Esper 601

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

Chapter 601: Asura's Powers

Suddenly, all the pain vanished as if it had never existed. Rudy was relieved, but he soon noticed that his hair began to shine in a strange manner, and it had grown a lot.

'I don't know how long my body will last, but I need to get this guy away from here.'

Rudy's power listened to Rudy and worked on its own. His hair covered Asura's body, forming a cocoon, and threw him far away with the speed of light.

That's when Rudy realized how long his hair had grown. They were so long that they could effortlessly wrap the entire solar system in them.

It was as though his hair had transformed into pure light.

Rudy looked at this hair as his eyes glowed white, but it wasn't the reflection of his hair's light; his power leakage had increased even more.

However, Rudy could still see everything clearly, even better than before.

He glanced around to find Asura, but he was thrown with the speed of light and tossed across the entire galaxy. But Rudy could still see him even though he was still rolling in space with the speed of light and was over a million kilometers away.

Rudy's hair had formed a carpet of light in space for Rudy, and as soon as he stepped his foot on it, he was teleported... no, he had traveled with a speed even faster than light and crossed the distance between him and Asura.

While Asura was still rolling, Rudy reached to him before the kinetic force could stop and punched him so hard that Asura was thrown out of the universe.

Still, Rudy reached there before him by traveling billions of kilometers in less than a second.

His hair kept growing, or perhaps it was just the beginning of the manifestation of his new form.

Asura moved his hand forward and clenched the space with his hand.

"..." Rudy was surprised to see that as even he couldn't touch the space.

"Heh! Surprised?" Asura asked, stopping himself from rolling further. "I am the space itself. I can create, touch, bend, and destroy space from existence."

Rudy looked at this hand that was emitting even more powers than before.

"I see. Your body was still intact with an even more powerful punch."

"The first punch came out of nowhere, and I wasn't prepared. Such puny power can't even put a scratch on me," Asura stated while pointing his gaze at Rudy's hand.

"That doesn't matter now. My goal was to get you away from the earth, and I have done that." Rudy cracked his fingers as his skin cracked quite literally, and light came out of it.

"As much as I would love to have a chat with you, I must return to the human world and destroy it before time passes."

"Why do you even think I would let you do that?"

"And why would you not? If there are people who you are close to, I will give you five seconds to get them out of here. But then you must let me destroy it."

"Why are you so keen on destroying the human world? Judging by your powers, I am sure you don't belong to any of the races. Who are you?" Rudy asked curiously.

"I thought you weren't interested in knowing me."

"Well, you were not a threat at that time, and I thought you were one of those small villains, but now I know that's not the case," Rudy replied.

"As I said, I would love to chat with you, but I have a—"

"You are not going anywhere unless you destroy me, which is impossible. So, in other words, you are never going anywhere!"

"Look, I get it that you are the Lord. And I am sure you can do much better than this. I never actually attacked you yet, have I? You are not my priority right now. You already killed me once, and I appeared before you again."

Asura shrugged his hands and said, "I am immortal, and I can't die. But I don't know about you. I could kill you here, but I have to ask you questions about this world... or rather, this reality. So... umm... What do humans say?

Wait for your appointment?"

"I can't understand you. If you are a god, then why do you need to kill someone innocent and weaker than you? Why must all-powerful people abuse their power to terrorize the weak? Why don't you fight with someone at your level and see what true power means?"

Asura frowned his face and yelled, "For the sake of the universe... get out of my way... Lord!"

Asura spread his arms and created a space around Rudy. He trapped Rudy inside a space ball and said, "Wait here."

"I am not letting you go anywhere!"

Rudy punched the space ball with his 'power hand', but nothing happened.

"What? Why is it not breaking?!" Rudy asked as he repeatedly punched the ball.

"This is made from space, and space is everlasting. It's infinite. There is no end to space. So no matter what you do, all your power, energy, and force will be eaten up by the vast space.

You can't do anything now. Just wait for me, and I will return after I am done. I gave you a chance to save your loved ones, and you missed it. It's not my fault that they would die, it would be your fault!"

After saying that, Asura's body turned into energy as he traveled across space and traveled with the space of light. Within a few seconds, he had entered the milky way galaxy and proceeded to the earth.

By traveling so much distance at such a speed, Asura had gathered enough energy to destroy the entire solar system without even trying, but that was not his goal.

He landed on the sun and created another sun even bigger than the sun.

He launched the sun at the earth while uttering, "Farewell, worthless existence."

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Chapter 602: Absoulute Powers

Asura created a bigger sun and launched it at earth.

"Die, you worthless existence. You won't be missed!"

Asura stood on the sun and waited for the bigger sun to collide and engulf the earth.

"The rendezvous point, or rather, the town 'Hel' is not a place, but a spot in this universe. I don't need the town or the planet to access that point."

Z-Zap!

A light passed by Asura and headed towards the sun that was moving towards the earth. But a second later, the sun's size slowly decreased and decreased, and it eventually disappeared.

Everything happened so fast that Asura didn't even have time to react, let alone comprehend what was happening.

"What?! Impossible!" Asura jumped from the sun and stopped in front of Rudy. "How is this possible?! How did you escape my space domain?!"

"I was feeling a little hungry," Rudy scoffed. "Needless to say, I ate it."

"You... you devoured my space domain?!" Asura exclaimed with a baffled look on his face.

"I also ate the sun," Rudy said while rubbing his hand on his stomach. "Do you have something to drink?"

'True... a void's job is to devour everything. A black hole that eats up everything, even the light. I should have expected this to happen,' Asura uttered inwardly.

"I guess I should have gotten rid of you before attacking the human world. But worry not, I will do that now!"

Asura once again trapped Rudy in the space domain, but he didn't stop there. He created layers of multiple space domains until Rudy was no longer visible inside.

"You can't eat it now. It will never stop expanding, and thus you will never stop devouring it. Still, this is not enough to kill you, but at least I can now destroy the human world without—!"

CRACK!

Asura's space domain cracked as Rudy's hand penetrated it and ripped it apart before coming out.

"What?!" Asura exclaimed even louder. "I understand that you can eat the space... but how did you touch it?! That's impossible!"

