

Dimensional Descent

Dimensional Descent

Chapter 1701: Sure Fire

Motes of light quickly revolved around Leonel, their speed increasing with every passing instant. He seemed to have already lost himself in the movements, completely uncaring of the kind of stamina he was blowing through every moment.

There had probably been very few in the history of the Void Palace who had completely assimilated all of the knowledge that was here, and probably none who would do so in a mere two visits like Leonel, and the difficulty easily spoke to that.

However, even so, the experience was incredibly rewarding.

After Leonel had assimilated all of the Fourth Dimensional information in the Void Library, he had finally gone from an ignorant boy to someone who could be considered to have truly firmly stepped into the Dimensional Verse. Although there were still some simple matters that he didn't quite grasp, they were so insignificant that they didn't mean much on a large scale.

Now, however, Leonel was quickly not only becoming well informed, but he was even becoming more informed than most. It was like the difference between an individual finishing grade school and someone who had worked their way up to a doctorate, but the main distinction here was that rather than having this doctorate in just one field, Leonel was quickly gaining them in everything.

Studies and research papers on Spatial Force were just the tip of the iceberg. In fact, it could be said that they were among the rarest research conducted purely because of how rare Spatial Force was. There were more research papers on niche Elemental Forces than there was for Spatial Force on the whole.

When entire elemental chains were taken into consideration, the difference was even more jarring, but the findings were equally as fascinating although it was impossible that they would all be as useful as the Lotus research paper

Leonel had read before that allowed him to form his Lotus Domain. However, there were still quite a few that were interesting.

For example, when it came to Fire Force, there were quite a few papers on chain reactions and using them to make your Fire Force not only more powerful and sustained, but also more erratic and unpredictable.

There were numerous applications just for this one path of study, everything from long ranged attacks to sudden burst movements to even increasing the power of a strike in random intervals to catch an enemy off guard.

But that was just Fire Force and it was just a single potential path of growth.

On the other side, there was Water Force. One of its interesting paths was actually very much related to resonance and its usage.

There was a research paper that focused on using Water Force like a wine glass and any attack like a sound wave. Once this was achieved, you could either choose to continue to trap the attack, then truly go the full extent and allow your Water Force to "shatter", repelling the strength and even using it against an enemy.

The number of paths was too numerous to count, and the number of research papers was even greater.

It made a reality set in for Leonel. Weren't all these things just different forms of Force Manipulation? Then what was truly the difference here?

Was it that the people of the Zone started honing in on these matters much earlier? Was it that this path was simply incorrect? Or was it something that he was missing?

Leonel couldn't help but wonder about these things, comparing and contrasting the research papers here to what he had seen in the Zone. After doing this, it wasn't long before he came to a fundamental difference.

Although these research papers were great and could even increase the strength of a Force while it was in use, it was ultimately not fundamentally changing anything, the foundation of the Force was still the very same foundation.

If Leonel had to make a comparison, it was akin to a person who was weak of body being incredibly skilled in martial arts. Yet, they would be able to display great strength, but how much of it would be maximized if they were also malnourished or half dead?

However, Leonel still felt that this comparison wasn't quite perfect.

The people of the Zone didn't use all of these weird Force application methods. For example, that youth with a high spatial affinity Leonel had met before Thaela was completely caught off guard by the use of his lotus.

It felt like there were two completely different paths, one of which was clearly more powerful than the other, at least on the surface.

'Is it that it's more powerful? Or is that this method of Force Manipulation is still in its fledgling state. Just look at how many research papers there are here, and how many of them test the very same thing just in slightly different ways.

'The history of the Void Palace is about half a million years from my understanding, but just from a casual look through the Oliidark family's library I was able to see that the history of that Zone is easily a hundred times that, and that's just from the perspective of one of its weaker families, who knows how much those much stronger families and organizations can see back?

'If you look at things like this, the Human Domain just hasn't had enough time to truly flesh out this method of Force Manipulation. But...'

Leonel was a bit hesitant to just accept this with open arms, the reason was that it was too difficult to tell what the end of the road had for this path.

While it could potentially match the road the Zone had taken in the future, there was no guarantee.

However, on the other hand, it wasn't as though Leonel had a sure fire method waiting for him on the other side either. Even if he started down this more "vetted" path, there was nothing to assure him that he was even taking the right steps.

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Chapter 1702: Omann

Leonel didn't force himself to make a decision, still focused on assimilating more. However, part of his mind still wanted to feel like he was headed in the right direction, so he allotted some of his thoughts to organize this information slowly.

Ultimately, the main difference between the two paths was that one was focused on physical manifestations of change while the other was more focused on ethereal manifestations.

'Wait...'

Leonel had quite a real world example of this, did he not? His grandfather's step by step progression from calligraphy to painting, which category did it fall into? Was a physical? Or ethereal?

There was no fundamental change to the way Leonel utilized his Spear Force. It was fundamentally a change that occurred on the ethereal level, changing the Artistic Conception that breathed power into his spear.

That was that, case closed... Right?

But when looked at from a different angle, it was also a physical change. After all, Leonel was consciously manipulating his Spear Force with the use of his Dream Class technique to form a different demeanor by which he could project a powerful Artistic Conception.

Due to this, he had found it difficult even to properly use his Spear Domain Lineage Factor as it required a more ethereal comprehension. On its face, this was clearly a contradiction. But maybe that was because his way of framing it was wrong from the very beginning.

Although the manifestation was ethereal, didn't it have a physical presence? Weren't the changes that happened "ethereally" used to catalyze real world changes?

So no, the difference here couldn't possibly be a matter of physical and ethereal, it was deeper than that.

Leonel felt that he was on the cusp of understanding something, but it was too profound for him to quite grasp. Even as he tore through the research papers, he still couldn't quite find his answer. For the first time, he felt that his intelligence actually wasn't high enough and it was quite frustrating.

In truth, Leonel was being too hard on himself. Enlightenment wasn't meant to come in endless waves, and even when they did, there would be peaks and valleys. These were things meant to be researched over the course of a lifetime, not just grasped in a single day.

