

Dimensional Descent

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Chapter 1651: Treanna

Leonel met her gaze, his expression calm.

Judging by this person's expression, she was definitely one of the Viror family. But considering the fact she was casually strolling through the Void Palace Senate, the number of people she could be was drastically lowered. The odds that this person was precisely the Treanna Viror that had been harassing Leonel and Aina with her Green Thread Faction.

'This woman sure knows how to hold a grudge. It's only been a year for me, but statistically speaking, it's been at least 10 years for her depending on when she was expelled from the Zone. The fact that she still has the mind to look at me so coldly is asinine.'

Leonel hadn't forgotten the things this woman had done. He hadn't even gone to find her yet, but she seemed to have stumbled into him first.

There were simply certain things that Leonel found to be unacceptable. He had already chosen Aina over the world once. Did this woman believe that she would get off scot-free after ordering her men to not only attack his Aina, but to even do something as demeaning as stripping her down and hanging her up for everyone to see?

Despite the calmness in Leonel's eyes, there was a hidden oppressive aura within that hung in the air.

He didn't care how long he had been gone for, Treanna could count herself lucky that this was the Void Senate and not just any place where Leonel could act as he pleased.

He looked away, ignoring her.

He crushed the [Valiant Seal] he formed in his palm and flipped his hand over. With a rush, a surge of Dream Force came out of his hand and caused the "documents" to light up.

The so-called documents were just a few pendants. One was used to record their experiences and the other was used to note down their treasures. Both would be handed in along with the treasures that they received from the Zone.

Others would probably take a few hours, maybe even longer, to finish. But Leonel was someone who had managed to read the entire history of law of the Void Palace in just a few seconds. Now that he had returned even stronger, noting down what occurred in just a two month period, even if it was incredibly detailed, took almost no effort whatsoever.

In fact, while he finished, he also noted to Aina what she should disclose and what she shouldn't. His decision had been made.

Once he was finished, he stood, having taken no more than a few seconds total to finish everything.

The moment he stood, he found Treanna just a meter from him, her gaze sparking.

Leonel had had many thoughts on how this interaction would go, but what he didn't expect was what actually happened. Without a word, or even an attempt to communicate, Treanna's palm suddenly shot forward.

What was shocking, though, was the fact that this palm wasn't aimed for Leonel, but rather Aina who still had her mind within the pendants, marking down everything Leonel had asked of her.

The truth was that making up stories that could fool the Void Palace elders was incredibly difficult. They would be able to pick out the deficiencies in your claims far too quickly. Their minds at that level worked no slower than Leonel's own a few paces back.

So, when Leonel had told Aina what to write, he went into great detail. After all, he was very familiar with what she had experienced and could adjust it as such.

Due to this, Aina hadn't even noticed Treanna's appearance at all because she couldn't split her mind to the same degree Leonel could.

Right then, Leonel's calm expression became frighteningly cold.

With a single step, he blocked the path to Aina and struck out, the speed of his fist being incredibly swift.

BANG!

Palm and fist met, sharp winds whistling into the surroundings.

Leonel's body glowed with a Bronze Aura, dispersing Treanna's strength and adding an extra boost to his own.

Treanna took three heavy steps backward, her gaze flickering with surprise. Even though physical prowess wasn't her strongest suit, she was still a Tier 6 expert of the Sixth Dimension. She shouldn't need to use her strongest abilities to deal with the likes of Leonel, especially since she had attacked first.

However, what Treanna didn't consider was the fact that Leonel could be just as unruly and unreasonable as her.

Someone else might ask her why she had attacked or give her time to recover, but Leonel simply didn't care. He took another strong step forward, the rhythm of his movements causing the ground to vibrate.

BANG!

A cone of wind followed his punch, colliding with Treanna's face without a care for her beauty.

She flew backward and crashed into the wall of the Void Senate hall, the commotion spreading far and wide.

Leonel walked forward as Treanna's vision spun. He picked her up by her neck, and only then did he speak for the first time.

"What did you mean by doing this?"

His voice was doused in a chilly wind, his hand clawing around her neck with a menacing grip.

"Halt!"

At that moment, a surge of aura rushed toward the location, many of whom were completely surprised. No one dared to cause a commotion in the Void

Senate, its dignity simply couldn't be encroached upon. And yet today, it had actually happened.

When they converged, they were shocked to find that the person dangling with her feet in the air was actually Treanna.

Treanna was almost too famous in the Void Palace. Despite being from a relatively average family when the wider Void Palace was taken into account, she managed to form a monopoly over the medicinal Factions that only increased after the cataclysm. Just a year ago, she finally managed to reach the heights many could only dream of and she entered a Party of the Senate with thoughts of returning to her Faction in the future and raising it to the status of a Party as well.

But who would have known that this famous individual would be humiliated like this in the Void Senate?

It was then that someone from Treanna's Party arrived, and this person had a bow strapped to their backs.

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Chapter 1652: Ill-Concealed

Leonel didn't look at anyone else, an ill intent blazing in his eyes as he looked toward Treanna.

By this point, Treanna had recovered, only to realize that her neck was already under the control of a junior. First she felt shocked, then humiliated, before a towering fury erupted forth from her in a torrent.

She didn't seem to care that Leonel had control of her neck. As though she would rather die than not dare to struggle, her Force rose like a tempest, a violent pressure blasting against Leonel's body.

CLANG! CLANG! CLANG!

The sounds of Treanna's Force rebounding against Leonel's body sounded no different from metal clashing with metal and he was even forced to slide back a measure. At the same time, the grip he had had on Treanna's throat was forced open, causing his eyes to narrow.

Leonel had never seen anyone expelling Force from their neck like that. Could it be a method that had already existed in the Human Domain? Or was it something that she had picked up from the Zone?

Treanna released a shrill shriek, her rage forming several green vines of Force that lashed out toward Leonel like a whip. By the time they crossed the small distance between the two, they had gone from barely formed, to a shimmering emerald. It looked as though flexible gems were lashing out toward him, each of them carrying a lethal intent.

Leonel's gaze was frighteningly cold.