Rudy stretched his body, saying, "Actually, I have no idea how I did that. But I guess your powers aren't as strong as you make them out to be. Or perhaps, your space domain is actually weak."

"Weak...?" Asura muttered. "Weak? And me? Are my powers weak? That's preposterous!"

Asura turned into energy and surrounded Rudy inside it.

"I will show you who is weak!"

"Sure, but not here!"

Rudy collected the energy, teleported outside the universe, and said, "Let's do it here."

"How did you do that?!" Asura asked while manifesting a half-human form to his chest.

"Ever heard of teleportation?"

"Yes, but you should not be able to use it in space. It has no factual... never mind. Our powers are far beyond one's comprehension. I should stop getting surprised at everything you do," Asura sighed.

"You know..." Rudy stared at Asura and uttered, "I don't sense any hostility from you, even though you wanted to murder billions of people. Why do you want to do that?"

"The answer is quite simple." Asura shrugged. "They don't deserve to live."

"And who are you to decide that?"

"I don't need to be anyone. Strong rules the world and the weak in it. I am a God, and I can do whatever I want. I am more surprised why aren't you doing anything?" he scoffed in arrogance.

"In a living world or in any existence, power has always been everything. A supreme position that no one can defy. If you can do everything, then why not do anything?

When you want to achieve something, you have to do something. Every living existence needs three things in its life. First is, of course, fear. The second is, obviously, fear. And third is also fear.

It's nothing personal. All people inferior to you are nothing but your tools. It doesn't matter who they are or what they do, if there is a need, they must be sacrificed. In this existence, from the very beginning, winning has always been everything. As long as you win in the end, that's all that matters.

I learned the hard way, but that's the only way. You seem very naive to me. Why must you care about the worthless existence you don't even know? I fail to understand that. Please, enlighten me, my Lord."

"And here I thought my powers had made me arrogant..." Rudy sighed in disbelief.

"What was that? Do you think I am arrogant?" Asura asked curiously.

"You haven't realized it yourself? That's hilarious, really."

"My words have been nothing but the truth. If anything, you are a little too naive. How old are you? It seems that you haven't seen the world yet."

"I am 18, I guess? Metally 23, maybe?"

Asura manifested his complete human form and asked, "Are you lying?"

"Why would I even need to lie to someone who is going to die soon, anyway?"

"If you are really 18, then..." Asura shook his head in disappointment and uttered, "So... fucking... ridiculous."

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"Hah!" Asura scoffed out loud and shouted, "Was the universe so desperate to be protected that it gave such unfathomable power to a kid? Seriously, if anything, I pity you, lord.

The universe stole everything from you in return for what... these powers you are not even using for its true purpose? No wonder you are so naive."

"What are you trying to say? Didn't you just say powers are everything, and now you are contradicting yourself in the next statement?"

Asura furrowed his brows at Rudy and asked, "Answer me, Lord. Why do you think you have these powers?"

"To protect the universe from the evil douchebag like you?"

"You are funny. These powers are given to you; you have not done anything to earn them. The universe just chose you among the billions and gave you this role of the Lord.

It's not a position of a boss, you are but a pawn of this universe... chosen to do your job— which is to rule over everything. If you don't do it, your powers will vanish, and someone else will get them. And I am damn sure the next person to hold your power won't be as naive as you."

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

Chapter 603: Rewriting Existence

Rudy had never thought about it.

'My powers can vanish? I never considered that happening. But as far as I know, the power of the Lord, or rather, the Lord's incarnation, won't happen until the current incarnation— me, dies.'

Asura shook his head in disbelief and asked, "You didn't know, did you?"

"No. There was this malfunction when I received the power. It's not at its full potential yet, or maybe you would like to hear— it's not awakened yet."

"I have been in this third reality for a year, and I can confidently say I know about it more than you do," Asura proclaimed while creating a space ring around his body.

"By 'terrorizing' and 'sacrificing' people for knowledge? Get in the line, I already have to deal with that blue moon shit."

"Oh? So you know about the blue moon?" Asura asked curiously. "Well, well, maybe you are not as dumb as I thought you were."

Asura knelt down a little and spread his arms as he smugly said, "I am the king of the blue moon."

"Uhh... blue moon is for the vampire, and you are not a vampire."

"Argh... I guess I was wrong. You are stupid, after all." Asura created a blue moon out of thin air and said, "This is a blue moon. Why would you even think it's related to the vampire and not a universal thing?"

"The human world had only one moon before the partition of the world and races. I might be wrong, but that's what I was told," Rudy shrugged.

"You weren't provided knowledge of this universe with your powers?"

Rudy shook his head and said, "Dude, I didn't even know I had these powers."

"Wait, are you really the Lord? Or am I talking to an imposter?"

Rudy snapped his finger and obliterated the blue moon Asura had created.

"Why are we having this not-so-friendly chat again?" Rudy asked.

"You and I both know that we cannot win against each other. Perhaps, I can if I fight seriously against you, but I don't know about you. Your powers seem lackluster to me, but that might be because you don't have any 'real' fighting experience.

Have you ever fought with someone at your level?" Asura asked curiously. "I fought the Gods of my reality and usurped their throne."

"Unfortunately, I am so strong that I never met anyone at my level. As for fighting seriously... Oh, you have no idea what I can and can't do."

"I said this before, I want to have a chat with you before I kill you. So tell me, my Lord, what do you know about the blue moon?"

"What makes you think I will answer you?"

"I will answer your questions if you answer mine. Or we can fight and fight that will continue for eternity."

"I don't like when someone asks me to choose from 'their' provided options, so I always make my own option."

Rudy clenched his fists and stood in a fighting stance.

"So you chose the second option anyway?"

"No, I chose both. We will talk while fighting." Rudy punched Asura in space and sent him a million kilometers away.

However, Rudy received a punch the next second and was sent a million kilometers away in the opposite direction.

"I like that."

Asura caught up with Rudy and said, "This would be my first direct attack on you. How was it?"

"Not impressed."

Rudy created a sun, split it in half, and smashed it on Asura from both sides.

"Hey! That tickles! I thought you said we would fight seriously!"

The sun was engulfed by the space while Asura walked out of it.

