Dimensional Descent

Dimensional Descent Chapter 1601: Bite

Displaying the abilities of a domain, displaying speed it shouldn't have, poisonous abilities it shouldn't have, outpacing his mind at the same Dimension, and now even displaying the effects of a completely different Force entirely?

Leonel dove out of the wave, but he was still too slow. While he managed to avoid the cobra demon's punch, it was as though it had managed to predict exactly where he was going.

It was a stupid choice, maybe the most idiotic choice Leonel had ever made.

He had been thrust against one wall and then slapped to the side until he hit another one. With the cobra demon now coming straight at him, there was only one way to dodge, and that was to his right.

To his left there was a barrier, coming straight at him was the cobra demon, and the only open space was right there. But if he could realize this, how could the cobra demon not?

The demon's tail whipped across Leonel's face.

At that moment, Leonel smelled the scent of death closer than he ever had before. There was no instant recovery to rely upon, there was no chance at clearing this Zone, and there was no escape.

His head snapped back and his spine cracked. His skull fractured, his brain rattling about and tearing under strong G-forces that it wasn't equipped to handle even in the Sixth Dimension. His jaw, nose, and teeth all cracked at once, leaving his face in an unrecognizable, bloody mess.

Leonel entered a dazed-like state and the fraction of a moment this took seemed to be stretched into infinity. He could practically feel his body shutting down, the reserves of his Life Force speeding out of his pores and back into the universe that had gifted it all to him. The pain came all at once and so forcefully that he actually didn't feel a thing. It was hard to tell if it was because his spine had entered an unrepairable state or if this was just the numbing that came with such a lingering scent of death.

In those moments, Leonel's thinking speed which had felt like it was running through sludge all this time finally picked back up. But that only made him more aware of his impending demise.

'Shit, shit, shit...'

He couldn't understand how he made such a stupid mistake in battle. But it was even worse that he couldn't even think of an alternative. Meeting the cobra demon head on was impossible, the gap between them was far too large. Every time it attacked him, its strength seemed to increase. But Leonel knew that the truth was that the cobra demon hadn't attacked all out from the very beginning. It was just toying with him.

And now... It was bored. It simply didn't feel the need to hold back anymore.

Leonel was furious. Furious with Thaela, furious with the bastards that had forced the Void Palace into such a situation, furious with himself.

The one time he didn't overestimate himself, the one time he wanted to obediently accept a loss, take what he could get and go home, the one time he pressed his own desires down and didn't pursue the position of number one, he had actually ended up in such a state.

He didn't want to fight this battle, he never wanted to fight this battle. He wanted to protect the life of his mother, of Aina, of his brothers, and he had felt that the only way to do that was to lay down his pride and focus on maximizing his chances at survival.

But even when he did this, he had somehow ended up like this.

BANG!

Time seemed to finally catch up with Leonel's speed of thought and his body was slapped back to the corner he had tried to roll out from. His head rebounded against the barrier and his fractured skull directly shattered on impact. Leonel slid down the barrier, his eyes half open to reveal nothing but their whites. His limbs went limp and his body ceased movement.

His face was nothing more than a rain of mangled flesh and blood, his limbs were twisted into odd angles and he seemed to have not the slightest sign of life left.

Like a candle that had been snuffed out beneath a harsh, cold and suffocating wind, he sat dully, his head hanging, his legs spread and his arms limp.

The frosty cold of the cobra demon latched onto his skin and blood. With nothing to fight back against it, he quickly gained patches of frost here and there, some on his face, some on his limbs, others on his torso, but each of them spreading like a blooming flower.

The cobra demon gripped Leonel's neck and pulled him upward. An odd crunching sound followed as the shifting of Leonel weight forced his cracked spine to crack once again.

The tongue of the cobra demon slithered out, a hint of surprise coloring its snake-like face. It wasn't very interested in Leonel's corpse, at least not originally. But when the scent of Leonel's blood permeated the air, it made it feel quite intoxicated.

Saliva dripped down from the cobra demon's teeth. What a boon. It hadn't expected such a weakling to have such tasty blood. Maybe if he might gain a small change at evolving to become a Chaos Demon...

The cobra demon's mouth opened wide, its excitement palpable. Its saliva overflowed, but when it hit the ground, it froze into a puddle of ice. And then, the demon chomped down.

A sickening crunch resounded.

The cobra demon took a bite right out of Leonel's skull, swallowing half of it in a single gulp.

It chewed slowly, its body trembling with delight as it savored every bite and swallowed.

Once it did, completely beside itself, it roared with excitement, feeling as though every cell in its body had completely come alive.

Its eyes turned red with excitement. When it lowered its head to take another bite, its saliva falling even faster, its gaze flashed.

There, where Leonel's frontal cortex should be, a glimmer of a gem lay.

Leonel's Ethereal Glabella.

Dimensional Descent Chapter 1602: Overlord

It was large, abnormally large. Of course, despite this, it was still barely about the thickness of two thumbs, but such a thing was already beyond what could be said for most humans.

Ethereal Glabellas didn't grow in size. Even when Leonel was facing off against enormous oceanic creatures, he had a hard time pinpointing exactly where theirs were, and that was despite the fact that the Beast Crystals of beasts were innately several times larger than the Ethereal Glabellas of humans.

Leonel's, though, was so large and bright that even in the mess of his sliced skull, it stood out. In fact, it seemed a bit different as well.

Incredibly thin crimson threads spread out from it. They were hardly perceptible at all. If not for the cobra demon's sharp eyes, it wouldn't have spotted them at all. But they were just a slight shade redder than even Leonel's own blood.

The thin crimson threads didn't spread very far, and couldn't even be considered a single centimeter long each. They seemed to both fuse with Leonel's Ethereal Glabella and act as a separate existence all together.

But from time to time, they would shift and form into shapes and curves that were simply impossible to understand. In that state, they looked less like threads and more like delicate and thin carvings.

The cobra demon was enraptured.

Much like humankinds love of refining demons, demons also loved to eat and refine humans. But the truest delicacy was most definitely the Ethereal Glabella.

Only Chaos Demons could form them, as such lower level demons were only good for their flesh. But absorbing powerful Ethereal Glabellas, especially for Fiend Class demons so close to the Chaos realms, was especially good.

The cobra demon definitely felt like it had hit the jackpot.

