

Dungeon S 791

Chapter 791 The Purple Thunder

"No wonder Weslie likes you so much, you truly are a gentleman from the way you carry her." Ayse teased Gold as she coughed out more blood and saliva. Her panting was hurried, and the coarse voice could clearly show her injuries had worsened to the next stage.

"What are you thinking!!" Gold asked as he put her down. "You could have gotten yourself killed!"

"What's it look like? I was saving your arse so Weslie would own me one... but it looks like the favour was returned immediately." Ayse joked once again via the System Channel as she tried to stand up defiantly.

"System, why have you not teleported these two out of the way?!" Gold harshly reprimanded it in the System Channel for its inaction as he returned to a defensive stance against the unpredictable Kiva.

The problem wasn't that Kiva was a competent fighter making him hard to read, it was more the opposite. He fought like an amateur, yet his strength and versatility were so absurdly high, making him unpredictable for Gold.

"Affirmative." The System stated, and it immediately teleported Weslie and Gold into the military base where the goblin clerics had been on standby, ready to aid them.

"What? Why did you teleport me instead of Ayse? Get me back there this instant! Ayse needs more help than me!!" Gold complained as he shouted into empty space, but the clerics were already attempting to restrain him and healing the moderate wounds that he had sustained from trying to block the two Mantis Blades.

"Ehhh... This is no fun. Totally forgot you guys can teleport. Also, I meant to say this, but you guys must have met an ancient monster if he's able to teleport you whenever you want. I am dying to meet him." Kiva spoke while trying to track the scent of Weslie and Gold only to come with the result that it had just vanished. He deduced it was a long-range teleportation skill/spell.

"Too bad for you they were unable to get all of you out. You must have pissed off that old fart if he did not bother with you over the new guy!" Kiva taunted her.

"System has issued a mandatory order to Head Orc Researcher Ayse: Kill the enemy without prejudice for his insult against the System. System is willing to reward you with a generous lump sum of System points. The more miserable the demise, the better the reward." The System stated, and Ayse began to laugh out loud slowly.

"Haha...Hahah! Thank you for your generous reward, I will gladly take them all!" Ayse laughed even louder, and Kiva thought that the injured orc must be going crazy. "You want me to torture him after I kill him? Do you mind if I ask Kraft for his expertise? Something like that should be right up his alley."

"Possible remuneration will be given by the System if Ayse is able to give out a satisfactory punishment to the offender. Feel free to get Original Bellator Kraft involved." In short, the System was all too willing to see the insolent bat suffer.

"My pleasure." Ayse acknowledged her mission even as she struggled to keep herself steady.

"Who the hell are you talking to?! I see no one and sense no magical connection. Are you out of your mind?!" Kiva was now sure that the loss of blood had gotten into Ayse's head for her to be delusional.

"You know, just the many voices in my head. All of them want me to do something for them because I am magnificently brilliant and capable." Ayse replied as she held feebly onto the broken piece of Induction Arc Lance as support.

"Pfft. If you are smart enough, you should know that statistically, your death is imminent." Kiva argued as he ground his Mantis Blades by rubbing them together. "Unless you are deluding yourself that I might pity you and give you mercy... Though as a scientist I was taught to never say never, I can guarantee you that the chances of you surviving is a flat 0%."

"Heh. Aren't those my odds for your survival." Ayse countered back. Her breath became even more ragged.

"Enough bluffing." Kiva had had enough. He took flight once more and headed straight towards her.

"Slydra. Come." Ayse whispered with bated breath, and a flash of thunder and lightning struck Ayse as Kiva was about to enter a range to decapitate her in one go. The abomination was struck down to the floor from the large radius of purple lightning.

"Fuck...!" Kiva coughed after suffering the electrocution. He tried to regain control over the body, but the numbing sensation from the thunderbolt overwhelmed him. However, as he was about to assume control, he suddenly felt a leg stepping on his head, and then it stomped hard with another bolt of thunder.

"Huh, this body, although terribly broken, is still quite silky and youthful," Slydra commented as Ayse had already allowed her to descend into her.

Like Shiva, Slydra had a slender body that was comparable to hers although she'd boast that her butt was more... Cushy. Her dull light magenta skin with several strings of violet scales was covering her sexual parts, making the demon bystanders dumbstruck by her luscious form of beauty.

Oh, and speaking about those bystanders, a wink from Slydra immediately electrocuted the weaker willed guards while the rest had a numbing sensation pulsating through them. Even Prince Stolas had difficulty overcoming her irresistible electrifying charm. "How did it even pass through my magical barrier?!" Stolas thought as he nearly passed out from the electric wink spell.

As for Kiva... Every time the abomination chimaera scavenged the power to move a little, Slydra merely sent another wrap of purplish lightning into his disgustingly fused body. (And at the same time, reinforcing her stomp via her heels which eventually seeped into his burnt muscles.)

"While your vision of science is hardly laudable, I should give you an E for effort," Slydra stated as she released her heels and kicked him, causing him to roll away from her. Then, every single step that the Shaitan of Thunder took, Lightning Bolts continuously blasted the ever regenerating Kiva, taking away any sort of opportunity for him to stand back up.

"Now do you vaguely understand why we were hesitant to appear?" Shiva asked Frost Echo as he smashed the frozen skulls of the demons from afar as he sensed the appearance of another Shaitan.

"Heh, so you all predicted this?" Frost Echo questioned back as he froze yet another wave of demons and rushed through them.

"You may call it premonition and giving our ... 'friend'. She seemed awfully excited about the chance to have some fun." Shiva answered as she was happy watching the show from her realm.

"Got to say, must be real nice to have friends that give each other the chance to blow some steam...or in this case, lightning." Frost Echo grinned as he broke all the demons into ice dust.

Meanwhile, Slydra quickly got bored after zapping the defenceless scientist a few more times. Eventually, she somehow turned it into an automated process by sending bolts of thunder to fry Kiva every three seconds.

"Got to make you turn into ashes seeing how you can regenerate that quickly. It is a little boring, so I put it as a backend process." Slydra pondered as she hovered to watch the one-sided duel of King Baal, smashing his sword onto Jin's. "But on the other hand, breaking this would be quite fun." She noticed how the human was weakly defending himself against the multiple blows. If not for Bam's sturdiness, Jin's weapon would have broken many times by now.

"Oh, my dear Ayse. You submitted yourself to such a weak master?" Slydra was surprised, yet the Head Researcher rolled her eyes with her mental image intact.

"Do not interfere! If you wish to create havoc, do it somewhere else!" Jin shouted as he saw an unknown creature through the Half Panda's mask that he was wearing, indicating that it was a friendly unit by the System.

"Huh...not bad. At least he's got balls, I give you that. King Hamu and Diabolos would have wanted us to contribute to the fight. Oh well, if that's the case, let's do a flyover and kill anything that moves."

"ANYTHING THAT IS NOT ON OUR SIDE! You have the freaking System with you to know who is friend or foe!" Ayse shouted, and Slydra chuckled.

"Did not realise you turned a little more caring, though hardly ladylike. Fine." Slydra sighed as she first flew and assisted the Clay Dragon with the aerial units harassing it. In the meantime, Ayse was worried that the System might potentially deduct points from their rewards if they haphazardly zap friendlies.

Left behind the scenes was poor Kiva. He was in a repeating loop of being struck by thunderbolts in continuous intervals. His drill was not strong enough to store nor deflect the intensity of the Shaitan's lightning attacks. And because of the nature of his abomination, he had to suffer until all his chimaeras were used up.

If that was not enough, Slydra had also placed a magic trap spell on the ground. Should Kiva find a way to withstand the thunderbolts, the trap would encase him in a lightning web where several lightning bolts would be struck with increased intensity.

And like Ayse, Slydra was meticulous enough that she had already inserted more of those electric trap spells with increasing severity in the freak event Kiva managed to break out of the first one. By then, Slydra should be able to return to the scene to engage with him once again.

In short, Kiva was learning through his body that being pseudo-immortal wasn't really all that great.

Chapter 792 That 'Mandatory' Talk between Fights

"That idiot," Jin grumbled with a weak smile, even though he was a little proud that Ayse had been able to survive the unexpected Abomination Kiva.

The System had also informed him that Weslie, as well as Gold, had been teleported for some emergency treatment. As much as Jin was thrilled about how things had turned out, his opponent was not pleased about the sudden turn of circumstances, and his strikes were reflecting this, becoming heavier as if he was finally getting more serious.

The latest stab was the worst of them all so far. Jin was barely able to hold his sword as the opponent's weapon brushed through his steel. To the Astral Panda cultivator, he felt like he was holding against a rushing train. Jin's adrenaline was already wearing off from the initial bout and with King Baal no longer holding his punches, there was no reason to hold back too much as well.

Meanwhile, Moloch who had been in his master's hoodie continued to hold on tight and protected Jin at crucial times when it was obvious that Jin would be unable to dodge or defend the attack properly. Alas, Moloch's intervention only led to King Baal getting more irritated, and his next few attacks were always harder to predict.

But with the eventual defeat of his royal advisor, King Baal started to remove all the restraints, and his tongue-whip sword began to show its true colours. Thankfully with the help of his Inverse Eyes, Jin was still able to see through some of the attacks but there had not been any chance for a counter-attack.

Despite knowing Moloch could cover him, solely focusing on defence was getting somewhat tiresome and demoralising. Suddenly the whip turned in an unexpected way that even Jin's Inverse Eyes were unable to catch and Moloch failed to protect him as well, causing him to fall backwards after getting stabbed at the right shoulder.

"Shit!" Jin shouted, and King Baal smirked as his attack finally connected after so long.

"Fairly commendable defence. But it looks like this is the end for your champion. Final chance to give up, Moloch. I'd rather not piece your shredded remains back together." King Baal said as he sheathed his sword. He could see the poison from his sword was already working on Jin's body as the shoulder turned slightly gangrene.

"Sadly for you, my Liege, but I have anticipated this," Moloch replied as he took a new card out and a triangle energy barrier appeared right in front of him and Jin. King Baal snickered at the feeble attempts of his past advisor as Moloch quickly climbed over to Jin's right shoulder and placed a blank card over it.

Slowly but surely, the card was reversing the effect of the poison as Jin assisted by slowing his heart rate with his Maqi. It took less than ten seconds for Moloch to remove the poison, yet his former King was not impressed.

"Such futile attempts when both the barrier and poison removal are only delaying the inevitable. You should know full well about this Moloch. Why are you still resisting?"

"Has Kiva's nonsense really caused you to lose all reason and logic?" Moloch asked as he went back to Jin's hoodie.

"I've always retained my reason and logic. While I had some hopes that you might be able to create something with the amount of attention diverted away from you, all you did was waste your life away. You dressed up your Minotaurs and have proven to be a lucrative spot for those pesky adventurers to dungeoneer... And now?" Baal snorted with disgust before he continued talking.

"Of all your options, you've joined up with the humans, giving away our land to them and betraying the king that you've sworn to serve." King Baal argued, and Moloch did not retaliate. He allowed his king to speak freely while simultaneously using the time to enable Jin to recuperate too.