But Leonel just kept pushing.

He didn't want to understand it all at once, what he wanted was a spark, a single ignition that would light the small fire he would protect until it became a raging inferno. So, he turned to an ability he had relied on for years: his Dreamscape.

Leonel created his Dreamscape, ironically, within a library as well, although it was very different from this one. That library had been Camelot's library.

The purpose of the ability was to act as a sort of network of miniature brains in Leonel's mind. In everyday life, no matter what he came across, or how small the detail, he would subconsciously arrange it into one of his Dreamscapes by category.

By now, Leonel had millions of tiny Dreamscapes in his Dream World, each one with a different network of information and many of them with overlapping redundancies, but that was the point.

Oftentimes, brains got distracted, they forgot important details, or took into consideration useless details. Even for someone as smart as Leonel, he was fallible and could make mistakes. But that was where his Dreamscape came in.

Each one was like a uniquely designed software for a very specific task, and as such, whenever a link was made in one of them, a spark would light and Leonel would immediately be alerted.

This time, as he built a new Dreamscape, Leonel stripped down all the useless jargon and only built it up with what he needed the absolute most...

There were scenes of Thaela's Force Manipulation, of the cobra demon's, even of Mistress Oliidark's. On top of that, he added bits and pieces of the most interesting research papers he had read, some of which he planned to incorporate himself and others of which he only wanted to use for reference as he felt he had better ideas on how to apply them elsewhere.

The hours passed and Leonel's speed of assimilating his network only seemed to increase.

What he didn't know was that after the first 24 hours passed, there was a sudden change.

Outside of the Void Library there was an inconspicuous board that was easy to miss, it too was filed with names. However, this board was easily ignored because there were hardly ever changes to it, nor was there any movement.

This board was a leaderboard, but it was maybe the most unique leaderboard of Void Tower because no one quite understood what it was for. All anyone knew was that there was a name match with a number. The higher the number, the higher the name.

First Place – Cynthia Omann – 83.29

This first place name had remained undisturbed for decades. In fact, this individual was no longer even a Domain Ranked disciple of the Void Palace. No, instead, they were the members of the only other family that could hope to stand against the Morales and the Suiard family without the backing of an alliance.

However... despite this being so, this family was still the head of maybe the strongest alliance there was in the Human Domain.

The Omann family. Or, as most would recognize them as...

The Head of the Force Crafting Guild Alliance.

As for the number 83.29, it wasn't a normal number at all. Rather, it was actually a percentage. As for what it represented, it was the percentage of the Void Library integrated into her network...

Of course, this Cynthia Omann had another famous title, and that was as the woman who should have been the wife to Velasco Morales, or as many called her...

The Scorned Queen Beauty.

There were just 100 names on this unchangeable list, but at that moment, there was a change at the 100th spot.

Hundredth Place – Leonel Morales – 21.38

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Chapter 1703: 100%

The sudden change to the list, despite the fact it was rarely paid attention on the whole, was enough for all of the Domain Ranked disciples to look at once. In that instant, the Void Library went from a quiet ambience to suddenly being forced to withstand a rushing wind.

Their gazes sharpened, focusing on the name. When they saw the name Morales, their brows couldn't help but shoot up.

There were four other Morales family members on the list, but this wasn't too surprising. The Morales family was the only Crafting power capable of competing against the Force Crafting Guild in terms of quality of materials output, although they had no way of keeping up with quantity.

With the design of the Void Library, those with greater mental properties would perform better. As such, it wasn't too surprising that the Morales family would have such a showing.

However, what shocked them was that they didn't recognize this Leonel Morales' name.

If the disciples below were detached from Leonel's legend, at least in the beginning, then the Domain Ranked disciples were even more so. They were disconnected from the world and only really paid attention to their improvement.

If there was anyone or any group that they did know about, it was most definitely the Seventh Dimensional individuals of the Void Palace as they were the only ones with a chance to one day become Domain Ranked disciples.

But what was shocking was that they didn't know this young man, so logically this could only mean that...

Leonel wasn't in the Seventh Dimension.

Such a realization made their hearts skip a beat. This had to be a rare genius, but to think that this would actually happen twice. That was because right now the second ranked individual on the list was another great anomaly

Second Place – Yuri Brazinger – 81.87

Not only were the two top places women, but both happened to be two women who hated Leonel's guts. The first wasn't his fault as that could only be blamed on his father's crimes. But as the saying went... Like father, like son.

Leonel had crimes of his own, crimes that Yuri was very much aware of.

When Yuri appeared on the scene to enter the Void Library, it was said that she managed to reach such a level of completion after just a single visit. But after this first visit, she turned around and left, never to return again.

Others might be unaware of why this was, but the Domain Ranked disciples weren't so ignorant.

It was said that this Yuri wasn't human, as such it was tacitly agreed that she wouldn't assimilate the knowledge of the Void Library fully and it had just been a simple exercise on her part.

As for what the details of this were, it was completely unknown. But what was clear was that there was actually a second individual who would cause the list to change in such a short period of time. Was it that youth who had just come up before? But that was impossible, he was just in Tier 1, was such a thing even possible?

Wait, how long had even passed since then? Even if he was a hundred times more powerful, had enough time passed?

As they were lost in thought, the numbers by Leonel's name only continued to shoot upward. While it was only a hundredth of a percent every few seconds to minutes, a slow speed for practically anything else, for the Void Library he might as well have been moving at light speed.

The Domain Ranked disciples watched in a stunned silence as Leonel crossed the 22% mark and increased toward 23% and surpassed 24%.

It took hours just to complete this, and yet the gazes of the Domain Ranked disciples never moved away as though they would never tire of watching this.

The concept of time, or more accurately, how experts experienced time once they reached a certain stage was astronomically different from others. During their practice, they gained patience that most couldn't fathom. To them, this was nothing. Even if it took days, they would be willing and able... And that it did.

