

Descent 201

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Leonel carefully put the Evolution Ore away before moving on to the next source the dictionary had detected. If he simply left things as they were, it would probably take decades for the Segmented Cube to naturally form the remaining Essence he needed.Â

Though Leonel had no idea whether this was considered a long time or not. He still felt that he didn't want to wait it. So he was already hoping against hope that he would find another deposit of Evolution Ore.

Unfortunately, reality was cruel. Evolution Ore was an impossibly rare metal, even more rare than Dual Elemental Metals. Finding a single deposit was already enough luck for a lifetime.Â

However, Leonel wasn't very depressed about this. He was still a poor soul who thought that if he could find it once, he could do it again. But, he had no idea just how long it would take him' ! If he had, he might have cried a few tears already.

The current Leonel though was still ignorant of his current circumstances. His mind was filled with thoughts and designs for his divine armor. But, with every new ore deposit he found, his mind would change again, leaving him in an endless storm of thoughts he couldn't extricate himself from.pANDA-NOVEL.COM

After leaving the Evolution Ore deposit, he found three different kinds of Fire Elemental Vessels. One was exceptionally good as the base of short burst treasures, another was good for maintaining high temperatures for an extended period of time, and the last was a combination of the first two, though being weaker in both respects.Â

When he left those deposits, Leonel found a Wind Elemental Vein Ore not long later and he thought of how cool it might be to combine the two. If he formed a Divine Armor with a fire base and wind veins, its multiplicative power would make up for one of his greatest weakness: his attack power.Â

It was a shame, Leonel had what was likely the strongest ability on Earth, but he was still at a disadvantage purely because his was of the sensory type. Toward this, he could only feel helpless, so he thought it might be a good idea to form a Divine Armor that could make up for this.

However, soon after that Leonel found another Wind Elemental Vessel. Leonel was quite familiar with Wind Elemental Vessels, after all, the first ore deposit he had found after coming here was the Whispering Breeze Ore.

This Wind Elemental Vessel was known as Fluttering Leaf Ore. It was exceptionally light to the point it felt as though one was holding on to a piece of foam or a cloud rather than a metal.

After finding it, Leonel immediately had a vision of soaring through skies with wings of metal. Following this, he almost completely abandoned the idea of a Dual Fire-Wind Divine Armor entirely. After all, another one of his weaknesses had always been speed, this was especially so when he fully activated his Metal Synergy Lineage Factor.

However, even this fantasy didn't last for long.

Leonel found another incredibly rare ore. Though it was also an Elemental Vessel Ore, there were tiers of separation between their rarity and value. Elemental Vessel Ores of the Fire, Wind, Earth and Water variety were the most common. Beyond that, there were what were known as Unique Elemental Vessels, and they included the Lightning Elemental Vessel Leonel had just found.

'Damn! Lightning is cool too!'

This Lightning Elemental Ore was known as Second Strike Lightning Elemental Ore. It was known by this name because it needed a catalyst to activate. Once it did, it would be able to amplify the result with a 'second strike'.

This Lightning Elemental Ore was especially beloved by Force users who could be classified as mages like the Mayan Priest. This was especially so for mages who had lightning affinities, Lineage Factors and abilities. This was because such people could use this ore to speed up their thinking and reaction time, allowing them to finish their casting better.

There were many other applications to this ore as well, but what Leonel knew was that if he absorbed its properties, due to his Lineage Factor, he wouldn't need to be a lightning affinity mage at all to gain the same benefits.Â

'This is no good' ; Every idea seems better than the last' ;'

Leonel could imagine building a lightning Divine Armor with this ore as the base. Not only would he have great offensive power and speed, but it would also be capable of supporting his ability as well. Would giving him even faster thinking speed be like putting wings on a tiger?

Due to all of these ideas and thoughts, an incredibly weird scene began to form. Leonel, who should have been happy with all of his gains, was suddenly grumbling about as though it was a bad thing for so many ores to appear here. If others knew, they might hate him even more than his Indomitable persona.Â

As Leonel grumbled, he communicated with Little Tolly as they began to melt through another wall.Â

Leonel realized that after he awakened his Metal Synergy Lineage Factor, his ability to communicate with his Familiar reached a new high. In fact, he found that based on their new and improved synergy, Leonel could replicate the effects of someone with a Grade Designation a sub stage higher.Â

This meant that even without reaching the Superior Grade One Designation, Leonel's skill was actually no less than such a person already. It was no wonder the Morales family chose Metal Spirits as their ideal Familiars.Â

“ROOOOAAARRR!!!”

BANG!

Just as Leonel was lost in his thoughts, thinking of new Divine Armor designs, a loud roar suddenly shook his mind as he was sent flying.

He crashed heavily against the opposing tunnel wall, causing all the air to be knocked out of him. If this had been before he awakened, Leonel was certain that he would have broken several bones and even coughed up several mouthfuls of blood from this impact alone.Â

However, maybe the most shocking thing was that this roar hadn't come from a beast that managed to make its way into the hive' ; it had come from the wall Leonel had just been excavating' ;Â

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Leonel heavily crashed into the ground, but his eyes never left that faint light beyond the crack in the wall.Â

'Domain Ore!'

Leonel breathed out a hot breath.Â

Normal ores could only contain their special properties within the walls of their bodies. Whether it was Elemental Vein or Vessel Ores, there was no way for them to show off their might outside the actual materials they were formed out of.Â

However, Domain Ores were different. Not only did they have special properties, but it was also able to project those special properties into the outside world. This manifested as an 'aura' that could send even Leonel flying.Â

In truth, the Runes of the Metal Synergy Lineage Factor also had this effect. Once one opens the ninth door, one would gain the Force Halo Runes. These runes manifested a Domain that asserted an air of dominance. It was due to releasing a bit of that dominance that Leonel could suppress Two's ability. There were also other applications of it like forming a Gravity Domain as well. Though, in Leonel's current state, he wouldn't be able to activate it for long.Â

This Domain Ore Leonel had stumbled upon had roared, sending Leonel flying. There was no doubt it was exceptionally powerful.Â

The highest grade ore Leonel had found to this point was a Tier Seven Black Ore "" the Second Strike Ore. Ores like the Evolution Ore and the Urbe Ore were considered unranked.pANDA-NOVEL.COM

This was already a great boon for Leonel. However, for this ore to be so powerful even through such a small crack' ! It was at the very least of the Tier Eight Black Grade.Â

The other ores couldn't really harm Leonel. As long as he was careful, with how high his affinity for metals were, he wouldn't receive any backlash. But, clearly, Domain Ores were different. They were among the most dangerous ores to gather.

Leonel took a deep breath and stood, walking toward the crack again.Â

This time, he released his Lineage Factor fully. He could feel his blood seething as thrown his entire body had been through into a furnace.Â

Beautiful bronze Runes appeared across his body, forming a crown on his forehead and soon' ! even forming a halo above his head.Â

Gusts of winds kicked up around him as the bright lights of the Domain Ore dimmed. It was as though it sensed a threat looming over it, so it retreated as quickly as it appeared.Â

Leonel was quite shocked by this outcome. He had thought it would be more difficult. But, he wasn't complaining. Though he found the violet lights around his body now to be quite beautiful, he didn't think it was out of the norm. At the end of it all, he was still a bit in the dark about such things.Â pANDA NOVEL

Soon, the ore was exposed completely, baring its full nature for Leonel.Â

'As expected, it's a Soul Type Domain Ore' !'