'I reduced him to atoms with my first punch, and he still somehow regenerated. He said he is immortal, but they should die when they are killed, right?' Rudy wondered. 'Usually, in novels and games, there would be a so-called powerful weapon to kill the gods and whatnot, but I myself am a weapon and still can't kill this dude.'

"What's wrong? Thinking about your next attack?" Asura asked jokingly. "You shouldn't give an opening to your opponent, or you will end up dying."

Asura spread his hand and clapped loudly.

" ..."

Rudy wondered what Asura did and waited for something to happen, but nothing happened. Until he looked at his body.

"...!"

It was devoured by space, and only his eyes were in the universe.

"How was this one?" Asura asked with a smirk on his face.

Then, he created a throne from a nearby star and leisurely sat on it while facing Rudy's eyes.

"Let's see how you get out of that."

Rudy's entire body except his eyes had ceased to exist. If they were cut or damaged, his powers could immediately regenerate his body, but that wasn't the case with space.

Asura had rewritten Rudy's existence, or rather his body's data, and made him a bodiless existence.

Asura snapped his fingers, and a tree grew out of his throne, which sprouted all kinds of fruits from one branch.

He plucked a grape from the veil and showed it to Rudy's eyes.

"Want to eat?"

Then, he scoffed out loud and said, "But you don't have a mouth to eat."

After finishing the grapes, Asura let out a sigh and said, "You still haven't done something?"

"..."

"What's wrong? Lack of motivation? Maybe I should go and destroy the human world? Would that make you motivated?"

Rudy's eyes glowed brighter after hearing that.

"Hah! Got you!" Asura threw berries at Rudy's eyes and said, "Don't worry. I no longer feel like doing that. I find you much more enjoyable. But who knows what might happen if you don't entertain me?

Hence, let me entertain you instead." Asura pondered for a second and said, "You wanted to know about the blue moon, right? I will tell you. But before that, you have to learn about the realities you lot call 'existence.'

There is a simple word to explain what reality is, and that is... big bang."

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Chapter 604: Big Bang and Realities

"I am sure you have heard of the big bang. The so-called 'creation of the universe' is what you humans like to call it."

Asura quoted 'creation of universe' with his fingers.

"Seriously, that's the most ridiculous discovery of human civilization so far. But they are far off from the truth. I will keep everything short and get straight to the topic. After all, you are my enemy."

A brief pause later, Asura continued, "A reality is a period between one 'big bang' to another. One reality gets destroyed, and another is created. But there are multiple things to keep in mind.

Just because one reality gets destroyed doesn't mean a new one will be created. And that also doesn't mean that the people living in reality died or went extinct.

I am from a second reality, where everything was the case. Every reality is the same, but of course, different people and different civilizations. Most of the things were the same, even the base and foundation of the universe, but it was created with different laws and principles.

And by laws, I mean the laws of the universe. They were very strict but also righteous. If you killed someone, the law would strike, and you will have to atone and redeem for your crime by sacrificing something important to you.

You may even lose your loved ones for the crime you committed. The punishment was... cruel... but justified. Of course, if you were killed in self-defense or in war, the law would permit your crime and forgive it.

Everyone feared the law, it was absolute, and no one could defy it in any way. But there are always loopholes for a reason. An evildoer could roam free without any crimes on his head, but he was still evil.

He could ask someone else to do it. He could make someone else do it. He could manipulate and use people like tools. There is much more to this, but I think that's enough about the laws.

In the second reality, there were vampires, witches, dragons, elves, fairies, eldritch, and many more races. And then there was a mortal race, which you may think of as humans.

But the mortals weren't humans like your reality. They could do any and everything through practice and hard work. They could cultivate and master the Daos. Achieve the unthinkable and reach the apex.

I... was one of those mortals. Born as an alleged son of a king and a prostitute at a brothel. My mother was... oh, my bad. I shouldn't go too deep into my backstory. I doubt you are even interested.

So the mortal world was a hotspot for every race. It was filled with magic and cultivation. There weren't different worlds for races like in this reality, but there were realms.

Of course, one would think of mortals as the weakest since they get nothing from birth. Dragons, for example, are born with impenetrable skin. Elves are born with infinite mana. And such, but humans had nothing, and they had to achieve and earn everything on their own.

I lived as a street rat, barely surviving my childhood. Bla Bla, I became an adult. I didn't know I was the alleged son of the king, but I had his bloodline. I was used as a sacrifice by the king, and that's when everything started.

After becoming the strongest mortal, I challenged other races. I traveled around the world and realms. I learned and got stronger. But that wasn't enough. I had to defeat the existence of the law, and before I had realized... I had become an existence feared even by the gods.

I... just wanted to do one right thing, and the gods took that away from me. They took everything away from me. My lover... my kids... my motivation to become strong and protect the world from evil... everything.

As they say, you either die a hero or live long enough to see yourself become a villain, to see yourself become something you once absolutely despised to your core. And thus, Asura was born.

After countless reincarnations and billions of billions of years, I defeated one god and gained the name... Asura. I was labeled as an enemy of the gods, and every god, demigod, and their sons and daughter came after me.

I died and reincarnated again and again. My reincarnation couldn't be stopped, not even by the gods, because I owed a favor to the law. And because of that, my soul couldn't die until the law had returned the favor to me.

The gods wanted to break my reincarnation cycle, but that didn't work. So each and every time I was reborn, they killed me. Apparently, the laws weren't for the gods.

Then the gods made a mistake. They predicted my birth and killed me as soon as my mother gave birth to me. However... she had conceived twins. The gods thought they had killed me... but that was my twin.

The first thing I did in life was to master the Dao of life and death. Thus, I became immortal. I contained and increased my knowledge with every reincarnation, so I was getting stronger with every reincarnation.

And then... Asura went on a killing spree. Killing one god after another. The demigods, their sons, and daughters, everything exists in the heavens. And I became the new and the one and only god.

I guess the universe didn't like that and destroyed everything to create... this reality... your reality. And did you notice now that the humans didn't get magic or cultivation? Because I was afraid another Asura would be born.

The other races can't evolve like humans did. But in this reality, the universe fixed that by not giving them anything, no opportunity to become stronger than any other races. Indeed... a worthless existence.

