

Part 1 Fissure

As earthquakes plagued the land, their roars carried on, creating fissures in the ground as they travelled through a once quiet land. It would only leave a pit in Valun's gut. A deep pit, an unescapable sinking feeling, enough to drag him down from flight.

"*Tap the ground.*" Horrur, the eye that dripped, asked.

"*Why?*" Cashmere, the one of lightning questioned. "*You think magic caused this?*"

Silence

Valun tapped the ground, only a small fissure from his earth magic could form.

Nothing like the colossal ones that surrounded them. Could one even argue that it was a fraction of what was. Valun walked on towards the biggest crack, he'd peer down, unable to grip the edge he did not look down much. But from what his eyes could see, there was darkness, an abyss foretelling of what was to come.

"*Nothing...*" Horrur drearily said.

Unable to shake off the pit, Valun stepped back, disappointed but not defeated, he took flight. Staying below the clouds, watching, corrupted rivers of damage ran its course. Thick clouds of debris, filled the sky, masking what was, but failing to mask was now. Screams of panic and confusion then filled the air.

"What's happening?!"

'Is it Ofae?!'

"Keep moving. Leave now!"

Valun watched on, endless hills of buildings. Slanted, stood, crumbled. People running, gathering their belongings. Nautipod's in distress, consoled by those who were near. As for Valun he flew in further, the depths were calling, he just had to know, drawn to the taste of weird complex emotions this disaster had caused.

He'd swoop in closer, following the cracks, they were hypnotic, in agile flight he'd mimic their sharp turns. He'd watch the surroundings rumble aggressively and stop, trees would collapse and birds would flee. Endless chaos as he followed the cracks.

Why is this interesting?

Why is this drawing me in?

Why, just why!?

The hive of eyes questioned each other. Driven and keen, their minds itching and racing endlessly. Just as the fissures were... Endless.

Then his flight halted, as he saw a red and blue figure also investigating. Although this figure looked confused, frightened even, too busy to notice Valun, landing silently near him and walking over.

“ I should've stayed at the fishing village.” He’d panic and grit through his teeth, looking ahead as his only way home had been destroyed. “At least I would've been able to move some things away.” He’d continue muttering to himself, unaware of Valun standing behind him.

SNAP

AAAAA!

As the twig broke, when Valun moved around to grab the stranger’s attention, the stranger would fan his great tail feathers in panic, and in response, **Valun defensively slammed his foot on the ground, creating a large stone wall from the little stable ground that remained.**

There was an awkward standstill as both defensively stood, waiting for one to make the first move.

There was a sigh of relief before the stranger spoke. “ Name's Mono, I hold nothing, I just wanted to find a quiet place to practice.”

“Practice what?” Valun asked, all three eyes peering out to have a look, as **he hid behind the earth wall he summoned.**

“ Dance...and your name?” Mono asked, trying not to make it obvious that he was curious about the multiple eyed cccat.

“Valun as a collective.” He’d reply, he’d approach Mono. “ You’re far from the coast, how did you end up so far inland?” **He’d make the wall crumble.**

Mono’s ears drooped a little and his tail closed, in sorrow. “ I don’t remember, I was heading out, to my usual place. And these earthquakes came, the land morphed, and I lost my way.” Mono looked on. “ I had a gut feeling. A strong pulling sensation, I just had to investigate.”

Valun nodded slowly.

“But beyond that verge there, I heard something, or at least I think. And these fissures lead right to where I heard it.” Mono would get on his knees and peer down into the abyss. “But there's nothing in there?”

“ All empty as before.” Valun also commented, kneeling and peering down, now disappointed that there was nothing...

They stared into the abyss further, then looked beyond the verge.

“ Lets go.” Valun said to Mono, his voice echoing down the gap, fading away as it got lower into the fissure.

Mono looked confused and shocked, they had only just met! But a pair is safer, a much bigger body to investigate with is safer. But that pulling sensation was too tempting. The idea of biting in into the unknown and feasting on what it has to offer was far too tempting. Home could wait. Couldn't it?

“Okay, let's go. I just hope It's something small.” Mono sheepishly said, standing up and looking forward. The answer was calling them. Valun stood up and walked on. He'd turn and wait for Mono to follow along.

“ Let's go then.” Mono said running after Valun. Venturing far into the chaos that called for them.