Leonel shuddered. If his mind hadn't been reinforced by his Snowy Star Owl Lineage Factor, he would have suffered far more.Â

This Domain Ore was another favorite of mages. Leonel didn't know much about that world, truth be told. All he knew was that this was a top class material for crafting wands and staffs of the like. It could amplify Soul Force attacks.Â

Leonel had been correct. This was a Tier Eight Black Grade ore known as Howling Tiger Ore.Â

'It's a shame that it's an attack type Soul Domain Ore, or else it would amplify that treasure by several levels' !'

Leonel took a deep breath and carefully put the ore away. He no longer dared to be as absentminded as he was before. And, he also realized now that these gains weren't a joke either.Â ρ??(??????)

If any of these ores appeared in a knowledgeable world, who knew how many would fight for them? Leonel found it shocking that the Slayer Legion would treat this place so casually. Was it that they didn't know? Or were they that negligent?

In the end, Leonel had to admit he had a striking advantage. How many treasures were as good as his dictionary at finding these deposits?Â

But, at the same time, he affirmed to himself to keep these gains a secret. Even though he didn't feel bad stealing from the Slayer Legion like this "" after all, he would be saving so many of their young geniuses very soon "" there was no need to tell them anything about it.Â

'I've spent a lot of time here, the Core should almost be matured' ! I should head back.'

Unfortunately, Leonel didn't find anymore Evolution Ores, nor did he find another garden like he had earlier. It seemed that garden was a one off rarity.Â

As Leonel walked back, he clutched a pound of Urbe Ore in his palm. If one looked closely, it was possible to see the greyish black ore losing luster as though something of its was being taken away. Of course, this was Leonel using his absorption ability.Â

According to his father, to lay the best foundation, he had to first absorb as much Urbe Ore as he could. He wasn't allowed to absorb any other kinds of ores until his body was saturated with Urbe Essence. Only in this way could his body withstand the formation of a powerful Divine Armor.

Luckily, Leonel had found large deposits of Urbe Ore dotted across this hive. He could even be considered part of the nouveau riche since it was the world's universal currency.

As Leonel was on his way back, he casually paid attention to the dictionary. He hadn't expected to actually detect anything. After all, he had already been through this passage once, he was only making his way back. But, unexpectedly, there was actually a reading.

Leonel raised his brows. 'Are you crapping out on me? Why didn't you detect it the first time?'

Though Leonel thought this to himself, he still made his way to where the dictionary mentioned. But, oddly enough, the signal disappeared.

" | Huh? Did it really crap out?"

Leonel frowned, his Internal Sight blooming forth and blanketing the general direction. But | he sensed nothing.

'Huh |?'

At that moment, Leonel suddenly felt like his Internal Sight had been cut off, as though he lost a portion of himself for a moment. It was an incredibly surreal feeling, as though he was standing in two different worlds at the same time.

In that very instant, Leonel understood exactly what it was he had found. He was too intelligent and his foundational knowledge of all things related to Force Crafting was too profound. After all, he didn't want to lose out to his detestable old man.

It was another Domain Ore. But, this one | The Howling Tiger Ore couldn't even shine the shoes of |

‘Warping Domain Ore’!’

Warping Domain Ore. It was a Quasi Bronze Grade Ore. However, what truly made it special wasn't its grade, though this alone was enough to make many go crazy. After all, an ore was capable of forming treasures many grades above its own should the Force Crafter be skilled enough.

No, the reason this ore was so valuable was because it was of an exceptionally rare family. Just like Howling Tiger Ore was of the Soul Type, Warping Ore was of the Spatial Type!

Warping Ore had the ability to create an independent space. Its defensive abilities were infuriating. It could make a single step feel like an entire mile.

‘If I combine this into my Divine Armor’!’

Leonel's heartbeat quickened.

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Outside the hive, the world could only be described as anarchy. The corpses of beasts filled the islands and oceans, causing the salty winds to carry a grotesque metallic fishy scent with it that made one's heart shudder.

As expected, the oceanic creatures had completely lost their minds, rushing for the Project Hunt Island without any sorts of reservations. Unfortunately, many of them were completely unable to do much of anything on land.

This truth led to a tragic scene. Many animal carcasses lay near the shore. Large and small fish and once majestic sharks lay dead, rotting in the open air. Beside them, even those creatures that could breathe air like whales, eels and dolphins found themselves without the ability to move on land, leaving them completely stranded.

However, this reality didn't stop them at all. Even now, many were still struggling, madly swinging their tails and fins as they tried to inch just a bit closer to their target.

This scene played out all across the island. Most of the creatures fell near the shore, but some managed to travel deeper, causing the dense forests to be littered with corpses.Â

All of this alone was enough to paint the picture of the cruel reality wrought by the Force Eruption, but things further in were even worse than this.Â

Not all the beasts were stalled by their immobility. Among them, there were still creatures like crabs, lobsters, frogs and turtles that made their way through. Many of them were freshwater creatures that still somehow managed to make their way to this place, making it all the more obvious just how wide the effects of the Force Eruption had reached.ÂPANDA-NOVEL.COM

Beyond them, there were other creatures who normally wouldn't be able to make it this far who managed to awaken abilities that broke past their usual limitations. This resulted in scenes of fish swimming through the air, unwilling to allow anything to stop them from reaching their destination.Â

But, reality only grew more cruel.Â

Even when these creatures managed to pass the initial barrier, they were met by yet another. Many creatures died trying to pass over the valleys. They lacked the intelligence of humans and didn't even consider trying to find another path forward, only believing they had to follow their senses toward the dense surge of Force.Â

Corpses began to pile up within the valleys as beast after beasts fell to their deaths, their agonizing screams being the only marks they left on the world in their final moments.Â

This should have been enough. By now, the number that had died touched the tens of thousands. Many of these beasts didn't have great abilities or power, they only came here seeking out a chance and they paid for it with their lives'! But things still somehow managed to get worse.Â

There was a small percentage of beasts that did manage to make it through. But, instead of being rewarded for their efforts, they were met by a legion of beasts left behind by Simeon.Â PANDA NOVEL

Another bloody scene was left. How could those beasts compare to the organized assault of the beast kings? They were just a loose pile of sand, sporadically entering the center of the island without a thought other than getting closer to the source of Force.Â

Even with the bear king dead and the spider king heavily injured, the beasts were slaughtered one after another. At least 'i in the beginning.Â

Though the beast horde couldn't compare to the beast king legion, what remained true was that there were just too many of them. While each beast king only had a hundred or two under their control, the beasts came in tides of a few hundred each time.Â

If it wasn't for the fact the beast kings only had to defend one direction thanks to the valleys and that most of the beast horde couldn't compare to the beast kings in strength, they would have already been overrun.Â

Even then, after a week of this, the spider king finally fell to his injuries. A week after that, it was the tiger king who fell.Â

With each successive death, the protective army grew weaker. The loss of a beast king also meant that their legions would scatter as well, losing their minds just like the horde of beasts that was attacking them.Â p??J??????

