

Village Head 731

Chapter 731 Queen Selene's Affectionate Display

Instead, he felt a sudden, intense breeze brush against his body before abruptly vanishing. Crystalia, on the other hand, had already released her own magical energy, surrounding her body with a golden aura and repelling her mother's magical pressure with her own.

The entire palace manor trembled as the two magical pressures collided, causing the earth beneath them to shake.

Sensing the subtle tremors around her, Queen Selene quickly withdrew her magical energy, dispelling the immense pressure that had engulfed the entire palace manor, followed by Crystalia doing the same.

Orion acknowledged Queen Selene's display of strength with a nod. "It seems like you are okay," he responded.

Queen Selene returned his nod. "Yes, I feel much better than before. Though I don't think this scar will heal anytime soon, I can manage," she replied, reaching up to touch the scar left behind by the pseudo-divine artefact.

"What did you do with the collar?" she asked.

"I kept it somewhere safe," Orion replied. "Also, I want to ask about the other pseudo-divine artefact. With its effects, we might gain an edge in dealing with any enemy we encounter in the future," he added.

Queen Selene nodded, understanding Orion's intentions. "The other Pseudo Divine artefact is in the Palace Vault within the Palace Manor. I'll send someone to retrieve it and hand it over to you before you leave," she responded.

Considering the events that had transpired yesterday, there was a chance that the next individuals coming across their territory would be looking to attack and take control of what they had rather than seeking a place to settle like the Four-eared elves. As such, they needed to be prepared and ensure such a scenario did not happen.

Nevertheless, Queen Selene was aware that Orion had given the Divine blood he had obtained to her, which Crystalia, Flintor, and the Crystalforge Elite Guards had taken to reach the limit of their race's potential.

This sacrifice had been enough to break her free from the pseudo-divine artefact and allow her strength to reach the peak of their race's potential. Additionally, Orion had sought the help of a god for her sake, which had been the main reason why all of this was possible in the end.

Despite this, even without Orion's actions, she would have still handed the pseudo-divine artefact over to him and given him more if he had asked for it.

"Alright," Orion responded. Looking at Queen Selene, he noticed that the light in her eyes shone far brighter than before. He shifted his attention towards Crystalia and saw she looked more radiant than she had previously.

Hopefully, she wouldn't be picking a fight with anybody at home for the time being.

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Two hours later

Knock!! Knock!!

"They're finally here," Queen Selene said as she rose from the bed.

"Mother, stop, I'll open the door for you," Crystalia chastised Queen Selene for attempting to get up.

"Silly child, I've been asleep for several hours and sitting for several more, so I need to stretch my bones slightly. Also, did you forget that I have also gotten stronger and am not recovering from an injury?" Queen said with a smile as she flicked a finger against Crystalia's forehead.

Crystalia held her forehead displeased as she watched her mother walk towards the doors. She opened it and retrieved a bluish crystal-like box, resembling a jewel box, from the guard she had ordered to bring it.

"Alright, you can return to your position," Queen Selene responded before closing the door as the guard nodded and walked away.

Queen Selene then approached Orion and handed the box over to him. "Here you go. This box has been made and enchanted by the Crystalforge clan's best craftsmen, so not only is it difficult to destroy, but as long as it's closed, no one can sense what's inside," she said.

Orion received the bluish crystal box and opened it. Sure enough, the collar that had previously restrained Queen Selene and sealed her abilities was inside.

As Orion inspected the box's contents, Queen Selene turned to Crystalia. "Can you wait outside and give us a minute alone, Crystalia?" she asked.

Crystalia shook her head. "Don't tell me that you want to start hiding something from me just after you have gotten better?" she asked, narrowing her eyes at her mother with a frown appearing on her lips.

"Please, can you wait outside and give us a minute alone," Queen Selene pleaded, sighing deeply.

Crystalia's shoulders dropped low in response. "Fine, I'll give you guys a minute just because you said please. Also, I need to get more fruits since the ones here have already finished, so I'll be back in ten minutes," she said, standing up from the bed with the plate in her hand and walking out of the room.

As the door closed shut, leaving Queen Selene and Orion alone in the room, Queen Selene immediately bowed down towards Orion. "Thank you," she said, her voice tinged with emotion.

Witnessing the scene before him, Orion immediately raised Queen Selene up, straightening her back to her previous position.

However, Queen Selene moved out of his grasp and bowed again.

"I know that I shouldn't be doing this; however, at this point, it's safe to say that without your presence, none of us would have survived, whether in or outside the mountain. And up to this very moment, time and time again, you have helped us, especially me this time, in ways which I don't think I could ever repay," Queen Selene said, her voice firm and unshaken despite the emotions within it.

Orion sighed deeply. "If that's the case, then I will accept your gratitude as repayment," he replied, smiling.

When Orion responded, Queen Selene's head snapped upwards, revealing her reddish eyes filled with many emotions, as though they were on the brink of overflowing with tears.

She closed her eyes to compose herself before leaning in to kiss the side of Orion's cheek, murmuring, "Thank you."

After the kiss, she wrapped her arms around him and laid her head on his chest. Orion also reciprocated, wrapping his arms around her and helping her calm her emotions.

Chapter 732 Queen Selene's Hidden Romance

After a few moments, Queen Selene's body melted into Orion's embrace. "I always feel as though my worries are taken away whenever I am in your arms," she said, sighing deeply as she shifted her eyes upwards to look at Orion again.

Her breathing began to grow heavy, and she leaned in once more. Instead of kissing Orion on his cheeks this time around, she pressed her soft lips against Orion's own. As their lips intertwined, ensuring they shared a deep, wet kiss, Queen Selene suddenly pulled her head backwards, breaking off the kiss.

Queen Selene looked at Orion with her hazy eyes. "Please, can you keep this a secret from Crystalia, at least for now?" Queen Selene asked.

Orion nodded in understanding. "Don't worry. I keep this a secret until we are ready to reveal it to Crystalia," he responded.

He understood Queen Selene's mindset and agreed that this was the best decision they could make at the moment. Slowly revealing their relationship to Crystalia seemed wiser than doing so abruptly when they were still uncertain of the repercussions.

Queen Selene smiled brightly, leaning in to kiss Orion again before pulling back. "Thank you," she responded.

Orion shook his head. "You do not need to thank me," he replied.