Originally, it thought its path of evolution was over after these humans caught it and forced it to be a ring leader for these pathetic little juniors. But with such an opportunity before it, how could it not be ecstatic? If before it wasn't certain, it was sure now that so long as it swallowed and completely refined Leonel, it would finally take that step it had been dreaming of for so long.

Its manipulation of Force had already reached the greatest extent it could. If it wanted to, before it had been captured by these humans that is, it could have broken into the Seventh Star whenever it wanted. But it was unwilling to.

The Sixth Star was considered to be the true start of a practitioner's journey, it was the dividing line between those who could truly become powerful and those that would forever wallow in mediocrity.

If it entered the Seventh Star without changing its Class, the difficulty of doing so in the future would be exponentially more difficult.

It had originally regretted its unwillingness. If it had broken through earlier, it would have been too powerful for the humans to use for this test so it would have avoided such a fate. And now, it couldn't break through even if it wanted to.

But to think that it would gain such a boon!

If it broke into the Chaos Class, the seal placed on it would become useless. It could break into the Seventh Star in one go and shatter this cage. Once it entered the pinnacle of demon society, it would even have a chance to seek revenge for this day.

The cobra demon trembled, reaching forward in an attempt to carefully pluck out Leonel's Ethereal Glabella.

It was best to refine the entire body first. Once that was complete, he would be perfectly primed to refine this gem. But what the cobra demon couldn't have expected was that when it tried to pluck out Leonel's Ethereal Glabella, something that should have been easy, its claws were rebuffed.

It pinched two sharp nails together, trying once again, but it was only rebuffed again.

If it had a human face, it might have an incredulous sort of expression right this moment.

Was it the crimson threads?

Leonel was definitely dead. His heart had stopped, his skin had already begun to lose its warmth, and his entire body held not the slightest ounce of tension. It was definitely impossible for him to be doing this, so the only explanation was that these crimson threads and the odd Runes they formed were doing something.

The cobra demon was a genius that had pushed the use of its Force to the absolute limit. In fact, it had started off as a Human Class demon that diligently worked its way up to its current Realm, a feat that took tens of thousands of years.

When it came to pure talent, it wasn't nearly the best, as its innate affinity was for a mere Water Force barely in the top 30. However, when it came to its application and its use, it was on a completely different level.

So when it saw itself being rebuffed for the second time, it took a moment to sense exactly what was happening and came to a conclusion.

This was a sealing type Force, an extraordinarily strong one.

However, this seal was latched onto this body. So long as this body didn't exist anymore, the seal would also fall. It was no doubt a very heavy Blood Force seal, one more powerful than any it had ever seen before.

It was clear that the parents of the cub should be very powerful. They would definitely be enraged about his death.

The cobra demon knew it would have to escape as quickly as possible, then.

Realizing what had to be done, the demon began chomping away at Leonel's body. Every sickening crunch represented another piece that vanished.

One arm, both arms. One leg, both legs.

The demon didn't dare to eat around Leonel's skull anymore, not until it refined enough of Leonel's body that the seal would lack the Blood Force necessary to lash out.

To the demon's astonishment, it actually found not one, but two Innate Nodes in Leonel's body, one of which was a legendary Ninth Star Innate Node, and the other of which was a Fifth Star Innate Node.

This alone was shocking enough, but the Force that was inside shook it to its core.

How... How could it have such great luck?!

The demon held both Innate Nodes in its hands. When it completely refined Leonel and evolved, it would have the perfect foundation to take these Innate Nodes as its own!

While Myghell wasn't able to perfectly assimilate with it due to the Luxnix family's crude methods, it would be able to use Leonel as a catalyst for its perfect fusion with these two Innate Nodes.

Like this, it wouldn't just become a normal Chaos Demon... in the future... It would become an Overlord!

Dimensional Descent Chapter 1603: To Ash

The cobra demon's neck flared open and closed, its excitement clear in its crystalline blue eyes.

Although Fire Force was maybe the Force that it was the least compatible with, this should ironically help with its breakthrough.

The penultimate realm one could reach in their Force, a step that the cobra had yet to reach itself, was to birth one's opposite upon reaching an extreme, while the ultimate realm was to revert back once more.

These were concepts that Leonel had no idea about, and they were things that the demon had only learned itself after countless thousands of years.

The demon felt that it was still several steps away from this penultimate level, but if it could suddenly grasp the exact opposite of its own Force to such a high level and even be able to meditate on these complete Star Runes, it would finally make a breakthrough.

With such a breakthrough, even if it didn't become a Chaos Class demon and even if it stayed in the Sixth Star, it would still become several folds more powerful, maybe even dozens of folds!

The demon clutched the two Innate Nodes, looking toward what remained of Leonel's corpse with a hint of fondness that seemed completely out of place. One would have thought that it was looking at its own child rather than a meal that was half completed.

When it made it settle its emotions and regained its calm, it continued to eat. Up Leonel's torso, savoring the tenderness of his lungs and sweetness of his heart.

The demon had never had a human that tasted so good. Most of its life, it could only cannibalize its own kind. But demon flesh was very hard to eat, which was why humans refined it. Too much was lost in the process.

But human bodies, even ones as tough as Leonel's, were so soft and tender by comparison, and that was especially since a corpse couldn't possibly activate Bronze Runes. They were an exceptional delicacy and one that demonkind couldn't get enough of.

When the demon had finished eating through Leonel's neck, jaw and much of his face, leaving nothing much more than what remained of his brain, it couldn't help but sigh. It wanted to eat more, to savor more. Unfortunately, there was only one Leonel here.

No, that wasn't true. Once it refined this and became a Chaos Demon, it would be powerful enough to target those truly monstrous humans and strengthen itself.

And since it would have been an evolved Chaos Demon, it wouldn't be stuck behind the seal either, so there would be little to nothing the humans could do about it. It would be too powerful! In truth, the only Chaos Demons running around this world now were the very few that had escaped the fate of being sealed, and the ones like this Fiend Class demon that evolved on their own after the event of all those years ago.

Of course... The humans had no idea about this...

While they were fighting full blown wars against the Demon Bubbles, the Great Families, the supposed defenders of humanity, were hardly fighting any battles at all.

It was all a great joke. They consolidated their power based on what they had supposedly done and were currently doing for humans, when the reality was that they did nothing at all but live lives of luxury.

Of course, this wasn't entirely the case. There were still some Chaos Demons they had to keep in check, and they dealt with most demons like it ahead of time before they could evolve. It definitely wasn't a coincidence that it of all demons had been captured like this, it was a method of getting rid of future problems.