“This is madness.”Â

A familiar young girl stood on the branch of a tall tree outside the center of the island, looking forward as though her eyes could pierce through everything.Â

On the opposite side of the same tree, a familiar young man stood as well, shaking his head.Â

“I knew that a Force Eruption could cause a lot of trouble in a low level world like ours, but I still didn't think it would be this bad' i”

“It can't be helped, the beasts haven't fully developed their intelligence yet' i” The girl mumbled.Â

The higher level the world, the rarer and more valuable Force Eruptions were. But, at the same time, it would come with more intelligent beasts who could think and reason just like humans could. In such cases, would they lose their minds like this and charge ahead without thinking of the overall situation? Of course not.Â

That said, that didn't mean high level beasts would ignore such events. In fact, it might even be possible for those high level beasts to take advantage of the less intelligent ones beneath them to clear out all opposition.Â

But still, even in those cases, the scene would be much more controlled.Â

“Should we go? If we let any more of those beast kings fall, it'll be even more difficult to want to get them out of that hive.” The young man said.Â

“Don't you find it weird that these beasts are just standing there? There has to be a reason that they're the only ones who didn't lose their minds.”

“It might be that one of those Promising Youths has a beast control ability!”

“If they have a beast control ability, why did they run to the hive instead of charging out of the island? With control over that many, it would have been easy. The only logical conclusion is that these beasts are controlled by the Brazinger family people, so we have to be more cautious.”

As though confirming her words, the young lady's eyes narrowed as she noticed a young man wearing an odd monocle walking out from one of the tunnels with his hands clasped behind his back. Just by his red hair and eyes, she could tell that this young man was from that family.Â

The beasts immediately reacted to this young man's appearance, taking defensive stances around him.Â

The young woman sighed. Sometimes she hated being right.Â

Suddenly, the situation changed once again. Let alone the two Old Hutch had sent, even Simeon looked up with shock evident in his eyes.Â

BANG! BANG! BANG!

The white geyser of Force suddenly concentrated into a fine line. It compressed on itself to the point it became a blinding gold that outshone even the sun hanging high in the skies.Â

Then, it exploded, sending a rain of gold in all directions.Â

The raging roars and the bloody battle all suddenly came to an end. In fact, everything, including the young man and woman, Simeon and even the beasts, sat on the ground, closing their eyes in meditation.Â

For those few moments, it felt as though everything in the world was clear to them.

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Leonel had no idea how greatly the outside world was benefiting, but there was no need for him to be jealous. As the ones closest to the Force Crystal Core, there was no denying that he, Roaring Black Lion, Thunderous Clap and Flowing Wind were most definitely receiving the greatest benefits.

In truth, all four of them, including Leonel, had been caught off guard. But, as though it was instinctual, they all knew exactly what they should do.

The maturation of a Force Crystal Mine Core came with a moment of enlightenment. The completion of the natural Force Art required a communication with the most fundamental laws of the universe.

When this gate of communication is opened, not only will the mine itself greatly benefit, but all creatures within its range of influence would as well.

Compared to others who had sunk into an absentminded enlightenment, Leonel was still able to keep a hold on to his consciousness thanks to his strong spirit. In fact, he was currently struggling, trying to decide what it was he wanted to comprehend.

Should he use this moment to understand his Snowy Star Owl Lineage Factor a bit better? Or should he use the chance to calculate the feasibility of forming a Tenth Node? Or maybe he should use this chance to absorb more Urbe Ores? In this state, cultivation should be much faster as well...

Leonel's mind spun. He even entered his Dream World, splitting into nine clones and thinking in nine different paths. After his spirit gained such a big boost, he was capable of this now. In fact, he had thought he would be capable of far more than this, but it seemed that this was his limit. PANDA-NOVEL.COM

Suddenly, Leonel jolted.

His eyes snapped open and he looked toward the Force Crystal Core like a hungry wolf.

The Core was shining with beautiful rainbow lights that were tinged with a bit of blackness. This blackness made its Fourth Dimensional Grade very obvious.

However, what Leonel was focusing on wasn't the lights, but rather the complex runes that swarmed its body, exuding a majestic aura.

Leonel had already felt that natural Force Arts were magical things. Not very much could catch his interest, but this was definitely one of those things.

It had taken him two days to Dream Sculpt a mere Third Dimensional natural Force Art. And, though he didn't know what benefits it would bring him in the future, he had a feeling that when he completely grasped it, the possibilities would be unimaginable. PANDA NOVEL

But this Natural Force Art was on a completely different level. Not only was it Fourth Dimensional, but it was currently still connected to those enigmatic laws of the universe. If it was during any normal time, Leonel wouldn't dare to try to Dream Sculpt it. Who knew how many years, decades or maybe even centuries it would take him.

But right now...

Leonel's heart steeled as he resolved himself.

He knew this was a gamble. If he focused on his Snowy Star Owl Lineage Factor, he could probably awaken both the Speed and Healing Branch. The benefits of such a thing would not be small by any stretch of the imagination. But...

He felt something calling to him.

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Days later, Simeon opened his eyes. Though there was a trace of happiness there, it also carried with it a bit of regret.

How could he have expected that the Core would mature so soon? Had he known, he wouldn't have spent hours leaving the hive to prepare for Leonel. What worth did Leonel have to him in the face of such benefits.

He could only grind his teeth in anger. Leonel was definitely the closest. This would make things far more complicated now, he was already so powerful to begin with...

Simeon had always been decisive. Without hesitation, he chose to leave, not even turning back to explain himself to his subordinates. Though One was greatly dissatisfied, so what? One could only wield so much power to begin with thanks to him. If he forgot his place, he could always be replaced.

Leonel could have never imagined that Simeon would make such a choice. In fact, he even had a shuttle prepared, one not very different to the one used by the weremen who had attack Leonel and Aina.

By the time Leonel left the hive, he was stunned to find that Simeon was nowhere to be seen. After deducing the likely reason why, Leonel couldn't help but grow even more serious.

Simeon had no idea that Leonel's combat prowess hadn't risen at all due to his choice back then, but the fact the former still chose to leave without hesitation caused Leonel to have no choice but to respect him no matter how much he hated him.

Leonel took a deep breath. 'The bright side is that this makes things much easier. There's nothing that can really stop me from leaving this place.'

Thanks to the Segmented Cube reaching Phase Two, he finally had enough space to hold everybody, so all the youths were with him. Now that Simeon wasn't here any longer, things would be even easier.

Unfortunately, Simeon left behind the beast kings causing Leonel no small shock. This man really didn't care about the power of the beast kings? Even though there were only three left, they were still all S-grade Elites. Their strength could be considered among the topmost on Earth...

What Leonel didn't know was that these beasts were only the overlord of this B Sector Project Hunt Island... However, even without knowing this, Leonel added yet another point to Simeon. If things kept going like this, he might as well call that bastard master the next time they met.

Just when Leonel was about to resolve himself to charge through these beasts, his eyes suddenly narrowed in a certain direction.

'Huh? He noticed me from this far away?'

The young woman was stunned. It had to be said that they were at least 20 kilometers away. The only reason she could see so far wasn't due to her ability, but rather because of a Force technique she practiced. But, she didn't sense Leonel circulating any Force, so how had he done it...?

"Bring us over there, Badger."

