

Glacies woke up to the light of a brand new morning. Infiltrating the Church's monastery yesterday has been a success. But being an orphan to be taken care of was not enough; Chase needed her to become a member of the Church of Light. To do that, she needed to make herself trustworthy in the Church's eyes. Acting natural and being friendly was start, but the sooner she was in, the better. The question was how to get in the ranks fast. Hilda's voice rang out throughout the orphanage, "Children, breakfast is ready!" Looks like Glacies was going to have to plot out and think over her plans at breakfast. Some good food ought to give her the brain power for some good tactics. The girl got out of her bed and changed out of her nightgown before she left for the kitchen. As she made her way there, children were leaving their bedrooms to go to breakfast as another woman, whose name Glacies learned was Rebecca, ushered the ones who wanted to sleep some more to join them.

Everyone got to the table and took their seats. The children watched the nuns as Nora filled the plates with food and Rebecca took those plates over to them. The breakfast being served was scrambled eggs, ham and a slice of toast. After Glacies got her plate, she was about to start eating when a little boy next to her tugged on the torso part of her chemise to grab her attention. He told her, "You're not supposed to eat until we pray." It looks like they were doing this the Christian way, except that prayer would go to Nuru instead of God. The teen put down her fork and waited for all the kids to get their plates before the prayer starts.

Once everyone was served, the two nuns went over to the table and Rebecca told them, "Now children, let us bow our heads in prayer for the goddess." Everyone closed their heads and held their heads down. Rebecca prayed, "Sweet, loving Nuru, we are thankful for the goodness and joy you bring to our daily lives. Your light does wonders for this world and all others. We ask that you continue to bring goodness as we continue to serve and worship you. All hail Nuru."

"All hail Nuru," Nora and the children murmured. Then the children begin to eat their food one part at a time, starting with whatever they felt like eating first. Glacies, however, decided to be creative with how she ate hers. She placed the ham on top of the toast and then put some scrambled eggs above it. The teen brought decorated toast to her mouth and took a bite out of it. The combination of all the foods being chewed was a bit flavorful. Eating it like this might be a faster way to finish breakfast. Soon, everyone had cleaned their plates. The nuns took the plates over to the bathroom to wash at the indoor river.

As the nuns were leaving, Connor came in and exchanged greetings with the women as he past them. He greeted the kids as well as he made his way over to Glacies. He took a seat next to her and asked, "Good morning, Gloria! How are you liking it here so far?"

The girl answered, "The people here are very nice and the bed here feels good. It's the best night I've ever had since I became homeless." The comments about the clergy and the bed were true. The bed she slept in was comfortably softer than the one she had at home. She could sleep on it the whole morning if she did not have a job to do.

The man smiled at her, "I'm glad to hear that. It's a good thing you were brought here to this world."

Glacies replied, "Yes, it is. I'm glad about it, too. I think my life just might turn around."

Connor assured, "It will; we always work to improve people's lives and we've had many successes in them."

The girl smiled, genuinely impressed and in admiration, "You guys sound like real heroes. It makes me want to help out as well."

"Really?" said Connor. "It would be nice to have you around."

That's it! The perfect opportunity to get into the Church of Light. And Glacies had done subconsciously with her last sentence. She took advantage of the moment she created by asking, "If that's so, would you like to have me as the new member of the Church? I want to help everyone who were just as down on their luck as I was. Think of it as my way of repaying you for helping me."

The man was happy with her offer. He answered, "Well Gloria, if you're truly interested in becoming a part of this church, then follow me to the audience center. Merelyn and Pope Hollur should be there right now."

"Okay," the girl replied and then they got out off the chairs and left the orphanage. Connor seemed keen on having Glacies around as a Church of Light member. She hoped the others, especially Merelyn and Hollur, would be welcoming, too. After making their way to the audience chamber with Connor having led the way, they went up to Merelyn and Hollur who were in a middle of a discussion.

The priest said to them, "Pardon me, your holiness, but we have someone here who like to become a part of this church." Glacies looked at the goddess and the pope, wondering what they thought of her. Connor continued, "Hey name is Gloria. I found her yesterday as a homeless girl and brought her to the orphanage to be taken care of. She got inspired by our altruism and wants to help others like herself as well. If it pleases you, would you accept Gloria as a new member of the Church of Light?"

The girl did her best to keep herself composed and keep her orphan persona in mind. Before the Church could respond, she said, "I appreciate what you do for the worlds, Nuru. Your light has brought hope and welfare to all those it touches, even me. I was wandering alone in darkness for years until I found this church. Now I wish to share that light with others." She bowed her head momentarily in sincerity.

Hollur observed her as he told, "Your cause sounds noble, dear Gloria. But in order to become our newest member, the goddess here needs to check your heart first to make sure there is no darkness too strong within it." Here it comes, the hardest part of the recruitment. Glacies hoped to past this test or else she will have to come back to Chase empty-handed.

Merelyn said to her, "Stand still, my child. This will only take a second." Glacies cleared all thoughts of her past life, not thinking of her friends, her family, the Land of Departure, and the mission. The woman placed her hand on the girl's chest. The hand began to shine light as the woman's eyes glowed white so bright that Glacies had to close her own to prevent blindness. After Merelyn was done measuring the

amount of light and darkness, her eyes and hand dimmed back to normal and she removed her palm from the girl. Glacies watched the woman intently, waiting to hear what the result would be. The woman smiled at her and commented, "Gloria, your heart has a strong light within you. Because of that, I now welcome you as a new nun of the Church of Light." Glacies felt relieved at the news; this came out exactly as she hoped for. The thing about the strong light in her heart surprised her though. She always considered herself a good person and always stick to being good; she never thought her heart would be this bright. Looks like she was a very good person compared what she thought of herself.

Connor grinned at the girl, exclaiming, "Congratulations, Gloria! You're one of us now!"

Glacies beamed, "Thanks! I'm happy about this, too. I can't wait to see what I'll be doing."

Hollur said, "I appreciate your enthusiasm, young lady. But first, you are to learn the ways of light." Then he told the priest, "Connor, get Gloria her new uniform and then teach the code and values of this church. I am putting you in charge of mentoring this one."

The priest placed a hand on his heart and obliged, "It would be an honor, sir." Then he looked to Glacies and told, "Follow me, I'll take you to the clothing room." The girl followed him out the audience chamber and they made their way through the monastery over to where the fresh uniforms were. Once there, Connor opened the closet where the religious habits for nuns were and said, "Here they are, Gloria. Pick out the right size and then try it on over there." He pointed to the beige folding screen at the corner of the room.

"Okay," the girl replied. She took one of the second smallest outfits out of the closet. Then she went behind the folding screen to try out the religious habit. She put on the white tunic first before she looked down to see the bottom hem nearly touching the floor as it reached just above the ankles. Then she put on the gold neckerchief. After that, she put a gold coif on her head and a white veil pinned over it to drape down from behind. Finally, she put on a pair of white shoes. Everything felt good; nothing too tight or too loose on her. The uniform was a perfect fit. Glacies came out from the folding screen and asked, "How do I look?"