Just as Queen Selene was about to speak again, a knock abruptly resounded from the door.

"Are you two done discussing in there?" Crystalia's voice sounded from outside the door.

They both immediately broke free from the hug, and Queen Selene walked forward to open the door.

"You can come back in," Queen Selene said, holding the door for Crystalia to re-enter the room.

Crystalia entered the room with a tray filled with various fresh sliced fruits from the farm, setting it down on the table beside the king-sized bed. She then redirected her attention to Orion and her mother. "Alright, so are you two going to tell me what you are talking about or not?" she asked, narrowing her eyes at them.

However, as they both remained quiet, Crystalia exhaled deeply, realizing she couldn't get a response from them.

"Fine! Whether you choose to tell me or not, I'll sooner or later find out what you are hiding," she added firmly, deciding to drop the conversation. "Mother, you need to eat more and rest until Healer Valeria comes to confirm your health," she directed her attention to Queen Selene before turning to Orion. "And Orion, I won't be following you home today. I'll spend the night here at the Palace Manor to ensure Mother has truly recovered."

Queen Selene nodded in agreement. She understood that Crystalia had already decided, and changing it would be difficult. Since they rarely had time to spend together, especially nowadays, she saw this as an opportunity for them to bond and catch up, especially to learn more about the uniqueness and chaos of Orion's household.

Orion also agreed with Crystalia's words and saw no reason to disagree. "I won't be coming to escort you back home tomorrow because I have something to do in the Garden," he responded.

"Okay, take care of yourself," Crystalia responded with a nod, sensing that it might be related to a private matter between Orion and the Princess of the Garden.

Since she had been unconscious in the Garden, Queen Selene was curious about what Orion was talking about. However, understanding that this might be a private issue, especially considering Orion's unique connection to the Garden, she kept her question to herself. She walked to the bed to sit down.

Orion bid them goodbye, and they responded, watching as he walked out the door.

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The next morning

Orion stood before the second large reinforced crystal and wooden door that sealed off Garden from the outside and stepped into its serene confines. When he entered, he made his way towards the Princess of the Garden's regular area.

"I knew you would come on time," the Princess of the Garden greeted with a warm smile; she understood just how much this meeting meant to Orion, so she had already expected him to be here on time.

"Come, they are awaiting your arrival," she added, turning around and leading the way forward.

Orion nodded and followed behind her, walking deep into the Garden. After about twenty minutes of walking, they finally reached their destination.

Once they arrived, Orion couldn't help but inhale deeply, taking in the scene before him. Stretching out in front of him were hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Pixies occupying the grassy plain and perched on the branches of tall trees. Some even floated in the air, filling every inch of their surroundings. Orion could discern the sea of Pixies with his sharp eyesight, allowing him to see both the young and old, leading him to believe that he was looking at all of the Guardians of the Garden.

"It's just as you thought. Since this is the first time they've welcomed an outsider besides me in several thousand years, each of them has chosen to gather here to witness the process firsthand," the Princess of the Garden explained, noticing Orion's contemplative expression.

"Process?" Orion said with a raised brow, unable to fully understand what the Princess of the Garden was talking about.

The Princess of the Garden nodded in response, "Yes. Since you are going to be meeting with the Guardians of the Garden, you'll need to be on the level where you can communicate with them," she responded, her eyes fixed on Orion's figure as she scrutinized him from head to toe.

Nonetheless, she noticed Orion's pondering expression before it suddenly turned into astonishment, as if he had just grasped her meaning. "Don't tell me that you were expecting to meet them like this?" she asked, raising her brows.

Orion nodded with a tired sigh escaping him, prompting a light chuckle to escape the Princess of the Garden's lips.

However, just as she was about to respond, the Guardians of the Garden, who had been still in their positions, suddenly began to move.

They both fixed their gaze forward and watched the unfolding scene.

Chapter 733 The Two Challenges

As the sea of Pixies parted, four figures flew out of the middle of the crowd.

As they approached, Orion got a clearer view of who they were. On the right was a middle-aged man wearing a regal green robe of unknown material adorned with rubies and crystal nail-sized gems. By his side stood a middle-aged woman in a stunning purple gown, and on their other side was a young man with a stern expression, also clad in a green robe, accompanied by a young woman in an emerald dress.

Unlike the leaders, their attire was less adorned with crystals and rubies. They all had tiny, transparent, light wings that shimmered more brightly than the other pixies around them.

Suddenly, the man, the woman, and the two young individuals following them bowed their heads towards the Princess of the Garden.

"It's always a pleasure to meet you, Princess," the man said.

"How are you doing, High King Eldric?" the Princess of the Garden responded with a smile.

"I'm as fine as I was yesterday, Princess," High King Eldric responded before he shifted his attention towards Orion, "Forgive me for my ignorance, Princess, but I would like to ask if this is him?" he asked, narrowing his eyes at Orion as he scrutinized him from head to toe.

The Princess of the Garden nodded in response, "Yes, this is Orion. Orion, this is the leader of the Guardians of the Garden, High King Eldric, and his partner, High Queen Rowena, alongside his children, High Prince Kael, his first child, and Princess Morgana, his fourteenth child," she said, introducing them to one another.

At first, Orion attentively listened to the Princess of the Garden's words; however, the moment she finished, Orion couldn't help but become surprised by her last words.

Fourteenth child!!

Observing the young man before him, he could never believe that he was the first of fourteen other younger siblings. And as he glanced at the young woman, he could never have guessed that she was the last born of so many siblings. Nonetheless, considering his current situation, Orion did his best to restrain his reaction.

The Princess of the Garden couldn't help but inwardly chuckle as she observed Orion's surprised expression. She could already guess what he was thinking about without him even saying it.

"It's a pleasure to finally meet you, Mr. Orion. Though we couldn't meet before because of our strained relationship, I want to use this opportunity to thank you for saving the Garden and helping prolong its life a little longer," High Queen Rowena greeted Orion with a slight bow.

Prince Kael and Princess Morgana gave a slight bow, accompanied by the innumerable pixies behind them.

High King Eldric nodded, "Yes, also, I hope that we can use this opportunity to mend the strained relationship between us," he said.

The Princess of the Garden translated their words to Orion.

