

Dimensional Descent

Chapter 1691: Freedom

Leonel easily immersed himself in the carnage. He didn't care for time or stamina, he simply pressed forward. Every time his spear shot out, another would die.

However, after several hours, he realized that what he was doing was inappropriate. This trial was one that he was flying by, true enough, but he wasn't getting what he needed to get out of it, and that was because of the one thing this trial couldn't seal: his Ability Index.

This was the problem that Leonel had always had. He could never fully rely on his Spear Domain Lineage Factor because his brain was too active and his Ability Index played too large of a role in his combat prowess. In fact, this was the reason the Bow Domain Lineage Factor seemed so much more powerful to him: it synergized with his Ability Index while the Spear Domain Lineage Factor did not. Or, more accurately, Leonel didn't know how to allow it to synergize properly because he knew too little about the Lineage Factor, which was why he came here in the first place.

Here, he found himself calculating exactly where to attack, who to attack first, and how to attack to ensure that he could deal with all of the enemies in his range the most effectively. While he was under a great disadvantage battling so many enemies at once, they were at a disadvantage because only so many of them could attack him at once given his size in proportion to their army. Taking advantage of that, with his Ability Index, it was far easier than it would be for most to deal with this situation.

But this was likewise holding him back.

Leonel inwardly shook his head. He had made a small breakthrough in this regard when he was battling Myghell for the first time.

What had he decided on back then?

Whenever he battled, he always brought out his trump cards one by one, building up to revealing his true strength so that he had more cards in his hands to catch his enemy off guard with. But when he took this approach, it also stifled his own potential. That approach to battling lacked confidence, it assumed inferiority, and it necessitated trickery over strength.

It was one thing to battle with logic instead of instinct, but the way that he did it was a problem.

Even after that breakthrough, Leonel still sunk back into his usual habits. After all, changing who a person was, even for him, was too difficult. He wasn't as much of a machine as he thought he was, he too had his own tendencies, likes and loves.

What was the key to fusing his logic and instinct? It was freedom, true freedom.

What held him back all this time was his restraint. His logic often became a burden rather than a help to him.

When he first stepped into the Dimensional Verse, he found it difficult to kill because he could logically deduce the value of a life.

When he lost Aina it was his logic that cut her off for good and almost ended in him losing her forever.

When he battled, it was his logic that held back his truest potential, only eking out bits and pieces of his strength at a time so that he'd always have something in reserve to pull out and catch an enemy off guard with.

But what he hadn't noticed was that this sort of mentality had seeped into the way he did everything.

He still hadn't fully reconnected with Aina. He subconsciously limited his own improvement because he never really pushed himself to the fullest extent to begin with. He even restricted his advancements and because of the so-called boredom this brought about.

Leonel didn't believe that his logic was truly a net negative, but it most definitely wasn't a net positive, forcing him to stay stagnant and unmoving. It was like an underlying anchor pulling him down.

Sometimes there just wasn't a need to care so much. It was fine to be logical, but if it was also stunting your progress, how logical would that be? Sometimes it was better to be free, to be unrestrained, to let loose a bit.

Leonel's spear whistled through the air, his strikes becoming less structured, and his stamina draining much faster, all while the smile on his face seemed much broader.

He wanted to find it. He had already touched the surface, but he needed to dig deeper, to find where that balance was. Between his instinct and his logic, where was the dividing line that would allow them to both shine the most optimally?

In his fight with Myghell, just touching the surface of this had allowed Leonel's Spear Force to undergo a qualitative change, giving him a crown and a bright gold Spear Force.

His spear was relentless as his breathing became heavier and his sweat fell like a torrential rain.

Those watching might think that he was insane. His fighting style until now had been so reserved, so perfect, so unblemished, but in the blink of an eye he had become so wild and unrestrained.

He immediately suffered for it.

