

Earths GMagus 751

Chapter 751 - Answer

"I wish to be by your side as long as I can...."

Those words were followed by a hand that wrapped tightly around his own, but then it suddenly trembled and her grip loosened.

Emery was genuinely surprised when he felt this. He was always bad at handling these kinds of things, but at the very least, he knew her gestures were a very emotional and serious matter.

Moments later, it seemed the girl regained control of herself, as she let go of his arm and took a step back. In her turbulent state, she gathered what courage she had and stared at him from behind for just a moment before saying.

"Will you... at least say something..."

Emery turned around in response and their eyes immediately met each other. Their emotions appeared clear from their gazes alone. Despite her usual bravery, the courageous facade she usually put on crumbled within seconds.

She turned her head away, hiding her embarrassed face under the shadow of her hair.

Emery hadn't said anything yet, but she acted as if she already knew the answer he would give.

Subconsciously, she tightened her fist so tight the tips of her fingers turned white. Left at a loss of what to do, she once again resorted to her usual anger.

"If you don't like me, just say so! Then I... I... could..."

When he heard that, Emery knew this was his cue to say his thoughts. So, he took a step forward and spoke as sincerely as he could.

"Silva, I like you... truly, I like you a lot." With a smile, he continued, "I think you are the bravest and kindest person I know. You are a very important person to me. But... what you are asking... it is really not something I can give."

The girl looked away, trying so hard not to show her true feelings. However, even the dark couldn't hide the rush of emotions that came to her. Anger, shame, disappointment and even regret... No, she couldn't stay like this and let this chain her.

Silva took a deep breath, braved herself once more and opened her mouth to speak. However, what came out next was something she had never expected to say in her lifetime.

"It's her, isn't it?" A hint of bitterness in her voice. "The girl from your home... I... I thought, if only we spent some more time together, maybe... you would choose me over her..."

Silva pushed away her precious pride and almost sounded like she was pleading when she said those words, catching Emery off guard and making him unable to say anything.

He couldn't deny the girl in front of him did occupy a portion of his mind, and in a way, he did like her. However, he knew this could not be. He obviously did not want to hurt her, but his previous experiences clearly told him it would be more harmful and cruel to her if he didn't make it clear now.

In the end, Emery made up his decision and finally said in conviction. "Silva, I am sorry... I really can't, I am committed to her... I am sorry."

As the words left his lips, a few moments of silence reigned between them. Only the relaxing sounds of fire crackling could be heard, but it could do nothing to alleviate the atmosphere between the two.

Silva raised her head, even though she tried to hide it, there were traces of tears at the corners of her eyes. Even so, she presented a resolute front as she looked at him in the eyes.

"Apparently, it wasn't you... it's me who was the fool all along..."

"I am sorry."

The girl calmly turned around and walked towards the darkness of the forest, before disappearing into the all-encompassing black shadows.

He only watched, as her figure slowly disappeared from his vision. His heart wanted to chase and stop her, but his rational thoughts told him not to do so.

Emery closed his eyes as he took a deep sigh, this was truly something he dreaded to face. If he could choose, he would rather fight against multiple elves or beholders than face such a problem again.

He glanced at the night sky, he was searching for the answer from up above. The silver, serene light of the moon and his current dilemma suddenly reminded him of his parents. If he could, he would really like to ask how they had done it. He didn't have many happy memories with them, but as he remembered them, he couldn't help but give a bitter smile.

As if the world itself knew how he felt, within minutes a sea of dark clouds covered the moon. Bit by bit, a light rain came to shower the forest.

For a moment, he once again thought about chasing after Silva and taking her back to the stone house, but within moments, he hesitated and stopped himself.

Instead, he opened up a spatial gate and returned to the place where the ship was docked.

When Emery returned to the shore, he proceeded to walk through the sandy beach approaching the stone house. His footsteps quickly alerted Annara of his arrival, who approached him. The red haired girl's expression told him she had something to talk about.

However, Emery was in no mood to talk with her or do anything. Still this didn't seem to faze her as she spoke anyway. He totally didn't expect the first sentence from her, making him suddenly stop.

"You did the right thing, you know... it's better to be honest about your feelings."

Emery was surprised. It appeared that once again, Annara had sent her familiar to follow either him or Silva. Usually, he wouldn't be this enraged, but his irritation leaked from his expression. It has been a while since he could be this angry to someone.

In response, the girl took a step back and quickly apologized.

"I am sorry, really, I didn't mean to pry. I sent them to check where you are, there is something important going on."

Emery took a deep breath and calmed himself down. It was not the time to drown in his own problems

"What is it?"

"It's the wolf magus, something has changed with his condition."

When he heard that, Emery immediately dashed towards the house and went to the room where the wolf magus was kept.

As he opened the door, the first thing he saw was a mess of inky black liquid everywhere, even on the floor and walls. On the bed, root-like extensions made of the same black liquid covered his whole body, making him look like a twisted cocoon.

"What happened?"

Chapter 752 - Preparation

Once again, Emery tried his best to probe Magus Heorgar with the aid of his [Nature's Blessing]. However, all it did was repeat the previous failure, just like his last attempt.

There was just too much of a difference between his 900 points of spirit force and the strength of a peak full moon magus, who supposedly had close to 10 thousand points of spirit force. Emery's strength was nothing but a dying candle compared to the magus' brilliant flame.

However, even though he couldn't probe the magus' spirit core, Emery still had his general knowledge and senses that told him that the magus' heartbeat and pulse were not getting better at all. Instead, as the heartbeat started to beat in a random, erratic manner, he knew the magus' condition was getting worse and worse.

It appeared there was only faint spirit energy being channeled through the magus' body, thus after a few weeks the magus immortal body started to weaken to the point of even starting to decompose.

Emery used his spirit energy to heal the magus. After half an hour, it started to recover.

As for the black liquid, however, it was from a reaction within the magus' spirit core itself, and Emery didn't have enough knowledge to deduce whether it was helping or killing the magus. Hence, he decided to just let it be.

Without much else to do, Emery stopped his healing spell and shook his head towards the red haired girl, before explaining what he found.

"Dammit! I really thought he would get better, and then we could finally get away from this accursed place!"

The girl took a deep breath to calm herself down, before she stared at him.

"Anyway, I would put my bet on that magus getting worse rather than better. So, for both the magus and our sakes, I really think we should try fighting that beholder... what do you think?"

Emery looked at the girl from top to bottom. He knew from her expression and posture that she had zero concern about the magus hero's life, beyond how it could save herself, but he had to agree she was probably right about the magus' condition.

Realizing his doubts, she added, this time her desperation clear.

"If that snake girl is too scared, then we should both fight it together, just the two of us!"

The girl's previous hesitation to fight the beholder was gone and she seemed committed this time.

Emery had to admit he also wished to return to the academy as much as the girl, what blocked him from trying were all the concerning things the two girls were saying. With the way things are going; no help coming, magus Heorgar's condition, he thought it's probably a good idea to see the creature with his own eyes. Even if he couldn't defeat it on his first try, he should at least give it a look and maybe get some information about it.

However, before he could consider doing that, he needed to make sure he was already fully fitted for the task to increase his chance of not dying.

"Okay then, give me a week to prepare. If no help comes by then, we'll fight that thing," Emery said.

The next day, Emery took a deep dive into the water and once again started to cultivate the [Nature's Grasp], while consuming a few more of the [Spirit Foundation Pill]

His dark core was indeed powerful, but he believed he still lacked a Nature core that could match it and any increase of spirit force could definitely help.