Listening to their words, Orion couldn't help but feel a sudden irritation in his heart. Though the Guardians of the Garden had all gratefully thanked him, even in the absence of the royal family, when he had moved a part of the Garden from the mountain into the City, that was it. They continued as usual the next day, looking for ways to repay him for unintentionally attempting to destroy the Garden without an afterthought.

Therefore, Orion found it hard to believe the royal family's words and understood that they were all plotting something, just as the Princess of the Garden had warned.

Nevertheless, Orion's heart calmed down as he contemplated their current situation. He was now the proprietor of the Orion's Cities, the future Village Chief commanding the strongest forces in the Orion's Cities, and the sole individual with ties binding each race together, except for the newly arrived Four-

eared race.

If the Guardians of the Garden failed to provide him with the information he wanted, he would have to resort to other methods, no matter how forceful, to ensure their compliance.

The only thing preventing him from doing so right now was the Guardians' responsibility for tending to the Garden and ensuring its perpetual lushness. Also, he had no clue of the consequences that might follow such actions, especially if they would burden the Princess of the Garden, so he could only defer that decision until absolutely necessary.

Sensing the awkward tension, the Princess of the Garden smiled and cleared her throat loudly. "Orion is a busy man with a lot of responsibilities, so High King Eldric, I would appreciate it if we could proceed with the meeting as efficiently as possible," she said.

High King Eldric nodded solemnly. "Okay. Before we proceed, Mr. Orion, you must complete two simple tasks before I can answer any of your questions," he responded.

The Princess of the Garden translated High King Eldric's words to Orion.

'Which are?' Orion responded, furrowing his brow.

"Don't worry, they are quite straightforward. The first task is to take care of the Garden for an entire day, experiencing the same hard work we put in every day for several thousand years, and how it

feels to deal with someone attempting to destroy it more than least twice," High King Eldric responded seriously.

The Princess of the Garden nodded, already translating his words to Orion. "And the second task?" she asked, her tone tinged with resignation.

"Your second task is to take us to see the god beneath, Aegis of the Arctic Deity," High King Eldric said, his firm gaze as it locked onto Orion.

A deep frown simultaneously creased the brows of the Princess of the Garden and Orion.

"High King Eldric a—" The Princess of the Garden began, but her words were abruptly cut off.

"I am sorry if you are displeased by this task, Princess. However, I know you wouldn't have allowed this meeting to occur if I had disclosed all the details. Nonetheless, as you have guessed, we are familiar with the god beneath this Garden. But, since this pertains to the Pixie race, I cannot reveal my reasons for wanting to meet with Aegis of the Arctic Deity until we witness him firsthand," High King Eldric responded, his voice firm.

"Besides, considering the relationship between Mr. Orion and the Princess of the Garden, I can understand that although you might also be awaiting an opportunity to meet this god, you choose not to for your own reasons. So, these are the two tasks that Mr Orion must fulfil if he truly wants us to answer his questions."

Chapter 734 The Two Challenges (2)

The Princess of the Garden's frown deepened. She knew that High King Eldric was right; if he had disclosed all this information before they arranged the meeting, she wouldn't have bothered to arrange it.

However, she couldn't help but sigh; since they were already here, she could only listen to whatever decision Orion wanted to make.

The Princess of the Garden translated High King Eldric's words to Orion.

Upon hearing the Princess of the Garden's translation, Orion frowned deeply. From this alone, he understood that doing his best to meet with the Pixies was the wisest decision at the moment to uncover the identity of the Aegis of the Arctic Deity, which would consequently provide him with more information about Naka's identity.

Although he had no issues with taking care of the Garden for a day and experiencing what the Guardians of the Garden go through, as it was an understandable request after his unintentional attempts to destroy the Garden, as for taking them to see Aegis of the Arctic Deity, Orion was curious about their reasons for wanting to meet him.

Despite being suspicious of Aegis of the Deity's words and where he stands, he currently had a good relationship with Aegis of the Arctic Deity, the only living god he knew of and responsible for protecting the Orion Cities and the Village. And that was something he didn't want to ruin at the moment.

Therefore, he would only want to introduce them to Aegis of the Arctic Deity once he knew their reasons.

"I see no issue with the first task. However, before I can accept the second task, I need to hear your reasons for wanting to see the Aegis of the Arctic Deity," Orion responded.

High King Eldric shook his head in response, "I'm sorry, Mr Orion, but I cannot provide you with that information for now, at least. However, you can rest assured that it wouldn't anger the god or harm the relationship between you both," he responded.

As the Princess of the Garden finished translating his words, Orion exhaled deeply. He shook his head, "If that's the case, then I'm sorry, High King Eldric, but unless you tell me your reasons for wanting to meet Aegis of the Arctic Deity, this will not work. It seems coming here was a mistake," Orion responded, shaking his head.

High King Eldric gritted his teeth in frustration when he heard Orion's words. "Are you sure about this, Mr Orion? I can promise you that if these two tasks are completed, we will not only reconcile our relationship with each other, but also the Pixie race will be very much at your disposal," he responded in frustration.

Hearing High King Eldric's words, the Princess of the Garden exhaled deeply.

Orion shook his head in response, "Since it seems this meeting was a waste of time, I'll take my leave then. Unfortunately, I have other important matters to attend to," he said before he turned around and walked away.

The Princess of the Garden shifted her attention towards High King Eldric, "High King Eldric, is there no way you can explain the reason why you want to meet with Aegis of the Arctic Deity to us, or better yet, change the task to something else?" she asked, furrowing her brows in confusion with a frown on her face as she didn't want Orion and the Guardians of the Garden to be at odds with each other, considering her relationship with both sides.

High King Eldric held back his frustration and anger the moment he heard the Princess of the Garden's words because, from her voice, he could tell that she wasn't pleased with how the discussion had unfolded.

Understanding that this could strain their relationship, he realized they needed to resolve the issue quickly to avoid further complications. Since there was a chance this meeting might not occur again in the future, he didn't want to risk damaging their relationship any further.

High King Eldric gritted his teeth even more before abruptly dropping his shoulders low and exhaling in defeat, "Stop!" he shouted, gesturing towards the Pixies behind him to move forward and block Orion's path.

Several Pixies shot forward and immediately stood before Orion's path like a wall, blocking him from advancing further.

