

The Suncatcher family was what could only be described as wealthy. Initially being behind a fishing company, they branched out into other avenues, increasing their wealth significantly. The family resided in a mansion near the centre of Leo, overseeing most of the city. Within it, resided the current head of the household, his son and his husband, and two of three grandsons. One such grandson was holed up in his room, as he usually was, the sounds of grunting and heavy breathing noticeable even with the thick wooden door closed.

BADA DOO DOO DA – an alarm set off, and the grunting stopped. Zephrix dematerialised the weights he had created for his workout and sat down on his bed, dripping with sweat from his near daily intense workouts. He grabbed a massive water bottle on top of the chest drawer next to him and gulped down. He could never keep count of his reps no matter how hard he tried, so he simply opted to time down his exercises instead. After twenty plus years of exercising, his exercises generally lasted two hours, and he managed to create a varied regime that allowed him to keep up an intense workout that always made him sore. He definitely had the body to show for it. Large, bulging muscles adorned his body in every area; huge arms, tree trunk thighs, gigantic pectoral muscles and large abs... he had it all. It was the one thing he was truly proud of.

After giving himself a break, he grabbed his laptop and started it up, opening up the messaging application. It was the only real form of communication he had with the outside world, and he generally used it to carry out a small trainer business more than anything. He noticed a couple messages...

darklord: Hey muscle. Im sorry to say this but I think im gonna have to cancel this training regime. I just can't keep up with it right now. Im sorry :(

Zephrix exhaled and scratched his arm in frustration. He wanted to tell the client to consider doing shorter exercises or try doing them during free days.

Muscledrakken: I see. No hard feelings. Please come back if you find the time.

He then checked the next message:

Cuddlebugz: Hey drakky ^_^ I need some help DX I was trying to do chin ups but idk if im doing them properly

Ik you already sent a vid but I can't see how your muscles are supposed to move in it DX can you send another one so I can be super sure? I'll send you a video of me doing it later so we can compare ^_^

Muscledrakken: I will send one shortly

it was normal for this client to request multiple videos for exercises. He had been around for a few months now, but Zephrix noticed that, from the videos he sent, he hadn't improved physically much at all, and tended to wear clothing that made Zephrix uncomfortable as he watched the video. He didn't say anything, however. He didn't want to hurt the clients feelings and deter him from improving.

He sent a message requesting a video for progress from another client, recorded the video that was requested, and then went to make himself something to eat. He grabbed a large bag of rice,

and took a gigantic egg, roughly the size of his hand, out of the fridge. As he was cooking a basic lunch of egg and rice, his father, Ponox, entered the kitchen, his nose scrunching as he did.

"Zephrix! I told you to shower immediately after exercising!" he said with some annoyance. Zephrix panicked, and immediately altered the air around him in an attempt to contain the smell.

"I apologise," he said. "I forgot."

"It's okay. Just make sure you remember, okay?" His father sat down next to the kitchen table. He was a lot like Zephrix, but wasn't nearly as well built, and had a dull muddy red colour to his scales. "can I talk to you for a bit? after you've made your lunch."

"Sure." Zephrix said. Once made, Zephrix sat down with his lunch, glancing back a couple times to make sure he turned the oven top off. "What did you wish to talk about?"

"I was out the other day after some business, and I noticed this construction company were hiring. That's something you can do, right?" Ponox asked. "the roles just for a general operative. So, you'll basically be doing the practical work for it like digging and laying down pavements... you know all that stuff."

"Okay..."

"You don't need any high tier qualifications, and they'll give you all the training you need. You'll have to do a small interview but we can work on that later, okay? For now we can just apply. I'll help you with your course of life so it's up to snuff. How about we give it a try?"

"ummm... maybe..."

"You don't have to if you don't want to, but I really feel like-"

"What are you guys up to?"

Ponox flinched a bit at the other voice, which belonged to Zephrix's other father, Moderix. In contrast, Zephrix didn't look much like his other father at all, only sharing the fins on their head.

"I was being informed about a job offer father found for a construction company."

"oh... I don't think that's for you, Pluto," His other father said. "a job like that is really hard and demanding. You'll be working almost non-stop in the sun. You won't be able to have breaks whenever you feel like it either."

"You'll get breaks," Ponox interjected.

"Maybe, it depends on how good this company is. Did you check? For all we know they could slave you away for hours on end for pittance. Not only that but the management could be awful. They could scream at and berate you for the slightest mistake. Do you want to deal with that?"

"they're not like that!" Ponox turned to face his other father. "I went into he building myself and they seemed perfectly fine!"

"It's very easy to 'seem' fine on the surface, but there's no telling and it's very likely to have some rot underneath. No. I don't want you doing that, Pluto. I don't want you to go through that." Moderix gave Zephrix a warm smile. "Besides, you have that Online training thing you do, right? Focus on that. I think it'll be better for you overall."

"Ummm, okay..." Zephrix said. In truth he was unsure what to do, but didn't see much other choice than to go along with Moderix "I will focus on that for now. Am I allowed to take this back to me room?"

"Of course you can! Just remember to wash up the dishes after," Moderix. Ponox remained silent as Zephrix quietly gathered his food and went to his room.

"What in the same of Sol was that?" Ponox said.

"He wouldn't have wanted to apply anyway,"

"He might have. He's definitely not going to now after what you said,"

"Well I'm not wrong am I? There's a good chance it would have been awful for him. And even if it was 'fine' do you really think he would be able to cope with it?"

"he could have."

"No, I bet you he couldn't. I bet that if he took that job he'd be fine for maybe a couple days – a week at most. Then he'd make a mistake, it'd spiral and he'd have a meltdown and quit. Either that or he'll get taken advantage of by a co-worker and probably take the blame for something." Moderix opened a cupboard and grabbed a mug. "The online training is the best bet he has. It doesn't make the most money but when it starts growing it'll be worth it in the end."

"It's not about the money," Ponox said. "He needs to get out there and get some experience in *something*! He can't stay holed up in here forever! What's gonna happen if we can't be there for him?"

"He'll inherit the property," Moderix said as he poured himself some coffee. "He'll get more than enough to live comfortably and he'll have his brothers to support him."

"... sure, whatever," Ponox got up, frustrated and defeated. "If you're happy with that, then it's obviously fine."

Moderix was about to snap back, but His husband slammed the door before he could. He huffed, and sat down to relax and enjoy his coffee.

Meanwhile, Zephrix was in his room, eating scrambled eggs and unseasoned rice, watching videos of tournaments on his laptop. It was something he had gotten into in the past few months. He especially enjoyed whenever Hegemone was in a video. The others were usually flashy and focused on pleasing the audience, which Zephrix didn't like. Hegemone was focused and modest, however, only moving and attacking when necessary. It made him seem cooler than everyone else. To Zephrix, at least.

He heard a small ding, followed by another and noticed he had a message on his messenger app.

Cuddlebugz: Saw the vid you sent, thanks a bunch :D seeing how your back muscles moved during ur reps really let me see how to do em properly I feel (among other things 0_0)

Iv attached a video of myself doing em, same angle and all ;) I'd love to hear your feedback, if theres anything I need to work on and anything you like ^_^

just like the client said, there was a video attached to the message. At first Zephrix was going to open the video immediately, but then remembered the last time he received such a video, and cringed slightly. He decided he'd enjoy his lunch and tournament video before watching it.