only wait for the revelation.

"Can I ask you an important question?" Orion asked, his expression growing serious. Seeing his solemn look, Zera nodded and responded curiously, "What do you want to ask?"

"Have you ever met the Will of the Divine Mysteries?" Orion asked. He wasn't sure if Zera had overheard his conversation with Margona that day, so he asked more subtly, gauging her

reaction.

Zera halted her steps, and Orion stopped beside her.

She turned to look at him, nibbling on the side of her lips. "You should already have the answer to that question," she said, her eyes fixed on his. "But can I know why you're asking?" Orion shook his head. "I might have discussed this with goddess Margona, but not with you. Since this concerns you specifically, I wanted to hear from you. Besides, I can't fully trust everything she says without verifying it," he responded.

Hearing his words, a glimmer appeared in Zera's eyes.

"If anyone else had said that, goddess Margona would have ordered me to put them at the forefront of the next war as punishment. But not you," she chuckled.

"If you want a direct answer, yes. I've met the Will of the Divine Mysteries, and it proposed a trial to cleanse me of the goddesses' divinities. Unfortunately, I can't tell you what the trial is. And I have no intention of taking it in the future." She swiftly added, noticing that Orion was about to ask another question.

Zera sighed, feeling a heavy tug on her soul. She understood that she couldn't continue the conversation.

Orion nodded in understanding. "I'm curious about the trial's details, so if you ever change your mind, please let me know," he said.

As they neared the end of their deal, his anxiety grew, but talking with Zera brought him some relief. Orion had no idea when he would see her again, so he hoped that Zera might open up about the trial in the remaining time.

Orion tried to ignore the presence of the two goddesses within her, speaking as though they

were the only ones present. He knew Margona would retaliate in their next meeting for his words, but he didn't care. This was worth the risk, and she wouldn't dare go too far, Zera nodded with a slight smile. "I'll let you know if I ever change my mind," she replied. "Do you need anything to help you advance to the next stage?" she asked.

Orion paused briefly, then explained his situation. He needed a way to suppress the menacing influx of Vylkr energy threatening to destroy his body while attempting to create two Vylkr

containers.

Orion didn't want to take the normal path and form a fifth Vylkr container using one of his remaining 4-star talents. Instead, he wanted to create two more containers and become a six-

star warrior.

Because of Paradise's expanding forces, their existence would sooner or later be revealed to

the public. They were bound to encounter formidable enemies that would challenge Aurora

and Use.

Chapter 1198 The Sweet Taste Of Success

Orion didn't know how powerful a six-star warrior was, but he knew it wouldn't be weak. He couldn't accurately judge since there had never been a six-star warrior. As the Supreme Leader of Paradise, he decided to be the first to reach such a level.

What gave Orion confidence was the miraculous effect of the Condensed Vylkr Essence Rebirth Elixirs. He hoped the new elixir they were creating would offer similar effects and additional benefits, allowing him to advance to the next stage.

"Let's make a deal, I can be able to think of something to aid you in your advancement, but I'll only do it for something in exchange," Zera said.

Orion looked at her in surprise, his expression thoughtful. He had already made deals with the two goddesses—the goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune and the goddess of Malevolence and Witches. And now, Zera also wanted to make a deal with him. He couldn't help but wonder what it could be.

"Before I accept, I want to know what you want in exchange?" Orion asked, his tone tinged with anticipation and his expression filled with curiosity.

"I can't tell you what it is yet. But I promise it won't be something too difficult to ask," Zera responded, her smile brightening as she felt a slight tug on her soul. Yet, she chose to ignore it. To Zera, Aurora was Orion's only partner; she didn't dare believe that any goddess would allow their significant other—especially one like Orion—to be shared with another goddess or a mortal. There were already several issues regarding divine beings with multiple partners, siring countless demigods and infighting among themselves and their children. The thought of that was unimaginable to her.

Zera planned to speak with Aurora first to inform her of her reasons for doing so, hoping to earn the goddess's pity before meeting with Orion to hear his response. She had seen their relationship and knew they respected each other as significant others, irrespective of their distinct hierarchy in the world. Even if it meant losing her pride as a demigod and as the host of two formidable goddesses. Unbeknownst to Zera, Aurora was neither Orion's first wife nor his first child's mother. He already had numerous wives and children from multiple races. Otherwise, Zera would have stopped stalling and laid out what she wanted in exchange immediately.