[Spirit force increased]

[Spirit force increased]

[Spirit force: 954]

Three days passed. Emery stopped his training for a bit to hunt for another high-ranking monster. Once again, he managed to use his [Shaman Transformation]

Emery knew it was unsafe to push the skill like before, so as a precaution, he made sure to only use the skill for one full minute before dispelling it. Then, he went back to meditate and control the balance between his two cores once again.

From what he had seen, Emery was fully convinced that, as long as he transformed for less than a minute, the corruption would not resurface

With a few more days to go, he decided to return to his [Nature's Grasp] training one more time and used more [Spirit Foundation Pills] to boost his spirit force just to be on the safe side.

He also had one more thing he'd like to try.

Emery opened his spatial gate and took out a familiar leather-bound book. It was the expensive book he obtained for 100.000 contribution points, the [Soul-Tempering Meditation book 2]

He opened it and slowly read page by page. He took the time to remember each detail and understand the process behind it. After he flipped through the last page, the text glowed and dissipated just like usual.

The text was very inspiring. It talked about a way to strengthen one's soul, learning to use it as a sort of replacement for his senses.

However, this time, an understanding on how it worked was not enough. The book came filled with the manual and chanting that was required to temper the soul and strengthen it.

Emery decided to focus and practice it; he spent the whole day trying. All he could understand from that was, it was something that needed to be practiced over and over. Mere days would not be enough to truly understand what the manual was trying to explain. He put the idea into a mental note for later and stood up to once again find a high ranking beast to fight.

[Fey transformation]

Once again, with this form, Emery could overwhelm his opponent easily with overwhelming spells.

One minute.

Two minutes.

Right as the two minutes passed, however, Emery started to lose control and his core started to turn into a chaotic mess again. Before things went south like last time, he quickly pulled another of the red vial [Gene Suppressors] and injected himself with it.

Hah!

Two minutes of the Shaman Transformation was his uppermost limit before he lost control. The situation was not ideal, but it should be a good enough time to take a peek at the terrifying beholder.

A week passed, as planned with Annara, they were going to fight the beholder later today, but before he went to risk his life, Emery decided to find Silva first.

Chapter 753 - Tactics

With the aid of multiple [Spatial Gates] and his spirit reading range, it was not too hard for him to find Silva on this island.

As Emery emerged from the gate, he spotted a figure atop a high cliff; the girl he was looking for was currently sitting in a lotus position with her eyes closed.

Emery carefully approached her, but seeing her expression full of concentration as the winds ruffled her beautiful long hair, he became anxious.

Emery subconsciously halted. He wanted to talk to her, but he did not want to disturb her.

However, before he could decide on how to notify her, the girl abruptly opened her eyes.

"What do you want?!" Silva asked in an unwelcoming tone.

Upon seeing that the girl was no longer concentrating on her own thing, Emery no longer hesitated and slowly approached the girl from behind.

"Silva, I came to tell you that both Annara and I will try to fight the Beholder later today."

The girl fell silent when she heard his words. A hint of surprise briefly appeared on her face, but soon after, a voice full of mockery came out of her mouth.

"Hah. That's stupid, but do whatever you want. Just don't get me involved."

"Yes. I came to give you this."

Emery slowly took out the jar that contained the spiritual souls of the two bloodline magus. He then placed it on the grass, looked at it for a second, and said to Silva.

"If I succeed, I will come back for it. If I don't, I trust you will deliver this to the alliance for me."

"..."

The girl did not answer, and for a few moments, tense silence reigned between them. In the end, Emery was the one who broke the ice.

"Also, if you can, please check out Magus Heorgar's condition once in a few days. I believe your [Spiritual Seed] is good enough to do the job."

[Spiritual Seed] was the flower-like spell that Silva used to heal him right after Emery defeated Lodos at the first Magus Games.

The mention of the spell carried with it a memory she thought she had long forgotten. Without realizing it, Silva flashed a bitter smile.

Even so, she still did not say a word, not accepting nor refusing Emery's requests.

"All right then, Silva. Please take care."

He then turned around, created a spatial gate, and left the girl without looking back to not continue bothering her.

When Emery stepped out of the gate, he was already back in the stone house. As soon as the sight of the familiar place greeted him, the first thing he saw was Annara preparing her weapons and items. At the sound of his footsteps, the girl looked at him and flashed an amused smile.

"So you're finally here. Really took your sweet time, didn't you? Let's go."

Instead of responding to the girl's taunt, Emery walked towards Magus Heorgar first. He checked the magus' condition and healed him for a while before turning around with a resolute expression.

"All right, let's go!"

He was ready to fight.

Emery made a spatial gate for himself and Annara, but just when he was about to step into it, he sensed someone else's presence. Right after, a familiar voice followed.

"You two are not going anywhere just yet!"

The voice belonged to none other than Silva.

"Well, look at who it is. Did you finally decide to join us?" Annara asked with a cheeky smile.

Even so, Silva's expression remained serious. She did not even spare the other girl a glance as her eyes remained on Emery.

"Let's just say that I recently got more reason and motivation to escape this place."

Hearing that, Emery closed the spatial gate he made. The three then sat together to hear what Silva had to say.

Silva started to explain the abilities of the Beholder. It had ten tentacles all tipped with small eyes. Depending on the tentacle eye that attacked them, its magic could petrify, dispel magic, and shoot out energy rays. The creature was packed with many means to launch powerful magic. It even had eyes that could heal and restore the injured ones!

However, its most troublesome ability lied in its main eyes. The second a person entered its field of vision, depending on the person's strength, it could paralyze and even kill the person within seconds with just its gaze.

The worst of it all was that all 11 eyes could work together at the same time.

Normally, an unfortunate person who saw a Beholder would either be paralyzed within a second and quickly turned to stone or be blasted off into ashes by its energy ray without even having the time to say a word.

Finally, even if in some fortunate chance a group could decapitate all 11 eyes, the Beholder still had its main method of physical attack; its sharp teeth. Each tooth was as strong as a high-quality tier 4 weapon, which meant that weapons of the same tier would not be able to break it.

"It is almost impossible to fight that thing by yourself, but it would be even worse if you fight it with many people without the right tactic."

"That doesn't make any sense!" Annara disagreed.

The red-haired girl came out with her ideas, "What about using illusions? That should do the trick, right?"

However, instead of being amazed, Silva's face was full of confusion. Annara did not know if it was just her, but she felt as if the white-haired girl was looking at her like she was an idiot.

"Are you dumb? Do you really think you can fool all 11 eyes with illusions? Not a chance!"

...Silva indeed thought she was a fool.

Despite her discomfort, Annara was not willing to be outsmarted. She huffed before continuing, "We can just surround that thing from multiple sides. One of us will be targeted by the main eye while the rest whittle it to death. Easy."

However, Silva only huffed in amusement when she heard those words. Even without words, her gaze was enough to belittle Annara. This reaction only poured fuel to their rivalry, and the red-haired girl's expression twisted in anger.

Feeling that they would bicker if this were to continue, Emery quickly interjected.

"If we want this to work, you both have to stop fighting!"

Both of them were clearly reluctant, but Annara relented after a moment, albeit a little begrudgingly.

"All right, fine! I'll keep the peace until we get home if you do the same! What do you think, snake?!"

"I wouldn't trust a bloodthirsty bat, but as long as you don't try to stab me in the back, yes, I will maintain peace until we get out of this place."

Silva quickly changed the subject and told the stories from rare survivors of the Beholder. The three tried their best to relate the stories with their respective strengths and find out the best tactic to get out of the situation.

For that to happen, all three must be willing to give out the specifics of their spells, abilities, as well as their weapons.

Emery used the chance to show the emblem-like artifact given by the headmaster. Seeing the artifact, the other two girls quickly nodded.

