

A portal appeared in a small alley between two buildings. Out of it came Glacies led by Ilem and her teammate, Kumo. The neko boy looked out at the narrow space to see the beautiful ivory buildings with some having pale blue roofs were smooth & glistening like opals and the world's inhabitants walking the pale stone street beneath their feet. The sky above them was golden as a result of heavy influx of light in this world. Kumo took in the unique appearance of this world with interest, "Wow!" Even Glacies herself looked on in curiosity and wonder; the Illustris Theocracy certainly looked better than what she saw in the encyclopedia. It looked to be a magnificent place. Like how Zephyr shared his tale of Waset with her, she was going to share her experience here with him if she found anything interesting.

Once Ilem was sure the bluenette was done observing, she recited the plan to her, "Alright girl, you know what to do. Go out there, find the Church, be a sad girl in need of help, and then join them as a repayment."

Kumo wished her well, "Good luck, Glacies!"

Glacies smiled back, "You too, guys." They had their jobs to do and they were going to do their best to succeed. "Take care!" Ilem re-summoned a portal and she & Kumo left to go to another world. The bluenette was now on her own in this world. She walked out the alley and went through the streets, looking for anyone wearing the specific outfits that indicated them as members of the Church of Light. Not that she was going around aimlessly though, as she spotted a large white & gold monastery in the distance towering over the other buildings. This was the base of operations for the Church of Light as well as Nuru's home. Glacies was aiming to go over there in case she found no one on her path. As she moved on, the girl took in the bright & beautiful scenery of this world, seeing pretty flowers in gardens and on patches of grass, white doves pecking the ground for food, and the people here were all being nice to each other and generously helping one another. It was like walking in paradise here; this world would put Radiant Garden to shame, which is also a city of light. As she got closer to her destination, the monastery gradually disappeared from her view. When the girl could no longer see it and she came to a dead end that resulted in her backtracking and getting lost, she resorted to getting help. She found a blue-haired guy in white and went over to him. She tapped behind him on his shoulder as she asked, "Excuse me, I'm looking for-" The 20-year-old man turned around to face her. His face looked handsome, he wore a pair of eyeglasses and she noticed that he was wearing a familiar priest outfit. Glacies recognizes his outfit as she continued, "the Church of Light?" She had finally found a member of that group.

The priest greeted her, "Oh hello." His blue eyes glanced to her ragged clothes before he continued, "I've never seen someone like you around before. Are you homeless?" It was not surprising that this man would find her strange. After all, there were no homeless people in this world. Everyone living here was well off.

Glacies answered, "Yes, my is Gla-" She almost let her real name slip out before she quickly corrected herself, "Gloria. It's Gloria, and I'm an orphan from another world."

"An orphan?" the man asked. "How long have you been alone?"

"Six years," the girl answered. "It was tough struggling to survive on the streets. I heard the Church of Light is kind and helpful to those in need. So I've been looking for them, hoping to turn my life around."

The man looked at her in pity and said, "I'm sorry to hear that. Good thing you've come to the right person." Then he introduced himself, "I'm Connor, I'm a priest from the Church of Light."

Though she already knew what he was, Glacies feigned her delight, "Oh wonderful! I've finally found them. Will you help me?"

Connor smiled gently at her, "Of course. It's the duty of the Church of Light to help everyone. Come, I'll take you to the monastery. We'll be able to take care of you there." He offered her a hand and she took it. They walked together on their way to the monastery as the priest took the lead. As they went, he asked the girl, "So Gloria."

"Yes?" Glacies replied.

Connor asked, "How did you get to this world?"

"Oh! Uh..." Glacies should have known he was going to ask this question. An outsider like her does not simply get to a separated world without the means to do so. She came up with a story that would hopefully explain it well, "I met a warrior; we hung out for a while until we got ambushed by some bad men." She paused briefly on how to continue. At first, she thought to say the non-existent teleported her during the fight, but she figured that Connor would try to go to where the battle took place, so instead, she said, "He defeated them and then told me where the Church of Light would be at. He helped me get to this world with a portal he summoned and that's how I wound up here."

"I see," Connor replied. "It's a good thing you met this warrior. You should give him your thanks the next time you see him."

"I will someday," Glacies said. Soon, they reached the front grounds of the monastery. The building looked quite enormous like she imagined and it looked more majestic than it did in the book. '*So extravagant*,' she thought with amazement. She could see the stained glass windows on them. They went inside through the double-doors and walked through the lobby. Glacies looked around at the interior, seeing the pale walls, the gold-rimmed pillars reaching the ceiling, and a few paintings depicting some figures that were either Nuru or heroes in service of the light. It was like being in a Catholic church.

Connor informed her, "You know? There's going to be a free dinner night for the poor in the refectory. I'm sure you'll appreciate a good meal."

"Really?" the girl asked. "That sounds good! I haven't had good food in a while. So where is the refectory?"

The man responded, "I'll show you where it is. Follow me." He led the way to the refectory.

Upon going into the next room, Glacies saw a bunch of Jews together in a small alcove praying to their god, Yahweh. The girl was confused about this, wondering why a different religion was being practiced here. "Connor?"

"Yes?"

She asked the priest, "I heard Nuru was the patron goddess of this world. Doesn't everybody here worship her?"

Connor answered, "They do, but we also allow people of other faiths to practice their religion here as long as it's nothing related to the darkness or any other evil."

"I see," Glacies responded. The Church of Light was mostly tolerant, it seems. Probably most other religions would have frowned upon letting an outside faith be practiced in their territories. They passed by several Church of Light members, most of which are priests and nuns.

They reached the refectory where a nun was preparing the place for tonight's dinner. She was laying down utensils and napkins at each seat at each table. Connor greeted the woman, "Hello there, Nora! How's everything going?"

"Just good," the nun replied as she turned from the table to meet the priest. She noticed Glacies standing here and asked, "Connor, you brought a homeless here this early? But it's not dinnertime yet."

Connor said, "I know; I was just showing Gloria here where the refectory was. She was warped here to this world and came seeking the Church of Light. I told her we'd be serving dinner here tonight."

"Ah, I see." Nora gave the girl a friendly smile and said, "Well Gloria, I do hope to see here. I'll be serving up the tastiest food you'll enjoy."

Glacies smiled back, "I'll be looking forward to it." She wondered if they will have any exotic cuisines unique to this world. She would love to try them out.

The nun went back to her business and left to go set the next table. Connor inquired, "So Gloria, how old are you?"

"I'm seventeen," the girl answered. "I'll be eighteen next month."

The man said, "Sounds like you're very close to adulthood, but you're still young enough to be put into our orphanage until then. I'll see if I can get you settled there." He led the way to the orphanage. Glacies had learned the monastery had such a thing here from the encyclopedia. She wondered if the kids were just as well-off as the citizens outside appeared to be. After getting there, Connor opened the door and they were greeted to a scene of happy children playing with each other. Sounds of joyful shrills and laughter filled the room. The caretaker overlooking them was a young woman, who was holding a baby and reading a small book, most likely one for children, to him. The caretaker looked at the approaching pair and Connor requested, "Hilda, I have someone here I'd like you to take in."

