

So What's the Deal with Orville, Anyways?

The only solid information we are given is this:

1. He tended to Link's (previous) weapon for the four years he was imprisoned
2. He is Link's friend
 - a. Out of the 4 friends in the assembled group he is seen standing next to Link multiple times
 - b. He is the one who calls for Link when Skyloft is being raised.
3. Out of the entire manga, he is one of 5 named characters

From the fact that he tended to Link's broken sword, it is extrapolated that he is the one who fixed it, which leads to the headcanon that he is a blacksmith.

From the gathered information about him in relation to Link it is extrapolated that they were not only friends but *close* friends.

From the fact that he is one of 5 named characters it is gathered that he has at least some significance to the story.

From here, facts, archetypes, and tropes begin to influence each other.

A notable characteristic is that he dresses plainly. Out of all the characters and especially the named characters. He is designed the most simply, and rather than being in a color that stands out as Link, Hylia, and the Loftwing do, he wears brown.

This is where the archetype/trope comes in.

The exalted hero and their considerably more plain best friend. This is where their relationship starts being built from. It takes from examples like Harry and Ron, Captain America and Bucky Barnes, and Frodo and Sam.

This is also where the romantic implications start to stem from, as there is also the trope of the exalted hero and their considerably more plain love interest. This idea is inspired from both canon and fanon couples like: Tony Stark and Pepper Potts, Hamlet and Horacio and Achilles and Patroclus

These relationships also come with a tragic aspect. The hero (and sometimes the love interest) dies. Romantic tragedies and dramas have been a part of media for years, and it is a genre that is played upon often in relation to these two characters, a further reason why they're often placed together is due to the idea of a mortal helpless to save their exalted lover. Exploring ideas of helplessness and human mortality may be a reason why this relationship is sometimes preferred to Hylia and Link.

Side note: These archetypes also often involve one character being the foil to another. Which involves a bit of extrapolation for both characters, but places Orville as the more collected and cautious planner to Link's reckless nature.

The individual creators Nocturnal Moore, otherwise known as Faith, and distressndisaRAE otherwise known as Rae were some of the first to post characterizations of Orville. While some of these characterizations come from the aforementioned inferences, others are personal, but regardless these first headcanons and ideas would influence others' going forward.

A culmination of these various ideas came about in the creation of the Linked Universe Species Swap AU. An alternate universe of the Legend of Zelda fancomic Linked Universe. In it, The First Hero, known, very obviously, as First is a significant character. As his character arc was being planned, the Early Skyloft Arc came into fruition, in which the time traveling heroes find themselves on Skyloft three years after it's ascent. In it, Orville also becomes a significant character, as his friendship with First is elaborated upon not only to give First a rest in what has been a tumultuous plot for him thus far, but also to give further development to his character. In writing Orville, there came to be a sort of communal consensus for him, largely influenced by Azalea Scroggs, Saphira Navi, Caesar and I. A large number of the users involved in the Species Swap AU are also in the First Hero Brainrot Crew server, and as such, the general consensus carried over.

Others who were not in the Species Swap AU may have also been influenced by a Live Write I did on the Linked Universe server that served as an Orville character study.

Those who knew of neither could be inspired by individual actors like the aforementioned Faith, who have somehow created a considerable amount of similar personality and relationship headcanons without the previously mentioned influences. This is most likely due to making the same aforementioned inferences from the given information.

From these base archetypes, Orville starts to be more individually interpreted. Based on not only personal life experiences but personal media consumption, he gains new tropes, additional archetypes, character relationships, and characteristics from each individual creator. Through this, Orville gains further life. In one story, he has a teasing older sister, the author states that it's inspired by their own experiences with their younger brother, in another story, he has hearing issues, taken from another author's own personal experiences.

Due to the previous general consensus of character, the basis is one that is strong enough to build these headcanons off of.

From 8 panels and 4 lines, Orville becomes a fully fleshed out character. There could be multiple reasons to it, perhaps due to the lack of developed characters in the manga, creators took what they had had made something from it to fill the story, or in the case of The Species Swap AU, perhaps is simply a testament to the enjoyability of taking an underdeveloped character and making them your own. Either way, somehow Orville got here, and it hearkens back to a popular statement about attitudes towards fanon and fanfiction.

““It's not that deep.”

Maybe not originally, but the ground is soft and I'm ready to dig.”

And oh, did we dig.