"You are right. From your point of view, I've turned into the worst of the worst traitors. I've forsaken the crown as well as everything your Demon Metropolis stands for. Mainly because you're no longer the king that I was willing to sacrifice my all for." Moloch spoke as he climbed out of Jin's hoodie and jumped out in front of his previous King. (So that he could buy even more time for Jin.)

"After centuries of my service for you, you've ignored my advice and allowed a new lord with no status to present you a tribute that had ultimately changed your life for the worst. Now, you are prisoned to that very same stupid piece of metal which cursed you with endless days of torment. Furthermore, if your will to live falters just a little, your entire day would be in a sorrier state than the pits of the astral hell."

"I've tried to stop you from using it, but I was too late. To this day, I blame myself for not seeing through it earlier. You've become completely addicted to the powers despite the major repercussions you suffered." Lord Moloch did not wish to play tit for tat. But right now, he could only buy that few seconds of time for Jin to recover while defending the unjust accusation from his former king.

"During my exile, many metropolis Dungeon Core owners had wished to cut ties with you and yet I had secretly amended most of them when it was supposedly the job of your incumbent advisor. But as the years passed and news trickled in about you becoming more aggressive in your approaches as well as grabbing other metropolis rights to raids, there was only this much an exiled advisor could do."

"And sure, I might have been alluded by the powers this particular human possesses, yet I've never forgotten my duty for my former King. KICKING YOUR ARSE, so that you can wake up from this nightmare! Master Jin is actually my best shot in doing this." Moloch explained as he took a deck of cards out and threw it to his newly beloved master.

"You've always been a great storyteller and good with speeches. Still, nothing can change the fundamental truth that you've betrayed me. And after all these years you should know your fate!" King Baal was insistent of his previous advisor's mistake and dismissed all the reasoning Moloch had given.

"Then all the more I am glad that I've betrayed you since you don't care to see reason. Master! It took me some painstaking time to create this ever since the System asked me. However, this deck of cards should- nay will potentially change the way you fight in the future. The only reason I did not give you sooner was that I'm afraid that you may fall down from grace like the way King Baal has."

"If that's the case, why did you give it to me?!" Jin asked as he felt the emotional weight of the cards despite it being just a normal looking deck of cards.

"Because time after time, I could see that you placed your faith in your minions, and treated your subjects as friends. There were instances where you could have gone astray, but you still heeded our advice and worked closely with us. Had you been any different, I too would have plotted an uprising against the System like what Kraft did."

"That sounds harsh." Jin slowly stood up as he stabbed his blade on the ground. He took out a belt with a complicated looking device out and wore it.

"Just a forewarning in case, you might end up like him... especially when Kiva is going to be in your service from now onwards." Moloch stated with a mix of seriousness and amusement as he could see the confusion in King Baal's eyes.

"Heh. You do not have to worry about that. I trust Kraft to be a capable watchdog...or should I say watchfox." Jin grinned as he realised that the belt had a slot for the deck of cards for him to attach on. "Ahhh...I always wanted to try this. Qiu Yue will be so jealous that I'll be able do this for real."

"As usual, you will be our experimental subject. If it is really as useful as we hope, System and I can always build more of this." Moloch now stepped back to the side as his Master had finally recuperated enough to fight on a possibly equal stage with his old King.

"Can you please not ruin this moment for me?" Jin asked as he pulled out his phone while pressing a button on the device, causing it to light up.

"For he who desires but act not, breeds pestilence." Moloch reminded Jin. He crossed his arms and placed a barrier up at the corner to watch how the remaining match would unfold.

"Enough talk then..." Jin took a deep breath and shouted as he hovered his phone near the device in front of his belt.

"HENSHIN!"

Chapter 793 System Driver

The device on the belt Jin wore was called the 'System Driver', (for lack of a better name from Jin). It had been personally named like this by the System as it had created it instead of waiting for Jin's researchers to build it.

It was basically a replica similar to what all the various masked heroes used in TV shows to gain additional powers, only that the System was able to do the same for Jin without resorting to cinematic tricks. (Perhaps, the System itself wanted to copyright such a design and enhance such powers for its own benefit?)

Unlike those TV shows, the System Driver was authentic and not some dungeon instance magic fabricated by digital ones and zeroes. Yet the design and concept worked the same. Jin had an activation device to transform, and his phone acted as the key for this. The System would transmit the data and pieces of armour it had stored within the device to equip Jin almost immediately.

Those pieces of armour were naturally the Living Armour which Ke Mi, Shu and the other werejackals had painstakingly cultivated for the past few months. However, the concept of transforming into a masked warrior with a full plate armour had not been conceivable despite the 'System magic'... Until Peppers found a game-changing property from these newly grown metal plates.

She had experimented and discovered that if given enough data to the metal plate by any means such as hitting, burning, freezing, electrocuting it, the armour would temporarily shape in a way the users wanted it to be. That was when the System realised its immense potential and decided to ask Peppers to hit it with a tremendous amount of electromagnetic waves jam packed with data accumulated by the System.

To their surprise, it did conform to the way the data was presented, and from there, they tried ways to retain the data within the living armour for use in combat. Else, the living armour would be too 'malleable' in nature. And if that's the case, it would not be protecting the user at all.

"... In short, we need the armour to retain its data else any other thing that hits it will cause it to transform based on that. For example, a fire-based attack on the living armour will make its temperature increase and potentially burn the user inside." Ayse, who collaborated with Peppers, shared her conclusion.

"Then it does not protect the user a single bit." Peppers lamented.

"Think of it as the young living armour deflecting the hurt away by replicating the way it was hurt. That is why we need to control its new properties if we ever want to make a proper suit of armour for Jin." Ayse replied.

"Now you will understand when I initially asked for the various demon parts like the eyes of the Transforming Spiders or Keyrin's... Erm body parts." Gold who had been the initiator of this armour project spoke out to the two of them.

"Those properties are not really new to the living armour. I recall reading something like this, and I believe this could possibly be a variant since we grew it too fast. Though perhaps we have too little knowledge about them since they were so rare to find in the first place."

Then out of the blue, the System who had been lurking suddenly decided to take on the project with great interest. It graciously used some of its celestial magic with all the materials that had been gathered (or donated) to create the System Driver.

Thus, the new System Driver was born from the System's magic. But despite it being created from the Heavens' mandated entity, such a creation should still need to undergo a series of trials and tests before it was used in action.

Sadly, there was no time for it until now.

When Jin transformed, he felt like the living armour fit him like a good glove. Apparently, there was an initial suit of nano living armour enveloping his entire body. And after which, additional plates of living metal covered him. From bracers, pauldrons and a full helmet to waist armour, knee guards and even armoured boots which covered the front and back.

And most importantly, the armour was featured in a black and white scheme that suited Jin's cultivation and the uniqueness of it. While the helmet was still human-shaped, it was the panda mask that brought out the distinct look of the masked hero. (Had it been the System's master plan all along to actually create this full armour with the introduction of half-mask?!)

But this time, the half panda mask was enlarged a little bit more, and its ceramic appearance had been changed considering the System had opted for a more carbon fibre metal style to the Half Panda Mask.

"System Rider Panda!" Jin announced out loud and struck an odd bearish... pose. Moloch could not help but laugh at the name! Even King Baal, who was in awe with the sudden transformation, broke into a bit of a giggle when he heard the name.

"What?! I have no choice but to say it! That was written and demonstrated on the screen!💎💎💎 Jin explained but as soon as he had said it, realisation struck that it must have been the System's way of getting back at him in a subtle way.

"Ahhh! Whatever!" Jin pulled out his Bam Sword from the ground and realised that the living armour was also moving to cover the hilt and crossguard of the sword.

"Neat." Jin thought to himself as he started to charge towards King Baal.

"A suit of flashy armour will not help you in any way, it might actually impede you." King Baal told him as he pulled his sword out and faced Jin upfront.

"That's what the enemy believes." The System voice was coming from within the helmet, and Jin suddenly felt that his Maqi was forcefully output to various parts of his body without him concentrating.

"The System finally found a way to contribute to the User's fight even outside of the dungeon instances or shop. Through this suit, the System can now directly influence and regulate the output of Maqi and send them wherever needed in your body for the most optimal defence or offence."

"This is especially crucial when User has to put time into managing the store instead of fighting, causing User to be suboptimal in his fighting abilities despite his above average current grade."

"You can't blame me! You always set high standards to achieve for the shop!" Jin shot back as he sent a slash forward and this time around, King Baal could instantly feel that the sword strike was immensely different from the previous bout.

It was harder, faster and the attacks had direction. For once, ever since its inception, the System finally felt it was useful in a battle where it could actually contribute to a fight directly. Jin later figured that its influence could potentially become a double edge sword in the future, but there was no time to think about that right now.

Because he needed to prove that Moloch was right in choosing Jin as the new master to save his old King from his self-destructive path.

Chapter 794 Anger

"I will finish this quickly!" Ixel promised as he turned into his human form straight away and pounded his fist together while walking straight into the hallway of Anger.

"We are all betting on it." Rex gave him an approving nod as he closed the elevator with four more foxes inside it. The moment the door lift closed, the entire backdrop of the hallway immediately went into flames, changing the environment of the Prison Core to how a burning rioted place was usually portrayed.

Ixel casually tried to touch the wall and true enough, it was burning his fingertips away before he even touched the surface. But to the strong willed Ixel, it was nothing but a small scratch to his current mental and physical constitution.

"So, you are my opponent for this stage? I did not expect the person who blasted an entire hole through ninety-eight floors would come to this stage." A rather small build figure talked to Ixel. He couldn't see what the person looked like underneath because the hooded cape was blocking any distinct features.

"Neither did I expect a scrawny boss for the floor of Anger. I pictured you looking more green, muscular and probably always angry. I am standing right in front you, yet I do not feel your anger at all. If someone were to see us, they could mistake me for the boss of this stage." Ixel pointed out as he took out his leather jacket and flexed his arms to show off his muscles like they were his prized items.

"Heh! Well, I guess that's one less thing to be angry about. You must be the first to actually acknowledge me as the boss of this stage. Most people just assume that I am merely some kind of pawn for another boss." The hooded cape figure replied, and Ixel shook his head.

"Then they were all fools! Despite the lack of anger, I can already size you up to be quite a capable fighter. The sad reality is just that I am better than you, especially when it comes to strength and anger. My sisters never like me when I become angry because I do not think straight."

"Do continue, I would like to hear more of it." The figure finally unveiled a hooded cape. It was actually a girl dressed in a grey sports singlet and short black elastic pants. Her arms were already bandaged up, and there was dried blood all over it. She was also wearing nothing but bandages on her legs, indicating that she used her whole body as her weapon of choice.

"I doubt you could comprehend it. Being born into a clan of muscles, I was supposed to become the next chief for the clan. Only to be outdone by my sisters, I could rely on nothing but anger to go through life. Angry at how weak I am regardless of the amount of time I train."