Connor smiled, answering, "Perfect! You fit in! Now then, it's off to the classroom. This will be the perfect place to start learning our ways." He led her on the way to the classroom and the room there had a few long rectangular tables with chairs only on one side of each all facing where a teacher would lecture. There were also a couple of bookshelves, both set against the wall behind the teacher's podium with one being on the left side and one being on the right side. The man went to the left bookshelf and pulled out a tome from it. He showed it to the girl as he said, "This book is the Holy Guidance. It has all of Nuru's teachings and wisdom in it. Tell me, Gloria. Do you know anything about the great gods of the universe?"

Glacies answered with the knowledge she knew, "Well I know there's Etutu the god of darkness and Nuru the goddess of light. Those are the only ones I heard about."

Connor spoke understandingly, "Heh, not many people seem to remember all of the great gods. I can't really fault them when they have their local gods to pray to. But that's topic for another day. Right now, we should get started with the basic lessons." He took a seat at one of the tables and the girl sat next to him. Then he opened up the book to the first chapter of the Holy Guidance. The man began, "As you probably might now, the universe is comprised of light and darkness with life thrown into the mix by the creator of souls, the goddess Shi. The light is the element of virtue, which provides all the goodness in the universe. The darkness is the element of evil, which is responsible for all the wicked things that happen in life. Etutu is Nuru's evil brother and enemy; he's the one who wishes to bring suffering to all the worlds."

Glacies, faking ignorance, commented, "He sounds like a bad guy." This described Etutu perfectly considering everything he has done in the Keyblade War.

Connor replied, "He is. Which is why every mortal must suppress the darkness in their hearts, so that they don't stray from the light and good."

The girl asked, "What about darkbladers? The ones that aren't evil." She thought about Hitomi, Nemo and Juliet, the ones she knew who were not bad. Hitomi was just a quiet kid, Nemo was a knight protecting Radiant Garden, and Juliet fought to stop LimeX from turning people into heartless. LimeX probably was not too bad, but she was not good either. So if darkness was indeed evil, then why were these three, or rather four, different?

The man explained, "They're only good because they have some degree of light in their hearts. But the abundance of darkness can make them more susceptible to the influence of anger, hate, fear and other sinful feelings which could lead them to doing bad things." Glacies begin to think about the flaws of her darkblader allies. She knew Nemo's short temper that had gotten him into trouble at times during their childhood days. She wondered if he was the same way nowadays; his demeanor did not seem to have changed. LimeX had hurt people for the sake of Ilem and Juliet did not seem fond of lightbladers for some reason. Hitomi was another story however. The teen wondered if the child would make bad decisions that would hurt people one day. After a brief moment of silence, Connor said, "You'll see plenty of examples of what I'm talking about as we go through the Guidance." He went through the first chapter with Glacies listening and reading, learning more about the origins of the universe and how it came to be from the beginning to when the great gods imbued the mortals' hearts with light and darkness. She even learned of the other great gods such as La'atsu, the god of sleep, death and limbo who rules the Realms of Sleep and Death and is husband of Shi. His brothers were the all-loving pacifist Yahweh, who rules Heaven which is a part of the Realm of Death, and the evil-hating Satan, who tortures the bad souls and rules Hell which is also a part of the Realm of Death. Limbo, another section of the Realm of Death, was left to La'atsu. Neutral is the god of null and creator of hearts as well as the brother of Nuru and Etutu. The three were all children of La'atsu and Shi.

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The world was full of prairies and many hills with the mountains settling far off on the horizon. Chase and Juliet traversed through the vast, open world as they walked on flat lands, and went up & down

slopes. But this seemingly peaceful, green land was not without its dangers. Sometimes the team would encounter monstrous creatures that came to hunt and attack their human prey. The pair would fight back to save themselves and it always ended with either the monster dead and running away to save its skin. Any injuries or wounds they sustained would only be healed by potions since they both lacked healing magic to use. After a while, a giant reptilian bird creature with wings like a pterodactyl's, a head bald like a vulture's, a tail like a devil's, and scaly hooked talons, flew overhead in the sky. The team stopped to see what it would do as they anticipated a fight. As predicted, the flying monster made a U-turn back towards the prey it spotted and descended down towards them. There was no alarm from the humans for they always suspected a next attack from this world. Juliet said, "Oh look, here comes another one. It seems everybody around here has a death wish."

Chase replied without taking his eyes off the creature, "Then I guess we'll have to grant it like all the others." Their keyblades were already out and had remained in their hands since they noticed the frequency of monster attacks. Better to be prepared now than to spend even a second to get a weapon out. Juliet was using the new keyblade she got from Thage. Chase cast his spell, "Sleep!" The winged monster was hit and it crashed onto the ground, no longer in control of its flight to keep at an altitude low enough to snatch a human and fly back up with them. As its body slid on its belly across ground, Juliet ran up to the top of a big hill before she jumped down from it and thrust down a Land Crash attack on the creature's back. Its heart was released, floating into the air and the body disappeared. Watching the heart fly off to the sky, the man thought, *'That was easy.'* The harder battles were mainly fast creatures, monsters that strike out from surprise, and stronger ones.

The pair resuming walk for several more minutes until Juliet saw something ahead and said, "Oh good, a place we can rest at. My legs are killing me!" It was a gray stone-bricked building with broken pillars and walls. It appeared to be a house or temple of some kind, but now it appeared to be a relic of the past.

Chase added, "And there's a town up ahead, too." He saw a silhouette of a town on a lower land far past the mountains up ahead. "So yeah, let's take that rest before we go there." They went inside the ruins and sat apart from one another against the walls near the entrance.

It was then that Juliet noticed an orange glow coming around from the corner of far down the hallway next to them. She asked, "Hey, it looks like somebody's here."

"What do you mean?" Chase asked.

"See for yourself, lightboy," the girl told him.

The man got up and went to look at what's down the hallway. Indeed, there was a glow of light coming from the next part of the hallway after a turn. "Hey, you're right. I think there might be people here. Come on, let's go."

"Go?!" Juliet cried out like he was nuts. "We just started resting and we got to move again? Can't we sit for a while before we talk to them?"

"No!" Chase told her. "It's just going to be for a bit. Then we can rest for real after that. So come on."

The girl got up and groaned, "Ugh! Alright fine, sheesh!" They went down the hallway and turned to find that the glow had come from a wall torch. There were more wall torches on their path the further they walked down the hall.

Soon, they began to hear inaudible voices. Juliet was right; there were people here. The voices became louder and more understandable the closer they got. Eventually, they heard someone say, "Boy, we sure got a lot of munny from getting the jump on that gold hog, huh?"

Another man replied, "Yeah, we sure got lucky, this time, eh boys?"

"Yeah!" a crowd of men agreed. Chase and Juliet thought they were referring to a golden giant boar-like monster they fought earlier. That thing was strong and tedious to take out; meaning that its fur color was not the only thing that made it worth a lot of munny in the hunting market. The pair soon reached the entrance of the room and found a bunch of scraggly rough-looking men sitting on crates and at the table drinking whiskey.

