

Dimensional Descent

Chapter 2401: Top of the World

'A seal, it's all a seal. They're trying to map it, and what, the Three Finger Cult wants me to stop it? But those chains in my body should have been placed there by the Demoness, so shouldn't that mean that this seal was created by her as well? Isn't she a demon? So her own people are trying to undo her work? But then why is she so entangled with humans?'

Leonel felt another headache coming along. The web had become just a little bit clearer, but he still didn't have enough information to see the whole picture. It felt like he was still being suffocated.

At first he was a frog at the bottom of a well, but now he was slowly climbing up the walls to find that not only was he buried far deeper than he thought, but the world outside was probably vaster than anything he could even begin to imagine.

"Well, we've killed two demons, but we definitely can't use them to meet our quota of three," Leonel finally said. "We'll have to find some more."

Aina nodded. She had killed them both too swiftly and far too easily. It didn't make sense to try and add some wounds to it either. Who knew what kind of means those powerhouses had? They could even read your mind if you weren't careful, let alone if you handed them a body of evidence to use against you.

Luckily, Aina could protect her mind thanks to Soul Clairvoyance, and Leonel's Dream Force had improved greatly as well, at least enough that he felt like he could maintain some semblance of control over his life in the short term.

The gap in the strength they expected Leonel and Aina to have, versus the strength they actually had was too far apart.

It had to be understood that the demons Aina had just treated like playthings were on a level beyond the Fiend Demons they had once had to risk life and limb to defeat. The geniuses of the Vast Bubble would have found themselves killed several times over if they had met that group of four.

Although Mo"Lexi was still far stronger than the two of them, Leonel still didn't want her to know just yet how much potential they truly had.

This was especially so for Aina.

Luckily, they hadn't ended up in the hands of the people of the Vast Bubble. Had they, they would have recognized Aina once Ophelia got her hands on her, and then much of their secrets would have been revealed.

"I'll fight," Leonel said. "You don't worry your pretty little head."

"How chivalrous of you." Aina giggled.

The two set off, Leonel's Internal Sight doing a wide sweeping search.

He found several demons; it actually wasn't that difficult. If it wasn't for the fact he and Aina had chosen to... take a break, it was likely that they would have already been in multiple battles by now.

However, he didn't want to just target any demon.

Firstly, he needed demons that were particularly weak. Second, he was also hunting these demons for the same purpose he and Aina had initially. This was an excellent chance to bolster the strength of his brothers, not to mention add to his Silver Tablet's collection.

He wasn't worried about his things being found out. Anastasia was particularly good at hiding her aura if she chose to. The finger sleeve on his hand looked like an ordinary ornament, and some people might even assume he just used finger martial arts, or that he had weird tastes.

There was another thing on Leonel's mind as well as he completed these tasks, and that was the changes to his body.

Firstly, his Dream Force was still at the same stage of the Impetus State, the Lower State. This was odd to him... at least at first.

Secondly, his Dream Asura Lineage Factor was under his complete control.

Thirdly, he felt like he could think of the Demoness now without feeling those constant pair of eyes on him.

Fourthly, and the one that took him maybe the most to come to terms with, not only because of how shocking it was, but how difficult it was to confirm... He had become a Dream Sovereign.

His Dream Force gained an almost milky character to it, as though it was a smooth cream flowing through his mind. If he had to describe it, it was as though someone took the purest white, and the most subtle of gold, and melted them down into a substance that didn't quite fuse together perfectly.

He didn't quite know how to feel about this.

He was born a Destruction Sovereign, that made sense. The Domain Rings opened up a path for him to become a Weapon Sovereign, and that made sense.

But wasn't this too casual? Too easy?

However, when he really thought about it, when he really felt it, he understood.

Weapon Forces were an exception because they relied on one part the universal laws that dictated everything, and the laws created by humans and intelligent creatures. As such, becoming one after birth was a matter of comprehension.

He had obviously been born with his Destruction Sovereignty, so there was nothing much to think about there.

Then what about his Dream Sovereignty?

Well, didn't it fall into the same category as his Weapon Sovereignities? His Dream Force was personal, it was even more personal than any one of his other Forces.

So long as he had the affinity not to get lost in Dream Force like so many others would, if he could find himself, his true self, wouldn't he naturally become a Dream Sovereign?

But that was the thing... He didn't feel that he had found his true self. Rather, he felt that he had come to peace with the ways of the world pulling him in every direction... and he felt confidence in one day reaching a point where he could rise above it all.

Was that really enough?

It seemed that the answer was yes.

And this made him feel like he was on top of the world.

Chapter 2402: Errand

"That's three."

Leonel exhaled a heavy breath. That was difficult, but it was within his expectations. He didn't have the strength to face these demons head on; it felt like he was in the midst of all those Fiend Demons again, bringing back memories of being eaten alive.

Facing these creatures that were so much stronger than him, he focused on hit and run tactics, using his bow and arrows. He was still trying to get his Bow Force back up to the level of True Sovereignty, and he felt that it would happen in due time.

In the meantime, using the lower ranked bows in the Bow Domain Ring was actually quite an eye-opening experience. Leonel had always practically been a Savant with Bow Force. It was the weapon he felt the highest inclination toward, and it was also the weapon he would have focused on had he not been born with the Spear Domain Lineage Factor.

As a result, he had never had to rely on others to help him improve. His path had been smooth and without blemish.

Seeing the thoughts of these experts though, he was intrigued. There was so much he hadn't really thought of, not because he wasn't intelligent enough, but because others simply had different experiences than himself.

For example, there was a primitive female archer born into a tribe where all of the bows were longbows used by hyper-masculine men. How could a petite woman like her pull a bow that would require 200 pounds of force to reach a full moon?

Rather than creating a smaller bow, which Leonel himself would have advised since it was objectively the smartest thing to do, she insisted on using the longbow, eventually gaining the ability to pull it to about half moon.

This experience reminded Leonel of when he first got his hands on a Black Grade Bow. He, too, had been unable to pull it to full moon. But it hadn't been necessary for him to make up for this. After all, half moon of a Black Grade Bow was more than enough to kill his enemies at the time.

But with such a primitive bow, such a weak force would have a hard time penetrating armor at all.

So the woman swapped power for precision; she even learned to shift the arrow's butt away from the middle of the bowstring, as was convention, and change the angle of attack.

All of her solutions were mind-numbingly stupid in Leonel's view, but that was also why he would have never thought to use the bow in such a way. Because he had so much strength now, he practically always pulled his bow to the full moon. In fact, even when he wanted to use less force and rely on his skill instead, rather than pulling the bowstring less, he just downgraded to a weaker bow like this one.

Seeing the different philosophies amused him on one part and made him wonder what his complacency had caused him to miss on another.

The primitive female's method of using the bow wasn't interesting to him at all, but what about others? It would probably take some time to pick out some interesting pieces, though, as he felt most of them were silly.

"Alright, it's been like a week. We should probably return."

"You haven't thought of escaping?" Aina asked.

"I have, but that woman was too confident."

Aina nodded. It even felt like she expected them to die, but then all of this wouldn't have made any sense at all. It was too hard to understand what they were planning.

Their haul wasn't bad, honestly. Not only had they managed to kill and store quite a number of demons, but Leonel had managed to get some interesting Ability Indexes. Namely, he had found "Swiftiness" to help Emna out further.

"Also, I want to understand what they are planning before we do."

"So you have a way out?"

"Pretty sure," Leonel grinned, earning him a pinch.

He had made it sound existential just now, but he just wants to play with fire.

Soon, they returned to the marked entrance and they waited.

It took an entire hour before the portal opened up, and Leonel's gaze narrowed at that. But he immediately returned to normal as he stepped inside.

Mo"Lexi sized the two up, a hint of surprise in her eyes. It seemed like she really did expect them to die.

Leonel looked like death, and Aina, who he was carrying on his back, looked like an unblemished little doll.

Mo"Lexi didn't know what to think about this young man. He seemed so smart, and yet he was so willing to be a guard dog for a woman who clearly didn't care as much about him as he did her. She had heard that he didn't even allow Aina to help him carry boxes around.

'A man with such a golden heart is bound to die early,' she thought with a sigh. 'That little girl by his side is too beautiful.'

As Mo"Lexi was sizing them up, so too was Leonel doing the same, because Mo"Lexi had not come on her own. She had three young men by her side.

It seems that there was a uniform of the Cult after all, and Mo"Lexi just couldn't be bothered to wear it because all three wore the very same thing.

Looking at the puffy, fabric-made shoulder guards that they wore, though, Leonel wanted to gag.

'Very uncool uniforms. They look like they just stepped out of a renaissance painting.'

"I've completed my task, Goddess."

One of the young men covered his mouth when he heard Leonel's form of address, while the other two just had an amused light in their eyes. These three were quite inexperienced if they weren't capable of controlling their emotions to this extent.

"Mm," Mo"Lexi nodded. "You three, go on. That's what you're here for."

The three young men unceremoniously snatched the corpses that Leonel had "painstakingly" gathered.

Then Leonel understood.

'Was this just another errand? They sent us to gather resources for their young?'

His pupils constricted when the three young men unceremoniously bit into the corpses and began to suck their blood dry.

Chapter 2403: Opaque Whiteness

Leonel felt a spark fly through his Dreamscape, but he said nothing. Other than a slightly odd expression, which is about what one would expect for seeing such a scene for the first time, he gave nothing else away.

Aina's reaction was even more visceral.

Leonel knew how Aina had ignored her Blood Sovereignty for much of her life for fear of how it might appear, namely to him. Even after he said having a vampire girlfriend was cool, it took her quite some time to come into her own.

Seeing this sort of scene, and how truly disgusting it was, she felt all of that suppressed disgust come back up all at once.

One of the young men laughed.

"Haha, little beauty, have you never seen a real masculine man before? Real men eat flesh and drink blood."

Leonel's gaze flashed with undisguised frigidness.

"Real men catch their own prey. If you want to flex your muscles, go do it elsewhere."

Leonel's words were biting, and the embarrassment on the young man's expression was clear, even as it quickly turned to rage.

"What did you say to me, slave?!"

Leonel didn't respond, staring at the man as he stood to his full height. The latter's embarrassment returned when he realized that he was actually half a head shorter than Leonel, but that didn't stop his blood-covered snarl from echoing.

The young man seemed to remember that Mo"Lexi was there and restrained himself somewhat. He glared into Leonel's eyes and spoke word by word.

"Watch your mouth in the future. You're nothing but a butcher, a farmer, a convenient transport. Am I supposed to catch every meal I have with my own hands? Don't give yourself more credit than you deserve."

The young man snorted, feeling that his appetite was ruined. He placed the demon within his spatial device and then left after bowing to Mo"Lexi.

The other two laughed to themselves and then left as well after giving Leonel a glance. Though, he didn't miss how their eyes lingered on Aina at all.

Mo"Lexi didn't say anything as they left, but she looked at Leonel with an amused light in her eye.

"That look in your eye, those are your real eyes, huh?" Mo"Lexi asked.

Leonel had already gone back to his servile expression and didn't seem to understand what Mo"Lexi was getting at.

"Still with the games, hm? If you see me as a Goddess, then anyone I bring along with me should have that status as well, no? Why did you not give them their due respect?"

Leonel's eyes widened. "Is that so? I was unaware! I will apologize to him immediately."

Leonel spoke seriously and seemed to have completely forgotten about his initial rage.

"I assumed that they were Seeded Participants like me, but with a more official title. I'm sorry."

Mo"Lexi's eyes narrowed.

"Here is your list of duties for the next month. For the both of you," she emphasized.

"Yes, I understand!" Leonel nodded.

Mo"Lexi disappeared, and Leonel immediately left, his target quite obvious. He was going to go and apologize.

"Excuse me! Sir!" Leonel called out, swiftly catching up to the young man.

Mo"Lexi saw this and shook her head. After a sigh, she truly vanished. She didn't have the stomach to see this sort of thing.

The young man's eyes flashed with confusion when he saw that it was actually Leonel, and he was even more stunned when he saw the expression on the latter's face.

What happened to him? Wasn't he just so arrogant?

In truth, he had been planning to find Leonel after Mo"Lexi disappeared to teach him a lesson.

