Banni: Raced Flame

I had started at the entrance of the cavern before me. Tilting my head as my eyes were focused upon the pitch darkness that was inside. A brown sign appeared adjacent to the cave, pointing to the entrance with a symbol of a flame. Following that was a question mark. I had turned my head away from the cave and glanced at my surroundings. Gazing onto the trees, the forest bushes and the sounds that ceased suddenly when I had approached the cavern. All were silence as if holding their breath for something. But for something that I never understood. While I growl escaped from my throat, I immediately turned around and gaze back at the entrance and started forth inside immediately and quick that no one was able to see me thereforth.

Immediately, the light fled and darkness occupied that space. It suddenly turned into pitch blackness that I could not see anything anymore. No flame torches were hanged from the sides of the caves, all of that were gone for some strange reason. The flooring below me was dirty that up close I was able to see some twigs and branches that were swept inside. Some of those branches had leaves attached to them. But there were only a little bit of them. Regardless, I stepped over some of those branches and twigs while I continued forth through the cavern that I think holds the flame that I had needed. I get deeper into the caverns. Stopping only when I had reached the very end of the cavern where a silver door now appears before my eyes. I stopped, staring with a tilted head gazing at the door in front of me. But I extended my paw towards it and grabbed the knob immediately. Only that there was no knob instead and all I touch was the surface of the door instead. In response, the door creaked and allowed me to pass.

It opened wide enough for me to be able to see what was ahead and I stared beyond from the door. Two rooms now stand before me. One was closest to the door than the other. It was the kitchen room, then the living room after it where a television was blaring nonsense from the other room. I waltz inside, pushing the door further away from me as it started creaking. Eventually hitting against the side of the wall. A loud sound erupted the chaos as the television suddenly turned blank. The lights from above turned on, blinding me temporarily while I just grunted or growled. Raising my paw high above my eyes to shield them from being blind. For a short time later, I was able to adjust to the light and I turned my attention towards the kitchen surrounding me.

The kitchen was not what I had suspected for a normal kitchen to be like. Sure, there were appliances and tools for cooking. But what was being cook were creatures of two or four legs. Some of those four legs creatures I was able to recognized however. They were canines. Yet their fur was already skinned off it had seemed, leaving behind the meaty part of a canine. Perhaps you already knew what I had mean. I was disgusted. My faced had suddenly turned to green as something from my throat rose. Yet I had gulped it down, leaving behind a bad taste in my mouth. I frowned but remained in silence before pulling my eyes away from the meat that was scattered around the kitchen room and heed straight into the living in next door. But that was not any different than a normal living room.

A television that was just blaring nonsense beforehand was now quiet. A blank screen appeared upon it showing a reflection of myself upon its surface. I had find myself staring down onto it, silently. Although my snout was opened and closing a few times already. I had no words to say otherwise. The television was smaller than I had expected too. For it looked like those televisions from the late 90s however. ‘Perhaps this was colored as well.’ I thought to myself, frowning while my eyes were glued upon my own reflection. But before I could go and do something to the television, the door from the kitchen suddenly slammed shut. It had startled me to the point that I rapidly turned my head towards the source of the noise whereas my eyes widened and ears were started to flatten against the skull of my head. Realizing who was there awaiting at the door.

A strange figure. Yet he seem to be an animal much like the rest of us. But his tail was a big longer than ours. He had no ears. A face that looked weird and a body that was smaller than ours. His fur was black or brown, it was harder to tell without any sort of lights. He was wearing a black hat over his head. In his paw was a briefcase that was slightly opened. He called again, tilting his head to one side before letting off another call. For he had wondered where his sweat heart was. I frowned, shaking my head and fixed my attention towards the other end of the living room where a window shines brightest against my face. ‘Why had I not seen that before?’ I wondered, but my head shook to rid of that thought when footsteps immediately echoed against the floor, indicating that he was coming close. I had a choice and so little time. But I had decided it immediately without delay.

For I ran towards the window and jumped through. But instead of the window breaking like normal windows do, it created a ripple effect as if it was water. It forced me to disappear from the living room and teleport to somewhere else. But the same environment was the pitch darkness without any flames to direct me onto the path. A single path was laid before my eyes by the time I had opened my eyes and glanced towards the horizon before me. An yawn escaped from my lips before I could contained it before I had raised myself to my feet. Dusting off anything that clinged onto my fur, I shifted my attention ahead and suddenly narrowed my eyes while stretching my legs, to propelled me forth through the path that the window had teleported me upon.