His body, which hadn't suffered even a single wound, began to split and bleed. Although his killing speed had skyrocketed, so had his stamina consumption. On top of that, the mistakes he made forced him into more and more dangerous situations he had no choice but to brute force his way out of.

And yet, his grin only seemed to get wilder.

Leonel could still remember the first time he stepped onto a battlefield without the guilt of human lives looming over his head... it was that day in the Camelot Zone, faced with an army of demons he didn't care to treat like he had humans...

For the first time, he was free, so light, so happy. His blood had boiled, his eyes had lit up, and his Force flowed more smoothly than it ever had before.

And now, he could feel as though chains hidden deep within his body were loosening one after the other, the whispers of his Spear Domain Lineage Factor becoming like roars in his skull.

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Chapter 1692: Four Pillars

Leonel's spear danced in the wind, free and light. It didn't seem to have a shape or form, moving as it pleased and reacting even faster. Its tip was like a shadow, vanishing beneath the sunlight and reappearing in the least obvious of places. Its shaft was like a flood dragon, roaring through the air and dancing beneath the clouds.

His skill in the spear was just the same as it had been before he entered the pagoda. The strength of his grandfather's comprehension was not small, and by grasping it, Leonel had already entered the elite ranks of spearman.

However, what wasn't the same was how his Absolute Spear Domain flowed around him.

It blanketed the surroundings, moving like a living, breathing entity as it followed the cadence of his spear.

By this point, Leonel had gained an entirely new understanding of the Absolute Spear Domain and how it connected with his Spear Domain Lineage Factor. As this connection deepened, he also came to understand that the reason he hadn't been able to parse apart its true strengths was far more complex than he had originally thought.

It wasn't just his method of battle that was holding him back, nor was it just his Ability Index. In addition to these two things, another large factor that held him back was actually a magic system that he had come to love a great deal: Camelot's Magic System.

A lot of the mechanisms of the Spear Domain Lineage Factor overlapped with Camelot's Magic System, namely the latter's ability to control atmospheric Force and make use of it.

The root of the Spear Domain Lineage Factor was in Controlled Range. Everything within Leonel's Absolute Spear Domain could be considered to be an extension of his body, from sensory organs down to even Force itself.

Within the barriers of the Absolute Spear Domain, the flow of Force was absolutely clear and it could be taken to give strength to the spear wielder. This helped bolster the strength of the spear: range and leverage.

However, Leonel's Mage Core gave him a very similar feeling, albeit slightly different. Due to his Mage Core being far more powerful due to the neglect of his Spear Domain Lineage Factor, in addition to the other mentioned factors, the feeling was far too subtle even for him to pick up on.

So was that all? Case closed?

Not exactly, because much like the Bow Domain Lineage Factor had building blocks that seemed useless to the current Leonel at the moment, so too did the Spear Domain Lineage Factor. However, now that Leonel knew where the foundation lay and what it might build up to, seeing through the true strength of the Spear Domain Lineage Factor was much easier, so that was exactly what he did.

After he found the first thread, he began to pull, losing himself in an endless, bloody battle that stretched on from hours to days. He was seemingly relentless in his pursuit of the end of this thread, and that was when the first bits and pieces began to make themselves known.

Leonel learned that the so-called foundation of his Spear Domain Lineage Factor, which he had thought was the physical characteristics that allowed him to use the spear, was actually not the foundation at all. In fact, if he was correct, if he ever gained the full Bow Domain Lineage Factor, he would experience similar physical changes that would instead help him to use the Bow.

This wrong conclusion had caused him to make the incorrect assumption, shielding him from the true abilities of the Lineage Factor.

If there was a "first reward" for him to gain in this Pagoda, a reward he could have been given if not for the fact he already had the Lineage Factor to begin with, it would be 'Spear Aura'.

This Spear Aura would allow Leonel to use his Spear like he did Internal Sight, blanketing a very small area which allowed his spear to be omnipresent.

When this was accepted, just how similar was this to the Bow Domain Lineage Factor? Both improved the senses. One made his vision far sharper and the other also gave him a replacement for Internal Sight.

