

Dimensional Descent

Dimensional Descent

Chapter 1611: Force Manipulation

Aina's eyes lit up, but she didn't interrupt Leonel.

"But I also don't think it's that simple. There's a fundamental difference between Weapon Forces and other Forces, and that's that Weapon Forces all start from the foundational Dimension."

Aina frowned. Didn't all Forces do that? Leonel's Scarlet Star Force was the perfect example. If not, he wouldn't have to undo the seals step by step. If it was someone else, Aina would have probably interrupted, but Leonel wasn't someone who would make such a rudimentary mistake, so she just continued to listen.

"When you look at other Forces, it feels like that happens as well, but it feels like... a rubber band," Leonel chose this example after a while. "The stronger the Force, the tighter and thicker the rubber. It's harder to stretch, but it's also more resilient at greatest length, it also stores up more energy per length stretched."

"If you take a normal Fire Force and you compare it to Scarlet Star Force, the latter is the far thicker and more powerful rubber band, even right from the start. If you stretch it a single inch, and let's say that inch represents the Third Dimension, if I release it, which rubber band will fly further and have greater impact is obvious."

"But the starting point, from the very beginning, is different."

"For some Forces, if you stretch it past a certain point, rather than producing more powerful effects, the rubber band will snap. There are just certain levels of power it won't be able to reach no matter what. That's the most ultimate truth."

"Take my Dark Ice Force, for example. It's a Fifth Dimensional Force..."

Aina's brows jumped up when she heard that. She hadn't even thought about it before, but the moment Leonel mentioned Dark Ice Force, things suddenly started falling into place.

That was right. Some Forces were considered to be of certain Dimensions. And yet, higher Dimensional individuals used them all the time... What did that mean?

"... As a Fifth Dimensional Force, that should be its maximum output. I can't really apply more strength to it. However... I fused my Dark Ice Divine Armor with an Evolution Ore, allowing it to display power comparable to the Sixth Dimension.

"Ironically, because of that, it's taken me longer than usual to realize the problem. My Dark Ice Force is quasi Sixth Dimensional thanks to Evolution Ore, my Ethereal Star Force is Seventh Dimensional, my Scarlet Star Force is Ninth Dimensional... I haven't reached the end of any one of those rubber bands yet, not even close for some, so I've never noticed the drop off in power before, or even had to find a way to strengthen the rubber bands...

"Weapon Forces are different, though. You notice the end of the rubber band almost immediately. You're forced to find a path ahead for it, because if you don't, it quickly becomes useless. Level by level, you're forced to push forward.

"I've honestly wondered why it is that everyone in the Human Domain uses a Weapon Force of some kind. Not everyone is destined to use a weapon, there have to be other paths. But the moment I step into this Zone with such high level attainments in Force manipulation, I ran into the first and only "mage" I've ever run into outside of the Camelot Zone."

Of course, this mage Leonel was referring to was Aina's senior and a member of the Endless Twilight Pavilion.

"But I think I understand now. In our world, weapons are the only way to push past this bottleneck for people who aren't born with obscenely powerful affinities. Most won't have an Innate Node like mine, or even an affinity a step or two below.

"Even the very best Lineage Factors of the Human Domain are only Seventh Dimensional. My Metal Synergy Lineage Factor has an Eighth Dimensional

door, but when I asked the dictionary about it, it triggered a video from my dad and this is apparently a secret I have to keep no matter what.

"If you're in a world where the Seventh Dimension is almost a cap, then even in the Void Palace, the top level geniuses usually, at best, control Sixth Dimensional Forces.

"When you combine that with the fact that humans haven't consolidated their talents and focused on one or two Lineage Factors across the board, it makes us even weaker.

"I don't think it's a coincidence that the strongest families in the Human Domain are the Morales and Suiard families who both have powerful Weapon Force Lineage Factors. That's where their advantage lies from the very beginning.

"Even the Archer's Alliance would be right there if not for what happened with the White Lion Bow.

"It's not because Weapon Forces are more powerful, it's because Weapon Forces are the only ones with an easy and logical progression toward the next step. In addition, there's a large number of masters one can pull inspiration from as well, whereas for other Forces, it's not so streamlined at all.

"This should also be another reason why humans are so weak compared to the other races...

"And if I'm correct, this is indeed a Mythological Zone, but rather than displaying the use of a normal Magic System, this one is a layer deeper than normal, displaying, instead, a universal method of manipulating and using Forces of all kinds.

"I don't think the two of us are any less talented than Chaos Demons. What we lack are two things: Foundation and Force Manipulation. The first can be fixed by absorbing refined demons. The latter, though, is more complicated.

"If this is a ubiquitous method of this Zone, I should have already run into methods in the previous exchange stores I visited, but I didn't. I also didn't find anything in the Oliidark family's libraries either.

"It's likely that just like what I faced in the Camelot Zone, there's only one method to get the true Magic System of this Zone. But since we've already failed this Zone, that opportunity is gone. So there's only one option left..."

Aina looked down at Leonel who was still on her lap. "We have to figure it out ourselves."

Leonel nodded.

He wasn't feeling too terrible about this, wasn't this what he was already doing with his Spear Force? He had seen enough examples by now to start figuring this out slowly.

Leonel rose to his feet, feeling like he was brimming with power.

"Let's go to the highest level store before they boot us out of this world. Then we can leave this Zone for good."

"Wait," Aina said for a moment before going to Thaela's corpse.

Without flinching, Aina shot a hand through Thaela's chest and pulled out a bloody lump before handing it to Leonel.

Leonel's brows shot up.

In his hand, an Emulation Spatial Force Innate Node sat.

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Chapter 1612: Absolute Necessity

Leonel's heart skipped a beat when he saw what it was, but he also smiled bitterly inwardly. He hadn't even caught the faintest inkling that Thaela had an Innate Node. This meant that against him, she couldn't even be bothered to use it. It seemed that even though it seemed as though she had been going all out, her pride since caused her to hold back somewhat

Yet, it was this very same Thaela that was only ranked 13th and even ended up losing when she ganged up on the others with her two seniors. It was quite difficult to accept, even if this was a Zone based on a fairy tale like Leonel speculated.