It was rather weird about that creature that I had just met upon its own home. Looking for its mate or wife or something. To me, it had looked like a male or a man coming home from work or whatever that he was doing. A tilt of my head came as I pondered about that man’s work that had something directly linked to the flame that I was hoping to look for. But a shake of my head was my answer, I had laughed it off too disregarding that fact as well. Yet at the back of my mind, I had wondered if it was all true otherwise. Cursing underneath my breath, I snapped my paw and growled a bit. Knowing that I should had questioned that two legged man at the given opportunity. But knowing my race and my species, we never trust outsiders at all or those that were not in our pack. That was the way of how canines lived, opposite of how reptiles lived however.

But a beating of my heart asked me otherwise while I tried to imagine a scenario of when I was able to peacefully talk with him. However, something snapped me back into attention when I felt the vibrations of something underneath my feet and when I lowered my eyes towards the grounds, I noticed little cracks upon the grounds. My eyes widened with complete surprise as I sprinted across the path before me. Racing down the few meters until I was able to see the fork in the road ahead of me, my eyes narrowed as I summoned a few sparks of energy that was contained inside my body while something behind me continued roaring where more cracks underneath me feet grow larger. My mind began to race. But all of it were just garble and some other words that I was unable to understand or keep track off dur to my focus upon where I was ahead however.

My eyes lifted to the ceiling above me, noticing now cracks of sunlight now appeared from the holes. Rocks of various sizes flopped upon the grounds, breaking into thousands or two peaces in front and surrounding me as the cavern itself continued vibration and cracking like nobody’s business. With what energy I had left, I leaped forth from the spot of where i had stand. Making it towards safe grounds on the other side of the cavern’s path while I started panting with breath and suddenly turned around; gazing to the abyss that was now behind me. I could not see anything therein because of a fog that rolled on in. Obstruction the abyss below as I stepped forth towards the edge and looked down, Yet my ears caught onto something that was below me. Something that was roaring.

‘Water.’ I thought. My eyes blinked in disbelief as if I could believe what I was hearing. But a shake of my head knew that was it. Water that was roaring below me. Towards a destination of who knows where. I sat at the edge for a moment, watching as the fog continued rolling on by while another question popped onto my mind in wonder of that event that I had just witness and partake in it forcefully. Thinking back to the recent seconds, I had remembered the cracks of the flooring. Rocks falling from the opened holes from the ceiling and something that came up from behind me. My eyes were close, replaying that event over again until my eyes shot opened and a headache was already forming upon the front of my brain. Growling and lowering my head upon the top of my paws, I frowned suddenly wanting it to subside. Yet the headache continued and was persistent at least for a while.

Till a cold breeze bit against my fur was when I opened my eyes once more. I stifled a yawn, yet it came anyway as I rose myself to my feet and stretched for a moment. Breaking bones and joints that remained stiff for a while. Thus shifting my attention towards the abyss again, I noticed that the fog was gone and so was the water. For only solid grounds remained below me as they stretched forward onto who knows where. I stared at the grounds for a moment, before shaking my head. Thus I turned around and headed down the remains of the path until I hit a wall. Three set buttons present themselves here. Each one a primary color starting from the left running across. I stared at each of the buttons in silence. Grunting a bit before turning tail and retreated a few steps until I find myself face to face with the abyss below me again.

As I find myself staring down onto it, I grounded my fangs tightly and hopped down. One cliff at the time until I was able to reach the floor below. Where my feet had landed as a spark of dust rose from my surroundings, I suddenly raised my head high towards the horizon and glanced up ahead. Yet to my surprise, I had noticed a very tall cavern entrance before me. A bright light shines from the interior of the cracks as it started reflecting against my own face. Staring at this light for a moment, I shook my head and smiled confidently before sprinting into a run at the refounded energy that filled me. With the winds rushing passed me, biting onto my fur while my own body shivered with excitement, I ran through the brightest cracks of the cavern’s entrance and find myself upon the cliff.

The sun was already settling from the horizon, giving off waves of orange and red that spreads out across the forest between us. Birds were already flying high, southward toward somewhere perhaps as the seas of forest waved them ‘goodbye’. Towards the extreme sides of my visions, I had noticed two towers that were swallowed up by the forest. Both of which were blinking red for some strange reason. A few meters away from the pair of reds, another pair of towers were blinking a different color. Something that I had recognized as blue however. Something strike against my mind as my eyes widened with realization and upon that noticed, I had smiled. Immediately turning around, I ran back into the cavern’s entrance. Up the steep cliffs and back upon where I had started whereas I shift my attention back towards the wall that was in front of me now.

Those same buttons were there. Lined up with the same primary colors from right to left. Staring onto them, I stepped forth and started pressing the buttons in order. Red twice which was left of blue, then blue twice at the center and then green afterwards which followed blue. Immediately after pressing those buttons, all three colors turned the same color. A loud ding came out of nowhere as the wall rose towards the ceiling and revealed what was hiding behind it. Nothing, except for a strange isolated arrow upon the flooring in front of me. Pointing ahead into the horizon before my eyes with something following it. That drawing was a picture of a flame. Something that I had realized was my own objective from the start. For with a smile plastered upon my own snout, I rose my eyes to the horizon above me and walked onward. Step by step with the sounds of footsteps surrounding and filling my ears, I stared up ahead with confident rising from the depths of my stomach.