"I think we have a better chance of survival now,"

To make sure nothing went wrong, the three spent three days practicing together against the high-ranking beasts of the island. They were not only trying out their tactics and seeing how it would hold out in a real battle, but they were also trying to get their teamwork in tune with each other.

They set out on the fourth day, and this time they were a lot more confident to succeed.. When they finally arrived, Emery could not help but stare at the castle standing on top of the mountain, his eyes filled with resolution.

Chapter 754 - Beholder

Without further ado, the three of them made their way up the hill toward the unfinished stone castle they had seen earlier.

According to the appearance of the site, the place seemed to have been abandoned for hundreds or maybe thousands of years. It had been so long in its current condition - untouched by human beings - that a lot of wild plants had grown in all of the holes spotted between the stones. There were even trees already sprouting from the ground through the gaps.

It didn't take long for them to arrive at their destination, where afterward the three continued on their way until they arrived at the cave entrance, in which they would descend and go through it.

The moment they entered, Emery felt his vision was immediately robbed by the darkness encroaching inside. Fortunately, as preparation before stepping into the cave, Annara had cast and sent a few of her familiar bats to enlighten their way forward.

She sent two bats to head in front and another two to fly on their back. The latter was because she wanted to make sure that nothing would come up behind them and catch them off guard.

After that, Annara was the one who took the initiative to pave the path for the others. Not only because she has seen the place before using her familiar, but also because she has the best eyesight among them and even has an innate ability for being able to see in the dark.

Following and walking through the tunnel for a hundred meters, they eventually arrived in a chamber-like room made of gray stones that stood to a height of up to 8 meters.

Annara's bats had detected there were a few medium and high-rank beasts that came across in their way, but the three of them were more than capable of dispatching them all and just treated it lightly as a warm up.

Several minutes later and the outer chamber had been completely cleared, devoid of any beasts. Then, Annara told the other two that the beholder was located beyond this tunnel. Emery could also feel its presence with his spirit reading ability.

"Alright, let us do this according to plan."

Just right before they were about to enter where the beholder was, Emery could tell that even after all those preparations they had made, the two girls were clearly still apprehensive about everything.

This occurrence was understandable, after all the plan called for a quick attack that would take less than 5 minutes to finish off the beholder. That was what they were aiming for at this moment.

Before they started to carry out the plan, all three of them used their transformation abilities.

[Fey wolf transformation]

[Kimoyrn serpent transformation]

[Spectre bat transformation]

Each of them start transforming, turning to the embodiment appearance of their bloodline; the wolf silver fur, the snake white scaly skin, and the bat pale skin. Afterwards, they all readied themselves to increase their battle power before starting the fight.

Emery and Silva both took out their weapon of choice, tier 4 swords. Annara, on the other hand, kept the whip on her waist and took out a set of daggers instead.

"Let's go!"

As had been planned, it was Silva who was the one to instigate the fight.

The white-haired girl who had already turned all her skin scaly white swiftly dashed inside the tunnels, where she immediately used [Slithering Steps], a movement battle art of the snake clan that allowed her to increase her speed even further.

It did not take much time to cast in and she reached the main chamber within no time at all.

Immediately, Silva was welcomed by an atmosphere that looked extremely serene, where only a tiny amount of sunlight entered the room and was reflected by the grey stone which made the faint light slightly illuminate the entire chamber.

In an instant, the girl's attention was immediately attracted by a portal gate in the distance at the far end of the chamber, standing right behind the floating figure.

[The Beholder]

[Legendary abyss creature]

[Stage 5 - level 99]

[Battle power 255]

The creature indeed had a superior battle power. However, the fact that the creature was more well-known for its magical capabilities could not be denied as well, otherwise, it would be the reason for one's doom.

The floating ball of eyes quickly became aware of Silva's arrival, and when it detected any movement around it, the creature swiftly changed its body to turn toward her.

There were 11 eyes in total, and apart from the huge main one, the other 10 had peculiar irises with shapes that were slightly different from the main eyes.

Each of the eyes belonged to a different use as they were divided into four different groups.

Four of them were for the energy ray that the creature would unleash on its enemy, two eyes functioned as the eyes that petrified those they looked upon, two eyes were used for dispelling any magic used on its vision, and the last two were the healing ones that could restore the other wounded eyes.

With these kinds of abilities in its grasp, fighting the Beholder would be the most troublesome and trauma-inducing experience, even for a group of magus. However, with the situation the trio had got themselves in, they had to do it in one way or another if they wanted to return.

Silva took a deep breath and quickly boosted her speed as she dashed, circling around to the perimeter of the room. Being the fastest of the three, Silva was chosen to go first with the aim that her presence served as the bait for the others.

As she began to show herself in such a way that she attracted the beholder's attention, the energy rays were the first pair of eyes to notice her, and they were also the ones that were able to quickly pinpoint her.

The energy ray was fast as they rapidly traveled in the air, but Silva was a tad bit faster. After sprinting away from the entrance, she was able to make it to the portal gate on the other side of the entrance before it could strike her. Everything was being done for a single purpose.

When the beholder was enraged and finally used the main eyes, Silva's step came to a screeching halt. Contrary to expectation, instead of continuing her dash, she turned toward the big eye creature and looked it straight in the eye.

Its main attack, the huge eye, was a spirit attack strong enough to compel her knee to crumble under the pressure. It could not only immediately harm her physical body, but it could also cause her spirit soul to be crushed as well.

However, an emblem that gave off a bright blue light swiftly came out of her chest. The blue-illuminated emblem blocked the beholder's attack in a matter of seconds, proving to be quite effective.

The emblem was a life saving artifact that Emery received as a gift from the headmaster, and it was capable of holding any type of attack up to the level of peak magus strength.

The artifact was given to Silva, who had been chosen to be the bait, and as was expected, without the emblem the girl would be in serious trouble. Fortunately, they took the right initiative in this regard.

When the creature realized that its attack had been blocked, the creature became enraged and quickly deployed the energy ray to shoot her, and because of the previous spirit attack, the girl appeared to be unable to evade the incoming beam of energy.

Silva, on the other hand, only stared at the creature with a smirk on her face and she said,

"We got you! You stupid meatball!"

With the beholder turning toward Silva, it was turning its back at the entrance. It was late to realize that a figure had already [Blink] right at the creature's back and swung its tier 4 sword toward the creature's most dangerous eyes without even realizing it, causing the creature to lose its balance.

[Heroic Strike]

Spllaattt!!

One tentacle eye was cut off, and it was the petrifying ones.

When it comes to cutting the beholder's eyes, most experienced fighters would think to cut the recovering eyes first, yet this would prove to be a mistake as it was the petrifying eyes that were actually the most dangerous of them all. When the beholder combined its petrifying ability with the main paralyzing eyes, it would prove to be the most lethal combo.

All of the baiting and the sneaking attack was for one thing; to make the first move and cut the petrifying eyes first.

However, the problem was there were two of them and even though Emery made his move quickly, yet, he was unable to cut the second eye because the creature had already turned and its big eyes were ready to paralyze him before he could cut the second petrifying eye.

What makes things worse, now that he has been spotted, the dispelling eyes also made him unable to cast [blink] or any other spell whatsoever.

It was at this moment, as if had anticipated the right timing of the creature to turn, a dagger had already been thrown from afar, flew fast, and hit the beholder's big eye just before it could paralyze Emery.

Splatt!!

The dagger was certainly incapable of injuring the huge eyes, but it was powerful enough to make it blink for a split second, which was exactly what Emery needed in order to rush and quickly slash the second petrifying eyes.

[Heroic Strike]

Splatt!!

Chapter 755 - Tactic

The beholder was expected to be a tricky creature to fight against.

Hence, the three half-bloods prepared multiple combinations of tactics to make sure any possible scenario was covered.

