*Die Kräfte jenseits*

Once upon a time (or twice, it doesn’t matter) in a far of kingdom, there was a prince and a princess who shared a love so strong that nothing on earth could end it. Not even an evil wizard, who captured the princess, could stop the prince from saving the princess. The wizard sent out dragons, thieves, dark knights and even some ogres to stop the prince, but to no avail. Eventually, after removing the evil wizard from power, the prince reunited with the princess and was off to live their happy lives after their adventure.

“*NO*,” said the Evil Wizard angrily, “*I shall not lose like this, not when I have… the book of Kräfte[[1]](#footnote-1)!*”

The Evil Wizard flipping through the pages found a passage and read aloud the spell from the text, to cast on the prince and princess as they rode off into the sunset. Like a possessed madman the Evil Wizard invoke the spell.

“*Durch die Kraft der Sterne nenne ich Sie in meiner Welt, Komm zu mir Kräfte, Komm zu mir Kräfte, KommzumirKräfteKoomzumirKräfteKoomzumirKräfte, KOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMM!”[[2]](#footnote-2)*

From the book shot out a crimson star that raced towards the sky like a hawk, zooming pass the prince and princess and into the distant sun.

Then the sky cracked like glass, with the cracks reaching across the sky, blanketing the land with the shadows of twisted and sharp needles. Then the crack shattered and a deluge of silver crystals fell from the sky, pouring out of the void like a heavy and violent rain storm. Did the wizard know that the spell would call forth this calamity, that doesn't matter?

As the prince and princess arose from being knocked out by the spell, they looked upon the land and saw what has become of it now.

 The once beautiful blue sky was forever rusted with red and orange. The lush green grass was mowed down to nothing but heard earth. The vibrant forests of trees were barren and dead as the leaves were burnt away, leaving nothing but gnarled branches and withered trunks. The running rivers and streams were now dried up as the crystals drained the waters as they burrowed deep deep underground. The once pleasant scent of flowers and honey have been replaced with the stench of ash and brimstone. The massive and variant life that once called the forest home is now either too few or homes to the crystals that fell from the sky. And the kingdom that once stood, living off the land in harmony with nature, was gone and all that remained were scared and starved citizens without a home or any sensation of joy, just sorrow and fear bordering on madness.

Both the prince and princess looked around for each other but could not see each other in site. Only a vast amount of barren waste and dead forests stood between them. However, dispite the hopelessness of their new world, with thoughts of the other's demise hissing in their heads; the prince and princess stood up, grabbed whatever tools they could find, and resolved themselves to not rest until they reunite with their beloved. Even though the world they knew was gone, replaced with this dark and unforgiving one, the prince and princess were determined to return to the arms of the one they love; for their love was the only joy that they had left.

And so did begin the journey of the prince and princess through the decimated land that was once the kingdom they called home; to reunite with the one they love so dear that they can’t live without.

Though the only things they could find was a dagger and a merger bag of food and water, the prince and princess both began their journey. Through the dead forest, they began, slowly trekking through fallen trees and what remained of ruined villages. Soon the prince and princess began to stumble and fall due to the hunger felt from rationing out the little food they had.

“*Odd to see one of royal blood wandering through these woods*.”

The sound of a new voice, a man’s voice for the prince and a woman’s voice for the princess, grabbed the attention of both the prince and princess as they picked themselves up from the dirt. Though the individual before the prince and princess were of different genders, both of them spoke of the same things and wore the same long faded brown robes with hoods that covered their faces. Both the prince and princess asked the robed individual before them if they have seen their beloved.

“*You wish to reunite with the one you care for*,” replied both the robed man and woman to the prince and princess, “*I believe that if you continue on your current path then you shall reunite with the one you hold so close to your heart*.”

“*Thank you very much stranger*,” replied the prince and princess to the robed figure as they continued where they left off on their journey.

“*However*,” said the robed figure as the prince and princess walked pass, “*I doubt that you will be able to reach your beloved as you are now*.” The prince and princess were forced to acknowledge the truth the stranger had remained them, that without more food to stave off starvation, then they would eventually lack the strength to carry on.

“*Fortunately*,” continued the robed figure, “*I do believe that I can offer some advice on the matter*.”

Both robed figures pointed out that there was another individual in view of the prince and princess, though they were not aware of their presence. The robed man pointed out for the prince a young woman in tattered cloth gathering herbs and nuts for food. The robed woman pointed out for the princess a young man in faded cloth cooking a meager mushroom stew for himself.

“*If you impose yourself on her then I believe that the woman will submit herself to your needs*,” said the robed man to the prince.

“*If you submit yourself to him then I believe the man will give you what he has in return*,” said the robed woman to the princess.