"I will also inform you about the details of my conversation with the Will of the Divine Mysteries, as well as the trial, in exchange," Zera said, seeing that Orion was about to refuse her offer. She knew it would be difficult for him to accept her proposal, so she had decided to use this as a bargaining chip if her initial offer failed.

Orion fell silent at her words.

"You don't need to worry. This decision is one I've made on my own, without involving my goddesses," Zera added, as though she could read Orion's thoughts.

"Alright, if you can think of a way for me to create two Vylkr containers to advance to become a six-star warrior, and tell me in detail about your conversation with the Will of the Divine Mysteries, I will listen to your condition," Orion responded after a brief moment of contemplation. He couldn't help but admit that Zera's offers were indeed tempting. The only thing that left him worried was what she wanted in exchange.

There was still a chance this was a trap set by the two goddesses. Still, Orion had no other choice but to grasp the rare opportunity that had presented itself.

"Thank you. You have no idea how much this means to me," Zera said, nodding at him with a relieved expression. Her smile brightened even more.

"Although your offer also means a lot to me, if I can advance to the next stage by myself, you'll need to think of something else to offer," Orion responded. Zera's offer only provided a substitute if he failed to ascend independently.

"Of course, I haven't forgotten our conversation before this," Zera nodded solemnly.

"I will see you later and hope for a safe ascension," she added.

Orion nodded, observing as she turned and walked away. Her figure disappeared around the corner of one of the manor buildings before he returned to his room.

.....

Eight days later, Margona removed the cauldron from the condensation chamber after it had cooled and placed it on the table. Within it was the elixirs that she and Orion had managed to create, hoping it would be effective and end their long experiments. The pill was inky black and exuded a mysterious golden and purple aura, unlike the Condensed Vylkr Essence Rebirth Elixirs. Marogona took out a pill and handed it to Orion.

"Tell me how it tastes," she said.

Orion nodded, receiving the pill and observing it hesitantly, remembering the various effects the previous ones had on him.

"What are you still waiting for? I promise you that this one will work, and you will suffer no side effects," Margona said, her tone sharp. However, her expression betrayed her uncertainty as she bit her lip, waiting for Orion to swallow and digest the elixir.

Orion was inwardly annoyed, but he maintained a calm composure. He took a deep breath, then tossed the pill into his mouth. Within seconds, a dense surge of Vylkr energy filled his stomach, spreading to every fibre of his body. It wasn't violent, nor did it attempt to shut down the functions of his body by harming him from the inside. Instead, the energy rushed towards one of his Vylkr containers and dissolved into it, calming the furious Vylkr energy within. He sensed the absorption effect was much more significant than the Condensed Vylkr Essence Rebirth Elixir.

As Orion controlled the Vylkr energy within his body, he felt it become more stable and potent. With a little effort, Orion could activate Vylkr Warrior mode, enhancing his overall abilities and maintaining it for a certain period. However, to avoid revealing another of his potential trump cards to Margona and the others, he decided to try it once he returned to his room and ensured he wasn't being watched.

"So, how do you feel? What are the results?" Margona asked, her tone and expression filled with displeasure as Orion remained silent, sensing the changes unfolding within his body.

Orion opened his eyes and looked at her. "It worked," he said, a smile spreading across his lips.

"It worked!! It worked!!!" Margona repeated, her voice rising as she hugged Orion and lifted him into the air as though cradling a cherished specimen.

Orion didn't mind, treating it like a joyous occasion. He knew their difficulties in creating this groundbreaking elixir and felt just as excited as she was.

Within seconds, the room was filled with the strange sounds of two people screaming happily at the top of their lungs while the other was being carried in the air. Soon, their excitement died down, and the atmosphere became awkward.

Margona swiftly placed Orion back on the ground and straightened her robe and head scarf. "I was just too excited. We'll forget this ever happened," Margona coughed silently, her tone slightly nonchalant.

Orion nodded, agreeing it was too dangerous for them to hold onto such a memory.

At the same time, Margona sent a thought toward her subconscious space. 'Stop it,' Margona said, her voice tense.

Within the space,

"I'm trying, but I just can't," Zera shook her head in response.

Another voice rang behind her, "She probably deserves whatever is happening to her. Don't let her force you to do something you find difficult."

