

Dimensional Descent

- Chapter 1631: Shitty Old Man

Dimensional Descent

Chapter 1631: Shitty Old Man

Leonel snapped awake to the sound of whistling wind, and not long after, to the feeling of his lips trying to touch his forehead.

His eyes opened wide.

'Damn...'

Were his calculations off? He had definitely set it so that he would land on his feet, so how had things happened like this? Why was he falling through the skies? Wasn't this a bit too cliché?

Leonel's brows furrowed. There were too many things that were odd about this, but Leonel didn't have the luxury of thinking about it.

He looked to his side to find that Aina had awoken as well. At the very least, they had managed to stay side by side, likely due to the fact he had been holding onto her.

Leonel took hold of Aina, ready to do something to catch her. But at that moment, the feeling of strong armor in his palm suddenly became delicate and soft skin. His expression changed a bit, but he looked to the side to find that Aina had already entered her Chaos Demon form.

Her armor separated from her body, becoming a dancing tornado of gorgeous black feathers and her wings appeared once more.

In an instant, their positions flipped and Aina caught Leonel, cradling him like a princess.

Leonel found himself without the words to speak. He was certain that this mischievous little vixen had done this on purpose.

Almost as though to confirm this, Aina couldn't even hit the ground before she started laughing. The sonorous sounds of her laughter spread over the surroundings, she couldn't help herself.

Aina landed on the ground, still holding Leonel up with a wide smile on her face. She leaned down and gave him a peck on the cheek, her grin enormous.

Leonel eventually laughed as well, even forgetting to check their surroundings.

"You're not going to get down, princess?" Aina asked.

"Why would I? I think this is actually pretty comfortable. Carry me around some more."

BANG!

Leonel fell to the ground and could only look up with a wronged expression. There was really no justice in this world.

Leonel stood, patting his butt and looking around.

"This should be the Void Battlefield? How far out are we?"

The Void Battlefield was a large place and the only region Leonel was familiar with was the Rapax region, and even that was just to a limited extent. Unfortunately, there was far more than just the Rapax here. From Leonel's understanding, pretty much every race of the Dimensional Verse had a land they controlled here. After all, this region could be considered the dividing lines between their territories, so how could they not protect what was effectively the frontline?

There was another reason for this as well, of course, and that was that the Human Domain would soon produce an Eighth Dimensional world. Once this happened, the layer of protection they had due to their relative weakness would be gone and the ultimate result would likely be war.

"Forget it, we can deal with this later. How about we go visit Blackstar? Maybe that annoying old man will have a way to tell exactly where we've gone and how to get back."

Leonel somewhat sighed a breath of relief when he thought this. Wise Star Order was definitely an annoying old man, but so long as he was being annoying, this also meant that he was giving him knowledge that he didn't have.

Aina nodded in agreement, somewhat missing the little mink as well.

Leonel opened his palm and the Segmented Cube, for the first time in over a year, finally changed its form once again and took the shape of a cube formed of jigsaws. With a smile, he grabbed Aina's hand and entered. But what he saw when he went inside left him somewhat floored.

The Segmented Cube had been vast before, but now it was on a completely different level.

Leonel landed in a vast forest with trees as tall as several hundred meters and so thick it would take dozens of men to wrap around it from tip to tip.

'What the hell... This place... It should be the garden of my residence, at least that's where I wanted to teleport to. How had things happened like this?'

"WHO?!"

A booming voice descended from the skies and a familiar spirit appeared about Leonel and Aina. The old man had once again entered that ridiculously handsome form of his. He looked more like he should be walking runways and starring in movies than yelling so imposingly.

"Brat?"

Wise Star Order seemed just as taken aback to see Leonel as Leonel was to see the Segmented Cube.

Leonel blinked, his head tilting to the side. Something about Wise Star Order seemed off. With how vast this world was, the only one who should have been able to teleport around so fast was Leonel himself who was the owner of the cube to begin with. But somehow, Wise Star Order had just appeared here.

Leonel's eyes couldn't help but narrow.

At the same time, Wise Star Order's surprise turned into a malevolent grin. He finally had this brat right where he wanted him.

Leonel reacted faster than Wise Star Order, using the pendant that his mother had given him to control the old bastard. But to Leonel's shock, Wise Star Order seemed completely unaffected.

"Haha, you little shit! I've been waiting for this day for too long!"

Leonel and Aina's expressions both became dark at the exact same time. This old man had always been looking for opportunities to kill Leonel, but to think that he still wouldn't have given up after all this time.

Wise Star Order's presence soared, but Leonel only grinned as the old man's spirit shot toward his head.

BANG!

Wise Star Order was sent spiraling away. When he stabilized himself, he could only look toward Leonel with an incredulous expression.

"You shitty old man, my Dream Force comprehension has already reached the pinnacle of the Seventh Dimension, and so have the barriers of my mind. Plus, my soul control is at a completely different level now. You can forget about it."

Wise Star Order was speechless, not knowing what to say.

Leonel shook his head. "I leave you for a year and you already don't know how to act. Have some propriety as an elder."

Wise Star Order's expression furrowed.

"A year? It's been decades."

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Chapter 1632: The End of a Phenomena?

Leonel's expression changed when he heard this. His mind spun into overdrive, trying to think of the possibilities for why this could be.

His calculations seemed to have been off from the beginning since he was falling through the sky and even ended up lost somewhere inside the Void Battlefield. Could it be that this was the reason he was off?

As specified previously, Zones were technically points in time connecting with one another. Could it be that Leonel just connected with the wrong point? Considering the vastness of time itself, the fact that he had landed within a couple decades was already praiseworthy. It was so close that it couldn't even be considered a margin of error. After all, what was a couple decades in the face of trillions upon trillions of years?

However, Leonel didn't feel like he was wrong. He had been so careful, so precise, it was simply impossible for such a thing to have happened. His confidence in himself was absolute. But everything seemed to point to the fact that he had, indeed, made a mistake somewhere.

Leonel's brows furrowed further.

By now, one might wonder why it is that Leonel didn't consider time dilation. After all, it was only a minority of Zones that were one to one with real time and Zone time. The vast majority had some sort of time dilation built in, even capable of halting the aging of the individuals who entered.