Chase and Juliet observed these men, planning out how to approach them and get their help in finding the world's leader. They both had suspicions that these men might not be friendly, but Chase was willing to give these men a chance, hoping they might be nicer than they appear to be. After all, one cannot judge a book by its cover. The silverette stepped into the room and began, "Pardon the intrusion, sirs." All the bandits whipped their heads to the stranger as he continued, "Do any of you know a ruler of this world?"

A big and thick man with a beard, probably the boss of these men, yelled, "What?! What you doing in our hideout, boy?!"

A skinnier man, just as pissed, asked, "Yeah, are you folks here to rat us out?"

Chase was taken aback by the accusation and defended, "What? No! I was only looking to meet with a leader."

The thick bearded man got off his seat and pounded his chest, retorted, "Well, you're looking at a leader here. I'm the head of these bandits, and you've come to the wrong place, boy."

Juliet scowled at the silverette and growled, "Those guys are bad guys, light scum. Why did you bring us here?! You got us into this mess!" Having lived among the other darkbladers, she knew what men dressed like these ones were like.

Chase was not helped by the girl's attitude in this dangerous situation, so he responded defensively with the reflected ire, "I know, and I'm sorry." Must she always be so antagonistic with him?

The girl murmured, "Let's just get out of here!"

"Right," the silverette agreed. Then as they turned to flee, they nearly bumped into three more bandits who showed up from behind. The girl let out a startled shriek at this.

One of the rear bandits asked the thick man, "Hey boss, we got some munny we looted." Then he noticed the intruders and was surprised at this. "Hey boss, who are these loons?"

The bandit boss ordered, "Don't just stand there, get them! I want to see what valuables they have on them!" The bandits summoned their keyblades and charged at the pair.

Chase re-summoned his keyblade and cast, "Magnera!" The magic orb gathered up all the front bandits, except for the boss, who held onto a heavy object to keep from getting pulled up. The bandits from the rear tried to hit Juliet, but she Fire Blocked each and every one of them. The embers from the keyblade flew onto the rear bandits and brought small fires to them. The three men panicked as they began to pat out the flames. The girl took advantage of the distraction to whack them on their temples and knock them out. Chase looked at the bandits flying around the orb. As the silverette was preparing his shotlock, the boss cast a Dark Firaga spell at him. The dark fireball flew into the silverette's left arm, burning it with dark flames eating at his flesh. Chase let out an agonized scream as his concentration on the other bandits was disrupted. The Magnera orb vanished and the ruffian men fell down onto the floor. The bandits wasted no time getting back up and trying to take down the male intruder. Chase did his best to ignore the horrible sensation on his left arm as he turned his attention to the bigger threat. He yelled both in aggression and in pain as he flew barreling into them with a Heat Storm attack. His face would be contorted in pain the whole time he fought. As he stopped in the middle of the bandits, Juliet went up to one and swung up at his Adam's apple, hitting both it and the underside of the chin. The bandit staggered back, groaning and temporarily unable to breathe. Chase immediately performed an Aerial Sweep, hitting his surrounding foes, including the one with the Adam's apple, as he jumped into the air. After landing back down, the silverette struck one man who tried to hit him and then another attacker. Then he dodged a Quick Blitz from a third guy before swinging his burning arm into him. The third guy was on fire from where he got hit before he was knocked out by Chase. The bandits' boss took advantage of this momentary distraction to knock Chase down onto the floor with a hard hit. The silverette fell on his back with the floor touching his damaged arm, which irritated the wounds and triggered another pain reaction. The silverette let out a loud groan in response to that before he blocked the next attack from the boss's downward swing.

Juliet pointed her keyblade at the boss and said, "Get toasted, you bum!" A fireball flew into him and set him ablaze. The boss staggered back from Chase as he screamed in agony. The silverette quickly got back up and struck him multiple times before he knocked the man down.

The two bandits left standing on their feet realized the direness of the situation with all their comrades knocked out and unconscious. One frowned, "Ah crap! They're tough. Let's get out of here!"

"I'm with you!" the second one cried. Then they left their hideout, no longer willing to fight the intruders.

With the fight over, Chase can now do something about his left arm. By now, the dark flames had disappeared, but the burns were still there and they looked pretty bad. The man winced in pain as he felt the nerves there burning severely. He used his right arm to open his bag for a potion to, but only to discover that he has none left. "Shoot!" he murmured a curse. Of all the time when he needed one right now. He should have bought a few more back in the City of Bells.

Then he heard Juliet say, "Hey light scum, looking for this?"

The man looked up at her and saw that she was holding a hi-potion. He answered gratefully, "Yeah, thanks Juliet!" He took the hi-potion from her and applied it to his burned arm. The magical effects of the potion quickly restored most of the flesh to normal, leaving only a few small patches of burns left. He'll have to get those fixed by a healer.

The girl smirked shamelessly and said, "I stole off a bandit after he started taking his nap." The man's green eyes widened in surprise upon hearing it was stolen. Did she just steal after he lectured her about thievery being bad? Now he was just as bad as her for using a stolen item. Juliet smugly added, "Hey, stealing can be good sometimes, lightboy. Especially, when you're stealing from bad guys."

Chase frowned at her argument and replied, "Maybe so, but I still wouldn't advocate it." Then they heard a low groan coming from one of the downed bandits; he was about to wake up. He urged the girl, "Come on, we can't waste any more time here. We got to go!" Juliet clicked her teeth as they ran back down the hallway to the entrance. So much for having a time to rest; now they were just going to have to work their legs some more as they go someplace else. Eventually, their bones were going to start aching. Just after going out the ruins back into the wide world outside, a man's scream was heard. The pair stopped as Chase dropped his mouth open, "What?!"

Remembering the two bandits who fled, the girl brushed it off, saying, "He probably got ate by a monster. Let's just go!" But then she saw what was going on ahead of them. It was not a monster eating the bandit; it was a certain familiar woman who was imbuing the bandit's heart with light. Juliet could not believe her eyes on who she just saw. But... she was supposed to be dead; in fact, she saw her die. But here this person was, standing alive on her two legs and she was using light? The teen girl started to approach her slowly, looking at her stunned, bewildered, and hopeful that this was the real person, as he called, "Thage?"

Chase had also seen Thage as well, and was just as surprised as the apprentice to see her here. But there was something off about her, he was sensing a bad light radiating from her heart; the same kind he sensed in Light. He grabbed Juliet's wrist to stop her and told, "Stop, Juliet! Thage isn't herself right now. Look at her eyes!"

The apprentice looked into the young woman's face and there it was, light blue eyes just as blank of irises as Light's and the purplette's from Radiant Garden were. Also, her new clothes were now white. Juliet let out a soft gasp at the change in her friend. Shocked and worried, she asked her, "Thage, what happened to you?"

The older girl turned her head to the apprentice and told her, "Thage...is not my name anymore... I am now called...Divinity... And I only serve the goddess now..."

Juliet was shocked at what she just heard. A darkblader who protected other darkbladers was now working for Nuru? Why? The girl urged, "Thage, you can't be serious about this. Nuru's controlling you; please snap out of it!"