Hilda glanced at the girl briefly before asking, "Her? She looks a bit old to be here."

The man replied, "She sure looks like it, but Gloria's young enough to be here. She needs a home, Hilda. Are there any rooms here she can stay at?"

"Of course," the caretaker answered. "I know just where she can sleep. Follow me." Glacies and Connor went through the hallway until Hilda got to the chosen bedroom's door. After opening the door, the woman said, "Here's your room, miss. I hope everything looks okay?" The room was small with one bed, a nightstand, a small dresser and a closet.

"It does," Glacies answered. "I could use a good bed after so long."

Hilda said, "That's nice to hear." Then the baby started crying aloud. "Oh dear, I better go see what he wants. You two take care now." Then she left to go into another room.

Connor said to Glacies, "Gloria, the church will do everything they can to take care of you. And if you don't get adopted soon, well then..." He paused in thought as if to think on what to say next before continuing, "Maybe you can consider joining us and work for the Church of Light. We're always welcome to new members."

Glacies smiled at the offer. It seems like they were already willing to have her in their ranks. This was a good thing. She responded, "I'll be sure to think about it. I bet it must be a great job."

"It's wonderful!" the man commented. "It's fulfilling and righteous. I'm sure you'll make a good nun if you joined. I was taken into this orphanage. Eventually, I became a priest."

The girl commented, "That's amazing!"

Connor replied, "It is; you get to do things like lead a sermon, exorcise the darkness, bless people with light and even help them. Things a typical priest would do." He spoke like he was proud of his job. "But the only difference is that a Church of Light priest also fights."

"Fight?" Glacies asked. She guessed that maybe the priests would be fighting since they're going around gathering Souldiers and using them.

The man explained, "We learn to fight, so that we can defeat the forces of darkness everywhere. We learn moves and powers that specialize in light." He summoned a Corridor of Light for demonstration as an example. Glacies shielded her eyes briefly from the flash before she looked at the Corridor, seeing its white core surrounded by yellow and gold rays. Connor said, "That's a Corridor of Light. It's one of the special powers only granted to us by Nuru. You have to be a member of this Church to get it." The girl would love to get her hands on that power. With it, she would be able to go to places faster than she would on her keyblade glider. She would be like Chase and LimeX with their portals. Being a spy was going to have its benefit. But that eagerness was quickly diminished when Connor told her, "But if you're joining the Church just to get those powers, then you'll be turned away. Our great goddess of light will search through your heart and detect that as selfishness tends to give off a great darkness. The Church doesn't accept those with too much darkness into our ranks."

Glacies said, "Okay, I get it." Nuru looking into people's hearts was troubling and it made her feel nervous. She hoped that the goddess does not find out what the girl was really here for. It could jeopardize the whole mission.

Connor commented, "You don't seem like the power-hungry type, so maybe you'll get in."

The girl replied, "We'll have to see if it comes to it." She hoped that she will be accepted.

"We will," Connor said. "Anyway Gloria, we should get you washed up and changed into your new clothes. I'll take you to the bathroom." He led the way to the bathroom, where the door was open, showing no one occupying the place. They went to one of the wooden tubs and he said, "Let's get that filled up for you." He took the tub over to the indoor river and grabbed a bucket to fill it with water. He poured the water into the tub and refilled the bucket, repeating the process. Glacies took the other bucket and helped the man fill the tub. Connor smiled, appreciating her cooperation. After the tub was full, he said, "I'll leave you to bathe yourself while I fetch some clothes to put in your room. The towels and soap are over there." He pointed to the towels hanging on the bars and the castile soap on the stand.

"Okay thanks, Connor," Glacies appreciated. After the man left the bathroom, the girl slid the wooden board into the handles to keep the door locked. She took off her gown & undergarments and took the face veil & the speak mirror out of the pocket to hide. She would retrieve them later after she was dressed. Then she took the soap & washcloth and began to bathe herself.

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LimeX, Sakura and Zero came to the Enchanted Dominion. The lush green forest had a serene feeling to it. The leaves on the trees and bushes as well as the blades of the grass were all sleek and beautiful. A

few birds were chirping songs, which added to the atmosphere. The place seemed truly enchanted like its namesake. As the girls walked and the dog flew, Sakura and Zero watched LimeX from behind carefully. They were both suspicious that the darkblader could go rogue at any time during their campaign to foil the Church of Light.

LimeX heard a cautious rumble from Zero and looked behind to be met with wary faces. She asked them, "What are you looking at?"

Sakura answered, "You."

The darkblader raised an eyebrow and inquired, "Why?"

The demon said, "Just wanted to make sure that you don't do bad things again. I mean you went on a rampage like twice. Though, I do get that you were being controlled by a bad god the first time and then you had to work for Shade to bring back Ilem. Look, the thing is that I don't want to have to fight you again. We have a Church to stop that's what we should be doing." They didn't need any inconveniences to make this mission complicated.

LimeX assured, "Don't worry, you won't have to. There's nothing to prompt me into going against our cause." The Church of Light had no need for darkbladers, that alone should be obvious.

Sakura said, "Well, I suppose you're right. Sorry for doubting you." They were teammates and they were supposed to trust each other. Besides, there were no adversaries of darkness this time and LimeX wouldn't betray them for the Church, since the group wanted all darkness, including the darkbladers, gone. Things were going to be alright this time.

The darkblader said, "Whatever, let's just do what we came here for." She didn't care much for the apology anyway. They continued to walk as LimeX thought about the Halloween Town inhabitants' wariness. She understood why they felt the way they did. After all she's done, why wouldn't the demon and the dog be suspicious of her. LimeX wondered if she will ever be redeemed in the eyes of everyone who witnessed her crimes. Probably not and she better not hope for it either.

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Chase and Juliet were in La Cite des Cloches; the man wanted to see if his homeworld had been inflicted with light. Chase told the girl the objectives for this world, "Alright Juliet, we're going to find where Light had planted her seed, warn my brother Roland about the Church, and stock up on potions and ethers for the mission."

Juliet laughed like it was absurd, "Buy 'em? Hah! I can just steal those for us. It'll be free."

The man frowned at her and rejected the idea, "We're not thieves, Juliet! We're going to buy those things, even if I'm the only one paying for them."

The girl scowled and huffed, "Geez, whatever you goody-two-shoes lightblader." She had only wanted to save them munny. But no, the lightblader would rather be a slave to his morals than to choose efficiency. Well, that's his problem and money.

The team explored the medieval city as Chase had his senses alert to find the light seed that was planted. He also had his magic magnifying glass with him to spot the seed, too. This was his birth home and he wanted it safe and protected. He told the girl, "Keep your senses alert and be on the lookout for the light seed, Juliet. Let me know if you sense it."