In the end Leonel sighed.

"Fusing with Innate Nodes is too much of a crapshoot. Even after decades, Myghell couldn't even use a fraction of mine properly. I doubt this Innate Node will be very helpful to me," Leonel said lightly.

"Still, it suits you far better than it does me. Anyone who tries to fuse with a Dream Force Innate Node like that one without the affinity would be asking to suffer."

Leonel nodded lightly. That much was true. The only reason Myghell had even been able to make some use of his Innate Node was because he had high Light and Star Force affinity to begin with and he had the help of the Bronze Tablet to further help him and improve said Light affinity.

In addition, Myghell's Ability Index allowed him to devour and improve his affinities. So with innate Light and Star Force affinity, he just needed to focus on improving his Fire Force affinity. By then, it wasn't impossible for him to make good use of Leonel's Innate Node.

In fact, now that Leonel thought about it, Myghell's use of his Scarlet Star Force was actually still far beyond his own.

According to what he knew, Myghell had spent a very long time at the peak of the Fifth Dimension. Since he had no other methods to improve, he focused everything on improving his Lineage Factor and studying "his" Innate Node.

The result of that was quite magical. Even in the Fifth Dimension, he was able to kill the Patriarch of the Viola who had been nearing the peak of the Sixth Dimension with a single strike. This was something even the current Leonel wasn't entirely certain he could accomplish.

Back then, Myghell hadn't even circulated Scarlet Star Force, he simply sent out a sword strike. In fact, it wasn't even in his strongest state. Back then, he had used his flexible sword, but his strongest weapon was a heavy sword. In addition, he hadn't revealed his White Stone Elephant Lineage Factor either. And yet, he was able to display so much strength.

It was clear that Myghell's years of meditation on Leonel's Innate Node had yielded some excellent benefits. If not for Leonel taking his Innate Node and severing his path forward, it was hard to tell just how powerful Myghell would be now.

Leonel sighed. He actually felt quite bad about that looking back.

Back then, he was still furious about a number of things, so although he did see Myghell's perspective, he still didn't care to cater to it too much. It could be said that his mind was still in quite some disarray.

'I was... No, I still am too immature.'

Leonel looked up into the skies, clutching the Innate Node.

"Leonel? Are you okay?"

Aina seemed to notice that something was off.

Leonel looked toward Aina, his eyes softening and a sudden overwhelming feeling overcoming him. He reached out and grabbed her waist, pressing his lips to hers.

Aina was taken aback, but still melted into Leonel's embrace.

Maybe only the two of them could be so carefree amidst a litter of corpses, flesh and blood around them.

When Leonel pulled back, Aina seemed to be out of breath, her gaze misty as she looked up at him. Her heart bloomed with happiness, feeling as though she was walking on air.

"Let's leave this place," Leonel said lightly.

Aina nodded. But quite frankly, it seemed that she would have nodded just the same even if Leonel's words had asked her to walk into the fiery pits of hell with him. Although they didn't exchange such words, it was clear that both of them had the resolve to follow the other to the ends of the earth.

Leonel waved a hand and claimed Thaela's spatial ring, finding a vial of blood within it. After a small procedure, he finally finished what he needed to and a portal appeared, transporting both himself and Aina away with a single step. Since the process was so elaborate to begin with, they didn't need to exchange any points at all.

When their eyes cleared, the two found themselves in a room of white marble. White marble floors, ceiling, walls, and counters.

There didn't seem to be anything in this space, but it only took a single sweep for Leonel to find several complex and hidden Force Arts. It seemed that this place worked similarly to how the odd space he had first met Uncle Montez in. If he wanted something, he would have to ask for it.

Leonel's eyes narrowed, this made things more complicated. It would be easy to miss out on things like this, that would be unfortunate.

He had already birthed a certain phobia of missing out on things ever since he stepped into the Dimensional Verse. However, with this thought in mind Leonel's gaze only sharpened. With his mind working even faster, he wanted to see if there was really anything he would miss out on.

He had enough points to rank in the top ten, and Aina had just killed three top 13 individuals. Between the two of them, they had more points than even first place by quite a large margin. There shouldn't be anything they wouldn't be able to exchange for.

'First, let's start with the absolute necessity. After that, we'll go through all the things we need one by one, and if we run out of Demon Points, we'll order them priority and only buy the top of the list first.'

Leonel nodded to himself and spoke. "Show me all of your Seventh Star Spatial Force Ores with extremely stable chemical structures and sturdiness."

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Chapter 1613: First on the List

Leonel smiled when he saw the selections. The prices were better than he thought. Even the most expensive was a shade under a billion or so. Since his and Aina's wealth amounted to nearly two trillion, this could be considered chump change.

'Excellent.'

Leonel didn't need to pick the most powerful here, he just needed the one most compatible with his current materials. After picking out an Ore that went by the name of Starlight Spatial Ward, a Domain Type Ore which was known for its defensive spatial abilities, Leonel nodded to himself.

With this secured, their escape from this Zone was guaranteed. It would all depend on him, but he didn't even consider for a single moment that he would fail. His calculations should be correct.

"Aina."

"Hm?"

"Because we have to ask for the things we want to appear, it'll be easy to miss out on things if we aren't careful. And we also have a limited number of funds. Though the ore was inexpensive comparatively speaking, I doubt that things will remain like this. So let's test things one by one and make a list. Once we run out of ideas, we can order things based on priority and buy the things we really need first."

"Okay, I agree." Aina nodded.

"What do you need?"

Aina's gaze flickered. "I have my hands full with the Blood Sovereign Tablet. The methods and techniques within it are almost too numerous and I need to start from the very basics and work my way up. I have a feeling that the secrets of Force manipulation you were talking about would be revealed step by step so long as I'm patient too, so I'm not very interested in techniques, or at least not supplemental techniques or ones that provide auxiliary boosts to power.

"If I were to choose techniques, they would be for my battle ax. Everything else is covered in the Blood Sovereign Tablet.

"Also my body has a ridiculous amount of potential right now after it underwent that evolution, I even feel that my Abyssal Panther bloodline was purged. I can't sense it anymore, so I don't feel like I need Fiend Class Force Pills either..."