"What's going on? I thought we had already established that this meeting was over," Orion asked as he turned to look at High King Eldric and the rest of the Pixies.

The Princess of the Garden was also about to speak. Still, High King Eldric immediately interrupted, "Okay, I'll tell you why we want to meet with Aegis of the Arctic Deity," he responded, sighing deeply.

Though the Princess of the Garden was surprised by High King Eldric's sudden change of heart, it didn't mean she wasn't pleased. She nodded in approval and gestured for Orion to come closer before she translated High King Eldric's words to him.

Orion inwardly smiled. Truthfully, he hadn't walked away in anger or disappointment but had only done so because after finding out the Pixies desperately wanted to meet Aegis of the Arctic Deity but had no way to without his help, he understood that sooner or later, they would seek him out for his assistance.

Nonetheless, it seemed like High King Eldric was not foolish enough to let such an opportunity pass him, which he appreciated.

"You can go on, I'll listen," Orion responded.

High King Eldric nodded, "For us to properly explain everything to you, we must complete the process to communicate perfectly with each other. However, after we do that and explain why we want to meet with the Aegis of the Arctic Deity, you cannot refuse the task. If not, everything would be a waste, especially since we must expose one of our Pixie race's most closely guarded secrets," he responded.

The Princess of the Garden nodded and translated for Orion. At this point, she was satisfied with how High King Eldric handled the situation.

As for whether Orion must accept to carry out the two tasks after he had gone through the process and listened to everything that High King Eldric had to say, she wanted to refrain from intervening.

Chapter 735 The Princess of the Garden's Stern Warning

After all, it wouldn't seem fair to the Pixies, especially since they would reveal one of their race's closely guarded secrets. So, she left the final decision to Orion and was curious about which option he would pick.

Upon hearing the Princess of the Garden's words, Orion furrowed his brows in response. He still didn't know what this process was or how valuable the information about why the Pixies wanted to meet with Aegis of the Arctic was.

Nonetheless, since it was one of their race's most closely guarded secrets, he understood it must be very important and worthwhile, especially considering the nerve-wracking task of searching for another place to uncover information about Aegis of the Arctic Deity and Naka's identity.

Orion nodded. "Okay, I agree. You can start with the process," he responded.

High King Eldric nodded before he ascended upwards until he was right above Orion's head. He immediately intensified the flow of nature energy towards his transparent, shimmering wings,

causing them to glow brighter and brighter. From his wings, a soft hum reverberated through the air, accompanied by several sprinkles of clear golden fragments that descended like dust onto Orion's head.

These fragments gradually grew larger, enveloping all of Orion's skin until he began to feel a tingling sensation as though a feather were brushing against his skin.

Orion was startled momentarily, but as he looked down, he noticed something extraordinary; he was shrinking! His body began to shrink in size while the world around him expanded, altering his perceptions.

Suddenly, a wave of lightheadedness washed over him as he shrank down to the size of the Pixies. Before he could fall towards the ground, the Princess of the Garden gently caught Orion in her palm.

Orion lay back on her palm as he regained his mind and composure.

"Looking at you from such a perspective is just as interesting as I thought," the Princess of the Garden said, chuckling mischievously, her eyes fixed on Orion.

Orion exhaled deeply. "So, this is the process you were talking about?" he asked.

The Princess of the Garden nodded. "Yes, this is an innate ability of the Pixie race called 'Dust Morphosis,' granting them the ability to temporarily alter the form of any living or non-living thing for a certain time limit. Weaker Pixies can do so for a few seconds or several minutes; however, for someone like High King Eldric, this form will only last for about twenty-four hours until you return to your previous form," she explained.

"The Princess of the Garden is correct. Also, the stronger the individual, the more nature energy I will have to expend, and in your case, I've spent all of my natural energy. So, you should be able to return to your original form after 17 hours," High King Eldric said, tiredly descending from the air and hurriedly trying to catch his breath.

"Also, this innate technique can be stacked, so after I have rested for a few hours, I'll make sure to extend the time limit a bit more."

Suddenly, High Queen Rowena flew forward and arrived at his position, helping him regain his strength.

"Are you okay?" High Queen Rowena asked, her eyes filled with worry.

"I'm okay, just feeling a little tired," High King Eldric responded.

High Queen Rowena nodded with a sigh after confirming that he was indeed okay.

Orion had already risen to his feet and attentively listened to their words. Usually, with his sharp ears, he was supposed to naturally pick up their voices without a problem. However, that wasn't the case. This meant that the 'Dust Morphosis' had not only decreased his size but also done something else to him. Strangely, he couldn't quite discern what it was.

Noticing Orion's deep frown as he checked his body, High King Eldric cleared his throat loudly, capturing Orion's attention. "Dust Morphosis also decreases an individual's strength by a few per cent, with a limit of 50 per cent. However, considering the kind of energy you use and how strong you are, I doubt that effect will occur," he responded.

Orion nodded in understanding. Though it wasn't the answer to the question he was currently seeking, it was still valuable information.

"Okay. Can we begin? I am curious to know your reasons for wanting to meet with Aegis of the Arctic Deity," Orion asked.

High King Eldric nodded solemnly and turned his head backwards, silently signalling for some guards to come forward and assist Orion into the air. Two Pixies, dressed in attire seemingly woven from leaves and wielding wooden spears with sharp edges, flew forward and positioned themselves on either side of Orion's arms, extending their hands to help lift him.

"I'll return in the evening to see how things are going," The Princess of the Garden said, brushing her finger against Orion's chin. She chuckled as he slapped her finger away with his hand.

"You are so cute this way. Nonetheless, I'll be taking my leave now," she added, shifting her attention toward High King Eldric with a glint in her eyes.

As if understanding the Princess of the Garden's silent gaze, High King Eldric bowed slightly. "You don't need to worry about anything, Princess of the Garden. I promise no hair on Mr Orion's body will be harmed."

The Princess of the Garden snorted in response, "You won't be able to harm him even if you try. All I want you to understand is that since Orion has agreed to this, whatever reasons you have for wanting to meet with Aegis of the Arctic Deity, I hope it doesn't put the Garden or the Orion's Cities in harm's way," she warned.

High King Eldric's body slightly trembled at her warning.