Likewise, what was the final reward for the Bow Domain Lineage Factor? Wasn't it the ability to emit Force at a location you gazed upon?

Just like this, the final reward of this pagoda would likely be Leonel's Absolute Spear Domain which allowed him to directly manifest Force outside of his body.

From this perspective, the two Lineage Factors were like mirrors of one another, working similarly.

The question, then, was what were the steps in between? Between Spear Aura and the final Absolute Spear Domain, what were the building blocks that gave the Lineage Factor strength?

And that was something that Leonel was able to finally grasp after five days of continuous fighting.

To pressure. To redirect. To take. To attack. These were the four summarizing pillars of the Spear Domain Lineage Factor.

To pressure.

Within the Absolute Spear Domain, all other Forces were suffocated and stifled, falling under the rulership of Spear Force.

To redirect.

Within the Absolute Spear Domain, all Force that managed to remain were restricted in their control. First Forces lost their edge and docile Forces didn't dare to move at all.

To take.

Within the Absolute Spear Domain, Forces could be co-opted and stripped away, melding into the rotating Spear Force to strengthen it or be used for a counterattack. Essentially, all Forces could be stripped down and turned into Spear Force.

To attack.

Within the Absolute Spear Domain, the spear could appear anywhere. Much like the eyes of the Bow Domain Lineage Factor could shrink space and manipulate the fringes of time, so too can a spear tip within the Absolute Spear Domain.

Regardless of the situation, regardless of Leonel's position, regardless of the attack's position, so long as all related subjects were within the Absolute Spear Domain, the spear would find them.

Leonel's aura suddenly flourished, his demeanor shifting and his dead spear trembling to life.

A roar shot through the skies, the rattling of the Spear Domain Ring becoming omnipresent as Leonel suddenly pierced forward.

However, right at that moment, the general of the army appeared to his back having finally found an opportunity to attack.

PCHU!

The general froze, his spear risen high into the air.

Leonel didn't even look back, slowly retracting his spear as a bloody hole appeared between the general's brows.

The wildness in Leonel's eyes faded, his breaths coming in deep, soothing heaves.

From start to finish, he never turned to face the general.

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Chapter 1693: Theory

Leonel exhaled, stepping out of the Spear Pagoda. He looked back to find a familiar pillar of light reaching into the skies, but he wasn't surprised by this. He had realized a short way through the "first" floor that there was only one floor to be seen at all. His progress would be dependent on how many of the army that he had killed, but it turned out that he had killed them all.

This was already enough for people to look at him as though he was some kind of monster, but what they didn't know was that he had come here right

from the Bow Pagoda without rest. The fact he still performed so well right afterward was shocking.

It just went to show just what kind of changes Leonel's body had undergone. Previously, his stamina would have long since been tapped out, especially with how wildly he had begun to battle near the end.

However, with how much vitality he had squeezed into his body during the reformation of his Metal Body, his stamina couldn't compare to the past. Even if he wanted to enter another two or three pagodas, he would still be able to perform optimally without drop off, and that didn't consider the fact that he still had [Instant Recovery] that he had yet to use.

The Spear Faction was already in an uproar due to the shocking changes of the Spear Pagoda, but when Leonel walked out, the shock was even more heavy.

Leonel, though, was looking for something entirely different. He wanted to make sure that he didn't run into his aunt again.

Truthfully, after clearing the Spear Pagoda, he could enter the Spear Faction for free from now on. But he didn't expect to be able to law-speak his way out of punishment. When one's elders wanted to be unreasonable, you could only acquiesce.

It wasn't long before Leonel locked eyes with his aunt, prepared to run. But surprisingly enough, she didn't seem very eager to run after him. She simply stood there, legs spread and arms crossed, watching with a smile.