Juliet snorted, "I know that, I'm not a mindless dog!"

Chase murmured nonchalantly, "Never implied you were." He did not mean to offend her; he just wanted to make sure she knew what she was doing. Soon, the team went into the backstreets and looked there. They came across a dead end between two buildings next to them. Chase turned his magnifying glass towards that space and spotted a glow shining over there. He alerted, "There! I think that might be it over there."

"Ugh, finally!" Juliet was glad that their search was over. If it had lasted any longer, her mind would snap from boredom and she would be telling Chase to call it quits do something else.

The team went to the dead end and got to the exact spot the man saw the light at. He thrust the Kingdom Key down into the ground and began to extract the light out. Sure enough, it came out in the form of a light seed. "I knew it," Chase said to no one in particular. "Juliet, destroy it."

The girl responded, "You don't have to tell me twice." She brought out her new keyblade and swung at the light seed, destroying it.

Chase was relieved; his world was now safe again. "Alright, let's go over to my brother's place." They left the backstreets and he led the way over to Roland's estate. They met the guards at the end and Chase told them his real name and relationship to be granted passage in. They went into the castle and found Roland in his quarters, writing on a sheet of paper. "Brother? Got a minute?" Chase asked.

The older brother looked up from his desk to see his visitors and smiled happily at who it was. "Charles, it's nice to see you again!" The younger man returned the smile, sharing the same sentiment. Then Roland noticed the girl and asked, "Who's this with you?"

Chase answered, "This is Juliet; she's my partner for a mission we're doing."

Roland assumed what it was, "Ah, I suppose it's related to this balance of the universe you're protecting?"

"It is," the younger brother confirmed. "Which is why we came to you to warn you about this organization upsetting it."

"And that organization is?"

"The Church of Light," Chase answered. "They're trying to till the hearts of all the worlds and all the people towards the light. But doing that will destroy everything in existence. Believe me, I saw a vision of it from the future. Whatever you do, you mustn't let them set foot in this world." Well technically, the Church has already been here, but they could probably return. "And especially, don't let them near any gravesites. That's where they're getting their monsters called Souldiers from to use in their operations."

Roland looked confused, "Light destroying the universe? Can it be true?"

"Unfortunately, yes," Chase answered. "I know how much you worship the light, brother. But both light and dark must exist together, so that one extreme doesn't end us all like hot or cold would."

The duke paused in thought for a moment before he responded, "Well, I suppose the darkness does have its purpose." Then he agreed to help, "Alright, I'll have my soldiers be on the watch for this Church of Light."

"Thanks, Roland," appreciated the younger brother. "Tell them to watch out for people in white clothes and those with blank eyes, masks and hoods."

"I will," the duke responded.

The team turned to leave, but then Chase remembered something and stopped. There was something bugging his mind and he wanted to get it out of his chest. He looked back at his brother and started, "By the way, Roland, do you know anything about a girl named LimeX?" Juliet also stopped when he spoke.

Roland shook his head, answered, "I can't say I have. That's my first time hearing that name."

Of course his brother would not know it, because Chase was using the wrong name. He corrected himself, "Sorry, I meant Lime, our sister. Apparently, I lost my memory of her and I've just gotten it back today. So do you still remember her?"

"I do," Roland simply answered.

"Well, do you ever miss her?" Ever since Chase lost his memories, there had been no mention of LimeX whenever he visited his brother. He wondered if Roland had forgotten about her; well, not in the same



way Chase had.

The duke answered, "Not really; she's been gone too long for me to care. Besides, she's a darkblader; that alone exempts her from being a part of the family."

Juliet narrowed her eyes bitterly at the noble. La Cite des Cloches seemed to be one of those worlds that persecuted her kind. Chase was saddened by his brother's disowning of their sister. He questioned, "You mean you don't care for her at all?"

Roland confirmed, "I don't. Why? Do you?"

Chase answered, "Of course I do, it's because-"

"She's family, you stupid moron!" interrupted Juliet, who angrily finishing that sentence for him while throwing an insult.

The brothers were taken aback by her sudden outburst. The offended Roland yelled, "Excuse me?!"

The girl mocked him, "What's the matter? You afraid that it's because she's a darkblader that she's gonna eat your babies? Oh no! Better go hide them quick and pray for the light to banish her away like every stuck-up lightscum does."

Roland rebuked, "Well if the darkbladers weren't so rotten, then they wouldn't be feared!"

Juliet yelled, "Oh sure! Judge us all for the few bad apples in the bunch, because that's what you lightbladers do! I guess the light isn't really all that loving after all." She crossed her arms in contempt.

Roland argued, "Well darkness is the element of evil, so-"

"Nope!" Juliet held a flat hand up as she gestured him to shut up. "I don't want to hear. If you really think we're all evil, then I'll just take my 'evil' butt out of this stinking place. Goodbye, lightscum!" With her chin lifted up, she stomped out of the room and harshly slammed the door behind her. Who does he think he is? Disowning his own flesh & blood over the wrong element. Does he have no care in his heart? Well, whatever. LimeX was better off without him. At least she has Chase, Ilem and her awesome apprentice.

The brothers were now alone in the room with each other. Roland asked Chase, "Was that a darkblader?"

"Yes," confirmed Chase. To temper his brother's bigotry, he assured, "But don't worry, she's a good person." Well, sometimes at least as far as he knew her. But he would rather not trouble Roland with

this fact. Conflict and argument would just waste time. "I trust her." That part was indeed true.

The older man frowned skeptically, "I don't know, Chase. Darkbladers do tend to be mean and shady, and this girl seems like it. You sure she's not being a wolf in sheep's clothing?"

"Positive," Chase responded surely. "I know a lot of darkbladers tend to be rough, but for everyone bad one, there's also a good one like my partner, Ilem. You know her, right?" He must have mentioned her before to Roland.

"I have," confirmed Roland.

"Oh good," Chase commented. "So, what I'm saying is that you should look at each darkblader individually before making assumptions about them. You might miss out on some interesting friends if you don't."

The look of skepticism was still on the older brother's face, but... "Well, I'm not fully convinced, but I suppose I could give your little advice a try. I just hope it doesn't bite me on the back."

The younger brother replied, "Maybe I could get you started with one of my friends." He should probably introduce him to LimeX the next time he comes. Roland has not seen her since their father banished their sister from the family after discovering she was a darkblader. Chase felt there ought to be a family reunion after all these years apart and catch up with what happened, excluding LimeX's crimes and bloody vigilantism of course. That would not paint a very good picture for Roland. "Anyway Roland, it was nice seeing you again, but I've got an important mission to do. I hope I'll see you again when things aren't hectic."

Roland smiled, "Would love to have you around. Come back whenever."