But, while Leonel had heard of many Zones that sped up time in comparison to the outside world, he had never heard of any that did the reverse. In fact, they didn't exist. This was something that Leonel could say confidently now that he had read all of the basic knowledge in the Void Library.

Time dilation in the reverse was impossible, so the only explanation was that Leonel's calculations had been off.

'I made a mistake?' Leonel's frown deepened to the point even his skin tone seemed to darken.

"Old man, have you ever heard of a Zone time dilated in the reverse?"

Wise Star Order blinked but eventually shook his head. Such a thing didn't exist.

Leonel shook his head as well. It seemed like things were truly impossible. There really was only one explanation, then.

"Forget it, what happened to my Segmented Cube? And why is it that you seemed so confident previously?"

Wise Star Order was about to answer, but at that moment, the shimmering appearance of an adorable little girl with a floating cloud for legs appeared.

"It's about time that you returned."

Despite the commanding tone, one would only feel an overwhelming need to pinch this little girl's cheeks.

"You... I've seen you before. You were there after I left the [Dimensional Cleanse] trial world."

The little girl rolled her eyes. "Don't remind me. Back then, I could have directly entered the Seventh Dimension but I actually had to waste precious energy healing you instead. Can't you be a little less useless?"

"Never mind, never mind. Since you've brought me back to the Eighth Dimension now, I guess I shouldn't be too hard on you. Good boy."

The little girl floated over and patted Leonel on the head.

Leonel blinked. The Segmented Cube had entered Phase Six? When? Had it been over the decades he had been gone? How, though? The Segmented Cube needed a ridiculous amount of energy to evolve. Even spending so long in a dense mass of what must have been Ninth Dimensional Vital Star Force wasn't enough for it to evolve to this level, but suddenly two decades was enough for it to reach this level?

Something wasn't adding up. No... A lot of things weren't adding up.

"Don't think too hard. Your calculations weren't off, there are just certain things you're too weak about. Knowing would, quite literally, harm you. I don't mean in a figurative sense, I mean, as I said, literally."

Leonel didn't know what to say to this.

"I... I'm going to go and see Little Blackstar and Little Tolly."

Leonel sighed. He had left them alone for too long.

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"The phenomena is finished and spatial fluctuations have come to an end. They should have all returned now."

An unknown voice spoke from the shadows.

"So my words were correct?"

"Even if they were correct, we couldn't act on them until now anyway. I don't know how that brat did it, but he's even more troublesome than his father."

"Dealing with him will be as easy as flipping over a palm. His father has been on a rampage for the last two decades. His wife didn't appear until 11 years ago, and his son hasn't appeared until now. I told you that we should have acted when he was in the Void Palace."

"It wasn't worth the risk. There was a chance he could have stopped it."

"And what did that get you? The plan failed anyway because of his brat."

"The plan might have failed, but it wasn't for nothing. It's given us extra years to prepare. Now, we're already close."

"How do you want to deal with this matter, then?"

"Using the Void Palace is too easy, we have too many methods. Just randomly choose one to get him kicked out of the Void Palace. By then, we can send any random agent and kill him off directly."

"Are we really ready to antagonize that man directly?"

"We killed his father already, and what did he do? Pout a bit? He thought we killed his wife and son, and what did he do? Just pout some more? So what if we actually kill them this time? This is the luxury time has brought us.

"Although it's not advisable to fight him directly for now, we also have no need to fear him in the slightest. If he wanted to waste his time beating his head against a steel drum, let him. I really want to see what the piece of trash can do.

"He can just watch obediently as we kill off his family members one by one. Once a hard headed fool, always a hard headed fool."

"Alright then, I have a method. It won't be too difficult at all."

"Get it done, but be patient about it. No need to activate any pieces, use the most natural and inconspicuous method."

"No issues on this side."

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Chapter 1633: Yip!

"Yip! Yip!"

Leonel felt as though a boulder had slammed into his chest. He had barely stepped into the region when a familiar blur of black assaulted him.

He fell to the ground, his face suffered an attack from a wet mass of pink. However, what should have been a soft tongue made Leonel feel as though layers of his face were coming off piece by piece.

Leonel laughed. Little Blackstar had never licked him like this before. It seemed he had left the little guy alone for too long, only to come back and find that the little mink had become a dog instead.

Leonel peeled Blackstar away from himself, holding the little mink up. He couldn't help but be surprised by what he saw.

Little Blackstar had moved so fast previously that he hadn't gotten a good look, but the little mink had gone from fun sized to massive. The Blackstar Leonel knew was barely over a foot long, but this Blackstar was easily three feet long and three times as thick as well. Though the not as little guy could still easily rest on his shoulders as usual, he was much larger than before.

Leonel could even see a hint of maturity behind the little one's eyes, something that made him sigh. Little Blackstar was just a baby when Leonel met him, but now he was grown.

Actually, if Leonel thought about it, Little Blackstar was only about as old now as he himself was.

Of course, it didn't make much sense to look at things like that. After all, the lifespan of Third Dimensional minks versus Third Dimensional humans was easily a ten times difference.

But luckily, Little Blackstar was now well into the Sixth Dimension. In fact, it probably wouldn't be all that long before the little one entered the Seventh. Lifespan at this level wasn't really much of a worry. In fact, for beasts, they

tended to outlive humans because their bodies carried much more strength and vitality.

Leonel grinned.

He was honestly a bit worried. After 20 years, who knew what could have happened. Luckily, Blackstar still treated him just the same.

Suddenly, Little Blackstar vanished from Leonel's hands. Before Leonel could be confused, he heard some laughter coming from his back and realized that Blackstar had actually abandoned him in search of brighter, greener, and definitely much softer pastures.

Leonel rose to his feet with a smile to see Blackstar snuggling with Aina.

In truth, the relationship between the two had been quite estranged. During the matters of a year ago, Blackstar had obviously stayed with Leonel. It seemed, though, that the senses of his partner were quite sharp since he flipped a switch so easily.

"You didn't bully Blackstar, did you?" Leonel looked toward Wise Star Order.

Currently, the group was still within the large forest. It was so vast that Leonel still couldn't quite wrap his head around what he was seeing. But while it was vast, it was also quite empty. The Segmented Cube might have nearly become a sustainable world of its own, but it didn't have the ecosystem to match it.

