Chapter 38

Why did they keep it so dark? This could not be good for their eyes. This was just another thing Tsudo would have to keep in mind when she… if she succeeded in becoming Vatti’s apprentice.

It had been a full day since Vatti made the offer to Tsudo. The general would be leaving tomorrow morning and Tsudo still wasn’t absolutely convinced leaving with her was the right choice. And so here she was, pacing the halls yet agai…

“Oof.”

“My apologies.” Tsudo looked up to make sure the person’s face showed no sign of annoyance. To her surprise, it was a face she was familiar with.

“Oh, hello Tsudo.” Ortin said. “I’m guessing you’re still down about what happened yesterday.”

Tsudo gave a confused look.

“Who told you about that?”  
  
Ortin returned her look with a one of his own.

“Told me? We were all there. I suppose my words don’t matter to you, but you really shouldn’t feel bad about it. Making sync energy react to anything that isn’t biological just isn’t possible.”

“Oh, the vase thing.”

“Yes… isn’t what you were concerned about?”

“Not in the slightest.”

“That’s… confusing, but a relief. I was worried that Ring had gotten to you. But that just begs the question, why are you upset?”

Tsudo let out a sigh.

“I’ve made it that noticeable, huh.”

Ortin grinned.

“Pacing back and forth throughout the halls all day? Thinking to yourself and not talking to anyone, even your friends who arrived with you? Yeah, you could say I’ve noticed. You could say everyone has noticed. We all just thought it was about the vase, though… and most of us revel in it.”

Ortin went back to what he was doing. Tsudo hadn’t noticed until now, but he held a Display. He started at the screen as though trying to figure out a puzzle.

“So, are you going to answer the question?” He asked.

Tsudo’s didn’t know what he was referring to.

“If not the vase, why are you so upset?”

Tsudo blew air from her mouth. This was not something she wanted to talk about. She could try avoiding the topic entirely, lead it to another direction. Tsudo liked that option. Still, Zordo’s teachings ran through her head.

“It’s not a problem I’m willing to talk about. I’m not very forthcoming with my problems in general. I deal with them.”

“That is… extremely blunt of you.”

“Yeah, well, General Zordo taught us no matter how much it hurts, honesty is usually the best way to go. A Discrete can tell if we’re lying so it’s better to find a truth that suits our needs. It’s also supposed to help us understand ourselves. If we’re always honest with ourselves, no one can make us doubt.”