

Pyris walked along the windswept plains, lands that belonged to Thes, their brightly colored rainbow tail stuck out like a black sheep in a white flock against the natural landscape, they would most likely be spotted from a mile away. They approached the infamous floating islands, the place where Thes was said to reside. They stood under the largest island, where Thes cottage was located, looking up at the marvelous land mass suspended in air. They silently pondered to themselves on just how in the world they would reach such a height.

“Thes really doesn't make it easy to get up there does he...” Pyris muttered, only to be interrupted by a chuckle and faint thud that came from behind them, causing them to spin around.

“Well, you can call it the first test to pass, it tells me who's worth training and who's not.” Thes said as he landed behind Pyris. Pyris only stood there for a moment before giving Thes a scowl.

“I wouldn't call it a test, more like a giant middle finger to those who want to learn.” Pyris muttered, getting a chuckle out of Thes. Thes shook his head, walking up next to Pyris and resting a hand on their shoulder.

“You seem like an interesting case, alright, I'll tell you what, I'll give you a lesson in the basics, free of charge, and if you can manage to get up there.” He said, pointing to the floating island above. “Using nothing but wind magic, then I'll consider taking you on as a student.” Thes said, a sly smile plastered on his face, Pyris had to shake their head in disbelief.

“There's no way, you'd have to be an expert to go airborne even for a short time, let alone get up that high.” Pyris said, gesturing to the floating island above.

“Maybe not to the main island, but can't you see there are some that float lower.” Thes gestured again, this time to a few smaller islands, still high up, but still possible to reach with enough wind magic.

“My point still stands, oh grand wind Master, being airborne isn't something someone learns in one lesson.” Pyris retorted, yet Thes remained optimistic.

“Well maybe not with grace, but it's still possible. Advanced air magic uses precision to get to where they need to go. However a novice can accomplish the same goal, so long as the target is big enough to accommodate for error of course. I'd say these islands are big enough even a beginner like yourself could get your way up there, though I will agree, it won't be easy.” Thes said, he stood there patiently, waiting for Pyris to give an answer. After a moment of staring at the islands, they gave a long sigh.

“Fine, what do I need to do?” Pyris grumbled reluctantly, not as if they had much of a choice. Thes lit up, walking ahead and leading them under one of the smaller, lower hanging floating islands.

“These lands are practically oozing magic, it's what gives these islands the boost they need to stay airborne. I'm sure you've already noticed the magical updraft hmm?” Thes asked. Pyris nodded, they noticed it when they came closer, it was faint, dispersed, like tiny particles of dust that followed upwards, though it was hard to notice. “You can use that to your advantage, like floating down a river, let the magic pull you along with it, you just need to use your own magic to give yourself a boost, in a sense.” Thes said as he spread his wings, Pyris could see that while yes, Thes did indeed use his wings for flight, they noticed the flow of magic around him increased as he leaped up in the air.

“While of course I can fly myself, having a boost behind me can help with take off, you just have to do the same, except you'll need to give yourself a bigger boost to get up to where you need to go.” Thes said as he hovered higher, having to yell in order for Pyris to hear them. “I'll be waiting at my home, if you make it, we can really get to start your training, if not, well, then it was nice to meet you!” He shouted before he flew high up to the main island. Pyris only huffed, he made it look so easy, what a show off. Nevertheless, if Pyris was going to learn Air magic, this was the first obstacle to get over.

Pyris took a deep breath, channeling the magic around them, using their own magic in tandem with the natural flow around them. They imagined themselves airborne, flying as easily as Thes, using the air current to lift them high in the air. They felt the air around them shift, the air pushing the fur around them. Pyris muscles tensed, it was going to take more than that to get them going. They pushed harder, focusing their magic on one point beneath them. The air became stronger, causing their ears and tail to flap in the current, they pushed harder, and harder, before finally, they made that leap of faith.

As they jumped, the air pushed them high, much higher than they anticipated. They managed to not only leap up to the floating island, but several feet above it. Their limbs flailed as they let out a shriek, cut short as they landed face first on the dirt. Pyris laid there for a moment, before sitting up, spitting out a few chunks of dirt, shaking off and brushing off any more dirt that got on their fur. It took a moment to recover from that faceplate, but they soon looked over the edge of the island, they had managed to jump roughly 25-35 ft in the air, not bad for their first attempt, even if it wasn't the most grateful landing.

The looked up, the main island still far off, but the journey didn't seem as daunting as it once did. There were still several other islands surrounding the main one. Pyris took a deep breath, this wasn't over yet. One by one Pyris hopped island to island, using air magic to boost their way

from one to the next. There were a few miscalculations here and there, they tasted dirt more than once, but with every leap of faith, they got better and better.

Eventually, they had made it, the main island, their final destination. They walked up to the small cottage, knocking on the door. It didn't take long before he opened it, a large smile on his face.

“Right then, let's get started.”