Banni: Lying Grounds

I find myself staring at the underground below me. The pitch darkness watching me as it had met my own eyes. I frowned before shaking my head as I turned around, gazing onto the forest surrounding around me however. It was all peace and quiet. Nothing can disturbed the silence that was looming overhead. Yet upon the forest ground, no animals or creatures were about to stare upon me. Watching me while I entered through the undergrounds like some spy or something. I shake my head again and made a face, returning my gaze back upon the darkness below me. And exhaled a sigh, closing my eyes and reopening them again before walking right down.

I was welcomed into the darkness. Yet I was a bit surprise that the first road had greeted me. It was stretched on both ways; leading left and right into different destinations. Wherever that maybe however. As I find myself staring down upon the path in front of me, I gaze onto the torch that was in front of me. Fire was burned upon its tip, giving light to the small radius of surrounding surround it. Surprisingly, a yellow bricked wall was behind it too it had seemed. I returned my attention towards the path again and looked towards my left and right. Already picked a direction as to where i had wanted to go.

And thus when I had picked, I sticked with it upon the end. I had chosen the left path. Though I never knew why however for I had thought that both paths would be of the same length and towards the same destination no matter where I would go. With this logic in mind, I just continued forward. Eyes up front into the horizon whereas the pitch darkness met my eyes. Though somehow it was driven back by the torches that were upon the side of the walls; lightning up whenever I bypassed one and further pushing the darkness back. Perhaps it was a good thing however to have them there. Though I had sometimes wonder if it was their true purpose at the time being.

Shaking my head to ignore the following thoughts that had came afterwards, I refocused my attention back towards the horizon and stare at the darkness while I walked the length down towards its end. Where I was met with another path that was off towards the side. I had immediately wanted to take that path and see where it had go. But a piece of paper that was hanged upon the solid brown wall in front of me, surrounded by a pair of torches that were lit too had stopped me. I stared at the paper since it had taken my interest however and even take a step forward in hopes of reading and understanding of what its contents were.

It had warned me about something. A creature that was protecting something within the darkness atmosphere of the maze. Somewhere where I would be able to find the Vastorians. I smiled only faintly upon that notice, but frowned immediately about the creature that would come. For a cold shiver had ran down my spine and I shivered in response. I shook my head and frowned; turned my head back towards the new path that was ahead of me and resumed my walk forward. But when I bypassed the entrance of the path before me, I heard an immediately loud noise which had caused me to flinched and be startled as I turned around and looked. With eyes widened in surprise at what I was looking at. A silver metal gate was what in front of me. A mirror reflection was pointing forth towards me as I drew closer towards the gates. Raising a paw, touching the metal surface of it causes a small jolt that caused me to flinched. I immediately stepped back and shook my paw; eyes narrowed and growling before I turned tail and resumed my walk ahead.

The path ahead was empty and quiet. Nothing had popped out of nowhere. Not even the walls or the ceiling above me however. It was a good thing considering of how peaceful and tranquility the atmosphere was upon. But in addition, had caused me grief and fear that strongly gripped against my body and neck. Though my legs were able to move as my own footsteps echoed upon the wooden grounds below me. Stretching it noises further, backwards and forwards however. I ignored my steps and just moved on. Watching as the path still retained its tranquility and silence, making it me more scared and fearful as to what was to come. But about a third of the way through and nothing had happened to me. My heart was leaping within my chest, though it was still pounding really hard although. I flattened my ears and whimpered, frowning while I turned my head over my shoulder. Looking to the back horizon behind me.

But like the frontal horizon before me, nothing was there too. I felt my fear increased gradually as time goes on and the steps I had committed too the deeper I went through for this path alone. As I find myself glancing towards the left and right towards the yellow bricked walls surrounding me, I also found nothing on them too. Immediately, I had screamed. The fear was already too much. The cold that kept striking against my spine was too additionally. I sprinted unknowingly down the path, down the remaining steps until reaching the very end of the path where I immediately turned towards the right. I never stopped. So I was unable to know if there were other paths there alternatively that I could had taken. My own mind was rushing through; vomiting out words that I began to think of. That they had crashed onto one another. Squishing sentences to form unintelligent wordings and such that I cannot think anymore.

It was perhaps a few hours of running when I had stopped. Already out of breath as the heavy breathing had already been exposed to me and the outside realm surrounding me. The white mist that had came from my own snout had even startled me as well while my eyes grew wide. Ears stretched out and being pointy all of the sudden. I take a step back; hanging my head. Taking a deep breath and exhaling again, showing once more of that white mist that had came. A single thought popped onto my mind; But I had dismissed it however and shook my head in disbelief. Not wanting to believe it at all. But upon another exhale, it had came true. For some reason, I felt weaker. My visions becoming a bit blurry as I dropped upon my own knees. Hitting the grounds below me and my paws wrapped around my own stomach, I now groaned or moaned. I cannot tell at all as I had rolled my eyes to the back of my head. VIsions already going blank by the thirty second mark.

