

Essence of Time - The Forgotten Journey

Von Deamond

Kapitel 9:

Chapter 9

„I’m saving you and our world!“ Callo opened the door, leading Allen outside.

“But... aren’t you going to get serious trouble if you help us?” Allen rushed after the elf, trying to keep up with his pace.

“That is none of your concern, just follow me!” They ran down a corridor with a dozen statues on its walls. Callo looked up and down on them, counting from right to left. “Two... three... four... five... six!” He stopped at a statue of a desert-elf with long hair that looked a little like Callo. The tan man pushed the hilt of the sword in the statue’s shelf. With a growling sound the wall behind the statue swung open, discovering a hidden staircase, leading down into darkness.

“What the...” Allen looked down. The stairs seemed to not end anywhere... The darkness illuminated the small stairway with a black curtain.

“Do you remember the cave we met first?” Callo stepped in to the dark stairway, walking down towards the black hole. “The tunnel-systems lead deep down through all over Yora. Only very few know about them and even less dare entering them. Desertelves don’t like darkness and those caves are the only spots for dark spirits and night-creatures to hide. This corridor should lead us to a spot right under the temple-altar.” Callo looked around. Allen couldn’t even see his fingers in front of his face anymore... A small red eye appeared in front of them.

“Okay, Callo. Shall we?” Shade’s voice was a mere whisper in the dark surroundings. “Hey, you!” Allen felt someone poking against his arm, so he assumed, the spirit was talking to him.

“Uhm, my name is Allen.” He slowly walked on, trying not to lose grip of Callo. Yes, grip... he had reached for Callo’s long hair to not lose him in the heavy darkness down here.

“Just a suggestion to keep you alive down here. Don’t make any rushed movements or noises. My brothers and sisters are not as nice as I am!” She giggled and floated towards Callo. “Okay, then. Let’s get going. I tried to form a shadow-mirror of Allen

and Zeyir in their prison-cells... but it won't take long until they find out!"

"Zeyir is save? Thank goodness... Who freed him?" Allen tripped over something on the ground, landing right on Callo... "S...sorry..."

"Oh, that was—"

"No one!" Callo cut Shade off while trying to stand up again.

"I better make you some light, huh? Hehe, not that I don't find it amusing but..."

"Shade!" Callo hissed and Allen could imagine the deathglare he must be sending the little spirit right now... He heard the clapping of small little hands before the air around shade seemed to light up.

"H... how did she...?" Allen glared at the spot in midair that seemed... normal...

"Well, I'm a darkness spirit!" Shade grinned evilly. "I can control darkness, so I can summon it or send it away... depends on what I need." Smiling she hopped up and down while still floating above the ground.

"But... when you send the darkness away then the logic consequence would be..."

"Light." Shade nodded. "Light and darkness are the only elements that can exist only next to each other. If light is gone, darkness comes and if darkness goes away the empty spot will be filled with light." She smiled and flew on.

They went deeper and deeper into the corridor that from what Allen could see turned into a small cave by now. The young human had the bad feeling someone was watching them. Chills ran down his back and he tried to stay as close to Callo as possible. For some weird reason, Callo seemed to know the darkness down here pretty well... This surprised Allen. Weren't the desert-elves followers of Sol? So didn't they dislike darkness? Allen shook his head to get rid of those thoughts.

"What are those... small red dots in the darkness?" Allen felt how he started shivering while looking at tow little red gleaming dots that seemed awfully close...

"My siblings." She grinned. "And now shut up. They want to sleep." Allen gulped and tried to breath as silent as possible. "You can breathe normally, but... stop talking so loud okay?" Shade chuckled and looked at the startled human. She didn't watch out for a second, flying very close on a wall. One of her 'siblings' became visible. Allen gasped and rushed towards Callo. Those little red gems belonged to small white creatures that looked as if they haven't eaten anything in ages. Their white skin made them look awfully sick and the red eyes gave them an atmosphere of death and danger that made Allen's whole body turn cold.

"Don't worry about them. They usually don't attack." Callo's voice sounded a little pained.

"Usually?!" Allen grew more and more nervous...

"Yes. The eighty years I use these tunnels regularly they attacked me only once." Callo sighed, rubbing his hands at the bad memory.

"Why did they attack you?" Allen felt curiosity retuning into his mind, pushing away the fear.

"None of your concern, Allen." Shade tried to imitate Callo's voice and she did a pretty good job in it!

"Just as she says!" Callo had to smile at his little spirit and shook his head. He closed his eyes for a second. "I met Shade down here the first time. She kept the other spirits away from me and helped me out of the darkness of the cave. As reward I formed a pact with her."

"Reward? Haha, you must be kidding." Shade chuckled and poked her partner playfully. "I saved your life and you thanked me by binding myself on you? That's a joke!" Laughing she kept flying against her master.