They are not contributing anything to the universe; nothing would change if they were removed from existence. In fact, the burden in the universe will decrease."

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Chapter 605: How To Become a God

"Mortals of this reality can't do anything like the mortals in the second reality. Heavens, now they don't even know the existence of other races.

The universe destroyed the entire second reality, but I couldn't be killed, so I recreated the universe and continued ruling the worlds and races. That never entertained me, but I still did it. I didn't want someone to go through the same thing as me.

But... they were... ungrateful pricks. I destroyed and recreated the universe multiple times, thinking the next one would be perfect, but I was wrong.

Good can't exist without evil. And I realized that they would never realize the value of life and peace unless they knew what evil is. The universe needed a balance, so I created evil deities and protected the world from them, but all of them were weak against me.

They could even land a hit on me. I needed a stronger evil, something more powerful than me, who could defeat me, but even after billions of years, no one was strong enough to challenge me.

I did something I had never thought of doing. I changed sides. Or rather, I became evil. Then, many came to challenge me throughout the eons, but none of them won. Before I had realized it, I had taken a liking to the evilness inside me.

Then one day, I noticed something. All the challengers who came to defeat me belonged to other races, and no mortal had ever come. So I wiped them out of existence because they were a useless and worthless burden to the universe.

Now, I am in your reality to do the same. Sooner or later, the same thing will happen in this one, and you will become what you hate. So I will take responsibility for you and do your job.

Honestly, I see my old naive self inside you, and that's why I don't want you to become what I have become. I will wipe out the entire third reality and recreate it. Of course, I will let you rule it. Or perhaps not.

Everything depends on your decision. If you still try to stop me or stand in my way, then, unfortunately, I will have to get rid of you. The universe... doesn't care what happens to you.

Remember, if you die or lose your power, it will be forwarded to someone else who would do worse than you. You know, when you do everything, you have nothing more to achieve.

It's pretty lonely at the top, and it's sad when no one can reach your level. But after having a little chat with you, I am quite happy. It feels like I am talking to a long-lost brother of mine. But hey, we can actually be considered brothers since our powers derive from the same sources.

It's like we are... Errr... power-related brothers. That is, if you agree to cooperate with me. If you don't, I will, unfortunately, have to kill you and steal your power so it doesn't get passed down to someone else.

Oh, didn't I mention we can actually copy and steal the powers of the people we kill? I don't know how the base of your powers works, but mine is pretty simple. That is how I became stronger after killing the gods and the heavens.

The universe didn't choose me, I chose it. And ultimately, I gained the power of space. You have the power of the void. So if I have both space and void, I can perhaps find the first reality. But I do hope the absolute power in the first reality is time. Otherwise, my attempt to make everything better would be in vain.

And once I have time, space, and void... I can achieve my... dream."

Asura kept eating different kinds of fruit while talking to Rudy, although he was the only one talking as Rudy's body had ceased to exist.

When Asura looked at Rudy and saw he still hadn't regained his body, he shook his head in disappointment and said, "Seriously? I think I gave a five-minute long speech... no, monologue... well, whatever. I think I wasted my time on you."

Asura got up from his throne and said, "I guess I will do it alone. First, I will start with the human world."

"Not so fast," Rudy's voice said. "I thought you said you wanted to have a chat."

"..." Asura looked up and turned to Rudy, but only his eyes were present there. He glanced around but saw nothing.

"What's wrong? Are you confused? Or that little brain of yours can't comprehend my powers?"

"What's happening?! How can you speak without your body?! Do you have the power of telepathy?!"

"I do, but I am not using it right now."

"Then how can you speak?!" Asura asked loudly.

"Look around you and where you are standing."

"What's that supposed to..." When Asura glanced around, he saw the black space around him with lost stars had turned bright.

"I had created a new body for myself within a few seconds after your surprise attack, but I was having a hard time controlling it. So I let it do its thing while I let you utter your story. I had to keep you busy, and you did that by yourself."

"Where are you?! Show yourself!"

"I am standing right in front of you."

"Huh?"

Asura looked up and realized that the throne he was sitting on was placed on Rudy's toe. The eyes he was looking at were the shell of his old body.

"...!"

Rudy had become so colossal that even an entire galaxy seemed like a grain of salt to him. He had lost his body and become pure light, wrapping the space around him like a cloak.

"How do I look? Handsome as before or even better?" Rudy asked.

Asura stared at Rudy with a serious look on his face, but then he slowly smirked and laughed out loud.

"Heh...ahahahahaha!" Asura placed his hand on his head and stomach and laughed out so loud that his laugh echoed across the space.

"Well done... brother! Let's fight until either of us die!"

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

Chapter 606: Universal Annihilation

"That's what I am talking about!" he shouted and clapped his hands together loudly.

The wave produced from his clap reverberated through the space itself until far, far away.

Then, Asura's body began to overgrow. And soon after, he had grown as tall as Rudy with six hands and a pure black space body with a few galaxies and stars inside it.

"This is my peak... grand... supreme... my most powerful form. And I have never used it against anyone, not even the gods. So now, either of us will die in this battle."

"Oh? I like it. So we are finally getting serious now, eh?"

Rudy smacked Asura on the head and sent him billions of kilometers away, but at that point, time and speed were a mere factor in their battle.

Rudy and Asura could travel faster than the speed of light, even defying time as though it was a nonexistent factor. However, their existence itself was to defy everything, and that included time too.

Since Rudy's body now consisted of nothing but light and energy, he could change his form at any time. He could turn his lands into legs or even wings.

It didn't take a while for Asura to return, and they both fought.

"You are trying so hard to protect the people you don't even know? Believe me, I wasn't lying when I said I was the same as you. They don't need mercy or gratitude!" Asura shouted while throwing punches at Rudy.

Rudy grabbed his two hands, but Asura had four more hands.

"You seem to misunderstand something. I am not trying to play a hero or anything. I am just doing what I can do."

"You are not fooling anyone with such a lame excuse," Asura commented while smacking his head on Rudy's head.

"Oh, I am not. You yourself said that to get something, you have to do something. While it may entirely line up with what I am trying to say, I am protecting the universe because I have the power to do so.