He didn't have any intention to kill. If he had, how could Treanna have escaped from his grip so quickly? If you gained control of an opponent's neck in real combat, the battle was over. But Treanna had clearly taken advantage of his state of mind to escape.

It only took Leonel an instant to see through this, his intent only growing colder.

Just when it seemed that Treanna's vines would shred him to pieces, his Absolute Spear Domain suddenly manifested, a golden vortex of sharp blades rotating around him and ripping Treanna's attack to shreds.

Leonel pressed two fingers together and pierced them forward.

In that instant, it felt like everything in the world had come to a chilling pause. The silence was deafening.

From a large commotion that had caught the attention of most in the building, it felt like they had suddenly entered the vacuum of space. There were no sounds of sharpening blades, no trembling walls and floors, not even the whistling wind of Leonel slicing the air in two could be heard.

Treanna's eyes only had time to widen before her chest was pierced through.

There wasn't a single drop of blood for several moments as she fell backward, her eyes wide. It was only after she fell to the floor that her body jolted and a pool of blood quickly formed, drenching her green dress in a tide of crimson.

"YOU—!"

From their shocked state, the first individual rose up roaring. This man was none other than the very man who had come from Treanna's Party, a man with a bow strapped to his back.

It wasn't at all convenient to use a bow in an enclosed space like this, but the young man was so confident in his abilities and control that he didn't even hesitate to pull out his own. All he could see was red, believing that Leonel had just killed Treanna.

From the roar to the release of the bowstring, there wasn't even a span of half a second. There was no doubt that the drawing skills of the young man were exceptional, and it only became more clear after his Sixth Dimensional Bow Force shot a streaking light through the Void Senate hallway aimed right for Leonel's head.

Leonel frowned, his cold gaze shifting in the direction of the young man. He had already locked eyes on him before his bow even left his back and watched the entire process of loading and firing. The young man might have thought that his speed was fast, but could it be faster than Leonel's senses?

The arrow appeared between Leonel's brows in an instant. It almost looked as though it had teleported there from the bow it had just been released from, prepared to take Leonel's life.

However, Leonel didn't even move.

CLANG!

The arrow rebounded upward, rapidly spinning through the air as its Bow Force tried to continue forward without it. But the moment the Bow Force tried to harm Leonel, it was as though it had vanished into the wind.

With the very same two fingers he had used to pierce toward Treanna, Leonel drew an arc through the air, snatching the spinning arrow out of its motion with even quicker movements. Then, in one swift motion, his back flexed and he took a small step forward.

BANG!

The arrow rocketed out from his throw like a ball out of a canon, moving with so much speed that it didn't even arc through the air. Rather, it drew a line through the hallways, appearing before the young man in an instant.

The arrow shot through the raised bow which was prepared to shoot a second arrow, snapped the bow string in two, before burying itself into the chest of the young man.

The Party member coughed out a mouthful of blood in astonishment, still not quite believing what he had just seen. Had his arrow really been so casually dealt with? How was that even possible?

Right that moment, the door to Rosen's office opened and he stepped out with a stern expression, his armless sleeve whipping in the wind beneath his aura.

Feeling the presence of a Seventh Dimensional expert, no one dared to move even a single inch as Rosen scanned the surroundings. To think that someone would actually dare to make such commotion right outside of his office, weren't these people a bit too brazen?

When Rosen saw not just one, but two students with bloody wounds through their chests, his expression became even colder.

His gaze snapped toward Leonel, an ill concealed distaste flashing in his eyes.

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Chapter 1653: Neither

"This is the Void Senate."

The words were unhurried and didn't seem to have any extra emphasis, but the moment that they were spoken, it was as though a heavy mountain had fallen onto the shoulders of the spectators. Among them, there was no doubt that Leonel experienced the greatest pressure there was.

"You two, one year in the Void Mines. As for you, ten."

The two Rosen mentioned were without a doubt Treanna and the youth with an arrow in his chest. That meant that the last was most definitely Leonel.

Leonel's gaze flickered. He knew the rule book of the Void Palace front to back, so he was also well aware that this punishment was actually in line with proper practices. Rosen hadn't taken a single step out of line.

Still, wanting him to spend ten years mining for a conflict started by someone else was impossible. If Rosen thought Leonel would really do that, he had another thing coming.

Sensing Leonel's gaze, Rosen met it. Seemingly wanting to see if he would dare to refute, in fact his placid gaze almost seemed to beg for it.

In the past, he had been much more brazen, even arrogantly kicking out the Stalwart Polearm Party from their position as joint majority. However, ever since that even with Leonel's father, he had hidden much of his sharpness, stoking a flame deep within his heart to push onward.

In these 20 years, 14 of which he had been back for, he had progressed by leaps and beyond, already surpassing his former rival, Uramus of the Stalwart Polearm Party by a large margin.

Still, even with this being the case, he still hadn't revealed that hidden sharpness.

Uramus was nothing but a defeated opponent, he didn't deserve his effort. The only man that was in his eyes now was Velasco Morales. Every day, he persevered through training most couldn't imagine just for the faintest chance that he could return the favor for this lost arm of his.

In truth, he didn't even put Leonel in his eyes, and why would he. There was a far deeper pride ingrained within him. It had to be remembered that Rosen didn't send the youths to the Rapax Nest to target Leonel in the first place. His only intention was to help Amery get a leg up for his Sword Domain Tribulation.

As for the youths that had targeted Leonel, they were exactly that, youths. He simply didn't care to.

But, if Leonel was going to blatantly spit in the face of the rules of the Void Palace and get in his way, thinking himself to be as great an obstacle as his father, Rosen wouldn't mind showing him the disparity between the two of them.

And yet, Leonel only smiled lightly. With a flip of his palm, he brought out his two pendants and directly shattered them.

Rosen's pupils constricted. Leonel's movements weren't exactly fast, but it was still impossible for him to react. At the same time, although the pendants didn't look special, they were still incredibly sturdy materials. Breaking them at Leonel's level shouldn't have been such a casual action. In fact, it should have taken quite a bit of strain.