But for the most part, the Great Families rested on their laurels. And now that they finally faced a problem they felt they might not easily be able to deal with, rather than doing their job as the protectors of humanity, the job they were paid so handsomely for whether via tributes, respect, or power, they instead chose to hold such an event instead.

They planned to wrangle together some useful talents they could use as cannon fodder so that they'd once again be able to survive while putting in a minimum amount of effort.

Humans were truly pathetic.

The cobra demon sneered.

Clearly it had a great amount of intelligence to piece all of this together. But how much of it was true and how much of it was just its distaste and bias against those that had hunted it down for its whole life, that much was unknown...

The cobra demon carefully ate around what was left of Leonel's brain. Piece by piece, it swallowed them down.

Just as it had expected, the movements of the small crimson threads became slow and they even became dimmer. By the time there was nothing at all left of Leonel but his Ethereal Glabella, the crimson threads had no movement left whatsoever, falling into a dormant state and even losing their crimson color, becoming a lifeless black.

The demon caressed the small Ethereal Glabella. As it sat in meditation, its stomach churned and its body quickly refined Leonel piece by piece.

A relentless wave of power flooded through it again and again in tall tsunamis. Its cells and its blue scales shone with a vibrant color.

And then, for the first time in over ten thousand years, its scales actually began to shed.

Every shed cycle the cobra demon went through, the strength of its body would actually more than double. It couldn't believe that such a weak human had given it such an evolution before it even entered the Chaos Demon realms!

The more perfect its Fiend Class body, the stronger its Chaos Class body would be! This couldn't have come at a better time.

The cobra's tongue flickered in and out, its sapphire eyes glowing like two blazing torches. And then, it swallowed Leonel's Ethereal Glabella, entering an absolutely focused state.

Its body couldn't be more primed and ready right at this moment.

BOOM!

The aura of the demon began to skyrocket, its power advancing by leaps and bounds as it rushed toward the Chaos Demon realms.

Its body bulged and shrank in a continuous cycle, its muscle fibers doubling and its organs shining with a resplendent light.

What the demon didn't know, though, was that its actions of pushing Leonel through the gates of death and finally and truly awakened the latter's soul, a state that only the Spirituals could experience... a race of people that built their own bodies.

Within the demon's stomach, Leonel's Ethereal Glabella flashed.

[Life Steal]. [Instant Recovery].

The demon, who had been sitting on the edge of ecstasy, suddenly froze.

A strong pulling force latched onto its circulatory system, ripping at its blood and swallowing it by the tens of liters.

The demon's recovery abilities made up this blood in an instant, but the suction only increased.

At first it thought that this was part of its evolution, but it was then that it realized that it could no longer feel its connection with Leonel's Ethereal Glabella. In fact, the two Innate Nodes that it had set aside to fuse with later, suddenly shot into the air, rushing toward it and stabbing two holes in its stomach.

The demon roared with fury, realizing that there was definitely a problem.

It had always been quick on its feet and extremely intelligent. If not for this, it would have never made it so far and been so persistent.

Without hesitation, it pierced a claw into its belly, ripping its stomach sack out and throwing it a long distance from itself.

The demon's scales became somewhat pale and its aura plummeted, but even still, it only fell from the Quasi Seventh Star to Tier 3 of the Sixth Star. However, it wasn't paying attention to this at all, its blue eyes having become red with fury as it watched a blob of flesh quickly reform amidst a pillar of gold light, even its stomach sack was absorbed and used to reform the naked body of a familiar young man.

Leonel fell about a foot from the air, his face pale and his limbs still trembling.

He had felt every second of himself being eaten alive. It was a feeling that made his body vibrate from head to toe.

He gripped his fists, his lips far more blue than red and his hair far more white than violet. Even his Dimension had dropped from the Sixth back down to the Fifth.

He raised his head, meeting the gaze of the cobra demon. At that moment, the cobra demon, who was furious in its own right, trembled.

The fury in Leonel's eyes drowned out its own. Fueled by humiliation, Leonel's rage seemed to want to burn the world to ash.

Dimensional Descent Chapter 1604: Spiritual

Leonel's body felt like it was breaking apart. It felt like he was a normal mortal man once again and that he hadn't eaten or had anything to drink in weeks. Not only was his skin pale, his heartbeat was incredibly fast as it tried to move around the limited blood in his body, and his skin practically stuck to his bone.

He had gone from someone who had more defined muscles and vascularity in a lean frame than most body builders had in their behemoth-like bodies, to a walking, breathing skeleton. Though, even breathing hurt, so the latter might not even be true for very much longer.

The furious light in his eyes was almost like the smoldering flames of an undead, his sunken features making him look like he was a step away from death.

The state of the cobra demon couldn't be considered to be much better. Leonel had left it in a terrible state. Even after taking so much of its blood, he had barely had enough to reform his body. It was clear that the gap in talent between Leonel and the Fiend Class demon was actually enormous, if not for this how could the latter drop down six Tiers, and yet Leonel could still hardly stand? In fact, he hadn't even been able to maintain his Sixth Dimensional status.

The cobra demon should have been able to heal an injury as simple as a lost stomach almost instantly. And yet it still stood hunched over in the distance, its eyes and tongue flickering as it kept its gaze locked onto Leonel.

It was clear that it could seem to heal. However, lingering energies from its near breakthrough into the Chaos Demon Realms was still there. It just needed time to recover and there was about a 10% chance it could still manage to make that final breakthrough.

However when facing the smoldering fury in Leonel's eyes, its senses were primed to an extreme, its scales rippling as they moved up and down. It couldn't even think about a breakthrough right now.

It had never seen someone capable of regenerating to such an extent. Even demons, who were especially known for their recovery abilities couldn't do such a thing.

Could it be that this boy had that soul separation ability it had heard about?

But no, that still shouldn't be possible. Those with that ability needed to take over other bodies, they didn't even have Ethereal Glabellas as their souls were vessels capable of replacing the function of one. As such, their very essence could be moved from place to place.

It was possible to create a body for oneself if you had such an ability, but as a human, your ability to do so would be very much lacking in comparison to Spirituals.

This was because a Spiritual could take raw materials and use their powerful souls to mold it into their image. However, one with this ability wouldn't necessarily have a soul powerful enough to do this. In addition, even if they did, they would lack the refinement techniques of the Spirituals.