The trial of the Spear Pagoda had been cleared six times in this generation already by those of the Morales family. However, they had all done it after entering Tier 7. Leonel was the only one to face against it at Tier 1 and actually clear it in one go.

Now, he was the seventh to clear it and the lights were actually extremely resplendent.

The truth was that so long as you were in the Sixth Dimension, all of the warriors of the army you faced would be in Tier 1. Fighting 10 000 enemies of your level was a ridiculous ask for anyone, and as such, it wasn't expected.

But Leonel had actually entered at Tier 1 and faced that many enemies all on his own. It was truly shocking. There simply wasn't a precedent for such a thing.

Leonel didn't look like he had changed much at all, which meant that he had entered and exited at pretty much the same strength level. That, in itself, was already shocking enough. Ness couldn't help but wonder just what Leonel had experienced in the Zone.

By this point, many stories had been traded and circulated about what many experienced in the Zone. Some gained opportunities, but there were many more who lived lives of suffering, this was especially so since everyone reported being unable to use Force or their Ability Indexes.

Due to this limitation, many were forced to rely on their physical bodies alone. This was enough for them to survive in the wilderness as the geniuses of the Human Domain, but if they came across high class civilizations, they were pretty much all unilaterally thrown into slavery.

For most, their journey came to an end just like this. They spent their days in humiliation, hoping and praying for a chance to escape.

There were some who were able to turn this around. Using their status as servants and following after the rich and powerful, they picked up on bits and pieces of knowledge that could change their fates. They found new methods of applying their strength, new methods of Force usage, or enlightening Styles and the like.

There were all sorts of stories. Some found valuable ruins, some located precious treasures, and some grasped valuable truths that would help them for decades into the future.

Of course... There were also many who simply died, never to return again, pushed to the limit in what was ultimately a cruel world.

There was something special that many noticed, though. Those who had World Spirits were unlike the others and had been able to use their Force just fine. This was a truth that was found after plotting the patterns of everything that had happened.

As the gathering hub of talents of the Human Domain, the Void Palace had a large population of youths who were likewise World Spirit wielders. But such

youths tended to be from weaker families as those from much more powerful families wouldn't have such a chance. After all, in such well established families, the World Spirits were in the hands of the experts.

But this led to an interesting change.

Alongside the Cataclysm Generation, there was an inferior, but still powerful group of youths who had managed to rely on their World Spirits to gain far more from the Zone than most others had. However, interestingly enough, these youths had only just begun to appear more recently and they were, as such, lagging behind the members of the Cataclysm Generation who had returned much earlier.

Due to this, it was very possible that these youths might even surpass the Cataclysm Generation given time.

As this pattern began to unfurl itself, interesting theories began to crop up one after another.

What did this all mean?

Well, the later one returned, the closer they had been to Leonel in the Zone when he activated the return sequence. In that case, could it be that many of those youths who had gained great opportunities had all experienced the very same thing?

Essentially, as Ness looked toward Leonel, the more she felt that there might be some truth to this theory. Could it be that all of these youths had experienced the same thing?

In that case... didn't that mean that there was a change coming very soon?

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Chapter 1694: Villain

Leonel relaxed a bit seeing that his aunt wasn't ready and waiting to devour him. But he shivered when he felt another gaze boring into him.

Leonel coughed lightly, turning toward Aina slowly before forcing a smile. But then, as though a light bulb was going off in his head, his expression changed into a shocked one.

"Ah! What a beauty! Ma'am, can you please tell me your name? I'll remember it for a lifetime and cherish your sweet voice for eternity!"

Aina was stunned for a moment before she rolled her eyes and began to walk away.

Leonel ran after her, peppering her with all the corny lines he could think of.

Try as she might, Aina found it too difficult to hold back her laugh under Leonel's relentless barrage. Although she covered her mouth when it slipped out, it was already too late.

Leonel grinned, sweeping her waist into his arm and ignoring her faux attempt at fighting back. As he saw it, this was a victory. He didn't seem to care about the gazes he was getting either.