"What do you mean by this?" Rosen asked just as unhurriedly.

Leonel blinked, almost as though he was confused by the question.

"Mean by what?"

Rosen's gaze narrowed. This Leonel, when it came to pissing people off, there was no doubt that he was no less proficient than that father of his. It was almost a crime that such a charismatic smile could be coming from such a bastard.

"It seems that you want to test my patience."

Leonel thought for a moment before nodding. "Ten years is indeed a long time. I guess that even for someone as old as you, it can be considered a while as well."

Rosen felt his heart twitch. It had been a long time since he had felt something like this. After losing his arm, nothing seemed capable of fazing him and the state of his heart was as clear and still as water. But he suddenly felt the need to punch a hole through Leonel's face.

Leonel's expression didn't show much of a change, but he was coldly smiling on the inside.

What a ridiculous rule. Just because he had injured someone who attacked first he had to waste 10 years of his life while they only had to exchange a year? Even if that was indeed what the rule book states, he didn't care.

These people liked to claim that he only had this level of attainment in the Void Palace because his mother had handed it to him, right? They had even stripped him of his rightfully earned Galaxy Rank because they couldn't fathom how far he had climbed up the Void Tower. And now they wanted him to mine ore for them for ten years?

Sure, that was fine. In that case, Leonel wanted to see if they'd be willing to wait ten years for his method of returning from a failed Zone too.

Since they wanted to play a patience game, they could play together. In fact, he would show people what true unfairness looked like. Did he break the rules? Yes he did. What were you going to do about it?

The reality of this was that Leonel could choose to just leave the Void Palace as well. After all, the Void Palace wouldn't detain people against their will, at least not for something so inconsequential. It was more accurate to look at it like Leonel exchanging 10 years for a chance to remain in the Void Palace after his punishment years were through.

But if they really chose to follow through with such a punishment, Leonel would just directly leave. And if he was no longer a disciple of a Void Palace, then that would also mean that they didn't have a right to ask him about his treasures, nor did they have a right to ask him for a method of escaping failed Zones.

When that crossroads was reached, the Void Palace would have quite a decision to make.

Deal with Leonel and get the information they wanted, and face his old man's revenge on the back end. Or simply let Leonel go.

Neither of these things were what they wanted to do.

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Chapter 1654: Proven Right

Leonel knew that he would likely be the subject of a plot very soon. In fact, he didn't know if this was a scheme or not, although he felt that the potential that it was was just about 10%, likely less.

Rosen carried too important a position in the Suiard family, and though the Morales and Suiards were always at each other's throats, Leonel didn't believe that they were incompetent enough to have a traitor at such a high ranking, nor did he believe that the Suiard family itself was a traitor to the Human Domain.

In all likelihood, this was really just a coincidence. But that didn't mean that the scheme wasn't coming.

In order to deal with that inevitable end, Leonel had to position himself properly while also squeezing out as many benefits as he could from the Void Palace in the meantime. Even though this would piss a lot of people off, and there might even be some people on the side of humanity who thought his actions to be too selfish and abhorrent, all he cared about was the end result.

For now, they would treat him as public enemy number one, but when the time came that he wiped the Three Finger Cult from existence, they would come to understand the actions he would take this time around.

Rosen slowly nodded to Leonel's words as though he was confirming what he was hearing for himself, and ensuring that this was, indeed, reality.

This was likely the first time in the history of the Void Palace that a student of the Sixth Dimension dared to act in this way. Although Leonel hadn't said it in so many words, this was no doubt a threat. This singular young man suddenly held what was likely the fate of humanity by the balls and he had such a sickening smile on his face.

Anyone seeing such a scene would have a hard time telling just who was the hero and who was the villain.

It felt like the moment Leonel had chosen Aina over humanity, he stopped caring about those details as they simply didn't matter to him. He had already resigned himself to the fact that many people would die due to his decisions, but he still felt that this was the only path forward.

In his time in the Dimensional Verse, he had taken the life of almost 1000 people. In fact, he knew the exact number 932. This was a number that accounted for the Human Domain and Zones.

If he accounted for the number of lives that he had "taken" via second hand means, meaning through his commands, or his schemes, the number was easily tenfold that. If he chose not to be hypocrite and accounted for the number of demons and beasts he had killed as well, the number was at least twofold of that.

He had come a long way from the teenage boy who almost allowed his life to be taken by a young woman because he couldn't bear the sins on his shoulders any longer. A very long way.

The clarity he felt now was unlike anything he had ever experienced. Those few days of quiet harmony he had spent with Aina had taught him a lot and it made him understand a large measure more about himself, and namely, the weight he had accepted on his shoulders.

That day in the Rapax Nest, he had allowed his father to take that burden away from him for a time. But now... It was about time he took that burden back.

Standing there, facing a Seventh Dimensional expert who wanted nothing more than to take his life, Leonel stood tall and proud, his gaze unwavering and his smile calm.

Those watching such a scene suddenly felt like they were watching a stand off of two equals. No... it even faintly felt like Leonel was on a level all to his own. Even in the face of someone more than just a single large Dimension ahead of him, he could still maintain such an air.

Rosen finished nodding his head, giving Leonel a deep look.

"I will relay your words properly."

Leonel chuckled. Relay his words? What words had he spoken, exactly?

At that moment, Aina awoke from her focused state and looked around with a hint of confusion. Seeing the bleeding Treanna to Leonel's back and the young man with an arrow in her chest, her lips couldn't help but twitch. She had been lost in her own world for all of a few minutes and yet this trouble magnet had gone and done it again.

"Don't look at me like that, this time it's your fault."

Aina rolled her eyes, but didn't bother to refute Leonel's words.

After handing her pendants over to Rosen respectfully, Aina allowed Leonel to take her hand and they both strolled out from the Void Senate.

Those watching couldn't help but feel waves rolling in their hearts. For some reason, they felt that there would be a big upheaval in the Void Palace very soon.

"I will let this matter go once. All future conflicts must occur outside of Void Senate grounds, including all branches. This is a rule that has been written and stone and cannot be violated. If there is a second time, I will triple the punishment."