"What about your mental coercion?" Leonel asked.

"That..." Aina hesitated. "... I believe the Blood Sovereign Tablet talks about it as well. In fact, half of the Tablet is related to that."

"I see..." Leonel nodded.

It really did seem that Aina had all of her bases covered. And although she mentioned battle ax techniques, she didn't seem very interested in them either. Aina didn't seem to like to be restrained by techniques and her fighting style was incredibly free flowing.

Leonel fell into his thoughts. It seemed that it would be difficult to find things that it would make sense to give Aina.

In the past, he wanted her to take more advantage of her bloodline absorption abilities, but now that she had gained the body of a Chaos Demon, even that was no longer necessary.

"An Innate Node, maybe?" Leonel suddenly asked.

Aina raised an eyebrow. "Is that even possible?"

Leonel laughed. "Why not try? Show us your Innate Nodes."

Leonel didn't actually expect much, but his breathing hitched in the next second. Just what kind of Zone was this?!

Before him, an array of Innate Nodes appeared. While none of them were on the level of his Scarlet Star Force Innate Node, there was no doubt that each one would cause a war in the Human Domain. Innate Nodes were so incredibly rare, how could they just casually appear here in such numbers?

Soon, Leonel calmed.

Things still weren't so exaggerated. There were a little under two dozen of them, and even the best of them was only of Sixth Dimensional Forces. Still, Leonel couldn't help but be shocked, especially since they were only about 10 billion Demon Points each.

None of these were worth trading for Aina and none were worthy of her level of talent, but this sudden change really shifted Leonel's perspective. This world... it could accomplish things he could even properly fathom. If it could manifest so many Innate Nodes for him to choose from, then just what kind of things could he exchange for here?!

This would absolutely change everything.

It suddenly struck Leonel. If there were so many Innate Nodes here, then maybe...?

"Show me your Innate Node incorporation methods."

Leonel waited, staring daggers at the counters of marble, and just as expected, the lights began to flash one by one.

"They really do exist..." Leonel whispered, turning his gaze to Aina.

The two looked toward one another and smiled. It seemed that there were truly higher level methods of fusing with Innate Nodes that existed. This meant that Thaela's Innate Node wouldn't have to go to waste. In addition, if Leonel ran into any enemies with Innate Nodes in the future, he would be able to pass them along to his brothers and friends.

The prices of these methods made Leonel's heart ache somewhat, though. While he didn't have to pick the most expensive of the others, when it came to techniques, the more expensive, the higher quality it was.

In this case, the most expensive one here was just over 100 billion. That was already a 20th of Leonel and Aina's wealth if they traded for it.

Leonel shook his head and added it to a mental list. In all likelihood, he would definitely have to buy such a thing. Thaela's Innate Node was truly too compatible with him, but if he casually fused with it like Myghell had with his own, then it would end up becoming a hindrance instead of a help.

It had to be remembered that while Myghell had been a step away from the Sixth Dimension for so long, the Innate Node within him was still Fourth Dimensional. This showed the problem with a poor fusion method.

"Alright, this can definitely be added to this list. What else?" Leonel's gaze turned serious.

"Why don't you look for things that can help your Tentacle Womb and the golden-scaled koi fish to evolve? They're still too limited by their current strength."

Hearing Aina's words, Leonel's gaze lit up.

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Chapter 1614: Gap

Indeed. The abilities of the Tentacle Womb and the Golden Scaled Koi Fish were astounding, but the limitations were too great. In order to garner real benefits from them, it would take decades, maybe even centuries of effort.

If Leonel had the behemoth of the Morales family behind him, it would be easy to invest that kind of time. But if he wanted such a thing, he would first need to earn it, which would ironically require the help of the Tentacle Womb and Golden Scaled Koi Fish to begin with.

While Leonel was quite confident in his own power, the talent of the Morales family Heirs wasn't to be looked down upon.

Leonel felt that he should probably be able to contend with Sector Ranked disciples now, but not all Sector Ranked disciples were created equal, especially not Sector Ranked disciples that were from the Morales family of all families.

There was a reason the Morales family was considered to be maybe the strongest family of the Human Domain. To share both their Lineage Factors in one body was a testament to the fact you wielded great talent, and yet that was just the prerequisite to fight for the right to be an Heir.

In truth, had Leonel not improved his own strength so much, the gap might have been too large to even think of crossing. Now that he had, though, he finally stood a great chance.

Even so, this was just the perspective of individual power. When it came to factions and backing, Leonel was even further behind than that.

The majority of Leonel's brothers hadn't even been able to enter the Void Palace, his maternal family was a mere Sixth Dimensional family, and the faction that he was still trying to build up with the Oryx and the Umbra family was still in an extremely fledgling state.

The Oryx hadn't even really chosen to follow him yet and he could only be considered to have the backing of one of their princes. And the Umbra family was far weaker than even the Luxnix, at least on the surface.

It had to be remembered that the Umbra family was one that had broken away from the Three Finger Cult and they had the first stage of the Dark half of Leonel's Lineage Factor, the Shadow Tail Lineage Factor.

The power they had should mostly be hidden since they had managed to run from the Three Finger Cult, but this also meant that making use of them was a double edged sword.

To make matters worse, Leonel knew too little about how his cousins were fairing. What was the depth of their strength? What trump cards did they hold? He didn't even really understand them.

All he knew was that his first cousin, First Nova, had done him a favor by influencing the Void Senate. This meant that he had connections far loftier than Leonel could imagine.

Then there was Fourth Nova who had tied Aina to that contract. It seemed that Leonel had easily foiled him, but despite the fact Fourth Nova had had a year to make another move and did nothing, it made Leonel wonder if his true goal was really to poach away Aina at all.

Leonel was right to worry about such things. There was still Second Nova who had a ridiculously wide reconnaissance network that had managed to find out that Third Nova was scheming against the Unfettered Blade Party to deal with the Stalwart Polearm Party... And yet Leonel hadn't even detected Second Nova even once, nor did any of them know what Third Nova had been planning that day when he forced Leonel's batch into the Rapax Nest.