Zera turned to look behind her at the goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune, who could not observe what was happening outside. She was seated on a comfortable throne-like seat mid-air, deep in contemplation. Zera nodded firmly at her.

"Tsk! Try harder. You should be capable of something as easy as this," Margona responded, her tone tinged with annoyance. On the outside, she wore a neutral expression.

Zera bit her lip and muttered, "It's my body. I can feel however I desire. Besides, I'm certain you felt the same moments ago with all the hard work you both put into this. Also, as a goddess, I'm sure you can handle a few troublesome feelings like this, right?"

Margona was taken aback by her words.

The space was instantly silent.

The goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune turned to look at Zera, her expression a mixture of surprise and shock.

Zera felt her divine soul shrinking under their gaze.

"Does your subtle change in character and talking back at me have to do with the time you spent with those goddesses or your concocted ideas with this young man?" Margona's voice sounded.

"...No. I'm sorry you had to hear that, Goddess Margona. I didn't mean to say that," Zera's voice faltered before gaining momentum as she apologized.

"I don't mind this new change; such interactions will likely have such effects. I simply hope you don't forget the purpose we have bestowed upon you," said the goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune. Her firm voice sounded behind her.

"I promise I won't forget," Zera nodded.

Chapter 1199 Falling Short

Outside, Margona remained silent, her brows furrowed in thought. No matter what she considered, she couldn't understand Zera's purpose for her discussion with Orion that day. It was the first time Zera had ignored their warnings and talked back to her in such a way. Having known Zera since birth, Margona was certain that Zera wouldn't do anything harmful or betray them. However, she also realized that if they didn't figure out what was happening soon, it might become a problem. Unfortunately, she was the only one who seemed concerned about the matter.

Margona shook the thought out of her head for now and walked toward the cauldron. She took out a pill and examined it. "What should we call it?" she asked, refocusing on Orion.

"Let's call it the Condensed Vylkr Essence Nourishing Elixir," Orion responded.

Margona let the name roll off her tongue a few times before replying, "We'll go with that, then," she nodded. She quickly packaged the elixirs into a sealed container and labelled them for him. Then, she walked toward the couch with a large scroll and a pen. She sat down and began writing the Condensed Vylkr Essence Nourishing Elixir recipe.

When she finished, she called Orion over and handed it to him.

Orion received the recipe and bowed, "Thank you," he said gratefully.

"You don't need to thank me. Despite promising I would make the elixir myself, we both worked hard to create it. You should share the satisfaction of the results," Margona said nonchalantly.

Orion nodded silently, unsure how to handle the goddess's unstable emotions, which seemed to fluctuate at any moment.

"Are you going to try advancing to the next stage now?" Margona asked curiously.

"Yes. I hope the Condensed Vylkr Essence Nourishing Elixir will help me achieve that," Orion replied.

"Alright then, I wish you good luck. I expect to hear good news from you soon," Margona said.

Orion was taken aback by her words but maintained his composure and nodded. "You'll be one of the first to know if I succeed," he promised. Though he wasn't sure of her hidden intentions, he knew it wouldn't hurt to build a friendly relationship with her.

Margona stood from her seat, approached him, and suddenly wrapped her arms around him, pulling him into an embrace. "Now that this is over, I'll have to go back to spending the rest of my days alone with those two. Ugh! It's so unfair." She took a handkerchief from her robe, blew her nose into it, and wiped away a few tears. "I'll truly miss you, Orion." Feeling the irritation and uncomfortable emotions swirling inside her, Margona tightened her grip around him. Because she hadn't lifted him off the ground and because of their height difference, Orion found his face resting against her covered bosom. It was a strange yet pleasant experience.

"... I'll miss you too, goddess Margona," Orion responded. He had to admit, the woman knew how to create odd atmospheres. However, he couldn't deny that their time together while making the elixir was truly unique.

After a while, Margona released him and cleared her throat, dispelling the awkward atmosphere. "Clean up the lab before you leave," Margona said, patting his shoulder before swiftly exiting the room and closing the door behind her.

Orion looked at the mess they had made during the experiments and set the items on the table. He picked up an enchanted rag and began cleaning the alchemy lab. Since today was his last day here and his task was complete, he left the place spotless.

.....