"Especially the youngest one always managed to overwhelm me easily. For example, I took four weeks to break and cut a hundred-year-old tree in half. After I'd been gone for nearly a month, she visited me to check on me based on my parent's orders. Seeing what I had become, she considered it to be interesting and tried it herself. Unlike me, she managed to get it down... in 40 seconds." Recalling those past events made Ixel slightly irritated, and he quickly went into a fighting stance.

"Oh but do not mistake this, I loved them and cherished them with all my heart, but I am angry-" Ixel realised the opponent was already yawning with all his self monologue.

"Sorry. I'd love to continue this conversation but looks like you are not interested despite your initial interest. Oh well, I did promise our boss I would finish this quickly. Don't be frustrated if I win against you." Ixel apologised, but the girl tied her long hair and readied her stance as well.

"Don't worry, I am confident that my skills can win against you. You will actually become the one that turns angry again after the fight is done. Just like how you were outdone by your sister" The girl lifted her palm out, and Ixel thought he was seeing things.

Her stance was quite familiar. It belonged to a certain eastern martial art, Wing Chun. He vaguely recalled that a Minotaur under Moloch's command also had utilised such martial arts... Maybe they came from the same master?

"Ixel is my name. A pleasure to meet you."

"Nameless." The girl 'introduced herself' as she nodded her head back to Ixel. It's been an eternity since someone had entered the Circle of Anger who actually still had any sense of manners. Nameless had only ever fought against senseless demons, pouring their rage without any control, thinking that they could win over her with blind anger. That was why she courteously returned the respect to Ixel.

Immediately, the two flew towards each other and exchanged their blows. Without a doubt, Ixel could already feel the similarity to Wing Chun as his mighty blows were easily deflected with agile techniques, and Nameless counterattacked with much ease. Although Ixel managed to block her attacks, she managed to slip in a few more blows in total compared to him.

That brief exchange of punches allowed both duelists to learn more about each other and they stepped back after they finally found themselves at an impasse. "Not bad, you are the first in many decades who has managed to hold on for more than ten seconds."

"I just needed some warm-up." Ixel said. Until now he too was using some basic moves from Wing Chun in his fight to gauge the level of skill of Nameless. Now it begged the question whether the duelist was a seasoned martial artist or if Nameless was just at the level of an advanced practitioner of that particular martial art.

Ixel might have studied the Grizzly Bear Style, but to be worthy of becoming the leader of his clan, he had been forced to learn a myriad of skills because the elders of the clan knew that strength was nothing without skill and technique. One could cultivate strength easily but to polish a technique? It might possibly take a lifetime to do so.

Between the trio, he might be considered to be the weakest in terms of strength and always got angry easily. But his devotion to martial techniques was second to none among his siblings. If Itori and Ixa fought at the same strength level as their brother, they would be out of the ring in a matter of seconds.

"Let's do it!" Nameless, who was now pumped up that her new opponent not only possessed manners but also managed to withstand her flurry of punches. But this adrenaline rush proved to be a double edged sword as Nameless began to show some slight openings in her attacks. The more they exchanged blows, the more she found that Ixel's attacks were even harsher than before and her defences were unable to withstand his attacks.

"This is impossible!" She thought to herself as she desperately tried to withdraw her offence and return back to counter his strikes, only to get surprised by Ixel lowering his body and rushing in with a bull charge to pin her down.

Nameless was subsequently grappled, causing her to panic. This was the first time someone had mercilessly pinned her to the ground despite fierce resistance from her end.

"Heh! One's grappling skill is proportional to one's effort. An amateur boxer might land a lucky punch against a pro, but there is no such thing as luck when it comes to grappling! This is the only thing I know that Itori could never win me against!" Ixel grinned as he talked while performing an armbar on Nameless when she was on the ground, causing her to lose her ability to even fight properly.

"WHY?! How could this happen?!" Nameless' thoughts were flying all over the place, and her anger continued to accumulate, providing her strength while she raged. Thus, her increased frustration somehow managed to allow her to get out of the current grapple situation she was in.

But, Ixel was not done with her. He simply changed his technique and switched to a scarf hold and locked her back. Ixel sighed as he had discovered the current zenith of his opponent's ability. "You are no fun anymore, join Jin and learn more about martial arts before challenging me again," Ixel told her while squeezing the life out of her neck from his grapple.

For the first time, Nameless locked into submission, learnt how helpless she was despite her ever increasing strength from anger and the numerous victories against demons for the past decade. For a short while, she perhaps understood what Ixel meant when he was frustrated in himself for working so hard and got trounced by a new challenger.

Her legs were kicking, trying to push herself out of the grapple but it got even tighter instead. Her hands were flailing around to the point she resorted to scratching Ixel, but he was not letting go a single bit. Soon, she could feel her consciousness fading out.

With mixed martial arts experience he accumulated through gruesome training, Ixel believed most, if not every true blue martial artist, would not be able to win him. Thousands of years worth of original martial arts lay in his brain and body. After ensuring that her life was properly snuffed out, Ixel proceeded to find the important puzzle piece in the circle of burning anger.

Chapter 795 Fraud

"Fraud, huh." Tsu looked around. "Do I still qualify for this stage even though I got frauded by Kiyu?" He chuckled to himself as this would have been Evon's stage.

Kiyu was the one who had pressed on the fraud button elevator, skipping the circles of Heresy and Violence. She had been curious to see if the elevator systematically brought the lift to every level or if they could actually choose whichever level they wished to fight on.

Surprisingly, the elevator really did move to Fraud... after which Kiyu had kicked the distracted Tsu, who's checking out the Pandamonium App Stream on his phone, out of the lift. While both Tsu and Evon

could have fought back and got Kiyu to let them both back on, they were easy going enough to take on any stage. They just knew it wasn't worth it to fight Kiyu since there were a few stakes on this mission. (Unlike Kraft who took this chance to have fun all by himself, distracting any armed forces away from their raid.)

"Are you a victim of someone framing you too?" A voice sounded with concern, and a child's head stuck out from one of the pillars.

"Hahaha, such an old uncle got cheated as well!" Another child's voice could be heard, and soon Tsu sensed that in the current hallway, a child was hiding behind each pillar.

"And of all kinds of people, they just had to put me against the hardest type of opponents for me," Tsu smirked as he recalled why he could possibly be one of the best candidates for this particular circle.

He and Kai had always cheated their elders when they were younger so they could have a little more rest time, take a bit more food for each other, and most importantly, they had lied and deceived to cover each other's mistake. The two brothers had been through thick and thin together that even when pitted against each other, they rather die together than taking each other's life.

As for this stage, there was no one better at lying than a child, and that personated opinion would never change for Tsu. He understood that behind every pillar, these children must have had to beg, lie, fight and win to get this particular position.

When he learnt that the Church of the Afterlife used Paradiso as a factory to regain back their losses, Tsu had suspected as much that the debtors could have sought out to try their luck in these circles. But it never occurred to him that the children were possibly imprisoned to repay the debts of their parents as well.

The previous guard supervisors might have thought they were harmless beings which were why they might have lost to this group of children.

While a lying child on their own would be one thing, it turned into something far scarier when there was someone to lead the herd of sheep.

He should know since he and his brother had been the ringleaders for their own group of kids... and every single one of them would become the wolves in sheep's clothing to portray as the herd of harmless, weak sheep in the eyes of the adults around them.

Still, Tsu decided to observe them for a little while longer before going for the kill. From further inspection, it turned out that they were beast-men. (or more accurately beast children) These kids had been born with physical bestial traits such as horns, feline cat ears and tails.

Tsu might not know much about the Dungeon World, but if a group of them ended up in prison and eventually took over the guard supervisor post could most likely mean that they were discriminated against too. It wasn't too surprising though when he thought about their own world, where half breeds between monsters and humans had also been criticised for the 'sin of existing'. Unless this was a professional group of delinquents who just happened to consist of beast children, they must belong to the same category.

"If they were beast children, would not be surprised if they were under the debts of the Church of Afterlife too. Guess the Dungeon World has its pains too."

Although his initial assessment was that they were the guard supervisors because of the nature of this particular circle, his experience told him that there should be a leader handling all these children. It was quite a conundrum for Tsu.

Most people believed that the right thing to do would be to intervene and give those troubled kids a second chance at life. And while it was a praiseworthy goal to wish to save them from their 'misery', that was only looking at it from one perspective.

To the children, any sort of interference onto the hierarchy they had established for themselves would be met with stern resistance, so Tsu already predicted that the kids would backstab him if he tried to go the samaritan route.

"Ahhh...so troublesome. Do I go along with their fraud, or should I just kill every single kid here? No, I better come up with something better. Otherwise, the rest will think I'm no smarter than Ixel." Tsu thought to himself and laughed at the comparison.

"Uncle, why are you laughing to yourself? Is it really funny to see kids here?" A wolf eared child asked as she approached the Wolf Clan's Fox.

"Teras! Don't go near him! He might attack you!" Lapp, with similar features but in white, shouted as she pulled her friend away from him. She even showed her teeth as a show of aggression.

"Oh gosh, these people are good in their acting." Tsu noticed in the corner of his eye that instantaneous grin Lapp had shown when she thought she was out of his view while pulling Teras behind the pillar. All of the foxes knew this mischievous type of grin as it was practically synonymous with Kraft.

"But you all saw him get kicked out of the elevator by his friends!" Sola, a feline cat girl who was holding onto a separate pillar, tried to continue the acting.

"All they demanded from me was to get the puzzle key for the dungeon core. If you would kindly hand it over, I'll be on my way again." Tsu asked them nicely in a gentlemen's tone, and suddenly, an older looking girl with the horns of a dragon came out from hiding as if blind courage suddenly took over her heart and actions.

"No! We cannot give you that!" She shouted, and Tsu could hear the not-so-quiet frustration and disappointment from the rest of the girl group in the area.

"Don't listen to this dragon girl! We can give you that!" A girl with tiger ears and tail quickly dismissed the dragon girl as she placed her hand on Shen's mouth.

"Swee, why are you stopping me! I have had enough of lying!" Shen eventually overpowered Swee the tiger girl and yet another wave of sigh was emitted through the pillars.

In the meantime, Tsu who saw this considered it either to be an utter failure in their group dynamics or a superb masterclass act by the entire troupe of beast girls. (He had yet to see any boys in the group.)

Regardless, he decided to go along with their act for the time being and see where they were telling the truth or not.

"Mister, I know this is a bit too much, but we need you to drop your weapons here if you wish to proceed further into the Prison Core. Only true sincerity can open the core's inside." Sola offered as she came over and pulled his hand to guide him to the place. The cat girl decided to improvise on the ongoing drama and to reinforce Swee's claim that the key could be given out.

"Then why are you all still here? If all you need is sincerity, you all would not need to be imprisoned here." Tsu thought to himself as he allowed himself to be dragged around. She brought him to the end of the hallway first where she kindly requested Tsu to drop his weapons.