"Over there? You can't mean you want me to fly, right? That's dangerous."

“Idiot, all the flying beasts descended from the skies after the Core matured. It’s safe to go up there now. In fact, if we don’t do it quickly and their enlightenment ends, it’ll be even more difficult to leave this place.”

“Alright, alright, alright.”

Badger took a dignified step forward, wings bursting from his back.

They radiated a majestic silver light. But, what was the most striking about them was their size. Each dwarfed their owner, spanning over five meters in each direction.

To his back, one could faintly catch the divinity of a Roc.

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Leonel observed the young man and woman who landed before him with a slightly curious gaze.

From the way they called each other, he knew that the young man went by the name Badger. He had a simple look to him as though he never spared any thoughts toward scheming. His skin was a delicate brown color and his clothing was neat and tidy to the point of being overly meticulous. How he managed to look so fresh even when flying through the air at such blinding speeds was beyond Leonel’s comprehension.

Compared to his unkempt beard and nest of straws he called hair, this young man was several levels his better. Though, actually, now that he thought about it, his hair had become exceptionally smooth and clean after awakening his Metal Synergy Lineage Factor. Not that he checked very closely, though.

The woman went by the name Mayfly. She had a tall, heroic build. Even compared to Leonel, she was almost tall enough to be at eye level with him, just barely falling short. She seemed like a born leader with a sharp mind.

Her hair was red, which initially made Leonel on guard against her as he assumed she might also be from the Brazinger family. But, after some more observation, he deduced that it was unlikely.

The two seemed like quite the pair, especially by the way they had made their way over. Badger actually allowed Mayfly to step on his shoulders as he flew. Leonel really didn't know how to react to such a sight. But, since Badger didn't mind, it wasn't really his place to say anything.

"You two were sent by Old Hutch?"

Badger and Mayfly looked quite stunned when they heard these words. Not many dared to call the old man by his nickname, least of all those under his command. The two of them were among the few who felt no fear before the geezer. They were surprised to find that Leonel was just as unreserved.

"Yes, we were sent for an attempted rescue, but it seems it wasn't necessary..." Mayfly said with a slightly confused tinge in her voice. "... Where are the others, it can't be that..." PANDA-NOVEL.COM

She was a bit worried to ask this question. But, she had no choice. Leonel had come out alone, so she braced herself for the worst.

"They're all with me. They're in an abode treasure of mine."

Once again, the two youths were shocked. But after a moment, they 'understood'. It must be that there were too few of them remaining, so they could all fit in such a treasure. They couldn't fathom the idea of nearly a hundred people fitting into just one space.

One had to know that spatial treasures were already inconceivably valuable. The higher the Dimensional Grade, the more valuable they were. This was because spatial treasures of a lower Dimensional grade entering a higher Dimensional world would destabilize and collapse.

If Leonel tried to take his Black Grade spatial bracelet to a Fifth Dimensional world, the already small space would break apart and eject everything within it. In severe cases, it might even destroy everything inside before it could eject it.

So, one really shouldn't blame the two for assuming the worst.

The laughter came from a jovial looking man with a massive gut. Somehow, despite his apparently unhealthy wait, he looked quite fit though his bald head was especially eye catching.

He went by the alias Big Buddha.

“On behalf of the Eastern Lookout, I really thank you, Indomitable. If it wasn’t for you, I really worry how this would have ended.”

Leonel smiled, feeling the good will of this man.

The atmosphere was jovial as everyone felt as though a big weight had been taken off of their shoulders. Maybe the only person who had a dissatisfied expression was Pisces. Even King of Seas carried the happiness of a man who had just survived a near death experience. After Leonel snubbed Pisces, he wasn’t nearly as stand offish with him. In fact, he quite appreciated Leonel. Humans were truly odd creatures.

Everyone seemed to understand why Pisces was brooding, so no one bothered her so as not to affect the happy atmosphere.

Eventually, it was time to go their separate ways.

Big Buddha’s laughter sounded out again as he bid his farewells.

“I’ll see you soon Big Sis Violet Rain. The opening of the Zone isn’t too far away, I’ll be leading these brats when the time comes.”

Violet Rain smiled and waved them off.

The two ships that had been attached by a bridge slowly separated, wading through the piles of corpses on the ocean’s surface to sail toward their destinations.

Pisces sent hateful glares toward Leonel, but the latter didn’t seem to notice.

Not only had she not received the S-grade Beast Crystal, but she also knew that she hadn't qualified to enter the SS-grade Zone. According to the tallies, it was Leonel, Flowing Wind and Thunderous Clap who ranked first, second and third respectively.

She didn't know what to do with her belly full of hatred. She wasn't strong enough to oppose Leonel. And, with how much he had contributed to the Slayer Legion, he would probably be promoted to at least a Vice Commander.

She stood on the ship's helm, shaking her head. Maybe she should just forget it.

At that moment, she heard Big Buddha's jovial laughter again. Initially, it annoyed her. Why was everyone acting so happy when she was so unhappy?

Suddenly she froze. After a moment of thought, a smile curled her lips.

"Commander Buddha, can I talk to you for a moment? I have some questions about a Force technique I'd like to ask you."

"Oh?" Big Buddha, who had been conversing with the other Commanders smiled gently. He didn't mind guiding the younger generation at all. "Sure, sure. We have a lot of time before we reach the Lookout."

Pisces' actions didn't raise any sort of suspicion. Such a thing was quite normal. However, when she began to speak, Big Buddha's expression continuously changed before it became exceptionally solemn.

"Are you certain? You're saying that it can deduce the abilities of people and creatures, not to mention their weaknesses, with a single scan?"

"Yes, Commander. It isn't only me who saw this, there are many witnesses, you can ask anyone."

Big Buddha fell into silence. He felt exceptionally conflicted. On one hand, he didn't like what Pisces was implying by telling him this information. But, on the other, such a treasure was unheard of. So unheard of, in fact, that even though he hadn't shown any greed toward Leonel's rare abode treasure, the moment Pisces spoke of this...

It was too valuable to the Slayer Legion. The value of such a treasure was unimaginable...

But this wasn't the only important point... It was said that the first four to clear a Zone received special rewards. This was because the World Spirit was taken by another person many decades earlier.

The Slayer Legion already knew of who was second, third and fourth. However... not a single person in the world was aware of who was first...

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A week came and went in the blink of an eye.

The SS-grade Zone found by the Slayer Legion was under strict protection. While the clearing of Zones was important to the evolution of Earth, they also provided boundless prospects. The rewards for clearing such a Zone was beyond the imaginations of most.

In truth, one shouldn't take Leonel as the standard. To most, C-grade treasures were a luxury. They were already enough for many to fight over. The only reason the base weapon given by the Slayer Legion during the Gathering was of the C-grade was because the Promising Youths were also considered elites among elites.

Above that, B-grade treasures were practically national blessings while A-grade treasures and above were enough to start feuds over. From this, it could be said that Big Buddha had truly shown a lot of restraint when Leonel's abode treasure was exposed.

Knowing all of this, one could imagine the kind of uproar an SS-grade treasure could cause. The fact that this was a Sub-Dimensional Zone with a 12 entry limit meant that at a minimum, 12 treasures were available for the taking. Even to the Slayer Legion, this was a great level of wealth.