He couldn't even react as Leonel apologized profusely and then rushed off to do his "duties".

For some reason... the young man felt so completely... unsatisfied.

"What was that, Bogrum? The little twerp actually came to apologize to you?" Another one of the young men came in with a laugh.

Bogrum, Bryan, and Elek, these were the names of the three young men of the Cult.

In truth, their status wasn't very high, despite Bogrum's arrogance. They were quite surprised when they were called over for such a reward.

To be able to drink demon blood, what kind of boon was that? They were highly excited.

It was too bad that Leonel had ruined their moods.

"Yes... he did," Bogrum replied somewhat slowly, still not quite understanding what had just happened.

Suddenly, he felt angry again, but he didn't know where to vent it.

"Ah, Senior Alastar!"

Bryan and Elek's reactions snapped Bogrum out of his daze, and he quickly bowed as well.

Their current location would probably be best described as an airplane hanger, although there were definitely no airplanes in sight. The floors were smooth and a shade away from glossy, the ceiling was tall and filled with glass, and crates were piled up everywhere, formed of wood, though some were made of stone.

There were huge lanes between these crates, and it was possible to see for tens of kilometers ahead without end. Alastar had easily been almost 50 kilometers away from them, but they were already bowing. And soon, it became clear why.

Alastar appeared before them in no more than a few seconds, pausing for a moment and then sniffing the air.

The three froze, their fists clenching. They thought that maybe their reward might end up being stolen by Alastar, but what he said next caught them off guard.

"I smell a woman, an excellent woman..."

They weakly looked up at Alastar's face, only to see those eyes of white opaqueness.

"Oh god, I think I'm going to die. Massage a little bit firmer please."

Leonel's voice echoed out as Aina massages his temples. He really felt like he might vomit any time now, not because he was sick, or hurt, but because the cringe was about to kill him.

Aina giggled. "Who asked you to be so forthcoming? That woman already disappeared after you called out the first time; you didn't need to follow through on the apology."

"Ai-!"

Leonel was about to make another joke, maybe even con himself into a few cheap kisses, but his expression turned unprecedentedly serious a moment later.

"Go inside."

Aina didn't say a word and vanished into the Segmented Cube.

Barely a moment later, a hulking man appeared, his shadow looming over Leonel to the point the latter had to look straight up.

'... Variant Invalid.'

Chapter 2404: A Shame

"Where..."

Leonel's gaze flashed with a cold intent. If there was one thing that could still get him riled up even in the midst of all this tranquility, it was matters related to Aina.

He had allowed the previous matter to slide without saying much and even apologizing because he understood the kind of situation they were in. Plus, that young man had only said some slightly crude words at worst. However, even without this Variant Invalid completing its sentence, he knew exactly what it was trying to get at.

Standing before it, and looking it in the eyes, the coldness within his own only grew colder and colder.

Alastar wasn't quite prepared for this sort of response. Although his face didn't show anything particularly different from his norm, sensing... defiance? Was unlike anything he had ever experienced before.

Leonel was undergoing his own confusion.

From his understanding, Variant Invalids were the result of a failure to awaken. But this "awakening" process, meaning the so-called or the Metamorphosis, should be something that only happened in Incomplete Worlds where they had a wide division between world types.

Essentially, Variant Invalids came from Invalids, and Invalids could only appear during a world's awakening process. This would happen in Incomplete Worlds where there were several separate planets and Folds of Reality that needed to awaken individually; however, in a Complete World, this matter should have only happened a single time countless trillions of years ago.

Considering the fact that no new Complete Worlds had been formed in an exceptionally long time, and even the number of new Incomplete Worlds forming was dwindling drastically, the number of Variant Invalids that could possibly exist should be an impossibly small portion of the population, and any that did should, at the very least, be incredibly old.

Leonel didn't actually know if Invalids had lifespans, but weren't they a form of living creature regardless? It was impossible for them to be truly immortal. Even those born with the Immortality Ability Index weren't truly immortal, so how could they be?

'Then...'

Leonel thought of only two possibilities.

Either this Variant Invalid was one of those old monsters and had a strength rivaling that or maybe even surpassing Mo"Lexi. Or...

'They gathered up all the Variant Invalids from the Incomplete Worlds as well.'

Leonel's gaze sharpened. After his run-in with the Puppet Master, the only other Variant Invalids that he had met came from the Cult. He didn't believe that this was a coincidence.

Variant Invalids were essentially cheat codes, similar to Savants and yet having the ability to progress in ways Savants could not. In that way, they might actually be closer to a God Child.

At the same time, though, Variant Invalids had very difficult progression paths. They were shunned by most of society, and they had to consume powerful individuals to progress. This made them far easier to control than other races as well.

If the human powers wanted talents that they could easily manage, and yet packed a heavy punch...

Were there any better options than Variant Invalids and Savants?

Leonel's gaze only grew colder as Alastar looked around.

"Woman. Where is she?"

"I don't know what you're talking about-"

BANG!

Leonel's throat was grabbed so forcefully that his body would have flown out at an impossible speed had Alastar not clamped his hands down.

His body swayed as the feeling of having his neck forcefully stretched settled in. Had his body not improved back to its original level, just the move of grabbing his neck would have directly killed him.

Even so, Leonel's gaze didn't lose its sharpness as he was lifted into the air to meet Alastar's gaze.

Alastar looked like he wanted to talk, but his words came out in a jumbled mess.

"Where. Woman. Now."

All of the Variant Invalids Leonel had ever met had intelligence equal to that, or even surpassing, humans. This Alastar, though, seemed to be a simpleton through and through.

This didn't make Leonel any more sympathetic. Instead, watching this bumbling fool trip over itself, even salivating at the thought of Aina, he felt a killing intent welling up in his heart.

"You don't... show fear." Alastar finally growled something somewhat intelligible.

Leonel's initial instinct was to say why should he fear an idiot, but he refrained. There was no point-

"Alastar, put him down."

Mo"Lexi's voice suddenly echoed, and she appeared right amidst the two of them. She was by far the smallest of them, and yet her aura was without a doubt the strongest.

Alastar's gaze flashed with a hint of defiance, then a hint of fear.

He placed Leonel down a bit too forcefully, almost causing him to fall over completely.

Alastar gave Leonel another glare, then Mo"Lexi a fearful glance, before he disappeared into the distance.

Mo"Lexi frowned, not really understanding what was happening. If she didn't feel a wave of killing intent, she wouldn't have noticed what was happening here at all. But when she arrived, she felt that... the killing intent wasn't coming from Alastar at all, but it was hard to prove.

"Again?" Mo"Lexi asked. "You're lucky I didn't get very far."

Leonel looked toward Mo"Lexi respectfully.

"I'm sorry, I didn't expect this to happen either."

"Aren't you going to apologize?" Mo"Lexi asked.

"Why?" Leonel blinked in confusion.

"Didn't you apologize to Bogrum?"

"Yes, but Bogrum is a God," Leonel said seriously.

"And Alastar is not?"

"I do not believe someone so stupid can be a God," Leonel said equally as seriously. "He can't even complete a full sentence without drooling over himself. Plus, aren't Variant Invalids just failures? Would he even understand my apology?"

Mo'Lexi was speechless for a moment before she burst into a fit of laughter. She laughed so hard that the crates Leonel had worked so hard to organize and stack almost fell over despite the fact each one weighed as heavy as a mountain.

Leonel's ears began to bleed, but he continued to stand respectfully, not "daring" to laugh along with Mo'Lexi.

Mo'Lexi was starting to find this Leonel more and more interesting; it was almost a shame considering their plans for these youths.

Chapter 2405: Why...

Leonel left the region with a sharp look in his eyes after Mo'Lexi vanished once again. That killed intent she sensed was indeed from himself. He had released it far and wide, though a hint subtly through his Dream Force, so that she would sense it and return. His gamble was that she would interfere.

But now, more of his cards were being released one by one and he didn't believe that the woman he was meeting now was some amiable old lady.

The worst part of all of this was that even if he really did take Aina away and escape, something he was heavily considering, where would they go, exactly?

He doubted that humans were widely accepted in wider Existence. They were scourges that had been the tools of the God Beasts, and those that remained were usually only powerful due to some experimentation from that era. Ever since the fall of the Fawkes family, there really were no other human powers remaining that could hold up the sky.

He was surrounded from all sides by enemies and he couldn't even trust his own kind. It was the worst kind of situation to be in.

'Invalids... the seal... the demoness...'

His mind churned, trying to piece everything together. He was still missing some pieces, he knew he was. But he was running out of time to figure it out and options to explore to preserve his and Aina's lives.

Ultimately, he just wasn't strong enough. If he was as strong as his father, would any of this even be a worry?

Leonel took a breath and exhaled slowly.

He moved toward the next set of boxes he was set to deal with and he began to rush around with them, only one of his millions of minds was focused on the task while the others were focused on his body, trying to understand what was happening.

'I need more information. Maybe these boxes...'

This wasn't the first time Leonel had thought this. The trouble was the boxes themselves.

Each one of these crates were the size of small hills at worst, and huge mountains at best. And yet, each one was just constructed of a simple six sides. There was no extra reinforcement, no extra limbs, no nothing.

One of Leonel's fundamental tasks as a Crafter was understanding structural engineering like the back of his hand. At a certain size, even wooden crates would react no differently from cardboard boxes. They would collapse beneath their own weight without a doubt.

Whatever these crates were made of, and the links holding them together, was exceptionally strong. And, Leonel's Internal Sight couldn't penetrate them at all.

He assumed the reason they were so comfortable with him holding what was obviously a large well of wealth and importance was because these crates were nigh indestructible, and whatever was within was highly protected.

'That said...'

Leonel thought of an idea. It was a higher application of Dream Force than he had ever used before, but he felt that theoretically, it could be possible.

Why was it that Wise Star Order had warned him to be careful of his Scarlet Star Force? It was because it had a Life of its own, its Force had a certain signature that was ingrained into its very being, a signature that made it Scarlet Star Force.

In that case, all Forces had their own signatures, and their own "Life". That meant that they should have an imprint on the Second Dimension as well, and as such, enter the Dream Plane.

Leonel would normally be unable to enter the Dream Plane in a Complete World like this one. However, was that still the case now that he had become a Dream Sovereign?

Just like El'Rion had said, those with Sovereignty have a small smidgen of the Life State, the state above Impetus, within them.

Leonel continued running his errands, his body threatening to collapse under him, but he kept pushing, kept pressing.

'There!'

Leonel finally succeeded in sensing a hint of something, and it felt like a flash bang had gone off in his mind.

He collapsed, the enormous crater above him falling onto his body and crushing him.

Leonel coughed, but managed to slow the crates' descent with a pushup. He grit his teeth, pushing it back up.

The boom had caught a lot of attention, but the hangar was huge. No one managed to see much of anything but a mountain-sized crate moving down a meter and a half, which was nothing compared to its size.

Leonel felt dizzy and his mind held a heavy weight on it. That short glimpse had taken almost everything out of him. It wasn't just stepping into the Dream Plane, but rather that he was trying to peer into a layer even deeper.

Luckily, his memory was nigh infallible. Although it was just for the briefest of moments, he remembered everything.

The first thing he saw was actually a trio of things. Two balls of flaming red-gold and one of silver white.

He knew what they were immediately: his Innate Nodes. They burned particularly brightly, but this made sense. There was no purer form of a Force than its Pure Crystal or Innate Node form. Leonel even felt that if he could hold this state for a little longer, his ability to comprehend his Forces would improve dramatically.

The second thing he saw was a jumble of mangled Forces, ones that he assumed had to be his Lineage Factors and the pulls of affinity they had on him.

It seemed that so long as he saw through this layer of the Dream Plane, he might be able to tell a person's affinities at a single glance. He could even come to understand himself better.

Then there was the third thing.

It too was a mangled mess of Forces, but it was much larger and not quite clear in an instant. Even so, it reminded Leonel of something quite clearly, something he would never forget...

The Valiant Heart Zone.

Why did it remind him of the Valiant Heart Zone so much?

Why...

Why...

Leonel froze.

Chapter 2406: Tired?

'... You've got to be kidding me.'