As such, you would only be able to use crude clone creation methods like Heira. But such clones would only last a few years at best before you would have to create a new one.

Could it be that this boy was a Spiritual? One that had used the raw materials of its very own body in order to reform his?

When the cobra demon thought to this point, its body shuddered and its level of seriousness raised by several levels.

It wasn't a fool. Leonel didn't have the aura or smell of a Spiritual. However, when it thought about the fact that Leonel had two Innate Nodes of the number one Fire Force in all of existence, it overrode all of its other thoughts.

Theoretically, if a Spiritual wanted to, they could construct a body with a human aura. In fact, now that the cobra demon thought about this, wasn't this a human-lead trial for youths? Could it be that this genius of the Spirituals had

masked his real identity in order to sneak in and partake in the secrets of the demons?

The Spirituals should be far more powerful than humans, though.. Was it even necessary to do such a thing for someone of Leonel's caliber?

However, the cobra demon didn't bother to think so far. Every race had its own internal conflict. For a Spiritual like this boy to have such poor Force control and comprehension, it definitely meant that he had been ostracized by his people. A genius of this level should be able to wipe it out with a single wave of a palm, but clearly this boy could not.

Plus, if it treated Leonel like a Spiritual genius, it wouldn't lose out. In fact, its caution would only help it.

Until now, it had only been toying with the boy, not bringing out even a small fraction of its strength. But now, it would go all out.

The temperature plummeted and then plummeted once again.

The pit in the demon's torso became a block of ice, freezing over all the leaking blood and stopping it in its tracks.

The cobra demon reached out into seemingly empty space. But at that moment, fine lines of cracks in space appeared and its hand vanished, leaving only its forearm in sight.

With it pulled back, a menacing weapon slowly manifest inch by inch. It carried with it the wild fluctuations of space.

A scythe that looked as though it had been carved of black ice made its presence known. Everywhere it swept by, space froze over and cracked. It curved with a murderous aura, blue frost wafting from its body.

The cobra demon rose to its full height, roaring into the skies above.

BANG!

It shot forward like a streak of blue light.

Leonel was the only thing it could see. This boy was the gate between it and freedom, between it and true power.

Spiritual or not, it would make sure that this boy felt its pride as a demon.

Dimensional Descent Chapter 1605: Demon Blood

The cobra demon appeared before Leonel in the blink of an eye. The smoldering fire within the latter's eyes as sharp as blades.

Leonel took a step to the side, dodging out of the way of the blade.

He felt like he could finally see again. The slush his mind had been wading through was nowhere in sight. No... It was still there, it was just far less capable of affecting him any longer. He could finally think like himself, finally calculate like himself, finally make the world dance in the palm of his hand like himself.

A spear appeared in his hand as the scythe sliced down a mere inch from his nose.

He didn't have the strength to manifest his construct. His body was too weak to summon his Bronze Runes. He couldn't summon his Stars, the pressure he had put on his mind previously to save Aina was far too much, and it only became worse after his soul separated from his body and lost its support.

The only things that hadn't abandoned him was his Ability Index, his Innate Nodes, and this spear in his hand.

His gaze blazed.

This was more than enough.

Scarlet Star Force flooded Leonel's body from his left kidney. At this moment, he was thankful that he hadn't shattered the seals upon it to the Sixth Dimensional level. With the current state of his body, there was no way that it could handle Sixth Dimensional Scarlet Star Force.

Flames blazed to life around him. He had never been more focused.

His spear pierced outward, taking claim of the absolute perfect timing.

The gaze of the cobra demon flickered. It was surprised by Leonel's sudden increase in reflexes, what happened?

However, it didn't care. It had already approached with the utmost caution. As for these Scarlet Star Force flames? How could they possibly hurt it with such a crude, rudimentary usage?

The scythe of the cobra demon flipped in its palms, changing the direction of its blade and slicing toward Leonel's back despite the fact that the demon stood before him.

The hook of the blade was fully prepared to cut Leonel at the waist, but the latter didn't even seem to notice in the slightest.

Destruction Runes flashed in Leonel's smoldering pupils, the blade of his own blade shifting and perfectly colliding with the polearm of the scythe.

It looked like a completely useless action, but the small force was enough to carry a bit of extra momentum over to the scythe blade.

The demon's original strike had been a downward swing, so now it was actually pulling its scythe upward to deal Leonel a blow. Leonel's sudden and unpredictable actions cause the demon to overshoot, the hook of its scythe just barely grazing the tips of his hair.

The demon faltered in its step backward, not having received the resistance it had expected from slicing through Leonel's waist.

Due to its caution, it had actually expected Leonel to be able to block this attack, somehow, some way, but what it hadn't expected was for Destruction Runes to flash in Leonel's eyes for a mere parrying maneuver.

Leonel was already moving forward.

His spear spun in his hand, a wheel of flames forming as he used a technique he hadn't in a very long time: [Infernal Cyclone]. All he could do now was use these simple techniques he had gained from Valiant Heart Mountain, but in his eyes, they would be more than enough.

He regretted it. He regretted ignoring his heart and not shooting for first place, for scrounging for what he could instead of ripping away what he wanted.

A wheel of fire shot forward. Powered by Leonel's Scarlet Star Force, it tore the ground apart, rushing forward like the wheels of a blazing racecar as it closed the small distance between Leonel and the stumbling cobra demon in an instant.

Leonel's spear spun once again, forming another wheel and closing the distance.

Due to its miscalculation, the cobra demon's scythe wasn't in place to block or counter. It could only remove a hand from its polearm and slammed out with a claw.

'[Meteoric Impact].'

Leonel didn't miss a single beat. Even as the wheels of fire shattered into a rain, he took a strong step forward and he pierced through the fires with a deathly momentum.

His spear appeared before the cobra demon, but shocking enough, it wasn't toward any one of its vital points like the demon had expected, but rather right into the block of ice that had blocked up its stomach.

The cobra demon was smart enough to consider that Leonel might use the first attacks as a cover, Leonel had already done it once, it was very possible that he'd do it again. But it thought that Leonel would attack one of its vital points, not a block of ice.

Although it was an injury, it wasn't life threatening. As a Fiend Class demon, even if it didn't heal it, it would easily survive for decades without its stomach. It just didn't make sense for Leonel to attack such a thing.

The tip of Leonel's spear barely pierced the ice, however this was where the effects of [Meteoric Impact] activated.