The location was yet another island. The Zone itself stood quite beautiful, radiating dark blue lights as it swirled silently amidst a large clearing. It could easily be told that this clearing hadn't been here in the past. In all likelihood, when the Zone appeared, it had ripped out several trees in the surroundings. But now, it had a calmness that said it wouldn't harm even a fly — though, no one would be naive enough to believe such a thing.

The Slayer Legion had long since erected a network of Force Disruption Towers in the vicinity. Like this, the appearance of this Zone didn't cause another beast horde and allowed the island to remain peaceful.PANDA-N0VEL.COM

At that moment, the entry candidates for the Slayer Legion were undergoing final check ups. Leonel could only sigh as his treasures were taken inventory of one after another. It really felt like he had never left The Empire. He wouldn't be surprised if the Slayer Legion tried to 'buy' his rewards after he exited as well.

'Whatever, it doesn't matter. It was they who found the Zone so I guess it's fine if they take some benefits. All I want is the teleportation ticket to Terrain. If they dare to take this away, I wouldn't mind falling out with the Slayer Legion.'

Though Leonel would feel a bit bad for Old Hutch, he hadn't known the old man for long, nor had the old man ever really done anything for him. In fact, it was the old man who owed him for kidnapping him all those weeks ago.

It wasn't his fault if the Slayer Legion thought of him as one of their own. He had said multiple times that he had no intentions of joining. If they really tried to think that they could just order him around as they pleased, they would be in for a rude awakening.

"Alright, I'm sure you all know about the rules. The Slayer Legion has a list of treasure types it's especially in need of. As long as you can claim one of these treasures for the Legion, you will be awarded the aforementioned merit points.

"Violet Rain and Big Buddha will be the leaders of this mission. Their commands are undeniable. Should they disagree, the decision will be left to a majority vote. [PANDA N0VEL](http://PANDA-N0VEL.COM)

“Should anything happen to the both of them, commanding rights will fall to Badger, Mayfly, Mountain and Sea Eel. The same rules apply to them as well.”

Leonel sent a casual glance toward Mountain and Sea Eel. It seemed that their standing within the Slayer Legion didn't lose out to Badger and Mayfly at all, it was just that they were from the Eastern Lookout instead and as such, were under the jurisdiction of Supreme Monet rather than Supreme Hutch.

If the four of them weren't so young, it was likely that they would have already been promoted to the Star General ranks. But, instead, they held a special title reserved for the most talented youths of the Slayer Legion. They were part of what was called the Reserve Generals.

According to the old man, as long as they turned 21, they would immediately be promoted to One Star General, a rank a single step above the Commander rank.

Leonel shook his head. He wasn't interested in such a thing.

The Slayer Legion had disappointed him too many times already. It seemed that they made even more mistakes than he did at every turn. So, even though he found out that their true talents were hidden away from public view, he hadn't really changed his opinion of them. ¶¶¶¶¶¶¶¶¶¶

As things stood now, he didn't have a fond impression of either The Empire or the Slayer Legion. He wasn't sure what to do with these emotions for now, and he was even more uncertain of his future on Earth as a result of these emotions, but he simply chose to ignore them for now.

He only had two goals in mind: Find Aina and destroy the Royal Blue Fort. He was a simple man who wanted simple things.

If others knew he was describing such things as simple... who knew how they would react?

Just as Leonel was lost in his thoughts, he sensed a change in the atmosphere. When he looked over, he found that the change was due to the appearance of a person he had never seen before.

She was a middle-aged woman who carried a mature valiant aura that outshone Mayfly by several levels. It was clear that she had tempered her disposition over many years, giving her an innate advantage over a young woman of not even 18 years old like Mayfly.

She wore a silver chestplate with etchings of a spiraling phoenix on it. Her long black hair swayed to her waste, waving in the wind and along with her every step.

Despite her clearly being in her 40's, she still had an intoxicating beauty. Though, it was difficult to tell whether or not their attraction to her was due to her demeanor or her actual looks. Even Leonel, who usually showed no reaction to women other than Aina, couldn't help but be moved. This woman was truly something...

While Leonel was distracted, he didn't notice Big Buddha's complicated gaze sweep over him. In the end, the large Commander shook his head and sighed. Compared to his own discomfort, his loyalty toward the Slayer Legion was several levels more important.

Leonel didn't know who this woman was, but how could he not? This was none other than Supreme Monet.

Big Buddha had long since passed down all the information he gained from Pisces on to her and left the final decision to his Supreme. As a Commander, he normally wouldn't even be allowed to meet such a high ranking officer, but this time, he had had no choice but to do everything he could to see her, and he eventually succeeded.

But, for some reason, she hadn't made any movements in the last week, so he thought that she had decided not to make a move against the young man. This had made Big Buddha sigh a breath of relief, at least now, he wouldn't have to fight with his own conscience.

Unfortunately... It seemed that rather than not acting, his Supreme had actually been waiting for an opportune moment.

“Who is Leonel Morales?”

Supreme Monet's voice was just as valiant as her appearance, making one inadvertently want to follow her every command.

Leonel frowned, wondering why this woman was looking for him. Even more oddly, why was she saying his name like this? In the end, he chose not to mind it. After all, he had already long since exposed himself. So, who cared if she used his name?

"That would be me." Leonel stepped forward.

Supreme Monet looked Leonel up and down before nodding.

"The treasure you call a dictionary, are you willing to hand it over to the Slayer Legion or not?"

Leonel's eyes narrowed. Why did it seem like she wasn't asking a question at all?

Chapter 207

Leonel observed Supreme Monet for a long while. He didn't seem to be in any sort of rush to answer, a response that was quite shocking to many.

If others were in his situation, there would be one of two reactions. The first would be to immediately agree. After all, the authority of a Supreme wasn't something most were able to ignore.

The second option would be to explode in anger. There was no shortage of people who thought Monet's actions were excessive. In fact, those who knew how the relationships of the top echelon worked felt even more pity for Leonel.

Knowing that Leonel had Hutch's backing, it was only a matter of course that Monet would wait until this moment to ask this of Leonel. If she went to the Eastern Lookout to ask such a question, Old Hutch probably would have sent her packing.

For that madman, it wasn't even a matter of whether or not Monet's ask was appropriate or not, it was entirely about his own face.

However, Leonel's response was exactly the last thing they could have expected. Aside from a slight frown in the beginning, he hardly reacted to the words at all. In fact, even Monet herself frowned slightly seeing Leonel's response. She had been prepared for either of the two obvious responses, but this wasn't something she had been ready for.

To make matters worse, it seemed that this young man wasn't intimidated by her gaze or presence. He calmly scanned her up and down as though he was observing any other normal stranger he was meeting for the first time.

Eventually, just when the silence was beginning to weigh too heavily on everyone's chest, Leonel finally spoke.PANDA-NOVEL.COM

"Sorry. The dictionary was left to me by my father. Giving it to another is impossible. I appreciate your asking first, though."

There didn't seem to be anything wrong with Leonel's response. Monet asked a question and he responded appropriately. So, why did they feel so embarrassed?

Monet narrowed her eyes slightly.

Seeing that the situation was turning bad, Big Buddha who had guilt eating at his heart this whole time, couldn't help but step forward to try to mediate.