Their hearts shuddered with every step forward Leonel took. At some point, they began to look between the doors of the Void Library back to the leaderboard, seemingly waiting for Leonel to finally come stumbling out. Even for them, it took a great deal of effort just to last a few hours, so why did this Sixth Dimensional junior not seem to have such limitations?

From a Hundredth Place to Ninetieth. From Ninetieth to Eightieth. From Eightieth to Seventieth.

Every step forward was egregiously slow, but they were steady and unmoved by the monotony.

Within the Void Library, Leonel had no idea what was happening outside, but what he did know was that he was inching closer with every moment. As his horizons broadened, how he saw things also began to evolve.

However, there was a very important key missing here.

No matter how difficult it was to assimilate the information of the Void Library, when you were given practically infinite time like the Domain Ranked disciples, why was it that even the best had only reached 83%? Could it be that those that had reached 100% left the list? Or was there something else at play here?

Unfortunately, Leonel hadn't paid much attention to the leaderboard in the first place, or else he would have long since noticed Yuri's name. As such, he wasn't in a state of mind where he even cared about such things. He was entirely focused on reaching his goals.

So when he finally did it, surpassing first place and rocketing upward to completion, he didn't give it a second thought until, red-eyed, he stepped out of the Void Library to find several eyes locked onto him.

Leonel stood in silence, the fatigue making his brain foggy.

He looked around with a raised brow, but no one seemed to have an answer for him. It wasn't long, though, before he spotted the leaderboard and his brows raised.

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Chapter 1704: Familiar

Leonel exhaled a breath before stretching his neck.

Of course, he had no idea who Cynthia Omann was, but he most definitely recognized Yuri's name. It seemed that girl was doing just fine. That was good since Aina would be sad if she had died in the Zone.

Leonel wondered if Yuri was still here or if she had returned to Earth. Of course, he also had no idea that the Brazinger name also held much more weight now than it had before as well. If he had known, he would also know that returning probably wouldn't be very safe for Yuri.

Leonel yawned.

He had a bit of that good feeling of euphoria one had after a workout, but he also wanted to collapse into a heap after devouring a ton of food as well. It was about time he found Aina, whose cooking would be better to enjoy now than his girlfriend's?

Leonel stretched and took a step toward the stairs to return. He expected someone to stop him because that was just the kind of luck he had. But surprisingly, no one did. Everything felt quite eerily silent and no one said a word as Leonel vanished down the steps. That said... that didn't stop their brows from being touched with a hint of solemnity.

...

Leonel made it down to the bottom of the stairs quite quickly. His eyes were somewhat droopy and he yawned from time to time, but ultimately, his state was still far better now than it had been in the past where he could barely move.

A while later, he returned to the Spear Faction and nothing much seemed to have changed. He had half expected for a war to have broken out by now, but once again, his expectations were dashed. It was, once again, oddly peaceful.

Leonel was very used to this. In reality, it was just about an hour of peace but it felt off as though he didn't deserve this much.

He couldn't help but chuckle to himself. He really never got much time to rest. The last time he did was thanks to his mother twisting the rules of the Void Palace for his sake, but that almost resulted in a disaster because they were dumped right into the Selection right after.

Leonel sighed. Was his mother alright? He hoped so. He wondered if she knew that he was back or not.

He would have gone to see her, but he simply didn't know where to go and look for her. By now, she was probably also a Domain Ranked disciple, so it was even more difficult now than it had been in the past. Or, as the Princess of Earth, she had probably returned to help hold down the line.

Leonel wasn't too obsessed with seeing his mother. With his personality, so long as he knew his loved ones cared for him, that was enough, he didn't feel the need to see them all the time, nor did he need their constant affirmation. If he did, he would have hated his father's guts a long time ago, but instead, he was the man he respected most.

Leonel walked into the Spear Faction and spread out his Internal Sight in all directions. By this point, there were very few who could sense his Internal Sight if he didn't want them to, and if coyness was really what he wanted, he would just use a dialed down version of his Starry Spirit Domain.

With a smile, Leonel headed in a certain direction.

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On the roof of a certain building, Aina and Ness were both having tea. It seemed that by now, the two were quite chummy. Though, what machinations were hidden behind those smiles was hard to see through. On the surface, they were just two beauties chatting. But deep within, it was probably more accurate to call them a pair of demonesses.

When Leonel appeared, the idle chit chat and laughter vanished into the air and they looked toward him together, their eyes filled with a peculiar light that made him feel uneasy.

Aina had vanished for a few days and he still had no idea where she had gone. Now, though, she seemed almost too in sync with Ness as though the pair were two peas in a pod.

If he wasn't so scared, he might find it amusing. After all, Aina had gotten so close with her aunt-in-law before she did so with her mother-in-law.

Leonel cleared his throat to say something as the silence got heavier, but before he could, Ness spoke first.

"Did you do the task I told you to?"

Leonel blinked. "I did, I already attacked the Sword Faction."

Ness raised an eyebrow as though she didn't believe him.

"Are you lying to me?"

Leonel frowned. Why would he lie about something like that? But the fact Ness was asking seemed to imply something else.

"If you really attacked, then why are they so silent? Those arrogant swordsmen wouldn't take something like that lying down so easily."

BOOM!

As though Ness' words were some sort of jinx, the ground suddenly quaked, the building the stood upon swaying wildly from side to side.

Glass windows shattered into pieces that rained down like fine crystals like the earth cracked and splintered, spreading out in cobweb like patterns in every direction.

"Huh?" Leonel's head turned in a certain direction.

He had felt that Ness jinxed them for a moment, but that didn't feel like the something on the scale of what the Sword Faction could accomplish, at least not members of the Sword Faction that would be at the Sixth Dimension, but Seventh Dimensional individuals wouldn't interfere in matters like this.

Leonel's pupils constricted as he looked off into the distance, but when he saw what it was, his eyes couldn't help but widen.

As though they had just stepped out of some sort of warp drive, six planet-sized ships appeared around the Void Palace, each one with a design that was eerily familiar to Leonel. Soon after, an eerily familiar decree also fell.

