

## GOD'S EYES

### Chapter 141 - Prodigy?

Only three hours passed since the exams started and there were still students of the first batch trying to accomplish their task.

Noticing Jason walking up the second floor, the young rank-3 runemaster thought this black-haired youth in front of him was either too late or impatiently worked on the blacksmithing exam.

Either way, it didn't really matter and once Jason arrived in front of him, he could smell a faint smoke from him, answering his question where the youth came from.

Looking at his ID, the runemaster noticed that Jason passed all three exams which caused him to look at the black-haired golden-eyed youth in front of him once again.

Seeing the golden eyes gleaming with mana, the runemaster's gut feeling told him, that it was a special trait, even if he wasn't sure what kind of eye-trait.

The most common special trait for eyes were mana eyes but he had never seen anyone with mana eyes, as such he had no idea what the youth in front of him had as a special trait.

Previously Jason wanted to hide his mana eyes but with time passing, he found it unreasonable, as it would cause a big decrease in his development.

Following that, he sat down on his designated place, where he found dozens of materials and necessities to work with.

Jason was the most confident in rune inscribing due to his mana eyes because he read that the most difficult part in inscribing was sensing the mana around while one had to work with opened eyes.

One would have to mold either an incomplete unblemished mana core or magical ranked mana cores to inscribe runes and the radiating mana from these materials could be labeled as vast, but this was only the case before they mold.

The mana conductivity from mana cores was the most complex in every living being and without destroying that one had to be extremely careful with heating up the mana cores as every mana core had a differing molting temperature.

In front of him were only incomplete unblemished mana cores and it was most likely to save some credits, while it was also the best for beginners to try inscribing.

For this exam the Artisan-tower even provided the names from the beasts where the mana cores came from, to give the students the opportunity to use their knowledge, without the need to figure out the mana core's origin.

However, looking around, Jason could only smile dryly as he saw many students not knowing what they really did, while some were focused on their task.

It was roughly the same as on the blacksmith exam, as some knew what they were doing, while others only tried out some things that seemed right, but on a completely wrong level, as they ignited the flames too high, used a wrong mixing ratio for the inscription mixture or if the first few steps were done correctly, they messed up with the inscription due to their lack of ability to sense the mana within the inscription solution.

This last step was important as one could adjust the mana stream slightly to combine the inscribed runes with each other in order to create a usable rune. One could say, adjusting the mana flow within the inscription mixture was necessary and without it could only be described as lucky if the rune worked the way one wanted it to do.

Jason smiled hearing small puffs from all around him and smoke clouds rising where the puffs were heard.

It seemed that the tasks were the same for every artisan exam. `Produce something that works` or something like that and Jason had to inscribe whatever rune he wanted on anything he liked.

Taking out the dagger he previously forged, Jason decided to inscribe a rune on it.

Pondering for a moment, Jason decided to go with the most common inscription mixture without adding anything special into it to increase the amplification or duration time after mana was injected.

`Simple is best!` was Jason's thought for the three exams as he forged, brewed, and inscribed for the first time in his life.

Weighing the ingredients, he placed the rest on the site, before he looked at the burner and the reagents.

Taking the testing tubes, he disregarded the burner as he wanted to try something for himself.

The burner in front of him could hardly maintain a stable temperature and would fluctuate slightly once in a while, which was not something any lifestyle-occupation wanted to work with.

As such he opened his hand with a black flame appearing within.

Seeing that, the runemaster's eyes widened and he wondered how such a young youth found a mutated fire affinity, causing him to feel jealous, as mutated fire affinities were stronger than normal ones with some of them having special abilities.

Jason attracted the runemaster's attention, but even after noticing that, Jason ignored it and worked hard on his task.

Thanks to the examiner providing him with the name of the beast-race the incomplete mana cores were from, he regulated his flame to the required temperature with tiny fluctuation as he took the incomplete mana core inside his hand while holding the black origin flame below.

Holding both above the test tube, Jason worked rather crude right now, but the result was the only thing that mattered.

Seeing what Jason did, the runemaster frowned and he wanted to lecture this student about aesthetics and the pride of runemasters when he saw that the incomplete unblemished mana core was already melting.

It was faster than he expected and he initially thought the black-haired youth was only here to play Jokester but apparently, he seemed to briefly understand what to do.

The incomplete mana core liquid poured into the test tube and once a certain amount was inside, Jason laid the core aside, before washing his hand that held the core.

It was a little bit hot, but he was immune to his own flame and wouldn't be burned through it.

The black origin flame was still within his other hand, burning with a slightly lower temperature when he placed the test tube on top of the tripod which had a small hole within, perfectly able to hold it.

Pouring a little bit normal water within the test tube in addition to some Luo-sand inside, Jason heated the test tube up before swirling around the sand within the water.