Other than the big one, the 10 eyes would need to be destroyed in a certain order to successfully defeat the creature.

The order was petrifying eyes, recovering eyes, dispelling eyes, and finally, the eyes that shoot energy rays.

As the eyes could attack simultaneously when they engaged in battle, Emery and the two girls would have to avoid the powerful energy ray blast attacks, while keeping the main eye in check by forcing it to blink or having a good enough power to block it. All without using any spells.

Through practice, it was decided Silva was the most agile among them. The Kimoyin transformation was able to boost her agility significantly, so she was given the role of bait to distract the creature.

Annara possessed the best long-range non magical ability, as she could alternate between her skillful dagger throwing ability and her whip. Hence, she was tasked to keep the main eye in check, while becoming a support role.

As for Emery, he was proven to be the physically strongest among the three, so he chose to be the main offense and was tasked to kill the creature.

The sneak attack managed to cut off the two petrifying eyes, taking away the creature's most terrifying ability. However, they couldn't relax, as they were barely out of danger.

Their immediate step would be to cut the eyes with the recovery ability. As soon as the first petrifying eyes were cut, the two recovering eyes had already started to glow. According to the information given, depending on how mature the beholder was, they only had around 15 to 20 seconds before the two petrifying eyes would be restored, rendering their sneak attack in vain.

As soon as Emery was able to chop off the first two eyes, he quickly used his [Weeping Phantom] battle art skill to dash around, confuse the creature, dodge away from the main eye's sight, while he aimed to cut the third eye.

However, as he was being so close to the beholder, it became almost impossible to dodge its energy ray attack.

Bzzz bzzz!

One of the rays managed to land on his chest, causing part of his clothes to disintegrate. It was such a hard hit that pushed him back a step, but he wasn't hurt as the ray was unable to actually pierce its body.

With Emery unable to cast magic for the duration of this fight, he had no defensive spells such as [Granite Skin] or [Jade Skin] to protect him. Instead, where his clothes were torn, a shiny red scale could be seen hidden beneath, protecting him from the worst of the blast.

The red scale was a piece of Killgragah's scale he prepared specifically for this fight.

However, even though he managed to deal with the energy rays, the creature's 250 battle power came with great agility. It moved almost as fast as Emery did, making it incredibly difficult to cut the third eye.

Clank!

Annara accurately threw another dagger to the big eye at the right moment. Even though it bounced off the appendage with a resounding clang, it ensured Emery did not get paralyzed. Meanwhile, Silva kept on running in the opposite direction from Emery to distract the creature, forcing it to shoot the other energy rays toward her.

It took Emery no less than 10 full seconds before he finally managed to get close enough to the third eye with his [Weeping Phantom] steps to cut the offending appendage away.

With a splat, the eye fell onto the ground in a puddle of rancid blood.

However, there were only five seconds left.

Unable to waste more time, lest his efforts be rendered in vain, Emery was forced to take more risks in his attack. He jumped around as fast as he could and took another two energy ray attacks square on his body. One was blocked by the dragon scale, but the other he had to block with his other arm to cover his face.

A sharp pain erupted from the wound, Emery saw a gaping hole in his arm. He gritted his teeth, willing the pain away, and swung his sword to his fourth target.

[Heroic Slash]

Swissh!

Unfortunately, the attack missed, as the creature dodged to the side on instinct.

15 seconds.

Now, they were in a critical moment. In any second from now, the petrifying eyes could be restored and the fight would become almost impossible to win.

Realizing Emery needed the help, Silva decided to dash in closer. No, she jumped right in front of the big eye. Turning herself into the bigger threat to the beholder and becoming the target of all the beholder attacks.

Multiple energy rays and the powerful spirit attack from the main eye attack her.

Bzzz! bzzzz!

Craackkk!

Unable to hold another attack, the life-saving emblem given by the headmaster cracked and split in two before it shattered into a million tiny pieces.

Without any protective means to defend herself, the main eyes captured her, causing her body to stiffen and her movements to stop as the paralyzing effect coursed through her.

It was a reckless act, but it did create an opportunity for Emery to go after the fourth eye. However, at the same time, the beholder's eyes were all directed towards the now defenseless Silva.

In that split second, he was forced to make a decision. Should he take the chance given and cut the fourth eye, or should he save the girl?

Within a glance he could see that Silva would want him to cut the eye, but with a life on the line, Emery decided he couldn't just stand by and watch a slaughter unfold.

He chose to dash towards Silva, pumping his legs as quickly as he could. While shouting her name on top of his lungs, he charged.

"Silvaaaaa!"

To her surprise, Silva saw Emery swing his sword toward her. For that moment, the two minds interlink as if they were one. With pain racking her whole body, Silva resisted the paralysis effect and used what was left of her strength to swing her own sword.

Clank!

The clash between two swords created an opportunity for Emery to use his battle art.

[Chain Strike]

The striking force of the two sword allowed Emery to push Silva away from the range of the beholder's magic, while he bounced back towards the creature with three times the speed.

With such speed, he needed extra focus not to miss. It was as if time went in slow motion, Emery swung his blade at the target, and...

Splat!

The fourth eye, the recovering one, was successfully cut off.

Chapter 756 - Rotate

"We did it!" A small yet bright smile could be seen on the trio's faces after they successfully destroyed the most important eyes of the Beholder.

As they had managed to cut the petrifying and recovering eyes, they had successfully cut half of the threat the beholder boasted normally.

Growl!

The abyss creature let out an indignant growl and unleashed the energy ray through a barrage of attacks, firing the deadly rays on all three of them. The abyss creature also seemed to intend on a grudge vengeance, as it started to charge and bare its sharp teeth towards Emery.

Fortunately, the trio had anticipated this kind of situation, as it was still included in part of the overall plan at the time. Now that terrifying petrifying eyes had been exterminated, the most dangerous attack was the paralysis one unleashed by the main eye.

Seemingly unafraid of the severe consequences, Emery gazed directly into the main eyes of the beholder right in front of him. In actuality, there was no point in closing his eyes, as it was known the beholder could still gaze into him and give the intended impact, both physically and mentally.

When the beholder's mysterious force started to seep into his body, it was clear the time had come for Emery to cast his powerful skill.

[Shaman Transformation]

[Battle power :150 (212)]

The combination of the fifth stage [Immortal Gate], [Battle Howl] and the [Fey Transformation] provided Emery with the necessary amount of battle power to reach the level of a normal magus.

The Shaman Transformation also greatly boosted his spell prowess, but what Emery depended on right now, the real reason he activated it, was the amazing increase in magic resistance.

As Emery gradually transformed, the additional magic resistance allowed him to regain his mobility, as he felt he could move his body again, albeit slowly. In fact, he managed to move just enough to catch the coming charge of sharp teeth of the beholder.

He used all of his 210 battle power into both arms and grabbed the beholder's teeth, holding both jaws up and down. However, with the creature's 250 battle power, Emery still didn't have enough strength to stop the creature physically.

That's where Annara quickly moved in, changing from long range to mid-range. She used both of her whips to quickly entangle the beholder, giving the extra bit of hold Emery needed to keep the creature in place.

This was the second part of the plan. It was with it that their formation was quickly changed.

Knowing he was finally able to successfully grip the creature, Emery quickly shout:

"Now!"

On the cue from Emery, at long last, it became Silva's job to charge from behind. Using her glowing sword, she swung it towards the abyss creature's eyes.

Spllaattt!!

The sword landed, but unfortunately, she did not manage to cut through the dispelling eyes. However, the successful strike also didn't go to waste, as it managed to entirely neutralize one of the energy rays instead.

She was certainly not satisfied with the attack and quickly turned to make another pass at it.