I woke up. Visions already returned to me as my ears had flattened against my own skull. I turned around upon my own surroundings. Realizing now that I was not in a maze. But in a single room that was empty. A single blue door exposed itself to me; shining shimmery adjacently with a key in front of it. It was the same color as the door. Immediately, I grabbed upon the key. Scooped it up from the ground and shoved it into the hole where I turned the knob towards the right. Something clicked inside and the door immediately opened for me to which I take the chance to exit out from the door behind me. But after taking a step, I had noticed a bridge in front of me. A dense fog rolling on by. Something shadowy standing upon the bridge in front of me. Eyes perhaps already meeting my own however.

I frowned. Heart beating already increasing as I felt the cold fear running back into the warmth of my own body. I was hesitated. Yet I stepped forward. I take steps towards the bridge. But stopped afterwards where my eyes lowered to stare upon the bridge in front of me instead. Something flashed inside my mind, recalling that same familiar event that had happened beforehand. Upon this exact moment however. I suppressed it and shook my head while tightly shutting my eyes and found myself whining. I muttered something to myself; but it was rather hard to hear or was it that I just mouthed it instead? I could never tell.

But gradually, I rose my eyes upward into the horizon. Back towards the fog; that shadow figure upon the center of the bridge and a pair of red lights at the other side of the bridge. I had not noticed them before at all. Even when I had submerged from the room behind me. I barked outward towards the void in front of me. Perhaps towards that figure standing at the bridge or towards the pair of red lights on the other side. I barked again. Louder. Thus somehow I had noticed how the figure cracked a smile. White fangs started appeared upon the black head just as the mouth was opened somehow. Eyes still staring at me before lowered down to the bridge below it. Shadow wings started to form from its body, spread outward forcing me to watch him see him in action. As my eyes grew wide upon the realization of what the figure was doing, I called out towards him. Unknowingly taking a step forward to the bridge’s surface and stretched out my paw towards the figure at front.

It was oblivious to me for it had not noticed me however, that I had realized. For instead it continued to hang its head and drew its ‘paws’. Slashing upon the rope that tied the bridge together, throwing it all onto the abyss below where it faded from our eyes. I stared at it for a moment; but hanged my head to the abyss below in front of me. A large circle was there; darkest of purple apparently swirling about. White and brown stars shone upon the surface of the vertex however. Nothing else had came otherwise. I raised my head towards the figure in front of me. But realized thus it was gone anyway. Though it had left behind a single white note which floats upon the mid air, touching upon the grasses beneath my feet. I stared at the note. Reading it very carefully before gradually widening my eyes however and my mouth was opened. Upon the realization of things.

Though I had shook my head; my eyes kept track upon the swirling vertex underneath me. I gulped nervously; closed my eyes and made a face. But complied with the note’s offer however as I leaped from the cliff behind me. Forward forth to the vertex that was there. For from there was when I disappeared from here. Ended upon somewhere else. Back upon the darkness surrounding me whereas I saw nothing but the familiarity of the entire place. The golden walls standing surrounding me. The lampposts that were off towards the sides; staring down onto where I was laying down. I gaze at all of it before shaking my head, raising up onto my feet and take a glance towards the available paths that presented itself towards me. From what I had noticed; only the left and behind paths were then. Everything else was just sealed off. From the two, I had decided to take the path behind me instead and move on from there.

‘What will I be expecting?’ I thought to myself as my eyes stared upon the horizon line ahead of me. I was apparently ignoring the golden walls that were on either side of me. They sparkled golden yellow as they lead me across through the path ahead. Everything around me was silent and quiet; the tranquility of the silence was not getting to me however as my only attention was drawn towards the line ahead of me. Watching as it flickered as if there was something behind it flicking its light. I kept eyes upon the horizon line for a moment upon the sounding silence looming over me. Then the line somehow disappeared. Perhaps due to the pure pitch darkness that was surrounding it however. Or maybe it was something else? I shake my head to rid any other thoughts that were upon my head as I continued moving forward. Heading deep into the path until I reached what I perceived is a room however.

For from there was when I had stopped and my attention was settled upon the object at the center of the room. An golden object; looking and resembling like a key or an arrow however, pointed the way forward. North as where it was heading. I lifted my eyes towards the horizon, to the direction of where the key or arrow was pointing at however. I only smiled briefly. Perhaps a moment in confident till I walked across the room. Towards the next entrance on the other side. Entering immediately, I faded from the room. Returning into the paths once more as I had noticed that the walls had somehow changed their color to something more different. I glance to the walls for a moment; trying to decipher whatever color it was before giving up upon it entirely. As my shoulder rose and fall again, I turned my head back into the horizon again and continued walking on. For silence stayed by my side once more. The tranquility of the atmosphere was now getting to me however.