"Will do; have a good day!" Chase went out of the room and headed out the castle. He had not seen Juliet along the way. She must have gone outside. His assumption was right when he saw the girl waiting for him in the front yard. She was still angry about the incident with Roland. Together, they left the estate. Along the way, Chase said to the girl, "Juliet, I apologize for my brother's prejudices. He was raised to look down on darkbladers."

Juliet spat, "Whatever, I just don't want to see his stupid face again." She did not care to understand Roland. She did not want to forgive him. That man deserved every bit of contempt from her.

Chase thought about the outburst she had just now. Everything she said to his brother, seemed like she had experienced hate and prejudice from lightbladers before. That explained why she seems to hate lightbladers and her antagonism towards them. *'Juliet...'* The man felt sorry for her. Lightbladers really need to practice what they believed: love and kindness. They eventually got to the square where a

magic hologram of a moogles-owned item shop was. Chase went to it and purchased enough potions and ethers he can afford. He turned to his partner and told her, "Alright Juliet, let's go to the next world."

The girl came to his side with a sly smile, "Oh good timing! I just stole us some more stuff to use." She showed him a hi-potion and an ether held in her hands.

"What?!" Chase cried out with green eyes wide with appall.

Then an angry nobleman showed up nearby. He had a purple bruise on the side of his face, a wound caused by Juliet's keyblade. The nobleman yelled, "Hey you, how dare you mug me! Give me back my things!" He came running at them with his keyblade in hand.

Oh no, trouble! Chase hastily took out his purchased hi-potion and ether before he rushed towards the nobleman. He offered, "Here! Take mine instead!"

The nobleman's rage was pacified as he stopped, "Huh?" he hummed, surprised by this lucky generosity.

Chase forced the items onto the man for him to hold and take. Then the silverette went back to Juliet and summoned a portal. The pair left the city and entered a rocky terrain with a rushing river nearby. Now safely away from the victim's wrath, Chase took the time to chastise the girl, "Juliet, what you did was wrong. I told you not to steal!"

She brushed him off, saying, "Hey, I just saved you munny, didn't I? You're welcome! Besides, that pompous oaf looked rich. He could've bought replacements easy-peasy. You didn't have to give him some of ours."

The man argued, "Someone being rich is not a justification for robbing them." With a finger raised sternly like a parent disciplining a child, he continued, "I won't allow this as long as you're with me."

Juliet crossed her arms as she rebelled, "Hmph! I don't have to do anything you tell me!"

"Really?" Chase questioned, "Are you like this to LimeX as well?"

The girl confirmed shamelessly, "Yep!"

The man shook his head in disbelief, "I feel sorry for her; having an apprentice like you."

Juliet said, "Well LimeX doesn't seem to mind at all. Sometimes it helps to be a freethinker. We all can't be right all the time."

Chase argued, "A freethinker also must have morals as well. You'll be no better than a monster without them."

Juliet said, "Oh I do have some, light boy. I didn't rob a hobo to get Glacies that gown; I got it from a shop."

"So you stole it?"

"Yep!" the girl confirmed. "I even had it dirtied up."

Chase let out a loud groan as he held his head down into his hand, his forehead sitting between the thumb and index finger. He murmured, "I don't know what to do about this." He will have to figure out how to make it up to the robbed owner of the shop later. He looked back at the girl again and told her, "Look, just don't let me catch you doing something like this again, got it?"

Juliet rolled her eyes and groaned, "Whatever!" Then they went to explore the world for a light seed.

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Evening had come to the Illustris Theocracy and the homeless meal event was now. The refectory was filled with homeless people and poor beggars from many different worlds brought here by the Church of Light. The poor was very happy to have a decent meal in a long time. The dinner being served tonight was salmon steak topped with muesli and cranberries, oak leaf salad dressed in vinegar with walnuts & black grapes, and bread rolls. Glacies, now dressed in new clothes, sat at one of the long dining tables and ate her food. She wore a light blue chemise, a dark blue corset, a sapphire blue overskirt, white stockings and black slippers. She had seated herself near the younger orphans, having met some of them and getting to know a bit about them. Glacies always had a soft spot for children; they were cute, fun and something to cherish and protect. She felt like a big sister around them, or maybe a mother. She thought, *'I wonder if I'll have time to help out in the orphanage sometimes when I get into the Church.'*

From the corner of her eye, she saw Connor sitting down next to her with his plate of food. He asked, "So Gloria, are you enjoying your dinner?"

Glacies confirmed, "Yep! It tastes good! I've never had anything like this before." She had salmon and salad before, but not in the way the Church of Light made them.

Connor commented, "It must be the love our cooks put into the food. They always prepare their dishes skillfully and make sure they taste good and everything."

The girl smiled and commented, "That kind of sounds like what mom does." She just realized she nearly slipped into revealing her true history. Before the man can catch on, she immediately added, "At least

that's how I remember it. It's been a long time since I've had anything like this."

Connor said, "I'm glad you're enjoying this. Well, that's to be expected, of course. A lot of the people we bring like the dinners we serve. They're all saying they would love to come here again to eat."

Glacies said, "I bet if this was a restaurant, you guys would be making lots of money."

The man laughed softly, "Probably. But it's better to be generous than to be greedy. That's one of Nuru's teachings we go by and this night is one of the ways we do it."

Glacies made an impressed smile, "You really are nice people! Everybody else I've come across don't offer me a coin."

"How unfortunate," Connor frowned. "Some worlds are like that. If everyone just followed the light and helped each other, we would all be better off."

"Yeah," the girl agreed. It sure would be nice if everyone was kinder. No selfishness, no meanness, and no apathy.

Pretty soon, an older man's voice called, "May I have your attention?" Everyone stopped eating and chatting to look at the pope who just showed up. He was a chubby man who looked to be in his late 40s. He had a short brown moustache that was graying with age. His sideburns were still completely brown. Like the other Church of Light members, his clothes were white & gold. But his were inverted with gold being the dominate color. His chasuble and precious miter were gold with white rims and patterns, his tippet & sash were white with gold stars, the robe underneath was white, his shoes were gold, he wore a golden papal ring and the staff he carried was white topped with a Souldier emblem figure. He addressed everyone in the refectory, "Greetings, my fellow mortals! I am Pope Hollur. I hope you all enjoyed your meal on this fine night for it is the Church of Light's duty to be generous and help out people in need. Tonight, we shall be visited by the great goddess of light, Nuru, in her human incarnation known as Merelyn."

Immediately, a purple-haired woman with very narrow eyes and a calm smile on her face showed up out of a Corridor of Light. The pastel multicolored & gold religious outfit looked more grandiose than Hollur's, signifying the goddess's rank being higher than that of the pope's. She wore a baby blue chasuble that transitioned to light pink at the bottom, a light green & light purple sash, a light orange & yellow tippet, a white robe that was underneath the chasuble, light red slippers, a gold cape with a white der fanon that has multicolored stripes over it, and on her head was a gold tiara with jewels of different colors. Seeing Nuru, or rather Merelyn, like this made it seem like she was a goddess of rainbows rather than light.

