Chapter 81: Silent Answers

Sleep was a wonderful thing to a Gold. The continuous work hours meant little time to rest. During the day and early night, there was always something that needed to get done, always something to prepare for. But late at night, when there was a guarantee that outside attacks would cease, that was the time when every Gold took their opportunity to get some well deserved rest. At this time of night, a Gold territory was peacefully silent. Even the guards that stood watch saw no purpose in losing sleep when all territories ceased attacking at night. But there was one Gold who took advantage of this time.

As he walked down the streets of the base, Zordo found the quietness relaxing. No annoying people to give orders to, no superiors to take orders from. It was just Zordo. Well, tonight it was not just Zordo. In his right hand he held a shield. Long ago, he had been interested in weaponry making. Wanting to sooth his curiosity, the Gold spent time and work crafting this specific shield. However, once it had been made, the thirst had been quenched and Zordo no longer had use for the shield with him using a long sword. Thus, the sword wound up in his personal storage. That is, until now. For now, he had a use for it.

Zordo had walked down the streets of this base more times than most cared to count, yet he still found himself marveling the details about it. The structure of the buildings, the smoothness of the road, it was all fascinating to him at how well designed they were.

“Human beings. With all our annoyances, it’s hard to believe we’re capable of such things. Especially with the kind of world we live in. Guess I shouldn’t be too surprised about the detail of this place, considering who actually designed it. Still, its nothing compared to...”

At that moment, Zordo stopped. He turned around and surveyed the area closely, as though he had heard something. There was nothing. No signs of anyone following him. Only the background noises of nature could be heard. After briskly surveying the area one more time, the Gold Leader continued his journey, turning the corner at the end of the street.

A slight moment of stillness went by. Then, Zordo’s pursuer let out a sigh of relief. Making sure not to lose their prey, the figure hurried to the end of the road, sticking close to the edge of the buildings. They had made it in time. Zordo was still on the next street, moving at a steady pace. Again, he turned a corner. It was sure to be an ally way. He must’ve been taking some kind of shortcut to ensure he wasn’t being followed. The figure waited a moment, in hopes of giving the Gold a false sense of security. Then they followed. The figure approached the turn to keep up with Zordo, but as soon as they turned the corner, the stalker’s eyes grew wide in shock. Knowing there was a chance that they could’ve been caught, the person suspected that Zordo might not be there and had already turned to exit the ally, but the problem was there was no exit to this ally. It was wide, but only some barrels occupied the space between the windows of the buildings. The pursuer had no choice but to turn around and...

“Just when I thought I could get a moments peace.” came Zordo’s voice. The pursuer jumped back from fright. Somehow, Zordo had made his way out of the ally and snuck up behind them.

“Honestly Magatha.” Zordo continued. “Will you ever master the art of sneaking?”

“Hm.” Magatha chuckled coming out of the ally. “If it were anyone else, I could’ve kept like that for weeks. Only the great Zordo can find me from the slightest mistakes. But even you have to admit that I’m getting better. It took you much longer to realize it than last time. So what was it this time that gave me away?”

At first, Zordo did not speak. He simply continued his walk down the street as though he had never encountered Magatha. Soon enough though, Magatha was right behind him. The little skip in her step teased her teammate, as though she were a little girl wanting to know a secret. Zordo, realizing what this meant, let out a sigh.

“It was your curiosity.”

“You could hear my curiosity?”

“In a way, yes. You kept yourself at a good enough distance, kept your breathing under control and walked with a light step. However, whenever I specifically speak, you’ve let it become natural to make sure your ears hear. Thus, when I began speaking back there, you let your technique down in order to get close enough to hear me. Your foot steps got heavier, your breathing louder. It was only for a moment, but that was all it took.”

“Oh, I see.” The sentence was extended making it seem as though Magatha were full of curiosity, her tone, however, made it difficult to tell. “And that’s when you noticed and pretended to keep walking as though you didn’t. And in that split moment, you came up with a way to expose me. How did you do that trick with the ally, by the way?”

“The windows.”

“Windows?”

“While it is common sense to lock your door at night, rarely does anyone in this territory lock their windows. We live in a secure territory, and it wouldn’t make sense for allies to damage each other’s goods.”

“You quickly slipped in a building, unlocked the door from the inside...”

“And while you were looking for me, I snuck up behind you.”

“And you wonder why you arouse my curiosity.”

“I don’t wonder that, I wonder why your curiosity is endless when fixated on me.”

“It’s because you are an endless mystery. How can a seeker of knowledge finish their task, when the knowledge to be sought after continues to grow?”

“The seeker could accept that they will never know everything.”

“You mean give up? Would you accept that?”

There was a moment of pause.

“No, it goes against everything I stand for.”

“And I can’t have myself looking bad in front of my good teammate Zordo now can I? Thus, I must continue to seek after knowledge of Zordo because Zordo likes that attribute about me.”

“Zordo finds your logic a headache inducer.”

“But you didn’t say it was false.”

Another sigh found itself leaving Zordo’s lips. He decided the best answer was to not answer at all. But knowing Magatha, she would find something else to annoy him about as she tended to do.

“So where are we going?”

Zordo held his head down.

“You know that I can run ahead and lose you if I wanted to.”

“Yes I know, but you won’t.”

“And why is that?”

“I like think it’s because you enjoy my company.”

Again, the best answer...

“Its okay, you actually don’t have to answer because I already know where you’re going.”

There was a moment of silence as Magatha glanced down at Zordo’s item.

“That’s a nice shield. Just from the look of it, I can see the edges are sharper than most and yet its curve is just about perfect. I didn’t think the long sword technique required a shield. That’s more of a short sword combination. Say, doesn’t that Baas kid use the short sword technique?”

Zordo held his silence but he could feel the grin of his partner shining on him.

“I bet,” Magatha continued, “if Baas saw a shield this magnificent and realized the Golds had better weapons than the Oranges, he’d be more tempted to join us.”

“You’re making it really tempting to leave you here.”

“What does it matter? Even if you leave me here I already know that you’re going to the prison. Leave me and I’ll just meet you there. So you might as well let me tag along. Atleast now you have some company.”

“You say that as if it’s a good thing.”

“I say that because I believe it is.”

Again, the best answer...

Chapter 81 End