BANG!

An implosion of fire blasted from the inside out.

The cobra demon's eyes widened, coughing up a mouthful of blood as it was blasted backward.

Leonel's battle intent blazed as a tempest of flames rose up around him.

"[Harmonic Spear]."

His voice was frighteningly cold.

At that moment, hundreds of flame clones, each wielding a fiery spear, appeared in the skies.

The plummeting temperature began to skyrocket. Even if Leonel couldn't win by quality, he would win by quantity. He still couldn't understand how this cobra demon was so powerful, even using spatial abilities when it clearly didn't have such an affinity, but none of that mattered.

All he wanted right now was for his blade to taste blood. Demon blood.

His clones all pierced out at once.

Dimensional Descent Chapter 1606: Chaos Demon

The cobra demon's body rebounded against the barrier even as Leonel's clones all pierced forward at once.

It coughed violently again and again.

Leonel's spear was hardly strong enough to pierce its block of ice, which went to show just how sturdy it was. However, this was precisely its downfall. Leonel had used its own Force against it, using it as materials for his makeshift grenade.

Right now, shards of the cobra demon's own ice had torn into its lungs, its intestines, and most unfortunately... its heart. With how slow its regenerative abilities were now, such a thing was a death sentence unless it could find something to nourish itself.

But would Leonel allow it such an opportunity?

It felt that the moment Leonel had reformed his body, it had entered quicksand it couldn't find its way out of. It found that its suppression of Leonel, at least toward the latter's mind, was of no use at all. And now that Leonel's mind was unleashed in full force, it couldn't keep up with his deductions, and it couldn't read Leonel's intentions any longer. The cobra demon faced this rain of fire with a look of unwillingness in its eyes.

How far had it climbed to reach this point? Now it was just a single step from its goal, a single step away from becoming the Chaos Class monster it had always wanted to be, but now it was going to be snatched from it at the finish line?

No. No! NO!

The neck of the cobra demon flared, its mouth opening wide. It pushed itself up, a wild mist of frost billowing around it.

DIE! DIE! DIE!

Leonel's clones shattered one after another, the dissipation of one leading to a large impact on the cobra demon's wild flurry of Force.

However, Leonel's expression only remained as cold as ever. When it came to stamina, none could match up to an Innate Node holder, never mind the state the demon was in. This demon was only hastening its death.

Leonel's spear spun, releasing [Infernal Clone] after [Infernal Cyclone].

Bright red-gold wheels shot through the dull ground, grinding the cobra demon down step by step.

His spear pierced outward. If he could also use [Vanishing Blade], he could have already ended this battle. But it was impossible for him to manipulate space in his current state, especially not with the crude methods of a technique of Valiant Heart Mountain.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

ROAR!

The cobra demon ignored everything, not even protecting itself as it started a mad charge toward Leonel.

Although it had seemed that it could casually deal with Scarlet Star Force, that was all. The cobra demon controlled a mere top 30 Water Force at the Sixth Dimension while Leonel controlled the number one Fire Force at the Fifth Dimension. The former was able to use its expert control and understanding

of its Force to make the latter seem useless, but as it ran out of stamina, it became harder and harder.

So it ignored everything, conserving what was left of its stamina to charge through Leonel's wall of fire.

By the time it came out of the other side, it was nothing but a blazing humanoid, its scales, body and flesh quickly charring under in the inferno.

It swiped at Leonel with its scythe. However, Leonel only flicked out with his spear.

CRACK!

In its madness, the cobra demon had forgotten what its scythe was formed out of. Now that it had abandoned all forms of protection, how could the scythe continue to maintain its structural integrity?

The shards of ice sparkled as they fell through the air. Time seemed slow, the rain of ice twinkling beneath the raging red-gold flames as Leonel's spear continued its forward sweep, piercing right through the demon's heart.

With its scales quickly being destroyed, how could its defenses still be the same?

The cobra demon fell to its knees before Leonel, blazing in a pillar of fire.

Its head raised, laughing into the skies. All that effort, tens of thousands of years, countless battles, all to fall here.

However, at the very least, this vile human wouldn't gain its body. It would rather burn to ash right here in a final blaze of glory!

Just as it was about to fall, though, Leonel reached through the flames and grabbed its neck, squeezing down hard.

He looked down at the cobra demon, meeting its gaze through the raging fires.

"Did I say that you could die as you pleased? Your corpse is too valuable. Don't you like to eat people? I'll make sure to savor you well." The flames that the cobra demon found to be impossible to deal with any longer suddenly vanished into wisps of smoke as though they had never been there, leaving behind a half dead, charred demon.

As the final embers of its life flickered out, the cobra demon couldn't pull its gaze away from Leonel's.

Just... which of them was the demon, exactly?

Standing there, as sickly as could be, with barely the strength to even stand, Leonel still somehow felt like a monster it shouldn't have dared to stand against.

...

At that moment, outside the battlegrounds of top 10 versus demon, the sound of shrieking resounded through the demon world.

By this point, nine of the top ten had already exited, leaving Leonel as the only one left. Two of these top three had joined up with Thaela as they were members of the Endless Twilight Pavilion.

However, right this moment, all three were in a bloody mess. Their clothes were shredded to pieces, their tender bodies an unrecognizable, bloodied mess, and all of their lofty arrogance had shrunk to nearly nothing.

"DEMON!" THAELA SHRIEKED. "YOU'RE NOT A BLOOD SOVEREIGN, YOU'RE A DEMON! DEMON! DEMON!"

She seemed to have completely lost her mind, unable to even speak in coherent sentences.

Before her, a beauty of unspeakable proportions stood.

The white of this beauties eyes had turned completely black, her irises looking like a pool of blood.

On her back, at the level of her hips, a pair of black wings grew out where her venus dimples would have been.

Above her head, there was a jet black halo, and out from her tail bone, there was an incredibly thin and sharp tail that grew out like a menacing whip. A

twin pair of horns curved out from her forehead, sparking with black lightning from time to time.

Her body was wrapped in floating black feathers that circulated around her, making it difficult to tell if she was wearing clothes at all. The hints of skin such an appearance revealed was enough to intoxicate all those who saw her, including even women.

"It was you... You drove him to such a state... You deserve... a life worse than death..."

A woman by Thaela's side crushed a talisman. This was already her 10th time doing so, but she kept trying again and again.

Just then, the tail of the Chaos Demon whipped outward and a pink tongue flashed into the air, spinning about before plopping to the ground.