Divinity told them, "My devotion is of my own will... You...will not sway my loyalty from my master... If you intend to oppose us...you are my enemies... I shall warn you once... Leave this quest...or face punishment from the light..."

Juliet was shocked to hear what this woman just said, Thage actually wanted to work for Nuru? That can't be true! This has to be the goddess's light talking. Regardless of whether it was the truth or a lie, the girl was hesitant to fight the woman who was a friend to her and LimeX. Could she really turn her keyblade against her? Chase also did not want to fight a woman again, but... "Looks like we have no choice, but to take her down, Juliet. We must free Thage from Nuru's control."

The apprentice agreed, "You're right; she would want this, too." They summoned their keyblades with Juliet going back to her Blue Rogue, since it would not be right to use the keyblade she received from Thage against her.

Divinity watched them intently; they have decided to make themselves enemies of the Church of Light after all. Juliet opposing the light was nature since darkness is light's opposite; but Chase was an odd case, considering he himself is a lightblader. The woman thought it was ridiculous for the man to defend the darkness. But then again, maybe it was her old self that he was trying to save and nothing more than that. Divinity had no intention of leaving the Church of Light, especially when she was indebted to Light, who saved her. The woman told the pair, "Very well...accept your fate!..." Then she cast Pearl, sending a magical ball of light hurling at them. Chase and Juliet immediately threw themselves to separate sides to avoid spell. The ball vanished in a bright flash after hitting the ground.

The man rolled back up onto his knee and foot before he cast his own spell, "Sleep!"

The signals in Divinity's brain started telling her to lie down and rest. Her body became tired and heavy. A small part of her brain along with her willpower told her to stay up and keep fighting, but they were gradually being overtaken by the desire to sleep. Juliet saw that the woman was trying to resist and hold on to the waking world, so she went to go knock her out to ensure her possessed friend would stay down. But Divinity acted quickly before she could succumb by casting in a hushed tone, "Light, wake me..." A Healing Light formed a yellowish-white light around her. Juliet stopped in her tracks as she squinted to dim out some of the light from the spell. The girl also felt a repelling force from the Healing Light keeping her away from the woman. After the spell finished its work, Divinity's energy and vitality were restored like a cup of coffee keeping the drinker awake.

Chase saw how fully alert she was and murmured, "Huh." He thought, *'Didn't expect that.'* This must be a new spell invented. There goes his easy plan to restore Thage, right out the window. Now it looks like

they were going to have to do this the hard and old-fashioned way, beating the woman into unconsciousness. Divinity swung her keyblade at Juliet multiple times, beating the girl as she staggered back. The man rushed at the woman to save his partner. He went to do a downward stroke with a yell, but Divinity moved back away from him to let the Kingdom Key strike the air instead. Then his next swing got blocked by her keyblade. Chase pushed his keyblade against his foe's to break way and get at the woman, who trying to hold out against him to prevent access, while attempting to push his weapon away and strike him when he's open. It was not working for the latter as Chase's strength was superior and her keyblade was gradually getting pushed back. So the woman decided to throw this contest of strength as she slipped to the side and let the man's Kingdom Key fall past. She went in for the strike, but Chase was prepared for such a trick as this one, as he had been trained to watch out for that, and he immediately blocked the attempted strike. He countered back with multiple strikes, but all of them were blocked as the woman barely held out under the force of the hits to her keyblade. Juliet decided to take a chance at getting in a sneak hit with Divinity's attention solely on the lightblader. She ran up behind the woman to get at her. Divinity sensed the girl's approaching movement and moved out of the way in time to let the Blue Rogue clash with the Kingdom Key instead. The pair momentarily looked at each other in surprise before their foe struck at the apprentice's back. Juliet was knocked into Chase, who got hold of her and then steadied her back onto her feet. Then the man ran to Divinity and slammed her up into the air with a Rising Strike before he jumped to meet her, striking multiple hits at her. As the woman fell, Juliet went up to her and then smacked her as soon as the woman landed on her feet.

Divinity staggered as she looked at the ground beneath her feet; she appeared to be winded now. Juliet just stood and watched now, hesitating to harm her friend any further and waiting to see what her next move would be. Then the woman regained her senses and delivered a hard swing to the girl, who yelped and dodged with a backwards hop. Then the silver keyblade was raised up to the air and the woman cast, "Thundaga..." Many lightning bolts zapped down onto the battlefield. Chase and Juliet all did their best to avoid getting shocked as they move fast out of the way of the falling lightning. The last bolt though created a brief electric dome that caught Chase in the radius and zapped him. The man fell over onto his front, stunned and hurt as static would flash around him every now and then. After the spell was over, Juliet went to strike Divinity, who blocked each of her attacks. After a while, Chase was no longer electrified and he began to prepare a shotlock as he watched the girls fight. When Juliet performed her Maelstrom, all of its strikes landed successfully on Divinity and she knocked the woman into the air, leaping with her, as a final hit. Then Chase unleashed his Flame Salvo on the enemy before she even got a chance to react, bombarding her with all fireballs. The burned woman knelt on the ground, badly hurt, before she countered with Faith. Beams of light fell around her. Chase managed to roll out of the way of one and Juliet dodged a few before she accidentally moved right into a beam that fell immediately after the last one she avoided. The girl screamed out loud as her body burned from the radiant heat.

Now everyone was wounded and weary as they hurt in places on their bodies. Juliet crawled over to her partner and pulled out an ether. She said, "Hey lightscum, use this." After she handed it to him, the girl smiled mischievously and rubbed it in his face, "I stole this one, too."

Chase gritted his teeth in a silent growl, peeved and giving her a face that told, "*You better not make a habit of this.*"

The girl smirked back with a look replying, *"No promises."*

The man opened the bottle and drank the contents inside. The magic within the either restored his mana and he was ready to use his most important spell again. Then he pointed the Kingdom Key at Divinity and said, "Now... Go to sleep!" The spell had hit the woman and brought her to sleep without any resistance this time. This would now put the woman in their clutches to be removed of Nuru's light and filled with darkness to be brought back to normal. But unfortunately, Divinity had a Corridor of Light prepared at the same time the Sleep spell was cast. She collapsed through it and it vanished behind her. Chase clenched his teeth and cursed, "Shoot!"

Juliet cried, "No!" They had not saved Thage; she would still be a slave to Nuru and destroy the darkness she once lived to serve. She would continue to be their enemy and they will fight each other until they save her.

The man bemoaned his failure, "We almost had her; I'm sorry, Juliet." Hopefully, next time, her capture would be successful.

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Glacies had transferred to her new room among the nuns' quarters in the monastery. The place a lot like her orphanage bedroom, but there were the additions of a short bookcase, a desk with a chair, and a feather pen in an ink bottle. The girl had taken with her the face veil she hid in her old room and was now putting it on to go along with her outfit. Wondering how she looked with the thing on, the girl picked up the speak mirror to look at her face's reflection. The face veil indeed matched her habit well. Juliet did well in picking the right color for it. Glacies left her room and went to look for Connor to get his opinion on her veil. She found the man just exiting the priests' quarters and called out to him, "Hey Connor!"

