

It had been a long and somewhat exhausting day for the white Succubun. The several days' travel it took to get to the large expansive field of rice to begin with had been extra taxing on his body. It hadn't helped that Dan had kept the two of them to a brisk pace, or that he'd had to wake up god knows how early each day for yet more hiking across uneven and rugged terrain.

(Shibani knew that Dan had tried to warn him against coming but... Well, he wasn't completely mad that he'd decided to join the other Succubun on this adventure, but he was exhausted and willing to inwardly gripe about it as much as he could. After all, Dan couldn't read his thoughts so it was safe to do so.)

He'd then - of course - had proceeded to spend the whole of today working on harvesting rice from the fields. He wasn't used to such work and it had left his back aching and legs and arms sore from all the effort of bending over and lifting the heavy bundles. His soft hands had long before developed at least one blister which he'd bitten back sounds of pain over (he didn't want Dan to worry about him, or to remind him that he'd told him not to join him on this little adventure.)

Still, seeing the look of pride and joy on Dan's face as he'd surveyed the amount of rice they'd managed to gather already had made it all worth it. So Shibani had kept his mouth firmly shut over the whole ordeal and had slipped off to the hot spring in the area for a short time while Dan wandered back and forth muttering about rice and the differences in the grains and stalks that he could see.

Feet dangling in the hot water Shibani laid back and gazed up at the ceiling high above them. He'd been so captivated by the fields of rice when they'd first arrived that he hadn't even given the rest of the place a second glance. The minerals from the hot spring had caused various stalactites to form, slowly reaching down from the cave roof far above his head. Such things were a common sight, but for some reason Shibani found it all a little... charming today.

He snorted slightly at that idea, amused by his own slightly frivolous thoughts before letting his eyes wander around some more. A small crack across the way caught his eye, head tilting to one side as he studied it a bit harder. From where he sat it almost seemed to be... glowing. Like a light was coming from inside the cave.

Shifting with a small groan he gingerly got to his feet, shoving them back into the much hated shoes before glancing around to see where Dan was. The other Succubun seemed too preoccupied with whatever new bit of rice had him muttering to himself and Shibani just shook his head. It wasn't worth interrupting him to point the cave out then. He'd just take a moment to explore it and then start back up with his own batch of harvesting before Dan noticed that he'd stopped.

Slinging the still too heavy and awkward sickle over his shoulder he shuffled off in the direction of the glow, gingerly stepping around uneven looking ground. It took him longer than he thought to get to the small crack (how did the distance in the place even work? The endless rice fields were almost too confusing and uniform as they were beautiful) and when he finally reached it he tossed a glance over his shoulder to see what Dan was doing and if he'd noticed him missing yet or not.

Seeing the other Succubun back to being hard at work Shibani smiled a little. He'd have some time then before Dan realized he wasn't there, and hopefully by then he'd have managed to slip back out into the fields and begin working again.

Stepping through the crack he found himself greeted by a sight that took his breath away. Bright, beautiful crystals lined every inch of the small cave, sparkling their glowing blue light back at him. It was... *magical*.

He allowed himself to be dazed for only a moment longer, shaking his head as if to remove himself from a trance. It took a moment for his eyes to adjust to the lighting but when it did Shibani found himself fixated on a single section of rice growing in the middle of the cave. It was... different somehow. The rice itself almost seemed to glow in a way that was different from the crystals around it. If anything it made the rice even more stunning than the cave itself.

Hesitating only a moment he carefully shifted the sickle in his grip. This would be good to harvest... right? Something inside him told him that he should harvest it, and Shibani allowed that feeling to raise his hands and bring it down on the stalks of rice.

Carefully carrying his new-found spoils the Succubun slipped from the cave, glancing around one last time for Dan. The other was still off in this distance, his back to Shibani as he worked on gathering more rice. Good.

Relaxing just a little he moved closer to Dan, starting up his own work at harvesting more rice, carefully stacking everything around the still dimly glowing bundle that he'd harvested. He'd hide that for now. Dan could learn of it later when he wasn't in the middle of working hard.

Shibani just hoped that harvesting it was the right thing to do in the end after all.