“Ow ow ow ow! Ear! Ear! EMPLISI, EAR!” Miran screeched as Emplisi continued dragging him. The pair didn’t have a very good start, in fact, it was a mess. Yet, somehow, the danuoc kadin found herself babysitting a poorly mannered toa. Miran managed to shake the kadin off and now standing with his legs wide open as if he had been fighting with an enormous creature. Emplisi on the other hand remained quiet and just glanced at him teasingly.

“What? Don’t tell me little ol’ me hurt your pride? If I knew you’d be that easy to take you on, I wouldn’t have gone along with your shenanigans.”

“HA! You’re lucky you caught me in such a state, I was already wounded! It’s only natural I’d struggle, don’t think you’re so special.”

Emplisi rolled her eyes at his arrogance, it was funny some times, but the same couldn’t be said now. It swung between annoying and irritating. She then curled and uncurled her tail in her own amusement. She could irritate him too, after all.

“Oh yes, how could I forget that. Well, I’d say we better head to the Hallowed Tarn to see if that makes you feel better…since you’re a little under the weather.”

Miran scoffed at the idea. He didn’t need anything to feel better! Who did this Kadin possibly think he was? He was a toa of great status, created by the gods. Not at all living in his delusions, he straightened his pose and lifted a paw.

“Listen, I know you mean well, a kadin like yourself wouldn’t know who someone like ***I*** am so I’ll allow the mistake this one time. I do not need help. All I need is a little sleep and I’ll be good the next day.”

With a swift and cocky nod, the golden ket smirked and chuckled as he tried to get away. While there was not a sound of wincing or pain coming from him, but the toa actually wasn’t lying. The fur on his far and neck seemed fine and in place, but as you travelled down his sides…it was a bit darker from dirt and mud of scuffles. As he turned, the slight lining of claw marks could be seen as his feathers moved aside. This wasn’t good and if he kept pushing himself like this, he’d eventually crash. The problem was, to convince the knucklehead to do what he’s told. Then the idea hit her.

“Well, I heard the Hallowed Tarn was only for those that were the bravest kets. Those strong enough to reach it.”

That wasn’t enough to get his full attention, but his ears wiggled into a perked stance. He was listening, even if there was no snarky comment. Emplisi got to her feet, carefully moving around him as she teased. Once his eyes came into view, he quickly shut them and stuck up his nose proudly.

“Wild things happen there, some go there to just take a sip of that water to see if it’ll bless them. Even resurrecting cubs! I think that’s sweet, not something you’re malicious nature would be interested in of course.”

She carried herself around him, mimicking his proud expression. When Miran felt her eyes were off him, glared. His gaze pierced her back and she knew it.

“Oh well, I guess I could go by myself, if you’re too busy. Just figured since we’ve come this far, you’d still tag a long. How disappointing.”

With a snort he practically jumped in front of her.

“Woah, woah, woah. I never said I wouldn’t go, just that I don’t need help. If you do, I can escort you there.”

Checkmate. Emplisi’s eyes narrowed, she could see that bruised ego of his in those flaming eyes. Easier than stealing candy from a baby.

“Very well then, escort me there, sir.”

“...Sir…” He grumbled as he took the lead. For most of the journey, he was happily leading into the unknown. It had been a while since they had seen each other in Jordskarn. Miran’s little detour in Shalekesh separated the pair for a while, but eventually the two ran into each other near the coast of the Silverglade. Through the fog and beautiful wilds, they eventually made it to the base of the mountain. When the lake started to come into view, the pair slowed down. It wasn't eventful, yet it still took its toll.

Miran had shifted to Emplisi’s pace, slowly trailing behind her. The purple kadin stopped dead in her tracks as the blonde toa plodded along.

“Hey, we’re here! We made it-..!” She chimed without realizing there was barely any strength left in him. She was unsure of how to ask or what to do in a way that wouldn’t set the proud gremlin off. As soon as he caught up, she tapped his arm gently.

“We’re here…why don’t you take a soak in the water?”

A mistake. Big mistake! There was one thing she had forgotten and it was that he couldn’t swim.

“Ha! Right, so you can drag me in?” He growled.

“Ack, I didn’t mean that. I meant like…on the edge. Just deep enough that you can soak your body, but you can still sit or lay down.”

Their suspicions grew even further as Emplisi mentioned only having their head safely out of the water.

“Somehow that’s not reassuring.”

The shift in tone surprised the kadin as he seemed to be being blunt now. She pulled herself close and nudged him to lean on her.

“Just trust me…I’ll stay right next to you.”

“...Okay.” Reluctantly, the offer was taken. Emplisi led the way in, slowly, but surely. Miran winced as soon as he hit the water. It was as if touching his wounds stung a bit.

“It’s okay, just go slow…”

Eventually, he managed to slink in with the kadin guarding. There was a small ledge he could perch himself on while she let herself sink a bit more in front of him. It felt *good*. It felt *nice*. It was a ***relief***. Miran lay his head on a rock nearby as Emplisi seemed to use his hind legs as a pillow.

“Oh you think that’s cute?”

“Mm, I can be. When I want to be.”

He watched her attentively as they two relaxed. Emplisi’s fur turned from purple to blue slowly. Miran lifted his head in shock.

“Hey, how’d you do that?”

“Dunno, I was born with it. I just…do it.”

“That’s beautiful.”

“I didn’t know you could give compliments.”

“Yeah, you’re right I don’t. I just…do. Sometimes.”

She chuckled, letting herself get carried away with the water.

“Sure.”

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WC: 1,107
Hallowed Tarn for Miran & Slot Raffle entry for Emplisi!