Leonel unleashed a groan and pushed the crate off of himself, pushing it into the air with all his might and ducking for cover before the wind could knock him off his feet. He slid to the ground, gasping for breath. He pulled one knee to his chest and rested his forearm on it. With the way his pale violet hair drifted over his face, his eyes were entirely obscured.

In that moment of silence, it was truly as though he had been cut out from the world and placed in one of his own creations entirely. And within it, his heart felt a frightening cold, one that chilled him to the bone and made his flesh feel as fragile as a thin pane of glass.

If Leonel had known that Wise Star Order used the Silver Tablet to create the legend of Merlin, he would have figured this out long ago. If Leonel had known how Zones worked in Complete Worlds, rather than assuming that they couldn't exist at all, he would have figured this out long ago.

But now, he felt like it was all rushing to him at once, and he also felt that it just might be too late for him to realize all of this.

These people were truly monsters.

His breathing calmed, and the tranquil look in his eyes returned.

He understood why they had all been so casual, why they didn't react much to the deaths of so many of the youths that were supposed to be their "last" hope, why Mo"Lexi didn't seem to care even about sending Leonel and Aina off to their deaths, so much so that she had even casually allowed them to hunt demons for such insignificant characters.

He could tell. Compared to Alastar, those three young men could be considered trash. There was absolutely no way that Leonel's own potential was seen to be weak enough by Mo"Lexi to risk his life just for their sakes. If anything, shouldn't Mo"Lexi be trying her

best to raise Leonel from the Fifth Dimension? She knew that his Dream Force affinity was greater than maybe anything she could have hoped from someone raised in an Incomplete World, and yet she ignored it as though it didn't matter in the slightest.

All of these disjointed actions, all of these inexplicable choices, could all be explained in a single sentence.

They wanted to wring them up like farm animals, place them on a plantation, then work them to death. And the worst part was that even if they died, it still wouldn't be an escape.

He had known something was wrong, he just couldn't fathom what it could be... Until he finally understood.

He could still remember how he felt after he stepped out of the Valiant Heart Zone for the first time, how much existential dread he felt watching all of the subordinates he had just watched die for him suddenly available again like floating characters in a game...

Tap to unlock!

It was like human lives were worthless, as though they were a joke. That was the impetus for his own change, one where he swore to become a King, just to ensure that such a thing would never happen to anyone else.

And then he killed them. He had erased them like the unspawned game characters that they were, trading their lives for the much more "real" lives of his own brothers.

Killing millions to save eight. What a trade that was. He must have felt like some sort of god, pressing his finger on the scale like that and skewing it in favor of himself.

Maybe this was what he deserved.

Those boxes, that Zone. They all pointed in a single direction.

The Incomplete Worlds could only be so useful. The people within had potential, but it was hard for them to have as much potential as the truest elites of the Complete Worlds-even among the humans. And worst of all, their numbers were far too inferior.

Of the millions that might be barely worthy enough to reach a middling standard in the Complete Worlds, there were only a handful that might be just barely good enough to make a small change.

It was too insignificant.

But what if they could make the life of one worth more than that?

What if they could pluck them out from their words, throw them into a frying pan, and force them to be revived again and again just to be herded like cattle?

What if they could create a Zone much like the Valiant Heart Zone where their lives and deaths were based on the whims of the Zone itself, like a game that could be played again and again, like characters that could be reset and reloaded whenever they felt like it?

The Valiant Heart Zone was always a Zone that Leonel couldn't probably place. Was it a Variant Zone? A normal Zone? A Mythological Zone?

He didn't know. He had always assumed that maybe it was Mythological, based on some legend of Planet Valiant that he wasn't aware of.

But what if it was none of the above? What if that was precisely the reason the Silver Tablet was within it to begin with? What if one of the abilities of the Tablet was to create these worlds?

The God Beasts of Creation had always been trying to revive the world to its original state, to fight back against the fading of the Northern Star and to allow Creation to continuously flourish. They had tried many things, and they had ultimately failed in the end...

What if this was yet another one of their families.

Leonel's eyes were closed, his tranquility becoming as deep as a bottomless well.

A choice? He bet that there was never a choice to participate in this event at all. He bet that anyone foolish enough to not take these "Gods" up on their offer was unceremoniously brought into the Zone of the human race's creation.

There was another piece to this as well.

Why didn't the humans do this with their own people? As arrogant as they were, there were certainly those of lesser birth that they would find useful.

Leonel felt that he had the answer to this as well.

There was something special about those born in Incomplete Worlds, something that made their lives so flippant and worthless that they could be used in this way, a way that the geniuses of Complete Worlds could not be.

With this method, the humans of the Complete Worlds could continuously farm them, continuously breed them, continuously wring them dry and then toss them back in to be ripened again.

The worst part was they might not even remember it happened, much like Goggles and the others didn't even recognize Leonel.

The more Leonel thought about it, the calmer he became. His breathing seemed to fuse into the world around him and the web that he was in was suddenly fully detangled. He could see everything but the faintest edges of it, the faintest edges that flashed with the silhouettes of the masterminds behind it all.

Leonel slowly opened his eyes and looked up from his seated position.

The first thing he saw was a pair of bright eyes and an amused smile staring right back at him.

Mo"Lexi squatted before him, her grin wide and her expression relaxed.

"What is it, little boy? Suddenly tired?"

That smile that looked no different from the smile of an adorable old woman held a completely different weight to Leonel right now.

Chapter 2407: A Moment of Rest

Leonel met the gaze of the old woman and didn't even flinch.

"Just a moment of rest," he said with a peaceful smile. "I will be back to it very soon, I apologize for the inconvenience, my body isn't as strong as I would like it to be."

"Oh? I think that it's actually very strong. I've never seen someone in the Fifth Dimension as strong as you are."

Mo"Lexi didn't hold back her praise in the slightest, and if Leonel didn't know better, he would have thought that she truly cared quite a bit for him. It was just a shame that what she was more excited about was locking him in a Zone and ensuring whatever secrets were on his body were immortalized for the Cult's future use.

Whether he died now, or died later, it didn't really matter much, now did it? The most important thing to her was that Leonel would be in her palms.

The more she observed this boy, the more she felt that she had won out even though she didn't get to personally select anyone else.

"Where's the little girl?" Mo"Lexi asked, seemingly only now realizing that Aina wasn't present.

"She's doing her own work," Leonel said with a bright gaze as though a boy madly in love.

Mo"Lexi shook her head and sighed. "I would keep that treasure of yours capable of storing life as secretively as you can. The fact that it can work in a Complete World like this one is quite the shock."

Leonel's eyes widened in shock as though he was surprised that Mo"Lexi knew.

"Haha, little boy, not much you can do can escape my sights. Be a little more careful in the future."

Mo"Lexi vanished again, and Leonel hurried to stand with an embarrassed expression on his face. His acting, given his Control Ability Index, was entirely unmatched. There wasn't a single aspect of his expressions that he couldn't control with perfect ease.

He continued to go about his work as though he couldn't feel Mo"Lexi's gaze on him at all.

...

'Hm? What was that? Did I imagine it?' Mo"Lexi mumbled to herself.

She had felt Leonel's Dream Force quite clearly before. In her opinion, he had managed to break into the Impetus State after hearing her true name, and that was the reason his emotions became a bit fussier to her.

As expected, after she began to focus a bit more on him, there was no aspect of himself that he could hide from her. She could read him like an open book.

But just now, she felt a flash in the Dream Plane and it caught her off guard. She had been on edge these last few days and completely focused on making sure everything went perfectly.

However, those demons... Their ability to use the Dream Plane was far beyond her own and it made many things tricky. It also didn't help that they were also relying on ticking time bombs like the Variant Invalids to get things done. It was a nightmare through and through.

'It must have been the demons again. Are they investigating what we're doing to such a thorough extent? If they're able to penetrate our world already, their understanding of the seal has already deepened considerably. We need to hurry...'

Mo"Lexi's gaze flickered. It might be time to move up the timeline of events. But first, they would still need to stall a little bit more.

The truth was that even with the seal protecting the human worlds from the other Bubbles shattered, the seal was still having a hindering effect on the demons.

The combination of Anarchic Force and the trenches of the seal was muddying the teleportation pathways and making it difficult to secure a line to enter the human Bubbles.

However, with the demons investigating and doubling down on their efforts, and even succeeding in breaching her Dream Plane realm for a moment, she realized that there truly wasn't much time left.

This would decide the fate of humanity and she had no intention of becoming a slave for the rest of her life.

All the while, Mo"Lexi didn't even consider the fact that Leonel had entered the Dream Plane because even she could not enter the Dream Plane. Her Dream Force had yet to enter the Life State!

Her so-called Dream Plane realm was just a protective measure that most learned about as they moved up in the world, it made it difficult for others to breach their and their subordinates' minds and learn of their plans ahead of time.

Mo"Lexi had been able to cut off the connection before it solidified, but who said she would react fast enough next time? And what about the time after that?

There was simply no time to lose.

...

Leonel's gaze turned cold when he felt that Mo"Lexi had truly left.

He was conflicted and not sure of what to do.

If he really escaped, then what about the other humans of the Dimensional Verse? What about his cousin, if he was still alive?

He didn't have any love lost for many of these individuals, but the shift in his perspective made him hesitant to just abandon them all.

At the same time, he knew he wasn't strong enough. His mistake just now had hurried along Mo"Lexi, that he was certain of. Escaping would be easily ten times harder than it had been in the past.

'I need a plan...'

Leonel's mind churned, but he shut down everything he thought of. These plots would be good enough in the Incomplete World, but this was a completely different ball game. He would be playing with fire trying to outsmart everyone here.

He had to finally admit that he wasn't the smartest in the room anymore. There were plenty of people with the capability of outthinking him, whether that be due to experience or sheer Dream Force.

If he wanted this victory, he needed to think outside of the box...

Leonel grit his teeth, then his mind suddenly wandered to his Spear Domain Ring and his gaze narrowed.

Chapter 2408: Perfect Woman

Leonel handed Aina a letter. "Here, go give this to those three bastards."

Looking at Leonel, who was gritting his teeth as though someone had just beaten his mother half to death, Aina didn't even know how to react. She wanted to ask Leonel what was wrong, but when she saw that deadly sort of look in his eyes, she stopped.

"Okay," she said after a while.

Taking the letter, she turned and left.

Leonel went back to work, one part of his mind focused on Aina and the other focused on his tasks. He looked completely focused and dutiful again as though he was never enraged to begin with.

...

Mo"Lexi suddenly sensed a flash of rage that rippled outward, but it disappeared just as quickly. When she checked, she found Leonel working alone as usual, but to her surprise, there was also that little girl. Oddly enough, she wasn't with Leonel. Instead, as he completed both of their workloads, she had gone off to do gods know what.

Mo"Lexi sighed and shook her head. She had seen this sort of scene play out a million times before, so she shut her mind off to it. It didn't matter.

...

Aina didn't know what Leonel put in the letter, but judging by his rage, she had some guesses. Even so, she didn't ask. She would just have to teach that man a lesson when she next got a chance. How dare he do this to her?

The three young men Leonel was referring to were without a doubt Bogrum, Bryan, and Elek. These three, aside from Alastar, seemed to be the only others in the hangar. And unlike Leonel, they didn't spend their time lifting heavy loads, but were rather responsible for double-checking that he had stacked everything correctly. As a result, their lives were quite leisurely.

They didn't expect that Aina would come up to Bogrum all of a sudden, hand him a letter, and then vanish into the wind like she was never there.

Bogrum was dazed by Aina's beauty and couldn't even react properly to her approach, not to mention the fact her speed was... ridiculous. If not for the fact his hormones were raging, he would have questioned how someone from the lower worlds could even possibly be so quick in the first place.

But he was completely enraptured. He would have only looked like more of a bumbling fool if drool began to leak from his lips.

He had known that Aina was a beauty just by half her face. After all, the other half had been pressed against Leonel's back, so he hadn't seen clearly. To make matters worse, her figure had been obscured by Leonel as well.

But now, seeing her in full view, he felt a heat within him that wouldn't die out.

How could there be such a beautiful woman in this world? Everything about her from top to bottom was so...

Bogrum shook his head, suddenly remembering the letter in his hands. Those two hounds, Bryan and Elek were already staring at him with unfriendly gazes, looking like they might pounce on the letter at any time.

He sneered and taunted them before slowly opening the letter.