After delivering her warning, the Princess of the Garden nodded at Orion before turning around and leaving to attend to other matters in the Garden. While she was curious about why the Guardians of the Garden were so desperate to meet with Aegis of the Arctic Deity, she decided to wait for their relationship with Orion to be repaired before seeking details from him.

Observing the Princess of the Garden's leave, High King Eldric inwardly sighed heavily. He turned around, assisted by his wife, to address the rest of the Pixies behind him. "YOU CAN ALL RETURN TO YOUR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES!" he ordered.

Chapter 736 High King Eldric Reasons

Orion observed as the Pixies dispersed into the air, resuming their daily tasks, with only a handful remaining alongside the royal family.

High King Eldric nodded at the remaining Pixies before shifting his attention behind him. "Let's go," he said, flying forward with the assistance of High Queen Rowena.

Meanwhile, Orion followed suit, guided by the two guards aiding him through the air. As they advanced, Orion surveyed his surroundings. Although he had assisted in relocating a portion of the Garden from the mountain to its current location, the Guardians of the Garden and the Princess of the Garden had overseen its reconstruction, restoring it to its former glory.

Orion nodded in approval as he observed the Pixies tending to the trees, flowers, and lush greenery that flourished despite the snow, which appeared to be growing heavier each day.

However, with a large portion of the Garden still nestled within the mountain and sustained by a fragment of the Divine Lake essence, he chose to wait until they had fully settled within Orion's Cities and addressed pressing issues before introducing another Garden before the remaining Divine Lake essence within the mountain didn't expire and run dry.

After several minutes of flight, Orion finally glimpsed their destination, several towering, vibrant flowers standing at about 1.2 meters (4 feet) tall, resembling sunflowers. Yet, these flowers boasted a girth nearly as thick as a tree, with some appearing even larger.

Various small homes were neatly arranged on different parts of the flower trunks, which appeared to have been hollowed out. They were suitable for someone of his current size to live in. Observing the vast grassy plain, teeming with hundreds of thousands of these homes, Orion realized that the Pixies had successfully rebuilt their residences.

Upon reaching their destination, they made their way toward a tree at the far end of the flowers. It stood about 5 meters (18 feet) tall, adorned with various jewels and crystals like the other trees in the Garden.

Just beneath the tree's canopy was a miniature castle-like structure with various other miniature homes below it, similar to the miniature homes on the other flowers.

High King Eldric landed on the castle-like structure with the assistance of High Queen Rowena, while Orion and the rest of the royal family followed suit.

When they landed on the side of the castle-like wooden structure, Orion noticed a large door flanked by two Pixie guards dressed in the same leaf attire and carrying the same weapons as the guards who had escorted him.

The two guards flanking the large doors slightly bowed in their direction before straightening their backs and pulling the doors open.

Immediately, two rows of what appeared to be Pixie servants lined up on each side, facing each other, then lowered their heads in respect. "Welcome back, your Highnesses," they all exclaimed loudly.

High King Eldric and the other royal family members nodded

in response.

"Follow me, Mr Orion," High King Eldric said, regaining a bit of his strength through the flight as he gestured for Orion to follow him.

Orion followed alongside High King Eldric as they walked through the hall and entered a hallway. After a few minutes of walking through numerous corridors, Orion realized that the rest of the royal family had dispersed, as none of them were behind him anymore.

High King Eldric continued walking until they finally reached a small room. Inside, there was only a carpet, a table, and two chairs positioned on both sides. Beside it was a wide window and a small veranda, which gave a view of the high flowers and miniature homes of the Guardians of the Garden below.

"I normally come here when I want to be alone and clear my mind. Please, have a seat, Mr. Orion," High King Eldric said,

gesturing towards the chair opposite him as he took his seat.

Orion settled into the soft cotton-like pillows that adorned the chair and took his seat as well.

"So, you really want to know why we want to meet with Aegis of the Arctic Deity?" High King Eldric's voice carried a solemn tone.

Orion nodded firmly. "Yes," he replied. That was precisely why he had come all the way here.

"Very well, then listen closely," High King Eldric said, sighing heavily. "Are you familiar with the 'Great War'?" he asked.

Upon hearing the mention of the Great War, Orion nodded solemnly. "A conflict that spanned for several unknown years, involving fifty thousand races and fifty thousand gods, of which only a few survived," he responded. "While I know some of it, I don't know much. So, please, enlighten me, High King Eldric."

High King Eldric nodded solemnly. "As you may have already guessed, my Pixie race was among the few survivors after the Great War. This was all thanks to our god, god Aerendir, the god of wind, illusion, and nature. It was through his efforts, alongside his chosen divine apostles, that we secured a passage through a stellar gate and found refuge in this world."

"However, this salvation came at a great cost. Our god fought tirelessly to protect us, sustaining severe injuries in battles against other divine beings. By the time we reached this world, he was already at death's doorstep. Some of his chosen apostles died before reaching the stellar gate, their bodies too damaged to receive a proper burial. Only one managed to make it through," he explained.

"And when we passed through the stellar gate, instead of what we were promised, we encountered an icy, chilling blizzard on the other side. Though all of those who survived at the time

weren't weak by any means, the survivors were all injured,

rendering many unable to protect themselves, let alone

others."

"As a race that had emerged victorious in the 'Great War,' for

us to face our extinction in such a way was nothing short of

ironic. Fortunately, we had a god," High King Eldric explained

with a heavy sigh, opening his lips.

Chapter 737 Aegis Of The Arctic Deity Shocking Identity

"Using the last of his strength, our god commanded the trees and greenery to grow amidst the snowy landscape, creating a sanctuary for our survival. Even though this world was fertile, it still strained his weakened body, further bringing him half a step across to death's door."

High King Eldric paused a storm of emotions flickering in his eyes before he closed them, inhaling and exhaling deeply as if to regain his composure.

"As such, unsure of how long he could survive, he chose the only course available to a god for his children - sacrifice. He used the last of his remaining powers to heal all those still alive, formed a protective shield around the sanctuary, and ensured its continued prosperity even after his death," he continued solemnly.

"However, before his death, he entrusted the only items he had left to the sole remaining divine apostle of the Pixie race to safeguard us and our new home."

As Orion listened again, he couldn't help but find himself amazed; his ears peeled to digest every word that High King Eldric uttered into his heart. Though he had heard details about the 'Great War' from Queen Selene and Aerialia, the accounts never failed to astonish him.