Connor looked to her and noticed the face veil. He asked, "Gloria, is that you? You kind of look like a white ninja with that mask on."

The girl smiled beneath the veil and giggled, "Really? Do I look like it?"

"Of course," he smiled. "But I think you look more closer to a burqa-wearing woman, if their clothes were white." Then he asked, "So where did you get that mask?"

Glacies corrected him, "It's actually a face veil." Then she lied, "I uh...found it when a lady threw it away." Yes, that is maybe the story she will go with.

"Threw it away?" the bewildered man asked. "Why would she throw away such a perfectly good thing like this?"

The girl shrugged, "No idea. But I kept it with me ever since then because it looked better than my old clothes and I thought...why not have something new to make me feel more fresh than this." She hoped that would be a good enough explanation for it.

"Well, aren't you lucky," smiled Connor after he bought the story. "Anyway, I'm going to go see my friends now before we go back to the lessons. Want to come see them with me?"

"Of course!" Glacies nodded. She might learn some important figures that Zephyr and the others need to watch out for.

The two walked together through the monastery until they saw a small group hanging out in the lobby of the main building. Connor raised a greeting hand and tried to catch their attention, "Hey guys!"

His friends turned to see him and a tall brunette man waved back at him. He greeted, "Hi Connor! How's it going?"

"Good," the glasses-wearing man responded. "So you all remember that girl I told you about yesterday?"

The dark-haired woman replied, "The orphan? I still do."

Connor said, "Well she just joined the Church today. She really wants to repay us for our generosity. Everyone, this is Gloria!" His friends looked to the new nun and gave her welcoming smiles. To Glacies, he introduced the tall brunette to her, "Gloria, this is Bruce."

Glacies instinctively took Bruce's hand to shake when he began to hold it out for her. He greeted, "Hey there!"

"Hi!" the girl replied.

Then Connor mentioned the orange-haired boy with freckles, "And this is Fredrick."

Fredrick grinned with eyes winking and beamed, "It's great to have you with us!"

"Thanks!" Glacies said.

Connor brought up the dark-haired woman next, "This is Tímea."

Tímea smiled, "It's good to see you!"

"You too," Glacies said.

The blonde-haired man with green eyes was next to be addressed to the girl. Connor said, "And this one here is Rian."

Rian said, "Nice to meet you!"

Glacies was about to respond to the blonde, when Connor saw another person walk into the room. He called, "Hey Light, there's someone I want you to meet!" The girl flinched; here comes the moment of truth. It was time to see if that face veil really does work.

"Who is it?" the turquoisette asked as she walked over to the group to see this mysterious person.

Connor said to her, "Her name is Gloria. She's a new member of the Church of Light." Then to the girl, he said, "Gloria, this is Light. She's one of the Light's Servants. No, no, I don't mean she has servants; I mean she's a servant of the light."

The two girls stared at one another in the eyes. Light intently looking at her, seeing what manner of person the newcomer, while Glacies tried to hide her nervousness with a straight face, hoping she would not be recognized and exposed here. The light-haired blunette greeted shyly, "Hi..." Well, that came out weaker than she hoped. She hoped it would not attract suspicion from the woman. Creating a distraction away from that small blunder, Glacies asked Connor, "So you say she's a Light's Servant. Aren't we all servants of the light?" The Light's Servant title sounded redundant considering that the Church of Light works for Nuru and lives out her ways.

"We are," the glasses-wearing man confirmed. Then he explained, "But a Light's Servant is actually a title for someone whose had their hearts purified of all the darkness and are chosen by Nuru into that special force. They granted special powers by her and they are tasked with using those powers to purify worlds' and people's hearts of all darkness. But their purifying powers don't turn all people into Servants like them; only those under certain conditions, such as having exceptionally strong lights in their hearts, can be."

Remembering Hitomi saying that Light is possessed by the light, Glacies could only think, '*Light's Servant? More like Light's Slave.*'

Connor continued, "Right now, we only have six servants in total with the newest one being Divinity. She joined us last night. You were probably asleep when I saw her."

Glacies said, "So she's a newcomer like me."

Connor replied, "Yes, Light here found her and made her into a Light's Servant. Servants also have the power to make Servants of others. But like I said, their hearts have meet certain criteria for that to happen."

Fredrick smirked, "Consider it a special, exclusive club, or better yet, a legion of heroes. Something like that."

Tímea said, "They're going to make the universe a much better place with those powers. Everyone will be safe and happy."

Glacies looked at the two of Connor's friends. The whole Church really does believe in the goddess's plans. If only any of them knew the deadly consequences their Servants' actions would bring. "That sounds really nice," the girl could only comment.

"It is!" Bruce grinned heartily. "We'll all be having paradise everywhere after the darkness is gone."

Rian added, "We'll never suffer crimes, wars, slavery and persecutions ever again!"

Connor said to Glacies, "Nuru is delivering us an eternity of paradise and the Servants as well as many of us are working to make this happen. You too will be able soon. I just need to finish your training and teachings first."

Tímea asked the male bluenette, "They're making you teach Gloria, Connor?"

The man smiled proudly, "Yes, they are. I've taught her about the genesis of the universe and its gods. And next, I'll be teaching her about the virtues of light pretty soon."

The woman commented, "How great!"

Glacies asked him, "You mean like kindness, bravery and friendship?" She knew the basics of light's virtues well, having been raised in Radiant Garden. She could get by this lesson well.

Connor confirmed, "Yes, but we'll be going into extra details on them as well some other virtues besides the basics. I can show you what I mean if you want to start the lessons now."

Glacies replied, "Oh yes, please teach me." The faster she learned, the closer she would get to becoming a more active member of the Church of Light. Maybe that would lead to getting more intel from them. Though definitely not all, since they may be some confidential secrets left to the higher ranks.

Connor said, "Alright then, we'll head on over to the classroom." Then he said to his friends, "I'll catch you guys, later. I got a student to teach."

Bruce replied, "Sure thing, Connor. We'll be waiting for you!" Then Glacies and Connor left and went on their way to the same classroom they were in earlier. The girl glanced back at Light for a bit. She took relief in the fact that the turquoisette did not seem to recognize her. It looks like the face veil really did its job after all.

When they were halfway there, the pair encountered another person on the way. Connor spoke about her to Glacies, "Gloria, this is Divinity, the new Light's Servant I just told you about." The lighter-haired bluenette stopped when she saw what Divinity looked like and was surprised to see who it was. Wait,

was that Thage? What was she, a darkblader, doing here as a member of the Church of Light? And how did she become a Light's Servant when her heart was dark? Divinity stopped to glance at her before she resumed to wherever she was headed off to. The pair went back on their way as well. Glacies was at a loss for comprehension as to who she just saw. Was Connor incorrect on his knowledge of the Light's Servants or what? There was no way that Thage should have been here among the ranks. Just what was going on? The pair soon reached the classroom and there, Connor began to go over with her all the virtues of light, such as friendship, trust, faith, honesty, righteousness, empathy and chastity, and the purposes and reasons mortals must practice them.