"Under the Decree of Shield Cross Star, Leonidas Morales is to be classified as a Tier 2 Fugitive, found guilty for the crime of colluding with a Variant Invalid.

"The fugitive has two hours to hand himself in or his charges will be increased to Tier 1.

"The bounty is set to 10 000 kilograms of Seventh Dimensional Urbe."

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Chapter 1705: Madmen

The last time this happened, Leonel looked up into the skies with quite a helpless expression on his face. He had just battled the Puppet Master until he had not an ounce of strength left in his body, all to find out that friends he had made had lost their lives one after another in the face of Terrain's invasion.

He had been exhausted, both physical and mentally.

As a young man who had entered the Dimensional Verse at a mere 17 years of age, passing his 18th birthday in a Mayan Tomb of all things, he hadn't gotten a chance to breathe not a single time. It just felt relentless, as though the world itself wouldn't calm until it reaped his life away.

However, when he looked up into the skies this time, after his gaze settled and he understood what was happening, he actually chuckled. He found it all

to be amusing, as though they had all set the table for an excellent comedy show designed just for him.

He was no longer than 18 year old youth. His 24th birthday had passed not long ago and the strength he held in the palm of his hands was nothing like it had been in the past. He stood taller, his shoulders were broader, his stance more solid. He knew what he wanted in life and things that used to make him wince in pain and shiver in terror no longer even made him blink.

There was a point in his life where the greatest pain to him was simply opening up the first doors of his Metal Synergy Lineage Factor, but just a few weeks ago he had suffered a fate of being eaten alive and actually managed to maintain his sanity.

There was a point where he was ignorant of the ways of the Dimensional Verse, shocked and awed by the littlest of things, but now he held maybe more knowledge in his mind than even the Void Elders themselves.

There was a point in his life where Shield Cross Stars was able to brand him as though he were a slave or cattle for them to mark, a point in his life where he could do nothing but sit in silent frustration, unable to do a single thing in response. But now...

He laughed. He laughed so hard that tears almost fell from his eyes, so hard that stomach cramped and his face went red.

In a world that had fallen into silence after a booming command spread across the vastness of space, Leonel was seemingly the only one making any noise at all.

Ness shifted her gaze away from the six planetary warships and looked toward the laughing figure of Leonel. She was speechless for a moment before she shook her head.

"Madmen, the whole lot of them," she muttered.

At that moment, she seemed to forget that she too was a Morales. Not just one that had married into the family, but one who had been born a Morales and married a Morales.

But even so, it was a common sentiment among the women of the family, an innocent sort of hypocrisy and a casual forgetfulness that while the men of the

Morales family might all be mad, they also happened to be very obedient at home.

Leonel wiped his tears and turned a gaze toward Aina. "It seems that we have to leave a bit earlier than expected. The question is, do you want to do so quietly? Or wreak some havoc?"

A grin spread across Leonel's face.

The last time Shield Cross Stars had chased him down, he used a javelin to destroy their warships.

Of course, that was a mere branch of Shield Cross Stars as they had one in every galaxy across the Human Domain. Compared to that branch, the officers that had come this time were on a completely different level. If they weren't, how would they dare to come to the Void Palace with such a bold display? Surrounding Void Palace with warships? Were you trying to slap the faces of the protectors of mankind?

However, if there was any organization that could do so, it was Shield Cross Stars.

The Void Palace was the protectors of humanity against the other races.

Shield Cross Stars was the protector of humanity against themselves.

They were two sides of the same coin, connected in many ways, and disconnected in many more.

Becoming a Tier 3 Fugitive in the eyes of Shield Cross Stars was enough to guarantee a life without peace. This level was a point where it ceased to be a matter of branches, and reached a level where the whole of Shield Cross Stars would be focused on your capture.

Yet, Leonel wasn't just Tier 3, he was actually classified as Tier 2 with a clear route to Tier 1. There was no doubting the seriousness of this matter.

Hearing Leonel's question, it was Aina's turn to be speechless. Wasn't leaving silently the obvious answer? This boyfriend of hers was getting more and more fond of causing trouble.

But she couldn't help but feel a hint of excitement seeing the look in her eyes, the result of contradictory feelings pulling her in separate directions.

On one hand, she wanted Leonel to be safe and stop taking risks. But on the other hand... She couldn't help but be supremely attracted to the Leonel she was seeing now.

At that moment, before Aina could answer, a familiar figure appeared in the skies, a deep frown on his face. This man was none other than Cornelius who had been assigned to follow and monitor Leonel. Right now, his usually helpless expression was taken over by a hardly concealed fury.

"Shield Cross Stars, what is the meaning of this? What do you mean by surrounding my Void Palace? Have you forgotten all sense of propriety? Don't overstep your bounds!"

Cornelius didn't seem to be trying to speak very loudly, but his volume was no less oppressive and mighty than the voice of Shield Cross Stars who had spoken previously.

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Chapter 1706: Mistaken

Cornelius' words echoed with a boom, stifling the echo of the previous man who had spoken. The fury in his tone was subtle, but still clear, the rumbling of his voice causing the six warships to quake.

In response, the warship facing Cornelius had some movement and a figure slowly made their way out. He wore the iconic uniform of Shield Cross Stars, split robes and metallic leg sleeves. It made him look like an off duty knight of the templar, the metal shimmering with a resplendent glow that seemed to warp the air with its heft.

Cornelius' eyes narrowed when he saw this individual. He had already expected that whoever Shield Cross Stars would send for such a mission would not be normal, but seeing it for himself helped it truly sink in.

Much like their Fugitive Tiers, Shield Cross Stars also had Officer Tiers. Anyone above Tier 4 was already in the Seventh Dimension, but this individual was already in Tier 2.

Of course, on the surface and without further investigation, it made sense that anyone that came after a Tier 2 Fugitive would likewise be a Tier 2 Officer. But when it was considered that Leonel was a junior who had only just stepped into Sixth Dimension, this was absolutely ridiculous, especially since this was no normal Tier 2 Officer.