Gleaming faintly, Jason knew the mana particle within the sand reacted with the water and Jason added three small pieces of lowest grade-1 herbs into the test tube while heating up his flame.

Luo-sand was mostly used to combine the magical effect of certain ingredients together, as long as they were less reactive.

With that, many simple potions and inscription solutions could be made and Jason used it because of that.

Controlling the flame's heat, Jason carefully inspected the reaction that happened, coloring the water slightly green.

Leading the mana properties slightly, they reacted with each other and the water turned slightly more viscous with a faint aroma spreading out of the test tube.

Extinguishing the flame, Jason sieved out the sand and drained the herbs in order to receive his thick herb solution in addition to his liquefied incomplete mana core in a different test tube.

Right now, Jason was already at the last two steps and he ignited two flames in his hands to place them below the two tripods the test tubes stood within respectively.

Controlling the heat at the same temperature, Jason sweated heavily as he had never summoned multiple flames at the same time, neither had he controlled them like that.

Once the content within the test tubes reached a certain temperature, Jason placed a flask in front of him, before he poured the content of both the molten incomplete core and the herb solution within it, creating a small puff as reaction.

'That's unfortunate!' The runemaster sighed deeply in regret, as he thought he had witnessed something special but the smoke that rose in front of the black-haired youth indicated a failure.

'WAIT?!' His eyes widened as he saw that it was not black or grey smoke, rather than that it seemed to be more withish with impurities inside and it seemed as if an illusion emerged in front of him.

'How did he extract the impurities within the herbs?' He almost shouted but he could barely get a hang of himself, otherwise, his image would crumble to smithereens.

Looking at Jason with widened eyes, only Shane, Dalia, and Jason himself knew what was going on.

Jason's black origin flame was like every origin flame only special in its rank.

As such like every origin flame, it had the ability to cleanse not only the body but also herbs and ores from their impurities, which one could see right now.

The mixture of the molten incomplete mana core and the herb solution mixed together perfectly as the mana particles reacted with each other, creating a purple solution that shone in a faint hue and radiated a calming aroma.

One could think that Jason was brewing potions right now, but rather than that he was only mixing a solution for his inscriptions.

Right now, even Shane's eyes were widened as he looked at Jason weirdly.

'How can he learn so much without anyone teaching him?...Can I beat him up?' He thought and this caused him to be slightly dejected as he wanted Jason only to learn everything theoretical to give his practical knowledge to him over time...

Looking at Jason, he took out a specially made ballpoint that was completely empty and not filled with anything.

'What should I do with such a prodigy?' Shane sighed as he looked at Jason with envy

The ballpoint's size was more than 20 centimeters long which was unusual but filling carefully with the inscription solution he finished, Jason's eyes cleaned

There was still a lot of his inscription solution left which he stored away within the perennial neoxid box.

Looking at his dagger, he pondered what kind of rune he should inscribe when a sudden thought appeared in his mind.

Smiling, Jason thought 'Why not?' before he started to inscribe familiar but also somewhat unfamiliar runes on the dagger's surface.

While the runemaster looked at the runes with a confused expression, as if he had never seen these runes, Shane was about to give Jason a beating.

'Is this also thanks to his mana eyes?!' Shane lamented as he saw what rune Jason inscribed on his dagger.

The goblin runemaster's runes mankind had yet to be fully researched!!

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Chapter 142 - Allrounder

Jason finished his inscription within 30 minutes and his knife had four additional sharpening runes on it, decorating the outer part of the blade.

With this 'simple' feat, Jason was already close on the way to learn how to create a mana weapon.

The difference between normal weapons and mana weapons was mainly because of the materials used to forge high mana conductivity weapons, but also a high number of runes.

These runes were much more powerful than the ones Jason inscribed but even so, he crafted a tierless weapon with runes on it.

While injecting mana into the blade, Jason noticed that the runes began to glow slightly and a broad smile emerged on his face.

While inscribing, it was not only important to lead the mana veins within the inscription solution together, but also to inscribe the runes on the exact position where the weapons mana veins spread through

It would be the best if runes were always inscribed on the most circulated parts and Jason did so.

As such the runes and forged crude dagger could be almost compared to the worst graded weapons, even though its toughness and aesthetics were below average for graded weapons, while it would reach the required threshold in terms of sharpness.

Smiling brightly, Jason walked towards the dumbfounded rank-3 runemaster, handing him the dagger.

The runemaster carefully inspected the runes intently and only now did the somewhat familiar runes ring a bell in his mind.

"Are these the runes used by the goblins?" the young runemaster asked Jason who only replied with a confident smile.

"How?" Was the only thing the runemaster in front of Jason could ask as not even his master had fully researched the runes yet.

They were not extremely complex, but only a few high authorities had their hands on the complete runes, while the young runemaster's master only had a few destroyed ones, thanks to the acid rain.