"Leonel, Supreme Monet is only thinking about the bigger picture. Your treasure is too valuable. If it fell into the hands of The Empire, it could lead to a catastrophe. But, if it was in our hands, the chance we'd have to overturn their oppressive rule would skyrocket."

At this point, Violet Rain who had been shocked by the sudden change the situation suddenly felt she understood something after hearing Big Buddha's words. Once she did, she couldn't help but turn a disappointed glance toward her long time friend.

Leonel swept a glance over Big Buddha. PANDA NOVEL

“Oh.” Leonel nodded. However, just when Big Buddha and the others wanted to sigh a breath of relief, thinking that Leonel understood, his next words caused them to freeze. “But, I honestly don’t see much of a difference between you all and The Empire though. I can’t tell that there would be a difference in outcome no matter who gets their hands on it.”

In the beginning, Big Buddha was shocked by what he was hearing. It wasn’t just them, everyone here was shocked. They all saw themselves as a righteous faction fighting for the people. When had someone ever said such words to them?

First there was shock, then there was rage. Big Buddha’s guilt seemed to completely vanish. At the same time, even Badger and Mayfly who had had a good impression of Leonel frowned deeply toward his words. Such a reaction didn’t change even when Flowing Wind and Thunderous Clap were taken into consideration.

This could be expected. These youths were indoctrinated by the Slayer Legion since their birth. And, those who hadn’t had parents and relatives who suffered at the hands of The Empire. Leonel’s words were like a slap to their faces.

However, Leonel felt that he had observed the Slayer Legion for long enough to feel quite confident about his words. He really didn’t feel that there was a difference at all.

At this point, Leonel didn’t really care what happened. The Zone was right in front of him. He didn’t believe that anyone here could stop him from entering it. It was too close and his power was too great.

This wasn’t a case of the strong oppressing the weak. Earth’s Metamorphosis just began. Most people started at the same starting line. Even though Monet was more than double his age, it didn’t make a difference. ρ??∪???

Even though Leonel still wasn’t confident in defeating Old Hutch, he didn’t believe that the old man could stop him if he was here either. As long as he was one of the first 12 to enter, nothing else mattered to him.

“Young man...”

Big Buddha’s voice no longer seemed as amiable, but Leonel had already long since stopped paying attention. The only reason he hadn’t moved to enter the Zone yet was because he wanted to know how this would end. Would Monet make a move against him before he entered? In that case, he would go all out now. But, if she chose to wait, Leonel didn’t mind keeping a shred of pretenses intact for a while longer.

“Leonel Morales, is it...?”

Leonel was speechless. She had already asked his name, why is it that she was pretending not to know what it was now as though she already couldn’t be bothered to remember?

Toward such a woman, Leonel really had nothing to say. He couldn’t even be bothered to have a back and forth with these people anymore.

“From my understanding, you aren’t a formal member of our Slayer Legion. I accept your decision, but there also doesn’t seem to be an appropriate reason to allow you to enter our Zone either. —”

It seemed like Monet wanted to say more, probably an entire spiel on why she was morally correct. However, Leonel wasn’t joking around when he decided he really couldn’t be bothered to listen anymore.

“What’s her ability?”

Leonel’s voice left them stunned. It became clear in a moment that he really wasn’t bothering to listen to their Supreme anymore.

[*Ping*]

[Generating nomenclature...]

[Evolution Stage: Tier 8 Black]

[Evolution Type: Dual Elemental Healing]

[Evolution: Fire Sense, Fire Manipulation, Fire Aid]

[Fire Sense: Greater affinity for Fire Elemental Force. 200% boost in comprehension and power in using fire based Force Techniques.]

[Fire Manipulation: Control over the Fire Element.]

[Fire Aid: Ability to absorb the Fire Element to regain stamina and heal wounds.]

When Monet heard these words, her pupils constricted. But, at the same time, she felt a rage bubbling in her heart. For Leonel to cut her off to ask this question, wasn't his intent obvious?

At that moment, everyone suddenly went on guard against Leonel. However, it wasn't to the point they worried for their lives. There were too many elites here. If Leonel really wanted to do something, he would only be courting death. It was very possible that he wouldn't even be allowed to leave this place alive. As a Supreme, Monet had more than enough rights to kill someone on the spot.

However, what left them speechless was that Leonel didn't even stop. As though he didn't have a care in the world, he had the dictionary expose their abilities one after another.

Toward such a thing, Leonel was quite helpless. The fact he had to speak aloud to get this information was the worst drawback of the dictionary. Unfortunately, there was no way Monet would allow him to continue on so casually.

But, none of them could have expected that even before anyone could make a move, the situation would change once more.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

“HAHA! We really have to thank the Slayer Legion this time. Finding an SS-grade Zone couldn’t have been easy.”

Chapter 208

At that moment, there was movement in the skies above.

In order to hide this place from prying eyes, the island had been covered in dense clouds. In fact, it wasn’t just the island, but the surrounding tens of miles as well. With a single glance, even someone who wasn’t quite informed could tell that these clouds couldn’t have possibly formed naturally. It was obvious to Leonel that this was related to someone’s ability.

Thanks to this, the island had been shrouded in a perpetual darkness even though it was midday. Maybe it was in part due to this that the atmosphere from earlier felt so oppressive.

That said, the clouds served no other purpose aside from concealment. They didn’t seem to have any offensive or defensive ability, so when the uninvited guests descended from above in a silver ship, the clouds were completely unable to stop their descent.

The clouds moved aside and quickly reformed, revealing a small boat of about five meters in length. Its deck carried six people.

The man who had spoken earlier stood at the helm and looked to be about the same age as Monet. However, to his back, there were five youths no older than Leonel or Mayfly.

Seeing these people appear, an ugly expression took hold of Monet’s once calm visage. It was very obvious that she knew who these people were. PANDA-NOVEL.COM

“You.”

Suddenly, Monet sent a rage fueled gaze toward Leonel, leaving him speechless once again. He also didn't know who the hell these people were, why was he being looked at like it was his fault they had appeared.

However, after a while, Leonel sneered inwardly. To Monet, it didn't matter if he was responsible or not. All she had to do was pretend like he was. In such a way, she had even more reason to apprehend him. In fact, before, it could be said that her actions were still questionable. But now, even Old Hutch wouldn't be able to say anything.

'What a conniving woman.'

However, Leonel still didn't have much of a reaction to this. His mind was running through several calculations. To him, the appearance of a third party was actually an excellent turn of events.

There was, of course, a small chance that this could make things worse for him. This was in the case the two opposing parties decided to work together. But, judging by the situation, that seemed unlikely.

PANDA NOVEL

"There's no need to react this way, Monet. We can do this the easy way. Just give up six entry slots and everything will be fine. If not, we can always do things the hard way."

In truth, the man who stood at the helm of the silver boat hadn't expected a Supreme to be here today. He had come as a precautionary measure so that these youths didn't lose their lives. Plus, with him here, bullying those Commander rank folks below would be as easy as breathing.

If it wasn't for the fact she had suddenly shown up, he wouldn't even bother to speak at all, he would have directly swooped in. In fact, it was an act of giving face that he only brought a total of six including himself. This way, the backlash from the Slayer Legion wouldn't be too exaggerated.