He held Bryan back with one leg and Elek back with his free hand, reading the letter like a fiendish demon. His grin couldn't have been wider and laughter rang out.

His reaction only made Elek and Bryan more jealous and furious.

"You two plebs can stay here. I have some preparations to make for tonight!"

He smoothed out his clothing and strolled away like he was a king on top of the world.

...

Aina returned to Leonel with a gloomy expression.

When Leonel saw her, he tried to greet her with a happy smile, but she gave him a death glare, grabbed his hand, and then disappeared into the Segmented Cube.

Leonel's gaze flashed with rage soon afterward, but then he sighed and shook his head.

...

Mo"Lexi, who had said that she wouldn't watch anymore, couldn't help but shake her head.

None of it would matter in the end anyway.

...

Leonel continued to do his job as the hours ticked away. Soon, he called Aina out and she left again without a word.

"Done?" Leonel asked.

"About as finished as it could be, I guess."

"That's not the vote of confidence I wanted to hear," Leonel said.

"Humph."

Anastasia turned and ignored Leonel.

Welp, it seemed like everyone was too mad at him to ask questions, and that was just fine by him. He'd just have to coddle them a bit later.

He continued doing his work.

...

Aina walked through the shadows of the crates, her expression quite cold and off-putting.

Soon, she saw Bogrum in the distance and continued forward with even slower steps.

"Ah, Aina! My darling! I was happy to learn your name through your letter, a beautiful name indeed. Morales is also a beautiful last name, I'm sure your parents were wonderful people."

Seeing Bogrum stumble over himself, Aina felt disgusted. But when she heard the name Morales, her temper flared again.

That shameless bastard was pimping her out, but he couldn't help but leave his mark behind. Aina Morales? When had she changed her last name? He was really getting on her last nerve.

"Don't touch me," Aina said coldly.

"Ah, right, yes, yes. I apologize."

Bogrum giggled like a little high school girl and scratched the back of his head awkwardly.

"Right, right. It's a bit too fast, we should get to know each other a little bit. This isn't the best environment for a date, how about I bring you somewhere better?"

Bogrum turned and escorted Aina down the path.

"So, Aina, what kind of hobbies are you into?" Bogrum tried to break the awkward silence as he continued to walk forward.

"Killing," Aina responded. "I particularly enjoy killing."

Bogrum paled for a moment sensing a hint of bloodlust, but when he saw Aina's beautiful silhouette, he seemed to forget all about his fear.

Suddenly, Aina stopped, her eyes widening.

Bogrum was taken aback, and when he looked toward the direction Aina was looking in, his eyes widened too.

"Ah... ah... S-senior Al-Alastar... what are you doing out so late?"

Alastar didn't seem to hear Bogrum at all as his gaze locked onto Aina.

"Woman... Perfect woman..."

Chapter 2409: Holy Hell

"Perfect woman... Perfect woman... Perfect woman!"

Alastar's words practically came out like the chants of a religious fanatic. The more he looked at Aina, the more the lust in his eyes burned.

But he was a Variant Invalid. The things that normal creatures of flesh and blood felt weren't the same things that could move him. Instead, it was because he could sense

Aina's Blood Sovereignty that was going so crazy. It was the scent of her blood that drew him completely over the edge.

Bogrum turned completely pale. He was so close to going on a date with such a beautiful woman, but then Alastar just had to appear. How could he not be aggrieved?

"Al-Alastar. Aina is my-"

His words were caught in his throat as Alastar turned his gaze toward him.

"Scram!" Alastar roared.

Bogrum was sent flying backward by the wind pressure alone, crashing into the heavy crates, and yet being entirely unable to budge them even an inch.

The result was his body taking the full brunt of the impact and his bones shattering like fragile, rusted metal.

Alastar turned back toward Aina, his gaze burning with a fiery passion.

"Keep looking at me like that, and I'll cut you into a thousand pieces."

Aina's voice was even and didn't carry the slightest fluctuation of an emotion, and yet the atmosphere itself seemed to chill considerably.

Alastar didn't seem to register Aina's words at all as he reached forward, seemingly about to grab her.

Aina's gaze flashed with fury as she struck out with a heavy palm.

BANG!

She and Alastar both took one step backward, causing the latter to blink in slight surprise. Clearly, he hadn't expected this sort of result. Since he came to this world, he had yet to sense someone as powerful as himself that wasn't also beyond his Dimension.

"Woman..."

Aina struck out again, her disgust pouring out in a rain of attacks that caused the air to clap like thunder. Her arms blurred, her palms descending as though meteors ripping through the atmosphere.

Alastar had no choice but to meet these attacks with fists of his own, his surprise giving way to rage, and his rage giving way to fury.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Aina took three heavy steps back, her body vibrating along with everyone. It truly hurt to fight on surfaces she couldn't destroy with a single hit. Because the walls of the hangar were so strong and sturdy, just stepping on the floor felt like 100% of the force was dissipated into her body alone and it made her expression drain of blood.

Alastar pressed forward, his towering might suppressing Aina every step of the way. A wild, fiendish aura billowed out from him and his strength only seemed to increase further and further with every strike.

...

Mo"Lexi frowned, looking up. She was completely focused on finishing the last steps when she saw what was happening.

Bogrum was half-dead and that Variant Invalid was causing trouble again? He seemed to be trying to subdue that little girl?

Mo"Lexi sneered. Didn't you want to climb onto a higher tree? Why don't you let the Variant Invalid take you to bed, then?

She didn't make a move immediately, almost as though she wanted to watch Aina suffer first. But she was also curious. Why was the Variant Invalid going so crazy? What was it about Aina that it was seeking?

She turned her attention away to lock onto Leonel. He once again leaned against a crate, his aura gloomy.

It seemed that the reason Leonel was so "tired" before was because he had had a fight with this lover of his.

"What a pitiful little boy."

Mo"Lexi seemed to truly feel bad about what was happening. She sighed and turned her attention to Aina and Variant Invalid again.

By this point, Aina had lost all ability to resist, her face was pale and her neck was caught in a vice grip, blood draining from her face.

Mo"Lexi was content to let her die. It wasn't a big deal, they would all end up in the same place anyway.

But then she froze.

Indeed. Why was the Variant Invalid so interested in a girl? Although she could admit that Aina's beauty was the kind she had only seen amongst Spirituals, beauty didn't move Variant Invalids in the same way it did other humanoid males. At least not the majority of them.

The sole focus of Variant Invalids was evolution. Their failure was like an ingrained mark on their souls, pressing them onward to be better and better.

Mo"Lexi watched as Alastar took a huge sniff of Aina's hair, he looked like he was intoxicated. When he grabbed her wrist and sunk his teeth into her as though she was a bar of chocolate rather than a human, and his eyes rolled back like he had entered a high, Mo"Lexi's eyes widened.

"Blood Sovereign!"

Mo"Lexi immediately vanished.

...

In that instant, Leonel, who had been brooding in his own sorrow suddenly flashed, moving so quickly that he left blurs in his wake.

"Don't be mad, Aina. I'm sorrrrryyyy."

"Leave me alone," an annoyed voice entered Leonel's ear.

"It was just a letter!" Leonel protested.

"I'm ignoring you."

Leonel appeared before a door, one that was quite familiar to him. It was this very door that Mo"Lexi had led him and Aina into for the sake of entering that in-between world.

Of course, it was under tight lock and key. There wasn't even room for the slightest air gap to make it through.

However, the level wasn't exceptionally high either. It was a measure that Mo"Lexi had clearly casually put together.

"Don't ignore me, you know I love you."

"Go love your foot."

"If that's what my lovely wife wants me to do, I'll do it."

"Nobody's your wife. Call me Morales again without my consent and I'll chop it off."

Leonel shivered. "Yes, wife."

Aina snorted as Leonel broke through the restrictions and sped inside. With a wave of his hand, the restrictions were back to normal as though nothing at all had happened.

Leonel stepped forward and crossed into the portal again.

Standing in the world of flowing darkness again, he looked at the Spear Domain Ring on his finger.

'Well, it's about time I unleash some holy hell.'

Chapter 2410: Hell

Leonel had, of course, not sent Aina into the jaws of danger just to distract everyone.

He had been noticing the odd gazes of the old woman for quite a while now, and she seemed a hint hostile toward Aina.

In the past, or namely when they first met, Leonel hadn't been able to grasp any of the woman's thoughts at all. Even now, it was difficult to do so, but he could nibble at the edges.

When it came to her truest, most secret thoughts, those were well guarded. But Mo"Lexi never found a reason to hide her dislike of Aina, and that dislike only grew every time she saw that Leonel was working while Aina was "unexpectedly" absent.

Of course, that old woman couldn't possibly understand the kind of relationship he and Aina had. From her perspective, Aina was taking advantage of Leonel thanks to her beauty.

What was odd to Leonel was that an old lady like this, who seemed so "adorable," was willing to get mad about this matter, but somehow also willing to turn the lives of so many into that of farm animals for her gain.

There were really only one of three reasons for this, all of which could be exploited by Leonel.

Either she had something in her personal past that mirrored what she was seeing from Aina, she was just an outright hypocrite, or she felt like their sacrifice was "worthy" for the sake of the whole human race.

Either way, it didn't matter.

The "Aina" that was sent on a date with Bogrum was one of her abilities as a Blood Sovereign. The level of clones that she could create with her blood were impossibly lifelike, and it was practically impossible for even someone with Life State Dream Force to tell that it was fake.

Aina didn't usually use these clones because she preferred to fight herself and she didn't very much like her Blood Sovereign abilities despite warming up to it in recent months. So, it could be said that she was doubly mad at Leonel, one for using her, and two for making her use such an ability.

The clones were quite useful aside from fooling people.

They could be used in conjunction with escape, but most importantly, if Aina went all out, she could even create up to three clones that had 90% of her battle strength.

This clone, in particular, only had 50%, though. Leonel would have asked her to make a weaker one if possible, but the unfortunate truth was that if she made it any weaker, it could be possible for someone with Impetus State Dream Force like Leonel or Mo"Lexi to see through them.

All of this set the stage perfectly for Leonel. It could be said that the first half of his plan had already gone smoothly, and if it came to it, he and Aina could just escape from here.

But then what?

Humans were the pariahs of wider Existence; it would be hard for them to be accepted as anything other than slaves if they left here.

If they went to another one of these human organizations, their endings wouldn't be much different than they would be in the cult. They'd be thrown into a created Zone and reared like cattle for their abilities.

If they just became rogues, which was probably the best choice for them, it would be highly difficult just the same. They'd have to live in wildernesses, surrounded by creatures, wildlife, and plant life that could take their lives at any turn, and their progress just might slow to a crawl.

The only real choice was to stay with the humans, to learn from them, to take advantage of them...

But the question was how?

Leonel rolled the Spear Domain Ring through his fingers.

This ring was a trap, but it was also a flaw. He bet that whoever had created it had kept it a secret from the other human powers, or else it would have never gotten so far.

For one, it was because of this ring's existence that Leonel learned that his world was nothing but a breeding ground for the benefit of these "Gods". Without having entered the Tribulation, he might have never learned about this matter at all.

By then, he would have had to rely on his father or grandfather to explain, something they couldn't do because of how easily exploitable his mind would have been. Leonel was sure that had he been a Dream Sovereign back then, he might have already gotten all the details from them long ago.

There was a second flaw of his ring.

How was he able to enter that Tribulation world? How was he able to suddenly expand the world inside the ring by defeating those other geniuses?

If he had known that Noah also disappeared after getting his hands on a Saber Domain Ring, he would have come to this conclusion far quicker as well.

These rings, they were all connected, not just in their nature, but through space.

Of his possessions, if the Segmented Cube and Silver Tablet were of the highest order and could be considered his best treasures, then below that, ranked third, would definitely be these rings.

They were covert and it was hard to think of them as some supreme treasure, but the more he learned about Crafting, the more he understood just how incredibly high level they were.

He couldn't do anything with this knowledge. He was still far too weak.

However, he had two advantages.

First was the advantage of theory and his father's AI to bounce ideas off of.

Second was the engine that would make this whole operation go...

Anastasia.

"Ready?"

Anastasia snorted, but a push of Force began to pour in the Domain Rings that Leonel took out.