This Chaos Demon swept a sorrowful gaze forward that quickly became frighteningly cold as though she was thinking of other methods to torture these three.

This Chaos Demon was none other than Aina Brazinger.

Dimensional Descent Chapter 1607: Is It You?

Leonel fell out of the air, landing on the ground with a stumble.

His lungs felt like they were filled with sand at this point. If it wasn't because he had a decent amount of strength in his healthy form, he wouldn't have nearly enough energy left in this state to drag around a Fiend Class demon.

'Hm?'

Leonel's gaze turned in a certain direction. Over there, a huge pillar of baleful lights swirling in crimson and black swirling like a cyclone. The aura was more powerful than anything he had experienced before in this demon world, so much so that even in this state, he could feel it.

It had to be understood that right now, Leonel's couldn't even use his Internal Sight properly, at least not to his normal exaggerated ranges. When he fought the cobra demon he had focused all the Dream Force stamina he had left in his Ability Index so that he would be able to calculate a path to victory, and that he did.

But right now, since he didn't need to fuel his Ability Index to its very peak, he was able to use his Internal Sight to a small extent. But even then, it was just barely in a 100 meter radius.

If others heard Leonel calling 100 meters a small radius for his Internal Sight, they would be greatly shocked. But truthfully, wasn't a 100 meters small compared to the over 100 kilometers Leonel was usually capable of? Even his Starry Spirit Domain had had a range a hundred times that, and it was on a level all to its own.

That pillar was at least 20 kilometers away from Leonel, though, and yet he could still sense it so clearly. He hadn't even initially been facing that way and could have easily missed it considering his languid state, but it was as though it demanded his attention.

Leonel's brow furrowed. This aura wasn't one he recognized, but the coercion laced through it was something he had only ever felt from Aina.

When Aina first rid herself of her curse, she had gained a coercion ability that she found difficult to control. Just by existing, her charm could practically enslave the minds of others. When she spoke, her words carried a beauty all to their own. The mental pressure she placed on most was simply on another level, even Leonel was somewhat affected.

Of course, this was also because Leonel had very deep feelings for Aina to begin with. Normally, such coercion wouldn't work on him at all.

Leonel didn't know exactly what happened between his and Aina's separation, and their meeting once more. But by then, she had gained perfect control over her coercion and it never leaked again. In fact, she didn't even use it in battle.

The last time she used it at all was under Leonel's request to sing a note to test something, resulting in them creating a powerful combination attack, and attack, without which, they wouldn't have been able to kill the first lower Fiend Class demon they met in this world. It was thanks to defeating this demon that they gained a small foothold in this world to begin with.

However, even after this, Aina seemed quite reluctant to use it. That said, Leonel never blamed her because he understood her feelings quite intimately.

That experience Aina had on Terrain was a heavy scar on her heart. She almost lost her life to the Puppet Master, and that was one thing that she could accept, but what the Puppet Master had wanted to do to her made her freeze up.

The one dream Aina had outside of revenge for her mother was to have a large family, for her to bask in warmth she had never gotten a chance to experience as a child and live a happy life.

Although Aina had originally wanted to keep a distance from Leonel when the Metamorphosis descended, this wasn't because she hadn't had such hopes buried within her heart, but rather because she wanted to protect Leonel... a sentiment that waned somewhat the more of his talent he displayed, but never quite fully vanished.

It could be said that of all of Aina's hopes, this was the one that ranked second of them all, but it was also the one that acted as the guiding light of her heart. While revenge might have been number one, there was only so much of such darkness a person could take.

Why else would Aina want to have so many children? She really hadn't been joking that day, as many children as Leonel was willing to give her, was as many as she would birth. She wanted a family so large that she would never have to experience coldness again.

And yet, that bright, beautiful hope within her heart, within her soul, was taken, twisted, darkened and perverted by the Puppet Master.

Back then, it had really seemed like there would be nothing she could do, her body was out of her control and she could only sit, shivering. However, due to a stroke of luck, she had been able to use the effect of her curse to escape.

But then the bastard appeared again on Earth all while she was in one of her happiest moments with Leonel.

The Puppet Master once again snatched control of her body away.

Back then, Leonel hadn't understood Aina's thoughts and emotions so deeply, but he had understood enough to be infuriated. He didn't need to know the

details, the fact that someone had made his Aina feel such a way was enough for him to sentence them to death. So...

He dropped a city from the skies.

Leonel had done everything he could, but since that day, Aina had been very hesitant to use her abilities as a Blood Sovereign, only feeling comfortable enough to when matters were related to Leonel. She had always hated them because of that lack of control she had experienced that day.

'... Is it you...?'

Despite only just thinking this, Leonel was already running in that direction. His lungs threatened to stop expanding no matter how hard he breathed, but he just kept running. No matter how weak he was now, 20 kilometers was still a small distance to him...

And yet it took almost half an hour before he laid eyes on her.

The moment he did, his body gave way.

Dimensional Descent Chapter 1608: Someone

Leonel's consciousness came in and out of focus, he was truly drained. Even his usually endless Dream Force was tapped out. The process of fully separating his soul from his body was definitely incredibly taxing and it felt even much like something that shouldn't have happened at all. However, when that was stacked atop of what he had experienced before, it really pushed him over the edge.

He had only managed to run so far out of sheer will and he wasn't even 100% certain if what he expected to find on the other side would be that.

However, before he could hit the ground, he found himself enveloped by a soft embrace.

The moment Leonel appeared, Aina had sensed it immediately and rushed over. She seemed to blink away from her location, nothing but a tornado of black feathers being left as a marker for her former appearance. When she appeared once more, she had already caught Leonel. Those black feathers that had wrapped around her, dancing about in a pattern around her, was a defense the three women had become intimately familiar with. It was as though they couldn't pass through it no matter how hard they tried.

However, at that moment, they didn't harm Leonel in the slightest, allowing his head to pass through as though they weren't there at all.

Aina's expression flickered. Leonel looked so sickly and weak.

The first emotion she felt with excitement, but then when she said his state she felt worry, and very soon that became an unbridled rage.

"DIE!"

In her fury, her tail whipped out and shot through the skulls of the three women in one sweeping motion that was no less sharp than a flexible sword.

As though a disk had run through their foreheads, their expressions froze in horror before their bodies plopped to the ground with a dull, wet sound.