Tsu pondered over the scenario of an 'Honesty Dungeon Core' with an environment setting full of frauds. Was it possible the Prison Core demanded pure honesty since all the frauds who entered this circle would tend to try and swindle their way out.

"The Truth will set you free?" Tsu whispered to himself, but none of them was listening, his words drowned by the children's loud 'whispers' in the background. Without Tsu turning his head, he could already feel the eyes in the room were all looking at Shen for attempting to expose them.

"But then again, the Prison Core could cheat since it is reigning over the entire circle...ah so troublesome. Kiyu, why did you do this to me, you are so much better at manipulating people." Tsu scratched the back of his head as the doors opened and it revealed a statue kneeling down with its head in reverence to something more mythical in nature.

"... Ok now, this is just too over the top... who is supposed to fall for that?! Enough of mind games!" Tsu questioned in the direction of the Prison Core that was right above the kneeling statue. The beast girls had already moved his weapons away and were silently brandishing their knives to stab him...only to realise the entire room and hallway had suddenly been enveloped in darkness.

None of them was able to move, and the devouring abyss started to slowly creep up their legs and eventually their whole body. They were all paralysed and could feel that their bodies were being eaten by the darkness. Can one still breathe when one thinks that their lungs were missing? Can one feel fear when there were no hearts to beat? That was how the children were experiencing right now.

Nothing but void.

Only the two wolf girls had somehow managed to grasp the vague situation and escaped Tsu's darkness in time. "Should I say, as expected from the wolf children? Well, it's a wolf style technique, so perhaps I should not be particularly surprised." Tsu concluded as he raised his next palm and an invisible force caught the two stragglers within the darkness.

"After living in this place for so long, it will be hard for you to trust others. Nevertheless, I believe Jin and his other minions can provide you with a better life. So, please take this death as a passage to a new life. Please, do not deceive both yourselves and the people around you anymore." Tsu said as he closed his palm and all of the beast girls were killed instantly.

"As for the main culprit." Tsu eyed the statue as he raised his palm once more and his weapon flew towards him.

"You do not deserve mercy from me. Die painfully for making those kids work for you!" Tsu stabbed the statue and blood emerged out of it.

"How?! How did you recognise that it was me?!" The Statue tried to move, but he had been pierced through and was unable to move.

"Your scent alone disgusts me. You are not even worthy of Jin's attention. Just rot here for all eternity." Tsu beheaded the statue and picked up the dungeon core key.

Naturally, the fraud statue hadn't been the real body of the perpetrator, but he realised that he was still experiencing the very same kind of pain as the statue. Then did the Statue notice the darkness that had already enveloped the kids crept on him too. "Impossible! How did his magic reach me?!"

Only this time, it would be eternal as Tsu promised. He had used a forbidden wolf art to basically turn him brain dead. Even if he would get resurrected, his mind would no longer recover.

"Encroaching Darkness. No matter where your dreams wished to take you, blank space will follow suit." Tsu put his hands together like a prayer due to habit, but he later turned it into a middle finger.

The actual guard supervisor did not deserve peace, and he also did not care to see how his enemy looked. The children were saved, and the key was more important than anything else.

Chapter 796 Violence

"First Evon, then my brother and now me?" Kai looked back at Kiyu who had just kicked him out into the circle of Violence.

"At this rate, I think she is going to the circle of Treachery instead of me." Rex added with a hint of amusement as he was still 'allowed' on the elevator.

"Oh, Rex, I would not dare!" Kiyu defended herself with a sexy smile, but somehow it did not appeal to the two remaining men.

"Without a doubt, she is going to betray you, Rex. You better take the chance to kick her out when you reached the circle of Heresy." Kai advised before the door had closed. Right before it went shut he saw Kiyu stuck her tongue out in defiance.

"Seriously, that girl." Kai shook his head and later turned to see that this stage was clearly not meant for her. "Then I guess it was a good choice that Kiyu let me out here. She would not stand all this meaningless bloodshed." Kai thought as he saw dead rotting corpses all over the place.

A broken down knight was sitting on the highest pile of bodies and looked at his latest challenger condescendingly.

"You did this all by yourself?" Kai asked, but the knight did not say a word. He merely picked a random weapon from the pile of dead people and charged forward. "Huh, a berserker?" Kai managed to dodge the first attack but was surprised his enemy was skilful enough to make a follow-up attack that scraped the surface of his skin.

"This guy is no simple berserker!" Kai thought to himself as he quickly took his sword to cross blades with the raging knight. "Shouldn't you be in the circle of Anger rather than Violence?!"

"RAHHHHHHHH" That's all the knight answered in return. He smashed around his sword even harder than before.

"System would like to point out that anger and violence are two different things. Anger is a psychological state of mind, while violence is the physical manifestation of the ill controlled emotions of anger and aggression."

"Since when does the almighty System deigned it worthy to call us lowly foxes?" Kai asked out loud sarcastically since it did not matter to the aggressive knight right in front of him.

"System likes to give a timely reminder to every fox that Jin is now engaged in fighting against King Baal, and the System wishes to have every advantage in its disposal. Please hurry to capture the Dungeon Core to reduce the power of King Baal."

"Hah. No wonder." Kai replied as he assumed that the System was merely addressing his concerns so he could fight without any distractions on his mind. The Black Wolf decided to listen to the System and used a relatively simple Intermediate Sword Art, Dual Cross Slash to break the knight's sword.

However, to his surprise, the Broken Knight was able to follow and counter the Cross slash until the third slash where his sword was unable to hold against the impact and broke from the chi pressure.

It resulted in the Broken Knight's armour getting cut, leaving a rather deep slash on his shoulder. What's even more surprising was that the wound closed at a speed visible to the naked eye. Usually, going berserk was a double-edged sword which provided one with a boost in terms of their attacking prowess at the cost of their defence, yet apparently the one in front of him had a way to negate that.

"Regeneration is a pain in the ass." Kai cursed as he angled his sword.

"But not entirely uncommon in this current age and the past. Advanced Sword Art. Triple Star Slash." Just like the name implied, Kai was slashing the knight five times as if he was drawing a star from all the hits.

Once he connected all slashes into a star shape, his sword art amplified its attack as if it was a combo finisher. The strength of the attack got stronger by six-fold if he managed to connect all three-star slashes in one period. That was why it was an advanced sword art despite its simplicity. If one of the sword slashes were parried, the 'combo finisher' would not be activated.

Before the Broken Knight could even retaliate by picking up another weapon, Kai had already thrown in fifteen slashes all aimed against his vital points. His legs, arms, hands, phalanges and neck were cut into pieces. Blood rushed out from all the openings available as his body parts were like lego bricks disassembled.

It was then Kai realised something when he looked around the pile of dead bodies. There were not many 'varieties' of corpses, and most of them appeared to be the same. It later struck Kai that they all wore the same type armour as the Broken Knight he just fought.

"Do not tell me he can split himself even after being cut?" Kai held onto the sword firmly as he discovered the phalanges was the origin point of regenerating an entire body out of it. More of the Broken Knights were formed, and each of them shouted senselessly.

"I see...as long as an atom of him still resides in this space, he will never die. But still, won't that make an infinite amount of Broken Knights instead of dead ones?" Kai thought to himself as the original Broken Knight regenerated fully and charged towards the Black Wolf.

"So...if he killed every single opponent and yet he was left with one when I appeared, that could mean a few things." Kai deduced as he began to analyse the Broken Knight while parrying and dodging the blows in order to stop the knight from making even more copies.

"The copies will die out eventually... Or..." It struck Kai that this was the circle of violence. "They fight and kill each other until the last one remains. If that is the case, the only way to kill him is for him to kill himself." Kai believed that was the theory behind this, particularly unique monster. "Man, if I capture him, we could literally make a dummy bag out of this monster."

In order to prove his theory, Kai swiftly went behind the Broken Knight and used his sword to stab his arm and hand from the side. It looked as if the knight had an ingrown sword from afar. Despite the roaring of pain or anger, Kai ignored them and used his free left hand to grab the Broken Knight's. Like an amateur puppet master, he used the sword as the handle to move the Broken Knight's right arm and pierced the incoming broken knight.

Fortunately, it worked just as Kai had theorised. The Wolf Clan Fox was unsure whether it was the forced act performed by the knight that killed all its clones or if it was the Broken Knight's blood that had any effect against it. Either way, he continued without the intention to experiment and eventually every clone was turned to dust, and only the main one was left.

"Is this considered self-suicide? Or assisted suicide? Whatever. I just need the Key." Kai physically broke the knight's arm and pushed the sword with his arm and plunged it into his neck. Of course, there was resistance throughout the whole puppetry, but Kai felt satisfied after having killed the most unique opponent in his life.

"Thank goodness, he could not think much," Kai said as he went in search of the dungeon core key.

Chapter 797 System Rider Panda

"What in the world..." King Baal was pushed back a few times as he tried to attack Jin who had equipped the System Rider Panda. The Panda Cultivator was proving to be able to fight him on par at the moment.

"Don't get cocky because this suit of armour is providing you power!"

King Baal warned his opponent. After a few rounds of 'sparring', he seemingly had enough and dropped his sword, to reveal a new weapon. Cat paws. His overall form had also changed accordingly.

In total King Baal had three forms. Human, Cat and Frog. While many would choose one form over the others, the king had never forgotten his origins as a crossbreed and had learned to embrace his heritage.

With centuries at his disposal, he had learned how to efficiently use his inner traits, yet Baal was also able to use magic to enhance the performance of each form so he could further improve on the best of each trait. As mentioned, Baal summoned a pair of large paws, and they were able to parry Jin's sword easily, causing System Rider Panda to be disarmed almost immediately.

"Be careful Jin! While in Cat Form, he is formidable in close combat and-" Before Moloch could continue his sentence, he already saw Jin fighting with his fist as well. However, the Dungeon Supplier could not hold a candle to his opponent. With each attempt to punch, King Baal had already returned the favour. The few hits Jin managed to get in were rewarded with even more devastating counters from King Baal.

Moloch pressed his cotton hoofs on to his face. "Why are you challenging him at something you are incredibly terrible at?!" He questioned his Master in the System Channel, so King Baal did not hear it. Otherwise, he might get even more confident in his assaults.

"Don't you think I know that? What do you expect me to do?! He's disarmed my sword with just a flick of his paw. Even if I picked it up again, I don't see how the situation wouldn't repeat itself!" Jin argued back as he tried to kick Baal in order to have some breathing space but Baal held onto his legs and used his momentum to reverse somersault him.

His claws were unable to do any real damage to the armour, but that didn't mean he couldn't hurt the one inside through indirect ways. "That suit is really his saving grace... After I kill him, I should get the best blacksmiths to take a look and make me new armour from it." Baal had already started to think about what to do after his imminent victory.

Although his head was still radiating with the most awful migraine imaginable after the use of that wretched crown, his challenger was, fortunately, proving to be easy pickings. So, despite his opponent's new power, King Baal believed he did not need to strain himself any further.

Reality soon proved him to be very wrong.