"There's pushback."

"That should be the lingering effects of the seal," Leonel confirmed. "Crush it."

Anastasia did as she was told.

If someone well learned was present, they would feel that this sort of pressure wasn't much different from a World Spirit Swallowing another.

BANG!

All hell broke loose.

Chapter 2411: Loose

Leonel blinked. "Man, I'm a genius." Anastasia and Aina snorted at the same time. Maybe Leonel was right, but the moment he was running for his life as the world collapsed around him was most definitely not the time he should be thinking about this.

And that was-running for his life, that is.

Plumes of Anarchic Force rose like vicious tides as though a nuke had just gone off, but the worst part wasn't this gaseous Anarchic Force, but rather the liquid that billowed forth from the ground like ancient hidden geysers.

Leonel sprinted, ducked and rolled every which way, taking advantage of his strong senses to make it through.

Out of Mo"Lexi's range of influence, he could slip into the Dream Plane much more easily, though it was greatly taxing on him. However, right now, he didn't have the luxury of worrying about his Dream Force consumption.

His body was in a terrible state from all the labor he had put it through, and he hadn't been able to eat a proper meal in weeks.

Setting aside the fact Mo"Lexi and the other higher-ups wanted to rear them like cattle, she took advantage of the fact they were in higher Dimensions to not feed them either.

But Leonel was in the Third Dimension right now. His body really couldn't make do without food, making his situation even worse.

Unfortunately, Aina and Anastasia were still mad at him, so he could only continue to run without their worry to bolster his morale.

"Still going in the right direction?" Leonel asked and received another snort in reply. He took that as a yes and kept pressing forward.

Just now, what Anastasia had done wasn't too complicated. Just like her aura had said, she tried to use her status as a World Spirit to consume the World Spirits of the Domain Rings.

But just as Leonel expected, the true World Spirits were located off-world in a completely separate location. Demons couldn't even make it through this in-between world easily, so how much more difficult was it for Anastasia to try and establish a connection and then absorb those World Spirits through a mere few rings?

Thankfully, Leonel hadn't needed Anastasia to succeed. What he needed her to do was to throw a seal that had already shattered even more off balance.

According to his original calculations, the seal's latent energy should have dissipated slowly. During that course, it would begin to display more and more flaws until the demons could bring in large streams of armies. Once it completely collapsed, the Demon Worlds would finish their fusion with the Human Worlds and all hell would break loose.

The only reason Mo"Lexi had been able to teleport Leonel and Aina in and out like she had was because the "flaws" were more well known to the humans in the first place. That was why they had been able to enter, and it was also why Leonel had to wait hours for Mo"Lexi to open the portal as she had likely been doing her due diligence to ensure that they weren't followed.

Anastasia's pressure, though, in trying to force a connection between what were two different Human Bubble worlds had thrown the balance completely off.

The last piece of the puzzle was Leonel's experience in the Cataclysm Zone, or, the Vast Bubble, rather.

That world seemed to be torn into pieces, and their locations rife with demon activity that could only be defended by strategically placed cities.

All of those "demon worlds" were real.

The reason Complete Worlds were called Bubbles was because they could act exactly as such! These Bubbles could be fused and separated under the right kind of power, leading to drastic changes in the landscape.

What Leonel had done firstly formed a connection between two Human Bubble Worlds that had never been there before. Second, he had disrupted the latent energy of the shield, causing its stabilization of the situation to falter. And thirdly, because of these two factors, the attempt of the Demon Worlds to fuse their Bubbles with the human Bubbles, which had been paused for a very long time, had suddenly sped back up once again.

So when Leonel said he had let all hell break loose, he might have even been a little too humble.

Right this moment, what must have been at least half a dozen Bubbles were being forcefully pressed together and would soon merge into a whole new complete world.

And it was all because of him.

Another snort sounded.

Okay, all because of him, Aina, and Anastasia.

"There." Anastasia suddenly said.

Leonel grinned, diving forward and just barely sliding past two boulders that quickly smashed against one another.

He saw a demon in the distance running for their life, but he sped right by them, not even giving them a second glance.

He found a seemingly ordinary location that was a little bit too stable given the chaos in the other regions.

"Please open it for me, Anastasia."

Another snort resounded, but he eventually felt the world being pried open.

This was his second goal, to use the commotion as an excuse to enter another world outside of Mo"Lexi's where it would be easier for him to blend in. In fact, he might not have to hide his identity at all depending on how things went, but it would all depend.

'It's time to find out who's on the other side of those Domain Rings.'

Leonel's gaze sharpened as he jumped through.

There was only one other world that Anastasia could find so quickly, and that was the world that she had formed the connection with in the first place, the world that gave power to the Domain Rings.

...

The commotion that Leonel had caused could only be said to be devastating, but the most shocking part of it wasn't what it did to the world, but rather all of those crates.

One after another, under the rampage of Anarchic Force, the worlds were split open and the crates that Leonel couldn't even manage to dent were destroyed one after another.

Chapter 2412: Greater Good

Mo"Lexi's head snapped up, her expression changing.

"No-!"

It was too late.

The center of the explosion was none other than the room that held the portal, and the backlash was devastating.

Space itself was worn and torn apart. There was nothing calm and tranquil about two worlds fusing together, let alone more than a half dozen.

While lives away from the edges of these worlds would be mostly preserved, those so close to the edge as was in this case, would find themselves teetering on the blade of life and death.

Mo"Lexi could only watch in shock and horror as the crates that had been so diligently worked on, combining countless centuries of resources from the Cult, were unceremoniously shredded to pieces.

Alastar was blown away, as was Aina's clone, but it was like Mo"Lexi had lost her soul.

How could this happen? According to their calculations, there were still several more months before the demons could map out the in-between worlds, and several more years after that before the seal's lingering energy would truly collapse.

Whether it was one or the other, there was time, so much time...

She stood in a daze, the tears in reality unable to harm her, at least not at this level.

Suddenly, the situation just felt... hopeless.

...

Leonel entered the portal and found a huge commotion on the other sides.

The first thing he spotted were the skies. After so many weeks in the hangar, where the only "breathing" room he got was in the dark trenches of the in-between world, he felt like he could finally take a breath.

He had never thought himself to be one who pined for the sun so much, but it seemed that anyone could become claustrophobic when their freedom was being restricted.

The next thing he noticed were the enormous stone platforms.

These platforms clearly had defined grooves and complex mix and matches of various ores that formed a very delicate balance... at least they did before the storm of energy shredded them all to pieces.

Leonel had a feeling that this was another piece of the puzzle, a part of the Human Race's plans to turn them into convenient farm animals. It felt good to see them blasted apart, but while everyone was running around like headless chickens, he grinned.

He had all this Crafting skill and nowhere to expel it all because the resources he had on hand were all of an Incomplete World standard.

In his time since coming back to these Complete Worlds, he noticed a lot of things that he had entirely missed in the past. For example, it wasn't just the worlds here that were Complete, but even the Forces as well.

It was why when he first stepped into the Cataclysm Zone, it had felt like both an Eighth Dimensional world, and yet not at the same time.

If Leonel had to make a guess, he would assume that if there was a ranking of Bubble Worlds, the Human Bubbles would be nearer the bottom. However, because the Forces were more whole and complete than Leonel was used to, it had still felt to him like an exceptionally high level world.

Regardless, he felt that Anastasia would probably know about this. He'd have to remember to ask her later.

The point was that since the Forces were more complete, so were the resources born from them such as Force Herbs and ores. Even the weight of a grade was worth more here than elsewhere.

In fact, if Leonel was correct, this was likely true across worlds. Meaning, a Black Grade treasure that came from El'Rion's world might be stronger than even a Life Grade treasure that came from here.

As he thought, his steps never stopped. He unceremoniously stored away large pieces of flying rubble as he scanned the region, trying to get an understanding of what was going on.

In just a few seconds, he had already stashed mountains worth of these precious resources. Thinking about all the things he could create with these alone, he felt like he was floating on a cloud.

This wasn't because of the resources themselves, per se, but rather because he felt like he was finally gaining a bit of control over his life back.

He might have realized that maybe being a King wasn't the path for him, but one mainstay of that process remained...

He still hated to kneel.

Leonel's figure flashed behind a large falling piece of rubble, his gaze sharpening. He felt that someone was coming over in an attempt to control the situation.

The current region was pretty much filled with people on the same level as Bogrum and those other two. They should have had positions similar to Leonel's role in the hangar. The rest of them were participants from Incomplete Worlds that Leonel recognized. That meant that whoever was coming should have a role similar to Mo"Lexi's.

Out from one frying pan and into another, but he had been ready for this.

In this volatile environment, the control these experts had over the Dream Realm was limited, so he had more control over using it. At the same time, even if he was found... so what? He could just say that Mo"Lexi had sent him into the in-between world, and when everything started to break down, this was the only place he could escape to.

He had options, and he liked options.

Leonel's senses swept over. As a Dream Sovereign, he was far less affected than everyone else, but in the end, he restrained himself, communicating with Anastasia.

This wasn't the time for him to get cocky.

"I'll need you to be my eyes and ears, Anastasia."

Leonel didn't get a response, but he knew that she would listen. Soon, a stream of energy about the surroundings began to enter his mind.

He was overwhelmed at first, but Anastasia pulled back until he was able to bear it quite easily.

Anastasia was able to scan an entire Incomplete World in just a few seconds. Her senses were obviously far beyond Leonel's own.

Leonel saw the one who was approaching and his eyes narrowed.

It was Vivak Godlen.

While he was out, Leonel hadn't been able to listen in on the conversation of the so-called "Gods", but Anastasia had. She had heard enough to know this man was of the Godlen family.

'So it was the Godlens, huh?' Leonel thought to himself, then remembered his grandfather's words.

The Godlens were aligned with the greater good?

No... his grandfather's exact words had been.

'The Godlens are the most aligned with goals that you might describe as... the greater good.'

What did those words mean? Why the hesitation? And how could they be good if they were part of these plans as well? How could they be good if they hid corruption within their Lineage Factors?

- Chapter 2413: Second Round

Chapter 2413: Second Round

Leonel still didn't know what that meant, even now. But he was also thinking about it harder than he would have in the past now that he knew the Godlens had such sinister intentions.

Did his grandfather just not know about the Domain Rings' secrets? That wasn't impossible, it wasn't like Emperor Fawkes had to be infallible. He was human too, he was allowed to make mistakes.

Just as Leonel was thinking, he heard Vivak begin to bark out orders, and in the corner of Anastasia's sight, or at least the furthest corner he could comfortably compute, he saw something that made him curse under his breath.

Noah and Jessica.

'Fuck.'

Leonel could see the Saber Domain Ring on Noah's finger from here, and he didn't have to guess very hard to understand what happened.

The Godlen's must have used the "flaw" in the Domain Rings as a benefit to themselves. Noah likely found the Saber Domain Ring in the first round and had a

breakthrough that caught the attention of the Godlens. The reason why he hadn't seen him when the second round began was because the Godlens had already snatched him up in secret.

Now, Noah was walking around with a somewhat dead look in his eyes that only lit up when he heard Vivak's command. Only then did he have a burst of speed as he began to corral the large masses of rock and debris, making sure that none of them were lost in the tears in space.

The only slight hint that he had any sort of humanity left was the fact Jessica was still strapped to his back. Leonel didn't doubt that they had probably tried getting rid of her several times, but it hadn't worked for them so they gave up. In the end, Noah didn't have enough of his faculties left to continue taking care of Jessica properly, so she would likely die soon. The fact she had lasted so long in the first place was a miracle in and of itself.

'I have to do something.'

Leonel was constantly moving, using the large pieces of debris to hide, and taking advantage of the volatile Force in the air to escape from an Internal Sight sweep.

In this sort of environment, the only ones that could still use senses other than their eyes to see things were those with Life State Dream or Soul Force, and Leonel had already concluded that maybe the only one at that level in the entire human alliance was probably King, but his father had killed him.

Leonel continued to store away large amounts of resources without anyone knowing. By the end of it, he had so many that he could probably build his own little asteroid with them and float off into space on a cloud, but he knew he couldn't.

He sighed inwardly. There was no way he was leaving his cousin behind.

At that moment, Leonel's calm face became "panicked" and he "flew out" from a crack in space.