Aina held Leonel in her arms and shivered when she realized that he had actually fallen to the Fifth Dimension. Just what had happened to him?

Her gaze landed on the demon he had been dragging behind him. Was it because of this demon?

Her demonic eyes flickered with rage.

She couldn't refine this demon to help Leonel. In his current state, there was no way that he could handle a Force Pill on this level.

One had to remember just the kind of violent upheaval Leonel's body underwent whenever he swallowed these pills. Even in his peak state, it was like he swallowed a mountain and his digestive system was placed under a great amount of stress. Most importantly, it was mostly because of his Tier 4 Control Ability Index that he was able to lower much of the risk.

However, if he swallowed even a lower Fiend Class Force Pill in this state, he would end up ripping a hole through his body. It definitely wasn't an easy feat to improve your foundation, it needed one to have decent enough talent to begin with and a tremendous amount of focus.

Leonel needed something more delicate to absorb.

Aina's brows furrowed, but this didn't last too long. She placed a hand on Leonel's chest and a strong Life Force began to pulse. She reached out another hand toward the demon's corpse and it was quickly sucked dry before it began to be quickly refined.

Aina's expression flickered. This demon looked like any other higher Fiend Class demon, but there was something different about its insides. It was actually on the verge of becoming a Chaos Class demon and it had even started the process, but for some reason it had halted.

After thinking to this point, Aina thrust away all other distracting thoughts.

By now, her skill in manipulating Blood Force had skyrocketed. Since Leonel could absorb it on his own, she would just have to break it down into bite sized pieces he could absorb. It was as simple as that. Even the Aurora Black Panther's Life Steal abilities were nothing compared to her.

Leonel quickly began to regain some color.

His skin gained some luster, no longer sticking to his bone. His white hair and eyes began to slowly regain their pale violet hues and the faint light they usually emitted. And, his muscles returned inch by inch as though vegetation that had finally been watered.

Leonel's consciousness, which had been fading in and out, regained some of its focus, his heart skipping a beat.

Though it seemed like he had only lost consciousness just now, it was far worse than that. If not for someone's action, he would have died.

His body was running on empty and it could be said that the only thing still running was his soul, but once he ran out of Dream Force, wouldn't it also be running on empty? If his body and soul hit a wall, what was there left if not death?

Both needed to be functioning properly for Leonel to hold onto his life.

Normal humans of the Human Domain had their souls and bodies fused into one, so once the body died, the soul would die as well. Likewise, if one met a Spiritual capable of targeting one's soul, death would also be the only path forward.

However, the separation of Leonel's soul and body meant that he had some leeway. His body could be pushed to the brink of death and he would be able to bring it back with his soul. At the same time, his soul could be brought to the brink of death and he could use his body to bring it back.

The only caveat was that his Ethereal Glabella had to remain intact. It was the link that chained the both. Without it, there was only death waiting for him.

'Wait... someone?'

Leonel started and his head shot up to final a demonic pair of eyes looking back at him. Its whites were completely black and the irises were entirely crimson.

Aina, who hadn't been ready for Leonel to suddenly wake up, panicked, trying to hide her face.

Dimensional Descent Chapter 1609: Became...

Leonel blinked. He looked Aina up and down, his gaze not giving much of his thoughts away.

Horns? Black halo? Wings at waist level? A tail? Black feather tornado in place of clothes? Big, really big, soft breasts... Wait, those had already been there before.

Leonel's gaze sparkled.

"First a vampire girlfriend, now a succubus girlfriend? Raj would be jealous enough to jump off the nearest cliff."

Leonel laughed so hard that his voice boomed across the skies, much of his power seemingly having returned to his body. He almost immediately began to play with Aina's wings and tail, just to make sure they were real and that he wasn't dreaming.

How had he hit such a jackpot?

As for Aina's embarrassment, he couldn't even be bothered with it. Funny enough, the first time Leonel learned that Aina could absorb the blood of others, she had reacted like this as well, scared of how he would take it. Clearly, she hadn't learned her lesson.

Leonel had two loves in life. Cool uniforms and monster girls. He could already envision Raj's furious howl at the unfairness of it all.

Aina squirmed, moving her hands from her face. Her winds and tail were exceptionally powerful in battle, but when Leonel touched them like that it made her feel odd sorts of stimulation she had never experienced before.

Quickly, she retracted it all, running away from Leonel's touch. At that moment, the black feathers rotating around her and hiding much of her decency shrank and latched onto her skin, becoming a gorgeous black full body armor that glided down the grace of her curves. If one looked closely, it almost looked as though she had forged this full body flexible armor out of the scales of a mighty black dragon.

Seeing Aina's tail, wings and horn all disappear at once, Leonel practically pouted.

"There should be laws against this kind of thing," he mumbled.

Aina was truly speechless when she heard this, but she couldn't help but break out into a smile. As expected, the one who always made her feel the most comfortable in her skin was Leonel.

Whether her face was scared, whether she could drink blood, whether she quite literally became a demon, he didn't even seem to care, nor did he ask how any of it had happened. He just continued to have that same childish grin on his face.

If not for the crossroads they had reached those years ago, just how deep would their relationship be right now? She simply couldn't see herself with any other man.

"Stop playing around, I haven't finished healing you yet."

Aina had barely managed to awaken Leonel. Even now, he was still quite sickly and had only regained enough energy to be somewhat lively, but not enough to return to his peak.

"Yes, ma'am," Leonel obediently placed his head on Aina's lap as though this was some sort of punishment.

Aina began the procedure once more, slowly nurturing Leonel step by step.

"Aren't you going to ask?" Aina asked after a while.

"Ask about what?" Leonel blinked.

Aina rolled her eyes. Sometimes this man was truly too dense.

"Oh? You mean about the succubus mommy—I mean demon morphing thing?"

Leonel coughed. It just slipped out, truly. They weren't even his words, nor did he have such a fetish. It was just something that Raj had repeated so many times he had subconsciously blurted them out. He was in a delirious half-dead state, he deserved this kind of free pass.

Aina burst into another fit laughter. "I didn't know you had such hidden fetishes. I was actually planning to learn the whip as my next weapon, are you interested?"

Leonel was speechless for a moment before we recovered.

"I think between the both of us, we know who the real masochist is."

Aina suddenly blushed profusely. She had never told Leonel that, did he just figure it out on his own?