The abyss creature, on the other hand, wouldn't let her way as its three rays simultaneously aimed at the girl, forcing her to dodge and retreat.

Urrrghhh!!

A groan subconsciously escaped from Emery's mouth, as he struggled on holding the creature back. He himself was unsure how long he could lock the creature's bite away from his body, but he knew he had to hold on as long as possible. Right now, he could just hope Silva would quickly cut all of the eyes down.

The energy ray, on the other hand, changed its target again. This time, it did not only aim at attacking Silva, yet to each of them instead.

Unable to move out of the way, as it meant he would let go of the creature, Emery had to accept the energy ray that came in his direction. As a result, it blasted through his shoulder.

Annara also has a similar condition as Emery, as she couldn't afford to let go of her whip. Fortunately, she was far enough to make sure that the energy ray would not hit any critical part.

But as soon as the red haired girl's hips got hit, she let out a scream.

"Hurry up bitch!" she shouted toward Silva, who was waiting for the impeccable time to unleash another attack.

Unfortunately for the beholder, one energy ray was not enough to stop Silva from proceeding with her attack. She swiftly used the [Slithering Step] and was successful in running past and stepping on top of the creature.

Splaatt!! Another energy ray's eyes had been swiftly cut apart, leaving only four eyes remaining.

This time, Silva had no plan to leave, with only two rays left, she made the decision to just clean off all the energy ray eyes instead, making the creature lose its long-range attack ability. Thus, the girl ignored the coming ray attack and swiftly cut all the rest of the energy ray eyes.

Splatt!!

Unfortunately, just an inch away from cutting the last energy ray, she was finally hit by a ray on her waist and thrown away to the ground by the force of the ray.

"Silva!"

Despite the fact he only had three tentacle eyes left, Emery was at the end of his strength.

He was sure he had 2 full minutes to complete his Shaman Transformation. However, now it appeared he had made an error in his calculations.

Evidently, the paralysis attack required a significant amount of his spirit force to block. The result was, just after one minute of transformation, Emery had already felt the corruption acting within him.

"No! No!"

He was unable to let go of his arm from the creature after several attempts; as he was struggling to dislodge from his current predicament, the last ray even continued to shoot at him, causing multiple injuries to his body.

Both Silva and Annara seemed to be unable to make another attack at the moment. Silva had fallen to the ground as the creature hit her earlier, as well as Annara, who was unable to keep her whip in her hands any longer.

There was only one option left for Emery. Instead of giving up and surrendering to the corruption, he decided to force himself to embrace it.

Just as he did when he fought in the Arena with Atlas, he let the dark core to channel its synergy to his heart and by that, he finally made his choice.

[Night Wolf transformation]

[Battle power has increased exponentially]

The last thing Emery remembered doing before he lost his consciousness was him pulling the beholder's two jaws apart and cracking open the mouth of the creature.

CRAACKKK!!!

Chapter 757 - Savage

In a matter of seconds, the distinctive trait of Emery's Night Wolf - the jet-black fur that reminded one of the night sky - began to grow on his body, starting from his shoulder to his arms. Following that, his sharp claws grew even bigger, his teeth-turned-fangs became even longer, a short, wolf-like tail, and the black tattoo on his chest.

HOWL!!!

As the transformation went on and the corruption overwhelmed Emery's entire being, his strength increased explosively as a result. His vigorous muscles visibly contracted when his grips on the beholder's jaws strengthened, to the point where Emery was able to push the two jaws in opposite directions and break them apart.

Creacckk!!

A satisfying sound of bones breaking could be heard in the air, which was then followed by the beholder's roaring scream of pain. It seemed to have fallen into a rage as it started to crazily blast out energy rays without a care.

Another blast of the energy ray went through the wolf's chest, but the Night Wolf ignored it and didn't seem to be fazed by the gaping hole on its chest. The arrival of the black-furred creature came with a monstrous rapid regeneration, which was evidenced by the fact that all the wounds it received had started to heal.

Almost immediately, the wolf's fighting instinct kicked in. Knowing that it would soon lose the magic resistance given by its shaman form, it concluded that the big eye was the biggest threat for it.

Just like any other animal who made use of their everything when being threatened with death, the wolf did exactly the same thing.

Three sharp and long bones protruded out of the Night Wolf's clenched fist, and instead of attacking the beholder's main eye which was almost indestructible thanks to the outer layer protecting it, the wolf directed its attention to the beholder's dislocated and gaping mouth..

Afterward, the wolf fearlessly sent its fist into the beholder's big mouth and proceeded to pierce the eye from inside out.

Splat!

Spllaaatt!

Blood started to gush out of the beholder as the wolf continued to move its arm around the latter's mouth. The beholder started whimpering, struggling to shake off the thing rampaging inside its mouth, only to discover there was nothing it could do.

In the end, the creature stopped its struggle, fell down from its position mid-air, with most of its body falling on the Night Wolf's shoulder.

The beholder is dead.

When the red hair girl saw this, she had a very happy expression on her face.

"Hahaha!! That is freaking savage!!"

Annara was happy, not just because of the fact that they won against the infamous beholder, but also by the fact that she actually came out of the fight almost without a scratch on herself.

The red-haired girl couldn't hold the smirk surfacing on her face when she saw how the white-haired girl, Silva, was having a hard time trying to stand. The smirk on her face grew even wider when she saw the latter gave up on standing and just started healing herself.

"Well done, Emery!!" said Annara as she looked at the black-furred figure several meters away from her.

The girl then pulled the whip on her hand, wanting to retrieve it back. However, she was surprised when she discovered that she couldn't do it. The whip was stuck on something.

"What the hell?!" cursed Annara as her gaze sharply turned towards where the beholder was. She thought that the creature was somehow still alive and caught her whip.

When the beholder's dead body fell to the ground, she then realized that her thought was wrong. Instead of the infamous creature, her whip was being held by none other than Emery, or rather, the wolf whose body was covered in red.

"Hei! What are you doing?!" Annara snapped in annoyance. "Let it go..!"

Curse words were about to come out of her mouth, but she immediately retracted her intention when her eyes saw the emotionless gaze Emery's yellow eyes gave her. It was at this moment that she realized the young man was no longer himself.

In that instant, she recalled the sight she saw in the past - the fierce battle between Emery and Atlas. Panic appeared on her face as she immediately turned alarmed.

"Stop! What are you doing?!"

Annara was careless and she wasn't ready when Emery pulled the whip on his hand. As a result, her body was pulled by a strong force, sending her flying towards him. Before she even registered what had just happened, the latter's arms were already on her neck.

"Ugghhh!! Stop..."

The red-haired girl was terrified when she realized, through the eyes she was currently seeing, that Emery was not there. Replacing him was a pure and thorough beast that could easily kill her without remorse. The beast stare at her and sniff her curiously as if trying to remember who she was.

"Stopp! Urrrghh!!!"

Annara naturally tried to break away from the beast's deadly clutch, but her struggle was quickly proved to be futile. At this moment, she realized how vast the differences between their strengths were.

Fortunately for her, a white hair figure shot toward the black-furred wolf's back and stabbed two red vial on both its shoulders.

Howwllll!!!

A loud howl reverberated in the air, then the wolf dropped Annara and fell to its knee squirming on the ground. It was clear that Emery right now experienced tremendous amounts of pain as the gene suppressor kicked in and did its job.

Body still on the ground, the wolf gradually returned back to its human appearance - Emery.

In the end, the three people were all kneeling on the ground. All of them were wounded in some way and another, panting for breath as the stinging pain came into existence.

Annara, who was out of breath from the life-and-death experience she had just experienced, shouted in an extremely angry tone.

"Y-you... you're crazy!!!"

Emery was in no condition to talk. It was Silva who retorted the red-haired girl's words.