Vivak's expression changed as he looked over, only to find that Leonel was speeding head first into a large piece of debris that would probably shatter his body into pieces.

Vivak could save him, but at that same moment he saw another important piece about to fly into a spatial tear. He decisively gave up on Leonel even though he was curious about the latter and immediately corralled this piece into his control, pulling it down from the air.

When he looked back, expecting to see Leonel become a piece of earth, his eyes widened in shock.

A bead of golden Spear Force came from Leonel's fingers, tapping against the stone as he spun out of the way.

'Spear Sovereignty!'

He looked at Leonel's finger and noticed there was a Spear Domain Ring there and he was even more shocked.

How had they failed to bring him in?

They had only managed to get a return of two people when they activated their hidden plan. Of course, this didn't include Jessica, but it was rather Noah and one other person who wasn't currently present because he was less of a hassle to deal with.

Noah held onto an obsession related to that woman on his back, so they could only allow her to die naturally so that they could continue with their plans. They wanted to be more forceful about it, but with how fragile the matter was, it was impossible.

But now, this boy had suddenly come out and he was a Sovereign as well. So how had they missed him?

'Could he have comprehended it after the call? No, we would have still sensed it anyway. Then...'

Vivak's gaze flashed as he corralled the last large piece of the formation.

"Everyone retreat! This is a dead zone."

Vivak's speed flashed and Leonel couldn't even react as he was picked up by the scruff of his collar along with Noah.

He could only sigh toward the situation. Being treated like a little kitten who had done wrong did not make him happy at all, but what could he do? This was what he got for being too weak.

He had never really experienced this sort of helplessness before. Of course, he had been weak before, and he had even been forced to watch as others died before him, but this constant and perpetual impugment on his own self-sovereignty was beginning to make him angry.

He took a breath and calmed himself. He would play these people to death one by one. He would definitely get the last laugh.

Minutes later, Leonel was put down beside Noah and pretended to be disoriented.

"Who?! Where!?"

He looked around, his eyes widening when he saw Vivak.

"Ah, Sir God!"

Vivak's lip twitched. This young man was a little too eager, but none of it mattered.

"You, how are you here? Didn't Mo-"

The man paused, not wanting a round two of a previous situation.

Leonel smirked inwardly. That had worked once on him, it wouldn't work again. But that was just fine, at least he didn't have to pretend to be a dull mute for another few hours.

In the end, he explained with the previous reasoning he had already thought up.

It seemed it was time for a second round of games to begin.

Chapter 2414: Impossible

"-so you were thrown into the in-between worlds to collect demons for the juniors, and this happened while you were inside?" Vivak's gaze narrowed. "You're quite... lucky."

Leonel laughed, scratching the back of his head. "My Dream Force is quite good and my reaction speed is excellent. Plus, I was lucky enough to find a spatial tear out and took my chances."

Vivak nodded slowly. Leonel's Dream Force was indeed powerful, abnormally so. It should also explain why he managed to become a Spear Sovereign.

'A Destruction Sovereign and a Spear Sovereign in the same body. He's exactly the kind of specimen we were hoping for... no, he's more than we could have ever hoped for. But that doesn't explain why we didn't sense him.'

"Your Spear Dom-"

"Ah! Noah!"

Leonel's eyes opened wide as though this was the first time he noticed his cousin by his side.

Noah was a bit sluggish to react, but he looked at Leonel with a dull gaze before nodding lightly.

"Oh... Hello, Leonel."

He nodded and then lowered his head to the floor.

Leonel blinked in "confusion," before he pursed his lips and pretended to be peeved by Noah's reaction.

"We're cousins and you still act like this every time you see me? Is it that big of a deal that I was named Crown Prince and you weren't? You even went and changed your last name."

The nonsense flew out from Leonel's mouth with a practiced ease.

He had thought about pretending not to know Noah at all, but he tossed that idea to the back.

For one, he didn't know how much information these people had about him. If he pretended not to know Noah, and then they found out that they were cousins, then wouldn't he be shooting himself in the foot?

But this was a perfect compromise. It gave him a reason to expose their relationship without appearing to be too close to him.

Plus, if they investigated, they would find that he and Noah were indeed not that close. Though, their relationship also couldn't be said to be bad either.

What Leonel really needed was an excuse to help Jessica out. He couldn't let her die just like that. If Noah ever snapped out of it and found out what happened, he would never forgive himself.

"Cousins?" Vivak's gaze narrowed.

"Yes, my mother and his father are siblings," Leonel said lightly, still a bit "annoyed."

Vivak's eyes seemed to flash with a fierce light. This sort of thing...

He pushed it aside for now.

"Your Spear Domain Lineage Factor, how is it?"

"Spear Domain..." Leonel's eyes lit up. "... Oh, you mean that. Sorry, I haven't called it that in a long time."

Vivak raised an eyebrow, "why's that?"

"Well, everyone in my Morales family calls it that, but when it awakened for me, it was different. I think it might be because I have too many Lineage Factors; it might have mutated."

Vivak's brows shot up. "I see..."

If this was true, it would explain everything. It was no wonder they didn't sense it; this brat managed to evade them by luck.

In truth, Vivak wasn't necessarily wrong. At the very least, the first avoidance was due to sheer luck.

Leonel never finished the Bow Domain Lineage Factor, so he didn't suffer its corruption. And then his Spear Domain Lineage Factor fused with his Metal Synergy Lineage Factor and the Midas, Radix, and Florer family Lineage Factors as well, so he was completely in the clear.

"Tell you what, Leonel, is it?"

Leonel's eyes brightened. "Sir God remembered my name; I'm flattered."

Vivak chuckled; he found that he quite liked this kid.

"How do you feel about going with me instead of Molexi?"[Author's note: spelled like that on purpose]

"Ah... This..." Leonel was hesitant.

Vivak observed Leonel.

He really couldn't tell that anything Leonel was doing was an act, but he still felt a hint of suspicion. It was difficult to reconcile this Leonel with the Leonel that boldly spoke to all of them and "demanded" to be a Seeded Participant.

But then he remembered something, that beautiful young woman who was by his side.

He was a man, so he understood. Men did stupid things all the time for their women. If Leonel had only acted back then to make sure that he and Aina went to the same place, it would be easy to reconcile this Leonel and the one of back then.

"Tell you what, I'll even contact Molexi about bringing your little lover over too."

When Leonel heard this, his face sank, and tears began to pool in his eyes.

Vivak understood immediately. Something must have happened to that little girl. Grasping this weakness, he changed his tactics immediately.

"I won't ask you what happened, young man, but I can tell you that in this world, power is everything. If you want to seek revenge, all you can do is make yourself as strong as possible.

"The Three Finger Cult only treated you as half a Seeded Participant, even making you run errands for them. But I'll take it upon myself to give you full rights as a Seeded Participant so long as you comply with some experiments my family scientists will hold.

"You will grow far stronger under my wing as opposed to theirs."

When Leonel heard this, he looked toward Vivak with his red eyes.

"Thank you. I accept," he spoke through gritted teeth.

...

It wasn't long before Leonel and Noah were escorted out of the region of destruction. Leonel even got his own room and board, and it was semi-luxurious at that.

He sat onto his bed, his gaze flickering.

He was really playing with fire right now, but what else could he do? He wondered what kind of experiments they would try to run on him?

Regardless, there was one thing Vivak said that was correct. He had to get stronger.

He had stalled their preparations, and soon the fusion of the worlds would be complete and these higher ups would be entirely occupied by fighting off the armies of the demons. It would be all hands on deck.

He felt that it would at most be half a month before the worlds stabilized and there would be a full-scale, all-out war.

In that time, he had to finish his father's first three tasks.

Even if they were impossible, he had to make them possible.

Chapter 2415: Underestimated

Leonel took a breath, and his mind sharpened.

He focused his attention. There were two things he had to do before he could start building his Nodes again, that being raising all of his Forces to the Impetus State and comprehending the Constellation within him.

Thanks to Mo"Lexi, his Scarlet Star Force had risen to the Impetus State, and his Destruction Sovereignty had taken a huge leap forward. If not for the fact he was stuck in a Third Dimensional body, he would be a true force to be reckoned with.

His Dream Force was already in the Lower Impetus State, his Vital Star Force was also there, his Weapon Forces were in the Middle Impetus State, and they were actually his strongest Forces currently.

This only left two targets.

He had to raise his Dark Force to the Impetus State along with his Emulation Spatial Force.

Leonel hesitated. There was a hidden third thing he had to do, and that was an unspoken requirement of his father's list...

That was to confirm his path. Every Force he brought to the Impetus State was like another confirmation of the path he was headed down.

Right now, all of his Innate Nodes were in a dormant state. He had already figured out that this was because he had yet to activate his Nodes yet. He was in a similar state to before he had created even his first Node back in the Joan Zone.

Did that mean that if he wanted to abandon his Innate Nodes, this would be the best time to do so? Should he consider abandoning Emulation Spatial Force entirely?

He was hesitating.

Emulation Spatial Force wasn't a pure Spatial Force; it was mixed with Dream Force. It allowed him a method of projecting his Dream Force out of his body, something his Ability Index didn't allow alone.

But much like El'Rion had said, there was definitely a price to pay for taking the Innate Nodes of others. In fact, there was even a price to pay for having your own Innate Nodes as well.

So should he move forward with it? Or not?

Leonel made his decision. 'I will keep it.'

For one, there was no guarantee that if he got rid of the Innate Node right now, that it wouldn't still impact him.

He believed his grandfather had used an ingenious method to return him to the Third Dimension, but he highly doubted that that method was absolutely perfect, or else everyone wouldn't see him as being in the Fifth Dimension.

Second, he felt that Emulation Spatial Force was an excellent conduit for his current path of Dream Force. If he wanted to use King Alexandre's Ability Index to its fullest degree, this might be a key cog.

'Okay, then these are the last two. Dark Force. Emulation Spatial Force.'

Of the two, they were closer than he thought.

Thanks to him raising his Scarlet Star Force and Void Star Force simultaneously at one point, his Dark Force was already at the Fourth Layer, a step from the Impetus State.

His Emulation Spatial Force was at the Third Layer, two steps from the Impetus State.

Leonel's thoughts went back to that feeling that he had gotten when he entered the Dream Plane. He felt that comprehending his own Forces had never been easier, even in that brief instant.

After thinking for a while, he had an idea. Anastasia was right; he tried to do everything alone too often.

"How do I avoid the suppression of other Dream Forces?"

Mo"Lexi wasn't in the Life State, but her Impetus State Dream Force was stronger than his own. As such, she was able to create a domain around her that disallowed others from slipping into the Dream Plane. He had almost exposed himself when he made the attempt.

He doubted that Vivak was also some Dream Force master, but he knew that there were other ways to protect against Dream Force. Plus, the Godlen family was a strong enough Crafting family that they created the Domain Rings; how could they not have some Dream Force experts too even if they were weaker than Mo"Lexi?

Due to this, he was stuck. He couldn't enter that wonderful feeling again, not here, not if he didn't do something first.

"Idiot," Anastasia's voice came before Velasco's AI could respond. "You have me, don't you? Their suppression can't reach me. You want to observe your own Forces from the Dream Plane, right? There's no better place to do that than in the Segmented Cube."

Leonel felt like he had been struck by lightning. Indeed, why didn't think of that?

Ultimately, he knew why. He treated Anastasia like a chubby-faced annoying older sister, not what she truly was: a World Spirit. He was carrying his own independent world around with him; it was time he started acting like it.

Leonel stood. "Okay, I will go to the library Vivak mentioned and use it as a convenient method to check on Noah. Aina, can you please use my blood to create a clone of me?"

A snort echoed in Leonel's ears, and he smiled bitterly. It seemed that he still wasn't forgiven.

He gripped his fists. Soon, he would be strong enough that he'd never have to put her through that again.

Without a word, he left his room and strolled forward. When Anastasia told him the coast was clear, he slipped into Noah's room.

When Vivak was here, Leonel had pretended not to care about where Noah was going, making the matter less suspicious. But he had had Anastasia keep an eye out. Luckily, to keep up appearances, Noah also received his own room along with Jessica.

Looking at his dull reaction to his sudden entry, Leonel shook his head.