Each one seemed more mysterious than the last and even if Leonel felt confident in at least defeating some of them in one on one combat, what good was that in an Heir War that tested one in all aspects? Not to mention the fact that even he wouldn't say that he could defeat them all.

Then there was still Fifth and Sixth Nova on top of that!

The Void Palace had very few records on the Morales family's Heir Wars, at least not in any real detail. However, the things they had described made it clear that the name War was not chosen lightly. When the Morales Heir Wars began, it would sweep up the whole Human Domain.

Just take the Valiant Heart Mountain organization as an example. An organization so far away, and so many galaxies separated from the Morales family, had actually participated as well.

When things were looked at like this, Leonel was so far behind that it was hard to put in just a few words.

So when he heard what Aina said, he nodded immediately.

"Show me what you have to improve beasts."

Leonel already had the Silver Tablet, so he had a shortcut to evolving the two of them. But he didn't allow this to cloud his judgment. He wanted to first understand what methods this world had so that he didn't bias the suggestions too much.

But in choosing to do things this way, Leonel quickly realized that he had actually made his ask far too broad. There were too many things and most of them didn't even have what he needed.

Taking his time, Leonel asked question after question, narrowing down the lists before him and making adjustments based on what appeared. Eventually, he came to a few solutions.

The first was that refined demons were a viable option here. Much like refined demon Force Pills helped him and Aina, they would also be able to help here as well.

The second option was the Beast Crystals of like beasts. This was an excellent option as well, especially when paired with the Silver Tablet.

Usually, absorbing Beast Crystals only came with a percentage chance of receiving the effects you wanted, but the Silver Tablet made it guaranteed. This was how Leonel was able to give Gil his crimson lightning.

The third option was fascinating as well, and it was the most complex. However, if it worked, its benefits would be the greatest... And that was to allow the Tentacle Womb and Golden Scaled Koi Fish to form Star Runes.

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Chapter 1615: Formation

The Force Manipulation abilities of this world had been at the forefront of Leonel's mind for a long while already, and he knew that if he wanted to reach the level of power he sought after, he would definitely have to grasp such abilities.

Somehow, the further depth of comprehension one gained in this world, they seemed to be capable of displaying abilities further outside the realms their Forces were usually constrained to.

Leonel had a certain hypothesis, and he felt that it might be correct. Maybe the reason why it was possible to cross Dimensional barriers to do battle at all was because his world hadn't grasped these abilities as they should.

From the very beginning, Leonel had understood that Dimensions weren't simple power levels. They were a qualitative change of being. A Fourth Dimensional existence should be able to crush a Third Dimensional existence no matter how talented the latter was. That was what science said.

However, the likes of Leonel and Aina always seemed capable of breaking these rules.

Leonel didn't really understand why this was until something clicked.

Why was it that even when his mind was in the Seventh Dimension, everyone saw him as a Sixth Dimensional existence? What about in the past when both his mind and body had entered the Fourth Dimension, and yet everyone still thought he was in the Third Dimension? Why was it that only when his internal Force entered a new Dimension, would he be seen as being at that level?

When you asked this question, then you thought about Leonel's hypothesis, and then you connected that with the Force Manipulation abilities of this Zone, things began to slowly sink into place one by one...

Force was the most important factor in one's strength, and the degree to which you could use it was what truly dictated what state of Dimension you had reached.

Regardless of how strong Leonel's mind or his body, all of the Force he used was still firmly in the Sixth Dimension.

[Author's Note: I think I forgot to write that Leonel recovered to the Sixth Dimension after absorbing the cobra demon, so just assume that happened. Forgive me]

But when Leonel fought Thaela and his mind worked slower than it should, or when he fought the cobra demon and his Scarlet Star Force felt even weaker than normal Third Dimensional fires, why was that...?

Well, if you thought about it, was that what true suppression between the Dimensions should feel like? Wasn't that the despairing gap that should have always been there, and yet never had been?

If it wasn't for the fact that Leonel was in the same Dimension as Thaela and the cobra demon, that despairing gap would have been even wider!

It was only thanks to the fact that Leonel's soul separated from his body and thus the suppression the cobra demon could levy toward him that he was able to surpass such shackles. If he hadn't, he would have died... Well... he had died, actually.

Upon realizing this, how could Leonel's thoughts not be constantly ruled by Force Manipulation and how to make use of it? And with Leonel's speed of thought, how could he not come up with countless potential hypotheses related to it?

One of these hypotheses that he liked the most was that the secret to this Force Manipulation was tied to what this world valued the most: Star Runes.

Leonel felt that his use and comprehension of Star Runes until this point was quite artificial and it hadn't provided him as much of a boost to his prowess as he thought it should.

He had formed up to perfect Seventh Dimensional Star Runes on his Dream Force Stars, and yet his mind had still been suppressed by the likes of Thaela and the cobra demon who had far weaker minds than his own.

This made sense. Did he also have "Star Runes" in his Innate Node? In fact, he had Ninth Dimensional Star Runes in one of them, but could he use them? Not at all.

At best, Leonel could use his Star Runes to call down Scarlet Star Force and Dream Force of equivalent Dimension, something that his Stars were already capable of doing. Clearly, he was missing something extremely important.

As such, he felt that there was a 91% probability that Star Runes held the secret that he was looking for.

"This confirms something I was thinking about," Leonel suddenly said.

"Hm? What's that?"

Leonel quickly explained his thoughts before continuing.

"The Mantras should be a shortcut to understanding these secrets. Even though we can't get the full reward of this Zone any longer, I think that if we stack up on these Mantras, it'll only be a matter of time before we grasp the truth."

Even with Leonel's Dream Force Talent, he still needed the Dream Force Mantra to form his Star Runes so quickly. If these Mantras were able to focus the mind and aid in meditation to such an extent, it was likely that they were the key to connecting with Star Runes on a deeper, more meaningful level as well.

Leonel already had the Dream Force Mantra, and it only cost a few million Demon Points. Stacking up on a ton of mantras shouldn't be too expensive and should be quite easy. He could even get one of every kind so that when he passed down [Dimensional Cleanse] to everyone, they would be able to grasp these subtleties as well.

It was just unfortunate that not everyone would be able to form nine Stars like he had, but he just had to take things one step at a time.

