

He wasn't sure why he was doing this.

Kaseko wasn't scared, he just felt a bit needless here. He wasn't fighting to protect anyone, so why? He hated to spill needless blood and that was all that these pits seemed to do. The lion prepped his hippo armor set, wearing all but the helmet as he studied it. The Moto Moto battle had been his first, and last, serious fight.

It had been a long time.

The beasts had done so much damage. He had sworn when that shark devoured his grandmother that he would find them... And really he had failed. He hadn't found a one but when they found Moto Moto, he was one of the quickest to volunteer his service as a soldier. He had fought hard and somehow the final blow to Moto Moto had been by him, but was that just sheer luck? It had seem so.

He sighed softly. Did he even deserve the title he had been given?

Bal had insisted that the lion come down here but all it seemed to do was raise more questions into his mind. It was, 'Great practice' he had been told, that the fighters here seemed ruthless. Rubi told him not to let his guard down.

The Lieutenant stared into the empty eyes of the mask before a soft sound of another clearing their throat drew his attention to behind him. Looking over his shoulder he spotted them. "Comm?" he questioned softly as the other lion walked over to see the mask in his paws.

The two sat side by side, both looking at the skull mask for a moment, "The fight starts soon." Comm had finally spoken after moments of silence. Kaseko looked up at them with a nod, "Are you nervous, Big Chungus?"

Comm's question caught him a bit off guard. He wasn't sure what to call this feeling in his chest. The tight weight seemed to pull at him. Something about these pits felt... wrong. Kaseko shook his head as he sighed. "No more baffled. I'm not sure I understand the reason for these pits. The fights seem pointless. Just fame? I'm not really interested in fame, never was..." he spoke softly.

"But.. you are the Big Chungus?"

"Maybe that was just sheer luck... I never went in hoping to be.."

Comm and Kaseko sat there a moment as the crowd just beyond began to cheer. There was no backing out now. Kaseko put the skull mask over his face before standing to his paws. Taking a deep breath in he looked determined. Though he had been requested to be here to keep his skills in tact, he wasn't going to let his guard down. He had heard the rumors, these fights, especially the challenger rank, where brutal. Even then he heard even deeper rumors of masters of these pits. Champions, he had not seen not did he really intend on going that far. His line of thought broken as Comm's voice came through.

"I'll be watching."

Kaseko gave a soft smile hidden by the mask, confidence returning to his steps as he headed for the Ring. His opponent stood at the ready staring down the armor clad Kaseko. The crowd around him

roared loud in his ears. Kaseko's eyes settled on his opponent. The pits had called her Grizzly, he was sure the name wasn't to be taken lightly. She roared ready to begin. Kaseko roared back, his body tensing as Grizzly struck first.

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Kaseko had fought hard, the battle ending with him standing victorious. His breathing was sharp, clash after clash, it seemed that what they said about these pits were true. They were brutal, there was no room to let one's guard down. Not even a moment. His heart pounded in his ears, deafening the crowd. He felt blood on his paws and smaller wounds. The scent of it strong in his nostrils.

Grizzly's chest rised and fell, though out cold she was still breathing. Kaseko was somewhat comforted by that as he turned leaving the pit head held somewhat low. He still tried to understand the purpose. Why were these fights so brutal?

Again his thoughts broke as Comm ran over surprising Kaseko with a sudden embrace. Kaseko's eyes widened and he felt his heart flutter and he tried to find words, but his throat suddenly tightened not making a sound. He was glad his fur was red enough to hide his flustered color. Comm backed up looking up at the Big Chungus, "Excellent fight."

"Th..thank you." Kaseko replied his ears perked high on his head as he found his voice.

The red lion removed the skull helmet from his head offering a smile to Comm as he often did. He seemed exhausted. None of the wounds he held would scar, it seemed he had left the match with little more than a few deep scratches.

He had been lucky grizzly hadn't decided to put holes in him with her teeth. Then again she had tried. He was sure of that now that he thought about it. Big Chungus still felt conflicted about the purpose of the pits. For now though he would bide his time. See where these fights go and practice his skills. He had to keep in shape after all, and honestly, he liked the way Comm's eyes shined as they looked at him.