"What do you think, Anastasia? Can I free him?"

Leonel knew a lot about the corruption, enough to know that it was still beyond him to deal with. That was why he had to go through all that effort in the first place.

Now that it was activated, it might be even more of a headache to untangle.

But to his surprise, after a while, Noah's dull eyes suddenly sharpened.

"Leo, you're here?"

Leonel blinked then he grinned like a madman. It seemed he had underestimated this cousin of his a bit too much.

Chapter 2416: Tell You

Leonel was more than a little bit pleasantly surprised. Although it was unfortunate that he had allowed himself to be caught for Noah's sake, there wasn't much he could do to change that. It wasn't like Noah could snap out of it in front of Vivak and tell him to run. If that happened, they would have both been screwed.

That aside, this wasn't the end of the world either. If he could take proper advantage of the Godlen family, he could likely advance faster than if he was on his own anyway. In a way, being here was much safer than just being out and about in the wider world.

At least here, Vivak and experts like him could be used as a buffer while Leonel worked in the background to improve his position.

"That's a relief. It seems I thought too much, it's good you're doing fine."

Noah smiled a bit bitterly when he heard this. He was doing fine, but Jessica...

He hadn't been ignoring Jessica all this time, it was just that he couldn't do much about her. He didn't have any healing abilities and all of his attempts to help her ended quite awkwardly. He had a hard time feeding her, he was a bit embarrassed to bathe her, and he was careful with how he moved her around to an almost anal degree.

Back then, when Vivak had just grabbed them and run, it took everything within him to not snap.

Leonel looked at Jessica and then brought Aina out.

"Can you do something about her?" Leonel asked.

Aina ignored Leonel, clearly still a bit angry. She turned her focus entirely on Jessica.

It was harder for her to target her pills toward others. Her Clairvoyance was perfect for her, but much like her healing abilities, it only worked on herself and no one else.

That said, she did still have great skill as a Force Pill Crafter regardless. If it was just a task to create a general purpose healing pill, it wasn't too complicated at all.

Jessica was still in the Seventh Dimension and was at the standards of the Incomplete World. She wasn't hard to heal at all.

Aina nodded after a moment and then disappeared. A few minutes later, a pill appeared in Leonel's hands.

"It should dissolve easily enough in her mouth. You can also press it into any open wound if you're worried about her choking. So long as it makes contact with her blood, you should be fine."

Noah took the pill, his green eyes filled with endless gratitude. But just when he was going to feed the Force Pill to Jessica, he hesitated.

If Jessica suddenly became perfectly healthy, wouldn't they be exposed? The idea of leaving her in this state on purpose ripped his heart out, but if they were exposed, wouldn't they all die? By then, let alone pain, they would simply cease to be.

"Don't worry about it. Aina controlled the efficacy of the Force Pill so that its main property would be sustaining her life. Once she's recovered enough, we can draw her blood and create a realistic clone of her to act injured on her behalf. Then, I can place her into the Segmented Cube where she'll be safe."

Noah didn't know what to say. "... Thank you."

"No need to thank me, we're all family, aren't we?"

Leonel's grin made Noah's heart skip a beat. Leonel seemed to have changed. This Leonel was much more like the Leonel he had first met. Well... the Leonel that wasn't enraged about him fighting Aina, that is.

After nodding firmly, Noah fed the pill to Jessica. Almost immediately, he could sense her situation stabilize and a weighted stone on his heart finally fell.

Over the next week or so, she would slowly begin to heal. After that, she should be strong enough for them to draw some blood for Aina to create a Blood Clone. Then he wouldn't have to carry her around like this.

Finally, the two men got serious.

"What's your goal?" Noah asked.

"Get stronger and then escape," Leonel replied seriously.

"Is that all?"

"Well, not really. But due to the circumstances, there's not much else I can explain to you."

"Is it because of the Dream Plane?"

Leonel's brows raised. He didn't expect Noah to mention this.

"Yes, you could say that." Leonel eventually nodded.

"I understand. I've thought of a method to deal with it. That dull state I was in previously was triggered by the Domain Ring, I think, or maybe the changes its Lineage Factor caused to my body.

"I could feel it taking over my mind, and that was when I learned about the Dream Plane. I managed to awaken an Ability of the Emperor's Might Lineage Factor that allowed me to hold my mind up. Unfortunately, it's at the weakest level right now, so that's why I can't keep my faculties. But this ended up being a blessing in disguise because that dullness is exactly what they were expecting."

Leonel's gaze sharpened. It seemed that he had neglected something.

When he got the Emperor's Might Tablet, there was a whole store of techniques. Other than a handful of the first few, he had skipped all the ones in the middle and jumped right to the three strongest techniques: Breathe, Assimilate, and Arise.

All this time, he had been focused on gathering more merits so that he might find a technique in the Silver Tablet so that he could protect his mind more easily, when he had a perfect method with him already.

Noah managed to stumble into the method by accident, likely because he had the pure Emperor's Might Lineage Factor while Leonel had a mutated version. But even so, this was a big deal.

"I see, then I'll tell you some things..." Leonel began to speak, explaining the Zone farming plan to Noah.

Noah's expression was serious the entire time despite the shock in his heart. Not only was he in shock toward the real goal of these humans' powers, but also that Leonel had actually managed to figure all of this out on his own.

Chapter 2417: Sneer

"... I've managed to stall their plans quite considerably, and if I'm correct, I highly doubt they could get it back up and running without at least several more years. In addition, that should only be if they could focus their full attention on it. With the demons coming, I doubt they'll have the luxury of planning something so big.

"Things are relatively calm now, but they'll be crushed under the weight of battle after battle soon enough. When that time comes, they'll really have no choice but to use us as normal warriors for the time being, likely while they collect the corpses of the dead for the future."

"This was all caused by you?!" Noah's eyes widened in shock.

"Ah," Leonel waved a hand, "just a little."

Noah was speechless. This man had single-handedly ruined everything for these powers and they probably still didn't know that they had been played. Worst yet, he had just been invited by one of them to benefit from their resources on top of that.

Two snorts echoed in Leonel's ears, causing him to rub his nose.

"That aside, before I knew you were fine, my plan was just to save you. The second thing was to understand what the Godlen family wanted to do with the Domain Rings. Now that I have you here, though, what experiments are they running?" Leonel asked.

Noah frowned. "It's hard to remember clearly when I'm in that state, but I've been trying to improve my retention as well. I think that their original intention was to separate my mind from the Dream Plane.

"Although it's also a method of control, I think they also wanted to hide me and Amery."

"Amery is the other?" Leonel asked.

"Yes, he is the other." Noah confirmed. "As for the experiments, it seems that their focus is on the mind and the soul. I believe they're looking to perfect the Domain Lineage Factor, not just giving one an innate ability to use Spear Force, but a step beyond to use Sovereign Spear Force."

Leonel nodded slowly before he heard a snort echo in his ears again.

It seemed that the two women in his life right now couldn't use their big girl words, so this was about the only warning he would get out of them. It was likely that there was someone coming soon, so he should be on his way.

"Someone is coming. We can try and discuss this again later. Let me know if you have any ideas," Leonel spoke as he opened the door a crack and slipped out, unbeknownst to anyone but Noah himself.

Noah sighed. With a shake of his head, his gaze slowly turned dull as his room door was opened once again.

A woman who was just a few years shy of her middle-aged rushed in. She wore what should have been a lab coat, or what these Bubbles took as their own spin on the concept. Though the long coat was white, it was also embroidered with countless runes that formed a Force Art spanning the whole fabric. It made what was once a white coat radiate more like a steely blue.

She unceremoniously stepped forward, grabbed Noah by the tricep, and then pulled him out of the room.

...

Leonel watched this from a distance down the hall silently. He took mental note of the woman and then flickered and vanished, rushing toward the Godlen family library. He didn't have time to waste.

As he did so, he was mindful of a number of things as well. The Godlens were one of the families he had had conflict with in the Dimensional Verse. It would be hard to say what would happen if he ran into Simona, or her mother, or that annoying old man who didn't know better than to keep his father's name out of his mouth.

However, he also couldn't just hole himself up either. He quickly thought of some countermeasures to deal with him as he slipped into the library.

He displayed a token that Vivak had given him and was granted access.

'It seems that there are likely very few people that know about the situation with the Incomplete Worlds. That's probably why only the elite of the elites appeared during the "second round". In that case, they probably treat me like I'm any other disciple, which was why they gave me so much freedom.

'I'll have to be more cautious, though.'

Leonel was sharp. When he went to Noah's room, he had left his token there. He wouldn't be surprised if it had a tracking function of sorts, but he didn't try to tamper with it in case there were measures against that as well.

He quickly found a book on exactly what he was looking for.

It was titled [Universal Forces: A Comprehensive Breakdown].

The title couldn't have been simpler and it was very much beginner-friendly.

Truth be told, Leonel didn't know how much of these books to trust. These human powers had turned everything into an opportunity to suppress the masses and pass down their own teachings. They had even changed the name of the Dimensions so that their underlings wouldn't understand the importance of those words.

However, Leonel had a facade to keep up. If he was suddenly given a wealth of knowledge, and yet didn't use it, wouldn't they be suspicious?

It was only for a moment. While he was "reading" this book, he was consulting his father's words, trying to understand more about it.

Ultimately, he came to an odd conclusion.

'If I use [Caged Body: Chained Soul], it'll give me a stronger grasp over my body and I'll be able to sense the Constellation within me easier as well. If I match that with a trip to the Dream Plane, I should be able to sense and comprehend the Constellation as clear as day.

'That makes my path to understanding the Constellation clear, but what about my two remaining forces...'

Leonel's eyes narrowed and he decided to go over something he almost never did: techniques.

He had spent quite a long time in this world of battle and blood, but the number of techniques he had learned could be counted on two hands, and most of them were self-created at that.

It was a neglected aspect of his combat prowess, if he was honest. But he wasn't looking to bolster his strength right now.

If there was one thing that these powers couldn't hide, it was the intricacies hidden within their techniques. If they stripped those techniques of even that, then they wouldn't just be gaining control, they would be crippling themselves.

He didn't have enough contributions to spend on the techniques in the Silver Tablet, so this was the best he could do.

"You-!"

A voice made Leonel's eyes narrow and he looked up to find Simona and a young man about 15 or so meters from his seated position.

'What an annoyance,' Leonel thought to himself.

The problem with running into Simona wasn't her strength, the problem was having someone here who was intimately familiar with his true self. It would make fooling these people hundreds of times more annoying.

That said... he could use this as well.

Leonel sneered inwardly.

Chapter 2418: Triple It

Leonel didn't say anything and only gave Simona a cursory glance before continuing to "read" what was before him. This, unsurprisingly, caused Simona to be agitated. She was usually a calm person, but everything Leonel did seemed to throw her off that steady rhythm.

The young man by her side was familiar to Leonel, he was the very same young man who used that black flaming lion during the Heir Wars. Leonel had never bothered to learn his name, but it was still of some interest that he was here.

Leonel couldn't help but wonder how much the Godlen family and the other powers had personally taken out of the Dimensional Verse or the other universes.

Seeing that Leonel was planning on directly ignoring her, Simona clenched her teeth before taking a breath to calm down. Then, she turned and directly left, the young man giving Leonel a glance before following after her soon afterward.

Leonel didn't need to look up to know that Simona was entering a higher level of the library than he had access to. He didn't mind this, what he was more so paying attention to was that she could. That meant that her father's standing wasn't very weak. In fact, he had never met her father before. For all he knew, Vivak was precisely him.

'I'll need to find a way to sneak into those higher-tiered rooms. I think I can manage it.'

Anastasia scanned the Force Arts protecting these things. It was clear to him that everything worked based on the token he was given. He didn't have the confidence to tamper with it himself, but he felt that maybe he could trust Anastasia with the task.

Leonel put the book down and read another, then another.

These people already knew that his Dream Force was exceptional. If he stayed too long on one book, it would only harm him. In fact, the best use of his time would be distracting them with the thought that he was soaking in all of their knowledge.

Leonel got up after three hours and made a move.

...

"Father," Simone's voice called out.

Vivak looked up from his desk. There was a hint of gloominess between his brows, not because he was seeing his daughter, but rather because of all the trouble that kept piling up on his desk.