Even the trees and vegetation were very simple. They couldn't be considered to be high class Force Herbs and were, at best, just some plants with longer lifespans and stronger bodies than normal.

"Bully? You should thank me. Whether it's the little mink, or those other two kiddos, I definitely treated them well."

Leonel suddenly frowned. This was actually something that he was worried about. Wise Star Order couldn't harm him now, but that didn't mean Candle and Vice couldn't. Those two Savants have been given two decades to grow... Just how powerful had they grown?

Seeing Leonel's expression, Wise Star Order sneered as though he couldn't wait for something. But, the little girl, or rather, Anastasia, as she wanted Leonel to remember, didn't let him have his fun for long.

"Don't worry about this one, he's just blowing his own trumpet. He only helped because there was nothing better to do in this place. For someone who's lived so long, he completely lacks patience. All he's good at are little tricks, but he's too stupid to make them any good."

Leonel rolled his lips over themselves when he heard this. It took everything he had not to burst out in laughter, but the amusement in his eyes was all too clear to Wise Star Order.

"To think that the mighty Wise Star Order would have such a day too."

Wise Star Order glared at Leonel. "Just because she looks like a little girl doesn't mean she is one. She's an old mon—"

Wise Star Order quickly cleared his throat, feeling a glare that could ruin him.

The truth was that during the event that caused the Segmented Cube to dislodge from its original coordinates and separate from its vessel, Wise Star Order had almost died. As for the reasons why, they had little to do with the Segmented Cube itself and everything to do with that event.

His life was going to be snuffed out, but Anastasia felt that he was more useful alive and actually tethered his existence to the Segmented Cube. That action actually led to the pendant that Leonel had becoming useless and that was the reason why Leonel couldn't make any use of it.

Unfortunately, this also meant that Anastasia had absolute control over him and his life and death was at the whims of this little girl.

Knowing this, it was no wonder he was so obedient. But his hatred of Leonel had increased manifold. It was just too bad that he couldn't do anything about it.

For some reason, though, neither Anastasia nor Wise Star Order seemed to have any intention of telling Leonel about these matters. So, when asked...

"What exactly happened that caused the Segmented Cube to separate from its vessel? I only woke up from a coma one day and you were all gone."

"Don't ask for the answers to questions you can't know the answers to."

The harsh reality is that telling Leonel the truth wouldn't be too much of an issue... if he was a normal person. However, Leonel was simply too intelligent, even the most benign of clues might lead to a disaster. Anastasia wouldn't allow this to happen.

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Chapter 1634: Candle and Vice

"I placed your Metal Spirit into Suspended Animation. 20 years of separation between yourself and your mink is one matter, but if you allowed the same to happen with your Metal Spirit, it would grow apart from you.

"Before maturity, Spirits are too malleable and susceptible to their environment. If you only spent a fraction of their life with them, they would easily forget you, which makes sense since they live far longer than humans, some even believe that Spirits have no finite lifespans at all.

"The little one will be in the first lab."

Anastasia changed the subject before Leonel could ask any questions quite clearly. It was obvious that she had no intention of allowing him to know the truth.

The good news, though, was that Leonel was ecstatic to hear this news, he had actually been worrying about it. If Little Tolly also entered the Sixth Dimension while he was gone, it would already be too late to do anything and he would have wasted billions of Demon Points on nothing.

Someone else might have thought of abandoning Little Tolly at that point and simply picking up a new Metal Spirit, but by this point, Tolliver was Leonel's partner. How could he abandon him just because? He wouldn't have the heart to do it.

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It wasn't long before Leonel felt that familiar feeling of Little Tolly rushing through his fingers. He couldn't help but have a wide grin on his face. It seemed that Suspended Animation state hadn't affected the little one at all

and it was just as enthusiastic. To it, it had been even less than a year since it had seen Leonel, but it was still far too long.

Anastasia had obviously sensed this and made this decision herself. Toward this, Leonel could only be endlessly grateful.

With a smile, Leonel turned to face Candle and Vice. The two of them didn't look to have aged a day, but this was to be expected. Although Savants could rise through the Dimensions via normal means, so long as their control over their Ability Index reached certain levels, they would have no problems living long lives.

What did surprise Leonel, though, was that the usual shadow that loomed over them seemed to have dissipated somewhat.

Candle's finicky and jittery demeanor was no longer as prominent and Vice seemed to have stopped copying everything Candle did to hide his true intentions. Most curiously, though, or maybe it was only to be expected since only the two of them were here, they seemed very close to one another. Facing Leonel now, they clearly found comfort in each other's presence.

Leonel was happy that this happened, in fact he had hoped that something like this would happen although he had done nothing to try and force it. He wanted the two of them to slowly pull away from the shadow their life in Dark Cloud Prison had placed them under.

Even if they didn't quite trust Leonel as he had simply vanished for two decades, it would still be easier to communicate with and understand them the more humanity they had.

"First I want to apologize to you two. I had every intention of giving you both as much freedom as possible, but an event caused me to lose access to the Segmented Cube. To me, it's only been about a year and some change, but to you, it's already been two decades. There's already nothing I can do to fix that.

"However, I still that you two can—"

"It's okay," Vice suddenly spoke.

Leonel raised an internal eyebrow but he didn't do much else other than smile when he heard this. In the past, Vice would be too busy imitating Candle to

dare to interrupt Leonel when he was speaking because Candle would be too reserved to ever think of doing so.

"You don't need to treat them with kid gloves," Wise Star Order said with a snort. "My two little disciples are stronger than you can even imagine."

"In that case, I'll ask you two something else then. What do you want to do in life?" Leonel kept looking toward them, not sparing Wise Star Order a glance.

The couple looked toward one another before grabbing a hold of one another's hands.

"We want to help master rebuild the Luxnix family," Vice spoke for them both.

Leonel blinked before chuckling inwardly. He knew that Wise Star Order would do his own bit of brainwashing, but it seemed that his claws were sunk deep into this pair.

Leonel didn't dare to refute it either. After all, if his first interaction with Candle and Vice was to question their motives or if they were smart enough to make their own decisions, then it would completely ruin any good will he had in their hearts if there was any.