Rosen left these words behind as he turned and left, his gaze a frightening and chilly cold.

...

Not long after Leonel, Aina and Rosen left, the members of Treanna's Party came rushing over. Some spectators remained in this area precisely to see this matter through as Treanna's Party was not simple at all. In fact, it was among the so-called "Silent Majority", a group of up and coming newly established Parties that were beginning their attempt to become the replacement for the Stalwart Polearm Party. In fact, even the Stalwart Polearm Party themselves had been promoted once again and become part of this Silent Majority.

Everyone had said that Leonel's generation was the most talented the Human Domain had ever seen, and time proved them right. The vast majority of the heads of this Silent Majority were precisely the very youths that Leonel had entered the Rapax Nest with.

And, as though that wasn't enough, one of the executive positions of Treanna's Party was led by a young man who Leonel was very familiar with... A young man who had even threatened not just Leonel, but the whole Morales family in the past.

He was none other than the only other young man to master Sixth Dimensional Bow Force in the Fifth Dimension alongside Leonel, a genius of the Constellation Bow Alliance, Nazag Tarius.

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Chapter 1655: Prestige of the Void Elders

Rosen was a man of his word. After he left the Void Senate, he entered Void Peak to seek an audience.

Even for the current Rosen, including all of his improvements, he couldn't casually come to this place without reason. And, even in the case he did have a reason, he still had to be respectful and patient. These individuals, the Void Elders, represented the very pinnacle of the human race. Together, the power they held was enough to be the face of the humans, and it surpassed any individual family.

If this wasn't the case, how could they dare to claim to raise the future generation of leaders?

The Void Elders were formed of a group of men and women with no affiliations to the large families or organizations. They were existences who, over the course of history, could have built up their own families and powers, but instead chose to forsake this path and become the beacon of humanity instead.

As a result of this, the Void Elders had no ties to the major families.

There was an obvious reason why this was a good thing. After all, this would ensure that the Void Elders didn't have any special ties to the students and didn't try to steer the Void Palace toward any particular direction. In fact, they were incentivized to ensure that the Void Palace remained powerful because only when the Void Palace was powerful would they have the backing they had forsaken after taking up their posts.

The sacrifice of the Void Elders didn't end here.

These characters weren't allowed to have relationships and they also weren't allowed to have children. Their entire lives were dedicated to the Void Palace.

Any new Void Elder was raised up directly from the Void Palace itself. They made their vows early and they were monitored and nurtured to replace the previous batch as they grew old and passed on.

Such individuals couldn't be affiliated with any power families or organizations before entering the Palace, and they were also the only ones who would receive the personal nurturing of the Void Elders. In fact, they couldn't even join Factions or Parties in their youths as this could be considered another form of forming relationships and potential biases in the future.

Leonel himself had met one such person before... This individual was none other than Cornelius.

Knowing all of this, it was no wonder why everyone was so respectful of the Void Elders. This respect was deeper than just their power, but it was also a function of their sacrifice.

If these individuals wanted, they could have formed powerful families of their own, adding to the chaos of the Human Domain. Instead, they chose peace and unity, laying down their pride and becoming just one piece of a greater whole.

The prestige of the Void Elders in the hearts of the masses was not small, and it was also due to this that Leonel's father wasn't very well liked as the only person who didn't give the Void Elders their due respect. But today, it seemed that another of the Morales family line would be smacking the faces of these exceptional characters as well.

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Before Rosen stood three elders. Without fail, all three of them looked to be exceptionally frail, as though they might use the last of their Life Force at any moment. And yet, Rosen didn't dare to be the slightest bit disrespectful. Such individuals, the fact they seemed so ordinary was precisely what made them so fearsome. Their level of control was on a level all to their own.

Two of these elders were older women, with one of them being a man. Of them, only one of the women didn't use a cane, and all of them wore black robes embroidered in gold.

They gazed toward Rosen with murky eyes that carried a hint of anticipation. It was rare for these elders to be so curious and eager about something, and it was even rarer for three of them to appear for just a mere Rosen's request. Obviously, this was a special occasion to them.

How could it not be? The spatial storm phenomena had just come to an end a few months ago and they had already received a report that Leonel was back.

They were all certain that Leonel was the one who allowed all of them to return because his life signature was the absolute last to come back by a small fraction of a second, just after Aina's. This meant that he was the true core of everything that had happened.

Only a select few individuals knew of this, but they had all been waiting for Leonel to come back a long while now, all for over a month to pass since then. They had been worried that something went wrong, but luckily everything was just fine. Now they could finally get the answers they were hoping for.

"Void Elder Wimarc, Void Elder Galienne, Void Elder Lizbeth," Rosen bowed respectfully.

Much like Cornelius, even Void Elders were all called by their first names, their last names having been discarded.

Wimarc, the only male of them, waved a hand and smiled.

"No need for such formalities, just pass the pendants to us. We've been truly eager these last few days. It's rare for us older timers to have something to be excited about."

"About this..."

Rosen started slowly and explained the events from start to finish. He didn't embellish anything because he simply didn't have to. All that was necessary was to describe things exactly as they had occurred.

As Rosen continued along with his story, the smile on Wimarc's expression slowly faded. Although none of the three showed any fury or rage, their placid indifference placed a heavy weight on Rosen who wasn't even the subject of their potential anger.

Rosen summarized the events quickly.

"... I did not dare to make a decision personally, so I came here to speak to esteemed Void Elders."

The three Void Elders fell into silence, not answering immediately.

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Chapter 1656: Aged Hands

Rosen lowered his head and waited patiently for a reply. He didn't dare to rush these figures who stood at the same and sometimes even far greater heights than the elders of his own family. This was especially so since elders of the Void Palace tended to live far longer than normal humans for reasons that were unknown to the wider population. This allowed them far more time to accumulate and their strength couldn't be underestimated.

Having heard Rosen's story, the Void Elders understood what had happened. They were even able to deduce some of what had likely started this. But, likewise, they were also able to guess at some of Leonel's thoughts due to him brazenly taking such actions.