Regarding the human name, Glacies thought, *'Merelyn? That must be just like how Etutu calls himself Xander.'* She guessed the great gods liked to conceal their identities.

Pope Hollur told the audience, "Now everyone, let us bow our heads and pray to Merelyn." Everyone in the room did as they were told and the pope faced the goddess and prayed, "Oh heavenly Nuru, we appreciate all that you have done for us and the universe. Please continued to spread your righteousness and deliver us from the darkness plaguing our hearts. My lady, we will continue to share your light, live out your teachings and praise your name. All hail Nuru!"

When the other Church of Light members and the recurring guests copied, "All Hail Nuru!" The rest repeated after them.

Hollur stepped back to let Merelyn take the audience's attention. She said, "Greetings, everyone! I am glad to have you all here tonight. As you know, I am the goddess Nuru, but do feel free to use my other name, Merelyn. Tonight, I will give you a speech about the light and all the good it brings." She began to list the things her element did in nature, "As some of you may have heard, the light is considered to be the element of goodness and that is true. Throughout history, the light has helped you find your ways, uncover the lies and deceit, provide warmth to the cold and energy to the weary, and also bring us some peace and cheer." Then she spoke about the internal benefits, "The light inside your hearts has brought courage, kindness, faith, chasity, honesty and all the other qualities of goodness you know. Many mortals have survived through the centuries thanks to the light I've provided for you. I do this because I care for each and every one of you. I want to help bring wonders and sustain you like every god does. To demonstrate, I shall heal all the dark thoughts plaguing your mind and inspire a better outlook on your lives." Then a wave of soothing light emanated from the goddess spread throughout the whole room. All the people rejoiced as whatever traces of gloom, anger, fear, malice and lust they had in their hearts were replaced by joy, confidence, love and goodwill.

Glacies felt how warm and comfortable this light was as she forgot the worry of being examined by Nuru during the attempted infiltration. She commented, "This feels wonderful!" It was like the pure bliss from hearing an angel sing a song while being snuggled under a warm blanket.

Connor smiled, "That's the goddess's power for you. She can banish the darkness and rid people's hearts of all evil."

The girl replied, "That sounds nice!"

"It sure is," agreed Connor.

Merelyn resumed her speech, "This is what my light does, it brings you a better tomorrow as long as you keep it in your heart. Now I understand there are times when you are feeling down; times when bad things happen in your life, whether to you or to someone else; and times when it feels like the bad people will win. But know that bad times do not last forever and I make sure of it, just as my followers

have provided you all warm meals to fill your bellies, so that you will live another day." Then she looked to the orphans and continued, "And give a family and shelter to those without them." Looking back to the audience, she finished, "Just remember, as long as you believe in my light and hold it deep within your hearts, I will create miracles. I may be a goddess greater than most other gods, but I have not come here to convert you away from your religion nor to have you fully worship me. All I ask for you is to follow the ways of the light and keep being a good person to all you meet. That is all; thank you all for your time and ears."

"All hail Nuru!" the people in the room praised.

Hollur bowed to her, "Thank you for your words, your holiness." Everyone went back to eating and chatting.

-----

Ilem and Kumo were now in their second world. It was a dark forest with blue-leaved trees with dark gray bark and big glowing mushrooms. Earlier, they had been in another world, where they had warned its king and checked for any light seeds and purified people there, both of which they found no traces of. The pair continued their trek through the forest until they came across a home carved within a giant tree with a door and windows on the trunk and a small case of stairs leading to the door. The home was standing right beside a lake with fireflies hovering and glowing over it. The pair went to the home and Ilem knocked on the 4-foot tall door. They heard some grumpy grumbling coming from within.

The door swung open and a goblin, tall as a human midget, was there to meet them. With a voice sounding gruff, he demanded, "Whatchu humans doin' on me property?!"

Kumo corrected him, "I'm not a human; I'm a cat boy."

"Just trespassing," Ilem answered sarcastically in response to the goblin's tone. "Any rulers in this world we can talk to?"

The goblin answered, "Me knows a ruler." He turned around, bent over and pointed down on his behind as he continued sneeringly, "Me poop in me ass!"

Ilem delivered a hard kick to his rump and the goblin fell over. The woman yelled, "Listen, you green moron!" I'm asking you a very important question. Where. Is. Your. Ruler?" The last part was emphasized like a demand.

The goblin rubbed his hurting butt as he got up. He turned to answer, "There ain't no rulers. Just me lives here."

Ilem frowned, if there are not that many defenders here, then this world was in trouble. Eyebrows still slanted in dislike for the goblin, she told him, "Fine, just keep an eye out for any lightbladers messing around in this world and don't let them plant any seeds or change people."

The goblin huffed and said, "If they gets on me property, me whacks 'em!" He gestured with his arm swinging a non-existent keyblade before he closed the door. His voice was heard demanding, "Now yous gets out of here before me comes out and whacks ya!"

"Fine by me," Ilem responded, not wanting anything to do with this rude loner. "Nobody wants to see your ugly face anyway!" Then she and Kumo walked away from the premise. The woman said to the catboy sarcastically, "He's sure a thrill to hang around with at parties, huh Kumo."

He disagreed, "Nope, he's a mean poopyhead!"

Ilem laughed at his comment and agreed, "You're totally right about that! I wouldn't want him around either. He'll be a partypooper; nobody send him an invitation, got it?"

"Okay," vowed Kumo. They kept on going through the woods for a while until the boy picked up a familiar scent. He said, "I smell somebody."

"Up ahead?" asked Ilem.

The boy said, "They smell like light."

"The element or the girl?" Ilem asked, getting the double-meaning clear on whether it was Light or not. Earlier in their first world together, she had learned that the kid can smell light. A strange disorder in the laws of science, but it would be useful.

"I think both," Kumo answered.

The woman told him, "Alright, let's go see." They went on ahead through the shadows of the forest until they saw an outline of Light far up in the distance. The mushrooms' glow reflected off her white hooded cloak as she ventured deep into the woods.

Kumo recognized the figure, exclaiming, "Hey, it's Light!"

"Light, huh?" So that was the girl the others mentioned. Ilem told the boy, "Alright kid, you stay here while I go and get her."

But Kumo wanted to help, "But I want to come, too!" Why was nobody giving him a chance?



"No!" Ilem firmly refused. "You're going to stay here like a good little boy."

"Why?!"

She answered, "Because I said so! Don't follow!" Then the woman ran off while ignoring more of her partner's insitencies.

Up ahead, Light had found a good spot to send her goddess's light into this world's heart. She summoned her gray keyblade and raised it over the ground beneath her to thrust down into the soil. But she was stopped when a magical force floated her up into mid-air and she rotated in suspension.