Obviously, if I was a powerless human, I wouldn't even care about anyone other than my loved ones. I am just doing the job I have been assigned to. The Lord is to rule and protect the universe... or, let's say... reality. And that's what I am doing.

If I let you destroy or interfere with anything, I might lose my powers. What am I going to do then? Sit and watch? Let's be honest, you and I both know that you don't actually need me. You only want my powers."

Rudy shot lasers from his eyes and split Asura's body into two, but he soon regenerated as if nothing had ever happened.

Neither of their attacks worked on the other, and all they did was toss each other far, far away into the space where the light hadn't reached.

CRASH!

Asura crash-landed on a planet made of rings without a globe and glanced around as he couldn't find Rudy anywhere.

"Where did you go?" he asked. "You know it's no fun when someone is hiding."

"Oh, I am not hiding. I am just..." Rudy appeared in front of Asura while putting his hand on his face.

"Hah!" Asura scoffed and said, "Don't tell me you are feeling dizzy already."

"No... I...." Rudy's body grew even more to almost double the size as before. "It's not... stopping"

Asura raised his brow with a curious look on his face and asked, "Wait... you are not doing that on your own will?"

"No. My power has been leaking for a while, and it just keeps getting stronger and stronger."

"Hmm~" Asura hummed in wonder and rubbed his chin with one hand, scratched his forehead and the back side of his head with the two, and scratched both of his cheeks with the two other hands while his last remaining hand moved aimlessly.

"..."

"So you are entering the berserk mode. That's not good." Asura shook his head and said, "You are a void, so you will turn into a black hole and eat everything. Now, you must die."

Asura jumped from the ring planet, titling it a little, and punched Rudy, but it had no effect on Rudy.

Rudy's size increased even more, and Asura was now 1/3rd in size compared to Rudy.

"You are eating up the space and growing stronger!" Asura yelled and made some distance between himself and Rudy.

"The power of the void is indeed formidable, but don't forget the void is powerless against chaos. Your weakness is simple, which is light. I am space! I can easily devour you if I wish to!"

Asura's body was deformed and manifested a shape of a dragon. And it was big enough to cover a universe with just its tail.

"I bet you can't do that! I can change into any being in existence!"

He dashed towards Rudy and opened his mouth to devour Rudy, but Rudy grabbed him by the mouth and squeezed the life out of it.

At the same time, Asura changed his form from a dragon to a whale. After that, he changed into dozens of beings, but none of them could stand a chance against Rudy.

Rudy's body was continuously releasing waves rippling across space. The waves were so powerful and full of energy that they created stars, moons, suns, planets, and even galaxies.

However, the next wave destroyed all of them while creating new ones.

Rudy's existence alone was a threat to every living kind. He could destroy galaxies just by looking at them, and only Asura could fight against him.

Asura changed back to his humanoid form with six hands and stared at Rudy with a resolute expression on his face.

"This is... unbelievable..." he muttered. "You are rapidly growing stronger and stronger. At this rate, you will..."

Asura spread his six hands as tears rolled down his eyes.

"This is the... end, brother. I truly wish that you would be by my side and we would find the first reality together. But... you will have to die before you devour everything. Goodbye... brother. I wish I could have helped you."

Soon, their last and ultimate battle started, but it lasted no longer than either of them had taught.

That night, in the battle, Rudy lost his life and died.

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

Chapter 607: Battle of Domains | | Ultimate Domain

"Goodbye... brother."

CLAP!

Asura clapped his first two hands and uttered, "Domain... expansion."

The next moment, Rudy's entire body became larger than billions of universes combined— and Asura was covered in a space dimension created by Asura.

It was similar to his space ball, but this time, Asura was also present inside.

CLAP!

Asura clapped again with the other two hands and uttered, "Domain... evolution."

Another layer of space dimension covered the first space dimension, forming zig-zag pattern rings around it. It seemed like a thorned cage surrounding the space domain.

CLAP!

Once again, Asura clapped his last two hands and uttered, "Ultimate... absolute... domain expansion."

The moment Asura uttered that, the zig-zag pattern rings' cage began coming like a mechanical machine. And each zig and zag created a tree— whose truck was made from light and space, and the crown, including the branches and leaves, were made from stars and galaxies.

There were millions of zig-zag patterns, and each of them created the galaxy tree, covering the space domain completely.

With three continuous domain techniques, Asura had created what one could call a... universe. And it was bigger than any universe to ever exist.

"This is my strongest and the ultimate move. I have never ever used all three at once. And even when I used them, it was to destroy and create the second reality again.

With this... I trapped you and me both in this... universe. You can't get any stronger or bigger now because you have nothing to eat. This universe is hollow from the inside. We are the core of this universe. And we will stay here for eternity.

However, you are a void. This universe will feed on your power to expand even further and slowly devour you. Ultimately, you will cease to exist while I will be free."

He glanced around and said, "Being trapped here for eons is just a small price to pay to obtain what I want. I have lived eons of eons of years, so this is nothing in comparison. I know patience."

Rudy also spread his hands and clapped.

"Domain... existence."

"...!"

Asura watched as the space inside the space ball dimension began to disappear as the light spread rapidly. And before he could do anything, the entire universe created by Asura had become nonexistent.

Rudy's powers were based on his imagination. If he thought of something, it would come into existence. That power was... the power of creation. But he needed something to trigger that power, and that was his faith, belief, and logic behind it.

If Rudy truly believed in something— even if it seemed illogical to others— if he had faith in his power, it would happen. However, there were many easy ways to trigger the power of creation.

If a certain power or ability already existed, Rudy had no need to find the logic behind it because he knew such ability could exist. He could copy the same ability effortlessly.

Asura also had a somewhat similar power where he could copy and steal the power of the ones he defeated.

When Asura used his domain techniques, Rudy didn't have to try to find logic or fundamental principles of the technique, he simply needed to use it.

"Impossible..." Asura dropped to his knees and mumbled, "How did you do that? Domain techniques are my original moves. No one should be able to do them. Yet... you enhanced and evolved all my domain techniques and created your own version of it.

That was my strongest attack, and if it had no effect on you... then I have... lost."

When Rudy used his own version of the domain technique, he created not one, not two, but millions of universes.