Within Tiers of Officer, there were what Shield Cross Stars upper management called "Promotion Paths". These Promotion Paths were further divided into Shield Ranks and Star Ranks, which were then even further divided into three levels each.

Essentially, Shield Ranks were the foot soldiers, they were the bulk of the force and they were the units that did everything from manning the ships to doing maintenance on them.

Star Ranks were the commanding officers. These were individuals who gave and related orders, as well as those who had the strongest combat prowess of the organization.

The so-called Promotion Path was decided by one's potential and talent. There were vast differences between those of the same Dimension and even of the same Tier, as such every member of Shield Cross Stars was evaluated strictly and then slotted into their appropriate roles.

The Tier 2 Shield Rank Officers tended to be individuals of the very pinnacle of the Sixth Dimension. The Tier 2 Star Rank Officers, however, were all in the Seventh Dimension without the slightest doubt. In fact, so were Tier 3 Star Rank Officers! Only Tier 1 Shield Rank Officers could finally be of the Seventh Dimension, so one could imagine the kind of monsters made up Tier 1 Star Rank Officers.

Knowing this, the fact a Tier 2 Star Rank Officer had appeared here for the sake of capturing and bringing Leonel to justice... Well to say it was overkill was an understatement. In fact, it smelt of bullshit.

"Level 3 Tier 2 Star Rank Officer DiVincenzo," he stated his name and rank immediately. "I've come for the fugitive, I hope that you will not make things difficult for me."

Cornelius' expression darkened. "I've asked once and I will ask once more. Do not make me repeat myself for a third time. What. Is. The. Meaning. Of. This."

It almost felt that Shield Cross Stars was using this as an opportunity to knock the Void Palace down a peg and Leonel was just a convenient excuse. But it was clear that there was something deeper than this.

If Leonel was truly some sort of fugitive, there were a million other ways to deal with this situation. Announcing it to the world and coming forward so boldly was among the very stupidest. No, it might be the stupidest.

Doing things like this ensured that there would be witnesses, and with witnesses, that man would catch wind of this. Cornelius understood Velasco well. If Leonel died in the hands of another Sixth Dimensional existence, or, for example, died in a trial that many of his other cohorts had survived like the Rapax Nest, he wouldn't care.

However, if he died in the hands of some old monster, or in the midst of a power struggle designed purely to spit in the face of Velasco's legend, then there would be hell to pay.

The Void Palace was still reeling from the last time Velasco attacked them in a fury. Compared to the Void Palace, Shield Cross Stars was even more vulnerable because their power was separated across so many locations and branches.

Did they have a death wish?

None of this even considered the stance of the Morales family as a whole on the topic!

"As I've said, we have only come for the fugitive, there is no other meaning."

"You've come for a Tier 1 Sixth Dimensional junior with six Tier 2 Officer fleets?" Cornelius sneered. "Do you take me for a child?"

"It is inadvisable to underestimate youth. We have intelligence that he could be a danger to his surroundings. With the future of the Human Domain being held here, taking risks would be unacceptable so we came out with the full measure of strength possible to be allocated to a Tier 2 Fugitive.

"Please understand. It should be known that the background of this youth is quite impressive and he has quite a number of treasures on him. We cannot take the chance of allowing him to escape and wreak more havoc in the future."

DiVincenzo waved a hand and a rippled spread across the six warships.

BOOM!

Violent beams of lights connected the warships one after another, and under the astonished gazes of the spectators, the entire Void Palace was suddenly locked down in space, disallowing any covert methods of escape.

Cornelius was very close to losing control of his temper entirely.

"Do you think that you can just take a disciple of the Void Palace because you say so? Where is your proof? Where is your evidence? Is this how Shield Cross Stars works?"

DiVincenzo shook his head.

"I'm afraid you are mistaken, esteemed sir. Leonel Morales is no longer a member of Void Palace. He did not use the God Path to enter the Sixth Dimension."

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Chapter 1707: Did I Do Good?

Cornelius froze. His head almost subtly turned in one direction, but he caught himself before he did so. He knew exactly where Leonel was because he had been following him, but that didn't mean that Shield Cross Stars did. As shocking as their strength was, no one beneath the Eighth Dimension could just casually cover several planetary widths of space to find a single person. If they could, they wouldn't have to lock down the space.

He wanted to refute what DiVincenzo said, but the latter seemed so certain and he had no idea.

When Leonel fought, whether it was against Conon or the Sword Faction, he hadn't released his God Runes even once. Unless Cornelius personally scanned Leonel with his Internal Sight, something he wouldn't do for the latter's privacy, it was impossible to tell. Plus, what he didn't know was that even if he was willing to do such a thing, whether or not he could actually get past Leonel's mental defenses was a different matter entirely.

He had originally thought that Leonel was just so powerful that he didn't need to use his God Runes, but then he suddenly remembered that in his battle up the Void Tower, Leonel hadn't used his God Runes either, even up until the point of his death.

A part of Cornelius wanted to believe that this was because Leonel expected something like this to happen, and as such, held back a good portion of his strength. But was that possible? Even though he was completely caught off guard by all of this, was Leonel's foresight really so much better than his own?

According to the rules of the Void Palace, anyone who failed to enter the Sixth Dimension with the God Path would be expelled, effective immediately. If what this Tier 2 Officer was saying was true, then Leonel truly didn't have the protective badge of the Void Palace any longer.

"There's no need to doubt this matter, esteemed sir. The timeline is clear for you to check yourself. According to our information, Leonel Morales suffered the descent of the Cataclysm at Tier 9 of the Fifth Dimension. When he returned, he was in Tier 1, but he had never checked the technique stores of the Void Palace, so it's clear he took the easiest method."

"That proves nothing, you know his background as well as I do—."

"True enough, he could have gained a method from the Morales family. Unfortunately, this isn't the case. The Void Tower formed a perfect replica of him when he entered and it didn't sense the aura of the God Path. Shield Cross Stars wouldn't act without proper assurances."