To them, Wise Star Order was likely like a father by now, while he was just a person who had threatened them with death and then leveraged that into controlling their abilities. The gap was far too large.

However, what happened next surprised him. It was actually Candle that spoke this time.

"We understand that Sir Leonel is also the hope of the Luxnix family, so we will do our best to assist you.

"Also, Vice and I want to thank Sir Leonel for not killing us for our abilities. We know that you could have any time you wanted, but you chose to spare us. Thank you very much."

Candle spoke very softly, but her words were firm and carried much more confidence than Leonel expected. It seemed that she had truly come out of her shell as well. He had simply missed too much.

Leonel sent a gaze toward Wise Star Order. He hadn't expected the old man to tell them about this.

Of course, Leonel could have told them himself. But something like that was hard to bring up naturally without making it sound like a threat. If they didn't learn about it naturally, it was best they didn't learn about it at all.

Wise Star Order snorted. "Don't look at me like that, this one made me tell them."

Candle giggled hearing her master's complaints. The mood and atmosphere felt quite homey all of a sudden.

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Chapter 1635: Target

After these matters were settled and his heart was settled, Leonel couldn't help but think about the situation of the Dimensional Verse, and specifically, the Human Domain. If he had been gone for 20 years, too many things could have happened.

Setting aside miscellaneous matters, he was most worried about Earth and his brothers. How had they been? And Earth, what Dimension had it entered by now? Did it survive well without him there to battle on the frontlines? What other powers were eyeing it? And if his brothers and friends were fighting those wars, had they survived? How were they faring?

Leonel was itching to do something, but he forced himself to calm down.

20 years had passed already, a few seconds and even a few months wouldn't make a large difference. What had already happened had already happened and there was no changing it, and if they had managed to survive for 20 years, he was sure that they could manage to survive for a bit longer.

Currently, he was in a severely weakened state.

Never mind the fact that his Dream Force and mind hadn't quite fully recovered just yet, there was still the matter of his King's Might being reset and the fact that his Metal Body had been undone and no longer had Divine Armors to support it.

Much of Leonel's strength had been stripped down and it would be foolish of him to start rushing around without being able to consolidate what he had first. He had to take his time and first reach a bottleneck in his progression before he went out.

He realized that every time he jumped into any sort of trouble, he never had any time to rest. There was no doubt that the Human Domain was in a large amount of turmoil right now with everything that had happened, so he couldn't afford to be casual with his life.

"Anastasia, I plan to do a few things before leaving. Can you monitor the situation outside? I don't want the Segmented Cube to end up damaged because the wrong person ran into it."

Anastasia nodded. "Oh, so you know how to be patient? It seems that someone finally taught you a lesson."

Leonel coughed lightly. It seemed that he had traded one Wise Star Order for a sharp tongued, albeit supremely adorable, Anastasia. Wise Star Order finally learned how to be obedient, but at what cost?

"There's no need for you to worry. In Phase Six, the Segmented Cube's ability to shrink is even greater. No one would notice us under normal circumstances.

"It's good that you're deciding to take things slowly. There's nothing someone as pitifully weak as you can do anyway. Plus, you're the last to arrive anyway."

Leonel frowned. "Last to arrive?"

Anastasia's words seemed to imply that he and Aina were the last to find a method to return, but that didn't make any sense. Maybe it was because he was arrogant, but he was certain that even if everyone in the Void Palace was given a Segmented Cube to use as a catalyst to return home, he could probably count on his fingers how many would be able to think of the method.

Could it be that there was another way to return?

"When you triggered the return sequence, you became the focal point of the return as you were the origin of everything. The point you stood upon was the very to make the connection, but it was also the last to disconnect."

A sudden realization overtook Leonel.

So he was the one that allowed others to return, but because he and Aina had been at the focal point, they were the last to return.

When you were working with such long spans of time, what was ultimately a few microseconds worth of difference between when they left and when everyone else left, became dilated to decades worth on the side.

"How unlucky..."

This wasn't part of Leonel's calculations either. Even if he knew it would happen, he would still need to act. But it was still a bit unfortunate.

"Still, this is good. If the elders of the Void Palace returned well in advance, then it likely means that the turmoil in the Human Domain isn't so bad. They would have come back to stabilize the situation in time."

Leonel felt that this was actually good news.

"You can look at it like that, or..." Anastasia sneered. "... you can realize that this puts a huge target on your back."

Leonel froze.

He didn't need Anastasia to explain this to him at all, the moment she spoke the words, he hit him like a ton of bricks.

Leonel couldn't see the core of the situation because he had been stuck in the thick of it, but from an outsider's perspective, especially given the sheer amount of time that had passed, it would have been easy to understand what was happening even if they didn't understand the methods Leonel had used.

Ultimately, it would be very simple to conclude that whoever returned last once the phenomenon concluded should also be the person that had caused it all in the first place.

Things would be fine under normal circumstances. After all, just statistically speaking, there would be others who came out in close proximity to Leonel. In addition, he and Aina had appeared in a completely barren location where none were here to observe their appearance.

However, there were two methods of tracking Leonel...

The first was his name in the Morales family Holy Land. It was less likely for there to be traitors in the Morales family, so this probably was as much of a worry. But, this was where the second method came into play...

The second was, of course, Leonel's badge as a Void Palace disciple. The moment he and Aina came back, others would know.

Leonel didn't know much about the Void Palace in question, but what he did know was that his father had gone on a rampage in their territory and this was even part of the reason he was a target of dissatisfaction for some Factions.

Obviously Leonel, given how much he respected his father, would never say that he was in the wrong, which very likely meant that the Void Palace had deserved it. In which case...

The Void Palace had traitors amongst them, and those traitors would definitely know that he was the last to return.

Leonel's gaze became frighteningly cold. It seemed that he would be targeted very soon.

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Chapter 1636: Cleanse (1)

Leonel was already determined to prepare himself a bit first before he left, but now this was just affirmed all the more. It would be borderline idiotic for him to return now. He had to take advantage of the time where no one knew where exactly he was.

While most would know that he had returned, this didn't mean that they could pinpoint his location. For now, he would just have to stay here until he was ready.

"I'll be busy for a while, maybe a few months, potentially less," Leonel spoke, turning to Aina.

