

Dimensional Descent

- Chapter 2097: I Was Wondering... |

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Chapter 2097: I Was Wondering...

The arrow streaked across the skies as though it could split reality in two. Despite the fact an attack, devastating in its own right, was coming from Leonel's spear didn't seem to change anything at all... because all one could seem to focus on was that spiraling arrow.

The world was divided into four, the split prongs of the arrow rotating and leaving complete wave-like patterns across the ground and within the clouds above.

Everything in its path was shredded apart, and when it had only made it halfway to its destination, Leonel's spear suddenly met Amery's swords.

That pair of Life Grade swords shuddered, their bodies losing a great amount of shine as their owner was sent flying backward, digging a deep trench into the ground that embedded him like an etching upon a stone wall.

Amery couldn't move. His body was shaking involuntarily, his hands barely strong enough to hold onto his swords.

He looked up into the skies, only having time to complete that action alone before Leonel's arrow appeared before him, shooting through his chest and releasing an explosion that echoed throughout the land.

The sound was so loud that nothing else could be heard. It was difficult to tell even when it had stopped, the sharp whistling sound of deafness and damaged hearing being all that most could listen to. Even when they covered their ears, trying to escape from the destruction, it followed them, filling their minds with sensory information they would never be able to forget.

Leonel breathed out, his chest heaving. He looked into the skies, his eyes closing. Despite his injuries, he stood tall. The loud noises didn't seem to

bother him in the slightest, and the rumbling ground beneath his feet couldn't stop him from standing tall and unbothered.

As the sounds died down, a smile curled his lips. Nothing could seem to bother him at the moment.

He was truly a man who held grudges. He had already defeated Amery once before, but he was still irritated by that matter in the Dimensional Cleanse Zone.

After a moment, he wondered. If he claimed Amery's soul now, would he be able to use the latter to comprehend the later stages of [Dimensional Cleanse] and finally break into the Seventh Dimension?

It was hard to tell. That was because [Dimensional Cleanse] had an odd sort of protection over it. Even those that had learned the parts beyond the Third Dimension couldn't share it with others. Only Leonel could because he had fully comprehended and reverse engineered the method. He had succeeded in doing so for the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Dimensional layers, but he had yet to even lay eyes on the Seventh Dimensional method, so it was hard to tell where to go from here.

Theoretically, he could deduce that on his own since he had the foundation, but without personal experience of what it was like to be in the Seventh Dimension, or deep understanding of where he would need to proceed to enter the Eighth and Ninth Dimension beyond, such a deduction would be nigh impossible.

More accurately, he could do it, but what he deduced wouldn't necessarily be the correct next step. It could still deviate in all sorts of ways and it would be too hard to tell if he was correct or not. His father might be able to give him some clues, but Leonel would rather roll over dead than ask that old man questions face to face, he could imagine the scorn already.

'Forget it, it's easier to just find another token to enter the Dimensional Cleanse Trial Zone.'

If others could hear Leonel's thoughts, they would definitely roll their eyes. Were these a pair of father and son? Or mortal enemies? It was impossible to tell.

Leonel slowly opened his eyes and he looked down to see that Amery was still stuck, embedded into the side of a deep trench his own body had dug out. There was a small hole in his chest, barely two inches across, but that was what made Leonel's attack so devastating.

It had caused such destruction in the real world, but at the point of contact, it was actually so perfectly controlled. It was hard to imagine that an existence of the Sixth Dimension could possibly display such might.

Amery might look like he had only suffered a "small" wound, but setting aside where the attack had landed, even if it had only hit his arm, the entirety of his inner organs were shredded to pieces. Whether it was heart, lungs, nervous system, everything.

Leonel's strike was so skillful that all of the residual energy that might have laid waste to the world around them had he allowed it to rampage was concentrated to the point that the one that had suffered the most was Amery himself.

It was a shocking endeavor, and yet, Amery actually still seemed to be alive.

Seeing this, Leonel chuckled, walking forward. This sort of vitality was something that he had only seen out of demons. Back when he fought the Cobra Demon, he had ripped a hole right through its torso and even caused a large amount of damage to its inner organs, and yet it had continued to battle him and even pushed him to the very edge.