"You seem to misunderstand something... Asura."

"What?" he asked without looking at Rudy.

"You indeed have the power of space, and the first reality could have the power of time. However, I don't have the power of the void."

"Huh...?" Asura looked up and realized what Rudy was talking about.

"So bright... so beautiful..." He glanced around him and saw the color universes.

"I still don't know half of the things you mentioned, and my knowledge is nowhere near your vast knowledge. You were right about all the things... except one. I don't have the power of the void."

"Indeed... I should have realized that."

If Rudy had the power of void, why would his body leak light as his powers?

"Your power is... cosmos..." Asura uttered in a broken voice. Seemingly, no longer interested or motivated in anything.

"All this time I was talking about how the universe will give your power to someone else.... but your power itself is a part of the universe. And currently, you are going through a phenomenon called... big bang.

I should have realized this sooner, but I guess I was too arrogant and ignorant to see it. You were going to destroy the third reality, and the remainder of your existence would have automatically created the fourth reality.

I was... Like you, I was used as a pawn by the universe." Asura chuckled wryly and wondered, "What are we? Tools for the universe? Used and disposed of like trash."

"You are also mistaken about one thing. The power of the void you were looking for actually exists."

"It does...?" Asura asked with a glint of hope in his eyes. "Do you know who possesses that power?"

"I do."

"I doubt... you will tell me..."

"I can tell you."

"Why... would you do that? Why would you help me despite knowing my intention?"

"The person who possesses the power of void is in front of me."

"Huh?"

"It's you. You have the power of space, which includes the void too."

"Oh..." Asura's head dropped as his hands supported his body from falling flat.

"All this time... I had the power... yet, I couldn't achieve my dream... my goal. Where did I go wrong? What did I do to deserve this? I was forced to become like this... and now... I..."

"When you have everything, you have nothing." Rudy quoted what Asura had said to him.

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

Chapter 608: In the Name of Peace

"You had the power of space and every god in your reality. In other words, you had everything... including the void. Void is a glutton; no matter how many times or how much you feed it, it will still ask for more.

And that is... you. I can't imagine what you must have gone through, really. Losing a loved one is indeed painful, so I can at least empathize with you. And you were absolutely right.

If I had gone through the same thing as you did, I would have become just like you. But there is a difference...

Even after losing your lover, kids, and everything else, you still had the courage to move forward and get stronger. You had that level of patience, and you went through countless reincarnations to get rid of all the gods.

Yet, you wanted to do better for mankind." Rudy shook his head with an emotionless look on his face and said, "I don't have that. I can't do what you did.

Patience and motivation... I don't have that in me. The moment I have no reason to be alive... I will... well, it doesn't matter what I will do. We should talk about what you want to do."

"[..."

"You wanted the power of void, and you have it. What do you want to achieve now?"

"The first reality.... the power of time..."

"And what after that?"

"Isn't it obvious? I will destroy all realities and rule on them."

"That's a lie. You don't actually need the power of time to rule over all the realities. You have been in this third reality for a year, and you didn't destroy it.

Obviously, you killed thousands of innocents, but after fighting you, I realized that you have a lot of experience and you are powerful. You can easily wipe out the earth if you want, but you didn't.

Why?

Sure, you tried to do it today, but you could have done it before. What were you waiting for? The full moon and whatnot? All that is bullshit, and you know it.

The truth is that you were stalling. You knew there would be a protector of the third reality, and you wanted to confront that protector. I don't know why, so tell me... what is it that you truly desire?"

Asura smiled wryly as tears rolled down his cheeks. With a painful expression on his face, he opened his mouth and said, "I... want peace."

"..." Rudy wasn't sure how to interpret that. If Asura truly wanted peace, he could have done it by himself.

"I want to... die..."

"Oh..."

"I am tired of living. I am all-powerful, but I am not happy. I have everything, but I can't do anything. Watching over the realms and races is a chore. There is no one to take care of me.

No one to hold me... no one to embrace me... no one to comfort me... no one to understand me. Therefore... I want to die and end my suffering. But I am immortal. Even the gods and universe couldn't kill me. Even you couldn't kill me.

I thought if I had the power of time, space, and the void, I could erase everything, including the universe. I thought if nothing existed... I could remove myself from existence. I thought I could die, but I failed at dying too."

"You know why you can't die. Why are you making excuses? You are not giving your 100%, or rather, you are not trying your best as if you were always having second thoughts," Rudy remarked.

"..."

"Do it! If you truly want to die, then do it!"

"But..."

"I always make my enemy suffer in the best way possible. There was one who wanted to die, so I kept her alive. You are the same, and I want to keep you alive so you can suffer for all eternity, but you are too dangerous to be left alive. So do it!"

Asura looked up at Rudy's face and asked, "What about the second reality? What will happen to it without me?"

"I don't know. But it should function normally, with or without you."

"What if another powerful entity is born and puts the second reality in danger?"

"If that ever happens, I will take care of the second reality."

TING!

"Heh..." Asura chuckled softly and said, "Liar. You don't even know how to find the second reality."

Asura sat in a lotus position, closed his eyes, and uttered, "Law-- my dear old friend. I am going to leave you behind. It is time... to use the favor. I want you to kill me, remove me from existence.

And if the second reality ever needs a protector, I want you to summon the Lord-- the protector of the third reality-- into the second reality. I hope that doesn't count as two wishes, but even if it does... it doesn't matter.

Once my first wish is fulfilled, I will die, so it doesn't matter how many favors you do to me after that. And as for my second wish... you have no choice but to fulfill it. After all, if the second reality is in danger... you will be in danger.

In order to protect the second reality and yourself, you will have no choice but to summon the protector from a different reality. My brother, the Lord, has volunteered, so I will trust him. But it matters not because it would be none of my concern."

A few seconds later, Asura's body slowly began to turn into ashes of energy that twinkled, and the remaining light inside him eventually faded away. Ultimately, Asura's entire body had turned into the remains of energy and merged with the universe Rudy had created.

"Well then... time to return."

Rudy placed his hand on his body and shrank his body to as small as he could. But even his smallest size was bigger than the galaxy. So Rudy combined his shrinking ability with his object time-manipulating ability and shrank his body to the size of a normal human.