"Just shut up, bitch. He just saved our lives!"

It seemed Annara was about to say more, but a glare from Silva stopped her from doing so. She also realized that what Emery did was ultimately for the three of them, therefore it was enough for her to let out her frustration once. More than that would simply be unreasonable from her.

The three youths sat on the ground, casting their respective healing spells. A few minutes later, Emery finally regained his strength to speak.

Turning to the red-haired girl, he said, "I am sorry for earlier, Annara." Then, he turned to the white-haired girl and smiled. "Thank you, Silva."

Fortunately, before the battle began, Silva had forced Emery to give a few vials of gene suppressor to her. At that time, Emery was confident that he would not turn, but now it was clear that the girl was wiser than him.

Seeing Emery get on his feet again, the other two swiftly stopped their healing and followed suit. With a nod to each other, the three went straight to the back of the room, where the gate portal was.

"Finally!" Annara said with a relieved smile.

But a few seconds later, her face suddenly turned pale.

"No.. this cannot be.." She muttered under her breath. "No no no no!"

The reason for Annara's somewhat hysterical reaction was the sight of the few parts of the stone gate that were broken. The three only looked at each other for a moment before dashing off and quickly checking the whole condition of the gate.

When they finished, Annara was once again angry. Apparently, there were a few major runes that were missing from the gate, and they had no way to fix them without proper materials in hand.

"Aaarghh!! Just our luck! All those fighting for nothing!" spat Annara in irritation.

Emery also couldn't help but sigh. He really thought that he could finally return, but it seemed that the time was not ripe yet.

He turned to Silva and asked, "How's your wound?"

From her body movements, it seemed like she was planning to ignore it. But in the end, she decided to answer curtly. "I am fine."

Emery wanted to comment about her reckless manner of fighting earlier, but stopped himself at the last moment as he realized who was he to say such things. He himself committed many reckless acts that were even more severe than hers.

Knowing that there wasn't anything they could do here, Silva turned around and walked back towards the entrance.

"Let's just hope help comes sooner," she said.

Annara was still annoyed by their findings, but still decided to follow her. After all, it was useless for her to stay here grumbling about their bad luck.

When they walked past the beholder's corpse, Emery stopped as his eyes caught something glimmering inside. At first, he thought it was one of those red spirit stones so he just acted normal as his hands reached for the thing.

However, his eyes widened when the object in his hand was a shining pearl as big as a fist with a little red dot floating inside of it.

"What is this?"

Emery's sudden words caused the two girls to stop in their tracks and turn around. They approached him to see the object more clearly and started pondering.

Not only did it look amazing and extraordinary, the group could actually sense a lot of energy from the pearl. But right now, all of them were all in similar condition - clueless.

When Emery was about to say something, however, the symbol on his palm started to shine.

At this moment, Emery realized that this object - whatever it was - was considered as an ingredient or a fruit. Therefore, he quickly uses his apothecary skill.

[Analyze]

[? – Tier ?]

[No information received. To receive information, you require rank 3 [Analyze] skill along with rank 3 [Universal Flora Knowledge].

Rank 3?

This automatically meant that this pearl was at least a tier 5 ingredient - something that was extremely rare and precious.

Evidently, their life-and-death battle against the beholder didn't turn out to be a waste.

Chapter 758 - Peace

The trio went ahead and did a thorough search on the underground chambers and the unfinished castle all around, but they did not find anything that could be useful. With this disappointing result, the group returned back to square one.

At this point, the three of them had been stranded on this uninhabited island for nearly six weeks. The bad news was, they were still not sure how much longer they would have to wait for the rescue to come for them.

The moment they walked out of the unfinished castle, the red-haired girl let out her irritation one more time. However, what surprised both Emery and Silva was what she did afterward.

The girl approached Silva and suddenly placed her hand around the girl's arm, before proceeding to speak in such a friendly tone that caused the eyebrows of the two to raise up.

"Sister.." said Annara with a smile. "Now that our lives have once again become uncertain, let us forget all our past grudges and open a new blank page."

In an instant, both Emery and Silva thought that the girl must have some ulterior motives for doing such things. The sudden change in her behavior was simply too suspicious for them to ignore. However, they didn't know what her intention was exactly.

Seemingly ignorant of the two's thoughts, Annara spoke once again. "We haven't eaten together for a while. You know what? Let's celebrate our hard-fought victory with some feast!"

Before the two could contemplate what could possibly be the reason for her abrupt change, Annara had turned bossy like usual as she told him to later get some fish for the feast. Meanwhile, the two of them would go ahead and have some girl's time.

When he heard Annara's suggestion, Emery couldn't help but think that it wasn't just her that should reconcile with Silva, he was too. However, his situation with the latter had become so difficult that he couldn't just go ahead and do the same as what Annara did.

Therefore, it's probably a good idea to have a little get-together. Not only would it be a great way to celebrate what they had accomplished, it could also potentially break the ice-like situation between the two of them.

Shaking his head inwardly as he thought about the awkward atmosphere between him and Silva, Emery cast the [Spatial Gate] spell for the three of them back to the shore where the ship was. Then, he left the two girls alone and went out to sea to catch fish.

...

As he searched for their meal deep in the sea, Emery suddenly thought of what might be another reason why Annara chased him away under the pretext of catching fish. He couldn't help but think that she was trying to separate them because she was planning to do something unbecoming to Silva.

The moment this thought sprouted, Emery seemed unable to shake it away from his mind. Hence, he quickened his pace and caught the fish as fast as he could before returning to the stone house. He was greatly disturbed by the thought that his brisk walk had turned into a sprint without him noticing.

However, the sight that welcomed Emery when he returned caused him to be stunned. It was at this moment that he discovered that the so-called girl's time was actually the two of them taking a bath together, cleaning each other's bodies exhausted from the fight.

"Go away, you pervert!!" Annara shouted loudly while swinging her whip, quickly making him [blink] away in retreat.

Emery went ahead and prepared all the things they needed for the feast to lessen the consequences he had to suffer. The moment they finished their bath, both Silva and Annara looked at Emery with resentment on their faces. He could only smile wryly at their reactions. Fortunately for him, the two's resentment didn't go on for long.

Eventually, things went on as Annara planned. And this time around, it was apparent that the red-haired girl really depended on Silva, as she was the only one who could make a decent meal between the three of them.

When they finished the pleasant fish stew, Annara said her thanks to Silva and took something out of her interspatial ring. Under the surprised gaze of the other two, she offered them a bottle of drink which she had apparently kept for special occasions.

"This is the best drink that you can find on my home planet. You two should be grateful that I am willing to share this with you," said Annara with a proud expression on her face.

What Annara did right now brought the suspicion Emery had to another level. Even though the red-haired girl took a sip of the drink first, he still acted cautiously and used [Analysis] on it.

The result he got was that the drink was a heavy and somehow toxic kind, but it's on the level that would not endanger them.

Unlike Emery who was overly cautious, Silva on the other hand didn't seem to care much as she nonchalantly grabbed the cup where the drink had been poured and gulped it entirely in fast motion.

Annara who saw it couldn't help but comment, "That's a good one, girl! Cheers!"

Then, the two of them watched in surprise as Silva showed off her prowess in drinking. She quickly refilled her cup as if she feared the drink would vanish at any moment as she continuously drank cup after cup until it surprised the red-haired girl.

"Hahaha, save some for me, girl!"

Emery, who didn't like drinking, took his cup and just held onto it as he sipped its content occasionally while watching the two girls compete in a drinking competition.

After dozens of cups worth of drink, the two girls seemed to be getting tipsy. However, Emery was not that worried as this was as much as a drink could do for a high-rank acolyte like them. Still, even though the drink wouldn't really get them drunk, it would affect their judgment a bit.