After cleaning the lab, Orion returned to his room and sat comfortably on the wooden floor. He took out one of the Condensed Vylkr Essence Nourishing Elixirs and placed it into his mouth. As Orion felt the familiar sensation of mellowed Vylkr energy rushing toward his Vylkr container, he swiftly redirected it toward his heart. He prepared to create two additional Vylkr containers. Creating another Vylkr container in both his mind and heart would provide balanced growth, allowing for a clearer mind, which would likely help him comprehend more complex techniques or arts faster. However, with his lightning form and current capabilities, he wasn't lacking in speed, nor did he need to approach an enemy to deal catastrophic damage. He could strike from a safe distance. This might give others the impression that he was weak in close combat, but Orion didn't mind—that was what he wanted. By drastically increasing his strength, his lightning form would grow stronger against powerful opponents while improving his mental clarity.

It would be easy to handle an opponent in close range and afar.

As the Vylkr energy within his heart began condensing into two additional Vylkr containers, Orion commenced the process.

One per cent! Two per cent!! Three per cent!!!

Ten percent....

Orion regulated his breathing, utilizing the stabilizing effect of the Condensed Vylkr Essence Nourishing Elixir and the Primordial energy to hold the Vylkr energy together during the condensation process.

Twenty per cent...

Soon, cracks began to appear on Orion's skin. Black-stained blood and Vylkr energy oozed from the cracks and dispersed into the air, forming an inky black cloud of blood mist mixed with strands of Vylkr energy around him. Fifty per cent...

Oron's expression tightened in pain as he endured the unending torture, the dense surge of Vylkr energy causing his bones to crack and rupturing his tissues and veins.

Eighty-four per cent...

Several hours had passed since Orion began condensing his Vylkr energy into two Vylkr containers. He could feel that he was sixteen per cent away from completing the advancement. At this point, his body was almost unrecognizable; it felt as though he had one foot in the grave. The black, bloody Vylkr energy cloud filled every corner of the room, making it difficult to even spot his figure.

"Not now. I'm almost there," Orion said, clenching his teeth in determination. His breathing grew rough, and his vision became clouded and dizzy.

Ninety-one percent...

His mind began to spin. Within moments, he lost all his strength and collapsed forward, his head pressing against the wooden floorboard, lighting it up with dense strands of Vylkr energy. Orion had lost all feeling in his body and was unable to move. Regardless, he attempted to lift his upper body, straightening himself with only the force of his forehead. As the influx of Vylkr energy surged drastically, his heartbeat began to slow.

Suddenly, the door to his room burst open, and a figure rushed in, screaming, "ORION!" Those were the last words he heard before he fell unconscious, his body still slumped forward.

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Orion awakened on a soft pillow within the familiar void and crimson plane of the small crimson greatsword space inside his body. He felt a gentle stroke against his cheek. Looking up, he saw Aerialia's familiar features. He realized that the soft area he rested upon was her lap.

"I came as soon as I sensed your condition," Aerialia said. "I take it you tried to ascend. Were you successful?" she asked.

"I failed," Orion sighed. "The threshold to become a six-star warrior as a four-star warrior is more difficult than I imagined. Its power is too much for my body to bear without proper preparation. It feels like I'm missing something."

Aerialia pinched his cheek and tugged lightly. "You almost made me lose my composure and rush here to check what happened to you. Fortunately, I managed to keep Aurora in place since we're at a critical phase in creating the Divine Embryonic Seed. And now you're already thinking of trying something reckless again after you've only just awakened," she scolded.

Seeing Orion's face morph into an apologetic expression, Aerialia sighed in defeat and began stroking the part she had pinched. "Why don't you wait for Aurora and try again when she's done?" she asked. "With her exceptional control over Vylkr's energy, she could help stabilize the energy within your body and prevent things from spiralling out of control, just like during the examination."

"I can't. It would be difficult for Aurora to handle her emotions during such a delicate stage. We can't risk anything that might stunt her growth," Orion responded, shaking his head. He had initially planned to ask for Aurora's help. But he didn't want Aurora to see the condition he'd experienced when crossing the threshold to a six-star warrior. He didn't want her to feel she was too weak to protect him, even after her ascension to godhood.

"Okay. But suppose you fail to build one after your next trial. In that case, you must promise to condense only one Vylkr container to become a five-star warrior," Aerialia said, her voice stern as she looked down at him with sharp, narrowed eyes. She knew that nothing she said would stop him from doing what he wanted. With her countless life experiences, she understood his way of thinking. Yet, she was worried because, at the end of the day, Orion was a mortal who could utilize Vylkr energy, an anomaly. She was unsure if he could be resurrected or reincarnated if he were to meet his death suddenly.