'What?' she wondered what or who did this to her?

Ilem showed up and taunted, "Tsk, ts, ts! You shouldn't mess around with worlds, little girl. They just might blow up on you with you on it." It was a good thing the dark-haired woman got here just in time before this idiot could plant her light seed here.

'An enemy,' Light thought as her eyes locked with the opponent's.

Ilem informed her, "You must think you're doing a good thing here, but sadly, you're ignorant and wrong. What you're doing is going to get us all killed eventually. Since I'm a fair person, I'll give you two choices. One, you can quit this purify the universe schtick and get out of here; or two, you can say hello to my keyblade and kiss it. What's it going to be?" Hopefully, this turquoisette was not a stubborn moron and do the right thing. Light did not concern herself with whether the woman before her was lying or if the Realm in Between would be harmed. She lived only to serve Nuru and whatever happens due to her actions was the will of the light. Whether the purifications preserved life or caused death, Nuru's will was always good and justified. The turquoisette was not about to be swayed by this other woman's words and turn against the goddess. Light answered with a raise keyblade and a pillar of light coming down on the darkblader. Ilem was very quick to dodge that and she said, "I guess it's number two. Oh well, your funeral. Say your prayers to Nuru!" She enhanced herself with a Strength Bonus spell before she cast an Aero spell. Light blocked the ball of wind before the Zero Gravity faded, landing her back on the ground. The lightblader rushed at the darkblader to strike and her keyblade was met with Kingdom Key D guarding its owner against the attack. The two women's keyblades clashed against each other's as both were aiming to hit the other. Light could feel the powerful force of each of her enemy's enchanted strength against her with each impact. It was kind of overwhelming like fighting a male, a sex that was typically stronger. She was going to have to use a different tactic to defeat the darkblader. Light waited for her enemy to strike and then moved out of the way of the attack. Then she struck Ilem across the face, making her stagger back as she cried out and groaned in pain.

The lightblader summoned two Musclemen Souldiers into the fight and ordered, "Defeat her." The Musclemen rushed at her and threw punches, both of which Ilem dodged.

The darkblader cast one of her spells at them, "Graviga!" A dark semi-orb covered the Musclemen and flattened them down to the ground like pancakes as they yelled in agony. As the Souldiers were reverting back to their normal forms, Ilem smacked down on one of them with a Blizzard Slam, leaving a patch of hard ice where she struck. Light tried to get a hit on the darkblader, but Ilem was quick to dodge and block the second strike. Then the other Musclemen grabbed the dark-haired woman's arm into its oversized hand, catching her by surprise. Then it swung her around like a rag doll, hitting her against the trunks of the trees and the ground. Each impact hurt the darkblader and knocked the wind out of her. The Musclemen finished its assault with one final slam on the ground. Ilem laid there, winded and too hurt to move. The Musclemen held down her arms, so that she would not use her keyblade to attack and resist purification. Ilem saw Light walking over to her. Oh great, she was going to get purified and she was too injured to do anything about it. If only, that musclehead thing did not have its gorilla hands on her, then she could reach for the potion to heal herself with.

"Bind!" Then a white energy wave came at the lightblader and her Souldiers out of the blue, trapping them in their places. Light's turquoise eyes widened in surprise. Then a blast of wind blew at the holding Musclemen's face. It groaned and held its hurting face.

Ilem took the opportunity to pull out a potion and drink it to recover her stamina and relieve the pain. Now feeling better, she rolled away from the Musclemen that attacked her and destroyed it with Dark. Then she looked to her savior and appreciated, "Thanks, Kumo!"

The catboy grinned, "See? I can help!" Light threw a Strike Raid at Ilem, who dodged it as she went to the other Musclemen and smacked it to obliteration. Then she turned to the Church member and went to attack her. Light defended herself as she blocked each of the darkblader's attacks. But with each clash, her arms became more weary and hurt from the shockwave coursing through her arms from going up against a strengthened foe. She could not move from her spot to make long evasions, but she could still turn around and move her body. Light turned her body to the side to make herself a slimmer target to avoid Ilem's thrust. After the successful dodge, she landed a counterattack on the darkblader and knocked a breath out of her. Then the turquoisette swung up, hitting Ilem from chest to the bottom of her chin.

The darkblader staggered back with a pained groan and rubbed her hurting chin. That bitch could have broken her teeth. She will hurt her back for that. Ilem charged at Light as she yelled a war cry. The hooded woman waited for her foe to attack, so that she would evade and counter again. "Ah!" Light cried out as she felt a strike on her back, right on the spine. Ilem attacked the unguarded woman with a Blitz, landing three harsh strikes on her. Light collapsed to the ground, beaten and badly hurting.

Kumo, the one who had attacked their enemy from behind, gloated at the fallen foe, "Take that, lady!"

Ilem looked down at Light and thought about doing her own brand of this "purification" that the turquoisette had attempted on her. Albeit by doing the opposite of what the Church does. By extracting Nuru's light out of their enemy now, they would have one less foe from the Church of Light to deal with.

But before Ilem could get Kumo to do the job, they saw a white aura glowing from the woman's body. Having recognized the oncoming magic, the darkblader shouted, "Get away from her, Kumo! She's gonna blow!" She quickly grabbed the startled boy's wrist and they ran hard away from Light. A Salvation spell was unleashed, an explosion of light spread out from the turquoise. The team was safely away before they could get caught in the harmful radiation. Light got up, now healed and fine again. She looked at her foes in their eyes, staring at them blankly. Ilem stared back at her challengingly and dared, "Ready for Round 2? Bring it! We can do this all day." But Light decided not to engage them for she had something more important to do at this moment; instead, she summoned a Corridor of Light and calmly walked through it, leaving the world she was in. "Okay, fine! Just wuss out of here like a little girl." Then the darkblader turned to Kumo and praised, "I know I should be mad at you for getting into the fight, but thanks for the help. You did a good job!"

The boy smiled proudly, "Yes, I did!"

Then Ilem told him, "Now don't go trying this again, got it? Wouldn't want Master Chase to be mad, would you?"

Kumo made a disgruntled frown, "Ah, phooey!" Then the woman summoned a portal to take them to the next world.

-----

Bodies of anthro men laid unconscious and strewn in the backstreets of a Victorian age town. They were all beaten, zapped and with burn marks on them. A fight had happened that felled all of them and it was this fight that was about to end. A crocodile was blasted down, having been burned by a white light falling down on him. Then a fox was the next to fall as he had been whacked in the face by a keyblade. Thage, the offender of all these men, looked at each and every one of her targets, making sure that not one of them had the strength to resume a fight. These anthros here were all a gang that terrorized the streets, kidnap hostages for ransoms and commit robberies. Such foul-hearted men were not allowed to roam the city like that. Thage went to remedy that by going to each of them and purifying their hearts. Once they had all been cleansed of the darkness, a Corridor of Light appeared and out came Light, who was here to tell her, "Come... it's time to meet with our master and her followers... We must hear their reports... and take you into our ranks..."