Of course, in the past, Leonel's mind hadn't been sharp enough to pick up on it. But with his impeccable memory and his strengthened mind, he could easily see through things he hadn't been able to see through before. In this arena, he was undefeated.

However, what Aina didn't realise was that when Leonel said masochist, he was actually referring to Aina's training methods. But when she suddenly blushed like that, a spark went off in his Dreamscape that he couldn't ignore.

"Huh?" Leonel's brows shot up.

Leonel was about to say something, but he found a firm hand had been placed over his mouth and a murderous glint in Aina's eye as she looked down at him.

In the end, Leonel could only cough lightly and pretend as though he hadn't seen a single thing. But inwardly, he was grinning like a madman.

"It's the Silver Empire."

"Hm?"

Leonel looked up to meet Aina's again. She had gone back to focusing on helping him heal, but she still began to talk.

"When I was with my dad, I entered a Zone with the youths of the Three Pillar Sector. That was a remnant Zone of the dead Silver Empire. It was incredibly dangerous and very distorted, and we almost died. However, inside, I was able to receive a legacy that I didn't really fully understand.

"When I was meditating on the Blood Sovereign Gold Tablet, though, I finally made a breakthrough and I understood something. The things that had confused me about the original legacy finally made sense and it all clicked.

"When I took the legacy out to confirm, I realized that I was underground and you weren't there anymore. But when I broke out from the earth to try and find you, the legacy began to frenziedly absorb the Anarchic Force in this demon world and it resonated with something within me.

"I hadn't expected it to happen, because according to the legacy, it was exceptionally tyrannical and should have been difficult to grasp even with my comprehension. But something triggered that made it all happen automatically.

"Before I could understand what happened, my body had completely changed and the first genius I ran into here ran away screaming...

"That I'd become a Chaos Demon."

Leonel fell into silence... The Silver Empire?

Dimensional Descent Chapter 1610: Silver Empire

Leonel kept hearing the name of this empire come up again and again. But oddly enough, the Void Palace hadn't had much information on it. One would think that one of the most powerful Empires of the Human Domain would be well documented. After all, wasn't the point of the Void Palace to act as an alliance of humans?

But if what Aina was saying was true, maybe it was the case that the Silver Empire was destroyed because of their connection to demons? This wasn't impossible considering the situation in this Zone and how the two races seemed to be like fire and water. This would also explain why Leonel didn't understand anything about this Zone despite the fact he believed it might be Mythological.

If the history of the Silver Empire was mostly erased outside of some vague information passed by word of mouth from time to time, then it was highly likely that any fairy tale this world was based on could have been erased as well, if for nothing other than to hide the connection.

But there was a very glaring issue with all of this...

If the Silver Empire could form Chaos Demons, Leonel didn't believe for a single second that the powers of the Human Domain could ever destroy them.

Just from these last few weeks of interacting with Fiend Class Demons, Leonel realized just how large the gap was. If Leonel had to rank himself, he was probably somewhere between a Middle and Higher Fiend Class demon in talent and strength, and he could use his mind and tricks to bridge the gap.

Simply put, if the Silver Empire had been formed of a bunch of Leonel's, how could the Human Domain have possibly destroyed them?

Of course, Leonel thought of the possibility that they had actually been destroyed by another race, but he threw that idea out immediately.

If another race infiltrated the Human Domain deeply enough to destroy the Silver Empire, why would the Human Domain even still exist at all? And even if Leonel was willing to accept that their only target was the Silver Empire and they left everyone else alone, that wouldn't explain why much of the Silver Empire's history had been wiped.

The only thing that made sense was that the humans themselves wiped out the Silver Empire... But even that was lacking because the strength Leonel had seen humans display until now shouldn't be enough...

In that case, it was likely a complex cobweb of internal strife and external pressure that led to their collapse. Things were rarely, if ever, just one dimensional in their complexity, especially when the topic was real world politics, powers and organizations.

There was also one more possibility that Leonel hadn't fully considered as well.

'Let's say that the Silver Empire really was able to access the strength of demons in all their glory and they also had little to no internal strife—or at the very least, not enough to cause them to collapse. How, then, would they have fallen to humans?

'It's very much possible that the core difference here isn't in being a demon, but rather... Force manipulation.'

Leonel's gaze flashed, a possibility coming to him.

Why was it that he struggled so much against the cobra demon? Of course that demon was very physically strong, but what really set it apart was its magnificent use of Force. It took a fairly ordinary Force and turned it into an insurmountable mountain Leonel couldn't even climb.

Thankfully, dying had been the catalyst for Leonel's soul to separate from his body, resulting in his mind gaining a boost that made him immune to the demon's suppression of it. But that was ultimately the largest issue by far.

From what Leonel had seen, though, the Human Domain didn't have such Force manipulation abilities at all. Could it be, then, that the demons of the Silver Empire hadn't been as towering and undeafeatable as the demons in this Zone?

If that was the case, things would make a little bit more sense and the humans might have been able to destroy the Silver Empire given enough willingness to sacrifice.

There was a very easy method of telling, though. Leonel didn't really have to guess.

"How powerful are you now?" Leonel asked.

Considering Aina had killed those three, including Thaela who Leonel couldn't do anything against, her strength should be very great.

"Don't overestimate me too much," Aina laughed lightly. "I might have killed those three, but the truth is that there was a huge battle royale that broke out before you returned."

"Oh?"

"Yes. A lot of the top 10 came out in quick succession, the gap between them was very small. So, obviously, those that lost out wanted to fight for the chance they lost out on.

"There was a huge battle in the center of the world and they all ended up heavily injured. Half of those injuries on them weren't even caused by me to begin with.

"They caught sight of me afterward when the fighting was finished. They thought the gap was large enough that they didn't have to worry about their injruies, but luckily they were wrong.

"Right now, I probably just caught up to you again. I didn't have enough time to meditate on the Gold Tablet any more, but there should be a lot of room to improve. I've noticed that this world has a very unique method of using Force that I still can't quite understand, do you?"

Leonel fell into silence hearing this question.

First, Aina's words confirmed that she, and likely the Silver Empire, were unable to pull out the greatest strength of their demon bodies. That leaves a path for the humans to kill them.

But secondly, it seemed that she had noticed what he had as well.

"I've been thinking about that too, and I think I probably have an answer, but its really complicated. I'm not quite sure how to take the first step. But if I were to explain it as simply as possible... Why are Weapon Forces the only ones that can evolve? It's likely that all Forces have an evolution path."