Chapter 1200 Completing the Condensation Process of Two Vylkr Containers, Ascension To A Six-Star Warrior!

2,500 words!

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'After I recover my body, I will ensure that Paradise is safe, and you won't have to worry about encountering such formidable foes anymore,' Aerialia thought.

She would blame herself if something happened to him, and she could have stopped it but didn't.

"I promise," Orion said with a nod.

Silence enveloped their surroundings.

"It's time for you to return. Be careful of that demigoddess. I suspect she's been monitoring you. She is currently waiting for you to awaken outside. If she does anything harmful, don't hesitate to activate the crimson greatsword mark, and I will immediately be by your side," Aerialia warned, her voice breaking through the silence.

"I'll be careful," Orion nodded. "But I want to stay a little longer," he added, turning his head to rest his face on Aerialia's soft lap.

Aerialia snorted and snapped her fingers. A bright flash of light engulfed Orion's vision, forcefully pulling him out of the crimson greatsword mark's space.

...

Orion opened his eyes, groaning in pain. Every part of his body felt searing and aching, causing him to gasp and groan continuously. Suddenly, a warm sensation filled his body, easing his pain and making him sigh in relief.

Orion realized he was lying on his bed. Sensing another presence in the room, he turned his head and saw Zera standing at the corner of the bed. Her uncovered eye was filled with worry as she stared at him.

"You've finally awakened. I did my best to treat you and prevent the situation from worsening," Zera sighed in relief. "Are you okay?" she asked.

"I feel slightly better. Thank you for your help," Orion responded. He clutched his head and gently pushed himself upright, wincing in pain.

Zera stopped him. "Although I've healed you, you still need to rest and let your body recover. You shouldn't move yet. I'll report your condition to Aurora and Aerialia, and I'll inform Morriel to attend to you until you fully recover," she said.

Orion nodded, realizing there was no reason to move. He stayed in bed, needing at least another hour for his body to fully recover. He decided to use the time to think about what to do next.

"Based on your condition, I take it you failed to advance to a six-star warrior," Zera asked, her concerned gaze focused on him.

Orion nodded.

"And I take it you want to try again once you've recovered?" Zera asked.

"Yes, I will," Orion responded, looking at Zera with a determined expression that stunned her.

Zera had expected him to give up after his first failed attempt, but seeing his determination to try again made her curious why he was willing to endure such torment again.

"Can I ask why you're going this far?" Zera asked, her tone and expression filled with curiosity.

"It's because millions of people are counting on me to ensure their survival. I have territories to look after, soldiers willing to die for me, and we'll encounter more formidable enemies who won't hesitate to kill them. As the Supreme Leader of Paradise, I need to be prepared to shoulder their burdens, not place them on others. That's not how I do my things," Orion smiled.

Hearing his words, Zera's eyes widened in realization. She had thought Orion would have it easier with so many formidable divine beings in Paradise's ranks. But that wasn't the case. He wasn't relying on the strength of the goddesses beside him but focused on acquiring his own. Most mortals would have done otherwise, but he was different. Such a man was genuinely worthy of being the partner of a powerful goddess like Aurora.

"I admire your determination and mindset. Fortunately, I've come up with a solution to help you ascend to a six-star warrior," Zera said, smiling.

"And what is it?" Orion asked, raising an eyebrow in curiosity. He hadn't agreed to Aerialia's suggestion about Aurora's help because of the deal he had made with Zera. He wondered if Zera knew he could complete his ascension with someone else's help, but even if she did, he didn't care.

"It's the Divine Fountain of Evergold," Zera explained. "With its miraculous effects, keeping your body intact as you prepare to advance will be easy. I've already spoken to the goddesses, who agreed to let you use it."

"Are you certain it will work?" Orion asked, furrowing his brows. The Divine Fountain of Evergold was one of the main ingredients in creating both the Condensed Vylkr Essence Rebirth Elixir and

the Condensed Vylkr Essence Nourishing Elixir, but Orion was doubtful about the effects it would have on him, considering its immense divine properties.

"It will, as long as you don't stay in it for an extended period. Apart from aiding in your ascension, it could also provide additional benefits. Once you're well-rested, I'll take you there to try it out. However, if it's unsuccessful, I'll aid you in looking for another means," Zera responded, understanding Orion's concerns.