"Is it possible to teach to beasts, though?" Aina asked.

She hadn't forgotten that this was the main reason Leonel had gone down this rabbit hole.

"Yes," Leonel nodded, "this Force Art right here, the Dream Star Gathering Beast Formation, should do the trick. It costs just under 100 billion Demon Points as well, but it allows me to set up a formation that places both myself

and a target beast into a dream-like state. Through that state, I can pass on the Mantra or even cultivate it for them."

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Chapter 1616: Sovereign

"A hundred billion? That's quite steep. Can't you do the same thing with your connection with them?" Aina asked.

Every beast and master had a connection between them, this formation just seemed like an unnecessary step. In addition, they already likely had to allocate a 100 billion to the Innate Node fusion method, so they had to be cautious with what they spent the rest of their Demon Points on.

"There's a connection between beast and master, yes, but it's quite vague. For example, I can't understand exactly what Little Blackstar is saying, I can only try to decipher it based on the emotions he's sending my way. Sending something as complicated as a Mantra would be impossible.

"At the same time, the comprehension abilities of beasts are often based on their innate instincts. If I wanted them to learn a human created technique like this one, it would be impossible. The only other way would be to have them naturally comprehend Star Runes on their own, but how could that be possible?"

Aina nodded slowly. "Then what about the Star Runes themselves? How will they use Star Runes without Stars? Will you teach them [Dimensional Cleanse] with this formation as well?"

"No, I'm going to use a different method. According to this, it's possible to inscribe it directly onto their Beast Crystals, I just need to guide the process. Doing so will cause a qualitative change in their combat strength."

"Mm," Aina nodded again. She didn't really doubt Leonel, she just couldn't help but smile when he explained things.

The path beasts took was inherently different from that of humans. For example, beasts were much more reliant on their Ability Indexes.

"Since we're on the topic of beasts, I should probably also try to find something that will help Little Blackstar. He absorbed a Shadow Sovereign, so

his Ability Index is much more powerful now that it was in the past, and before that he also absorbed Void Beast blood. The little guy is already very powerful because of that so there's really not much to do outside of helping him inscribe some Darkness Star Runes on his Beast Crystal."

"Maybe ask about Shadow Sovereigns specifically," Aina said.

Leonel nodded. That made sense. In fact, not that he thought about it, it would be good if they found out more about Sovereigns in general.

After asking and sifting through the items that appeared, Leonel was surprised to find that the root of Sovereignty was actually in a Domain.

The Shadow World of the Shadow Sovereigns, the Spear Domains of Spear Sovereigns, and Blood Domain of Blood Sovereigns. Being a Sovereign meant having such an innate Domain of your own, one that you could pull strength from whenever you wanted.

Outside of this, though, the similarities between Sovereigns mostly came to a stop and each had their own methods of improving and their own uniqueness.

For example, Shadow Sovereign could absorb other Shadow Sovereigns. Blood Sovereigns could absorb blood to change their very constitution. Spear Sovereigns made all spears useless before them except in the face of another Spear Sovereign. The abilities were wide ranging and they manifested in different ways. The only thing linking them was dominion over a certain domain.

Leonel didn't end up finding anything Blackstar absolutely had to have, but he learned a lot more about this enigmatic Sovereign title he kept hearing so much about before moving on.

"Wait..." Leonel's gaze flashed. "Show me materials related to making Sovereigns."

It was a shot in the dark, but Leonel felt that it was possible.

If he was correct, the Spear Domain ring's real purpose was to create Spear Sovereigns, that was why that woman had mistaken him to be one. In addition, the abilities of a Shadow Sovereign seemed to be something you could pass along since they could be absorbed between them. Maybe if there was a catalyst, you could take the ability for yourself.

Surprisingly, the shop really did have items of what Leonel needed.

The first thing Leonel saw was a book called [Path of the Spear]. There were all sorts of books here named just like this but for different weapons as well. They were too expensive, just tens of millions of Demon Points.

Leonel concluded from this that these books weren't rare, but considering the fact there weren't Spear Sovereigns running around everywhere, it obviously wasn't a simple task even if you had one. Just from their introduction, Leonel felt that they were far inferior to his Spear Domain Heirloom in this respect.

However, he still added them to the list because this systematic method of progression might contain secrets he could use to comprehend how to improve his other Forces as well. In addition, they would help his brothers.

Of course, he was also very interested in how to organically become a Bow Sovereign as well. If there was anyone who could do it, he felt like he should probably be at the top of the list.

After another scan, Leonel realized that there was nothing here about becoming a Blood Sovereign. It seemed that it was likely impossible to do so without being born one, or at the very least, they didn't have such methods here or they weren't willing to sell them.

It also seemed, unfortunately, that this was also the case for Shadow Sovereignty. From the looks of it, only weapon Sovereigns could be "created", but even then, you needed great talent and affinity for the weapon to begin with.

Still, Leonel was satisfied with adding those books to the list. He had a feeling that their comprehensive explanation of the path of weapons would be far better than anything he could find elsewhere.

'Like this, about 201 billion points are allocated for what's already on the list, so that's 10% of our budget gone already...'

Leonel's eyes narrowed. There was nothing he could do about how quickly the funds were disappearing, he could only press forward and take what he could get.

"Show me everything you have related to Scarlet Star Force," Leonel said.

The Human Class Sector hadn't had anything like this, but maybe the Fiend Class Sector would. If not, he would also check everything they had related to Emulation Spatial Force.

Since he was already starting way behind in the Force Manipulation game, he had to try to learn as much as he could.

When the counter flashed and the items began to appear, Leonel's brows rose slowly.

[Dimensional Descent](#)

Chapter 1617: First Step

Destruction Sovereign.

It wasn't the largest item that appeared, but it was definitely the one that grasped Leonel's attention the very quickest. It was just a book, and it didn't even seem to be a technique. All it told was a story and nothing else. In fact, the cost wasn't even 1000 Demon Points. Still, it grabbed his attention and didn't let go.

Leonel bought it immediately, not minding the miniscule number of points. He just had to know exactly what it was.

The price was miniscule, and the reading material was even smaller. With Leonel's thinking speed, even though his Dream Force hadn't quite recovered, his pace of reading was simply too quick. In no more than just a few minutes, he had scoured through it all and his expression quickly became solemn.