"Master! Use the deck of cards that I prepared for you!" Moloch advised through the System Channel as Jin was slammed flat onto the ground from the reverse somersault. If not for the System's automated distribution of Maqi, Jin's neck would have snapped into two, and King Baal would only have needed to finish off the defenceless Moloch.

"What....?" Jin tried to shake out the blurring blackout he had from the slam while his System was continuously churning the Maqi into his heart and brain to regulate his circulatory system to keep him conscious.

"The cards! They are imbued with the power of your minions! This is similar to the System's artificial fusion of your Astral Panda form and your bellators! You now have your System Rider suit, so now you can use the cards to fuse with them for a minute." Moloch explained as he used his magic to choose a card from the deck and sent it into Jin's hands.

"Shit, I could have used a primer before this duel. Anyway, all I need to do is scan the card, right?" Jin asked as his head was still pounding from the slam. He used the card's image as a way to stabilise his vision and was thankful that King Baal was content standing there as if he was graciously giving Jin a chance to stand back up.

Moloch did have his suspicions to what degree the crown had taken a toll on him, and the pause in the fight was a confirmation that it was more severe than he thought.

King Baal was known to be merciless when he entered the fray personally. Allowing someone a break mid-combat would have never been his style. So the fact that Jin had been granted a break once more could only be seen as a blessing in disguise. (Though given the benefit of the doubt, King Baal might have been thinking of a way to defeat the suit of armour Jin was wearing.)

Still, he understood that Jin was still recovering from the attack as well, and there was no way his master could withstand another hit by King Baal before using the card. "Ahh! Fuck this!" Moloch cried as he broke the shield he was hiding behind and used his powers against Baal.

He decided to interfere just to give Jin enough time to move, knowing that this risky tactic was most likely a sure-fire way to get himself killed.

Magic cards flew out of Moloch's cotton hoofs, and the volley of sharp projectiles was enough for King Baal to change direction and aim his punch towards his former subject.

"Since you are out of your hiding corner, I might as well handle you first! It will spare me the time to go looking for you!"

"Chance!" Moloch thought to himself as a card suddenly emerged from the ground and trapped King Baal momentarily inside of it, turning him into a picture card from the deck of poker cards. "Since when did I ever fight without an attempt to protect myself first?!" Moloch taunted his King who was already in the midst of breaking free.

He tried to run away from the corner to another while hoping the card entrapment was long enough for him to escape and create another shield... until he saw Jin still barely standing.

Then, Moloch realised that Jin was taking way too long to recover from that reverse somersault. "Can it be?!" Moloch realised that King Baal must have used his frog's ability in-between forms to cast a daze spell.

"GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER!" Moloch shouted as he infused his cotton horns with 'cure ailments' magic and smashed himself behind Jin. At the same time, King Baal managed to break out from the trap and tried to grab Moloch after he hit Jin with his spell.

"Oh shit!" Moloch thought that this was the end for him until Jin sidestepped to block King Baal's advances.

"Get out of the way, kid! I'll deal with you in a moment!" King Baal's grab turned into a claw aimed straight at Jin's helmet.

"No fucking way!" Jin refused. He hovered the card over his belt, and the System Driver lit up, emitting an intense wave of energy out, causing Baal to get knocked back. Yet, the King did not lose his balance as he landed.

As he wanted to attack once more, he first had to overcome the shining bright light from Jin.

"Card activated, Meomi Form."

Chapter 798 System Rider Meomi

The plates on the living armour shifted as the System Driver activated the card. The flash of deafening white light was simply the System's way of throwing a flashbang against the enemy hoping they would be stopped in their tracks, so the Living Armour Plates had enough time to rearrange themselves.

And for good reason.

With the card's activation, the System was giving permission to fuse Meomi soul's with Jin's body temporarily, causing him to take the backseat while Meomi forcefully entered.

Thus, as odd as it sounded, Jin was now harbouring two souls in his body with Meomi acting as the dominant one. The new living armour also portrayed this temporary change to match Meomi's exterior appearance.

The plates turned orange in colour and from a Panda Half Mask, it turned to become a Cat Half Mask. (A rather stylish version of the werecat's appearance.)

"Meeeeeoww. Master, your body is all creaky and stiff! No wonder you stood no chance to defeat him." Meomi said playfully as she bent down and stretched their entire body akin to a cat waking up from its nap. "You should do some of that yoga thingy with Lynn and Qiu Yue once in a while. It would help you with your mobility a little bit."

"Thank goodness, I am currently not connected to any nerves...I'll probably feel the muscles aching from Meomi's stretch afterwards, though." Jin thought to himself as Meomi performed a backflip without even jumping. He noticed there was now a tail created from the nano suit of living armour.

"All good now! System Rider Meomi has arrived!" The werecat announced as Meomi posed more elegantly than what Jin did.

"How can she have a better pose than me! System, you are obviously biased!" Jin shouted from the backseats while Meomi giggled delightfully.

"System can only remember how lazy User was. Always sitting down and drinking coffee or tea to do work. There is no pose for System to analyse. Unless User wished to have a chair as part of the props for the pose." The System rebutted, and Moloch laughed hysterically.

"Hahaha! Good one System! Master! You should really learn how Meomi does things." Moloch advised sheepishly as he happily caged himself to a corner once more.

"You think changing yourself into a cat will make you like a cat? And what's with that female tone? Are you insulting me now?" King Baal questioned as he pounced forward and decided to test whether this new change in suit's appearance would hamper his chances of victory. Though in all honesty, he did not give a damn.

True enough, Meomi was able to dodge the incoming attack easily and slashed back with her own claws. With Meomi possessing the System Rider suit, the System had also made adequate changes in a way that would closely match the monster Jin had decided to use against his opponent. This way, Jin would literally have the backing of his monsters to aid him in his fights even if he was in the real world.

Whether he wished to show the world the System Rider...would be another issue by itself. All the System knew was that it had done its job rewarding Jin for the mission he had done. Partially because the System knew it owed him too many rewards.

Jin might not have been pressing for it, but the System prided itself on staying true to its word. Perhaps, part of the reasoning was that lately, Jin seemed unwilling to take on any missions with all the backlogs he had accumulated. Maybe, he should learn how to say no a little more though

"Heh, let me show you who the better cat is!" Meomi taunted back, pretending to be Jin since he couldn't really talk out with her at the front. She proceeded to jump and gave Baal a kick to his chin. The King managed to block it, but Meomi was faster as she changed her posture and sent a swift back kick at the side, causing him to be knocked to the side of the 'duelling cage' that they were in.

"Meomi!" Jin did shout his frustration for her imitation of him.

"Master! Even though your body is stiff as a rock, the powers within you are so addicting!" Meomi totally ignored her master's dissatisfaction at the way she tried to talk.

"Just continue to press him! Moloch did say he still got the frog form he only uses when things turn bad. Knowing that he is dealt with by his own hand, he will-"

"Master, he is already changing." Meomi interrupted as King Baal had indeed changed into his frog form and used his whip sword with skill. "Can I continue to fight some more or do you want to swap out, too?" Meomi charged forth despite her polite request.

"User, if you deem the monster you've selected to be acting overboard, you can use your authority to retake the body by forcibly cancelling the fusion. It will, however, exhaust you if the monster in question decides to resist." The System explained, and Jin sighed.

"Even though it's my own body they are using?"

"It is precisely because it is your body that such an option is available to you."

"Yeah~! Don't mind me, Master!" Meomi playfully shared her thoughts as she zoomed in, evading the whip sword and tried to close the gap.

"Stupid human." King Baal cursed as he lifted his other hand. Following his gesture, continuous pillar of rocks abruptly emerged from the ground blocking Meomi's advance. But, thanks to her innate ability to soften her landing, Meomi was able to avoid crashing into the pillar.

However, Meomi did not realise that the whip sword could be controlled with magic as well and it turned to aim at the System Rider. "Ehhh, I did not know whip swords could do this. Too bad my magic control is terrible." Meomi considered using her own whip sword she had while avoiding the attack. However, she was interrupted when a hand broke through the pillar and grabbed Meomi by the neck.

"What the-?" Meomi tried to struggle as she saw the whip sword swerved over the pillar and aimed towards her. "You are pissing me off! I had quietly promised to give Master his body back without any damage." She cursed as the Half Werecat Mask suddenly turned animated and a hidden low jaw appeared.

With the mask's mouth, she managed to stop the whip sword from slicing her head into half and subsequently broke the tip. In the meantime, she used Jin's Maqi enhanced body to overcome Baal's hold on her neck by plunging her claws into his frog-looking hands.

It eventually caused him to release the chokehold, and Meomi took a leap backwards. "This frog is more than I can handle, and my time is unfortunately ending. Master, I'm sorry I can't offer you an extension. Do you wish to call that Froggie for aid?" Meomi suggested as she already took a card out.

"Heh, I think he would be so glad to fight a formidable foe. Do -"

"Card Activated. Gaeru Form." The System Driver stated, and Meomi stuck her tongue to the side of her mouth as her soul disintegrated, making room for Gaeru to enter.

Chapter 799 Hell Knight King - Part 1

"This is the King that you have problems killing? Wait, who do you think I am?! A Kingslayer?!" Gaeru questioned as he took a quick look at Jin's body as well as the armour he was currently wearing.

With his arrival, it has changed into turquoise green armour plates with a Frog Half Mask as well as the broken cape he continued to wear despite the System's insistence to change it to a new one.

With the compilation of the System's data inscribed into the cards created by Moloch, Bam and Boo were hosting Masamune within its core, the two swords wrapped around Gaeru's living weapon to make it easy for Jin's body to hold.

As Masamune had powers unique to itself, all Bam and Boo did was to fuse with it in order to make it bigger. This was only possible with the aid of the Black Sludge Crystals that Jin incidentally created while cultivating.

"You failed to kill the Salamander King back then, so I thought you would appreciate the opportunity to try again with a real King." Jin reasoned, making Gaeru roll Jin's eyes. "Just be careful, he is not just any ordinary swordsman."

"Well, this King Baal seems like a worthy opponent for Masamune to feast on. It should be happy." Gaeru pointed his newly fused Masamune at King Baal who had already embraced all three forms yet appeared to look different once more.

A feat which neither the Royal Guards nor Moloch had seen before. If anything, he began to look similar to the Chimaeras that Kiva had created. Whether the already charcoal fried Ravenous Lord had any interference or contribution to Baal's current form was something Jin would have to ask the bat after he defeated this iteration of King Baal.

"No one has made me take them this seriously for an eternity. You should be honoured, you will be the second to see this form." King Baal announced as he adjusted his grip on his Frog-tongue whip sword and inserted mana into it. The sword started to twist and turned into a black two-handed bastard sword with gold edges.

"...Before Baal became the King, he held onto the elusive class of Hell Knight which is considered unique in the Dungeon World, only accessible to direct descendants of Hell." Moloch shared the details of his past while Baal revealed the sword.

"If I am not wrong, he should be somewhat similar to the Death Knight Class, which Dread Reaver holds. He might not have a direct connection to Lady Death herself, but as we are descendants of the Hell plane, Baal might be able to pull something dangerous out from there."