Cornelius stopped talking, his expression turning placid. It was clear and obvious what this person was doing. He could have stated this as his first reason and left the matter at that, but he didn't, instead allowing Cornelius to speak more before shutting him down.

Not only was this a humiliation, but it seemed to speak on the incompetence of the Void Palace. Leonel had entered the Void Tower days ago, and yet they were still unaware until now.

Regardless, hopefully by now Leonel had used this opportunity to make some headway in running. This matter was still fishy to him and he simply didn't believe that that man's son would do such a thing. Before that happened, Velasco himself would probably kill Leonel first.

However, what happened next left Cornelius not knowing how to react at all.

"Hello, I'm the fugitive you're looking for."

Leonel's voice didn't seem to have much effort behind it either, and yet, his projection didn't lose out to the two Seventh Dimensional monsters in the skies at all. And how could it? With his current comprehension of resonance, this was all too easy for him.

He sat on a building's roof, his feet dangling a smile hanging from his lips.

DiVincenzo's gaze sharpened as he looked toward Leonel, but despite the gaze of a Seventh Dimensional expert being capable of shooting across such a large distance, Leonel didn't feel much pressure at all. This Tier 2 Officer would have to be hundreds of times closer before Leonel would feel anything. In fact, considering how far apart they were, unless this person had the Bow Domain Lineage Factor, in his eyes, Leonel was probably as small as a speck of dust right now if he could see Leonel clearly at all.

That said, Leonel could see his face almost too clearly, and it was likely that DiVincenzo was well aware of this feeling, or else his face wouldn't have been so stiff for a moment.

"Since you are willing to hand yourself in, then this matter will be easily resolved."

"Hand myself in? Why would I do something like that?" Leonel chuckled.

DiVincenzo's gaze narrowed. For some reason, he felt more pressure talking to this boy than he did Cornelius, but this wasn't because their strengths were equal, far from it. It was because of something more ethereal...

Potential.

"This isn't a matter you can decide," Cornelius replied calmly.

"Oh? Is that so?"

Leonel blinked innocently.

With a flip of his palm a familiar silver disk dictionary appeared.

"Old man, your son's being bullied, don't you think that you should do something about this?"

DiVincenzo suddenly froze, his body subconsciously trembling as he moved, prepared to retreat.

Leonel, who had on a very wronged expression just a moment ago, suddenly burst into a fit of laughter. Seeing DiVincenzo react as though he had just eaten a pile of shit had him rolling.

"Sorry, sorry. I'm just messing around, my old man has better things to do than be here. But it's funny, you're so scared yet you still dare to do this."

DiVincenzo's expression darkened for the first time, the hints of red being overwhelmed by a malevolent blackness.

"Who?"

Just when DiVincenzo was about to attack in a state of half fury, he froze again.

This time, it was Leonel's turn to be stunned.

At that moment, a hologram of his father appeared. Clearly, he hadn't expected this to actually happen.

"Ah, you actually remembered I exist?" Leonel asked speechlessly.

Velasco cleaned out his ear with a pinky.

"Be more respectful, brat. Your mom is on my ass. If not for this, do you think I'd bother with yo—?"

"Excuse me? Do I have to tell you how to take care of your own son?"

At that moment, a familiar voice called out from a seemingly nearby distance, at least relative to wherever his father was.

Leonel smiled beside himself, but then he froze.

"Wait, so this thing really can connect a call. Those weren't prank voicemails at all, were they?!"

Velasco, who had just been caught, had nowhere to vent his hatred but toward an easy target.

"All those above the Sixth Dimension, scram. If you can still take the losses of losing at the hands of my seed, then you can continue to attack once that's fulfilled."

After saying these words, Velasco seemed to ignore everything else as his hologram turned toward a certain direction.

"Wife, I did good right—?"

His voice cut out before the rest was said, which was probably good for the sake of Leonel's mental health.

In the skies, though, the calm DiVincenzo seemed to have crimson serpents crawling beneath the skin of his forehead.

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Chapter 1708: Boulder

Leonel chuckled, but just when he was about to put the dictionary array, it flashed again and a familiar woman appeared. She had a warm smile on her face and her eyes lit up as though Leonel was her whole world.

Velasco might shrug it off, but she had been worried about Leonel's life and death for over a decade already. It was only now that she knew that he was safe and sound that she could finally exhale a breath.

She reached out a hand but could only sigh when she remembered that the face before her was just a projection. Life was truly unfair, she never got the chance to watch her son grow. Although not a day passed where she didn't check in on him, doing so from so many galaxies away was simply not the same.

"Mom will come see you when she gets a chance, okay, Little Lion?"

Leonel smiled lightly and nodded.

Alienor wiped away tears that threatened to form and nodded herself. Then, she looked toward the battleships in the distance, her beautiful gaze flickering with fury.

"From now on, Shield Cross Stars will not be allowed to step a single foot into Earth's territory. You have one day to scram. If I see even a single branch remaining, I will kill without mercy!"

The words were like a boulder falling into a calm lake. The fury behind them was one thing, but the implications behind the words themselves were completely different.

DiVincenzo's expression couldn't help but change wildly for the second time that day. He was truly speechless, not knowing what to say. By the time he gathered himself, his expression could only be described as ugly. He had already known that this mission would be difficult which was why he was so forceful to begin with. He had no choice but to use such a stance hoping to force what was brittle to break. But he hadn't expected things to turn out this way.

"What right do you have to say such a thing?! Is the Morales family truly trying to monopolize Earth?!"

This was the only thing that DiVincenzo could say and the only rebuttal he had, but what he heard next left him truly without words.

"What right?" Alienor sneered. "There's no one in existence with more rights than I have, and if there was, it would only be because I handed the decision down to my Little Lion. I am Alienor Morales and the World Spirit of Earth has chosen me.

"I won't repeat myself again, the time is already ticking. You have 23 hours and 58 minutes left."

DiVincenzo froze. Let alone him, several others did as well. Very simply put, this was not widely known information. In fact, let alone not widely known, even those who should have been in the know were completely ignorant of the fact.