"You two are a really good team. I can tell from the way you act with each other!" Allen smiled walking forward to not interrupt little Shade while poking the older man. Suddenly he tripped over something again. "Ouch!" He landed on... stairs!

"Oh, great. There we are!" Callo looked up. "This is the entrance to the temple." Allen grumbled a little disappointed. "What's wrong?" Callo looked down at the human with an evil grin on his face.

"Couldn't you have warned me!?" Allen felt how a small smile appeared on his face. They had reached their goal! Sol...

The altar-room was peaceful and quite. It was noon and the light-spiral shooting from the altar seemed to touch the sun above the Temple of Light. Down the stairs that lead towards the altar, a small statue started moving... From behind it, Callo, Allen and Shade climbed out of a hole in the ground.

"Phew..." Allen looked around, not sure what to say or do... Suddenly his gaze fell at some guards, standing next to the altar. His heart nearly stopped beating.

"Lord Moerbin!" The two guards knelt down and looked confused at Callo.

"Everything is alright... I just felt like taking a break." Callo replied calmly before walking towards the two guards. "Would you mind leaving the altar? We received order from the King to try summoning Sol. Such a holy procedure shall not be performed with ordinary guards around!" Callo's voice had something dangerous in it... Holy procedure? The King ordered it? Allen was confused....

"But..." The guard pointed at Allen with a nervous expression.

"Do you really want to ignore a direct order from the leader of the Moon-Guards!?" Anger entered Callo's calm voice causing the guards to shiver. They took their weapons and hurried towards the doors.

"We will make sure no one interrupts you, Lord Moerbin!" The guard shouted before closing the door behind them.

"That was a lie, wasn't it?" Allen looked at Callo. "You did neither receive the order from your king nor am I allowed to be here." He closed his eyes. "This is treason... they will kill you."

"I know." Callo took Allen and pushed him forward towards the altar. "Now summon Sol, so I know my sacrifice won't be in vain." They moved towards the altar. The light seemed so intense here... Allen gulped... This was going to be his first pact!

"Holy Spirit of Light. Lord of the mighty Sun! Show yourself and fulfill your divine duty!" Allen released all Mana in his body. He could feel how the Mana around him entered his body. It felt just as his mother had described it to him once, or how the Ardon-elder had taught him.

Callo could not believe his eyes... He knelt down immediately as he saw a figure forming in the centre of the spiral of light.

"Who are you to awake me from my slumber?" Sol showed himself. The long golden hair hang down around his white robes. Instead of ears white wings framed his pretty face. A golden tiara held back his bangs to not fall freely into his face. Three pairs of wings flapped on his back.

"Uhm... Hey... Hello! My name... is Allen!" Allen tried to remember how he had been taught to form a pact... but he had a total black-out. Callo knelt on the ground looking at the summoner with a mixture of amusement and disappointment.

"Lord Sol... My name is Callo Moerbin, I'm the head of the Moon-Guard of the desert-elves..."

"I know who you are... You have grown since the last time I saw you though... Why did you awake me?" Sol looked at the kneeling desert-elf now. His golden eyes looked so empty... Just as Luna's eyes... Allen shook his head. He was glad Callo seemed to take over for him. At least he already had a pact with a spirit... Where was Shade anyway?

"Thanks, Milord... This young human seeks to form a pact with you. As it appears he obsesses the necessary abilities to forge pacts with the Great Spirits of Midgard. Mana is running shorter in our world and so we hope a re-awakening of the Great Spirits might cause a constant Mana-supply as it used to be back when all Spirits were still inhabiting their altars." Callo did not dare looking directly at Sol but Allen watched the Great Spirit of Light in awe.

"Uhm, yeah that is right... My mother used to have a pact with Luna. So I hope I will be

able to form a pact with you as well." Allen scratched his goatee, receiving a deathglare from the other man for his ill-suited manners.

"I see. I am certain you obsess the abilities to form a pact with me... Otherwise you would not have been able to awake me from the unnatural slumber I have been sealed in." Sol flapped with his wings a little, floating closer towards Allen. "The happenings on Midgard reach further than you expect, young human, and forming pacts with us will cost you your whole Mana one day. Are you still prepared to take on this quest? If not, go back and live your life as long as it lasts. It needs a strong will to keep up with our might." Sol's gaze grew more intense as he eyed the willing summoner with a weird curiosity.

"I am willing to do whatever it takes! Midgard is my world as well, and if it comes to an end how am I supposed to live in it!? I must fight for it so I deserve the right to live in this world!" Allen was certain. He wanted to save his world. Otherwise he would have given up much earlier already! He had lost his village, had to face a God, travel along with an impatient demon, resisting the unforgiving heat of Yora, facing desert-elves... He would not let his newly gained friends down! Not Zeyir, neither Morgana, nor Callo...

"Very well. Then bring me to Luna's temple next. I will form a pact with you if we are there." He –Sol was male... was he?– replied calmly.