"Heh, it appears that you have yet to forget our roots from Hell. We might have been reborn into bodies not of our choosing, but we were still the selected few. Aren't you ashamed of yourself to side with a lowly human?" King Baal berated the little cow puppet at the side.

"And human, you are not the only one to have a fanciful plate of armour." King Baal addressed Jin this time as he slammed the bastard sword down and a circle of flames was summoned beneath him, with the flames enveloping his whole being.

He could have continued to use his the three fused forms to fight with System Rider Gaeru, yet King Baal had determined that it would be an endless cycle of power struggle and ultimately a waste of time.

Might as well eliminate the threat as soon as possible for he was informed that Paradiso was in danger with the enemies able to clear six floors in less than fifteen minutes. He realised that Moloch's champion might not be his ultimate card.

In his mind, Jin must be the most durable one out of those available, just there to stall for time when they accepted the sacred duel between two Dungeon Core owners. Dragging it out any longer meant his Metropolis might potentially disappear from his grasp. He was already receiving pleas from his own dungeon core to return to fulfil his duties, and if he didn't follow them, the consequences would turn dire.

"Master, we have to strike now when he has his weapon down. While it is dishonourable, this is probably the only opportunity we might have." Gaeru advised and just like Meomi, Jin's body was already moving to intercept whatever magic Baal was conjuring.

"Such impatience!" Baal saw that his opponent was attempting to disrupt his transformation just as he had tried to do earlier. Alas, the System Rider's outcome wasn't any different. Baal had defences in place to prevent any interruption of his secret transformation.

He quickly took out the crown from his magical void and held it with his left frog arm. Instantaneously, Baal managed to conjure out a wide spray of fire which engulfed System Rider Gaeru and subsequently blew him back to where he came from.

"I am not giving up!" Gaeru cried out his challenge as he performed a cover roll on the ground before recovering and running via the side.

"User, providing System Rider Gaeru with an additional Black Sludge Crystal could potentially increase his attack power for the Sludge itself contains traces of your blood." The System suggested since dashing in without any defences would be plain foolish.

"Alright!" Gaeru happily grabbed the crystal, suddenly floating in front of him. Even the System had decided to act first despite the obligatory etiquette request to Jin.

"Why are you even asking me when all of you are acting on your own?!" Jin questioned in a foul mood. He could not stand Gaeru's brainless dashing. "Urgh! Let me help out!"

When Baal spewed another flamethrower attack towards System Rider Gaeru, Jin's consciousness made his body use a Panda Swipe infused with Green Panda Wind Energy, to cause the flames to temporarily move aside for Gaeru to rush forward.

"Hahahah! I cannot believe his minions made him participate in the fight as well. Here I was worried it would take at least a week of training to get Jin to learn that he could do that. It seems like pissing him off worked wonders. Good job Meomi, Gaeru." Moloch analysed as he strengthened his shield to prevent the aftereffects of the flames despite having a distance away.

"Oof, the crown really did make the flames rather potent though." Now, with Masamune having ingested the Black Sludge Crystal, it howled with terror moving towards the near completely transformed King Baal.

However, both Jin and Gaeru had underestimated the crown as Baal now placed it on his head where Hell's living fire engulf his head, acting as the helmet for the Hell Knight. In a flash, a burst of dark flames caused System Rider Gaeru to get knocked back into a distant corner with a loud bang.

If not for the armour and System's regulation of Maqi to strengthen Jin's back, they would have lost the fight immediately with Jin suffering a severe, potentially fatal back injury. "Damn it!" Gaeru cursed as he saw King Baal fully transformed into a Hell Knight.

"No...a Hell Knight does not look like this. ... I fear this is something far worse." Moloch informed Jin with a good amount of panic in his voice. The aura emanating from King Baal was stifling to him even at such a distance.

"That is right. Thanks to the crown, I am now Hell Knight King." Baal said an arbitrary name which was never heard even in the plane of Hell and that made Moloch growled.

"You can be a King in this Dungeon World, and I am willing to follow you as such. But our almighty King in Hell can never be replaced. Renounce yourself or face the wrath of Solomon himself!" Moloch shouted yet the self-proclaimed Hell Knight King laughed.

"You think you can defeat me by barking?! Sure, Solomon might have stripped us of our powers and subsequently sent us to various Worlds to learn and atone of our sins... But did he ever care for us?!" Baal questioned.

As he walked towards the trembling Moloch who was valiantly staring at Baal's eyes, he snickered at the poor fate of System Rider Gaeru when he tried to withstand the dark flames that were enveloping him.

Despite the living armour's protection, Jin could feel the flames burning him inside. And even if he tried to use White Panda Ice energy to lessen the effects, it did not help that Gaeru was a frog and with the System Rider now embodying him, it provided a poor resistance against the flames.

"Disengage!" Jin shouted as he forcefully separated the union with Gaeru, so he would not suffer with him.

"Do not open the deck of cards. The System Driver belt as a whole has an innate resistance against elements due to the materials used. Endure it." The System cautioned, and Jin could only scream vulgarities to withstand the pain.

"See, your human is dying, and here you are reminiscing about the ancient past," Baal said as he used his sword to poke the corner shield that protected Moloch and it simply disappeared.

"Despite your betrayal against me, siding with the human, in the end, you will still die a beggar's death. I thought all the demons from Hell should stick up for one another, but no, you have killed your brethren again and again in this particular invasion."

"Do not give me such bullshit such as justice! You know very well that we lie, betray and kill each other purely for our own satisfaction. I promised I would aid you, but I did not say I would not betray you in doing so." Moloch snapped back.

"Besides, talking about treachery, you continue to use that damned crown despite knowing the ill effects that it brought you. Why? Is it because you want to gain back powers of your former self again?! Do not give me that 'I want to protect people from the Harbinger' bullshit!"

"Yes! Yes! Yes! I solely missed the powers I had back in Hell! To be so powerless in this Dungeon World and even if I die, I get reincarnated back in this lowly body! Solomon does not want me back in Hell yet, and I have grown too powerful to leave for any other world!" Baal said as he raised his arm towards System Rider Panda and sent another wave of flames for him to suffer.

"Wiggle and squirm like how my beloved minions did," Baal demanded with twisted glee as he watched Jin struggling against the flames in a vain attempt to resist them consuming him. "And there is no way your pal Moloch would be able to help you," Baal added while he ignored the Minotaur Lord and forcefully created a portal.

"Note to the Dungeon Owner of Demon Metropolis. Escaping now will cause you to lose!" The Dungeon Core spoke out.

"My place is being invaded by them. Metropolis' Dungeon Core should be able to inform you of at least that. Besides, your champion is incapacitated and unable to move. Give me ten minutes, and I will come back to finish the fight. Heal him or not, I do not care. If by the end of ten minutes, I am not back, I will relinquish half of my treasury to you and consider myself defeated." King Baal asked for a compromise

since his dungeon core kept howling him to return even though it was actually more beneficial for him to stay. But before the Pandapolis Dungeon Core could give an answer, the portal in front was cut off with a white card.

"The fight is not over!" Moloch interrupted even though he knew that the chances to win against a crowned Baal was close to nil. Sure, getting Kraft and his skulk of foxes to fight with Baal would definitely even the odds in their favour...Heck, no. He was sure they can obliterate him. But right now, it was a matter of pride if the Minotaur Lord did nothing and let others do the job even though he had a way to help out.

"I am sorry Jin, but you have to endure my selfishness a little more." The supposedly blank card flew towards Jin's System Driver, and a voice emerged from the device.

"Card Activated, Moloch Form!"

Chapter 800 Hell Knight King - Final

"Card Activated, Moloch Form!"

"What?!" When Baal heard the name, he quickly tried to stab the cotton toy but little did he realise Moloch's soul had already transitioned into Jin's body. A wave of light emerged from the System Driver, which indicated that it was going to transform once more.

"I will not allow you to complete it!" Baal declared as he dashed towards Jin, but the Hell Knight King was being parried.

"Heh. Your flames...they hurt you know." Jin said as he held onto the large sword in his hands. Even though Gaeru had left, he had allowed Jin to hold onto Masamune for a while longer.

"One of the many debts had been repaid to my Master," Gaeru said as he remembered Jin bestowing him his sword for the fight against the Valgs.

"Masamune, you are annoyed that you didn't even have a taste of this delicious creature, right?" Jin asked as he could feel the shifting of living armour is near to completion despite still being engulfed in dark flames. The sword howled a little as if he acknowledged the temporary wielder and at the opponent who was denying him the chance to feed.

"You insolent fool!" King Baal pushed his sword further and used the impact to retract his sword up so that he could go for another strike.

"I do not usually like to do this but!" Jin strenuously opened his eyes, allowing his Inverse Eyes to activate. "Zeru!" Jin shouted out in his mind and only then did the System realise the loophole that Jin seemingly discovered.

As the living armour plates were shifting, it was actually Moloch attempting to acclimate to Jin's Astral Body before he could take over Jin's body. But what Jin did was to call upon Zeru to fuse with his soul for a split second before Moloch took it over completely.

Jin's sensei did not hesitate, knowing that time itself was both the strictest and opportunistic in nature. If humans can dissect time further, Zeru basically zoomed into the most crucial moment and delivered a cut towards the weakest point of Baal's armour.

The strike that was seemingly faster than the speed of light caused the demon's armour pierced and King to bleed. The Sword Saint immediately left with a wide satisfied smile and at the same time hoped he did not cause even more damage to Jin's body and soul.

"What?!" Baal did not even see that split second strike and Masamune was already howling with excitement since it finally tasted the blood of a demon infused with the energy from Hell and the wretched crown.

"Ah shit, I forgot the crown was on him. Ah whatever, Moloch, the stage is yours. Try to live as long as possible." Jin said as he felt his consciousness damped after Zeru's forceful takeover, rescinding to the back.

As the plates formed correctly, Moloch stood there, finally feeling the flames which burnt his master's life bit by bit away. Thanks to his own demon attribute, he had some fire resistance attribute enhanced onto the black and red living armour plates, but it was not enough to counter the dark flames from Baal.

"Ani! Ototo! At my behest! Come!" Moloch shouted, and suddenly two coloured pauldron plates came flying from the System Driver and attached themselves to Moloch's existing shoulder armour. After learning that Pei had managed to recruit them, he was dying to try out this combination, and he was delighted when it worked out as perfectly as he imagined it to. The Living Armour proceeded to cover them and swiftly, the flames were dying out from their appearance.

"MILORD! THAT HURTS YOU KNOW!"

"i cannot deny and only concur that my brother is right. that really hurts. please hurry with whatever you want to do as we won't be able to endure this for long."

"At the very least, you two stopped it." Moloch praised the Pauldrons as he swung the berserk sword a little, noticing that it became heavier and oppressive than Jin's body was aware of. As the other two monsters were considered as 'leeching parasitic' armour, it fused with Jin nicely. His body armour also did feel very comfortable to be in. (Also, the plate armour on the System Rider was so stylish that Moloch was proud and envied Jin for having such a fantastic device with him.)