Although Amery looked like a demon, it wasn't that simple to tie the two. Rather, Leonel instead believed that it was a combination of Amery's Gaia Force Innate Node and his separated soul that led to this matter.

But that left a question, if Amery's Ethereal Glabella wasn't in his head, and it wasn't in his chest, then where was it, exactly?

Leonel took a seat at the edge of the trench Amery's body had formed. At the moment, Amery's gaze was vacant, but his body was actually quickly recovering. His vitality was actually far stronger than even Leonel's own, but Leonel's smile didn't fade.

"I was wondering why it was that you all allowed me to attack him just like that, but it seemed that you were quite confident in his ability to survive, huh?"

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Chapter 2098: Interesting

Leonel didn't seem to be talking to anyone. Whether it was the other members of the Suiard family, their subordinate families, or even Leonel's own subordinates, they had all evacuated from the region long ago. The entire city that had once been here had been destroyed under the might of their battle, there truly didn't seem to be anyone to talk to.

To most of the Human Domain that were observing the situation, Amery was already dead. That vacant look in his eye, that sort of wound, there was simply no surviving it. Many couldn't help but think that maybe a few of Leonel's screws had been knocked loose during the battle.

But to the astonishment of those present, Leonel continued to speak despite not receiving an answer. "There really is no need to hide anymore. Look at how weak and vulnerable I am, aren't I on the chopping block for your viewing pleasure. Isn't it best if you took action right here and now, you can't want to lose this opportunity, no?" Leonel grinned.

His feet swung as though he was seated on a swing. He looked happy despite his injuries and he didn't seem to take his defeat of Amery with any hint of pride at all, almost as though it was only natural that this would happen.

But suddenly, his demeanor changed entirely as he looked toward a certain direction, his gaze as fiery as a blaze of light. His eyes seemed to emit a great amount of strength as a plume of fire descended upon a certain region.

These flames danced with hidden Great Runes, complex and ancient. They were entirely different than the flames Leonel had used on Amery, but it was hard to tell if it was because he had been holding back or if there was another reason.

In reality, Gaia Force was something Leonel felt had been an even greater antithesis to his Scarlet Star Force than even Void Star Force would have been in the hands of someone powerful.

In many works of fiction or amusing tales, Water Force would be the perfect counter to Fire Force, but the truth was that this was a matter of relativity. There were numerous types of Water Force that wouldn't even be able to

approach Leonel without being burnt to ash. What mattered wasn't the element, but also its quality and quantity.

Beyond that, Water Force wasn't the only thing good at suppressing Fire Force, because there was Earth Force as well. Earth Force was sturdy and great defensively, it was resistant against being destroyed and hard to light on fire.

Gaia Force carried both the sturdiness and resilience of Earth and also had the suppressive effects of powerful water on his Scarlet Star Force. Then, to top it all off, it had a strong Life Force associated with it, the strongest counter there was against the powers of Destruction and a Destruction Sovereign.

Against Amery, the improvements to his Scarlet Star Force couldn't be displayed properly, while it would have been foolish to use Void Star Force actively since whether it was Water or Dark Force, Amery was his superior.

Now that he wasn't facing Amery who countered him so perfectly, the strength of his Scarlet Star Force flourished in its truest light. However, before it could descend on its target location, a shadow shifted out of the way, quickly forming.

Very quickly a beautiful young lady took shape, but even then they were difficult to see properly. Their face was obscured and the only thing that could be vaguely understood was the fiery nature of her body, too fiery, even, for casual eyes to see.

Her figure could only be described as perfect. Although her skin was a little grey, something that could be seen even through the haze, it didn't make her look sickly at all, and instead showed a hint of a unique character to it.

Her hips were wide, rounding to form a pair of long, luscious legs. They made way for a butt so round and plump that it could be seen both from the sides of her waist and through the gap in her thighs.

Her chest carried just as much volume, threatening to burst against the pressure of its own skin as though even it couldn't accommodate it all.