Looking at the black-haired youth in front of him, the young runemaster was somewhat scared.

The crude dagger was obviously not bought somewhere.

It looked like Jason passed the blacksmith exam which was nothing special per se but making an inscription solution was already extremely difficult while this black-haired youth made an almost perfect solution on his first try.

If that was everything, the runemaster would already let Jason pass but he even inscribed them on a very good position with a high mana circulation? AMAZING!

'This youth...no young man in front of him is a treasure!!' The runemaster thought and he tried to talk to him, but before that could happen, Jason took back his crude dagger and asked if he passed the exam.

Nodding faintly, the runemaster could only hear Jason saying

"Sorry for bothering you...have a nice day, I'll take the alchemy exam now!" and if Jason looked at the runemaster now, one could only see a jaw dropped to the ground.

'Did he ignore me?' He thought, sulking slightly but somehow he didn't dare to interrupt the black-haired young man..there was something weird about him.

Shane, who sensed everything through the ground, frowned deeply because he understood that he had to change his plans in order to pressure Jason more once he wanted to learn how to forge, inscribe, brew, and so on.



Praising Jason would probably not be acceptable in order for him to not become arrogant and full of himself and Shane was deep in thoughts, while Jason appeared on the third and last floor.

Roughly 5 hours passed since the exams had started and Antalia was astonished to see Jason already appearing on the third floor.

Seeing him walking towards her, she smiled brightly putting up a facade to cover her astonishment.

"I've passed the first two exams. What should I do for the alchemy exam?" He asked nonchalantly and even though Antalia was mentally prepared, she was still astonished that Jason really did it.

Clearing her throat she managed to gain a moment in order to regain her almost revealed composure.

"My task is the same as the first two. In order to pass the exam you have to concoct an effective potion without a backlash." Saying that, Jason turned around before he quietly said.

"Thank's for the favor you'll owe me"

Hearing that, Antalia finally remembered that she told Jason, if he passed the written exams with 100% and all practical artisan exams, she would give him the chance to request anything from the Artisan tower, and her expression fell into hell.

Looking desperate at Jason, she had a bad premonition, that he would accomplish the exam rather easily.

The inscription solution alone could be considered as an effective potion even though it was just a sub-category and if Antalia knew that Jason had already brewed his own inscription solution, her last ray of hope would be immediately shattered.

The runemaster exam allowed students to use the worst inscribing mixture in order to pass the test because they focused their attention on the inscribing process rather than the mixture itself.

Jason sat down on his designated place and he could see many different items and herbs in front of him on a large table.

There were also many test tubes, the tripods, and the burner Jason wouldn't use once again.

But before he decided to create a potion, Jason was adamant about practicing the Heaven's Hell technique in order to maximize his soul energy as soon as possible.

Sitting down on the ground, he didn't mind any onlookers and entered his soul world.

Looking at Artemis cold snowflake cocoon, Jason smiled gently, before he left the soul world once again 85 minutes later, after braiding his five-strand helix and injecting it into his soul world core.

The pain lessened consistently and Jason was becoming more proficient in braiding and holding a large amount of focus on different things, causing the practicing time to decrease slightly.

Maybe he could decrease the time even more, but he was unsure how far that could go and a slight expectation built inside his mind.

Standing up, Jason noticed that fewer students could be seen around him and they seemed to have passed while a few charred students with desperate expressions gazed at the ingredients in front of them.

Some students even had puffed-up hair and Jason tried really hard to hold not laugh out loud.

Calming himself down, after laughing for himself sometimes, Jason turned to the table and decided to do the simplest potion he knew.

Taking out Luo-sand and four different gradeless herbs, Jason placed them in front of him, while he put aside the other unneeded herbs.

Igniting the black origin flame once again in his hand, Jason placed it below the tripod.

Filling a flask with a small amount of water, he placed it exactly in the center of the tripod, before Jason supplied it with the Luo-sand.

The mana particles inside the sand reacted with the water, causing the sand to lose its faint luster.

Gleaming weakly, the previous normal water was now infused with a slight amount of mana particles and once a certain heat was reached, Jason put in one herb after another not forgetting to follow the correct order.

Some herbs could only react with the slowly concocted potion after the previous reactions took place without creating possible other reactions which might create another potion or completely waste it.

As such he checked two times if he did everything correctly to avoid any minute mistakes

Carefully putting the last herb inside the flask, the water turned slightly blue with a faint aroma spreading out from it.

It was a calming feeling and upon smelling the aroma, Jason knew that it was time for the next step.

Heating up his flame by a notch, a disgusting stench covered the faint aroma and Jason's nose twitched.

The impurities were slowly washed reacting with the sand instead of being exalted with a whiteish smoke cloud like it was the case with his inscription solution.

This, however, was mainly because the impurities of the herbs and magical essence reacted with the liquefied unblemished ranked mana core, when he created the inscribing mixture.

