

MASKURA

Many wear masks to HIDE their
souls... WHY are YOU trying to hide
IS the question... COME.

Solandria's PUZZLED. Maskura leads them to a COMEDIC MASK.

SOLANDRIA

But why do YOU use them?

MASKURA

Ceremonial communications, travel,
amusement, confronting. It depends.
(gesturing to the mask)
This was used in theater to display
a person FROZEN in TIME. Avatars
often get stuck in emotional loops.
We're meant to adapt, shape shift,
NOT TO BE frozen faces stuck.

SOLANDRIA

Do people ever merge with the mask,
lose themselves?

MASKURA

All the time, but a good actor
releases. They let go. NOW, which
one... BELONGS to you?

SOLANDRIA

Oh!... Not for me. I don't like
masks, not to wear at least.

Maskura is probing into one of Solandria's EMOTIONAL WOUNDS,
pulling to surface that which she hides from the world.

MASKURA

A beautiful face like yours... it's
a cruel world. How will you PROTECT
that which is within?... Ugliness
often devours and consumes beauty.

SOLANDRIA

(triggered)

Why?! I hate it!... Is it jealousy?

MASKURA

Jealousy, competition, insecurity,
fear. The more beautiful, the more
you gotta protect. It's THERMAL
EQUILIBRIUM, cold steals warmth.

SOLANDRIA

I'm so tired of it! I want it to stop.

MASKURA

Perhaps I can interest you in a mask for that?

SOLANDRIA

I don't want to hide though! I just need to find the places where they aren't needed! I just want TO BE.

MASKURA

A place WITHOUT MASKS... is a place I'd like to see. Everyone's got something to hide, even if it's just beauty. PERHAPS you wear one too... AND just don't know it.

SOLANDRIA

Well, no... I do hide things to protect them from certain people in my life. But, it's not a mask.

MASKURA

PERHAPS you wear the face and mask of a girl... when underneath you are something else. You're hiding something... SOMEONE far GREATER.

Solandria bows her head feeling timid and vulnerable.

MASKURA (CONT'D)

We can find a mask to match that something... Show the world what's REALLY in there. Show them real power. Give'em a fright!

SOLANDRIA

Ha, ha, yeah. They'd hate me for it... I should be going now.

MASKURA

You suit yourself. Think about it.

SOLANDRIA

Maybe I'll avoid them and just find a place of light where I can be me.

MASKURA

Let me know when you find it... Sometimes... when you run FROM something, YOU run TO IT.