

~ Heart of a Zora

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Chapter 15

Link took notice of the breathtaking decor lining the main square, with an archway constructed right in front of and reaching a couple feet higher than the Mipha statue, serving as the spot where Link and Sidon would exchange their vows. Standing under that archway, patiently awaiting his moment, was the retired Zora priest Kapson.

Kapson was thrilled to be back in his original home again to perform one last marriage ceremony...to the Zora Prince no less as well as the Hyrule Champion. It was a question of who was happier: Kapson or the soon-to-be married couple.

It was uncommon to see King Dorephan up and about. He stood on the level above the square, his presence grabbing everyone's attention throughout the domain. He raised his arms to call for silence.

"Thank you! Thank you all for coming! I am proud to announce the marriage of the Hylian Champion from a hundred years ago, Link, and my son, whom I couldn't be prouder of: Prince Sidon!" King Dorephan announced.

Teba looked from the Zora king to Link, thinking to himself if he heard him right about Link actually being the same Champion from a hundred years ago and not some descendent. Other Rito present also silently shared in that sentiment.

King Dorephan continued. "Today marks a momentous occasion! Our precious heirloom, Zora's Sapphire, has been recovered and returned to us and now serves as a symbol of Sidon's love for Link. I am also proud to announce that Prince Sidon shall also become the new Zora Champion that will pilot Divine Beast Vah Ruta!"

Everyone clapped and cheered for Sidon, including Link. It was indeed important to establish new pilots for the four Divine Beasts. Already, there was word that Teba will assume control over Vah Medoh, Yanobo over Vah Rudania and Riju over Vah Naboris as the new Rito, Goron and Gerudo Champions respectively.

The King's voice grabbed Link's attention once again. "I would now like to call forth Princess Zelda, who will anoint Prince Sidon as Champion."

He gestured for her to come forward. Link watched Princess Zelda walk forward and approach the archway where Sidon currently stood. She was carrying a blue garment in her hands, one she had spent the last few days crafting since returning here. Standing now before the Zora Prince, she held it out to him.

Sidon accepted the garment and bowed to her. He opened it up to reveal a blue sash emblazoned with the symbol of Vah Ruta. It was similar in appearance to the one Mipha wore, except larger to accommodate Sidon's taller and more muscular frame.

Sidon took the sash and put it on. The look suited him well. Another round of applause met him after this. Knowing he was about to make the fateful walk to a new future, Link started feeling last minute jitters. He wished he was standing over there with Sidon so he could ask if he felt as nervous as he did right now. Nevertheless, the mere thought of him and Sidon being together forever...well, at least in this lifetime, helped him remain focused.

King Dorephan spoke up once more. "And now, let the marriage ceremony begin! It is my pleasure to announce that Tarry Town's Kapson has temporarily returned to Zora's Domain to officiate over the ceremony. Kapson, it's all yours!"

Kapson climbed up on a raised platform that brought him up high enough to be noticed. Custom shallow steps lined the area in front, which were clearly intended for Link to use since Sidon was already standing on it off to the side.

Kapson coughed a couple times before speaking. Every last attendee had gone so silent, that you'd think the place was empty. That silence magnified Link's nervousness. Unbeknownst to him, Sidon's cheeks were flushing a slight blue color, a physiological indication of the same nervousness that permeated him as well.

Sidon was dressed in a formal royal Zora garb that greatly enhanced his princely visage. He truly looked like the future king he was destined to be. On top of that, he now wore the sash of the Zora Champion. He knew that part of his additional responsibilities would include periodically tending to Vah Ruta to ensure her smooth functionality. The time he spent studying the specs and training to cement his unique bond with the Divine Beast was arduous, to say the least. But he knew that one day, Vah Ruta would be called into battle once again.

Never had he imagined he would one day take over such a mantle, the same one that his late sister had previously carried. There was no telling if a new great evil were to arise in his lifetime. Nevertheless, it was a role he was proud to carry along with his other duties.

“Ahem. Thank you all for coming! Thanks to Link, I’ve been able to come out of retirement to perform one last marriage ceremony. To say how happy I am to perform one of this magnitude, will be my final curtain call as priest.” Kapson spoke through a magically enhanced microphone that carried his voice to every last person in attendance.

He continued speaking. “Anyway, without any further delay, may I proudly announce the approach of Link down the aisle.”

The crowd parted to reveal Link, who looked absolutely stunning indeed. Sidon, especially, felt the blue in his cheeks become more pronounced as his heart seemed to soar at the sight of his beloved. And for a moment, he could almost see Mipha’s spirit within him. A couple tears of happiness escaped his eyes and ran down his cheeks.