Yet somehow it was only a few steps ahead before I saw something in the shadows’ distance. When I squinted and narrowed my eyes, I saw passed the shadows and found the flame that I was looking for. Yet it was not animated like what I was used to however. For instead, it was a talisman or a stone I think. I walked up towards it. Getting myself close to the object at hand. Thus I had stopped and hanged my hang my head gazing at the stone before my face. Indeed it was the shape of a flame. A large circle wraps around it like a blanket. Both the circle and the flame were orange, sometimes red for some strange reason. But I never cared for such a thing. For instead, I immediately snatched the stone from its spot upon the flooring and pocketed it. I take a step back and waited. Yet to my surprise nothing had happened. No special chasse. No special crumbling. No nothing. For my own surroundings was peaceful without any chaos. I was a bit surprise and disappointed however. But a shook of my head disregarded that as I turned around and walked. Step by step forth.

However something ahead had stopped me immediately and raising my eyes from the horizon, fixating upon the figure that was a distance before me. The figure just smiled. It was a canine like myself. But a coyote or a wolf, I think. My head shook while I stepped back; head already tilted back and prepared to howl to indicated about the intruder’s species. Yet something had stopped me. Something that the canine ahead of me had already taken noticed. As I find myself staring at it, he raised his paw and pointed towards whatever was behind me. Curious, I turned around and glanced at the shadows behind. Noticing something that was there. It was not a figure. A canine or a reptile. Rather it was a transparent something. Like a ghost. Immediately I fell to the grounds, bewitched by the ghost as it approached forth towards me. But it never done anything, just stare at me. Face to face as if we were having a conversation or a staring contest. As the canine behind me shouted out to snap out of my trance of the ghost, we both immediately ran. Ran like hell.

Across the cavern’s halls. Bypassing the lights that sudden appeared way to late in this story. Yet nothing had happened to the ceiling or flooring between us. Additionally, the ghost behind us was far too behind as it had disappeared before we had even caught our breath which happened sooner than later however. As we break, the canine adjacent to me flopped upon the grounds. Unmoving of course that I forced myself to turn around towards him and tilted my head wondering if he was dead, unconscious or both. Having the lack of water perhaps. A shake of my head disregarded that followed up question as my attention was now turned towards the horizon before me. I walked ahead, without the canine that had somehow saved me from certainty. A few steps forth before stopping immediately and turned around, back to glancing at the unconscious canine once more.

As a growl escaped through my lips, I shake my head again and turned back to the horizon before glancing back onto the canine itself. I headed back for him. Grabbed onto his paw, hoisting him up onto my neck and sprinted into a run across the cavern before me whereas the peace of the silence loomed over my head causing my ears to ring suddenly upon the lack of action. But seeing this, my heart was pounding against my chest in anticipation of what would perhaps come. I felt myself tensed. Bones already cracking because of the exercise I had put up that anyone within the perimeter could hear it if they listened carefully enough. As I felt the winds blew against my face, I rose my head high into the horizon and noticed that nothing was happening currently.

It was the most awkward and tenseful moment at all. One that I would find myself preparing for anything that might come up. But the silence seems to have covered that already. With the darkness still retreating further into the horizon as the ceased of sounds erupted in my ears, I felt a stir. I suddenly slowed down and glanced over my shoulder. Noticing now that the canine I was carrying with was already awake. A yawn confirms that already. With eyes opened, the canine pushed me away from him. I take a few steps to stabilize myself however and turned around, facing him as he remained silent and said nothing else other than to stare at me directly. We faced one another in the silence and tenseful moment, eyes already locked into battle. Bodies already tensing for this moment however. Yet I was surprise that the canine never made a move. For instead, he just turned around and walked. Retreating into the impeding darkness, fading off from my visions. I just watched him go.

I had nothing else to say as I watched. But I turned around and walked the rest of the way. Never pondering or thinking about that canine and just focused upon my own self being. Yet my eyes narrowed and I was starting to feel something rise up from the depths of my stomach. Yet whatever it was; anger, resettlement or something, I just surpassed it instead. For walking for hours had me placed upon the entrance of the cavern once again where a step further would reached me towards the daylight of the outside. Back upon the peaceful that I had longed for however.

I just breathed an exhale of a sigh. Reliving it from my nose as thoughts about the canine faded from my mind. For all I had needed to do was just to return this talisman back to the reptiles for their eternal flame was awaiting for them to be awaken.