But all of that had halted immediately when a loud rumbled shook the walls and the flooring below me. It had startled me and caused me to stumbled forward. Hitting the grounds as it continued cracking into tiny pieces and fallen upon the abyss below. That abyss exposed a vertex, much like the one I had saw earlier on with that same white and purple stars swirling around it. I gasped then exhaled before lifting myself up towards my feet and ran like hell. But there were more.

As some sort of laugher had came out of nowhere contributing to the vibrations of the grounds and walls surrounding me, I turned my head over my shoulder and gaze. Spotting now a ghost that was tailing right behind me. Its face was pure of white or gray with an insane mouth and red tongue that was sticking out from the mouth itself. That ghost had no eyes apparently; but it can ‘see’. Just by the feels all around. I sprinted. Never hesitating to stop to look towards that ghost for an more inspective look. But rather to escape from him while I had saw a white silvery door on the other side of the path. Opened wide exposing the interior to anyone that saw it.

I ran forth towards it. With now my legs aching and burning with every step. The walls tumbled around me. The flooring continued cracking underneath the intensive vibrations that causes it. More laughter came from the ghost as it continues tailing me from being, gradually gaining speed as time goes on. Yet I was almost there. Almost towards the wide opened door in front of me. I stretched out my paw outward as if that would stop the door from ever closing, not that the door would be able to however. But at least I still have to try! I shut my eyes tight as one of my legs gave into the pressure exerted upon my legs. I gasped with shocked; eyes opened and now widened with cold fear returning upon my own body. I dropped upon the hard ground; growling as I had bit my own tongue. I turned my head towards the opposing side of me, watching as the ghost reached me and stretched out its own gastly paws towards me. Thus in the next moment, everything went blank.

Then I jolted. I rose from the cold grounds underneath me. I glanced around upon my surroundings. Still seeing that I was still back upon the path with the golden yellow walls surrounding me. Nothing was there. Just the pitch darkness that was still awaiting for me to hug upon. I raised my ears from their settled skulls, listening for anything then. But all was just tranquility and silence. Something that I just breathed and exhaled in response. Gradually, I rose to my feet. Dusting my fur and legs of any sort of dirty that lingers upon them before departing from the spot that I was upon, walking along the path forward. Straight towards the other end.

Yet my feet refuses to move somehow and when I looked down upon the grounds beneath me, nothing was attached to them. Just the ground itself. I exhaled a breath and closed opened my eyes afterwards, tilting my head backwards while I stared upward towards the ceiling above me. It too was purest of dark apparently. With another exhale, I returned to my thoughts at hand pondering upon the two visions or dreams that I once had. I had wondered what they were all about and meaning upon them. Thus leading to the other question, ‘where would they occur?’ I had suspections that most of them would be upon the near future. But I shake my head upon the denial, suggesting otherwise. I spent the next ten second spondering about such events that I immediately shake my head and growled to myself. I forcefully rose my paws up towards my head and gave a wake up slap, immediately refocusing my efforts upon why was I upon the caverns. Or rather the undergrounds as a matter of fact however!

For immediately, I turned my attention towards the horizon before me. I resumed my walk; surprise that my legs were not aching or being painful at the time being. But rather worked up and poised to be ready however. As I smiled, I immediately frowned wondering about the reptiles dragons and the VPD that were here. Wondering what their goal was into hiding upon here. I shook my head, refraining myself from answering that instead as I perhaps could be questioning them that myself either way. With a satisfying suggestion made by myself, I then cleared my own head and focused upon walking along the path ahead of me.

The tranquility and silence loomed overhead as I had now approached upon the front door. The exit of the path that I was walking upon. All my answers, rather our answers would be answered here apparently. I take a step forward just as the door in front of me opened and exposed the dragons, reptiles that were here. All of which were taking noticed of me. All of which were surprise to even see me upon. It was a large gathering. Crowded perhaps as the room everyone was upon was a bit too small for anyone however. Yet it had seemed that everyone was indeed having ‘fun’ in their own way however. All of which were stopped when I had arrived. I walked through the crowded room. Towards the other side whereas I spotted the VPD standing there; wingtip to wingtip apparently. Their eyes stretched out towards the door onto the other side of room. Their motions unmoving however. As I stopped, I gave a way towards them. In response, the leader which I presumed was Ling lowered his head down and gaze at me.

‘This is it.’ I thought to myself as I cough to make my voice clear, closed my eyes taking a breath before opening them again and lifted my head backwards to meet the eyes of the blue dragon in front of me. ‘Time to figure out why they were hiding here…’