Currently, Aina held the big Little Blackstar in her arms. She didn't seem too surprised by Leonel's words. Considering his previous agitation, she had guessed that something like this was going to happen.

"Okay, I will wait," she said with a smile.

Leonel nodded and left this place.

...

The current Segmented Cube was enormous. According to Anastasia, it had a size about a quarter that of a normal sized planet. Considering the "population" was not even ten, it was no wonder that it felt enormous.

Right this moment, the Segmented Cube was like having a miniature Earth in his pocket. In fact, the only reason it hadn't begun producing treasures at the level of Earth was because Leonel hadn't been here. As such, Anastasia kept things as neutral as possible.

Hearing such a thing, Leonel was actually quite surprised. Anastasia acted like someone who wanted to be in control of every tiny little detail, but it was clear that she actually wanted to defer to Leonel. Whether that was because she respected his father, or if she simply wanted to grant him this respect, or if it was something else entirely, Leonel didn't know.

But what Leonel did know was that after accumulating so much Force and even evolving so many times in his absence, the Segmented Cube was very much ready to explode forth with its potential. So long as Leonel gave the command, he might have even more natural resources at his fingertips than Earth could provide.

At the same time, though, he was quite baffled. Just what kind of treasure was the Segmented Cube?

In the beginning, Leonel was too ignorant to the ways of the Dimensional Verse to understand just how valuable this treasure was. Let alone the Segmented Cube, everyone awed him, so it was hard to see through to the specialness of this device that followed him everywhere.

But now that his scope had been broadened, he understood that there might not even be a second treasure like this in all of existence.

The Segmented Cube was basically an entire world capable of following him around on his finger. It could produce Cleansing Waters, something capable of countering even Anarchic Force. It concentrated Force to such a great degree that practicing here was easily ten times more effective than anywhere else. And even one of its first awakened abilities was as logic defying as suspending a living, breathing entity in time.

There was simply nothing else like it. And it was shocking to an extreme.

It made Leonel wonder just what its origins were, how had it ended up in the hands of the Morales family, and why was it only in the Third Dimension when Leonel met it since even he could take it to the Sixth Dimension with relative ease?

Leonel could only put these matters to the back of his mind. Right now wasn't the time to be dealing with the growth of the Segmented Cube and its evolution path. Rather, he had to be in tune with himself and how he would take steps forward to succeed.

The first thing Leonel did was sink into a river of Cleansing Waters. He didn't even want to think about where this river led to and just how much Cleansing Waters there were in this place. It just felt ridiculous. He couldn't understand how such a valuable item could be created in such large numbers.

Still, whatever thought he had vanished the moment the water touched his skin. Despite the fact it was just gently washing over him, he felt the need to release a moan, his body feeling far more comfortable than it ever had before.

His pores opened up, streams of a warm energy entering his body and gently caressing him.

To Leonel's shock, he felt his Lineage Factors react, radiating a pure aura that only seemed to become more and more perfect. He didn't know what was happening and he almost forced the process to stop entirely, but that was when Anastasia's voice rang out.

"Don't fight it, are you trying to waste a good thing?"

Anastasia shook her head.

The strength of Cleansing Waters was entirely dependent on its Dimension, as were the number of its abilities that could be unlocked. But, the root of the abilities of Cleansing Waters was in purification. Namely, it could bring something to its most perfect state.

This ability wasn't exactly healing. Rather, it was entirely related to balancing energies.

If one was poisoned, it could recognize that and expel the foreign material. If one formed Force Crystals of a certain caliber, Cleansing Waters could turn them into Pure Force Crystals. And so long as the Cleansing Waters were at a higher or similar level in comparison to your Lineage Factors, it could even cleanse them and allow them to reach their own optimal states of perfection.

This final ability was something that only appeared once Cleansing Waters entered the Eighth Dimension, and it was something that Leonel was experiencing right this moment.

After consuming so many Force Pills, Leonel's foundation had become incredibly sturdy and there was even more potential within himself now in comparison to the past. He had initially entered the Cleansing Waters because as Aina had said, these pills had impurities that needed to be dealt with.

What he didn't expect was that he wouldn't find these impurities, but would rather find something far beyond them in use to him.

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Chapter 1637: Cleanse (2)

Compared to the process of eating Force Pills, Leonel felt like he was walking on clouds.

After consuming the cobra demon, Leonel's Bronze Runes had all fused into one. If he activated his Metal Synergy Lineage Factor right this moment, he would become a man of bronze from the neck down, his halo would be far more resplendent, and the crown usually tattooed to his forehead would separate, fusing with the Spear Crown of his Spear Domain Lineage factor and exuding a far mightier aura.

Under the effects of the Cleansing Waters, it felt like a final push thrummed through Leonel's blood.

The bronze sheen that covered his body from the neck down slowly separated from him, peeling off from his skin and becoming a light that covered him instead. His halo grew in size, shimmering with an even more fierce bronze glow, and at the same time, the sound of sharpening metal resonated through the air.

What happened outside of Leonel's body was mirrored inside. His individual organs, which would also usually be covered in Bronze Runes, radiated a similar glow as well, as though they were enveloped by a light of ambrosia.

There were actually no changes to Leonel's Starry Tailed Fox and Aurora Black Lineage Factors for unknown reasons. But, there were changes to his soul.

It became more resplendent and whole, growing in strength and becoming more and more independent of Leonel's body.

At the same time, the cleansed King's Might that had always laid its roots within the depths of Leonel's soul also began to flourish, slowly becoming more powerful as time continued onward.

Although Leonel had separated his soul from his body, it could survive indefinitely on its own like a Spirituals could or someone with Wise Star Order's Ability Index. At best, he could last a few hours. It couldn't be helped, he didn't have the practice methods of the Spirituals.

But Leonel quickly found that as his King's Might grew stronger, so did his soul, and the vice versa was also just as true. It was hard to tell which was the root and which was the sprout, but what Leonel didn't know was that his King's Might was only becoming purer and the Emperor's Might tablet that had managed to break free and follow him reacted very well to this change.

When Leonel finally awoke, he could feel every cell inside his body tingling. Even his Spear Domain Lineage Factor had become purer, although the changes were nowhere near as exaggerated as what happened with his Metal Synergy Lineage Factor. This seemed to tell him that the Spear Domain Lineage Factor was much closer to perfection to begin with.