Both the prince and princess took a moment to understand what the choices meant before firmly making their reply to the robed figure. “*Do you think I am a fool, why would I betray the one I love for a complete stranger just for some scraps of food!?*”

Both the robed figures before the prince and princess silently chuckled at the stern response they gave. “*Did you think that I was referring to the crumbs those peasants had as food, how would that sustain you on your long journey to find your love?*” the robed figures then pointed at the dagger the prince and princess had in their position as they continued their explanation. "*What I was referring to was a red wine so exquisite that it is difficult to find, and a meat so succulent that it is labelled a taboo to eat due to the scarcity of its supply, and that peasant has enough to carry you to your heart’s desires*.”

Slowly backing away in shock, the prince and princess dashed away from the stranger before them and continued on their journey, leaving the peasants alone and the robed figures slightly amused.

How did both robed figures know about the location of the prince and princess, that doesn't matter?

Continuing through the dead woods, the rusted sky began to turn a deep purple, calling forth the night. The prince and princess tried to take refuge and sleep before returning to their quest but the cold night air left them both shivering down to the bone. Even their matching royal vestments, which still retained their shape despite the ordeal, could not keep out the harsh ice of the night winds.

“*Surprising that you manage to make it this far with so little*,” said an all too familiar voice. Like before the robed figure stood before the prince and princess and commented on their struggle. Though shocked at first the robed figure reassured them that they were not interested in stopping them from reuniting with their beloved. “*The very fact that I didn’t try to stop you back when we first met is proof that I have no intentions of harming you*.”

Reluctantly, the prince and princess lowered their guard as they stood before the stranger once more. “*Ok*,” replied the prince and princess, “*then why do you follow me?”*

“*The reason for that matters little, at least for now*,” replied the robed figure, “*however I do think that I see something that might be of use to you*.” Though hesitant to acknowledge what the stranger before them was talking about, they understood instinctively that the robed figure spoke with a logic that needs to be recognized. So the prince and princess soon noticed what they were referring to.

Before the prince was a brown bear with his cub, searching for other animals for food. Before the princess was a white-tailed deer trying to feed her fawn. “*Instead of taking wine and meat from a person, why not an animal; plus its pelt will keep you warm during the nights*,” said the robed figures.

“*Unless you have a problem taking from a father as he teaches his child to hunt and find food*,” said the robed man to the prince.

“*Unless you have a problem taking from a mother as she gives milk for her child,*” said the robed woman to the princess.

It took some time for both the prince and princess to respond to the robed figure once more. “*It’s not just providing for its child that stops me*,” started the prince and princess,” *parent does more than that, they show love and kindness to their child. To deny a child that love, especially in this world, is something I can't do.*”

“*Then just take from the child as well*,” replied both the robed figures to the prince and princess who then recoiled in fear and discus. “*Why do you protest, have you not been eating meat for as long as you could chew solid food. It's from these forest animals that you get it from, along with the pelts that keep you warm at nights. Why do you step away from that which sustains you?"*

“*Why do you ask me to do something I cannot*,” replied the prince and princess sternly.” *Why are you here, what is it that gives you a reason to do such things, and why can’t you explain it to me?”*

The robed figure remained silent for a moment before they produced a soft but mocking laugh, *“You wish to know my answer, then find me at the edge of the forest tomorrow morning. You’re not that far away from it though, but I recommend that you get as much rest as you can.*”

The robed figure left the prince and princess to return back to their slumber, leaving more questions and fear in them then before they appeared.

Waking up the next morning, with no more food or water, the prince and princess made their way to the forest's edge. To their surprise the edge of the forest was a shallow and barren valley with a battle raging in the morning twilight.

Two opposing armies, one clad in blue armor and the other in pink armor, were clashed in a melee of conquest. Both sides were clawing tooth and nail with a burning distain for each other. Yet from where the prince and princess were standing, above the combat, it all looked like a massive violent pool of purple with accents of red.

“*You ask me for my reasoning*,” the sound of the all too familiar voice of the robed figure surprised both the prince and princess.

“*It simple*,” said the robed figures as they sat down on the forest's edge and gazed down at the melee, "*I am only an observer, and I want nothing more than to watch how event unfold before my eyes. That is why I ask you to do the things you objected to*.”

“*You just wanted… to see how I would react?”* replied the prince and princess in confusion.

“*Yes*,” replied the hooded figures simply as they pointed down at the valley, “*and I have at least one more thing to ask of you*.” The robed figure pointed out that among the armor clad fighters some of them carried banners that had the crest of the royal family that the prince and princess belonged to. Both the prince and princess realized this fact in shock and surprise as their concern for their kingdoms reminded them of their duty as royalty. “*However*,” continued the robed figures, “*across this field of combat is the one thing you have been searching for all this time*.”