The conclusion was quite obvious to them and they felt that Leonel was still a little too tender. It was clear that Leonel didn't truly want to hand over this method and the matters with Treanna and her Party had just given him an excuse.

"It's a bit amusing," Galienna, the only one of them to not use a cane, spoke. "It seems that he's learned a bit too much from his father."

Compared to the other elders, although she looked just as old, she also seemed to have a perpetual deep frown tattooed onto her brows. The way she clasped her hand behind her back and stood as straight as a spear despite her age spoke volumes.

She looked as though she could step onto a field right this moment and become a drill sergeant.

The other Void Elders didn't respond to this immediately. It seemed that they were still thinking of ways to deal with this situation properly. They were the Void Palace, not some hell house. They couldn't just capture students and torture information out of them, what would that make them look like?

This didn't even consider the fact of if they dared to. The Void Palace could be considered to be a tier above all other human powers, but it would still be foolish of them to target a member of a prominent family, especially when it was a family of madmen like the Morales.

Montez had been banished from the Void Palace long ago, but didn't he still come and go as he pleased? And that was doubly so for Velasco who had even taken the arm of the young man right before them right now.

"Mm. His edge needs to be dulled," Void Elder Lizbeth spoke lightly.

"Let things take their course, then," Wimarc finished.

The three spoke as though they could read each other's thoughts. There was a smooth flowing progression from one to the next, and their words only became more enigmatic as they passed along as though they were playing some kind of higher dimensional game of telephone.

"You can go back, child of the Suiard family. No need to do anything special," Wimarc said.

Rosen's gaze flashed, but by the time he looked up, the three elders had already vanished, leaving a shiver in his heart.

Rosen was too intelligent to not understand where this was going. "Learned too much from his father", "edge needs to be dulled", "let things take their course"...?

Leonel was the very last to return while most had returned years ago. Although there were a few that had returned within the last year, it could be said that the bulk of individuals had returned over a decade ago.

This made sense. After all, the further away one was from Leonel when the phenomena began, the quicker they were to return. Leonel hadn't met anyone else that was of the Void Palace during the demon hunting event, so the likelihood that anyone was close enough to him to only return recently was very small.

Whether it was Leonel or Aina, both of them had come from the most talented generation. In the future, there was no doubt that they'd eventually catch up to those lofty figures who had already surpassed their seniors. However, they would still need the same amount of time that these "lofty figures" had needed as well.

But Leonel was unlucky.

He had done a great service to the Void Palace by helping everyone to return and allowing the Human Domain to have a chance at survival. But in doing so, he had caused him to lag behind by as much as two decades in comparison to his peers.

Among these peers, there were a great number who were still dissatisfied with the result of the Rapax Nest trials and how Leonel had stopped them all from benefitting. There were the Archer Factions who were furious about the loss of their White Lion bow. There were the Sword Factions who were infuriated by the actions of his father back then. And there were even Leonel's own cousins who wanted nothing more than for him to be suppressed as the previously postponed Morales Heir Wars were quickly approaching.

They as Void Elders had no need to stoop to the point of dealing with a child. Very soon, he would find himself stifled to the point that he may very well beg to enter the mines and obediently dig for a decade. By that point, the information they wanted would be neatly arranged for them on a silver platter.

When Rosen came to understand their intentions, his heart couldn't help but tremble. The understanding toward even the present situation of the Void Palace that the Void Elders had was beyond expectations. Even sitting here on their thrones, the entirety of the Human Domain was still in the palm of their aged hands.

Rosen exhaled a breath, but it came out uneven and shuddering. He couldn't help but look inwardly and ask himself how many things he had done in the "dark" that were also so clear to them.

He rose to his full height and walked out slowly, throwing these matters to the back of his mind.

He had a feeling that in these few months, there would be quite some upheaval in the Void Palace, but it wouldn't have anything to do with him.

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Chapter 1657: Changes

Leonel stepped down from Void Senate Peak with a smile on his face. He didn't really know what actions the Void Palace would take, at least not for certain, but he also didn't care very much. What he was more focused on right

this moment was, as he said, squeezing out all the potential the Void Palace had to offer him.

"What do you want to do?" Aina asked.

"Well, the Void Palace is good for training and for gathering up resources. I have a lot of resources at my fingertips now, but they're mostly in one box. I still need a lot of other things.

"Right now, we have the demon corpses, we have the Dream Star Gathering Beast Formation, the Focus Crystals and the Perfection Stone.

"Of those, the Perfection Stone and Focus Crystals are very important for our training, but we only have enough of those for the two of us. I can't build up our faction like that, especially since I have to catch up on a lot of lost time.

"Beyond that, most of my wealth is in Ores, even most of the wealth my mother left for me is in Urbe Ore. While it's useful, they're ironically in a state that's too liquid."

There were two major problems that those running an organization faced, and both were opposite sides of the same coin.

The one that was most obvious was having too little money, but on the other hand, having too much money was also another problem. If you let money sit without doing anything, it was as good as not having it at all. The best organization heads were able to maximize the resources they had on hand and would usually spend almost as soon as they received.

Only by money constantly exchanging hands in a cycle could an organization maximize growth properly.

Of course, Leonel didn't believe he had reached such a state. In fact, I have too little money. But even though his fortune was small, he still hadn't made the best use of it just yet.

"Still, that's a problem for another time. Right now, since my focus is to squeeze the Void Palace for all it's worth, then the main task isn't to make my funds less liquid, but actually to increase that. At the same time, we also need to maximize our strengths and knowledge.

"First, I need to return to the Void Library. But in order to do that, I'll need a lot of Void Points and Void Merits. So the first thing we need to do is do some missions to exchange for an entry token."

Aina nodded and smiled. "Okay."

Last time Leonel entered the Void Library, his mind had already been at the pinnacle of the Seventh Dimension, but he could hardly make use of it.

Firstly, he had still been in the Fifth Dimension so his mind was shackled by chains that had greatly loosened now. In addition, he had yet to form the Star Runes that he had now.

Leonel believed that his performance would be much better now in comparison to the past. In fact, he was hoping that he could assimilate all the information in the Void Library.