His heart pounded furiously this time as he absorbed High King Eldric's last sentence.

Taking a deep breath to steady himself, he asked, "Can you explain how this relates to your desire to meet with Aegis of the Arctic?" His gaze remained fixed on High King Eldric.

Although Orion had his suspicions, he refrained from jumping to conclusions, preferring to await High King Eldric's explanation before concluding his judgment.

High King Eldric held his gaze on Orion. "The two items that god Aerendir left behind before his death were two Divine artefacts, one of them is the 'Aquiluis Clear Water,' and the other is 'The Golden Threads of god Aerendir.' The Divine Apostle he entrusted them to was 'Oberon,' whom you now know as the 'Aegis of the Arctic Deity,'" High King Eldric replied.

BOOMMM!!! BOOOOMMM!! BOOOMMMM!!!

Even though Orion had already guessed this point when he heard High King Eldric's previous words, hearing it confirmed still caused his mind to reel and revert to normal as he attempted to absorb such a revelation.

Orion gradually calmed down his beating heart as he finally understood why High King Eldric desperately wanted to meet with Aegis of the Arctic Deity and why he didn't want to reveal his reasons to him.

It turned out that this meeting involved two divine artefacts, both of which were held by someone of a similar race, who had been alive since the 'Great War' and was within their reach but still unreachable.

"Though he communicates with us, providing us with several

tidbits of advice, he always remains silent whenever we

deviate towards such a conversation. We have tried several

ways to meet with Aegis of the Arctic Deity face to face, but all our attempts failed. With no other hopes, we gave up and continued our task of taking care of the Garden."

"Then, you suddenly appear out of nowhere and can meet and speak with him as you desire; other times, he even summons you willingly. As the descendant of the Previous High Kings of the Pixie race, after more than 7,500 years, I hope you now understand why we desperately want to meet with the Aegis of the Arctic Deity face to face and also why I had been unable to reveal the contents of why we wanted to meet with him," High King Eldric said.

Orion nodded in response.

"After we meet him, we would like to know if he can return the two divine artefacts belonging to god Aeorindir to the Pixie race and if the rumours we have heard about him are true."

Orion raised a brow, "What rumours?" he asked curiously,

awaiting High King Eldric's response.

However, High King Eldric shook his head, "I'm sorry, Mr

Orion, but I won't be able to answer that question. I have

already explained why we desperately want to meet with

Aegis of the Arctic Deity and have even revealed some

sensitive information to you. So until you have completed the

two tasks you have been given, I will be able to answer any of

your questions," High King Eldric replied.

He knew he had no absolute authority over Orion; their

current position was solely for the sake of their relationship.

Orion could refuse to uphold his promise and walk away after

this revelation. After all, he was now the owner of the

mountain, the proprietor of Orion's Cities, and the only

person able to approach and communicate with Aegis of the

Arctic as he pleased.

However, High King Eldric hoped Orion would respect their

agreement, strengthening their relationship. He meant his words when he said the Pixie race would willingly be at his disposal if he helped them with this request.

Orion inwardly frowned. Despite understanding High King Eldric's explanation, he realized the complexity of the situation was far beyond his initial expectations. While he hadn't initially wanted more information about Aegis of the Arctic Deity, especially his true identity, he couldn't help but ponder again if introducing them to Aegis of the Arctic Deity was a wise idea given the dangerous state of their territory.

The last thing he wanted was to jeopardize his relationship with the god protecting them from the Vylkr vines — particularly as Aegis of the Arctic Deity was the only living god he knew of.

Orion's frown deepened as he furrowed his brow, lost in deep thought, contemplating the decision he needed to make.

Observing Orion's expression, High King Eldric couldn't help

but sigh. "Mr Orion, can you please share your decision? Will

you continue with the tasks?" he asked, awaiting Orion's

response.

Hearing High King Eldric's voice, Orion snapped out of his

thoughts and focused on him. "Yes," he responded. "I've

already decided on this agreement and intend to fulfil it.

However, before I proceed with the second task, there is

something I would like to know first."

Chapter 738 Orion's Assurance

High King Eldric raised his brows. "What is it?" he asked.

"You mentioned 'we,' implying that you don't intend to meet Aegis of the Arctic Deity alone. How many of you are planning to meet with him?" Orion questioned.

High King Eldric nodded in response. "Don't worry, only a few elders and I have decided to go and meet him," he assured, understanding Orion's concern.

"Alright. In that case, before I bring you all to meet Aegis of the Arctic Deity, I'd like to meet him myself and see if I can persuade him to meet with you all directly," Orion proposed.

Though he might not understand why Aegis of the Deity refused to meet with them, whatever the reason, he had to convince him to do so. If he failed, he would have no choice but to withdraw his promise.

High King Eldric furrowed his brows momentarily before nodding. "Alright. I understand your reasoning, Mr. Orion. You may proceed as you see fit," he replied, exhaling softly.

"Okay. Let's continue then so I can complete this task as quickly as possible," Orion replied.

He needed to deal with the potential threat of the four-star Vylkr Vine and attend the festival scheduled for the end of the week. Therefore, he had to wrap this up quickly to focus on other matters.

High King Eldric nodded, "Since you are unaware of how the Garden is taken care of, I already have someone in mind to help show you how you can properly experience the effort we Pixie put into caring for the Garden. Follow me, Mr Orion," he responded, standing up from his seat and walking towards the door.

High King Eldric couldn't help but inwardly sigh. He would have already cancelled the first task to gain Orion's goodwill and forge a better relationship if he could. Not only was Orion's current position beneficial for them to form a close bond, but it might also increase their chances of convincing Aegis of the Arctic Deity to meet with them.

However, he couldn't do so without angering the rest of the Pixie race and some elders. They insisted that Orion should experience the same efforts they put into caring for the Garden, especially after he had attempted to destroy it more than twice.

Orion rose to his feet and followed High King Eldric out of the room. As they exited, they traversed through several corridors and beautiful areas, each catching Orion's attention and prompting him to take mental notes.

Eventually, they reached a spacious hall with stairs on either side leading upwards, likely to the royal family's residence and other significant areas. Meanwhile, male and female pixie servants bustled about, tending to indoor plants and tidying the space.

Observing the scene, Orion noted that no one was using the stairs; instead, they all darted through the air from one task to another.

