`To all those who came before me and failed, may you rest in peace.`

Isn't life a funny thing? You have no control over it, yet you are the only one in control- but at the same time, you aren't.

I won't be shocked if you are confused. I was too. But now I am not.

I was once rebellious as an atheist who denied every existence of god. Used every possible explanation and lost. But even then, I fought.

I dared to defy the already written script and forged my own. My loved ones suffered while I clung tightly- every second felt like a storm, ready to blow me away in oblivion- into darkness.

I knew I acted foolishly. How can a mere mortal challenge an omnipotent God? Yet, I clung to it. I desired freedom- true freedom.

I continued to resist, even when everyone I knew disappeared.

I continued to fight, even when everyone I knew suffered.

I continued to stand up, even when everyone I knew begged.

In the process of resisting, I lost to my ignorance.

I realized and gave up.

No matter what chess piece one is, the one in control is the player and not him.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Oasis: The Beginning \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

"Uncle Ray!!!"

"Oh! You are here already?"

I picked the cheerful running boy into my arms and pinched his red nose teasingly.

"Where is Mama? She told me you would be here."

"Anyways, look!!!"

He jumped and came back while desperately sliding a heavy bag.

"That uncle over there bought me these!!! Now I can finally make the cool robot I promised you and Mama!!!"

"Sure. I will be waiting for that cool robot of yours, and so will your Mama."

"But when will she come? She told me to stay with you and wait."

"I see. Then we shall wait." I once again picked him in my arms and cheered.

"Is this our new house?"

His tiny finger pointed towards the white mansion as I walked towards it.

"Yes. Do you like it?"

"Yes, but..."

"But what?"

"Isn't it too big for us?"

"Is it? I think it's perfect. You can finally play all you want without disturbing anyone."

I point my finger at a distant field, "See that. You can play tag and run all you want without complaining of space."

"Really?"

"Want to test it out?"

"Yes!!! I will run you chase me. I won't lose here."

He left my arms and ran towards the field, "Uncle!!!"

I took off my coat and ran, chasing him.

"Slowpoke!!! Slowpoke!!! Here catch me!!!"

"Ray, where are you?"

"Here, Sir!"

I quickly picked him and ran back.

"This doesn't count!!! I was distracted. I want a rematch."

"Is he Hina's son?"

"Yes, Sir."

"Then what are you doing with him? What if he got hurt? Take him inside and look after him. Don't forget your job!!!"

"Yes, Sir."

"Oi!!! Don't shout at Uncle. I will break your nose-"

I quickly covered his mouth and bowed, pushing his head down. "Please don't be angry at him. I will take care of him."

*Rway ake aur ahnds off. I oeel breqk jis nause!!! donot bi quacraed.*

"While you are at it, teach him some manners too. I don't want any side effects after."

"Yes, Sir."

*Levve go!!!*

"I can't believe we share the same blood! Upbringing sure plays a vital role in a child's development. Just look at my son and then him. Disgusting!!!"

"Ray, give him a nice scrub and change his clothes into something more civilized."

"Yes, Sir."

"Also, you no longer need to act as my secretary. Your only job is to look after this bastard!!! And then my son."

"Yes, Sir."

"Also, don't bring him anywhere near our rooms. Take him to the room near storage."

"Yes, Sir."

*I quill quill qou!!!*

"Take him out of my sight. Even my eyes hurt now."

"Yes, Sir."

I picked him up, made sure of my hands, and went inside.

"Ray, who was that guy? Why didn't you fight back? Why didn't you punch him? Why didn't you let me break his nose? Didn't you feel angry?"

As soon as I let go of my hands, questions bombarded from every direction.

"Fuck!!!"

I clenched my fist and landed it on the walls.

*"How can he even say something to his own son?"*

I lowered my voice, but my sudden reaction terrified him as he backed off.

"Ray?- don't be so angry."

I loosened my fists as I closed the door.

'Cameras?'

I averted my eyes from the well-hidden cameras and gently rubbed his head. "When was I even angry?"

"You weren't?"

"Who do you think Ray is?"

"The bestest uncle that always helps mama and me."

"Right. Now let's take a shower."

"Mama already gave me a bath. I don't want to!!! Water gets me all wet and cold. I hate water."

"But, Hina told me to. If you hate me that much, then I guess it's alright. After all, you only love your Mama and not Uncle-"

"NO!!! I love Uncle too! Really! I love Uncle, and I love Mama! Equally!!!"

"Then, what does that means?" I looked at him with a teasing smug, waiting for him to let out of defeated sigh, and he did.

"You have you come with me. Bath with me."

"Sure. Just wait for a bit."

"Can you prepare some clothes for him?" I asked a butler passing by and undressed him.

"Ray, you look like a hero. I want to have a body like yours!!!"

"You don't look too bad either. With a couple of days of training, you will be like me in no time."

"Really?"

"Yes. Now let's go."