Leonel looked down at his body and his skin seemed to glow. His muscles were much softer and far less chiseled in comparison to the past, but this only made sense since he had completely reset his Metal Body.

Even with this being the case, though, Leonel still felt that this basic, untrained Metal Body was more than a hundred times more powerful than it had been back when he was in the Sixth Dimension. The gap was simply enormous and it would only stack further as he re-cultivated it back to its peak.

Leonel exhaled a breath and stepped out of the river.

The feeling of grass beneath his feet made him smile. He had never known that having his own personal forest could feel so good.

When he returned to the Void Palace, he and Aina wouldn't have to bother with finding a place to live again. What place could possibly be better than this?

Leonel smiled to himself and flipped over a palm to reveal Thaela's Emulation Spatial Force Innate Node. It was fairly large, at least compared to Leonel's Innate Node back when he snatched it back from Myghell, but it was still only about two thumb tips large.

Leonel pulled out the Innate Node fusion method he had gotten from the exchange first and prepared to read it. He felt that this Innate Node would be a perfect candidate to replace the node in his brain stem with, so he had to be very careful and thoroughly understand the technique first.

"Hm? An Innate Node?"

Anastasia appeared over Leonel's shoulder, seemingly not caring that he was naked in the slightest. In fact, she had been watching the whole time. She didn't pay much attention to it in the first place, humans, whether clothed or not, were all the same to her.

"Are you sure you want to absorb that, it will cause more problems than not," Anastasia said.

"I received a method of fusion from the Zone we just exited," Leonel explained. "I think it was a Mythological Zone, it had all sorts of methods that I've never even heard of before, including a method to fuse with Innate Nodes that aren't your own."

Anastasia's gaze flickered. "Oh? Is that so...? In that case, put it in the river."

"Huh?"

"Put it in the river."

"Innate Nodes can be cleansed too?"

"Innate Nodes are the purest state a Force can reach, more than comparable to Pure Force Crystals, but there are different calibers among them as well.

"Emulation Spatial Force is definitely a top five Spatial Force, so it's powerful and has Ninth Dimensional potential, but this Innate Node has a problem. It even feels as though it's been moved around a lot and never got the chance to properly grow, so it's missing a lot of the strength it should have for a Sixth Dimensional Innate Node of its caliber."

While Anastasia didn't know about the method of Innate Node fusion that Leonel mentioned, when it came to Forces, her comprehension of them, and how they functioned, practically no one was her equal. And this was to be expected... After all, all things considered, wasn't she essentially the World Spirit of the Segmented Cube? Who could understand more of the nature of things if not her?

Leonel's gaze flashed.

That was right. Thaela had the Ability Index that granted one the ability to move their Nodes and Nodal Pathways instantly within their bodies. This allowed such a person to cast techniques instantly without circulating their Innate Nodes first...

To think that this ability would actually have a crippling effect on an individual with an Innate Node. But compared to this, it was shockingly impressive that Anastasia could see through this flaw in just a single glance. After all, she had never met Thaela before!

"Okay, I will do as you say, then."

Leonel allowed the Innate Node to drop into the river. He wasn't scared about losing it at all, everything in this world was under his control. It would only take a thought for him to make it appear in his palm once again.

Anastasia nodded. "It won't take long. Just focus on learning the fusion technique."

"Mm," Leonel assented.

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Chapter 1638: Understanding

The fusion technique was definitely the best that the Zone had and Leonel had spent enough Demon Points to make certain that this would be the case.

However, even it required at least a basic affinity already existing for the fusion to be perfect.

Luckily, Leonel's Dream Force affinity was as high as could be and he had more than enough Spatial Force affinity thanks to his Ethereal Star Force. This met the basic requirements necessary for the fusion process.

Once the fusion was completed and perfect, nothing else would matter. After all, by then, the base of Leonel's Spatial Force affinity would thus become his new Innate Node. Whether or not he kept his Ethereal Star Force would become irrelevant by that point.

In addition, due to the fact his innate Dream Force affinity was so high, the Emulation Spatial Force Innate Node would be even more powerful in his hands.

Unluckily, this technique was quite painful and was quite masochistic. It made Leonel wonder if he should still risk placing it within his brain stem. But then he remembered that his soul had separated from his body. Even if he couldn't endure the pain or made a mistake that could end his life, he was just one [Instant Recovery] away from perfection.

Once Leonel was confident and Anastasia gave the go ahead, he retrieved the Innate Node from the river.

In these last few hours, it had grown more resplendent. Its Runes were far more visible than the past, shimmering with a silvery-gold light, and it had grown an additional thumb tip in size, now being about an inch thick and an inch and a half long.

Right now, it looked far more like a gem than it ever had before and it gave off a feeling of absolute majesty. It even felt more weighty in his palm.

Leonel brought out a stainless steel bowl from the lab and plopped the Innate Node inside. Then, under Anastasia's flickering gaze, he cut open his arm and began allowing it to pour inside.

Leonel actually failed to cut his arm open the first time, having used too little effort. It seemed that he had underestimated his body despite the fact his Metal Body could currently be considered to be Third Dimensional.

With a second effort, he used his spear and opened up an enormous gash. With every flex of his arm, another huge wave of blood was pushed out, but even after several liters had come out, he didn't seem satisfied.

Luckily, the recovery abilities of his body were astounding. He was more than capable of continuing on for a while.

After the first ten liters were drawn, Leonel stopped.

He placed uninjured arm over the bowl, and his eyes flashed. Within his Dream World, the manifestation of a complex Force Art was created and Leonel flooded it with both Dream Force and Spatial Force.

The complex Force Art split into two layers, one rotating clockwise and the other counter. As they did so, the blood in the bowl began to shrink at a visible speed, becoming lesser and lesser until all that was left was a familiar Innate Node which flashed with a crimson light before going back to normal.

As though he wouldn't stop until he dropped dead, Leonel repeated this baptizing by blood ritual dozens more times. He wasn't meant to stop until he felt a resonance with the Innate Node, a certain connection with it that transcended just a physical connection.

This took more attempts than Leonel thought. He had originally assumed that three would be enough, but even after 20 attempts and a face as pale as clouds, he still didn't get the result that he wanted.