Link could feel all eyes on him as he kept *his* trained solely on Sidon, whom he used as an anchor to remain focused. He could do so many things quite skillfully, but such public gatherings where he was the center of attention wasn’t one of them. He reached the small steps that let him ascend up to the platform that Kapson and Sidon awaited him on. Once there, Link took his place next to the man he loved and turned to face the priest. Though he had always been well aware of how short he was next to him, that fact seemed to be amplified here and now as Sidon practically seemed to tower over him. It would

be interesting how they would tackle some of the issues that were likely to crop up as it pertained to that height difference. In the grand scheme of things, it was quite a small price to pay for their union.

Having witnessed Hudson and Rhondson's wedding, the concept of marriage wasn't new to him. He had played matchmaker a few times throughout his adventures. He had also helped Finley find Sasan. From what he saw of him, Sasan has indeed started packing on some muscle since he first laid eyes on him. Finley herself had, of course, finally began her overdue growth spurt and was gaining inches in height and curves on her frame.

Kapson coughed again.

"Now then, we shall now begin. We are all gathered here today to join Link and Sidon in matrimony. We are blessed by the Goddess Hylia to stand here today to witness this momentous occasion." Kapson said.

He first turned to Sidon. "Sidon, Prince of the Zora tribe, next in line to the throne of Zora's Domain and newly inaugurated Zora Champion of Divine Beast Vah Ruta. Before the eyes of all these witnesses and before those of Goddess Hylia, do you take Link to be your lawfully wedded husband, to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad?"

Sidon was absolutely gushing as he could barely restrain himself with affection.

"With all my heart." Sidon said with his biggest smile yet.

"Excellent." Kapson said, before looking next at Link.

"Link, Hylian Champion of past and present and hero of Hyrule. Before the eyes of all these witnesses and before those of Goddess Hylia, do you take Sidon to be your lawfully wedded husband, to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad?"

Link would think he'd be smiling and gushing just as much as Sidon was, but instead he found himself barely managing to suppress a giggle. He was

keenly aware of who else was in the audience behind him: The married couple Hudson and Rhondson as well as every member of the Bolson Construction Company were present. He hadn't forgotten the ridiculous additional vow that Hudson had added for Rhondson to make. Nevertheless, she agreed to it and to this day they were still together, apparently as happy as ever. He supposed he shouldn't judge them too harshly. Deep down though, he was glad his vows were as traditional in the truest sense of the word rather than how the Tarrey Town residents saw it.

Link quickly composed himself and took Sidon's hand into his while smiling up at him with absolute love.

"With all that I am." Link said.

"Excellent." Kapson spoke. "And so, to all witnesses of this marital union, please help me in greeting this newly married couple. I wish this new couple nothing but the utmost happiness as they set out on this lifelong journey of marital bliss. You two may now..."

Kapson cut himself off before the last and clearly unnecessary words as he saw Sidon grab Link under his arms, lift him up in the air to his height and set him on his upper torso where Link held him tight as they kissed deeply. The whole of Zora's Domain erupted in applause and cheers to see what many have only imagined up to this point, but knew it for some time now.

Link's perception of the world seemed to melt away in this moment as he and Sidon kept kissing deeply a bit longer than they probably should've. He half expected to hear someone shout, "Get a room already!"

Finally, their lips parted as Link looked into Sidon's gorgeous golden eyes, feeling as though he could see right into his very soul through them. Sidon set Link down but kept holding hands as the cheers intensified.

King Dorephan, who watched from the platform above them, was seen wiping tears of joy from his eyes. Truly, this was the happiest day of Link and Sidon's lives. Their shared regret was that the deceased Champions and King Rhoam couldn't be here to witness this. Then again, who's to say they weren't?

As he and Zelda were walking away from Hyrule Castle shortly after the defeat of Calamity Ganon, he clearly sensed the presence of the Champions' spirits and the "old man" watching them moments before they departed for the afterlife; their role in this world completed at last.

As Link shook hands with and hugged just about everyone present while Sidon did the same, he contemplated his future as the first official Hylian member of the Zora tribe. For all intents and purposes, when Sidon's time to assume the throne eventually comes, this means Link too will become the fellow ruler. He wasn't sure how such an arrangement would happen to have two kings. It was clearly something he hadn't given much thought to until now. Like a lot of things, this was something that could be worked out with Sidon. For now, he tabled that thought.

There was so much he looked forward to with his newfound husband. There was the expansion project with Sidon's room, turning his Hateno Village house over to Zelda, the sex, feeling Sidon's bulging muscles while he flexed them for him, building up his own physique, slaying monsters that threatened their home, exploring the deeper reaches of Hyrule, the sex, telling stories of each other's lives, maintaining his warrior's training, helping Zelda rebuild Hyrule and, of course, the sex.

But above all, Link would find himself telling Sidon how much he loves him far too often as Sidon would him. For those were words which neither would ever grow tired of hearing.

For their love was absolute and eternal.

~ THE END