Upon reaching the centre of the hall, just as High King Eldric was about to signal a nearby pixie guard, a young man suddenly blocked their path.

"Good morning, Father," the young man greeted with a slight bow before shifting his attention to Orion. He scrutinized Orion's figure from head to toe before bowing again. "Good morning, Mr Orion. I wasn't expecting to meet you again so soon," he added.

Orion furrowed his brows in confusion. From the young man's words, he realized that he was one of High King Eldric's children, but he didn't remember being introduced to him.

"Ahem! I am Prince Alden, the fourth son and fifth child of High King Eldric. We might not have met personally, but I've had the privilege to see you a few times in the Garden, especially this morning up close," the young man quickly corrected himself, clearing his throat.

Orion nodded. "In that case, it's a pleasure to meet you too, Prince Alden," he responded.

Prince Alden nodded with a smile. Just as he was about to speak, High King Eldric interrupted.

"Since you're already here, Alden, why don't you help me and call your first eldest brother? He can assist in showing Mr Orion how we handle and take care of the Garden," High King Eldric ordered.

Prince Alden shifted his attention to his father, furrowing his brows in confusion. "I'm afraid eldest brother has already left the castle, Father. Didn't he inform you of an urgent matter which required his immediate attention?" Prince Alden asked, raising a brow.

A frown suddenly etched itself onto High King Eldric's expression. He had informed his first son that if Orion accepted the task, he would be the one to guide Orion and teach him about the experiences of the Pixie race, aiming to forge a strong relationship with Orion as the next High King of the Pixie race.

However, the sudden disappearance of his first son due to an urgent matter made him doubtful.

"Did he mention where he was going and this urgent matter?" High King Eldric asked, his tone serious.

"Unfortunately, I received news of his sudden departure just moments before encountering you both here, so I have no idea where he ran off to," Prince Alden responded, shaking his head.

Upon hearing Prince Alden's words, High King Eldric's frown deepened. Though he was suspicious about the only thing that might capture his first son's attention to such a degree that it might cause him to abandon everything, he hoped fervently that his guess was wrong. After all, it would be unreasonable and unbecoming of the next High King of the Pixie race.

Nevertheless, since he had no clue where his first son might have disappeared, he pushed his concerns to the back of his mind and dispatched some of the palace guards to locate him and swiftly bring him back to the palace.

Observing his father's contemplative expression, Prince Alden promptly interjected, "Father, since First brother is currently unavailable, why don't I take care of Mr Orion and assist him in understanding the daily efforts we invest in maintaining the Garden's prosperity until First brother returns?" he proposed.

Chapter 739 Fourth Prince Alden

High King Eldric continued to contemplate, his brows knit in thought. "Are you absolutely certain? I could easily delegate this responsibility to your second brother or first sister to save you from the stress," he said, his gaze fixed intently on Prince Alden.

Prince Alden shook his head adamantly. "Considering that it was originally the first brother's duty, father, wouldn't it be unfair to suddenly burden the second brother, first sister, or even third brother with such a task? Especially since they might be preoccupied and unable to fully dedicate themselves to showing Mr Orion everything he needs to know about the Garden and the efforts required to maintain its prosperity," he explained, exhaling softly.

High King Eldric nodded in understanding. He realized that abruptly assigning this task to his younger children might spark resentment among them, knowing how determined they were to fulfil any task to the best of their abilities, especially when it involved such an important issue.

"And what about you? Wouldn't it be unfair to burden you with this task so suddenly? Are you certain you can fulfil it to the best of your abilities?" High King Eldric asked, his gaze fixed on Prince Alden.

Prince Alden smiled, "Father, unlike the rest of my siblings, I have been looking forward to Mr Orion's arrival and have been preparing myself to assist first Elder Brother if he needs help, ensuring that the task can be perfectly accomplished. Therefore, I believe it would be an honour for me to handle this task. I promise to do my very best to complete it perfectly to the best of my abilities," he responded, bowing slightly towards High King Eldric to convey his sincerity.

However, Prince Alden couldn't help but widen his smile inwardly. With his first elder brother currently away, this was his only chance to forge a relationship with Orion - someone with a close connection to the god beneath the Garden and an even closer relationship with the Princess of the Garden.

Orion's position was rumoured to be so influential that any decision he made could shake the entire territory.

So, why shouldn't he seize this opportunity and do his best to establish a good relationship with him?

High King Eldric nodded in response and immediately began to reconsider whether it might be better to assign Orion to his fourth son until his first son returned. They couldn't afford to waste a moment, so they needed to ensure that Orion started and finished his tasks as soon as possible.

Also, it wasn't as though Alden would do a bad job forging a relationship with Orion in the meantime, so he saw no harm in it.

"Okay, I see no harm in you leading Mr Orion in the meantime," High King Eldric responded, nodding in agreement.

He shifted his attention towards Orion. "Mr Orion, my fourth son, Prince Alden, will show you the way and explain how things are done in the meantime. Are you okay with that?"

Orion nodded in understanding. "I don't mind, High King Eldric," he responded.

As long as he could complete the task, it didn't matter who showed him how things were done. He only wanted to complete this task as quickly and efficiently as possible and prepare for his meeting with Aegis of the Arctic Deity.

Witnessing Orion's response, Prince Alden's inward smile widened.

"Since this is the case, I'll be waiting to meet you again by the end of the day, Mr. Orion," High King Eldric said, shifting his attention back towards Prince Alden. "Take care of Mr. Orion properly, and if anything comes up, immediately inform me about it. In the meantime, I'll summon the guards and have them search for the whereabouts of the first prince."

Prince Alden nodded, watching High King Eldric nod at them again and walking away.

"Please, follow me, Mr. Orion," Prince Alden said, his eyes fixed on Orion as he gestured his hands forward for Orion to follow him.

Orion nodded and walked beside Prince Alden. "Where are we going?" he asked, noticing they had changed direction and were now heading towards another door.

"Sorry to say this, Mr Orion, but your current attire isn't suited for the task at hand," Prince Alden responded, his eyes scanning Orion from head to toe, mainly focusing on the attire around his waist.

"So, before we begin, you must change into the right attire. We'll have to go to the market square to buy one. Fortunately, in your current size, it shouldn't be too difficult," he added with a smile, cracking a subtle joke.