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Chase and Juliet had returned to the Land of Departure for some rest after taking care of business in the previous world they were in. The light seed they found there, planted by Divinity, has been destroyed and the inhabitants warned of the Church of Light. Now the two were left to deal with the revelation of Thage being among their new enemies. Juliet voiced her disbelief, "How could Thage sell herself out to the Church like this?!" The words she heard Divinity say, 'My devotion is of my own will', played out in her mind. It seemed like Thage truly wanted to carry out the Church's goal for some unknown reason.

Chase replied, "No idea, but it's clear that Thage has made herself our enemy again." He was just as dumbfounded about this as the girl was. He sighed, "I know LimeX isn't going to like this, either."

Juliet asked, "What are we going to do, Chase? We have to save Thage!"

"I know," the man replied. "Let's just hope we or somebody else can find her and bring her back to her senses."

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LimeX, Sakura and Zero were in the world that the former of the three had gone to during Mischief Night. The silverette had led them to the home of a certain someone she needed to see. Pretty soon, they reached the cottage of LimeX's former mentor. Sakura asked the darkblader, "Sooo, what are we doing here?"

LimeX told her, "There's someone who can help us destroy the goddess." She added a warning, "But don't get too comfortable here, because she looks down on lightbladers like you."

The demon expressed her dismay about it through sarcasm, "Wow, she sounds like a chummy mummy."

The darkblader went to the door and gave it a couple of knocks. Sabella's voice from the other side said, "I've been expecting you, LimeX. Come on in."

The former apprentice thought, '*So she knows what's up.*' That was to be expected, given that her mentor was a seer. This makes it all the more convenient to get to the bottom of the business. LimeX

opened the door and went inside as her teammates followed her in. Sakura took the silverette's words about the host to heart as she guarded herself for whatever hostility and dislike would be thrown at her.

They did not need to go far in as the drow was standing in the middle of the room. Sabella asked her former student, "So, have you found your apprentice yet?"

LimeX, expecting her to know, replied, "What do you think?" The girl's tone hinted her success.

"Congrats," Sabella gave a small praise. "I hope you're training your student as well I had you." Then the drow noticed the demon in the room and her eyes narrowed in disapproval. "I see you brought a lightblader here." Then her white eyes looked to Zero as she continued, "And a dog." She waved him away as she yelled, "Shoo! Animals aren't allowed in here!" The ghost dog yelped and flew outside through the wall whining.

LimeX said to the drow, "I know lightbladers aren't seem much to you, but I need Sakura for this mission."

Sabella said, "You most certainly do, what with the crisis we have going on. Now about this help you seek, I believe I have the solution you need."

Sakura asked, "What is it?"

Sabella sent the demon a glare, which caused the girl to stiffen in regret. The woman said, "I was addressing LimeX, not you!"

Sakura winced, "Sheesh, sorry!"

The drow turned her attention back to the silverette and instructed her, "Now in order to defeat Nuru, you must gather eight artifacts with extremely strong darkness in them and bring them to me, so that I can craft the ultimate weapon needed to banish away the light goddess."

The surprise made Sakura forget to hold her tongue, so she blurted, "Banish? You mean we can't kill her?" Another glare was shot at her and the demon shut up for good.

Sabella confirmed to LimeX, "Yes, I said 'banish', because a god, especially a greater one, cannot be easily killed. This weapon I'll make will only put her to sleep for thousands of years."

The silverette responded, "At least it's better than nothing." She did not intend to kill Nuru anyway as the goddess was too important for this universe to be rid of. The goal was only to stop her. "Alright, we'll help you find the artifacts."

"Good." Sabella informed her, "Now I will warn you this; these artifacts are very rare and it'll take you many days to find enough of them. You'll have to travel every corner and place in this Realm if you are to succeed in retrieving them."

LimeX let out a sigh, "Yet, another hard task I must do." Such was the life of working alongside her brother.

The drow commented, "When has it ever been easy?" Then she told them, "Now go and bring me those artifacts."

LimeX told the demon, "Sakura, let's go."

"Right," Sakura replied. The two left the cottage and Zero hovered to their side to rejoin them. After a couple of barks, the demon petted his face and said, "Hey Zero, everything went fine. LimeX's friend wants us to get her some dark artifacts, so she can make a weapon to beat Nuru with." The dog let out a content whine in response. The team went to do the tasks Chase assigned them to by going to the village and warning the mayor there, checking people for Nuru's light, and looking for any light seeds that might have been planted.

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Night had fallen in the Illustris Theocracy. Glacies was on her way to her room after having left the orphanage where she had been helping to look after the children. She saw Connor heading off in the same direction she was going in. The girl kept behind him so as not to have a conversation started and risk developing a bond when they were supposed to be enemies. Eventually, she saw that the man had gone to her door and knocked on it. Connor had a business with her? Glacies wondered if it was another lesson he wanted to teach her. She walked over to him as she said, "I'm over here, Connor."

The man turned to her and said, "Oh Gloria, I was just coming to get you. There's a meeting every night that all of the Church of Light has to go to."

"Really?" the girl asked.

"Yes," Connor confirmed. "But it didn't used to be like this. Sure, we would have a meeting every now and then, but with the goddess tasking us to bring light to the universe, we have to make our reports on our missions to her every night."

Glacies was piqued with what she just heard; she could use those meetings to steal some intel on the Church of Light and let Chase know what they've done and are doing. She looked forward to getting something good out of this. "I see," she replied. "How long does this meeting take?"

"It depends," Connor answered. "It could be long or it could be short." He cracked an amused smile, "I bet you're itching to go to bed, aren't you?"

The girl smiled back, "Not really; I was just curious. That's all."

“Okay, well then, we’ll see how it goes tonight.” The two walked together on their way to the backroom of the cathedral.

Upon entering the place, they could see like all of Church members gathered here. Bruce beckoned his friend, “Connor, over here!”

The male bluenette replied to him, “Coming.” The pair went over to his band of friends to stand alongside them.

Merelyn looked around at the crowd in the room before beginning, “Now that we have everyone, our meeting can begin. And firstly, I would like to announce that we have a new nun among us who has just joined the Church of Light today. Yesterday, she was founded by Connor and taken over to the orphanage to be kept and cared for. Today, she had repaid our kindness by joining our ranks. Everyone, I would like to introduce to you, Gloria.” Then she told the girl, “Gloria, please step forward.” Glacies came forward for everyone to see and then the Church members began to clap their hands for her, a welcoming applause. The girl smiled, feeling warmed. It was a shame for these nice people to be betrayed by someone they trusted, but she had to do this to protect the universe. After the clapping stopped, Glacies fell back beside Connor. Merelyn said, “Now then, I would like to hear all your reports. I shall let the Light’s Servants start first.”

Light was the first one to speak, “I have purified Vast Glaciers...Port Royal...and Fayette Village.”

Divinity was the next one to talk, “I have cleansed...Grand Canyon, Zarraflune...High Prairies, Sandy Roost and their inhabitants...of their darkness.”