By Leonel's calculations, he was actually still far from being able to accomplish this. However, he had a feeling that pushing himself in the Void Library would help him gain more inklings into how to properly manipulate his Dream Force. If he could find those inklings, then his odds of success would be far greater.

If he assimilated the entire Void Library... Well, as they say, knowledge was power.

...

Leonel and Aina wasted no time and immediately went to a Senate Branch. Just like the past, they were all dotted all across the Void Palace. However, when Leonel and Aina attempted to trade for missions, they were stunned by the result.

"Sorry, there are no Void Star Missions, or any missions for that matter, that meet up to your requirements."

Leonel blinked when he heard this, not quite understanding. No Void Star Missions? How was that even possible?

Seemingly seeing Leonel's confusion, the Senate Branch overseer assumed that Leonel and Aina were two recently promoted Nominal Disciples who were

just trying to look at Void Star Missions for fun. It would make sense why they were in the dark about these matters if this was the case.

Often, it took the most ordinary of Nominal Disciples decades to climb up from their ranks and reach the main Void Palace. So, even though it had been years since everyone had all returned, they wouldn't quite understand the situation.

It could be said that this overseer had a relatively good temperament. If anyone else had made such an assumption, they would have already tried to chase Leonel and Aina away.

"In recent years, all of the Void Star Missions have been cleared by the Constellation Stars. About a decade or so ago, they all started a competition between themselves and the result was all of the Void Star Missions, and even the Void Death Missions, all being cleared. Even the higher level Sector Ranked missions weren't safe."

The overseer sighed, shaking his head. Most of his generation felt the exact same way. That generation was simply too outstanding, and the geniuses of Earth that followed after them were just as outstanding as well.

The Void Star and Void Death Missions had withstood the test of time for so long, and yet in just a couple decades, they had all vanished, forcing the Void Palace to not only adjust their difficulty ratings, but to also add special rewards for high difficulty missions.

"Unfortunately, due to the change in the rules, pretty much all high difficulty missions are monopolized by the Constellation Stars and their Factions and Parties. They have a direct line to the Void Senate, so the missions are snatched up before they can even appear here."

The overseer shook his head.

"Anyway, I'm sorry I can't satisfy your curiosity. There are still many normal missions to pick from here. They'll allow anything they aren't interested in to slip through the cracks."

The overseer smiled and began pulling out missions he felt were on Leonel and Aina's level. But before he could continue, Leonel reached out a hand to stop them.

"They monopolize missions? And what if I want one of those monopolized missions?"

The overseer blinked.

"Well... That would be a bit troublesome. Although it's not explicitly stated in the rules, due to the ambiguousness of the change, claiming missions has become a free for all and there are certain unspoken rules now.

"There are many more so-called "high difficulty" missions now because of Earth and its Zones appearing all over the Human Domain. There are even signs that Earth's world will swallow up almost half of the Human Domain with its next evolution. There's also a lot of covert activity in the shadows by the Cloud Race and other enemies of humanity to contend with.

"But despite the sheer number of high difficulty missions there are, the demand for them is even greater. So now, there are battles to decide who can claim them, but even entering to witness these battles is a very exclusive right, let alone participating in them.

"Are you interested in viewing these battles for missions? I'd have to advise you against it... The tickets are too expensive, and just buying them in the first place requires a certain degree of prestige."

Leonel frowned.

To think that there would be so many changes.

[Important Announcement below!]

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Chapter 1658: Reset

Leonel took a breath and exhaled. It seemed that things would be more annoying now. He didn't think that after consuming hundreds of thousands of years of passed down laws, that just 20 or so years would be enough to change so much.

But if what this overseer was saying was correct, these laws didn't even appear alongside the other ones. Due to the suddenness of the change, it had become a loose, law of the jungle type situation. Leonel didn't believe that if

he checked the laws now that there would be something that allowed the monopolization of missions, so it could only be said that this was being tacitly allowed for the moment due to extenuating circumstances.

After a moment of thought, Leonel turned to Aina.

"Check to see how many Void Merits you have."

Aina nodded and brought out her own disciple badge, but when she did so, the overseer was startled.

Void Merits? Did these two confuse Void Merits with Void Points?

Due to the changes, Void Merits had become even more of a rarity than they had in the past. With the most difficult missions being monopolized by a very small minority, the chances regular students had at earning Void Merits had dwindled significantly.

The result of this was an already rare currency, becoming even rarer. If you weren't the pinnacle of your Rank, the chances of you having Void Merits was almost nil.

However, the overseer remained quiet and still checked, only to be shocked into silence.

"2124 Void Merits."

The overseer looked toward Leonel and Aina again, suddenly understanding that he had made a mistake, a very big mistake.

It had to be understood that even one Void Merit was extraordinarily difficult to procure. To have 100 would mean that you were in the percent of the 1%, if not even greater. He didn't even know how to categorize someone who had over a thousand.

However, what confused him even more was that when he said this number, Leonel and Aina didn't look happy at all. In fact, when they looked toward each other, there was an unconcealed dissatisfaction. It was clear that they had thought of the same thing at the same time.

2124 Void Merits? According to Leonel's calculations, Aina should have over 50 000 Void Merits by now.

He had already done the calculations before. She received 27 Void Merits for her place on the current leaderboards and 150 for her place on the all time leaderboards. At 177 Void Merits a piece, multiplied over the 23 years they had been gone, plus the one year Leonel spent training his spear, that should accumulate to over 50 000.

This math was so easy for Leonel that he didn't even need a single second to finish them. The moment that he heard the number started with a two, he had realized that there was an issue.

2124 Void Merits was exactly the amount of Void Merits that Aina would have for one year. But they had been gone for over two decades and the Void Palace should have been reestablished long ago.

With this being the case, how could Aina have so few Void Merits?

"You two..." The overseer shuddered, it clicked for him in an instant. "You two just returned?"

It finally made sense. The only way one could accumulate so many Void Merits was through the use of the leaderboards. At the same time, this would explain their dissatisfaction. They were definitely expecting to see more than they got.