He could feel the connection after the third attempt, but something just felt like it was missing, and he kept chasing after it.

Anastasia couldn't help but shake her head. This father-son pair were really a duo of demons. Both forgot about everything else when they suddenly set their mind to something. A Morales was a purpose was a fearsome thing indeed.

After almost 40 attempts, it finally clicked for Leonel.

'That's what I was missing... How do I fix this...?'

Leonel's eyes suddenly lit up.

At first he thought that maybe there was no such thing as a perfect fusion method, but then it hit him.

Spirituals were a race born as souls, they built their bodies later. So why was it that Wise Star Order said there was a genius among them with nine Innate Nodes? Was it possible that this genius snatched it from others? Or was it that the capacity to form Innate Nodes was soul deep to begin with?

This fusion technique seemed perfect to people who hadn't sensed their souls yet, which made sense since the region of the Zone Leonel had entered had been ruled by humans just like himself. However, for those that had sensed their souls like Leonel, it would always feel as though something was missing.

Leonel had already given this Innate Node more than enough of his blood. To this technique's specification, he had already completed the first step perfectly and was ready to continue. However, Leonel knew that it was missing something.

'I got it.'

Leonel's aura changed and a rippling violet fog formed around him.

With a surging momentum, he formed the duo of spinning Force Arts again. But this time, when he flooded the bowl with his blood, he infused it with a large amount of Soul Force, Dream Force, and King's Might.

It took several attempts, but Leonel was patient to an extreme. He didn't allow anything to distract him and he almost became sagely in that way.

Finally on the 121st attempt, Leonel felt a ringing sound through his soul.

Leonel's comprehension of Spatial Force was probably the deepest out of all of his Forces. To regain the Segmented Cube, he had put a lot of effort into research and meditation on it. However, in the past, his affinity for the Force could only be considered to be average in part thanks to his first Divine Armor which used a Spatial Force Ore as its core.

But now, Leonel suddenly felt like the Spatial Force of the world was whispering into his ears, wanting to tell him all of its secrets.

Somehow, the feeling was even more overwhelming than what he felt from Fire Force, a Force he was entirely unmatched in.

That was when it sank in for Leonel and it felt ironic to him that it had taken so long for it to click, especially considering his usual disposition.

He was a person who didn't like to rely on instinct, so why had he been relying on it all this time? When had he ever put in the effort to truly understand his Dream Force? What about Fire Force? Or his Scarlet Star Force? Didn't he just always rely on his innate talent for it?

And now, suddenly, Spatial Force had shot by them all in the blink of an eye, becoming his strongest Force. And yet, he hadn't even fused with the Innate Node yet, he had only formed a connection with it.

'I was right... ' Leonel thought to himself. '... If I manage to grasp grandpa's music and painting skills, I can step past it and use the method that I wanted to all along, Force Arts.

'Wasn't it Force Arts and the study of them that allowed me to understand Spatial Force so intimately? So why shouldn't I do the same with the others? This will be my path to grasping the pinnacle of Force Manipulation.'

Leonel's eyes glowed and then he did something that nearly made Anastasia scream out.

Commanding Little Tolly to turn into a thin and sharp thread, he took control of his Metal Spirit to pierce it into the back of his skull.

There wasn't even a drop of blood that leaked out, but Anastasia was caught between wanting to roar out in horror and curse Leonel into an early grave.

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Chapter 1639: Fine Now

If Leonel hadn't managed to separate his soul from his body, he would have never taken this approach. The first part of fusion technique wasn't even the most masochistic part about it. What was truly the most sadistic part of this technique's creator's intentions was what came next.

After the connection was formed with the Innate Node, it was necessary to graft the Innate Node into your body. But in order to succeed, it required a special process which was akin to branding your own body. But this branding would have to be from the inside and rather than using fire, it required blades.

Only by purposely scarring oneself would the fusion be perfect.

Essentially, Leonel had to cut into his own brain stem. The pattern of these cuts had to match with two Force Arts he used to refine his blood with. The more sensitive the region, the more difficult it would be to succeed, but this was the price to pay for success.

This was why, under normal conditions, Leonel would never dare to do this. At worst, he would just choose a less optimal region for this Innate Node or he might even choose not to use it at all. But now, he didn't hesitate.

Leonel not only didn't hesitate, but he also executed it all in one go.

He chose a needling technique to form the Force Art. In order to complete it, Little Tolly formed thousands of small needles at once, each of which was lined up perfectly to complete the Force Art.

Leonel's body shuddered but he maintained his sanity. He used Dream Sense to spread the pain out as much as possible, but even so, he still felt like he was on the verge of dying, his body refusing to listen to him.

The brainstem was far too important to the function of the body. Even when Leonel had initially formed his Node within it, he had to rewire the cell connections first before he could make space.

This time, however, he simply directly damaged it, and lethally so, it was no wonder his body was shutting down.

That said, he had already expected this much to happen and he was ready. Rather than using his nerves to control his body, he let his soul take over.

With a movement, he picked up the glowing Innate Node and pressed it to the flowing back at the back of his head.

His body trembled. In the end, he was forced to use Little Tolly to continue to apply pressure.

The difference between this method and others was that other processes required cutting open wounds and hoping the Innate Node fused with you. However, with this method, although Leonel cut into his body, it wasn't to allow the Innate Node space to enter. Instead, this process would only

succeed when the Innate Node sank into his skin, becoming a legitimate part of his body.

Through this method, the Innate Node would become like something your body constructed. And, much like Leonel's other Innate Nodes, if he was ever to be eaten again, it would automatically become a central part of his Innate Recovery.

Leonel collapsed, his body convulsing. The damage to his nerves made it impossible for him to control his body properly and the pain was horrible.

However, Leonel had already experienced being eaten alive. Every excruciating bite and chew was ingrained into his very memory. He would never forget those moments.

Compared to that, what was this or any other pain worth, for that matter?

The hours ticked by and the Innate Node slowly fused into Leonel's skin. After an entire day, it finally vanished beneath his skin and began to jockey for its final position.

Anastasia had been shaking her head the entire time. She wanted to scream and berate, but she was somewhat afraid of interrupting the response. What would she do if this fool really died?