And yet, despite the fiery nature of this woman's figure, she chose maybe the most dangerous kind of clothing to cover it with.

Her chest was bound by nothing more than a nipple pasties, a black, metallic, circular object that was connected to nothing other than her breasts. Although there were chains of black around her shoulders and collarbone, they seemed to be there for nothing more than decoration because they hardly covered anything, leaving very little to the imagination.

Her bottom half was hardly any better. The thong she wore was entirely strapless. The part of it that covered her front was shaped like a black metallic leaf, while the back of it was entirely swallowed by those two round cheeks.

This sort of clothing was definitely something that should appear in one's private bedroom and not out for so many to see, even if it was somewhat obstructed by a haze, but this woman clearly didn't care in the slightest.

'Interesting,' Leonel thought. 'She has the same Ability Index as Arthur, but for Dark Force instead. Rare, very rare. Arthur is the only one I've seen with an Ability Index that allows their entire body to turn into an element, and she's the second...'

Leonel was unmoved by the sight before him, she might as well have been a piece of meat on a butcher's table. Instead, when he spoke, he didn't seem to be satisfied with this alone.

Instead, his eyes shifted and landed on another location. This time, the existence that was hidden moved even before Leonel's fire manifested.

This time, the individual was quite clear to the eye.

'A Shadow Sovereign,' Leonel smiled.

This individual was none other than Xavnik, Third Nova.

Leonel wasn't very surprised by this in the slightest, even when he felt that Xavnik had fully recovered.

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Chapter 2099: Plop.

Xavnik had already regained his calm. When he looked at Leonel, his emotions were unreadable.

In truth, he hadn't expected for Leonel to actually win such a battle. Amery was arrogant, but he had the right to be. He was the reason why despite the fact that the Morales had so many Heirs in this generation, no one had spoken of the Suiard family's decline. He alone, with his sword, was enough to uphold the skies for them.

He was an existence seen to be on the same level as Velasco. He was only over 25 years old, but he had already reached Tier 2 of the Seventh Dimension, and very soon he would enter Tier 3. He was an existence the likes of which very few could match up to already, and that was proven by him comprehending the Cosmos Realm.

It had to be remembered that not everyone returned at the same time. Depending on their distance from Leonel when the formation had been activated, one could either return sooner or later during that 20-year span, and most had returned around 10 to 12 years ago.

Amery, however, had only returned about five or so years ago. It went to show one just the kind of talent he had to reach such a state so quickly. After he returned from the Tribulation, it was as though he had become an entirely different man.

But it had all been useless before Leonel.

Amery was born and raised seriously by the Suiard family from the moment he picked up a sword. Leonel had only returned to the Morales family a month ago.

Amery had been training since he was a toddler. Leonel only began when he was 17 years old, and even then he had no sort of guidance aside from a silver disk and the memories of the experts in the Spear Domain Ring, experts that Amery had access to on his own side.

On top of that already 17-year advantage, Amery gained five more years of advantage thanks to the Cataclysm Zone.

The gap between them was obvious, and it was a shocking thing to accept.

But what stunned Xavnik even more was maybe the implication of Leonel's words. What had he meant by those words? They didn't save Amery because they knew he could survive? By him saying that, didn't that mean?

Xavnik's gaze turned serious.

"What? Not going to admit it?" Leonel laughed.

He had expected this. In order for Leonel to know the relationship between Xavnik and Amery, it would mean that he understood things he very much shouldn't have, like Xavnik's goals, who he was working for, what underbelly lay in the Morales family and when it might spring up upon them.

But all of that was impossible. Leonel wasn't Second Nova, and even Second Nova couldn't claim to know so much.

Leonel's laughter made Xavnik uneasy, and all the progress he had made to take the shadow of Leonel out from his heart and soul seemed to be crumbling before his eyes. When Leonel finished his next words, the viciousness that flashed in Xavnik's gaze couldn't be ignored.

"Are you shocked? You shouldn't be," Leonel smiled. "You see, I'm very good at using small details to comprehend the bigger picture. Unfortunately, this partner of yours has very loose lips.