Out of nowhere, Annara started talking about her past, how she had no real intention to harm anyone, the fact that she was just something called an egoistic opportunist, and so on. Simply put, she's just making the most out of their current situation.

Looking at the expression Annara had as she spoke those things, Emery could tell that the girl must have gone through quite a difficult time in the past to be what she was now. For a moment there, he could also see that Silva showed some sympathy to the girl before drinking some more.

It really was, surprisingly, becoming quite an enjoyable night for the three. Well, until Annara started to say stuff about Emery.

Annara leaned her body towards him and narrowed her eyes. "What is it about this guy that makes so many girls like him..? Sure, he's handsome, but not that amazingly handsome. Furthermore, he's a bit slow in the head..."

Emery actually didn't mind to be the topic of their talk, but he was worried because he knew this kind of topic was sensitive for Silva. However, he was soon proven wrong when surprisingly Silva was laughing loudly at her remark.

"He is! Hahaha! ..Only a foolish girl would like this kind of man."

The two were laughing hard at Silva's remark. Then, they started to talk about different kinds of men as if Emery didn't even exist.

Contrary to expectation, Emery had no reason to be mad. He genuinely enjoyed watching the two girls being friendly and laughing together like this.

Now that it's already late and seeing the two girls in harmony, Emery decided it was time for him to take his leave and go to his bed, leaving the two in their fervent conversation. But when he stood up, Annara stopped him.

"Where do you think you're going?" asked Annara, to which Emery immediately responded. "..Stay.. We won't talk about you anymore.. Let's talk about something else."

A thoughtful look appeared on her face for a second before she excitedly said, "The fruit! Show us that pearly fruit!"

Emery had no intention of keeping the tier 5 item for himself, so he unhesitantly took it out and placed it on the table. The two girls' attention was immediately diverted to the fruit.

Turning her head to Emery, Annara asked, "So what are we going to do with it?"

He shrugged his shoulders before replying, "It's whatever, actually. I can bring it back and make something out of it when we return to the Apothecary Institute, or we can sell it at the best price we can get."

Silva, however, disagreed with Emery's suggestion. "No, both options are not good. Let me bring it to my home. After all, my Oroboros Clan is one of the best apothecary families in the alliance."

Noticing that the two were about to argue, Annara quickly interjected herself.

"No no! No bickering tonight." Then, with a proud smile on her face and a tap to her chest, she continued, "Just leave it to me... I will make it fair to you both."

The girl suddenly pulled out a knife and this startled Emery. He immediately readied to pull his sword expecting her to try to do something bad. However, the girl went against his expectations and swung the knife towards the pearly fruit instead.

Swish! Splat! Splat!

In the blink of an eye, the fruit was cut into three perfectly even pieces.

Emery's eyes were quivering as he watched the three pieces on the table.

"Why did you do that?!" He was shocked, entirely so. Because this might cause the item to completely lose its value or effect.

Unfortunately for the young man, the red-haired girl only laughed loudly. "Hahaha! Isn't this the fairest solution?"

Then, Annara's laugh came to an abrupt stop. The other two were also the same, as everyone sensed something was happening.

Emery could smell a strong aroma coming off the sliced fruit, a scent so intoxicating that it affected his mind. "What is this really?"

Chapter 759 - Primal

The sweet aroma wafting from the evenly sliced, pearly white fruit tickled his nose and was nothing short of intoxicating. It's enough to make Emery seemingly lose his grip on common sense and with the loss of his inhibition, swiftly came the deluge of desire.

Right now, in his eyes, the slices of fruit looked like the most delicious thing in the world.

Luckily, Emery managed to regain his self-control and quickly shook his head. He was still sober enough to be able to recognize he must be under some kind of influence from smelling the aroma.

However, as he tried to resist it, the two girls surprisingly took one slice each and put the mysterious fruit into their mouths. They did the deed so fast Emery didn't even have a chance to stop them from doing so.

Now, there was only one slice left on the table, Emery subconsciously gulped his saliva, as he stared at the remaining slice, unable to resist how tempting the fruit looked. With the added concern of losing the last piece, he succumbed to desire and put the last remaining slice in his mouth.

A few seconds after the fruit disappeared into the stomach of the three youths, the intoxicating aroma followed suit. For a moment, Emery felt a sense of loss and rue.

However, it was quickly replaced by a pleasant, tingling feeling radiating from the center of his body to the tips of his fingers. It made him comfortable, yet restless - a mysterious urge attempting to control him.

For a moment, Emery's eyes turned dire as he realized what was happening. Whatever it was he just ate, it must have started to take hold on him and from the looks of it, the two girls were also suffering from the same ailment.

"What is it that we just ate?"

A thin, shining layer of sweat dampened Silva's body as she asked the question.

Meanwhile, in a contrast from the other two, Annara the red-haired girl seemed to turn twice as excited as before. Her eyes looked empty and widened, while warm breaths escaped from her mouth forming mist in the air. It seemed she had fully let herself succumb to the effects of the fruit.

He couldn't rebuke her nor deny it though, as the sensation was simply too exhilarating to be fought against. It was like they had just eaten the most wonderful and delicious food in the world and it brought them a sense of euphoria. Even their body shivered at each movement, and touches felt like their skin sent sparks connecting them to each other.

Not long afterwards, the symbol on their arms started to glow and a notification appeared in front of their eyes.

[Your battle power has increased.]

Seeing the notification that brought good news for him was certainly a wonderful thing for Emery. It also gave him a little relief.

After all, a fruit that would grant him strength couldn't possibly be bad for his body isn't it?

But to his complete surprise, another notification quickly followed it.

[Your spirit force has increased.]

An increase of both battle power and spirit force was naturally both a great and welcomed surprise. A smile subconsciously formed on his face the moment he saw the notification. But what Emery didn't expect was that this turned out to be just the beginning.

Notifications seemed to appear every minute, and with each, the sparks tickling and throughout his skin only intensified even more.

Emery felt as if his body was filled with a significant amount of vitality, but with it, the heat rising from the center of his body became too much and he started to burn up.

"What is... this thing..."

Emery struggled to speak, as he panted in between each word. He started to close his eyes in full concentration. His consciousness started to slip away, overtaken by the heat. His body, however, started to have some unusual urges.

At first, he thought his corruption had started to show up again, but soon he discovered that wasn't the case. As he tried to fight the urges in a losing battle, Emery suddenly felt a touch on his shoulder. He opened his eyes to see a pair of extremely soft arms wrapping both of his shoulders. It was Silva.

"Emery... I... I... can't stop..."

"Ahh..."

Then to his disbelief, Silva's hands started to crawl and dance all around Emery's overheated body. Before he could react, he felt soft touches on his neck. Shifting his eyes, he was surprised to see that it was her lips.

"S-Silva... w-what..."

Before Emery could turn his head to look directly at her, he was once again startled by what happened in front of him.

Not to be outdone, Annara pushed the table aside, before sitting on his lap. With her deft fingers, she started to caress him from the front. The girl even went as far as to bite parts of his body and whispered.

"Let... me get... a piece... just... one"

Emery had read about such side effects from the apothecary institutes before. An enhancement to emotions, heightened body temperature, and a persistent feeling of arousal. This was definitely an aphrodisiacal side effect.

Which certainly meant trouble.

From the looks of it, it was apparent the two girls had long ago let slip their control. Considering how everything was going, he would end up in much the same state if he couldn't take control of the situation.

Unfortunately, the persistent touches of the two did nothing to help the current situation, as it got harder and harder for him to concentrate. Therefore, first things first, he had to get away!