According to the book, there were two paths for those born with Scarlet Star Force. The first was to master it, and the second was to lose all rationale of who and what you were, becoming a harbinger of destruction.

The title of Destruction Sovereign and Scarlet Star Innate Node holder were one in the same, they were two fates tied into one.

If Leonel had heard the words Anya spoke about him that day, he would have also come to understand exactly why she had chosen to say such a thing. It was only now that Leonel understood that the 100-year deadline Wise Star Order had given him was no small joke. It wasn't just his life that was on the line, it may very well be the lives of everyone.

What Leonel also couldn't help but wonder was exactly who knew about this and how many did. Because, if they knew that such a thing would happen... would powers take precautions around him? Would they even try to deal with him before that happened?

Leonel even had a feeling that the only reason he hadn't been taken control of like a Savant and placed under lock and key was only because of who his father was. Anyone else would have been forced to suffer such a fate.

Leonel took a breath and exhaled.

"Leonel?"

Leonel looked over toward Aina, his gaze flickering. But in the end, he handed her the book and her expression, too, became solemn. Luckily, Aina didn't know about Leonel's 100-year deadline, or else she might have reacted much more violently than she did now.

In the end, Leonel could only chuckle. Everyone else got such useful Sovereign abilities, why was his so annoying?

But it couldn't be helped. Just like Wise Star Order had said, when a Force reached a certain level, it would gain certain dispositions. At such high Dimensions, these dispositions would be no less intrinsic than the very chemical structure of an object. This, in and of itself, was the secret behind the Life Grade, and it was also what gave True State Forces such power.

It wasn't just about the energy behind the attack, but also the Artistic Conception of it. It was just as, if not more important.

Who knows, maybe the reason Aina wanted to have so many babies was only partly due to her past and was also just as related to her title of Blood Sovereign. Someone else in Aina's shoes could have very easily decided to never have children so that their kids wouldn't have to experience what they had. It was a conclusion that was just as valid and there was seemingly no real reason to choose one over the other, at least on the surface.

Likewise, maybe the reason Little Blackstar was so mischievous was because of his role as a Shadow Sovereign. And maybe the reason Amery was so arrogant was because he was so close to becoming a Sword Sovereign.

Of course, things were likely not so simple. An entire personality wouldn't be dictated by a Force of a specific kind, but it could definitely influence you, much like any other environmental factor could.

However, what would happen if you lost control of your True State Force? Would it even be just a "single environmental factor" any longer?

No, it would likely take you over completely, consume you, until all that was left was what it wanted you to be. And in the case of Leonel's Scarlet Star Force, it was all too obvious what it wanted to do.

Destroy.

Despite the weight of these words, Leonel felt that he had been enlightened about something. He didn't fear his Innate Node at all, and he was quite confident in succeeding in fully comprehending it within 100 years.

However, this book shed light on exactly what it is he had within his body. There was a reason he had always called his Runes Destruction Runes and not Scarlet Star Runes, that was always the root of it all, something that he knew subconsciously, but never truly put into practice.

The flames were just a conduit, a guiding light.

Thinking to this point, Leonel felt like he touched upon a unique sort of realm.

'This feels like it should be the first step, the first step toward truly understanding your Force. What intent does it embody? If you can fully understand this, then your control over your Force should take a step forward, but it's also not so simple.

'Simply by virtue of having a high affinity for a Force, you should already subconsciously understand what its true essence or intent is. If you didn't, then you wouldn't have an affinity for it in the first place.

'This means that it's more than just about understanding it subconsciously. Something about bringing the subconscious into the conscious causes a change. It might just be a simple change at first, but as you move forward into the future, it will snowball... And then...'

Leonel flipped a palm over, causing a seemingly delicate flame to appear. But he already knew that this flame alone was easily twice as powerful as any he had ever manifested by pulling from atmospheric Force.

He had found the first step in improving his Force Manipulation.

Dimensional Descent

Chapter 1618: Mantras

Leonel nodded to himself and spent some time explaining his thoughts to Aina. When she understood this, she, too, frowned.

This would be especially difficult for Aina. That's because Aina was inherently an instinct-first kind of fighter. Too much of her strength was reliant on the subconscious. Bringing these things to a state of conscious thought would be many times more difficult for her.

"It's still not set in stone," Leonel said. "I know too little about this and there may very well be a different process depending on the Force in question or even the person themselves."

"Mm..." Aina nodded, falling into her own thoughts.

As she did so, Leonel looked toward the other items related to his Scarlet Star Force. Unsurprisingly, a large majority of them were designed to defend against it. There was even a technique that boasted to have such strong defense that even Scarlet Star Force wouldn't be able to make a path through it.

Leonel's eyes landed on a tattered sword. It had lost its tip and it was cracked in several places, and yet it had a price tag of over ten billion.

Leonel wasn't a swordsman, so the weapon itself was meaningless to him. And, even if it had been a spear, his Spear Domain ring would have shattered it. He might have only had some interest if it was a bow or arrow... At least initially.

But Leonel still gave it a second look for one simple reason: why would a broken sword appear here? He got his answer the moment he read the description.

According to what was here, this sword used to have a core formed by a small vein of Scarlet Star Force. Apparently, this vein shattered and ruined the integrity of the sword, making it incredibly weak. Now, it was barely as strong as a Silver Grade weapon.

The description was benign, but when Leonel read this, his brows shot up.

This description seemed to imply that the sword was just fine despite having such a vein within it, and Leonel found that very difficult to accept.

When Leonel tried forging with Destruction Runes, the weapon in question didn't even last a few seconds before disintegrating. But this sword had survived with a Scarlet Star vein inside of it?

A Force Vein in this context was essentially a piece of Force Crystal. This meant that this sword had been able to conjure Scarlet Star Force and avoid damaging itself in the process. In its prime, it had been a Life Grade item. But now, it had been destroyed.

'... Interesting...'

Leonel added the sword to the list. He had a feeling that if he studied it, and Dream Sculpted it, he would be able to get a peak at exactly how the sword managed to retain its integrity. In addition to that, he might also fight out some secrets that would help him deepen his understanding of his Scarlet Star Force and help him to further progress.