"WE CAN ONLY DO IT ONCE! HURRY!" Ototo reminded Moloch where he was, and the Minotaur Lord nervously chuckled. The two brothers had been part of his bodyguard entourage, and they were famous for their combination technique that could create an anti-magic field to remove any spell no matter how strong it was.

This technique was also the reason why the Minotaur brothers had been feared and later on why they were permanently polymorphed by King Baal previously.

King Baal did not know whether the human had discovered the weakness of his armour or if it was just a desperate but very lucky strike. But one thing was for sure, no more mistakes could be allowed especially against Moloch who had now seemingly fused with the human.

"You are not even a sword user, to begin with!" Baal shouted as his bastard sword was burning with flames, and as Moloch clashed against the Hell Knight King, he felt the weight of the impact from the bastard sword. It was intense enough to cause the ground to crack from every blow and gave way to the rider's boots. Not only that, the enchanted flames instantly burnt him.

Even though Ani and Ototo were covering his flaw of being incompetent with swords by simultaneously controlling his arms, they did not expect such overwhelming odds from Baal himself. Moloch also believed that if it was a normal high grade sword, it should have broken or at least got chipped long ago, allowing Baal to slice him into two despite being armoured.

"Hard work eh, Masamune?" Moloch asked as he started chanting and cards subsequently appeared behind Baal. Yet the Hell Knight King was not oblivious about his former advisor's way of fighting and swung his free hand around to shoot at the cards.

"Too bad, I have decades of magical power imbued into this crown. You do not have a chance at all Moloch. Just lose this place to me, and your death will be swift!" Baal ordered.

"Heh, to think you would show me mercy after what we had revealed between each other? Is it on the account that we used to be friends in Hell? Or are you just desperately in need of returning back home?!" Moloch then shouted a magical word and those cards that had seemingly been burnt by Baal's magic swiftly reappeared and flew towards the wound he had incurred from Jin previously.

Upon impact, it exploded, again and again, using his own magic against him. King Baal had no choice but to move backwards and tried to reorganise his thoughts from the sudden attack. "You are not the only one to have picked up a few new tricks, 'old friend'!" Moloch taunted as he tried to remain afoot after the immense pressure and burns he received from Baal.

Those cards were actually absorption cards meant to take in the enemy's magic and deflect them whenever at will. However, Baal's infected hell magic was too strong to contain for long despite the strengthening of the cards via Maqi. And thus System Rider Moloch quickly took the opportunity to hit Baal's weak spot.

For the second time, he was bleeding visibly, and Masamune cried louder than ever. Without any permission, it slipped out of Moloch's hand and went straight for the wound. "Shit! I think it is addicted to the crown's energy!" Moloch thought, but there was no way he could stop an insane sword from moving its own.

"Impudent for a sword to have a will of its own!" Baal shouted as he wanted to deflect the sword away, but in a split moment, the blunt sword managed to cut through his bastard sword and stab him through the side of the waist where the most profound bleeding was.

"What!" Moloch could not help but feel aghast at the situation. Did King Baal lose to a living hungry sword? Masamune continued to stick on him, refusing to move at all.

"Weird, this is the first time I see Masamune look so worked up," Gaeru informed him through the System Channel as he was not able to teleport into the sacred arena. Moloch grinned for a moment before he conjured a card up with a broad axe picture in it.

"Impossible! How is this sword taking my powers away?!" King Baal raged as he tried to pull Masamune out of his body. He even self immolated, hoping the sword would burn in the thousands degrees heat.

Still, the sword was not budging a single bit continuing its feast.

With Baal distracted, Moloch proceeded to move towards the Hell Knight King with his axe, Armads, the Axe of Hell's Thunder. Unfortunately, it was not real as the axe was conjured similar to what he had possessed in Hell with the aid of Bam and Boo. The authentic relic was still kept within the Hell Plane, and thus Moloch could only settle for this. Without the System's aid and Living Armour, the Minotaur Lord might not have been able to create this.

"If you want to have my blood, then allow me to command you!" Baal shouted as he conjured even more strength out from the crown and placed it on the hilt. To Moloch's surprise, the sword complied to its hunger for more power as it allowed Baal to draw it out of his wound and defend the miraculous thunder strike from Moloch's replica weapon.

Baal laughed as he saw how easily the sword changed owners and defended him. At the same time, he used the time to close the side deep wound he incurred from the sword. Moloch had no chance to win against the power-hungry sword, and Gaeru became extremely quiet throughout the change of owners.

"This is really an unexpected turn of events." Jin had regained some consciousness from the short little rest he got. "I honestly can not keep up with who betrayed who at this rate."

"Ha Ha. Very funny master. At this rate, we are the ones who are going to lose!" Moloch reminded Jin as he held tightly on Armads. King Baal realised how much of an advantage he had right now. With his new sword, wretched crown and the infused three form he had embraced to take advantage of all the traits of his crossbreed nature, he felt all powerful.

"There is a brilliant sword. I will finish you once and for all!" King Baal announced as he dashed forward and with the power hungry Masamune, he fed even more energy to it and saw the blade itself shimmer with bluish heat.

He had never seen such a high concentration of energy being stored in the blade as if this was the perfect blade for him bestowed to him. "Begone! and thank you for the sword!" King Baal shouted as he burst dash, closing the distance between System Rider Moloch and him.

Moloch saw the incoming attack and knew there was no way it was able to defend it. "Sorry Master, you'll have to continue this fight yourself... Disengage!" The Minotaur Lord shouted as his half mask popped out of the System Rider Helmet and a manifestation of his cotton toy appeared along with the Minotaur half mask.

"Break Polymorph!" Moloch shouted as he already had a card at his side. King Baal's so-called permanent polymorph was something Moloch had already broken in the early days when he was exiled, but he never used it, as it was a way to conserve energy for himself too. He knew one day, he had to fight against Baal and his ridiculous amount of magic preserved in that crown.

However, he did not know that he was going to use it as defence rather than offence.

"MILORD!" Ototo shouted and immediately disengaged himself from the System Rider. Ani also knew that this was the time to serve his lord. Moloch grew from the cotton toy he was trapped in into a bona

fide minotaur. Both Ototo and Ani instantly appeared in front of Moloch, not as pauldrons but two red and yellow tower shields.

Despite their staunchest defence, Masamune cut the two of them easily, but it gave Moloch enough time to accumulate his strength as he held his clasped hands and slammed it forward. Baal smirked as he knew that the attack would be useless with his brand new sword. True enough, Masamune sliced Moloch's arms cleanly, but the Minotaur Lord was not done.

In fact, the arm slam was a feint for his real attack coming from his bull charge via his horns. Bustling his muscles with thunder, he slammed Baal right in the chest and lightning struck his metal plates. Unknown to Moloch, Slydra who was bored conquering the floating islands with her zaps of thunder, had felt the sensation of a lightning user.

"Playing cheat does feel good once in a while." Slydra and Ayse grinned as they were to ones to secretly support Moloch, increasing the strength of this thunder strike by three-fold. Baal was none the wiser and received a blow strong enough to cause him to be knocked back.

Moloch, on the other hand, realised that Masamune was stuck in his heart.

"...This greedy sword. I am taking you with me so you will not interfere." Moloch coughed as he magically took a card out and entrapped the bloodthirsty sword inside it. But before he could pick the card up from the ground, he started to turn into fragment pieces from the overuse of his magic. "This should atone for my mistake of handing it over, Master."

In the meantime, Jin got hold of his body, and the living armour plates shifted back to Panda form. There was no time to feel lost despite Moloch's sacrifice. It was important to press on though Jin's legs were not moving. The System also indicated that the living armour most likely could only hold one last transformation before the System Driver ran out of juice.

"Can't we just feed more black sludge crystals?" Jin barely held together his form and realised he too was at his limit. "We have to stall him as long as possible so the others could take hold of the dungeon keys."

"Negative. Unfortunately, the System Driver is near its breaking point. It is still a prototype and not some indestructible device. Excess usage will cause the device to disintegrate. Not to mention the toll on User has already surpassed the worst-case scenarios. Once this is done, you will have to rest until your vitals are checked, and we can be sure no long term damage has occurred."

"I cannot believe this fight dragged so long." Baal placed his left feet proper to stand up, but he realised the strain from using the crown was starting to get too much. Suddenly, the wretched crown started to light up, and Kiva's family jewel vibrated.

"Shit, no!" Baal didn't know that the invasion had been so long that it was a new day for the demons. As for Baal, he had to go through a 'sanity check' by the crown, and he knew he was in no condition to survive it. His mental will and physical body were severely beaten since he had been relying on the crown's energy to regenerate.

As if the crown was waiting for this chance, it took the opportunity to consume Baal in his latest form, and his entire brain suddenly blacked out.

"Warning, a sudden surge of energy arising from King Baal." The System noted, and Jin saw that the crown shone a purplish light that made him feel like he had seen the face of true evil for the first time. The metal crown subsequently merged with the helmet as it tightened its grip over Baal's head and his body stiffened.

Suddenly, his legs changed shape, and stuff suddenly grew out of the armour greaves and boots Baal was wearing. Three Spider Legs emerged from the original pair of legs, and his hands morphed into webbed hands along with the armour. Not to mention those hands had cat claws emerging from them. Baal's armour slowly popped cat, human and frog eyes surrounding the entire armour.

The worse of all, the crown was emanating cries, weeps, and even screams. Those pleas of help got into Jin's head and he too felt his mind became heavier. It felt like ...the victims who King Baal had taken his energy from was asking for mercy. They were shouting desperately to be out of the crown and that itself was trying to take over the Hell Knight King.

"What is happening to me?!" Three slightly various shouts came out from his mouth simultaneously, and the helmet grew a mouth as if it merged with the human face Baal once had. Teeth were shown out when he shouted, and double drooling frog tongues were seen hanging out. As if it was not scary enough of an appearance, his entire armour had been imprinted with scared faces from the people entrapped within the jewel.

"It seems that the crown had infected him further, causing him to mutate beyond recognition. Truly a monster." Jin gave his interpretation as he could feel the wretched crown energy overflowing out. "Is there a Bellator Peppers card that I can draw from the deck?" Jin asked the System, trying his luck.

"Negative. Moloch did not have the power to draw it. The System too believed it is too dangerous for Jin's current grade. The current infusion via the Astral Body is the only way." The System said, and Jin shook his head slightly.

"Well, yeah. Just asking. In any case, there is no way eight seconds of Pepper's explosion could work on this guy without it taking me out as well in this relatively small arena." Jin said.

"8.5 seconds as User is currently at Grade 8 Peak. Still, System also predict that is insufficient-"

"I know, idiot!" Jin said as he stepped forward as he called out Bam and Boo which were in a way damaged after Masamune went crazy and broke out from their temporary combination.

"Sorry about that, Bam and Boo. Did not mean to have it broken." Jin apologised as he combined them both together to have one Katana out. It seemed as if he had no way out but to defeat it as the creature in front of him spasmed.

