

"I don't see how we're supposed to find anything of use out here." Valka scoffed.

"We won't know unless we look." Ignis said calmly. "Anything that will aid our cause will be worth it, even if it's only a slight amount."

"But a bunch of useless junk from ichor soaked ruins? How would that get the gods attention?"

Ignis gave Valka a faint smile and placed a hand on his shoulder. "It won't, but we could certainly use the funding."

"Right... Whatever you say boss." Valka sighed.

The two cccats walked side by side through a ruin facility that had once been new, during the early days of the fracture. It was quickly forgotten about as with many things on the core during the fracturing but as with many things down here, it was quickly rediscovered. Unfortunately not really by any research group nor explorers, but by a small cult.

Ignis, in general, had no interest in the core itself. He only wanted the attention of the gods. However funding for himself and his group had always been an issue. It was easier for a time during the fracturing, when skireans were looking for answers, but just as quickly as new members came, many had also left after a while.

So, here he was, with a few of his members, down on the core looking for *anything* that could be of value. Value was subjective of course, though some things were consistently worth a lot. Mechanical and tech parts, new or rare materials both from the old era and the new. All they had to do was find enough to cover the trip and then some, even if only a little, would make the venture worth it to Ignis.

Valka, though, had other thoughts on the whole thing. They thought of it as a waste of time and unnecessarily risky. Valka had no idea what rules or laws there were on core exploration and knew Ignis didn't either. Did ownership of property from before still apply to the ruins? Or was it finder's keepers?

"Ignis?" Valka spoke up again, watching his footing amongst the shattered glass and shredded metal of the ruined facility.

"Yes?" Ignis replied, not looking back.

"Couldn't we just find specimens or minerals down here? Would probably be less risky."

"Mmm... I doubt it. Then we'd still be dealing with the Ichor and potentially ichor infected creatures. Not to mention we lack the proper tools and containment for such things." Ignis crouched down and picked up a broken screen display, trying to determine if it was worth

lugging around. "But if everything goes right, that could be something we do on a future venture. Just not this one."

Valka flicked an ear, but said nothing more.