To the people of the Void Palace and even the Void Elders, Alienor was the offspring of the Luxnix family. But this made sense, how could anyone expect for Earth to have already produced a Seventh Dimensional expert?!

According to the time, Earth had undergone its Metamorphosis just barely 30 or so years ago, but Alienor had been in the Dimensional Verse for far longer than that, and for her to be so, that meant that her father or her mother, one of which was definitely from Earth, had to have entered the Dimensional Verse long before even that.

But how was that possible? How could a Third Dimensional world possibly enter the Dimensional Verse under their own prowess? No, worse yet, how could they do so under the constant monitoring of the powers of the Human Domain?!

Alienor turned away from the fleet and smiled toward Leonel again. In an instant, she had gone from an enraged lioness to a doting mother.

"Mother will see you soon, be safe!"

Alienor waved maybe a bit too hard before the image flickered and vanished, leaving the disk resting in silence on Leonel's palm.

Leonel remained silent for a moment before shaking his head. This matter seemed to be becoming more and more complicated.

He didn't know that this was a secret, honestly. He had always acted under the assumption that it wasn't. But the implication that it was a secret was quite heavy and this felt like a gloves off sort of moment that he happened to be in the center of.

The silence of the atmosphere seemed to realize this as well, and clearly even Shield Cross Stars, with their wealth of information networks, was completely ignorant to this matter until Alienor laid it all out on the table so clearly.

Leonel stood up, stretching his back out and yawning.

He looked to his side, finding that Aina was still there, but he wasn't very surprised by this. Of course she was. If he tried to send her away, she might send him away with a kick first.

Craning his neck a bit, he saw his aunt. She seemed to want to fight too, but he shook his head. If she fought, wouldn't those Seventh Dimensional existences have an excuse to attack. Well, it wasn't that Leonel trusted them not to attack anyway, his old man was way too casual about all of this. But if they did, he would probably just have to find a method of dealing with it.

Right then, an inconspicuous member of the crowd caught Leonel's. He could be described as the stereotypical tall, dark and handsome archetype that females swooned for. He had high cheekbones, a chiseled jaw, and eyes and hair as black as night.

Leonel had never personally seen this man before, but he could recognize the emblem on the latter's chest. That was the same emblem of the Winding Shadow Legacy Faction, run by none other than Ronan Sith and the very same Faction that Leonel had gotten information about Treanna from.

Meeting this man's gaze, Leonel's own narrowed. Everyone else just seemed here ready to spectate, but why did it seem like this young man in particular came ready for battle?

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Chapter 1709: Alright

"Oh?"

Leonel's expression went from serious to a light smile.

Not only was this Ronan character prepared, he was also very close to Leonel's real location. He was barely half a kilometer away. At that distance, even if he didn't have the Bow Domain Lineage Factor, it would have been too easy to spot him.

Even if he was beaten to death Leonel wouldn't believe that this was a coincidence. There were only two possibilities and only one of them truly made sense considering this man's last name was Sith. The current Leonel was well aware that the Sith represented the assassination units of Shield Cross Stars.

This was no coincidence. Even if Leonel hadn't exposed his location, it was likely that Ronan had been monitoring him all the while. The moment he tried to hide, the latter would have taken action.

Ronan was already in the Seventh Dimension, a worthy power level for a man who ruled over one of the most important Factions of the Void Palace. However, Leonel still looked at him as though he was staring at prey.

In the skies above, DiVincenzo slowly regained his composure. Although things had already gotten out of hand, there was already no turning back. They had come here with the intent to sacrifice for the sake of maintaining order. Shield Cross Stars wouldn't bow in the face of power and prestige, or else how would they continue to be the protectors of the Human Domain?

"I will give you one more chance to hand yourself in. If you do not comply, not only will you become a Tier 1 Fugitive, but your sentencing will be far harsher."

Leonel suddenly yawned beside himself, he was truly a bit tired. It took quite a lot out of him to fully assimilate the Void Tower and he hadn't had time to rest then. However, it could be said that his timing was quite horrible. He was maybe one of the only few men in existence who still had time to be tired in the face of such a fleet of planetary warships.

After a moment, Leonel looked away from Ronan and his gaze pierced the veil and landed on Cornelius.

"Hey old man, there's still a chance here. If the Void Palace does what it's supposed to do and protects its disciples from nonsense, I won't mind being a bit more obedient. But if you don't, well... Beneath the Seventh Dimension, I doubt there's anyone here who can survive my blade, and I most certainly won't be showing any mercy.

"So what will it be?"

Cornelius' expression twitched. This brat, couldn't he lay down his pride for a second and say it nicely? Does he know that these old fogies care about their faces the most?

Almost as soon as he finished this thought, Cornelius felt three auras appear in the skies. Had Leonel been there when Rosen reported his matters to the Void Elders, he would have recognized them as Void Elder Wimarc, Void Elder Galienne and Void Elder Lizbeth.

Gallienne, the female drill sergeant lookalike among them peered down from the skies with hints of fury in her gaze. However, when Leonel's eyes panned over, he didn't seem to notice her anger at all as though he was still waiting for an answer and expected it out of one of these three since Cornelius couldn't speak.

This was truly the last chance that Leonel was giving.

No matter how powerful Shield Cross Stars was, could they compare to the geniuses of the Void Palace? Only their Star Rank Path officers would, but even if there were others in hiding while only DiVincenzo stepped out, they would be in the Sixth Dimension and only equivalent to Void Palace geniuses.

If that was the case, what did Leonel have to fear from them, exactly? They'd have to bring out the heavy machinery to deal with them, but by that point, they would also risk killing the disciple of the Void Palace.

This was all to say that if there was anyone with a chance of threatening him, it would come from the disciples of the Void Palace themselves, and if they came for him in an attempt to help Shield Cross Stars bring him in, well...

Like he had said, his blade wouldn't show mercy. This could be considered the only chance at mercy he would give.