Suddenly spikes in the shape of cat claws came flying from above and beneath the ground, piercing Jin without any notice. There were no portals or anything as if they materialised from thin air. "What the fuck?!"

The spikes pierced through Jin's living armour defences, into his thighs, arms and even torso, causing Jin to cough out blood internally as the impact was great enough for it to happen. There was a spike that was aimed for his head, but somehow Jin managed to evade it partially(whether by luck or innate

instinct, causing it to only destroy a portion of the helmet and missing the face entirely. The cat claw spikes suddenly disappeared once it did its job and Jin was left on the ground bleeding.

"Y—ou wait! I— will finish you after I clear your comrades!" The long slurring from Baal made it seem as if he had trouble controlling his own speech, but if the System were to categorise it, it was infused with three different sounds as heard from his previous sentence.

Despite losing the sanity check, Baal was still conscious enough to put his Dungeon Core as a priority. Concerned about losing it, he immediately opened the portal, and the Pandapolis Dungeon Core reluctantly granted Baal the initial deal. Since Jin was still breathing desperately and without intervention was most likely going to die, making it lose either way.

Fortunately, despite the several injuries, Jin still had the legendary inscription from his general storekeeper, Octofussy to keep him alive. Not to mention his body had been tempered, granting him vampiric traits resulting in a boost of vitality without the urge to bite anyone. Baal who was busy keeping his remaining sanity in check, did not notice any of this and only wanted to pass through the gate.

However, instead of him passing through the gate. There were ten figures coming out of it instead. "Woah, what kind of fucking ugly creature is this?" Kraft asked as he was taken aback for a moment before walking with a bloodied sack over his shoulders.

"Eh? Isn't this the System's portal? Why were we teleported to this wasteland?" Kiyu asked as she walked through it while twirling the ring that held the key from the circle of Heresy.

"Kiyu, be careful with the key. You aren't the most graceful of all foxes." Kai pointed out, and Kiyu merely turned her head to stick her tongue at him.

"Is that Jin?!" Pei, who came out, felt the person's aura lying in a pool of blood to be very familiar. She quickly ran to him, ignoring the monster in front of her. The monster felt offended and decided to pierce her, but it suddenly stopped moving as it noticed a strange smell in the air, temporarily making him lose function over his muscles.

"Do not tell me this monster is Baal?" Evon took a step back, as he noticed that the aura it oozed was not delectable a single bit.

"Wow, the wounds on Jin are really terrible. It's kind of a miracle he is surviving." Ixa was quite blunt about their master's current state as the rest of the foxes in their human forms started to surround Jin.

"This is not how I expected my first encounter with our new master to be." Rex sighed as he supported Pei in healing Jin despite his innate healing abilities.

Baal eventually managed to break out of Evon's paralyzing drug effect and noticed that each and almost every one of them who came out were holding the keys to his Dungeon Core, except for the one sole key from the circle of Treachery.

"Ew, Baal who the hell gave you this ugly makeover?" Kraft received the confirmation from the System that it was the King itself, corrupted with the energy he had accumulated. "Anyways, here is the head of your kid, Paleman, I believe. I am surprised that despite you trusting him so much, he had no knowledge of bypassing your stupid key system!"

"I still think you should have let me blast the door with my fist, Kraft." Itori complained, but Tsu just shook his head.

"If you did that, you would have more than likely destroyed the Dungeon Core alongside your blast. In that case, all our endeavours would have been pointless!"

"Yeah, it's rather a wasted effort after I found out that the real Circle of Treachery's Guard Supervisor wasn't even present." Rex agreed as he could hear Jin's breathing started to stabilise.

"Is this like the reinforcements?" Jin asked through his broken helmet with a weak muffled voice.

"Nah, not really. Maybe the spectators?" Kraft grinned as he squatted down and whistled at the new suit Jin had donned on. "I believe this was a great suit before it got battered. Yo, System, I hope you plan to let me play around with one of these as well!"

"So, Rex. What are you waiting for? Kill the King so we can get the key...or to have access to the Dungeon Core or whatever." Ixel was getting a little impatient but so was Baal.

He could not believe the individuals in front of him had managed to clear the guard supervisors which no other demons had done in the past few decades. Still, that also meant that they were the perfect specimens to test his new powers after he had been degraded into a monster of power.

"Yeah, Big Brother. This is supposed to be your official comeback. What better way to establish yourself than to claim the juiciest piece of meat of this whole conquest. Speaking of that, once you are done, we can finally eat, drink and celebrate." Kraft said, and he tapped firmly on Rex's shoulder.

"There's still a part 2 of my comeback?" Rex laughed bitterly as he knew Kraft just wanted to get even for the drinking bet they had centuries ago.

"Haha, but still isn't this—" Suddenly a barrage of magic lasers came from Baal's eyes on the armour and Rex had already put up a barrier against it.

"This monster needs to learn some manners." Rex eyed Baal who now opened his mouth, and a beam of wretched purple energy was shot against his barrier.

"Itori, hold your fist! This is my fight!" Rex ordered as he noticed the White Fox was dying for a counterattack when Baal shot into the barrier. Itori quietly obeyed the new Panda Remnant as he walked forward.

"Master Jin...Do you mind if I kill him? I will make short work of him." Rex asked as he saw Baal desperately trying to break the invisible magical barrier that Rex had put up. No matter how much magical energy from the crown was dispensed against Rex's barrier, it was like a fly hitting on a closed glass window.

"Be my guest. We need to finish him off anyways to end the war. Thanks in advance." Jin answered as he was held up by Pei.

"Kiyu, do you want to have the honours of filming him?" Kraft suggested to Rex as he got permission from his new master.

"I am already on it," Kiyu said, equipped with a selfie stick and a GoPro on. Rex merely smiled as the rest of his skulk stood behind watching him.

"Guess I got to do something flashy. How about I show one of the ancient Panda Techniques?" Rex smiled as he went to a stance...and realised the sword he had already been destroyed from killing the fake bosses in the Circle of Treachery.

"Ah...can someone lend me a sword?" Rex asked embarrassingly, and the foxes tried their best to hold their laughter in.

Kraft too looked down in order not to laugh at his brother, then noticed that there was a card with a sword picture on the ground. "Isn't this Masamune? Why is it in Moloch's card?" Kraft thought to himself as he broke the card's spell by inserting his own chi and Masamune popped out of it.

"Ahh...now I understand why." Kraft smiled as he took in all of the oozing chaos energy from Masamune, and allowed it to not go berserk. "Come on Masamune, there is tastier energy than that," Kraft whispered to it as he subsequently called out to his brother.

Rex received the sword that Kraft threw at him, ignoring Baal's constant all out barrages. "This sword...it's a bloodthirsty living weapon?"

"It's one of Jin's minion's prized items. I doubt he will mind you using it and I believe this weapon suits you well since you are still raging from within." Kraft assumed this could be the outlet that Rex needed while keeping control of his powers. "Most importantly, I do not think it will break."

"Haha, I bet that sword will feel satisfied for some time before it gets hungry again," Ixel interjected, and Rex smiled lightly.

"Alright, then. Judging from this monster's attack power, he is most probably Grade 14 Peak or perhaps an inch away from Grade 15. No wonder Master had a lot of problems fighting it when he's only a Grade 8 Peak. Without the strange chaos energy, he should fall between Grade 11 to 13." Rex calmly analysed the situation while pondering which Sword Art he should show based on the monster's grade as he held onto the sword and adjusted his stance once more.

"Epic Sword Art, Fatal Crescent Circle of the Umbral Panda!" Rex said in a calm voice as he zoomed past Baal and Jin could see a faint image of the moon cycle with a Panda rolling within it as the New Moon turned into a crescent and eventually a full moon. It later went back to a new moon once more, completing the moon cycle. With each transition of the moon's holographic image, Baal was slashed multiple times in the shape of said moon period.

Blood spewed everywhere when the Sword Art ended, but at some point, Rex had put up a barrier to prevent any of Baal's stained blood from dirtying his clothes. It was also relief that he did that too since the blood itself was acidic enough to burn the ground when it landed.

The crown Baal wore finally broke from Rex's sword art, and Baal fell from the attack. It was later revealed that the ravenous lord's jewel was hiding the final prison core from within it and it cracked when the crown was undone.

"How the hell can the prison core be sustained outside of its own instance?" Kraft who had some knowledge on the Dungeon Core felt mystified by it.

"Who knows, maybe that is why he is suffering in his own prison cage." Pei offered a plausible explanation as Rex opened the prison core to reveal the last dungeon key.

"At the very least, he should return to normal once the System resurrects him, right?" Rex asked when he returned Masamune back to Kraft. While it was easy to handle, it did not feel right for him to use it. Kraft could only feel for the weapon, knowing that it had to settle for an imperfect master.

Suddenly, the barriers between the sacred arena were lowered, and the Dungeon Core had determined that the initial deal Baal made had been completed. Ten minutes had passed since the opening of the portal, and he had not crossed any swords against Jin. "Wow, this Dungeon Core sure is scheming. It used this time out as a loophole to let the Foxes fight him." Jin thought since he was the only one who knew the whole picture.

"Isn't that great? We do not need a stupid Dungeon Core to run our city! A scheming city means a prosperous one!" Kraft laughed, and the rest only smiled half-heartedly from it.

"Go, all of you, back to the Dungeon Core. Unlock it and take the Demon Metropolis by force. We need to recoup our losses from this fight." Jin told them, and the whole fox skulk agreed to it. With Baal's portal still opened, all of them immediately went in while an area wide announcement was projected throughout the city.

"Owner of Demon Metropolis, King Baal has officially lost the duel. All Demon Horde personnel shall be teleported out of the Pandapolis in ten seconds." The Pandapolis Dungeon Core announced, and the entire Demon Horde who had to fight with their lives could not believe it...except for the spectators at the safe zone who had seen everything first hand. (If they had survived Syltra's electrifying wink spell.)

The monsters under Jin and Pandarens then realised this was the final sprint to kill everything in their path. More demons killed equated to better rewards for the Pandarens while the monsters might potentially be awarded more System points.

The adrenaline was real as the monsters were using their best skills to finish any demons within their vicinity. Some of the Fortress Golems even started to jump out of their posts and squashed some Demons while emptying their clips of ammo. The Wyvern Knights leapt down from their wyverns and fought independently to get double kills. Pandjilla climbed onto the indestructible sky bridge and sent out an astonishing breath of energy, burning rows of demon soldiers to their death. Many more crazy stunts were done to make that remaining ten seconds count.

Meanwhile, when the foxes took the portal, they tried to drag Jin along with them too. While it was tempting for the foxes, especially Kraft, to own an entire city for himself... it was too much of a hassle in the long run. They were free-spirited troublemakers, not city overseers.

However, Pei stopped him adamantly, and Kraft decided to go for the next best alternative.

Moloch.

He was not spared from it as the System teleported the newly resurrected cotton toy right into Kraft's hands.