The blonde-haired woman replied, "Very well... take me to them..." They went into the Corridor of Light to the Illustris Theocracy.

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Sometime later after dinner over, Connor was escorting Glacies back to her room. They chatted along the way, getting to know each other and learning about the Church of Light as they enjoyed the

conversation they were having. After reaching the bedroom, the man said, "Goodnight, Gloria. I hope you sleep well."

Glacies smiled, "I will. You too, Connor." The door was closed and she went over to her bed. She pulled out the speak mirror from under the pillow and looked at it for a little while. After she was sure that the priest was out of earshot, she activated the mirror to contact Chase.

Once his face showed up on the screen, the man asked, "Glacies, how did the infiltration go? Has the Church taken you into their ranks?"

The girl answered, "I'm in the Church alright, but I haven't really joined them yet. They're just keeping me in the orphanage for now. I did get an offer to join them though."

Chase told, "I see; sounds like a first step. Okay, try to gain the Church's trust, so that you'll be let in."

Glacies smiled, "Oh I'm already working on that. One of them's already taken a liking to me. His name is Connor; I think he'll make a good friend."

Chase commented, "That's good! Connor can be a gateway to some of the Church's secrets and plans. Keeping your enemies close certainly gives that benefit." Then he advised, "But try not to get too close to him, Glacies. You must remember that he's our enemy. That means we'll be fighting him eventually."

"Yes, I know that." Although Connor was a nice person and she liked him, Glacies accepted the fact that she would have to betray him and his trust eventually.

"Glad you do. Take care now." Then his face disappeared off the mirror. Glacies put the speak mirror back under the pillow and went to under the covers to sleep. Tomorrow, she was going to see if she can become a nun.

-----

Connor made his way to the backroom that was behind the cathedral. Nowadays, the Church of Light held daily meetings there what with Nuru tasking them to purify the hearts of the worlds and people with her light in order to make the universe all light and end the tyranny of darkness once and for all. The man went into the backroom and saw that Merelyn and the clergy were there. The goddess in human form asked, "Is everyone here?"

Pope Hollur answered, "Not entirely, my lady. Light has yet to show up and Tertia..." He paused as if get everyone prepared for the tragic mood he would bring up. Then he continued, "Tertia has been slain." The clergy all held their heads down silently in prayer for the old nun, who they found dying as she returned to this world through her Corridor of Light.

Merelyn had also been saddened by the loss of her follower. "It is unfortunate that this tragedy happened to our dear Tertia. But though her body may be gone, her spirit will always be alive." Then she summoned the nun's spirit in a form of a flash that soon became a Valkyrie Souldier.

The Church of Light was happy to see their friend again. Hollur asked the Souldier, "Tertia, I've received word of your death. What happened to you?"

Tertia told him, "I was gathering the spirits of the dead to turn into Souldiers, when two girls came and killed me." Connor was upset; how could anyone kill an old woman in cold blood? Even if this one can fight. People ought to respect their elders more.

One of the bishops said, "I also ran into trouble today, too. I got into a fight with the god, Anubis, and three other people who opposed Nuru's will."

Lumine said, "I was stopped... by interlopers as well..."

The green-haired cardinal added to the girl's story, "I saved her right in time before we escaped."

After hearing of their troubles, Merelyn said, "Just as I expected, there will be people who will try to put a stop to our plans. They are too lost in the dark to see the good of our ways." Then she asked, "You must all be on the lookout for such people at all times. You may become Souldiers upon death; but it is better to stay alive, so that you can gather more to her purify the universe." Then she went on to the next topic, "Now then, tell me about the progresses of our mission?"

Hollur was the first to report, "Our clergy has obtained one thousand, seven hundred and eighty-one Souldiers, your holiness."

Then Lumine reported, "We have purified... Radiant Garden, the City of Bells, Dwarf Woodlands..." She mentioned more worlds she and the other light-possessed teens planted the light seeds at.

Merelyn praised them, "Excellent work, everyone! We still have a long way to go, but we will have this Realm In-Between purified before we do the same to the Realm of Darkness." Then a Corridor of Light appeared in the backroom and from it came Light and Thage. The purplette sensed her light in the latter's heart and said to the turquoisette, "I see you have found another Servant for me, Light."

"Yes, master..." Light confirmed. "Her name... is Thage... She will be serving you..."

Thage looked to Merelyn and said, "You must be our master... I shall do everything you ask me to do..." She bowed to the goddess of light.

"I see you're devoted," Merelyn commented. "Very well then, I shall give you a new name to reflect on your role as my Servant. From this day forward, your new name will be Divinity." Then she told the

clergy, "Everyone, please welcome our newest member of the Church of Light."

The clergy smiled at Divinity as they greeted, "Nice to have you with us." "I hope we'll work well together." "I hope we'll be friends!"

Merelyn said, "This concludes our meeting. Get some rest, everyone. Tomorrow, we must work just as hard."

All the members of the clergy left the backroom, but one bishop stayed to let the purplette know, "Your radiance, I know you want us all to rest. But I have one unfinished business left in Waset to do. I shall make it quick."

Merelyn said, "Very well then, I will leave you to your device." She trusted him to be back in time for slumber.

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Meanwhile at the Land of Departure, the whole group was back together with Chase and Juliet having returned first before the others. The silver-haired man said, "That sure was a long day, but at least we kept some of the worlds safe. So, how did it go for you guys?"

Most of the comments he got were them saying that everything was fine or good for them. Ilem said, "We found Light, but she got away before we could un-purify her."

Chase was disappointed that his lover could not catch Light. He replied, "That's too bad; better luck yet next." Hopefully, they can get that woman's heart freed from the light, so that they can find out what the deal is with her getting possessed.

Then Zephyr asked, "So Chase, is Glacies a part of the Church of Light now?"

The man answered, "Not yet, but she is in the monastery at the moment. She should be in their ranks soon. I hope she can join tomorrow. Anyway, does anybody have any questions or concerns before I send you guys home?"

"Nope," Nemo replied.

"Not me," Sakura answered.

Zephyr said, "I got nothing." Everyone else gave the same kind of answers, while some like Valer and Hitomi were silent.

Chase said, "Alright then, everyone get some rest. We got more work to do tomorrow." He summoned two portals, one for Radiant Garden and the other for Halloween Town. Juliet can just use hers to go to wherever her home was. As everyone, except Chase, Kumo and Ilem, were going to their respective worlds, the man saw his sister summoning her portal. He stopped her, "LimeX, wait!" The girl stopped and looked back at her brother. He continued, "I need to see you alone outside for a moment."

"Fine," LimeX replied. Then they went out the double doors as the portal disappeared and they set out to the courtyard, where the stars shined brightly overhead in the black sky. They stopped in the center of the courtyard and she asked, "So, what is it?"