"Yes, we did just return. Can you explain to us why my girlfriend's merits aren't adding up?"

It wasn't just the number that was lacking. If the Void Palace chose not to count the two or so decades, the number Aina had was actually too high. After all, Leonel and she had used some of it before the cataclysm.

But this number was exactly enough for one year, and then it stopped. Why was that?

"I see... When the first batch returned from the Zone, not everything snapped back into place immediately and a lot of this was unorganized. It wasn't until a good portion of the Void Elders returned that we finally gained a semblance of order.

"Due to this, a lot of things had to be shuffled around and reset. For those on the leaderboard, all Void Merits were wiped and everyone received exactly

one year worth of what they should have, before you had to work for everything all over again.

"This was also necessary because things like the Void Tower and the previous Gold and Amethyst Tokens rules didn't work particularly well for the Cataclysm Generation."

"The Cataclysm Generation?" Leonel raised an eyebrow.

"Yes, that generation is the last to enter the Void Palace right before the cataclysm struck, so that's the name they go by.

"As the story goes, there was a Leonel Morales who ruined a lot of things. Word said that he received an Amethyst Token without properly earning it, and then he entered the Void Tower and reached a floor level that didn't make any sense.

"In addition, that generation had a lot of talents that would have been Amethyst Token wielders in almost any other generation. So because of the pressure the Human Domain was under, the Void Senate thought it best to provide these geniuses a fast track. Thus, a compromise was struck.

"On the one side, those that came before gained a year worth of resources they earned all at once, while on the other side, all those of the Cataclysm Generation that proved themselves worthy through a the Cataclysm Event were allowed to become Galaxy Ranked disciples directly by undergoing the Void Tower trials.

"Due to that, the leaderboards were cleansed and everything was reset once again, and that's why we have the situation we do now."

Leonel's gaze flickered with a cold light. "The Void Senate, huh...?"

Leonel's placid expression gave way to an icy smile. So the Void Tower was reset? How interesting.

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Chapter 1659: Border Patrol

Leonel and Aina left the Senate Branch, their destination all too obvious: the Void Tower.

However, as though they were being led by the nose, they found yet another roadblock ahead. Leonel was already having a hard time not being visibly annoyed.

The surroundings of the Void Tower made Leonel feel as though he was asking for amnesty. It was impossible to tell that this was a core region of the Void Palace that was once frequently visited by students because it practically had a border patrol now.

Judging by everything else that had happened until this point, Leonel didn't even need to make too many guesses as to what was happening. Just like all the missions before them, Leonel assumed that the spots of entry into the Void Tower were being monopolized by the so-called Cataclysm Generation.

In the past, people would only rarely enter the Void Tower. This was firstly because exiting meant that you had experienced something akin to death, it would feel just as real and the real thing. And secondly, there was no point in continuously entering the tower due to the fact one would usually only do so when they had a great improvement in their strength.

Of course, none of this even talked about the fact that only the first entry into the tower was considered to be free, while every subsequent entry cost both Void Points and Void Merits. After all, the Void Tower was considered to be a cultivation resource.

But now with so many geniuses appearing that were outside the bounds of the Void Palace's normal understanding, they entered far more frequently and demanded much more space. It also seemed like there was an entry capacity limit of three for the Void Tower as well, something that Leonel hadn't been aware of until he casually listened in on a few conversations.

"I managed to get a slot for seven months from now. That's not bad. If I had tried five years ago, the waiting time would have been even worse. It looks like they're slowing down."

"Slowing down? More like they're getting bored of the Void Tower. They used to go at it almost everyday, multiple times a day before. Now it's only rarely."

"I don't know if "bored" is correct. The deaths on the higher floors are so much more gruesome. It's probably better for their health if they experience them less."

"Now you're just assigning your own fears to them. The truth is probably that they've reached a bottleneck. If they want to progress any further, they'll have to enter the Seventh Dimension first. I think that if we want to use some of the best resources of the Void Palace, this window while they're stuck at the peak of the Sixth Dimension is the best chance we'll get. I'm going to go and register for Sword Faction placements too right after this, I think I'll get a good date."

Hearing these conversations, Leonel was truly speechless.

In reality, the Void Palace had always been a somewhat lawless zone where students were allowed to butt heads and fight over resources, but this was even more exaggerated than what he remembered. They weren't just fighting over resources here, it had reached a point where they very obviously monopolized them.

At the same time, the so-called geniuses of the Void Palace who were once prideful and used to peacocking, just seemed to accept it all so easily.

If Leonel had been there when the Void Elders spoke of dulling his blade, he would have understood that this was why they were so confident it would happen. This was already his third or fourth attempt at just doing something, anything in this place, and yet he kept running into roadblock after roadblock.

Every time this happened, Leonel's good mood after having spent the last several days in leisure with Aina became darker and darker.

Leonel couldn't help but remember the first thing that happened when he stepped foot into the Void Palace. This place, designed for the future leaders of humanity, created to curate the geniuses of the future, acted to crush their spirits before it did anything else.

Leonel still remembered it. Back then, despite knowing that Anarchic Force corroded clothing, the overseers told them nothing and simply allowed it to happen. They wanted to strip them all naked as though in this place, they had to beg even for clothing.

Now, it seemed that sort of emasculation, that sort of infantilization, was pushed to the point where everyone here just thought it to be normal.

Crush the "normal" geniuses, force them to lower their heads, only allowing the truly outstanding ones to stand out.

No, it was even worse than that, because even if you were an outstanding genius, while you were growing, you would still need to lower your heads to those that were much older than yourself.

Leonel felt like he was watching a microcosm of everything he absolutely abhorred about society playing out for him in real time, and by the time he made it to the first "checkpoint" for entry into the Void Tower, his expression was as dark as thunder clouds.

High above in the air, Cornelius had been following Leonel for a long while. The moment news of him being back was disseminated, he was once again given this task.

Seeing the dark look in Leonel's eyes, he sighed and rubbed his forehead.

"Here we go again..." he mumbled.

...