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

Hearing such a question, Leonel bent down and whispered into her ear. She thought it was serious so she listened attentively at first, but the longer he went, the more red she seemed to become. However, even after she had become a ripe tomato, Leonel didn't seem to have any intention of finishing his list.

"Alright! Okay!"

Aina pushed him away with two hands, blushing profusely. She couldn't even repeat the things he had said, they were way too embarrassing.

Leonel laughed. "There's nothing to do until we get the rest of our Void Merits come the end of the month and there's nothing of interest here to me outside of the Void Library. So unless you want to do something, we can just relax."

"Nothing to do, hm?"

Leonel shivered when he heard this voice, turning back to see his aunt. He could only smile sheepishly, trying to remain ingratiating. This woman was truly nothing short of a t-rex in female form. If she wanted to, she could probably run in a straight line through the Void Palace and never turn or climb up, nothing, whether building or natural landscape would be able to stop her forward charge.

Toward such a woman that even his uncle feared, Leonel had to walk on eggshells.

"In that case, you can start paying back what you owe the Spear Faction."

Leonel opened his mouth to respond, but he was immediately cut off.

"Don't start the nonsense with me. Although you can enter for free now, that doesn't change what you owed before. If you want to pay it back, you have to do some work or else how will I maintain order around her?"

Leonel could only pout inwardly. He had really wanted to do all those dirty things he whispered into Aina's ear, he had truly been a virgin for too long. But who knew that the moment that he had decided to go full speed ahead he would be stopped like this? This was one of the greatest injustices in the world.

"Good, much better than that disobedient father of yours. Now, if you want to pay off your debt..."

Leonel blinked. At first, he was curious about the relationship between his father and aunt. Although he couldn't tell by her looks, it felt like his aunt was far older than his father, which also meant that she was far older than his uncle as well. Who would have thought that his uncle would have been a cougar kind of man.

However, as Leonel's thoughts were drifting aimlessly, what his aunt wanted to do drifted into his ears and caused his eyes to twitch.

"... Come again?" Leonel asked.

"Off you go. Don't think of returning until you've done your task properly."

Leonel was shooed away and Aina was actually forced to stay back. Leonel asked why, but he immediately regretted doing so.

"You two little cubs want to baby-make before me? Absolutely not."

Leonel could only cough while Aina glared at him through her blush. Clearly, she was blaming him for this. They both had methods of communicating in secret, but he had insisted on whispering into her ear for added effect. With

the hearing of a Seventh Dimensional existence, what good was whispering? They had been completely exposed.

Leonel turned and vanished with a strong step. It was best he get out of here as fast as possible so he wouldn't have to find out whether Aina's glare or his embarrassment would kill him first.

As he moved through the Void Palace, he thought about what his aunt wanted him to do and shook his head. He really was a good person, not causing trouble and keeping his head down, but circumstances kept forcing his hand. This time, it truly wasn't his fault.

Well, this could be considered to be their fault as well. After all, if they hadn't antagonized the Spear Faction so much of these last few years and caused his aunt to be so unhappy, this wouldn't be happening either. So now, Leonel just had to uphold justice. There wasn't anything else for him to do.

Leonel sighed and shook his head. He really was a good guy, truly.

To most people Leonel passed by he was nothing more than a blur, his speed reaching a level impossible to track for many Sixth Dimensional students, especially not those that could only be considered to be Galaxy Rank. Maybe only Sector Ranked disciples could hope to stand a chance.

With another tap, Leonel appeared atop a large pillar, his actions immediately causing an uproar.

"Hey!"

"Get down from there! Who do you think you are!?"

Leonel sighed again. Welp, here we go.

Despite his expression, Leonel was giggling like a little girl in his heart. Sometimes, being a villain was fun. Why hadn't he tried this out before?

"Sword Faction trash!" Leonel's voice boomed, echoing again and again over the large mountains of the Void Palace. "I've come to challenge you all!"