Void Elder Lizbeth wanted to speak, but before she could, she could only smile bitterly as Galienne finally snapped. The latter had been waiting for Leonel to speak first, but who would have thought that Leonel wouldn't be in a hurry at all?

"You are just like your father. Unruly, completely ignorant of propriety and the greater good. Why should the Void Palace protect a disciple like you, one that is so selfish and conceited. I do not know whether Shield Cross Stars speaks the truth or not, but what I do know is that an organization that has given their all to protecting the peace of the Human Domain would not speak without reason, and I have also seen your character first hand.

"What about you deserves the benefit of my doubt?"

Leonel suddenly yawned again, this one lasting so long that his eyes watered.

Reaching a hand upward, he wiped his eyes and blinked, trying to stave off his fatigue.

As real and unabashed as his actions were, they only made Galienne more infuriated. Each maybe of this family was worse than the last. The father had been unruly and even attacked and killed. The uncle entered and exited as he pleased although he had long since been expelled and banished. And now the son and nephew was doing as he pleased as well.

But the difference between them was that the father and uncle had the capital to be so arrogant. What did this pup have, exactly?!

"Alright," Leonel said, lightly stretching.

At that moment, his body began to slowly emit a white-gold light that only became more blinding with every passing second.

"I hope you don't regret it."

[Instant Recovery].

[Dimensional Descent](#)

Chapter 1710: No Explanation

Galienne was so infuriated by Leonel's words that she laughed.

To everyone else, the Void Elders were a mighty and worshipped existence. They had never seen one disrespected, or seen anyone dare to disrespect them. It left them in a silence.

But even as Galienne's laughter echoed, Leonel and Aina suddenly moved at once, crossing a 500 meter distance in just a few breaths and appearing before the Winding Shadow Legacy Faction.

Ronan's gaze flickered, clearly not having expected this. It wasn't like Leonel and Aina were moving faster than he could react to, after all, he was in the Seventh Dimension. He felt like it would only take the matter of a wave of the hand to deal with this, but just when he wanted to, he hesitated.

The legend of Velasco was deeply ingrained and he knew if that man was truly infuriated, his Sith family wouldn't be able to protect him at all. But what was this Leonel doing coming toward him like this?

Suddenly, both Leonel and Aina gripped at the air, manifesting their weapons from their own respective spatial devices. In that instant, a blood thirsty aura descended from the skies, murderous intentions lighting their eyes.

"You..."

Ronan froze. He was, indeed, the reason much of this had happened. He had been paying keen attention to Leonel for a long time, ever since he had come to his Faction. In doing so, he found out that Leonel actually had a charge that had never been followed through on.

The details of that case were vague and odd, nothing about it seemed to add up. It only said that Leonel was in cahoots with a Variant Invalid who had set its roots on a weak Fourth Dimensional world called Terrain.

There wasn't much information about this, but what was interesting was that it was said that this so-called Puppet Master had led an attack on Earth more than 25 years ago.

This was especially interesting to Shield Cross Stars because they had a vested interest in keeping Earth safe and free of outside influences for as long as possible. So, the idea that Leonel was connected to a Variant Invalid who seemed to have tried to carve out a piece of Earth was especially important, it was enough to feel like a smoking gun.

Shield Cross Stars had been very strict with protecting the rise of Earth because of its importance to the Human Domain. Since the Void Palace's blades were pointed outward and their shields pointed inward, it was their duty.

So when evidence that an Heir of the Morales family had potentially tried to step over this taboo, it was a huge deal and Ronan immediately brought this matter to his Sith family which then pushed it on upward to the wider big brass of Shield Cross Stars.

This was all to say that from the perspective of Shield Cross Stars, this wasn't just about Leonel, it was also about the Morales stepping over a line that they shouldn't have.

As such, just to ensure that they had jurisdiction to act, they raised his Fugitive Tier to 2.

But now that it was exposed that Leonel's mother was actually the World Spirit holder of Earth, this conspiracy seemed to have gained several layers. Although this put into question Leonel's guilt, what it essentially confirmed was that the Morales really had ignored this taboo and done as they pleased.

It could be said from a certain perspective that under everyone's noses... Earth had become the territory of the Morales.

And this was a huge deal. Enormous. It essentially spit in the face of Shield Cross Stars and then grinded it in with the sole of a shoe.

Now, even though Leonel was likely to be innocent and there was a deeper matter to this story, they still had to capture him for the sake of demanding an answer from the Morales.

While there were other Morales members here, Shield Cross Stars was weighed down by bureaucracy. Since they only had a case against Leonel, only he could be used. As such, they were riding a tiger they simply couldn't step down from.

Ronan's body shuddered. He realized that Leonel and Aina's targets wasn't even himself, but rather his fellow Sith family members behind him.

"Stop!"

Just as Ronan was about to act, a suffocating aura descended upon him. In the distance, a beauty who looked as though her body was covered from head to toe in oil stood on a building. But just her gaze alone was enough to make Ronan feel as though his body had been plunged into a vat of ice.

Ronan's eyes turned red, but he couldn't do anything.

That moment seemed to slow toward infinity. Leonel met his gaze, the cold indifference within them causing Ronan to shudder for a completely different reason. For a second he truly regretted making an enemy out of this boy.

Leonel didn't call him out, he didn't speak words of rage or demand an explanation. The moment he deduced the impetus of everything happening here, he attacked without mercy.

He was the same caliber of madman as his father.

He didn't care to explain himself. He didn't care to listen to an explanation. He had been crossed and that was all he needed to know.

Leonel's spear and Aina's ax swung out together, the momentum of their strikes causing the eyes of the Winding Shadow Faction members to widen.

They hurried to defend themselves, but many were caught off guard, believing that their leader would have easily been able to stop these two. By the time they realized something was wrong, it was already too late.

Blood sprayed beneath the shocked gaze of the spectators.

It had only been two seconds since Leonel told the Void Elder that he hoped she didn't regret it. To many in the distance, his words hadn't even fully sunk in yet but blood had already been shed.

Galienne's eyes widened. "BOY!"

The fury behind her booming voice caused the Void Palace to quake.