They had lost at least 20% of the formation stele that they had labored over for decades to create. If they wanted to return it to its previous state, it would take first creating an action plan to fuse together the pieces they had, then they would have to gather the missing materials, before fixing all the damage.

Each stage could easily take years to complete, but that wasn't even the worst part.

Mo"Lexi sent a report that she had lost at least over 60% of her prepared resources. She had by far the worst losses and it might take upwards of a decade to recover.

To experts of their level, a decade was nothing. In fact, it was quite fast. That was because they already had all the plans ready, so they'd only be focused on gathering what they already had.

The trouble was that they still didn't have that kind of time.

The only saving grace was that the Godlen family had only ever been using that plan as a coverup. What Vivak was so worried about wasn't the fact it failed, but rather that now there was no buffer for them to roll out their real plans any longer.

They were already on a tight schedule, but now it felt like they didn't have the luxury even to take an extra breath.

"What's the matter, Simona?"

Simona could sense her father's displeasure with being interrupted. However, she still grit her teeth.

"Leonel Morales? I thought he went with the Cult?"

"He was caught up in the whirlwind-" Vivak frowned and met his daughter's gaze. "Didn't I tell you to forget that man? But you've run all the way here to ask about him?"

Simona became a bit angry. "Father, I've already told you, I have no feelings for Leonel."

Vivak continued to look into Simona's violet eyes, but then nodded slowly.

When a man's daughter came from far away and one of the first things she didn't was speak about another young man, how could a father's mind not wander?

The problem wasn't Simona falling for someone, but rather who she was falling for. That couldn't be allowed.

"I came here to tell you that you've given him too much freedom. He is very dangerous; the family will suffer if the leash on him is not tight. He is a dog that will bite back."

Hearing these words, Vivak finally set his last worries at ease. It seemed he had really thought too much, and in the end, he actually chuckled, some of the shadow over his expression dissipating.

"I've taken proper precautions; you don't need to worry about that," Vivak said lightly.

Simona hesitated, but she bit back her words. Instead, she spoke simply.

"Father, when he was in the Fifth Dimension he was responsible for reversing the plot of the Cult and sending us all back to the Dimensional Verse.

"When he was in the Sixth Dimension, he entered the Heir Wars, and even when I escaped, he stayed behind and faced off against a planet-destroying weapon on his own and won.

"When he was in the Seventh Dimension, not only did he unify the Human Domain on his own, he shattered the efforts of the Shield Cross Stars, the Cult, and even our own efforts in stopping him from doing so.

"I do not know how he has returned to the Fifth Dimension somehow, and you might be right that he's just been crippled. I know it's not my place to say or try to correct father's actions, but whatever you've done, please double it or triple it.

"He is a danger to everyone."

Vivak's smile faded.

Chapter 2419: Follow Me

[Mind's Sanctuary].

Leonel went through the ability quickly and picked up the Force Art as though it was as easy as breathing. This was the very technique that Noah had naturally awakened, and it was one that would protect his mind. It stopped others from easily prying into his thoughts through the Dream Plane and it was likewise a method that he could use in stages and tiers.

Noah had said that the only reason his expression was dull when he used this technique was that he wasn't proficient with it. The technique at this stage was best used when going to sleep so that you could be protected even while you weren't aware.

But who said it didn't have its uses?

With his Control Ability Index, Leonel was able to fake the dull expression if he needed to, but he would have a hard time faking the Dream Force waves within him. This technique would help him to do that if it became necessary.

He looked at the other techniques within the tablet, but he changed his mind after a while. He didn't have time to delve into all of these techniques right now. The best use of his time was his Constellation.

Leonel took a breath and exhaled. He sunk his mind into the deepest parts of himself and entered the Dream Plane.

It was a bit difficult, but it wasn't nearly as difficult as when he was under Mo"Lexi and Vivak's influence.

Surprisingly, he saw it almost immediately. It was a valiant warrior made of stars, wielding a spear prepared to pierce through the veil of the world itself. It was a gorgeous sight.

Leonel, though, felt like it was missing something.

He had seen the daunting auras of the Shadow Tail, the Dusky Steel Bat, and the Aurora Black when he first grasped the dark side of his Lineage Factor. He had also seen the Snowy Star Owl in that vision when he first awakened the light side.

They had so much life, so much imposingness. It felt that the planets around him could be crushed with a single movement of theirs.

'It's not the same, though, right?'

Leonel was a bit conflicted. Somewhere in his subconscious, he felt that they carried some similarities. But logically, he felt that this was ridiculous.

One represented a living, breathing creature, while the other was just a manifestation of a family's pride. It was amorphous and nebulous, it had no real form, no real substance. It was meant to be a supplement, not an existence all to itself.

What was this discomfort, then?

'Stars...'

Star Force seemed to lay the foundation for so many things. The only reason that Leonel hadn't bothered to comprehend it separately, much like he had ignored Light Force, was because he already had two Star Force-related Forces that he had brought to the Impetus State.

But this...

Now that he thought about it, he could remember ever hearing of anyone using "Star Force." He had heard of pure Light Force before, pure Dark Force, he had heard of pure Spatial Force or pure Dream Force, but why had he never heard of pure Star Force?

'Universal Force?'

It all seemed to be building up to the stars.

The Four Seasons Realm, then Heavenly Body, then Natural Light, then Cosmos, then Constellation.

It felt like a disordered mess to him when he first learned about it.

Shouldn't it be Natural Light, then Four Seasons, the Heavenly Body, then Constellation, and only finally then Cosmos?

But he had been proved wrong about that and it opened up another Realm of understanding for him, but even that was just surface level.

He felt like there was something deeper, something hidden deep within-

"Leonel, someone is coming."

Leonel snapped out of his meditative state and left the Segmented Cube in a single step. But he frowned instantly.

'Three days? How did three days pass? That's impo-'

Knock. Knock. Knock.

Leonel got up and opened the door, finding a familiar woman wearing a lab coat waiting for him.

'Shit, this is a problem. What happened to Noah while I was out? How did three days pass so quickly? Was it because I was so focused on the Dream Plane?'

He didn't blame Anastasia. Whatever that feeling was, it was akin to an enlightenment that was easy to hear of and yet difficult to grasp.

Another person might have been enraged by this loss, but Leonel didn't feel it to be so. With his Control Ability Index, even if he lost that moment of enlightenment, he could perfectly replicate the series of feelings, thoughts, and emotions that had led to it.

Unfortunately, it seemed he didn't have the time to do so.

"You've been in your room for three days," the scientist lady spoke lightly.

Leonel smiled. "I didn't even notice the time. I was digesting all the information I got from the library and three days passed in a blink, I'm kind of surprised."

"Mm," the lady said somewhat coldly. "My name is Liana. You may call me Head Researcher."

Leonel chuckled inwardly. What an odd woman. Why introduce herself if she wasn't going to let him use her name?

"Follow me."

Leonel did as he was told, his senses on full alert. What Liana didn't notice was that a finger sleeve that was almost always with Leonel had disappeared. Of course, it was still there, just not visible or tangible.

Anastasia was using up ambient Force every second to keep herself within this intangible state.

They entered a lab, and it looked like it was plucked right out of Earth and placed here.

"Please strip. Everything, even your understanding. Lie down on the table."

Leonel's lip twitched. They really did want to treat him like some kind of animal.

"In a few seconds, you will feel pressure on your mind. This is a simulation event that I put all my patients through. It will separate your mind and body and make it feel as though you've gained a perfect clone of yourself.

"Do not resist."

Leonel's eyes narrowed somewhat when he heard these words.

Chapter 2420: Needle or...

Leonel eventually did as he was told, stripping down. His body was as vascular and ripped as it had been after he entered the Fourth Dimension for the first time. In fact, right now, it felt even more exaggerated. He actually found it to be a bit amusing.

Back on Earth, those with a Bodybuilding Gene Analysis used to be some of the people he looked to. He remembered that Allan used to be very disappointed that he didn't get such a designation because it was the designation his father and brothers had received as well.

The idea of starving yourself for weeks at a time, just to get down to a few percentages of body fat, was insane to him. He loved food too much, though in an irony of ironies, he rarely ate these days.

Now, he was one of those lean fitness models. It was funny sometimes how life came full circle.

Leonel shook his head, what was he thinking about?

He took off his pair of boxers, silently apologizing to Aina.

"I won't let them take advantage of me," Leonel sent his voice into the Segmented Cube, but he could tell that Aina was even angrier now than she had been before, causing him to smile bitterly.

Leonel slid onto the bed as Liana turned around. Her gaze flickered with an odd light, but she didn't say anything as she came back to hook Leonel up.

"Hey, hey, wait. You don't really need to put a probe down there-"

Leonel's words were cut off as Liana tried to shove a probe up his ass.

"Please unclench," Liana said, pulling back with a frown on her face. Just now, that clench of Leonel's had almost broken her finger.

She was in the Eighth Dimension, and Leonel was only in the Fifth. So, she had just pressed forward, trying to get it over with swiftly as this was something her patients always complained about. Truthfully, the probe wasn't strictly necessary, but she liked the potential extra data she could receive.

"No way," Leonel shook his head.

Liana frowned. "This isn't a choice."

"That probe is hardly necessary. My body is in the Fifth Dimension, it has little to no resistance to anything. I can tell that the rest is enough-

"This is not for you to decide."

"Am I being forced?" Leonel asked.

Just as Liana was about to say yes, her words caught in her throat. She remembered her orders, and she knew that pushing the patients too far, especially when they had all their faculties about themselves like Leonel, would be more of a detriment than anything else.

Eventually, she chose to take a step back.

"No... But I'll have to replace it with something else." Liana took out a long probe. "Please open your mouth."

Leonel chose to comply this time, but the feeling of a tube stretching down into your throat was the kind he didn't want to have to experience ever again.

Even then, Liana wasn't finished as she placed what looked like electrodes all over his crotch region. She had brought forward two initially, but as though she felt it wasn't enough, she took out two more, then another two for a total of six.

Leonel could only shake his head. 'This woman is crazy.'

"Okay, please lean back and relax."

Liana moved behind a wall of curved glass that took up about a quarter of the white room. Behind it, there was an array of monitors and a standing desk she stood behind.

"I will begin on the lowest setting just to test your reflexive resistance tendencies. Then we'll move deeper and deeper."

Leonel closed his eyes, but his mind was on full alert.

He could deduce some things from Liana's words. By reflexive resistance, she was obviously referring to whether he would fight back against the feeling or not. Anyone would have some subconscious resistance to their mind being probed at.

Leonel, if he wanted, could turn his inhibitions down to zero. He had perfect control over himself. But the question was... should he?

It was hard to make deductions when he didn't know exactly what would happen, and in her stealth form, Anastasia was limited in how much help she could give him.

He hadn't managed to spot any obvious Force Arts, and he was hesitant about using [Mind Sanctuary] just yet.

'Hm... Let's dial it up... to about 10%,' Leonel decided.

He felt an odd energy descend toward him and blanket his Ethereal Glabella. It was like it was wrapping the crystal in a cocoon, making it both a part of his body, and yet somehow separate at the same time.

Leonel resisted.

BANG!

His eyes snapped open to find that a crack had appeared in the glass Liana was hiding behind, and her hair even looked somewhat disheveled.

Liana pressed a hand to her chest and took a breath.

She slowly came out from behind the glass.

"Your reflexive resistance is very high, I'll have to feed you quite a high dose of sedatives. I wouldn't normally want to do this as it might impede the later results, but we have no choice."

Leonel nodded. "Okay."

He wasn't very worried about sedatives. His blood circulated through his heart and into his kidneys. Once it did that, it would have to pass through his Scarlet Star Force Nodes. Even though they were dormant right now, he wasn't worried.

"Would you prefer a needle or-"

"Needle," Leonel quickly said before this woman could try to shove a finger up his ass again.

Liana blinked, feeling that Leonel's reaction was odd. But she still followed through with using the needle.

Leonel heard a giggle in his ear, though it stopped quickly. He couldn't help but grin. I knew you couldn't stay mad at me forever.

"We'll go again," Liana said.

Leonel's expression became serious once again.

He didn't expect his 10% resistance to have such an exaggerated result, but it was still enough to know what was happening.

These people... were quite annoying.