Leonel swept his gaze over the items once more just to check if he would find anything interesting and his eyes landed on a tattered beast cloth that made his eyes pop out of their sockets. This wasn't because of what was written on it, but rather the price tag.

It was double the price of anything he had added to the list until now and sat at 200 billion. That would eat away another 10% of the funds the two of them had.

'So it's a Mantra fragment... I see...'

Leonel didn't expect the Mantra fragment for Scarlet Star Force to be so absolutely ridiculous. It was just a small piece of it and it only had the complete method for the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Dimensions, a level Leonel

was already at, yet it cost so much. Wouldn't he go bankrupt if it was the full thing?

Leonel shook his head and began to go through his Forces one by one and added the partial Mantra to the very bottom of the list. It would be the easiest to ignore by far.

Once he was done, he moved on to his other Forces.

He looked through the items for Dream Force, Emulation Spatial Force, Vital Star Force, Void Star Force, Aurora Star Force and Ethereal Star Force.

He found another fragment for Void Star Force which also cost 200 billion, but this time Leonel knew he couldn't afford to miss out on it. He had his Innate Node for Scarlet Star Force, and although the Mantras might hold the secret to Force Manipulation, there were simply too many other useful things here.

His Void Star Force, though, didn't have an Innate Node he could rely upon. So although this was just the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Dimensional layers, it was far too useful to ignore.

He added it to nearer the top of the list, but he was also prepared to give it up if it really came to it.

As for the other Forces, they were far cheaper, relatively anyway.

Leonel wasn't sure why, but Dream Force items were exceptionally cheap. It didn't make much sense since Dream Force was an exceptionally high level Force, no less than a True State Force. But for whatever reason, there were a large amount of items and they were also inexpensive.

The only unfortunate part was that most of them required one to be able to manifest Dream Force outside of their bodies, something Leonel could not do before.

The good news was that Leonel should finally be able to do so at least through his new Emulation Spatial Force Innate Node.

In the end, though, most of the techniques here could have their function replaced by Leonel's ability to project his Dream World.

With Emulation Spatial Force and his Dream World, he would finally be able to give his projections a real form. And, with his high Dream Force affinity, he should be able to use it to a better degree than Thaela... should he catch up with her Force Manipulation abilities, that is.

Dimensional Descent

Chapter 1619: Rebuild

As for the remaining Forces, Leonel found the Mantras for them all and added them to the list. By the time he was done, another 500 billion Demon Points had been potentially allocated for a total of 700 billion.

Of this 500 billion, 200 billion was for the Void Star Force Mantra Fragment, but surprisingly, another 200 billion was allocated toward Vital Star Force.

The Mantra for Vital Star Force cost 100 billion. Luckily, it was completed. But Leonel also allocated another 100 billion to a technique that caught his attention. The technique was called [Vital Forge]. It used Vital Star Force and recreated effects similar to what Leonel had experienced in the [Dimensional Cleanse] trial world.

It created an exceptionally heavy atmosphere and it took advantage of the great density of Vital Star Force to push other Forces away.

This technique could be used one of two ways.

The first was the most obvious, and that was as a domain of sorts. Much like the [Dimensional Cleanse] world, it was a great suppressive tactic.

The second, though, was the real reason Leonel chose it, and that was because it could be used as a training method.

What drew Leonel to it wasn't the fact that he could use it on himself, but rather that he could use it on others to slowly push out more of their potential. If this was used in conjunction with refined demons, the benefits would be even more outstanding.

In addition, demons were a limited commodity. Although Leonel and Aina had killed hundreds, they would eventually run out. Using this method, though, there would be a method of continuously improving his friends and subordinates.

In fact, there was even a method within this technique to set up a formation so that Leonel wouldn't have to act personally.

As for the remaining 100 billion, it was used on the other Forces, including rudimentary Mantra that touched upon the simplest of the elements. Everything from Fire all the way to Space. These Mantras were the simplest and most wide ranging.

Leonel had added these to the list for two reasons. Firstly, he would have all his bases covered when it came to the Mantras his people would need. And, secondly, there was a small chance he might be able to find a method to combine the effects to gain what he needed.

For example, if he took the Fire Mantra, Light Mantra and Star Mantra, and managed to fuse them, could he get something close to what he needed for his Scarlet Star Force?

It wasn't likely since there was more than one Fire-Light-Star Force in existence just like there was an Aurora Star Force to the existing Chaotic Particle Force, both of which were Earth-Dark-Star Forces. But, Leonel thought that it was worth a try.

Within this price, Leonel had also gotten a Mantra for Aina. With the Blood Sovereign Tablet, Aina didn't need Life Force, Blood Force, or what she called Coercion Force Mantras. But her new Chaos Body had come with the use of a top five Lightning Force known as Blaze Lightning Force.

The Blaze Lightning Force Mantra took up at least 20% of the price all on its own.

'700 billion used up, potentially... This leaves about 1.3 trillion remaining.'

The points were disappearing quite quickly, but Leonel could only sigh.

Until now, he had only added auxiliary items and there was nothing that directly increased his strength or survivability, at least not without time.

The good news was that such things should probably be cheaper. It only made sense that techniques, formation methods and mantras would be more expensive than usual treasures.

'Alright, it seems like with all that out of the way, I can focus on more tangible resources now. That choice I made should pay off now...'

The choice Leonel was referring to was something that happened while he was being eaten alive. While the experience was absolutely horrible, it also provided him with an opportunity.

The first opportunity was watching his body be reconstructed once again from the ground up. He had memorized that process in its entirety, down to the smallest detail, so his comprehension of his body, his Lineage Factors, and how they interacted was on a whole other level.

The second opportunity was related to his Divine Armors.

Usually, Leonel's Divine Armors would regenerate along with himself. But this time, he chose to purposely shatter the kernels they represented. Not only did he shatter them, but he also undid the work he had gone through with his Metal Body as well.

Right now, Leonel's body had lost much of its metallic properties and he could be considered to just be a normal Sixth Dimensional existence without an added boost to bodily strength.