Afterward, he created a skeleton, blood, and cells that formed tissues and organs and eventually turned into a human body.

He inspected his body and sighed in relief.

"I am glad that worked."

Rudy turned around and heard a strange sound coming from his body. At first, he assumed he messed up somewhere, but he noticed that gas was coming out of his navel.

But it wasn't an ordinary gas, it was cosmic gas.

His powers had started leaking again.

'I thought it would be fine since I used up so much power!'

One by one, Rudy's body parts began to crack and explode as his power burned his body completely and evaporated him from existence.

His powers spread across space and began a massive ball. But it soon began rotating and emitted powerful energy that could even burn the space. The energy whirled around the ball as it pulsated and released cosmic waves.

At that time, Rudy was alive, but he couldn't control his powers. The waves traveled with the speed of light and began to destroy the stars, planets, and galaxies of the universe he had created.

Furthermore, the power was killing Rudy, making him sleep forever, so he couldn't do anything. Rudy tried his best to fight back, but his powers won, and he ceased to exist.

Rudy's true battle wasn't against Asura, but it was against his powers. And he died in that battle.

In his last moments, Rudy recalled the last moments of his past life and wondered if he had done anything better.

'Did I use my second chance properly? Did I manage to save everyone from their bad endings?'

Once Rudy died, his powers were no longer bound to him, so they went berserk and began destroying everything that existed in their path.

That was the beginning of the end and the ending of the beginning. It was an awakening to end everything to start a new beginning.

Within the next three seconds, half of the universe had already been razed completely from existence. And if that continued for even 60 more seconds, the cosmic waves would have reached the existing universe, destroying the milky way galaxy, the solar system, and the earth with it.

But that wouldn't have ended there. The cosmic waves would travel to other worlds around and destroy all the worth in existence. Even the debris, asteroids, comets, stars, moons, suns, and planets.

Everything would have ceased to exist. And nihility would stay for eternity.

That was the beginning of the big bang.

However, as soon as the cosmic waves reached the center of Rudy's universe, something unusual happened.

The cosmic waves began to disappear, and the universe began to regrow at the same speed. It seemed as though the time had reversed itself.

Suddenly, a pure black hand appeared out of nowhere and took Rudy's power in the palm. Even the place was so big that Rudy's power seemed like a golf ball in comparison.

Then, another hand came and covered the ball. After a while, the black hands began to absorb Rudy's power, and the body of the hands eventually began to appear.

It was the space itself.

Soon, everything calmed down/

The hands opened and revealed a newborn baby in a leech position. The body was shining bright, but its light seemed warm and weak, just like the moonlight.

The hands slowly moved the baby, and it seemed as though the baby was in the body's womb.

[Arise, my child.]

A voice spoke in a calm, sweet, and ethereal voice.

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

Chapter 609: Waking Up

Rudy opened his eyes and saw a beautiful starry sky. He was lying somewhere on the ground, but he couldn't feel anything.

He tried to move his body and sat up, but his body didn't respond. He could hear the wind gushing through the forest, hitting the branches and leaves.

He glanced around with his eyes and realized he was in a forest. But something seemed strange. His body felt hollow to him, as though he didn't have a body.

Regardless. he could see his body with his eyes.

The scenery was unfamiliar to him, but the feeling wasn't.

'Have I been here before?' he asked himself.

He tried to remember what had happened after his battle with Asura.

'I manifested a human body for myself, but my powers leaked again and then... then I... lost consciousness. But why am I here? I was in space, far away from any life in existence.

Did I crash on a newborn planet? Yeah, that's the only explanation I think of. But why can't I move my body? What are the side effects of using too much power? I don't feel pain, but this numb and sore feeling is all over my body.'

Rudy used his powers to fly but couldn't even move his fingers.

'What the...'

Rudy tried to use his other powers, but none of them worked.

'Did I run out of powers? Or worse... did I lose my powers?'

For once, Rudy didn't care even if he had lost his powers, but he didn't want the power to be passed down to someone else who might use it for evil purposes. One way or another, it could come back to bite him.

'Maybe if I wait for a while, my powers will recharge? I don't know what exactly happened after I passed out, but it seems that I used up all my powers.'

Rudy decided to stare at the starry guy, but his already pale face turned even more pale when he saw an airplane in the sky.

"...!"

'What the... why is there an airplane in the sky if I am on a random newborn planet? Don't tell me I fell back on earth! Don't tell me...'

After a few seconds of panic, Rudy finally realized what was happening.

He was at the same place he had died in his past life.

'I was blind at that time, but I could still listen. And the sound of the airplane flying by sounded exactly the same as that time.

I may be overthinking, but I remember every single second of my past life before I died... and I don't like where this is going.'

Was Rudy back in his past life? Or was he in a parallel universe? If he was in the parallel universe, which timeline was he on? 1990 or 2008?

Rudy felt a feeling he had long forgotten.

Hopelessness.

'What if everything that happened so far was a dream? What if my mind showed me all that? A fantasy before I died? It is said that time passes slowly when your brain is dying, and it shows your most important and precious memories.

But all that was... not memories. Did I dream all that? And why am I not blind anymore? Wait... is all this real, or it's yet another dream?

What if I am already dead? How can I confirm that all this is real?

If everything that happened before I opened my eyes— was a fantasy dream... then how can I confirm that this is not another dream?'

Rudy's mind was filled with many unanswered questions, which he would never learn.

Rudy noticed his vision was getting blurry, as if his soul was being sucked out of his body.

'Am I... dying?'

Rudy didn't want to close his eyes and see his death with open eyes, but his vision darkened from the sides and slowly turned black.

....

[Arise, my Child.]

•

"...fr... one... get..."

Rudy's ears twitched as he heard a voice. However, he didn't open his eyes.

'What is this feeling of deja vu?! Don't tell me I have to relive through the same dream again and again?!'

"Rudy? Are you sleeping in class?" the male teacher asked.

'Oh shit, it's fucking Andrew! I don't want to open my eyes, but if I don't, he will make a big deal out of it for no reason!'

Rudy opened his eyes and said, "...."

'Wait.. what? Why can't I open my mouth?'