The prince and princess were frozen in place upon hearing this new information. They started to tremble because even though they want nothing more than to be together, they had an obligation to the soldiers fighting in the name of their kingdom.

“*Relax*,” said the robed man to the prince, “*if you state your position then they will have you observe the battle as a tactician, letting you use your logic to aid in their victory, keeping you out of the fight*.”

“*Calm yourself*,” said the robed woman to the princess, “*if you state your position then they will have you serve as a nurse, supporting their cause, fixing their wounds, keeping you out of the fight.*”

Both the prince and princess were petrified. They knew what position they were in and what was demanded of them but also what they had to sacrifice. As the battle raged, with the sounds of clashing steel ringing in the distance the prince and princess finally came to a decision.

“*Those knights serve my kingdom*,” both the prince and princess began, “*they fight and defend the kingdom in my name. Even though my kingdom is in ruin, and my thoughts are still with my beloved… I can stand by and watch as those who fight for me lose their lives because I was not there.* "The prince and princess, gripping their daggers tightly, stood firm at the head of the valley as the robed figures continued to observe them. "*I can’t live without my beloved... but I will not let the defenders of my kingdom pay for my personal desires!”*

The robed figures continued to watch the prince and princess as they rushed into battle, asking not for protection but to fight alongside the knights that fight for their kingdoms. All the while the robed figures sat and watched and become amused by the struggles of both the price, princess and the knights who still fight for a kingdom that is long dead.

What is it about this battle that amuses the robed figures so, it doesn’t matter.

After a full day, with the morning rust giving way to crimson twilight, the battle was over and both armies lay defeated. Out of all that fighting, only two souls were left to get back up. Both the prince and princess somehow managed to survive the melee but at the cost of everything they had left in them.

They grew tired and were about to fall back down. That is until the prince and princess looked across the battlefield and found one another. With both of their royal vestments stained and tattered, the prince and princess both understood what the other went through, what they lost and what hope that fueled them to continue on. A burst of joy filled them with energy as they rushed across the field towards each other, crying tears of joy for being able to see each other again after this ordeal.

Reaching the center of the valley, the prince and princess collapsed into each other’s arms and stared deeply into each other’s eyes. The prince stroked the scuffled cheek of her princess and the princess parted the long hair of his prince. They embraced with an undying love once more before they knelt down and drifted off to eternal slumber with a smile on their faces.

“*And finally their journey, comes to an end*," said the robed man as he approached the valley center. "*But they had so many opportunities to extend their lives and yet they chose to let it fade?*”

“*They were more concerned for each other than themselves apparently*,” said the robed woman as she too reached the valley center and responded to the robed man. *“Yet I still don’t understand why they took each other’s roles?”*

“*Perhaps it was how they remained faithful to each other, to discourage those who thought to intimately disrupt their union*.”

“*That does not matter YOU FOOLS!*” shouted the evil wizard, who managed to survive through the recommendations of the robed figures. “*You were supposed to STOP them from being together, not to DESTROY everything! I CREATED YOU TO OBEY ME!*"

As the evil wizard finished shouting, both robed figures soon burst into laughter, leaving the evil wizard dumbfounded. “*Did you really think you could control us just because you brought us into existence? You may have been the acutest of our design but we exist beyond you, beyond this world, and answer to only the will of nature*.”

In frustration, the evil wizard ripped off the hooded robes to reveal the man and woman beneath them but did not like what was revealed. Beneath the robes weren't human beings but a collection of silver crystals bound together to take on the elution of a man and a woman. Then the crystals began to fall, losing their human forms and combining together, creating a new form that was neither man nor woman.

The evil wizard watched dumbfounded as the crystal being began to rise up from the earth and into the void, leaving both a trail of silver foaming vapers and words that will leave the evil wizard trapped in confusion for eternity.

“*Wir sind die Hexe beobachtet und Geschlecht definiert*”[[3]](#footnote-3)

Where did that mass of crystals come from, why did it only wanted to observe the prince and princess, why did it ask them to do the thing for it. That doesn't matter. Even when these events turn to history, with the remnants of the land rebuilding their kingdom from the ruins and the story of the prince and princess becoming the foundation of fairy tales to come.

To things that exist beyond this world, whether it be a force of change that holds dominion over everything or the forces that bring two people together and express their love for each other, ideas, like gender, are meaningless.

1. Forces [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Through the power of the stars, in my world, I call you, come to me forces x5 come! [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. we are that witch observes and defines gender [↑](#footnote-ref-3)