Being eaten alive was horrible, but it allowed Leonel to hit the reset and undo many of the mistakes he had in the past.

The first thing he wanted to do was rebuild his affinities. He had originally built his Metal Body to resist his Scarlet Star Force. This was a poor choice on his part and clashed with his Divine Armors.

The best function of Metal Body and Divine Armor was in building affinities, and they worked the best together. But Leonel already had a high fire and light affinity, but he wasted his Metal Body in consuming more to increase it even further.

He had taken the wrong approach to begin with.

And second, he wanted to rebuild his Divine Armors.

Originally, his first Divine Armor was heavily reliant on spatial affinities, and his second was more of a Water Force and Spatial Force fusion. They didn't stack well together and that was a problem.

In addition, if Leonel fused with Thaela's Innate Node perfectly, then he wouldn't need his Divine Armors to provide him Spatial Force affinity any longer since he would now have dominion over a top five Spatial Force.

So, Leonel had already decided what he would do.

He would rebuild his Metal Body based on Water Force and Vital Star Force.

He would then rebuild his Divine Armors with his current level of skill around these two Forces as well.

The multiplicative stacking effect would be able to bring out the true power of his Metal Synergy Bloodline, and he had a whole shop worth of stuff to scoop up.

It would never be easier for Leonel to gather up the materials he needed than right now.

[Dimensional Descent](#)

Chapter 1620: 500 Billion

Leonel didn't want to have to get eaten again to gain another opportunity like this one. If it wasn't for his mental fortitude and his powerful mind, he may very well have lost his sanity entirely. So, no matter what, he had to get things right this time.

He chose Water Force and Vital Star Force after much deliberation, but he felt like it was the right choice to make.

The choice of Water was the most obvious. It was the one affinity that he really needed that he didn't have.

During the reconstruction of his body, he realized that Aina had been very correct. He had a very strong Dark Force affinity, one that he didn't quite understand even now. In fact, it wasn't just Dark Force, it was something else that he couldn't seem to grasp fully.

He didn't know why this was, but he had a feeling that it was related to his father's appearance that day in the Rapax Next. He would have to wait until that old man appeared again to ask, or he would have to see if the dictionary

had an answer for him. Who knew, maybe his father had left him behind another one of those messages?

This aside, of the three Forces that made up Void Star Force, the one that Leonel didn't have was Water Force. He needed to focus more on increasing its strength and only then would he be able to build up to creating the Void Star Force armor he wanted to.

In addition to this, aside from Earth Force, Water Force was maybe the greatest at defense. In fact, the two Forces were usually neck in neck, having an equivalent number of Forces between the two of them that had excellent defensive prowess.

If Leonel restructured his body with an Earth Force and Water Force fusion, its defenses would be even more exaggerated than it had been in the past. Not only would he be able to resist blows, but even for the ones he couldn't just outright tank, he would be able to disperse them and weaken their impact. He could maximize these effects as well by choosing Water Force Ores that were especially known for such abilities too.

When it came to Vital Star Force, while Leonel's general Star Force affinity was exceptionally high thanks to his Scarlet Star Force, he didn't have a specific affinity for Vital Star Force itself. Due to this, while his ability to use Vital Star Force was far above his ability to use Void Star Force, it wasn't as high as it could be.

If put into perspective, Leonel's Fire Force affinity was at an 11 on a scale of 1 to 10. His Light Force affinity was at a 10 on that same scale and his Star Force affinity was between an 8 and 9. However, his affinity for Vital Star Force specifically was at around a 6 to a 7.

This was actually quite excellent and far more than the vast majority of people. But Leonel felt that he would greatly benefit by raising that number to a 9 and maybe even potentially a 10 in the future.

The reason that Leonel was lacking in Vital Star Force affinity was because it was one part Life Force and one part Star Force, and he very much lacked in Life Force. So, in reality, it was much more accurate to say that Leonel would be building up his Metal Body with Life Force related Ores instead to slowly boost his affinity.

As he did so, his [Star Fusion] self-created technique would gain far more strength, and rather than just boosting his body, it would even gain the ability to directly boost the strength of his Divine Armor as well.

Evolution Ore, when fused into Leonel's Divine Armor, gave it an ability to transcend its level, but it was still only in a quasi state. After all, it couldn't truly give a Fifth Dimensional ore the strength of a Sixth Dimensional one.

However, if the effects of the Evolution Ore were stacked with Leonel's [Star Fusion] ability, the results would be truly transcendent. At that point, so long as Leonel summoned his armor and activated [Star Fusion], it would truly be like his Metal Body had crossed a Dimensional barrier to the next level.

When this was combined with Leonel's breakthrough in Force Crafting, the Morales family's Divine Armor technique would truly begin to display might it never had before.

The Ores Leonel needed for his Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Dimensional Metal Body and Divine Armor were all dirt cheap in comparison to the things he had been buying previously. In fact, he even managed to find a large supply of Evolution Ore here for just as cheap.

Thanks to his mother, Leonel already had a set of Sixth Dimension Evolution Ore, so he didn't need to trade for them. This was a good thing because past this point, things really began to get expensive.

It had to be remembered that Sixth Dimension Evolution Ore could allow a Sixth Dimensional Ore to display Seventh Dimensional properties, so it was already valued at a Seventh Dimensional level. This was why it was so shocking that Leonel's mother had managed to get him a full batches worth.

This meant that Seventh Dimensional Evolution Ore was valued at an Eighth Dimensional level. Leonel found a batch here to trade for to help future proof himself, but the cost was steep at 500 billion Demon Points.

This just went to show just how rare Evolution Ores were. Many of the other things on Leonel's list had Ninth Dimensional secrets within them, but they still weren't expensive. The Mantras, for example, all had enough chants and Force Arts within to produce Ninth Dimensional Star Runes, and yet they were only a fraction of the price.

Though, to be fair, just a fragment of the Scarlet Star Force Mantra was 200 billion.

Leonel grit his teeth and added the Seventh Dimensional Evolution Ore nearer to the bottom of the list. Everything else he needed, even the Seventh Dimensional Ores he had chosen for his Seventh Dimensional Divine Armor in the future didn't even amount to 10 billion, but the Evolution Ores alone were actually so expensive.