But, if he had known a Supreme would be here, he would have definitely brought more people. Not so that they could enter, but so that they would have a stronger hand for negotiations.

What the man could have never expected was that an esteemed Supreme would come here for the sake of a boy of not even 20 years of age.

“Impossible.” Monet took a hard stance. “Scram back to where you came from. Your Adurna family isn’t welcome here.”

Leonel cocked an eyebrow. ‘Adurna family? Is that another hidden family...?’

Seeing how they all had blue hair and eyes, Leonel felt that this was very likely the case. At the same time, he was speechless as well. What was with all these families having the same eye and hair colors? It can’t be that they were... inbreeding, right?

Leonel shuddered.

“I see... It seems that this is the way you want to do thin —”

SHUUU!

At that moment, something not a single person expected to happen occurred. Leonel, without saying a word to anyone, suddenly dashed forward. His speed was so fast that sounds of the wind splitting apart followed his figure.

Let alone Monet, even the man from the Adurna family was stunned. No one had expected such a thing.

This child’s guts... weren’t they too large?

“You dare?!”

“Hold it right there!”

“Boy!”

The last roar was from Big Buddha himself. It could be said of those the most offended by Leonel's comments, he could rank at the very top. His loyalty to the Slayer Legion was far beyond anything Leonel could imagine. After all, as a person who had never truly had an undying passion in his life, how could Leonel understand this man?

Because of this, even when the Adurna family appeared, Big Buddha's rage had still been focused on Leonel. It was just that the boy had completely ignored him. But, as a result, Big Buddha was the first to notice Leonel's actions and was also the first to react.

The path forward wasn't exactly easy. The surrounding 100 meter space of the Zone had been completely cleared out. Outside of this radius, there were many crew members of the Slayer Legion tasked with maintaining the Force Disruption Towers.

Compared to those people, Leonel could be considered to be in the middle. Many were behind him, but many were also in front of him. And, of those ahead of him, there were a few who had either passed the inspection before him or had special privileges and as such, had no need to go through such procedures.

However, despite seeing these obstacles before him, Leonel's heart was calm. His actions seemed foolish, but this kind of chaos was exactly what he needed.

As expected, as soon as Leonel charged toward the Zone gate, the leading man of the Adurna family suddenly narrowed his gaze. He had already decided. So long as Leonel reached a certain level of closeness, he too would rush in.

Everyone knew how Zones worked. The moment one entered, the gate would begin to close. If no others entered in time, the Zone would close. This meant that everyone would be on a timer the instant the first person entered...

Chapter 209

Leonel didn't seem to hear the words of those around him. He continued to charge forward, his blazing speed leaving a trail of gold in his wake.

He had already formed his Eighth Node in the past week. Even though there were Force Disrupting Towers around, Earth's technology hadn't advanced to the point of being able to block Force Strengthening Deviations just yet. As a result... Who here could match him in speed?

Big Buddha was completely enraged after being ignored by Leonel. But, why should he have expected anything else? Was Leonel going to stop just because he shouted out a few times.

A cold light flashed in Leonel's eyes when he saw that Big Buddha was blocking his way.

Rage lit the large man's eyes. In that moment, his palms were covered by a formless energy that soon coalesced into illusory hands that dwarfed even his body in size. It was clear that the usually amiable Big Buddha was truly enraged this time. If not for this, there was no way that he would pour so much energy into his ability.

However, what infuriated him even more was that Leonel obviously had no intention of engaging with him. What a joke. Why would he allow himself to be stalled in this way? Plus... how could such a big man match him in agility?

Leonel planted his foot down hard, feinting to one side and bursting with speed to another. He was Leonel Morales, a king of the football field. Compared to fighting, these sort of evasive movements were things he was even better at. PANDA-NOVEL.COM

Big Buddha could hardly react when he found that Leonel had already burst by him, heading for the clearing around the Zone without pausing for even a moment.

At that point, Monet finally reacted. Though she had yelled out initially, it still took her a while to realize that something like this was actually happening. A boy of not even 20 years of age was actually impugning on her authority in such a way? How could she stand for it?

However, she was too far from Leonel. She had been speaking to him from on high before, she didn't believe she needed to approach such an ant so closely. So, compared to Big Buddha, she was at least 50 meters away from Leonel. In fact, after he broke out into a run, it was already closer to a hundred.

"Stop him by any means." She shouted out an order coldly.

Badger sighed. Of the Reserve Generals, his speed was unmatched. Even after seeing Leonel's burst, he found that it was still beneath his own. After all, his Lineage Factor boosted speed much like Aina's boosted strength. In addition, his ability supplemented his Lineage Factor as well, giving him the wings of a Roc. For him, blocking Leonel's path was truly not a problem.

It was just a shame. He had had a good impression of Leonel. But, after what he said about them and The Empire, all of those good feelings had gone out of the window. If it wasn't for the fact he had fought with Leonel side by side, rather than just blocking his path, he would have directly killed him. PANDA NOVEL

"Let me." He said coolly.

Hearing his words, the remaining three Reserve Generals nodded. They could see that no one else could pause Leonel's steps. As long as he was stalled, this matter would be over. Since Badger had the greatest speed amongst them, it was only natural that he would go. In fact, they even cleared out his general vicinity.

Badger fell forward, his leg stomping forth just when it seemed he might hit the ground face first. If one looked closely, it really seemed as though his thigh might burst from his pants at any time. The amount of power in his legs was already inconceivable. But then... his wings appeared.

BANG!

The grass beneath his feet was completely flattened. In the distance, trees that managed to survive the appearance of the Zone swayed wildly, their green leaves being ripped from their branches.

Monet smiled lightly, though it seemed to be more of a sneer. Badger was like a streak of silver, his speed crossing 150 kilometers an hour with ease. It seemed that he would catch up with Leonel in just a few breaths. p??J???????

But, that was when Leonel sighed a sigh none of them could here. Beneath the raging winds... how could they?

“Too predictable...” He mumbled beneath his breath.

The speed of the Light Element wasn't a joke. The only issue was that while Leonel had other attributes and abilities that stunted his speed, Badger was quite literally built to maximize his speed.

His bones were as light as that of a birds. His wings had a massive ratio in comparison to his body. He had also learned several agility Force techniques. And, as if that wasn't enough, he had a speed type Lineage Factor. Compared to Leonel who had still yet to awaken the speed branch of his Snowy Star Owl, he was indeed a bit faster.

However... how could Leonel not know that? In fact, he had purposely not accelerated with his greatest speed to make sure this would play out in this way. It was too obvious that the one they'd send to stop him would be Badger.

And, unfortunately for them, Badger had weaknesses just like Leonel.

Leonel kept running as though he believed he could out pace Badger. But, this only made the others grow more confident. In fact, Monet had already begun to move. She only wanted Badger to stall Leonel, as for completely restraining him, it might very well take more than a single person.

The other Reserve Generals seemed to know this as well. So, after they finished clearing out a path for Badger, they too shot forward.

In the sky, the leading man of the Adurna family raised an eyebrow. He too felt that Leonel was finished. However, he was a bit unwilling. How could he gain some benefits from this situation...?

‘in that case...’

“Little Nana, help out our friends a bit.”

At that time, the youngest of the Adurna family blinked her large watery eyes and took a step forward. She extended a slender finger down below and spoke in a clear, resounding voice.