Emery tried to push the two girls away as firmly yet gently as possible, so as not to hurt them and swiftly forced his raging body to walk away. He has to escape from this place, hoping they would have cooled down by the time he got back.

However, it was futile. The two girls swiftly chased after him, to the point of resorting to tackling him from behind and pinned him down.

For a few moments, he struggled, while the girls holding him down scratched and even bit him. These two girls were both high-rank half-blood acolytes, so he couldn't find a way to push them away without hurting them.

Emery eventually could not muster any more force to resist. His self-control finally snapped. The reins of common sense that held him were lost. He turned into his primal self.

"Urrggh... you are asking for it!"

His broken control brought a certain change to his psyche, in that he suddenly stopped worrying about hurting the girls. With his full strength, he grabbed the two as tightly as he could, dragged them into the room and threw them onto the bed.

The rough act must have hurt the two girls, but it evidently only made them more excited, as if they were finally able to get his full attention. In fact, they began to act coquettishly wanting for more.

Luckily for them, Emery was ready to give them what they wanted.

With eager movements, he ripped off the two girls' clothes in a rough, almost bestial manner. His action naturally exposed their everything, the pristine skin and tempting curves that the two girls had.

The two girls were pretty in different ways, while Silva looked pale and almost ethereal with her silvery hair and skin, Annara presented a more exotic side of beauty with her crimson fiery hair and slightly darker skin tone compared to Silva.

They truly couldn't be more different, but both were currently in the same state. Their words died in their mouths, as they could only plea for a sense of relief from Emery with their gaze filled with burning desire. However, Emery didn't move as he only stood there and looked at them.

The two took Emery's silence as hesitation. They only looked at each other for a moment before they started to try winning his favor.

The two swiftly pounced at Emery, as if he was a treat. One hugged his arm tightly, causing him to feel the pleasant suppleness pressing against him. Meanwhile, another licked his earlobe. Both actions were enough to send shivers of pleasure down his body.

"Me... me..."

"No... me first!"

However, instead of embracing them right there, Emery pushed the two away once again - a gesture that clearly told he was the one in control.

He then forcefully grabbed one of them and let another watch, as he started pushing his shaft inside of her. Following that was a loud scream and a succession of moans full of ecstasy.

"Ahhh... yes..."

Hours and hours of primal bliss, yet the three of them didn't stop. It was as if they had a massive surplus of energy and their body dictated they had to spend them all.

It wasn't until the second day that fatigue began to seep into their body and they passed out.

Chapter 760 - Remember

He didn't know how much time had passed, but Emery awakened from his slumber with the strangest feeling welling in his body. His head still felt as if he had just spun on the spot dozens of times, but this uncomfortable feeling was nothing compared to the memory that constantly popped in his mind.

Yes, he could remember it all.

The softest skin he ever came in contact with, the seductive touch, the red cherry lips, and every moment of release that came after. Emery remembered everything.

Emery would be a complete liar and hypocrite if he dared to say he did not enjoy those things. He had always been uptight about such matters, therefore being able to do whatever his flesh desired was certainly an exhilarating experience.

But now, seeing the two naked figures sleeping soundly next to him gave him a deeply troubled feeling. At this moment, Emery hadn't the faintest idea of what he should do or say when the two woke up.

However, before he did anything about it, Emery first controlled the spirit force within to check if there was still any toxin remaining in his body. A few seconds later, a sigh of relief came out of his mouth, as he found his body was in perfect health. In fact, it couldn't go much healthier as it was stronger than before.

[Emery Ambrose]

[Battle Power: 148(152)]

[Spirit force: 954(961)]

Emery's eyes widened as he saw how much he had improved in such a short period of time. It was a huge permanent increase, certainly worthy of a tier 5 ingredient.

However, the fact still stood that he did not know what to do about the two girls lying next to him.

Emery's mind quickly ran towards a certain girl back in the academy, who would certainly be furious, or worse, disappointed with him if she knew about this matter.

Without even realizing it, Emery let out a sigh. This made the red-haired girl wake from her sound slumber.

Emery watched her slowly getting up next to him, clueless about what he should do. Her fiery hair covered only a bit of her chest and therefore her beautiful mountain and its peaks lay bare for eyes to see.

It took her a second to realize what happened. The next second she screamed what was probably the loudest scream Emery had ever heard.

"AAAAA!!! What the fuck!!! What the hell did you do to me!?"

Emery was silent, he really had nothing to say. He had no energy to fight, or to defend himself. In fact, if the girl somehow decided to puncture a knife into his chest to erase the humiliation she felt, he would probably not mind at all.

In the blink of an eye, Annara grabbed a blanket and covered her body with it. She quickly stood up, glaring daggers at Emery. But then, her expression that contained confusion, panic, and resentment gradually changed, turning into one of that enlightenment.

Just like Emery, it appeared the memory of the experience had come back to her. But what Emery didn't expect was to see the girl blushed and her face turn visibly red.

Her deafening scream just now had also finally woken up the other slumbering person, Silva.

The girl who had woken up slowly put her arm on her head, probably because of the uncomfortable dizziness Emery experienced earlier as well. However, she didn't act as hysterical as Annara did. She just kept quiet and didn't say a word, which honestly scared Emery even more.

This situation went on for a few more seconds, before Emery finally couldn't take it anymore and slowly whispered. "Silva... I... I am sorry... Are you okay?"

The white-haired girl still didn't say anything. She just took a glance at him. Her alluring body was still exposed, but she seemed totally unconcerned about it.

Emery wanted to speak more, when he suddenly saw a certain sorrow in her eyes, causing him to swallow back the words he was about to say. Then, she slowly stood up, picked up her scattered clothes and put them on before leaving the room. She still didn't say anything during the whole process.

Both Emery and Annara were so shocked by Silva's reaction they didn't react until she left the room. The two looked at each other and could see the dismay in their eyes.

The red-haired girl, however, seemed to still be angry with him, as evident from the words she spoke.

"Huh! You.. certainly had a good time, didn't you!?" She scoffed. "Lucky guy, aren't you?"

Emery looked at the girl with an apologetic look, "I'm sorry to you too."

When she heard Emery's words, the girl seemed to be a little disappointed.

"Well... In the first place, it wasn't really your fault... but still..."

Emery let out a long sigh, for he also knew what she meant. They couldn't act as if those things had never happened.

So, he got up and put on his clothes after picking them all up. Emery was about to go and find Silva, when Annara, for some reason, stopped him in his tracks.

"So what are you going to do about this?"

Emery turned to her and asked, "What do you mean?"

"It's exactly what I mean," was the reply she gave him.

"I don't know. What do you want me to do?"

A pondering expression appeared on her face before saying, "Well let's say you owe me one and I will forgive you. How's that sound...?"

An expression of disbelief appeared on Emery's face for a moment. This girl really was an opportunist. Luckily for her Emery had no strength to argue. So, he just nodded his head, conceding in hopes it would put away some burden from his heart - but apparently it didn't.

Unaware of the turmoil in Emery's heart, Annara happily said, "Good! You better keep your word! You owe me one!" She even went on and spoke things that honestly left Emery speechless. "You know... It's actually quite a good one... Maybe if you treat me better, I will agree to do it again sometimes."

The girl chuckled and swiftly left the room, leaving a dumbfounded Emery, who was still processing what he had just heard. Moments later, the only response he could muster was a dry laugh.

Emery shook his head and followed her out of the room. He tried to find Silva and found her sitting on the sandy beach staring at the boundless sea.

He slowly approached her and silently sat next to her.

The girl still didn't say a word, even though she clearly knew he was next to her.

Emery couldn't and didn't have the words to say either. This situation where the two of them just sat there went on for hours, before Annara finally came up to them with a disgruntled look.

"Stop with all this drama, will you? And make me some food!"