Orion nodded in agreement.

Seeing Orion not react to his joke, Prince Alden cleared his throat awkwardly. He glanced at the large flowers and the homes within them, scattered as far as the eye could see.

"The top of the tree is called the 'Canopy Palace,' where the royal family resides. Beneath the 'Canopy Palace' are the 'Elders' residences,' where the elders, the wisest and most venerable pixies, reside. They serve as advisors to the royal family and gather to deliberate on matters of importance to the Pixie race. Below the elders' residences are the 'Noble residences,' where members of the royal family's extended circle reside.

"Further down the tree are the residences of important figures who serve various roles within the pixie society and their families. Meanwhile, those who do not possess such status reside outside the tree, in the various homes within the flowers that you saw below us," Prince Alden explained, providing Orion with insight into the hierarchy of the Pixie race, a piece of information he was likely not yet aware of.

Upon hearing Prince Alden's explanation, Orion nodded in understanding. Though he had encountered the Pixies numerous times, learning about their hierarchy and witnessing them from this perspective was unexpectedly interesting and intriguing.

Prince Alden slowly flapped his wings and ascended into the air, positioning himself behind Orion.

He gestured for Orion to spread his arms outward, grasped them with both hands and gradually lifted him into the air.

"Let's go; the Market Square is outside the tree, down below," Prince Alden said before taking off into the air.

Chapter 740 New Makeover

As they soared through the air, Orion admired the beautiful view beneath them again. They glided past numerous homes and bustling districts until they arrived at an exceedingly crowded area brimming with many shops and stalls clustered together.

"We've arrived," Prince Alden said as he gently descended with Orion to one of the larger shops.

Upon landing, he steadied himself on his feet. "This shop is known for offering one of the finest attires in the kingdom. I'm confident we'll find something you like here," he said, smiling as he gestured for Orion to follow him inside.

Inside the shop, the shopkeeper had just finished his discussion with a few customers, showing them to the section where the attire they were looking for was located.

As soon as the door swung open, he hurried to attend to his customers, but his expression soured in displeasure upon recognizing a familiar face. Just as he was about to approach, anger and irritation clear on his face, he froze as the next person entered through the door.

The shop owner took a deep gulp as he locked eyes with the familiar face, then swiftly shifted his gaze to the wingless back and the attire tied around his waist.

Orion!

As the name of the figure emerged into his mind, he couldn't help but gulp in another deep breath. As one of the figures present at the border of the Pixie kingdom and having witnessed the official meeting between the royal family and Orion, he was familiar with the young man before him.

In fact, even before today, he was very familiar with the name Orion and all the deeds that he had done. And it wasn't only him but also the whole pixie race who was familiar with the name 'Orion', and anybody who wasn't familiar with it yet was probably living under a rock, which was very unlikely.

However, the shopkeeper couldn't help but become overwhelmed when such a person suddenly entered his shop. Almost instantly, the anger and irritation in his expression disappeared and were immediately replaced by a bright, wide smile enveloped by a soothing, welcoming aura.

Prince Alden observed all the changes that had unfolded in the area and couldn't suppress a smile as a glint flickered in his eyes.

The shopkeeper dashed forward and promptly stood before them. "Fourth Prince Alden and Mr Orion, it's an honour to meet you both. If you're here to select the finest attires in the Pixie kingdom, then you've come to the right place," he said, beaming brightly as he gestured for them to enter.

He personally escorted them towards the men's section with a warm smile.

"This attire is made from the amour root plant, offering minor protection against blunt attacks. Due to its characteristics, it's one of the most expensive and popular attires in the entire market," the shopkeeper explained.

Pointing to another set, he continued, "Now, this attire is crafted from the crown blossom flower and enhances your charm around the ladies with its manly scent." He then presented another option. "And this one is crafted from the fern-root plant, which grants stealth and allows you to seamlessly camouflage into your surroundings."

He carefully gauged their expressions as he showcased the various attires, some resembling leaves while others were woven into fabrics from the shelves. Each one held a distinct allure, and the

shopkeeper awaited their decision, ensuring that he could tell which one caught their attention and then sell it to them.

Orion, however, curiously followed Prince Alden as the shopkeeper continued to pull out various attires from the shelves, explaining the plants they were made from and the unique characteristics each possessed.

Initially, he had assumed that Pixie attire was just ordinary garments crafted for wear, but he was surprised to find that they were anything but ordinary.

Nevertheless, he understood the uniqueness of the Garden and that the Pixies could also utilize nature energy, so it wasn't entirely unexpected. Nevertheless, Orion couldn't help but ponder the possibility of creating human-sized attire from these materials and the effort required.

If it was feasible, he was willing to give it a try.

"Feel free to choose whichever attire you like, Mr. Orion. The royal family will cover the expenses, so don't worry about the cost," Prince Alden said reassuringly. He assumed Orion hadn't made a choice because he might not know how to pay for attire, especially as a newcomer to the Pixie Kingdom. "However, if you find these attires too fancy for your taste, ordinary options are also available," he added.

Orion nodded in understanding and waited for the shopkeeper to showcase some of the finest attires in the shop before making his decision.

"I'll take this one," Orion said, walking toward a specific shelf and retrieving a piece of attire. It was a light blue shirt paired with matching trousers, perfectly sized for him.

Unlike the other attires the shopkeeper had presented, which seemed geared towards strength or providing various kinds of protection—none of which he required due to his own strength and resilience—this one simply caught his eye, not to mention how good it looked.

"Ah, an attire made from the Bluebell Breeze plant," the shopkeeper nodded knowingly, scrutinizing the garment. "Just like the Bluebell Breeze plant, it releases a scent capable of granting clarity of thought and enhancing intuition."

"Despite being as expensive to craft as the rest of the attire I've shown you due to the nature of the plant it's derived from, its effects are not as potent as the others. This leads to its rarity in harvest and production. Also, since these attires are typically purchased by nobles or rich individuals who enjoy flaunting their wealth, it has become less favoured," he explained.

Prince Alden nodded in understanding, shifting his focus towards Orion, "Are you sure that is the attire you want to choose?" he asked.

He knew there were some attires like this that were less favoured due to their effects and low popularity among other Pixies, so he hoped that Orion would pick one of the most expensive and popular attires to showcase his standing and status.