Then a purple-haired girl spoke, “Edgewater Asylum, the Griylk Firelands, and la Península de Sombra... those are the places... I have planted the light seeds.”

A red-haired boy with freckles said, “Hepwell Caves, Riverbend Prison, and Bamboo City...have also been purified.”

Next up was a blonde girl, who reported, “Silver Forest...Grand Domain...Unicornia...and the Black Ravine... All have your light.”

Finally, an orange-haired girl said, “I have spread your light...to the hearts of...Prydain, Sleepy Hallow, and Biggar Fjords.” After making a mental note of every world she could remember, Glacies got a good look at all these Light’s Servants and noticed the features they all had in common: pupil-less eyes, blank expression, and monotone voice. These qualities put together made it seem like they were nothing more than puppets given life with no personalities. Oddly enough, all the Church members seem perfectly fine with the way these Servants are. The bluenette girl found that creepy.

“Very good,” Merelyn praised them. “Keep up the good work, my children. The wellbeing of the universe will be assured by your efforts.” Then she asked the rest of her worshippers, “Now does anyone have

any questions?" There was not a peep from anyone. "I see; well then, our meeting is over. Goodnight, everyone." The priests, nuns and everyone else began to leave for their rooms.

Glacies and Connor walked alongside each other through the hallway as the latter was escorting the girl to her room. She commented to Connor, "Well that was short."

The man replied, "It sure is, but we all have to know the worlds the Servants have sent their lights to so that we summon enough Souldiers from these places."

"Souldiers?" the girl feigned ignorance, though it was more of an attempt to get an explanation out of him so that she could learn some details about their works involving these creatures.

Connor explained, "They're deceased souls given new life in the form of light beings. They still retain their personalities, but this time without the darkness. They help us combat the forces of darkness wherever it may be."

"You fight darkness?" asked Glacies.

"Sure, we do," the man answered. "It's one of our jobs as the Church of Light. When we ward off the darkness, the people and world will be safe from being consumed by it."

"A Church that fights... I had no idea such a thing exists." Right after she said that, they came right by the girl's door. "Oh, here's my room. I guess this is goodnight then."

"It sure is," replied Connor. "We'll see each other again tomorrow. I hope you sleep well, Gloria!"

"I will," the girl said. "Goodnight and don't let the bed bugs bite."

He laughed, "You too." Then he walked off as Glacies went into her room. She stayed there for a while until she was sure that everyone in the Church had fallen asleep. Once she felt she was ready, Glacies quietly snuck out of the monastery and went to the city streets. After getting into an alleyway, the girl activated the speak to get into contact with Chase.

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All the teams, except for LimeX's, had returned to the Land of Departure. The night had fallen in this world and everyone was relieved in that they can go home and rest after their adventures today. Chase asked everyone, "So guys, did everything go alright today?"

"Sure did!" Zephyr responded for himself and Nemo.

"Yeah," Touketsu answered.

Leohart said, "There were no problems on our end."

Ilem said, "We found a couple of light seeds and smashed them." She added with a smile, "And I even took Kumo to the zoo to have some fun."

Kumo eagerly spoke about his day, "I saw a lot of animals! They had lions, bears, elephants and birds!"

Chase smiled happily for the boy. He had forgotten to tell the kids' partners to let them take a break every now and then, so they can have time to play and enjoy childhood. He was glad that his lover took the opportunity to let his apprentice have some fun. The man replied, "That must've been fun!" Then he spoke to Ilem and Leohart, "I think you guys should let the kids rest and play sometimes whenever you have the opportunity. I know the universe is important, but I don't want their lives being all work all the time."

Valer questioned the involvement of kids, "Wouldn't it make more sense to keep the children at home and let these two work together instead?" If the silverette was concerned about children not playing, then he should bench them, so that they don't hold back the adults and waste time.

Chase answered, "I've thought about that, but apparently, Kumo can smell the light. It'll be very useful in finding those light seeds."

Leohart added, "And Hitomi seems to find these seeds easily. Somehow, she seems to know where they're at from afar." He was unaware of his daughter's ability to light and darkness despite blindness.

Chase said, "I think it would be best to keep them around, because of those advantages." Though Valer said nothing to that, he still disagreed with the silverette's idea.

Zephyr noticed Juliet with her head down and saw an unhappy look on her face. It looked like something was up with her and the boy was curious and concerned about her. He asked her, "Juliet, what's wrong?"

The girl let out a discontent sigh, so Chase answered for her, "Let's just say we have a familiar face among the Church of Light."

Those who had been around Chase before the Church of Light incident were wondering about this mysterious being. The voice of his sister asked, "Who is it, Chase?" A portal appeared and everyone looked to see LimeX, Sakura and Zero returning.

The brother paused, preparing the female silverette for the surprise. Then he said, "LimeX, this is going to surprise you, but Thage has just joined the Church of Light."

Indeed, as he expected, LimeX became surprised, "What?"

"Huh?!" came the simultaneous cry from Zephyr, Kumo and Sakura. Zero dropped his mouth open in shock. Hitomi was just as surprised with only her eyes having been widened.

Sakura cried, "Seriously, we have to fight her again?!"

LimeX murmured in thought, "So Thage lives, but why is she with them?" It did not make sense to her at all.

Chase replied, "I don't know, but it looks like Thage has become possessed as well. She says she's joined them by choice, but I feel like something doesn't add up here." Something was telling him that Divinity's words were just a half-truth. He could not shake that nagging feeling.

The sister shook her head, looking down at the floor and murmured, "How could this have happened?" She wondered if Roxanne leaving Thage left her open to be taken over by the light.

Zephyr was confused by this, "But I thought the Church only takes lightbladers, what's Thage doing there?"

"No clue," Chase responded. "But what matters now is that Thage is our enemy. We'll have to fight her if it comes to it." Then he looked at Juliet with a sympathetic look and continued, "And we must do everything we can to bring her back to normal for Juliet and LimeX's sake." Then he saw a glow coming from the speak mirror in his pocket. "Oh, Glacies's contacting me." Then he took it out and watched the mirror's surface produce an image of the bluenette's face. "Yes, Glacies?"

The girl alerted him, "Chase, you won't believe who I just saw today! It's Thage! Thage has joined the Church of Light!"

The man replied, "I know; we just saw her today."

"You did?" Glacies asked. Looks like she can just skip to the next point. "Well anyway, her new name is Divinity and she's one of the Light's Servants. The same kind that other girl we saw is."

Chase murmured in thought, "Light's Servants, so that's what they call their zombies." Quite a fitting name given to those controlled by light. Then he asked, "So has the Church made you a nun yet?"

The girl smiled, "They sure did! And I even got some info from them, too!"

"Excellent!" he commented. "Tell me what you heard."

Glacies recalled to the best of her memory, "Okay, so the Light's Servants have went to Vast Glacies, Zarraflune, Bamboo City, Sandy Roost and the Grand Domain. I forgot about the rest, because there were so many." Then she apologized, "Sorry about that."