Orion fell silent momentarily before nodding. "Okay. I'll give it a try," he said.

"I'll send Morriel to attend to you soon," Zera responded. She nodded at him before turning and exiting the room, ensuring to close the door behind her.

Watching her leave, Orion quickly activated the crimson greatsword mark to summon Aerialia and inform her about the situation. He didn't fully trust Zera and the goddesses within her to keep their hands tied and simply watch him in such a vulnerable position.

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After informing Aerialia of his discussion with Zera and making preparations, Orion regained consciousness. With Morriel tending to him, he spent the rest of the day reflecting on where his plan had gone wrong.

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Thanks to Zera's assistance, Orion only took a day to recover. The next day, Zera came to escort him safely to the hall where the Divine Fountain of Evergold was securely housed.

Orion stood at the top of the stairs, just beside the pool. Zera kept her distance near the pool while Aerialia hovered in the air at a safe distance, her firm gaze focused on the golden and black liquid.

"What are the functions of the Divine Fountain of Evergold?" Aerialia asked, glancing at Zera. She had wanted to ask when she first saw the goddess of Twilight Chorus and Fortune use it but refrained, as it would have been too rude. After spending several months here and watching Orion about to immerse himself in the golden pool, she seized the opportunity to inquire.

"I'm sorry, goddess Aerialia, but I cannot reveal such sensitive information. However, you can rest assured that Orion will complete his advancement to become a six-star warrior and may even gain other benefits," Zera replied.

Aerialia nodded in understanding and refocused her gaze forward. She realized that the goddesses weren't ready to disclose the secrets of the sacred pool.

In the distance, Orion placed a Condensed Vylkr Essence Nourishing Elixir pill into his mouth and swallowed it. Taking a deep breath, he stepped forward, sinking his feet into the mixed golden and black pool. Before he could comprehend what had happened, a mysterious force gripped his right leg and flowed into his body. Suddenly, the golden and black liquid spread upward, climbing his upper leg.

Zera had informed him that the Divine Fountain of Evergold was sentient. Although Orion didn't doubt her words, he was still surprised when it felt like he had stepped onto an invisible platform. Without hesitation, he placed his other foot in and began advancing forward. Slowly, he submerged into the pool as he moved ahead until the deep golden and black mixed waters clung to his face, and he vanished beneath the surface.

A tranquil wave of silence filled the surroundings.

Unlike when Zera had entered the Divine Fountain of Evergold, causing it to boil, several minutes after Orion stepped in, it remained calm as though nothing had transpired.

Aerialia grew concerned and attempted to move forward to check on him. But before she could, Zera swiftly said, "I'm sure you can sense that this pool can also affect divine souls. It's best you stay a safe distance away for your own safety. I promise you that Orion is fine."

Aerialia clenched her fist and continued to wait patiently, her sharp, solemn gaze fixed on the pool, awaiting any changes.

Another minute passed. Although the hall remained tranquil, the world outside the manor couldn't say the same. Heavy blue lightning-bathed storm clouds emerged above the manor, quickly spreading into the distance. Thunder and lightning streaking through the skies echoed within the sealed room, reverberating with a loud "CRACKLE! BOOM!"

Aerialia and Zera snapped their heads to the side, their eyes tearing through the walls to look outside. Witnessing the bluish lightning-filled storm clouds that enveloped the heavens above the

sanctuary and continued spreading into the distance, they withdrew their gazes. They refocused on the calm golden and black pool.

Aerialia's shoulders relaxed, knowing that this lightning storm was triggered by Orion, which meant he was fine. Even Zera, who once wore a confident expression, looked relieved. Now, they could only observe in anticipation and await the results.

Meanwhile, within the Divine Fountain of Evergold, Orion continued to form his Vylkr containers until they reached ninety-eight per cent completion. Cracks appeared all over his body, and the Divine Fountain of Evergold filled the gaps in his skin, slowly seeping into it. It felt as though his body was being healed and held together by some mysterious force, allowing him to push forward despite his insides continuously falling apart. Yet, Orion was determined to keep going.

Ninety-nine percent...

One hundred percent...

BOOM!!!