“Bind.”

Leonel suddenly felt a formless pressure surround his body, causing his steps to falter. His expression changed. It felt as though he was trying to run in quick sand.

The innocent little girl in the skies blinked her eyes. Leonel had no idea that she was shocked that he could still run at all.

She extended her finger again. “Double Bind.”

Leonel felt his legs snap together as though a rope had tightened around his ankles. Without suspense, he fell to the ground helplessly.

The leading man of the Adurna family laughed.. “Don’t say I’ve never helped you with anything, Monet. I think this is enough to exchange for six places, no? I hear this boy has something quite valuable to you?”

Chapter 210

Though others were likely making their own assumptions about Leonel’s current state of mind, the man himself was incomparably calm as he watched the ground quickly approach him. Falling like this truly wasn’t pleasant.

Leonel had already calculated that the chance of this happening was quite high. In order to lure Badger in, he lowered his speed. As a result, the Adurna family would obviously think that he would fail. If that happened, there was a 76% chance they would act directly against him as a show of goodwill toward the Slayer Legion, thus making their subsequent asks more palatable.

This was simply how the world of the upper echelons worked, a complex network of meaningless pleasantries, fake smiles, and most important of all: debts.

It could only be said that Leonel was unlucky. Though he had known they would try to stop him, the odds of them having such a perfect ability to do so was relatively low. He was definitely getting screwed over by the luck gods. But, even then, he didn’t panic.

Just when it seemed he would fall face first, he rolled his left shoulder forward and performed a somersault. The instant his two feet hit the ground, still binded together, he lowered himself into a strong squat and leapt forward.

With his current strength, such an action easily sent him over ten meters into the air, falling in a not so elegant parabola shape. However, it was unquestionable that his speed had fallen. In fact, Badger was already not much more than 15 meters from him.

Leonel sent a casual glance toward the leading man of the Adurna family. The man couldn't help but frown when he saw Leonel's calm countenance. It felt as though Leonel could see right through him, as though he was analyzing and memorizing every little detail. It didn't seem like a cold gaze for the sake of being cold, but the kind of indifferent glance one would give a sheet filled with numbers.

Without suspense, Badger caught up to Leonel just as the latter hit the ground once more. He didn't speak any words, but the derision in his eyes were cleared.

Toward such disdain, Leonel could only shrug. If such simple words made them so infuriated, it only meant that the Slayer Legion was even worse off than he thought.PANDA-NOVEL.COM

"Double Bind."

The little girl stretched her fingers out again. This time, Leonel's wrists snapped together, causing his frown to deepen.

He had already entered the clearing and was just 50 meters away from the Zone. But at this point, it might as well be a miles away. How infuriating.

The little girl's ability was truly astounding. Leonel believe that it was Tier 8 at worst.

If it was just as simple as binding him with something material, Leonel wouldn't take it so seriously. But, what was shocking was that this binding seemed more... mysterious than that. Almost as if the laws of physics around him had changed to make it so that his ankles and wrists were only allowed to be together. Should they be apart, it would be breaking the regulations of the laws around him.

At any other time, Leonel would be greatly fascinated by this. Such a concept was completely novel to him and he wondered if it was possible to apply to his Force Crafts. But, at the moment, he didn't have such a luxury...

Badger appeared before him. But, instead of attacking directly, he swooped to Leonel's back, blocking his path toward the Zone before sending a punch toward his back.

Monet finally relaxed slightly. This farce was over. PANDA NOVEL

BANG!

"AH!"

Leonel shook his head and sighed. Badger's bones were formed to optimize his speed and flight. Him attacking Leonel after he activated his Runes was asking for insult.

In truth, Badger wasn't so fragile. If not for this, how could Mayfly have been able to ride on his shoulders? However, compared to Leonel who was on the verge of forming a body as tough as a Third Dimensional metal, he was far too lacking.

Badger screeched as the bone in his arm fractured and his knuckles contorted. He fell to his knees, holding onto his hand as his face turned flush.

How could it be that Badger and Mayfly would be aware of the full extent of his abilities? He had grown so powerful that he had no need to show them all of his strength as they escaped the island, not to mention the fact he had the two of them supporting him. This led to their unfortunate underestimation of him.

"So that's how it is..."

Leonel finally understood. That little girl's ability was almost like a Natural Force Art. She was imposing laws on him... It was no wonder this feeling felt somewhat similar to when he was observing the Force Crystal Core. What a fearsome ability....

But, Leonel knew that no ability was infallible.

The way that little girl always pointed at him before her ability took effect. Was it just the quirks of a child? Or was there another reason...?

Leonel didn't believe that it had something to do with her finger. He couldn't sense anything particularly special about her movement. However, what other reasons could she have to point like that?

'Sight?'

Leonel's eyes narrowed.

Everyone was closing in on him. After seeing what happened to Badger, they all redoubled their efforts. It would be longer than maybe five seconds before they were all able to surround him.

But, Leonel suddenly smiled.

With a flash, a ring on his finger glowed and the ground beneath his feet suddenly became like a pool of mud. He hadn't even sunk in to his knees when he suddenly felt the restrictions around his ankles vanish.

Leonel's smile widened. There was no need to keep his ring a secret. It had already been reported as one of the reasons he was able to save so many youths from the Project Hunt Island. In that case, why not use it now?

A blinding light surrounded Leonel's body. He released his Light Elemental Force without reserve as though he didn't care about the expenditure. But, it was effective. The little girl was completely unable to see him clearly, causing his binding to weaken and then break.

Leonel jumped out from the pool of mud and grabbed at one of Badger's massive wings. The latter was in so much pain that he hardly reacted, having thought he had completed his task, only to find himself flying through the air toward a group rushing toward Leonel.

Badger was ultimately still a Reserved General and regained his bearing quickly. He snorted in his mind, completely deriding Leonel. It was his arm that was hurt, not his wings. He wouldn't even hit these people so what was the point of doing such a thing?

Badger's wings fanned outward and he flapped hard, stopping his forward momentum. But, it was at that moment his expression changed.

"Thanks." Leonel said simply.

The wind caused by Badger's movements sent an obstructive wall toward Leonel's pursuers. By the time they stopped themselves from tumbling backward, Leonel had already entered a 20 meter range of the Zone.

"Stop right there! Are you going to make an enemy out of the whole Slayer Legion?!" Monet roared.

Leonel chuckled in his mind. He had already made an enemy of the whole Empire, why would he care about the Slayer Legion?

"Don't worry, I'll apprehend him!" The leading man of the Adurna family said shamelessly as he swerved his silver boat toward the Zone.

"Matteus, don't you dare!"

"Why are you getting so worked up, I'm only trying to help."

Monet was fuming, but Leonel had already leapt into the swirling portal.

Surprisingly, at this very moment, Monet became frighteningly calm.

“Mayfly, Big Buddha, Violet Rain, and Mountain. Follow me. The rest of you stay put.”

“HAHA! That’s the way!” The Adurna family man roared with laughter.

None of them seemed to notice the helplessness and anger on the faces of those who lost their place to enter, this was especially so Sea Eel and Badger who seemed to want to murder Leonel with their gazes toward his disappearing back.

Badger clutched his only good remaining hand, flames bursting in his eyes.