Luckily, about half way through the second day, Leonel's body twitched and he began to slowly recover control of his body. Step by step, his nerves reconnected and the wound to the back of his head also began to slowly close.

Leonel opened his eyes, his breathing heavy and his face pale. It seemed that he was a glutton for punishment. Years ago, he would have never dreamed of doing something like this to himself. He still remembered how he almost gave up when opening just the first tier of his Metal Synergy bloodline, but now he was puncturing holes into his brain as though it was normal.

He shook his head, laughing to himself.

"Well I'm glad that you can laugh, but that was not funny at all. Are you incapable of giving a warning? You and your father are just the same, refusing to explain everything, always doing crazy things, never putting anyone in your eyes.

"Did you know that if this goddess were to reveal her true strength to the outside world that tycoons of even the Ninth Dimension would fight tooth and nail for me? But you can't even bother to give a word of explanation.

"If I had my way, I'd—"

Anastasia released the rant that she had been holding in for hours already, the moment she noticed that Leonel would probably be just fine. She was very clearly much infuriated. She would have directly beat Leonel up if she could.

Leonel laughed. "It's fine now, isn't it? I had to do things like this. If I thought about it too much, I might have chickened out."

"—Don't interrupt me, boy! I'm not finished with you yet! And what were you even thinking of forming your first Node in your brain stem to begin with, did you have a death wish back then too? I don't think I've even ever met anyone outside of you and your father that would do such a thing.

"Foolish, foolish, foolish! Each one is more annoying than the last, simply ridiculous!"

Leonel smiled but allowed Anastasia to continue throwing her temper tantrum. As for himself, he had already focused on these changes.

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Chapter 1640: Theoretically

Leonel turned his Internal Sight into his body, observing the changes to his brain.

This was the first time he had felt the ability to project Dream Force out of his body. Even though his Starry Spirit Domain existed, it was ultimately still using something internal as a medium and it wasn't quite the same.

Leonel reached out a hand and tried to use it, and it almost felt magical.

He formed a clone of himself almost immediately and it really felt like he was looking right into a mirror.

If Thaela had still been alive to see such a thing, she would have likely been shocked into silence. She had already lost count of how much effort it took her to make a realistic clone of herself, but it seemed to be all too easy for Leonel.

The root of Emulation Spatial Force was in using Spatial Force to effect the environment and Dream Force to mask the Spatial Force. Essentially, the main characteristic was Spatial Force and its manipulation and control. Dream Force was only considered to be a proxy.

In fact, even now, Leonel felt that there was a certain limiter on him. He had much more Dream Force to use than this, but there was a bottleneck of sorts stopping him from pouring out all of the Dream Force he could.

'I see... My output of Dream Force would always be limited by how much Spatial Force I can output since the two come in a package. My amount of Dream Force is great, but my amount of Spatial Force is lesser in comparison.'

'However, if I...'

Leonel allowed his Emulation Spatial Force to surge out of his new Innate Node. It flooded his body, filling his other Nodes and Nodal Pathways.

Suddenly, since he wasn't pulling Emulation Spatial Force from the environment, the amount of Spatial Force Leonel had skyrocketed.

A second clone formed, then four, then eight. Eventually, there were hundreds, standing all around and exuding an aura almost identical to Leonel, and with a slight tweak, they were identical.

Hundreds of naked Leonel's standing in the midst of a forest was quite the sight to see. Anastasia could easily see through them, but that was due to her sensitivity in Force to begin with.

Leonel and his clones all reached out at once, causing a spear to appear in their hands.

This spear didn't feel entirely perfect at first, but as Leonel played around and tweaked it, it too became more perfect.

The most shocking part of all of this was that Leonel wasn't using his Starry Spirit Domain. It was safe to say that if he did use it, all of this would only become more perfect.

'I wonder if I can...'

Leonel tried shifting positions with one of his clones like Thaela had. This was an incredibly useful ability and it would make him almost invincible in battle. He didn't believe that anyone would be able to touch the hem of his clothing if he could accomplish this.

Not only was he able to create far more clones at once in comparison to Thaela, but his Dream Force affinity was so far above most individuals that it would be hard to find someone who could see through his clones like he had Thaela's in the first place.

Leonel shifted but his target clone vanished. In addition, his hundreds of other clones wavered, making it quite obvious which one was real and where the fakes were.

Even worse, Leonel felt that he could only target clones a meter or two from him at best. This much wasn't too bad and could still be considered to be useful, but the fact his other clones almost vanished when he did so made it practically useless.

Leonel frowned and tried again, and then again. He even tried lowering the number of clones, wondering if he actually hadn't seen Thaela's limit, but it was rather her choice to maintain mobility. However, even that didn't work.

Leonel's frown deepened. '... Could it be?'

"What are you doing? Emulation Spatial Force can't be used like that, or at the very least, it's not as good as other Spatial Forces in doing so. Just the same way not all Water Forces can freeze things, not all Spatial Forces are designed for movement.

"Emulation Spatial Force is a Spatial Force that is good at solidifying and giving birth to form and function. When matched with Dream Force, it can basically become anything. Everything, no matter what it is, has some effect on the space in its surroundings, and Emulation Spatial Force uses this to create a replica. At its highest forms, it can even be indistinguishable for the original. Even if one has a high enough Dream Force affinity to tell the difference, it won't really matter because there'll be functionally no difference at all.

"If you wanted to teleport on a whim, this isn't the Force Innate Node you should have chosen."

Although Leonel already understood all of this, he didn't interrupt Anastasia. Instead, he waited until she was done and explained his reasoning.

When Anastasia heard of Thaela and how she used the Innate Node, her own expression flickered, her gaze dancing with a peculiar light.

"... Theoretically, it's possible. But this person has a far higher understanding and control of their Force than you do."

Leonel started. "Do you know about Force Manipulation, Anastasia?"

"Force Manipulation?" Anastasia raised an eyebrow. But when she listened to Leonel's words, her confusion vanished as she became more and more solemn.

"I see, so that's what it is... I didn't expect that there would be such a systematic method. From what you say, it sounds like this world has a method of drilling this comprehension into its youths and they can take this into adulthood.

"I've sensed the existence of such a thing before, but I've never consciously thought about it. It's that damned brat Velasco again, he never explains anything, he better not let me get my hands on him!"