"Would you like to register for a future spot of entry into the Void Tower? Or would you like to pay for a spectating ticket? The prices for tickets based on those participating is on the left, the price for spots depending on how long you're willing to wait is on the right.

"Currently, there are no normal tickets left for today's spectators as they've all been bought up. The only spots left are for VIP spectators. However, the price is expensive as the lineup today is quite good."

At the "checkpoint", a young man spoke with a bored voice without even looking up. It seemed that he had repeated these words again and again until he was simply tired of it all.

But what he didn't expect was for a shadow to pass by him without a word.

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Chapter 1660: Dare?

Adelan was startled.

He had indeed become a bit bored of this job because it was nothing but repeating the same things over and over again, while watching money he had no fate with being exchanged.

However, as a member of one of the Cataclysm Factions, he had great pride in his heart to be able to step foot in this place at all.

He hadn't been in the Void Palace previously, and actually came after the Cataclysm Generation. As such, this Void Palace was the only one he knew, and he most definitely didn't recognize Leonel and Aina.

All he knew was that while this wasn't the first time someone had tried to disrupt the status quo, they all had the very same ending.

"Stop!"

Adelan shot to his feet, the intent in his eyes blazing. Although he could call the guards over, with how boring this job was, how could he not want to take action personally? Plus, relying on guards wasn't necessary in the slightest. Weren't they all geniuses here?

In addition, while the Cataclysm Generation was the most famous, the generations that came after were very well known for their talent as well, especially as the influence of Earth spread further and further, and more geniuses began to be born beneath the halo a world with a high degree of potential.

Adelan himself was from quite a famous generation, one that entered two years after the Void Palace was officially re-established. As such, he was well into the Sixth Dimension and the strength he had at his fingertips was not small in the slightest. It was just that he wasn't a very prominent figure of his own generation, or else how could he be manning a kiosk?

His fist whistled over not even an instant after his words fell, but his roar alone had caught the attention of countless individuals. Although this wasn't exactly a quiet space, the roar of a Sixth Dimensional genius couldn't be underestimated.

The coldness in Leonel's eyes only flickered with more intensity.

It seemed that it was true that no one remembered him, but then again, could he blame him? Even back then, how famous had he been? He was still

considered to be a small time disciple, a very long way from the Sector Rank and even longer from the Domain Rank, it couldn't be said that his name was enough to call forth winds and bring forth thunder.

But this time, he would make sure that it did.

Leonel's head turned back and he raised a single palm. He didn't push out, nor did he apply any strength forward, he simply raised it, almost as though he was helping Adelan to spar and not seeking to harm him at all.

Adelan's fist plowed forward with even more force when he saw this, but when the collision occurred...

BANG!

Adelan froze before a miserable shriek echoed through the air.

In that moment, it felt as though every bone in his arm had suddenly crumbled to dust. He fell back, frothing at the mouth and collapsing under the shocking pain.

Countless gazes turned over and shock colored their faces.

That kiosk worker, wasn't he a member of the Lion Pride Faction? Who dared to hurt him like this? No, more importantly, who could harm a member of the Lion Pride Faction so easily? Even their desk workers were experts among experts.

While the crowd was thinking this, Leonel simply looked down at Adelan's convulsing body.

'He's barely at the standard of a Middle Class demon. Even if he released his God Runes, he'd be comparable to a Higher Class demon at best. Is this what all these people yielded to?'

Leonel turned away and didn't give Adelan another glance.

With the shrill screech of Adelan still echoing in the air, the so-called guards were all alerted. Today was the turn of the Lion Pride Faction to take guarding duties over, and as such, they were all part of this very same Faction.

"What is going on over here?!"

The voice rang out like a thunderous boom, but before he could even get an answer, Leonel pierced out with two fingers.

It was as though Leonel couldn't be bothered to deal with any more nonsense. Every time he tapped at the air, blood would fly and cries would follow.

His pace forward didn't pause even the slightest, but he wasn't fast either. It was like he was taking his time to ensure that this was imprinted onto the memories of all those who saw it.

Members of the Lion Pride Faction fell one after another. Some lost arms, some lost legs, some were punctured right through their chests, and there were even some who suffered wounds to their necks that left them in a frozen state of panic, feeling as though their lives had just flashed before their eyes.

Regardless of which category they fell under, none dared to take another step, and yet the commotion only grew larger and larger to the point that even those surrounding the Void Tower in the depths were alerted by it.

Leonel approached the second "checkpoint". It was clear that these Factions and Parties had set up multiple such points to ensure that no one could sneak in. To enter, one would be verified, and then verified again, for a total of three checkpoints before entering the core region.

Leonel's slow steps toward this second checkpoint placed a formless weight on those forming a barrier around it, a suffocating pressure threatening to squeeze all of the life out of them.

A hidden purple fog danced within Leonel's eyes. And if one looked even deeper, it was possible to see it rotating about and caressing the body of a golden Tablet.

The presence of this purple fog seemed to project out the emotions in Leonel's chest. The skies became even darker and gloomier than usual, the ground became more black than grey, and the air became heavy, even a single breath needing all of one's strength as though a mountain was weight down upon their chests.

BANG!

Right then, a young man with wild golden hair that almost looked like the mane of a lion bounded over with a single leap.

Leonel had met people of this family before. Conon and Gunter were both the geniuses of the Lio family who participated in the selection with him, and he had exchanged some particularly foul words with Conon, while Gunter was more of a quiet individual.

This young man here was neither of those two, but he exuded the wild aura of someone in Tier 4 of the Sixth Dimension. And yet, the pressure he gave off was far beyond that of the likes of Treanna who had been surpassed by the generations that came after her.

"Who are you? There are still people who dare do such things after so long?"

The young man's voice rumbled like thunder.

When others saw him, their blood seized. It seemed that it wasn't a lie that special characters would be participating today, or else someone like him wouldn't appear here.

He was of the same generation as Adelan, but the difference between them was akin to night and day. In fact, he had already entered Tier 7 once before, before he learned a special technique that allowed him to compress his God Foundation and purify it.

He was none other than Derrion Lio, one of the few geniuses that could contend with the Cataclysm Generation.