"Why at Luna's temple?" Allen was a little confused. Callo stood up now as well.

"Lord Sol, we—" Callo was cut off by the sound of doors. They looked down the stairs.

Serena and her personal guards looked up at them, weapons drawn and ready to face Callo and Allen.

"I will meet you at the Moon-palace then!" Sol said calmly before disappearing in a flash of light.

"This means trouble... right?" Allen stepped back drawing out his daggers. "And we don't even have a pact with Sol to get rid of them!!"

"This really did not work out as expected... Well then... I will give you some time! Shade! You will lead him out of here!" Callo looked up and with a *plop* the small shadow spirit appeared above them.

"No way! I won't just leave you behind, Callo!" Shade demanded with her unnatural voice. "There must be another way!"

"There is none! They are blocking the way to the cave!" Callo hissed while drawing his rapiers ready to fight.

"It is over, Callo!" Serena looked up at them. Allen could see in her eyes that she was worried. Maybe she even felt guilty. But not for facing them here... it was something else... Allen was not certain what it was though... "Daughter of Light, Spirit of the

holy Sun... Come forth and lend me thy strength! By our pact! I summon you! Sparkle!" Serena held her hand high. Light formed around her fingers before a female spirit appeared. The Spirit had the proportions of a human woman with long silver hair and the white eyes were just as empty as Sol's...

"Oh great... not that annoying nag!" Shade complained while trying to think of something.

"Shade... it is alright!" Callo closed his eyes before rushing forward, ready to face Serena and her knights. Allen tried to step in-between, Shade gasped,...

Light... Anything seemed white. Allen had to blink intensively to see again...

Callo had a hard time dodging Sparkles beams of light while Shade tried to irritate the other guards with shadow-spells. Allen tried to think of a way to help them but... he had only his daggers and Callo would prefer him to escape anyway...

"Dark spear!" A familiar voice came from behind the guards. Suddenly a dark aura surrounded the surprised desert-elves. They were dragged to the ground by an invisible force.

"Zeyir!" Allen could not believe the demon just jumped out of the hole behind the statue! Shade nodded towards the demon, ready to face the remaining guards.

Callo had it rough though... Serena was not good in fighting... but her spirit was! She was able to teleport in the sunny area and so Callo had no chance of hitting her while Sparkle's far reaching attacks were really hard to dodge...

'Come on... please beat her...' Serena prayed mentally. She must not help him anymore... Otherwise they would know that she helped Callo. 'Please just beat her!'

Callo dodged another lightspear that hit him right into the arm though... He hissed in pain. If it just wasn't so sunny, Sparkle would not be able to use this whole lot of light-Mana! Callo could feel his arm growing numb from the hit. He lost grip of one of his rapiers... With an echoing sound it fell on the ground.

"No..." Serena closed her eyes and looked away. She could not watch her own spirit killing her best friend... Her hand closed around the necklace he had given her. Her keen ears tried to listen to what was happening... but there was neither a painful his, nor the sound of steel or anything... just... silence... She opened her eyes and looked around.

Shade held the rapier Callo had dropped before on her throat while throwing deathglares at the Lightspirit. Allen helped Callo up while Zeyir knocked the last remaining guard off.

"So... I guess you won this one..." Serena tried to hide her happiness while Sparkle was visibly uncertain about what to do... "Sparkle, disappear!" The princess demanded before looking at the guards on the ground. From what she could see none of them

were dead only unconscious.

"That's it, Serena." Callo stood up, facing his friend. "The next time we meet, one of us must die..." With that, he turned towards the statue, followed by Shade and Allen. They disappeared in the darkness of the cave. Zeyir remained for a second...

"Thank you." He smiled warmly and turned towards the exit as well before looking back one last time. "You will become a good queen, I'm certain of it!"

"How are you supposed to know about such things..." She replied with agony. "I betrayed my tribe and no one of them even knows how much I betrayed them..."

"Sometimes we must turn our backs on our own country to save our whole world... to be a prince is not easy if you want to be a good one..."

"Prince? Wait, what do you--!" But Zeyir was already gone. Serena stared blankly at the hidden path. "What was he talking about...?!" She closed her eyes, concentrating but...

"Princess!!" Suddenly the door to the altar-room swung open again. "What happened!?" A dozen guards -ready to fight- looked at the surprised princess.

"The Moon-guards..." Serena took a look at the statue again. 'Next time we meet, one of us must die...' Callo's voice echoed in her head again and again...

"Princess?" A guardian with long brown hair with small locks and blue eyes stepped closer towards Serena, worry in his eyes.

"Mobilize all units of the Moon-Guards! Callo Moerbin is a traitor and we will hunt him down for what he did. Eron, you are the new leader of the Moon-guards! This is your chance to prove your worth!" She looked at the soldier with anger in her eyes. "No one betrays our tribe and just get's away with it!"