"You know, the first time I met him, it was just about three years ago. Well, it was three years ago to me. To all of you, it was probably closer to 30 years than it is to three by a wide margin.

"This guy was very arrogant back then. Poor little me was just in Tier 1 of the Fifth Dimension, but he had already broken through into the Sixth. Unfortunately, I didn't have the chance to avoid him because we were both seeking the complete layers of [Dimensional Cleanse], and I had no choice but to battle it out with me.

"I was defeated, quite soundly, but this guy actually tried to take my Spear Domain Ring. And do you know what he said back then?"

Leonel turned from Amery and looked to meet Xavnik's eyes. Xavnik felt as though his world was collapsing, he couldn't breathe properly, it felt like a hand was gripped around his throat.

"He said he knew someone would be far better suited to the Spear Domain Ring than me, can you believe that? What an arrogant bastard, right? He doesn't even use the spear, and look at how antisocial he is, even his family had to arrange a marriage for him just so that he could have a wife, where

would he find someone he would give the Spear Domain Ring to? Let alone someone that he trusted and respected enough to do so."

Xavnik's hands were trembling.

It wasn't about the revelation, the revelation itself was almost meaningless aside from the implication that Leonel knew everything. But what was setting Xavnik's heart ablaze was the fact that Leonel had figured so much out based on a single casual sentence spoken years ago to him in the spur of the moment.

There was practically no one who could do such a thing. Such a memory was the kind most would only remember after they found out the truth, and only then would they backtrack and realize the clues had been there all along.

But Leonel's mind seemed to be on an entirely different level. Those clues that were meaningless crumbs to most people's minds became a masterful tale in his own, weaving a story that was 99% close to the truth without much effort at all.

And now facing the weight of those words, Xavnik felt like he couldn't breathe.

Leonel couldn't even be bothered to explain things to his own family, but he had spent so much care laying things out for Xavnik. It was clear that this was the scene he wanted to see; he could practically watch the reflection of Xavnik's world collapsing through his gaze. Leonel found it very amusing.

Somehow, he felt that this was even more satisfying than punching the face of someone he hated.

Seeing that things were going wrong again, and remembering what had happened last time Xavnik had lost his reason, the scantily clad woman suddenly spoke.

She was very disappointed in Xavnik. The Xavnik she knew was a King amongst men and he had always taken his steps so calmly and assuredly... Until he met Leonel. This Leonel had to die, only that way could their anchor in the Morales family be solid. So, she said the most sinister thing she could think of.

"You speak a lot for someone who won't be living for much longer. Amery will not die and will recover quite quickly, and you don't have the strength to land the finishing blow, especially not with us here.

"Whether it's myself or Xavnik, we are both stronger than Amery. And very soon, Amery's fiancée will come, and she's no weaker than him. What chance do you stand?"

Leonel blinked. The pause in his words seemed to give the scantily clad woman a sense of satisfaction, until...

Plop.

A head suddenly descended from the skies, landing and rolling until it hit paused by her feet.

BANG!

A Valkyrie descended from the skies, her black wings blotting out the skies as she landed by Leonel's side heavily.

The scantily clad woman's eyes opened wide. She looked down at the head at her feet, a head too gorgeous to put into words... and yet, it had no body attached to it.

She recognized this head immediately.

The Heiress of the Spirituals Religion!

The shriek of a banshee echoed through the battlefield, the violently whirling tornado of black feathers around Aina seemingly wanting more blood.

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Chapter 2100: Unwilling

Aina's aura blazed like the spark of an awakening star. Although she didn't say anything, her presence alone seemed to warp the world around them, the arcs of black lightning that sparked between her horns and the black feathers that zipped by causing even the eyes of those that only gazed upon them to sting.

Her black wings came out from the back of her hips, but their majestic bearing was no less. Each spread out for at least two meters, carefully arcing through the air with the grace of a phoenix. Just a single one of their flaps made the shadow woman and Xavnik feel as though they might be thrown off their feet, their bodies flexing just to maintain their positions.