The resounding tremors of the two fully condensed Vylkr containers echoed throughout every fibre of his body—his bones and muscles—and surged a flood of Vylkr energy alongside them. His insides churned, and suddenly, the Divine Fountain of Evergold around him began to boil as though reacting to his condition.

However, that only lasted for a moment before Orion's bones started reconstructing, his tissues, veins, and muscles filling in until his skin reformed, erasing the cracks that had previously marred his body.

Orion felt as though his entire body was being reborn, as though even his soul was undergoing a strange phenomenon.

SWISH!!!

SWISH!!!!

Numerous lights emerged from Orion's body, shooting out of the pool. Above the Divine Fountain of Evergold, the beams of light halted and took the form of Orion's many artefacts.

Miniature Mountain!

Morphic Puppet!

False Solara's Divine Eye!

Even the Crimson Greatsword appeared in a beam of light, converging beside them. They hovered, suspended in the air as though waiting for something.

Unfortunately, Orion could not see the scene unfolding above him. His gaze remained fixed on the pool before him as he slowly began losing consciousness due to the rapid changes taking place within him. There were too many transformations for him to focus on all at once. Suddenly, another surge of power erupted from within. Shifting his senses toward it, Orion saw the ember of white flame he had forcefully absorbed when he killed White Flame. It was now burning vigorously inside him. He had heard good things about the potential benefits from Aegis of the Arctic Deity and Aerialia. Nonetheless, Orion was more concerned about the negative consequences. According to his knowledge, he was certain that every power came at a price.

The mysterious power from the white ember flowed throughout his body, aiding in his body's reformation. At the same time, he felt another change. The two Vylkr containers he had just formed were gradually expanding under the influence of this mysterious power, drawing in the Vylkr energy emanating from the pool while expelling the golden liquid from his body.

Initially, the Vylkr containers had a diameter of approximately 1.68 inches (42.67 mm). However, they had expanded, doubling in size to about 3.36 inches (85.34 mm), increasing their energy reserves by 200%!

Orion was shocked and in disbelief, never imagining such a thing was possible. Even though he couldn't sense a significant change in his body yet, he could feel it gradually adapting to the sudden expansion of his Vylkr containers.

Orion became excited but maintained his composure. He wondered what incredible changes this mysterious development would bring him. Regardless, he knew the results would be far from insignificant.

An hour passed, and Aerialia and Zera's expressions morphed into concern.

Outside, a light drizzle began to fall. The sudden event stunned the sanctuary's residents, prompting them to stay indoors. The Priestess Manor was covered by a protective barrier, and while the Arch-Knights sensed something was happening inside, they chose not to intervene.

Instead, they focused on watching over the inhabitants and surveying the area outside the fortress walls for potential intruders.

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Outside the Mirror Realm, in the Pocket Dimension,

Far to the southeast, in the Tidal Wave Kingdom,

On the veranda of the grand, majestic main palace of the Tidal Depths Kingdom, overlooking rows of houses, towers, and avenues stretching endlessly into the distance, with crowds of people bustling about their day, stood two individuals—Brane and Zara.

After Orion and Aurora ventured into the spiralling water vortex, they gathered with the remaining forces within the pocket dimension and stayed in the Tidal Depths Kingdom, which was spacious enough to comfortably accommodate all of them.

It had been three months since anyone had contact with Orion and Aurora.

Although everything had remained stable, aside from the natural emergence of a few tainted beings who were swiftly eliminated before they could cause any damage—several soldiers had ventured into the Mirror Realm to stabilize their Void Hearts and reduce the risk of becoming tainted. Unfortunately, their memories were blurred when they returned with incredible new strength. This also prevented them from understanding what had transpired there or knowing if this was also where Orion and Aurora had ventured into.

Regardless, Brane and Zara weren't anxious about anything happening to them. Instead, they couldn't help but grow even more eager for their arrival, wondering what new surprises Orion and Aurora would bring with them. Their anticipation rose the longer they waited.

Suddenly, the door behind them opened, and an ice nymph with deep purple skin, clad in armour with a greatsword hanging on her back, stepped in.

This ice nymph was Nadia, the former Supreme Ruler of the Bastion of the Wailing Gnarled. Behind her were two rows of armoured nymphs and human soldiers. They marched forward and bowed respectfully.

"What is it?" Zara asked, turning around alongside Brane to face them.

"It's urgent information, great warriors. Someone from outside the barrier has arrived and wishes to speak with you," Nadia said.