"Say something, you poor rat! Are you deaf or mute?" Andrew asked in anger.

Rudy struggled to open his mouth, let alone speak something.

He glanced to his right and left and saw Alice and Eric look at him with a concerned looks on their faces.

Suddenly, Rudy felt as if something was pulling him from behind. He jolted and turned around but ended up falling with the chair.

When he opened his eyes again, he found himself lying in a familiar place.

He was in the cemetery.

'What the fuck is going on?'

Rudy took a deep breath and slowly opened his mouth to check if he could speak, and sure enough, he was able to utter a word.

"Fucking... hell..."

He moved his fingers and sat up instantly.

"Okay, great. I can speak and move my body."

He brought his hand in front of him and conjured fire.

'My powers are working too.'

He glanced around and nodded while sighing in relief.

"I was back in 2008... and everything is... fine." He grabbed his head and wondered, "But what was all that? Why was I back in my world and then in the class... did my memory malfunction?

Regardless, I am sure of one thing, and that is that I died... in space. I died in 1990. So it could be that my soul simply traveled back to my body again?

In other words... I officially died two times so far. I remember everything I did for a year, from 1989 to 1990. It feels like I was there five minutes ago."

He got up and muttered, "Well, let's go meet the girls first. And then... to find some answers."

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

Chapter 610: It's Only Been Five Minutes

Rudy got up and prepared to jump in the air, but he remembered the ghosts who were around him before he time-traveled.

He looked at Jessica's grave and saw the old man standing there with a composed look on his face.

'For them, not even a minute should have passed.'

"Where are the others? Went to grab some coffee?" he joked while asking.

"No. They were bound to this world by a contract, and as of now, that contract is no longer valid."

"...?"

"In other words, they have passed to the afterlife."

"Ah... wait... what type of contract?"

The old man smiled at Rudy as his body began to fade away.

"Tell me! Who had tasked you to protect Jessica's grave!"

"Hahaha." The old man vanished into thin air while laughing, but it wasn't an arrogant laugh; it seemed a rather toned-down laugh of someone who simply found something funny.

"..." Rudy stood there with a dumbfounded expression on his face as he didn't get his answers.

"I would... could have known what exactly happened to Jessica. What the fuck, man... I feel so angry right now for some reason..."

At that moment, Rudy remembered something. He checked his pockets and found the old wallet he had picked up from Jessica's grave, but the new wallet was nowhere to be seen.

Just to make sure, he used his vision abilities to inspect the entire cemetery, but he couldn't find it.

"This is proof that I truly time-traveled. Two same objects can't exist in the same timeline. The wallet I got from Eric has already aged by 19 years."

Rudy didn't know what to do with the old wallet as it had nothing important inside it except the family picture taken from a polaroid camera-- which he could always make a copy of from a better and newer version of the image.

Regardless, Rudy felt attached to the wallet, so he kept it in his back pocket and flew away.

He was going to teleport to the girls, but he wanted to confirm something before that.

He flew to space to see if there were remains of his battle with Asura, but most of their battle happened billions of billions of light years away from the milky way.

"I cannot travel with the speed of light as I cannot turn my body into light. And I can't teleport there either, as I can't mark the space. And as for the things I had touched... they were all destroyed in our fight."

Rudy teleported back to the atmosphere and landed near the office room.

He casually walked inside while glancing around, while the girls looked at him with surprised looks on their faces.

"You just left a minute ago," Jane remarked.

The girls had surrounded Ruby and explained everything to her and Rudy, but she wasn't trying to listen.

When Rudy entered the room, she snapped at Rudy and took the chance to run away from there.

"..."

Rudy looked at the girls with a confused look on his face and asked, "What happened to her?"

"Well done," Angelica clapped her hands.

Of course, Rias and Vriti weren't present in the room. Otherwise, Jane, Alice, and Vriti wouldn't talk about harem, let alone discuss it.

"Where did Rias go?"

Jane shrugged her hands and responded, "She left as soon as you left. I thought maybe you gave her a secret signal and called her out to... you know..."

"No... I didn't. Where is Vriti, then? She shouldn't be out in the sun, right?"

"She is at the backside under the shade. Maybe she felt repulsed after seeing so many humans in one room?" Niti wondered.

"Perhaps..." Rudy looked at Angelica and smiled at her. 'I... I don't know how to feel after seeing her. I have mixed feelings.'

Maria nudged Rudy and asked, "Should we not go after Ruby?"

"I don't think there is any need to. She is an adult. You can't keep her here against her will, you know? And don't forget she was going to become the next leader of the syndicate."

"That's true, but... I..." Maria fidgeted while saying, "I wanted her to live with me. It's... I will be lonely without her among the other girls."

Rudy pointed his gaze at Ruby's bag and said, "Her stuff is still here, so she will return once she has calmed down. Give her some time."

"Okay..." she nodded.

Rudy patted Maria on the head and calmly said, "If she doesn't return by night, I will get her, okay?"

"Why are you here, though?" Jane asked curiously.

"You don't want me here?"

"That's not what I meant!" Jane squinted her eyes and said, "When you left, it seemed as though you had some really important thing to do. But you returned in less than five minutes."

Rudy chuckled softly with a distant smile on his face and muttered, "Those five minutes were the longest five minutes of my life."

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"Hey, Rudy." Alice called out to Rudy and asked, "Is it okay if I call you to drop me off at my house?"

"Of course. But my service doesn't come for free," he grinned.

"What's your charge?"

"Hmm~" Rudy hummed in amusement and said, "Three kisses."

"Make it five."

"Deal."

Rudy then turned to Angelica, who was eagerly staring at Rudy for some reason.

"My service is free for you," Rudy scoffed softly. "You don't have to pay anything."

Angelica puffed her chest and smugly said, "I have a big heart, so I will pay you."

"Oh?"

"Is everything okay?" she asked. "You seem... tired."

"Yeah, I am a little tired." After a brief pause, he said, "I will go find Rias. You can call me anytime you need me, alright?"

Rudy kissed Angelica on the lips, then Alice, Jane, and Maria. Niti and Rudy looked at each other, but both of them knew they couldn't kiss in front of Jane.

"See you later."

After saying that, he left the office and flew away in search of Rias.