Chase answered, "I want to know something. LimeX, do you still have any romantic feelings for me?"

The sister felt disgusted at the question, but kept a straight face about it. "No, why? Do you?" She hoped this was not going lead to him giving an incestuous answer. They were blood-related, there should be no romance between them.

Thankfully, the brother's answer was, "I don't either. I just want to make sure that there's nothing between us now that we know we're siblings."

LimeX replied, "Well there's your answer. We're family; nothing more than that."

Chase said, "I know; but let me double-check just to make sure there's not a tiny bit of lingering feelings in either of us. Stay right there." He began to stare into her eyes, searching for any slight hints of sexual attractions from both himself and her. LimeX looked back at him, feeling this situation was awkward. Their green eyes stayed aligned with each for a while as nothing happened between them. Nothing; Chase found absolutely nothing between them. This was a good thing and how it should be. He silently deduced that the reason they both had crushes on each other was because LimeX looked like Ilem and that she had the latter's feelings and personality as a result of Ilem's heart being inside her. Chase said, "Okay, looks like we're clear."

LimeX grumbled with eyebrows furrowed, "Well that was a waste of time. If you're done for good, I'm going to head out." Then she re-summoned her portal and left.

Chase went back inside the castle, where Ilem asked him, "So Chase boy, what were you and LimeX doing?"

The man answered, being light on the subject, "Nothing; just having a short talk."

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At the Duat in Waset, Safiya was about to undergo her trials through the underworld. It looks like the living world, but the place here was all dark with a gloomy hue to it. Anubis was there beside to inform

her of what she would go through in the Duat. The teen girl was thankful to the god for freeing her from her body. She had been feeling pretty lonely in there for a long time. Anubis explained to her, "Here in the Duat is where you will face many challenges that you will have to take in order to reach the end. You will have to survive demons, recite their names correctly, and go through obstacles. Once you have gone through all the gates, I shall meet with you to conduct the Weighing of the Heart. You will be judged by how much your heart weighs against Maat's feather. It will determine whether you will go to Aaru and live in eternal paradise, or be eaten by Ammit the devourer of the dead. These are the trials you will go through."

Safiya understood all that and said, "Okay, I'll do my best."

"Good." Anubis said, "Alright then, begin!"

Suddenly, they found themselves surrounded by Souldiers. The girl looked at all these white faceless creatures and asked, "Anubis, is this part of the trial?"

The god answered, "No, these are invaders!" He got into battle stance as he watched the Souldiers for whatever move they made. He thought back to the bishop he encountered today and thought, *'That man must have returned to take more souls.'* Safiya summoned her keyblade to defend herself. Anubis swung his scepter at a Shine and smacked away a Purity. Three Shines approached the girl, who held her keyblade stiffly, nervous as to how dangerous these beings would be. When one came really close, Safiya smacked it on the head. Then a light circle appeared above her and pulled her up to it as she screamed in the air. Anubis looked up to her in alarm and reached his arm out for her as he cried, "Safiya!" Then a Topaz Star Souldier tackled him with its electrified body that shocked him. The god let out an agonized scream as the shocks coursed through his body with more Topaz Stars getting onto him to zap him down. Safiya went into the light circle where she was then transformed into a Souldier. With the job done, the Topaz Stars got off of the downed and hurting Anubis and all the Souldiers disappeared in a flash. The god laid there hissing in pain and too numb to move. If a mortal had been in his place, they would be dead.

Another god appeared; his skin was green from decay, but he was no zombie, he had a long black goatee, his body was covered from neck to toe in mummy wrappings, his sash belt was red, he wore golden bracelets, his atef crown was white & blue and his usekh collar was blue, red & gold. The god known as Osiris asked his son, "Nuru's behind this, isn't she?"

Anubis looked up to his father and confirmed, "Yes, one of her men attacked me today when I trying to bring a mortal here. Tell me father, did this man go into the Aaru to take spirits to turn into Souldiers?" He figured this was the case since the bishop dragged a pharaoh out to fight for Nuru.

Osiris answered with a frown, "He did; I tried to stop him, but he turned some of the pharaohs into Souldiers and defeated me with them."



The jackal god felt grim about this, if the Church of Light can defeat a god that easy, then the Realm In Between will be in trouble. This cannot happen. He suggested, "We must warn our fellow gods about Nuru and her followers; all of them from all the worlds."

The god of rebirth agreed, "Yes, we should. We must all be vigilant against the great goddess of light and her forces. I will fetch my wife to heal you. Then we bring up this issue to Amun, so he can gather the rest of our pantheon to help."

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Baki sat by the window in his home, looking up at the glowing white face of the full moon as he thought of his daughter. As if the moon was the Realm of Death itself, the man said to it like his voice could reach out, "Safiya, I hope you and your mother are living happily together in the wonderful fields of Aaru."

Then he heard a voice behind him saying, "So you've lost your daughter, haven't you?"

The man turned his head around to find the bishop standing here in this room. He looked down to the floor in sadness and confirmed, "I did."

The bishop consoled, "I'm sorry for your loss. But though the body does eventually die, the spirit will always live on forever." With that, he summoned Safiya in the form of a Shine to present to her father.

Safiya's voice came out exactly as she sounded as a human, "Hello father."

Baki recognized that voice and looked at the Souldier with eyes wide in surprise, asking her, "Safiya, is that you?"

Safiya confirmed, "It is I, father. I missed you so much!"

A smile formed on the father's face as his eyes begin to moist with tears of happiness about to be released. "I missed you, too." Then the family hugged each other, savoring this happy reunion as the man sobbed and cried. After a little, Baki looked at his daughter, his eyes taking in her new appearance and began, "Safiya."

"Yes?"

The father asked, "Why do you look like that?"

"Well..." the Souldier was unsure of how to explain that as she was just as confused about her transformation as he was.

The bishop explained to Baki, "I turned her into a Souldier, so that she may become a part of Nuru's army. The great goddess needs as many numbers in her forces to carry out a great purpose for the universe."

Baki asked, "And what is this great purpose?"

The bishop answered, "To reshape the universe into one without evil, cruelty and selfishness. Nuru wants there to be an eternal peace for all."

Safiya told her father, "I'll be going on a long journey with him to make this happen. Waset will become a much nicer place after this."

Baki was amazed that his daughter was going to be a hero who will bring goodness to all, but... He asked her, "Safiya, I'm so happy to see you again, but must you go away so soon?"

The bishop assured him, "Fear not, I shall meet with you every day to let you spend some time with your daughter. But for now, I must return home. Don't worry, we will be back tomorrow and I will let Safiya see you."

Baki replied, "I understand; please take good care of my daughter. I can't bear to lose her again."

The bishop smiled, promising, "I will look after her well." Then he dismissed Safiya and left Waset through a Corridor of Light.