"Don't worry," Chase assured. "We'll find them out eventually. Thanks for telling us this, Glacies." Then he looked to everyone else and asked, "You all heard what she said?" After everyone responded that they all did, the man told them, "Okay, I don't want anyone going to these worlds too soon, because

then the Church will suspect a spy and know that it's Glacies. If you want to go to any of these worlds, get my permission first or wait until I give the go for you guys to go there."

Touketsu replied, "Alright, we got it, Chase."

Then Zephyr asked, "Hey uh, Chase. If you're done talking to Glace, can I speak to her for a second?" He wanted to check on his friend and see how she was doing.

Chase looked back to the speak mirror and asked, "Got anything else for me?"

"No," Glacies answered with a head shake.

The silver-haired man went over to the blonde boy and gave the speak mirror to him. "Here," he said.

Zephyr looked to the face of his friend and greeted, "Hi Glacies."

"Hi Zeph!" she responded. "How did things go for you today?"

Zephyr eagerly answered, "Great! Nemo and I went to Ant Island and we got turned into bugs there."

"Oh really?" the interested girl asked.

"Yeah," her friend confirmed. "It's one of those worlds that transforms you."

Nemo was cringing at the mention of that world as he thought, *'I can't believe I got turned into a dung beetle... That's sucks!'* Why could he not be made into something more badass like a rhinoceros beetle or a scorpion?

"Cool!" Glacies smiled.

Sakura went over to the blonde apprentice and asked, "Hey, can I see her, too?"

"Sure," permitted Zephyr. "In fact, why don't we all see her?" He generously showed the speak mirror to not only the demon, but also to others who were friends with Glacies such Hitomi, Leohart, Zero, Nemo and Touketsu.

The girl in the mirror greeted them, "Hi guys!"

They all replied, "Hi Glacies!" Zero's greeting came out in a happy bark.

Sakura asked, "How are you doing over at the Church?"

Glacies happily answered, "Pretty good; I got to learn about the universe from a guy named Connor. He's really nice! I met his friends and they were all nice. And I got to help out at the orphanage!"

Sakura smiled, "Wow, that sounds great! You must've had fun!" Zero panted excitedly as he entertained the thought of being in the human girl's place, playing with the children.

"I sure did!" Glacies beamed. "Being around kids is the best part; they're so sweet!"

Touketsu joked, "Hey, if you like the kids that much, maybe you should adopt them all and take the load off the Church."

Glacies laughed, "Oh stop, Touketsu."

Hitomi, curious about the orphans' lives at the Church of Light and wondering if they had any interesting fun, asked, "Glacies, what do the kids do?"

The teen girl answered, "Well, they play with toys, listen to stories about Nuru and her saints, and-"

Suddenly, LimeX snatched the speak mirror from Zephyr's hand. Sakura looked at her surprised as the boy complained, "Hey!"

LimeX told them bluntly, "Glacies is a spy, remember? She needs to work, not waste time with little marathon conversations like this. The longer she's out, the more the Church will wonder."

Leohart agreed as he told Glacies's friends, "She's right, you know. We mustn't waste any more time like this."

"Oh right," Zephyr replied. He had been too eager to see his friend that he had not thought about the consequences of his long talk with her. He looked to the speak mirror in the female silverette's hand. Even though, he could not see Glacies's face, at least she would be able to hear him. "Well, goodnight, Glace. I hope we can chat all we want after this is over."

"Me too, Zeph," the spy replied. "I want to hang out with you guys again. Goodnight, y'all!" After her friends say their goodbyes to her, the speak mirror deactivated. Chase was glad that his sister intervened; they must not have the mission jeopardized this soon.

Nemo asked the male silverette, "So who's this Thage girl anyway?"

Chase simply answered, "A friend of LimeX and Juliet." He did not go into details of the trio's relationship or the incident with LimeX when she was working for Shade. Not only was that unimportant, but he did not want anybody distrusting his sister when they needed to work together.

LimeX told her brother, "Anyway, Chase, I also got something for you to hear. I found a way to defeat Nuru."

That was something Chase would like to hear; he needed every crucial information to complete this mission. The man said, "Great! Tell us everything."

The sister explained, "Okay, so I spoke to an acquaintance today and she told us that we need to get eight dark artifacts and bring them to her. But it can't be any old dark artifacts; they have to have lots and lots of darkness in them. So if you guys find one, then bring them to me so I can take them over to her. She'll be making an all-powerful weapon from them that'll take out Nuru."

Nemo smirked enthusiastically at the idea of a super weapon. "Ah sweet!" he beamed. He wondered how powerful this weapon was; maybe, it could decimate armies or turn giants into ashes. He would love to try it out; it may be very useful against the most dangerous criminals.

"Cool!" Kumo was amazed.

Ilem cheered, "Awesome! We can win after all!" She was worried that they all might be stuck reversing the Church of Light's damages until the Church gave up or they come after Chase's group. She imagined the latter scenario would have Nuru mopping the floor with them easily if she came to them. But now with this future weapon, they can turn the tide against her.

Chase smiled at his sister, praising, "Thank you, sister. That was some very helpful news." Then he told everyone, "Everyone, make getting the dark artifacts another one of your tasks. Remember that when you're out undoing the Light's Servants' work tomorrow."

"Got it!" Everybody replied. Then Ilem and the siblings made portals for everyone to return home through.

Once it was just Chase, Ilem and Kumo left in the castle, the man told the little boy, "Alright Kumo, off to bed with you." He swung his arms from back to front as he ushered the boy to bed. His apprentice walked off to his room. As the adults headed off for their rooms, they walked alongside each other as Chase began, "Hey Ilem."

The girl asked, "Yeah? What's up?"

The man asked, "Do you think I'm doing a good job at this leader thing? To be honest, I never imagined the day when I'd have to run a group that's dedicated to keeping the light and dark in balance. I always thought I'd be a temple guard forever until my apprentice replaces me." This new job of his was way bigger than the old one and came with more responsibilities, too. He was going to have his work cut out for him. Chase hoped he would not screw this one up like he did with his temple job.

Ilem replied, "I'd say you're doing fine so far. But hey, if you're worried about making any noobish mistakes, then don't worry, you'll grow into this leader schtick in no time. After all, experience is one of the best teachers."

Chase smiled at her, agreeing, "Yeah, you're right. I'll learn along the way and work hard to do well. Time will tell if I really can pull this off."

Ilem assured, "Chase, you will pull this off. You just gotta believe in yourself and use your head like you always do."

"Right, right. I'll do whatever I can to make this organization of ours work out."

The young woman smiled, "And I'll be right by your side to help."

The man looked into her chocolate brown eyes and warmly replied, "Yes, you will." As he leaned his head over to hers, Ilem puckered her lips and moved it towards his. They shared a quick kiss and then as they were almost to their rooms, Chase said, "Goodnight, Ilem! I'll see you tomorrow."

Ilem winked at him, "You too, lover boy!" Then they split and went off to their rooms. As Chase was preparing himself for bed, he made a mental note to read up on all the worlds, so that he could discover where they can find the dark artifacts.