The eyes of the scantily clad woman froze over. She couldn't take her eyes off of Aina, her heart palpitating at the aura she was sensing. What she felt the proper conclusion was happened to be something that she was entirely unwilling to accept.

She had all the information she needed about these matters. It was simply impossible for Aina to be what she thought. Aina was a Brazinger, she was born on Earth, her mother was a mortal woman and her father, though an unknown wild card, was ultimately just a cast-out of the Brazinger family.

It didn't make any sense for her to have this kind of aura, but then it all suddenly clicked.

"... Blood Sovereign..." She said lightly.

It was true. Back then, when their cohort was sent to the Rapax Nest, the true goal wasn't Leonel or dealing with him, nor was it for Amery to receive the egg of the future ruler of the Rapax. No, from the very beginning, the goal had been Aina.

Leonel had been infuriated back then when the Variant Invalids appeared and simply directly killed them in his tirade, so it had been impossible to confirm this. The only one outside of the individuals related to the Three Finger Cult who knew this with absolute certainty was Leonel's father. But just the same way Leonel hardly explained things to others, neither did his father explain things to him.

Although Leonel had partially deduced this matter, there was still a limit to what he could do even with his intelligence when information was so limited, especially when there were so many other answers that likewise made sense. It also didn't help that the answer simply didn't seem all that important.

Ever since they reunited, Aina had always been by his side or within range of a region he could act in. It didn't matter to him if the Three Finger Cult were targeting her, because whoever came would simply have to face his wrath.

In addition to that, since that moment, the Three Finger Cult seemed to have "forgotten" about Aina, having not chosen to make any other moves. It was hard to tell how valuable they saw Aina to be, or if they were aware that kidnapping her wouldn't suddenly make her come over to their side.

The truth of this matter, though, was something that the shadow woman was well aware of. It wasn't that the Three Finger Cult had forgotten about Aina, it was rather that someone had been born within their ranks that was far easier to make use of and just as valuable to them as a Blood Sovereign.

Plus, after their first failure, the deployment of the Cataclysm Zone had caused them to believe Aina was dead and dealt with... Until she suddenly appeared once more years later.

That was right, the Cataclysm Zone had been a scheme by the Three Finger Cult to deal with the greatest threats of the Human Domain in one fell swoop. Not only would some of the most powerful experts be lost in a far-off land, but the future generations would have all been crushed in a single action.

Leonel had thought that this matter could have only been done by them, but he still didn't have an answer for... why? What did they gain out of it?

If the Three Finger Cult knew that the Cataclysm Zone was the "real world", wouldn't they know that sending them all there wouldn't accomplish anything? Even if they never managed to come back, wouldn't they just be able to live out normal lives in the "real world"?

Of course, that was a matter of relativity. Everyone stuck in that Zone would want to come back to something familiar, especially since they weren't aware of what the Dream Project was or what it represented. That meant that the more important question to ask wasn't this, but rather what in his simulation world was so valuable that the Three Finger Cult would choose to continuously target it?

Something wasn't quite adding up.

Leonel didn't believe that the Three Finger Cult would be able to access that world and yet be unaware of the Simulation. In fact, he had already deduced that their three leaders had to have been from the Cataclysm Zone to begin with, so they most definitely knew.

So why?

He didn't have an answer, and his confusion wasn't something that this shadow woman would clear up, at least not willingly, and that was assuming that a lower-level character like her would even be aware of this matter to begin with.

Instead, it was the shadow woman who was glancing at Aina with an enlightened expression, finally fusing the rumors she had heard with the woman before her.

She sent a glance toward Xavnik and spoke. "She's the Blood Sovereign."

Xavnik's pupils constricted before his gaze became somewhat malevolent. He seemed fully prepared to erupt with his greatest strength now, however, Leonel was still sitting, unmoving. His ease despite the situation made him feel suffocated.

That smile, whenever he saw that smile, he knew that bad things would happen.

"Get up!" Xavnik pointed toward Leonel, almost as though trying to command him to do something that made him feel more at ease.

However, Leonel only chuckled.