

## **Azurra Fire Mentor Initiation:**

"Hello! Is anybody there??" Azurra called out into the dark cave. The Gravent carefully stepped forward, her footsteps lightly echoing. Elsewhere in the cave, which was lit by only a few torches set within rusty holders on the wall, Azurra could hear a quiet dripping sound occasionally. She shivered lightly trying to force the fear that gathered in the pit of her stomach to settle, but her growing apprehension was consuming her. Worry pricked at the edge of her mind, as she called out again, "Hellooooo!" No response.

*Maybe I should turn back?* Azurra thought to herself, *he might not even be here right now... This cave is creepy anyways.* She glanced around tentatively before remembering why she was there and shook her head. *No, she steeled herself, I have to do this.* And called out once more, "Is anybody here?"

A few short moments pass before a new light flickers at the edge of her gaze. Suddenly, from around a corner a creature appeared, light traveling with it. Azurra gave a light gasp when she realized it was fire originating from the creature. As they stepped into view, standing on four legs fire trailing off their body, Azurra realized it was a CCCat and her eyes widened hopefully.

"What brings you to my cave, little Gravent?" The CCCat's voice mused as he smiled at Azurra. She gulped and asked in response, "Are you Giyas? The-The fire mentor?" The CCCat raised himself onto two legs, and Azurra gulped again as she realized that the CCCat's body was quite long.

"The one and only," he said with a grin and a small bow, his snaggletooth gleaming in the firelight "What can I do for you?" He asked the Gravent.

"I want you to teach me fire magic." Azurra said steeling her gaze and clenching her fists at her sides in determination. Giyas's forehead raised in curiosity. "My my," He mused once again, "You must be quite brave to venture into my cave and ask to learn fire magic, little Gravent," he grinned heartily while Azurra gave a small frown at being called 'little' again. "I respect someone with that kind of vigor!" He chuckled, "I'd be happy to teach you," he smiled sincerely, "What can I call you?" He asked.

"My name's Azurra." The Gravent said with a straight face, trying to hide the excitement that welled inside her at being accepted alongside rising fear.

"Azurra..." Giyas whispered to himself while scratching his chin, "What an interesting name... I like it!" He exclaimed, "Now!" He said with a clap of his hands together, "Tell me, Azurra..." He leaned his face closer to her and looked at her closely, "What do you know about fire magic? Or magic in general?" he asked.

"W-well," Azurra said tentatively, "I know that fire magic is one of the more dangerous and feared kinds of magic." Her forehead wrinkled as she tried to remember what she knew, "And magic is all around us, seen everywhere, and used in everything.

It is the very nature of Skire and reason for Skireans, like us, to exist. Fire is one of the basic magics and one of the more difficult ones to learn.”

Giyas smiled warmly as she finished, “Very good, you have a good understanding of the basics, but are you aware of the polarizing nature of fire?” He asked.

“I-I believe so,” Azurra responded tentatively, and Giyas’s face smoothed out into a calm seriousness.

“Fire,” Giyas began, summoning a small red flame above the hand he held out, “Is often seen in extremes.” He began shifting the flame between his fingers delicately, as if in a small dance, “Most know fire as the extreme of destruction. A powerful force full of rage and capable of ravaging all without restraint, consuming all within its wake.” He said, causing the flame to flicker wildly above his hand to emphasize his points. “Like you said,” He continued, looking at Azurra, “it is a form of magic very few choose to learn.” The flame calming and floating above Giyas’s hand.

“However,” he started again, “fire is also capable of warmth,” the small flame grew into the shape of a small bird and began to dance around the CCCat’s hand going up his arm, “light,” the bird shaped flame flew around his shoulders shining brightly, “wonder, and a beauty that very little can compare to.” As the bird dashed through the blue flame licking off of Giyas’s back, it changed color as it swung around his shoulder, down his arm making loops, and coming to stop in a brilliant blue display above Giyas’s other hand, with the bird’s wings outstretched. The fire lit up brightly one last time with a crackle before dimming down into a small candle like red flame.

Azurra’s eyes watched the display with amazement, her mouth parted slightly as she stared in awe. “It takes great patience and perseverance to be able to learn the art of fire magic.” Giyas said with a gentle seriousness before wrapping his hand around the floating flame, extinguishing it. “I am prepared to teach you all that I know, and will guide you every step of the way... But are you ready for the challenges ahead?” He asked, measuring his potential pupil with a steady gaze.

Azurra straightened her back, puffing out her chest slightly, and standing proudly with a metaphorical fire blazing in her eyes. “Yes.” She said with determination, “I want to learn the ways of fire magic. I want to become stronger.”

Giyas let out a small hmm as a smile broke across his lips. He could already begin to see possible challenges with this Gravent, but the look in her eyes gave him all the confidence he needed to be able to teach her. *She can learn*, he thought to himself, *and she can become quite powerful if she puts the work in*. He grinned at the Gravent, thoughts going through his mind as he was already planning the journey ahead.

“Then show me what you got,” Giyas said to his newest pupil with a snaggle toothed grin.