Upon a certain amount of impurities could be seen by the visible eye, without Jason using his mana eyes.

Extinguishing the flame with a single thought, Jason placed a beaker in front of him with a sieve on top of it in order to divide the solution with the waste materials and impurities.

Sieving it multiple times, Jason made sure to get rid of as many impurities as possible, but there were still small black dots he could only see thanks to his mana eyes.

This caused Jason not only to question if every potion had impurities inside them which wouldn't be that surprising but also how many impurities were within normal potions.

Because of his black origin flame, he got rid of a lot of impurities that wouldn't have been expelled normally and Jason decided that he would brew his own potions in the future.

Looking at the faintly gleaming blue potion in the beaker, he filled three vials before the beaker was completely empty.

Storing away two vials, Jason walked to Antalia with his chest pushed out in pride thanks to his newly acquired pride which slowly accumulated.

Following Jason's steps, Antalia was not only put in a tied spot but also astonished by Jason's calmness during the whole concoction process.

It was as if he wasn't even trying hard to secure the stability from the potion during the concoction process. The mana control needed to lead the magical ingredients together was also not easy and one had a need to do multiple things at the same time which Jason innately couldn't do.

But due to his superior eyes, refined brain, the black origin flame's baptism which enhanced everything about him, and his detailed knowledge about the exact concocting process of the gradeless calming potion allowed him to make it look as if he didn't even try hard.

In honesty, Jason was sweating heavily during the whole process and it was only that the sweat evaporated before Antalia noticed it.

Remaining concentrated over the whole process of concocting the calming potions, Jason could finally sigh in relief as he handed Antalia one potion.

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### Chapter 143 - Igniting The Desire To...

The calming potion was one of the most common potions and it was as useful as an expensive calming tea.

Drinking a potion, one would feel refreshed and the tension of one's body would ease up.

The potion was mostly used before important events and exams to calm down, increasing the activity of the mind passively.

Being tensed up would cause students to be worse during exams and tests, while one would be able to think faster about a solution with calm composure after drinking the calming potion.

Antalia inspected the potion carefully.

Before she had already seen Jason using a black flame affinity instead of the burner, which she deemed as a mutated fire elemental being.

But there was something she was suspicious of and inspecting the potion Antalia noticed that the potion was partially cleansed which was not something someone who brewed for the first time should be able to do.

It was only a calming potion and extracting the impurities within wasn't difficult even for proper rank-1 beginner alchemists but Antalia hadn't seen Jason using any kind of method to extract impurities that would explain the purity of the calming potion in front of her.

Uncertain she asked:

"Does your mutated elemental being have the ability to cleanse ingredients to a certain extent"

Antalia didn't expect Jason to reveal his secret but she would combine the signs to herself upon seeing Jason's reaction.

However, surprisingly Jason answered her which she didn't expect.

"You could say so" Previously he was slightly nervous about how to explain the high purity of his inscribing mixture and potions but Antalia gave him the best answer he could choose.

As such he took the opportunity and accepted her idea.

Dalia told him that he could even expel impurities from ores but that would require lots of practice and was quite taxing to one's body.

Before it was safe to purify high-grade ores, Jason would have to reach the Magus rank or evolve his tierless origin flame, while grade-1 ores were an exception.

The only problem was that neither Jason, Shane nor Dalia knew how much soul energy his black origin flame needed to evolve.

Even Dalia's silver origin flame needed a few hundred soul energy units and it was only a b-rank origin flame while Jason's black one was at least one rank higher.

While Antalia digested Jason's answer, she wasn't excessively shocked because she predicted this outcome but it was more like she was envious of Jason finding such a perfect soulbond for all Artisan occupations.

Working with purified materials would result in a qualitative better product which would in return increase the price for the products.

If Jason focused on his Artisan career, according to the talent she was, he would probably be able to reach at least her faster's rank in one of the three occupations and a slightly lower rank in the rest.

Maybe he could even soar higher if his ambition was high enough.

Looking at Jason with twinkling stars, Antalia asked the question she wanted to ask for the last few days since he met her father.

"Do you want to be my disciple? My father also said that he is interested in you, but he told me to not ask you anything regarding master-disciple relationships. I don't care about what my father said and it's probably nothing special to begin with.

Maybe dad wants to ask you too if you want to be his disciple. Wouldn't that be great?"

Antalia was full of ambition and determined while her eyes gleamed in anticipation

"Please think about my offer! I can provide you with a lot of information and resources and if you want, my dad and I can teach you all our knowledge together...Wouldn't it be great to have a master who is almost a Rank-6 in terms of forging and smithing in addition to a future Rank 5 alchemist?"

She said proudly not forgetting to show off her own and her dad's talent, but Jason was only smiling faintly

'If you only knew..' Jason thought and he could barely hold in his laughter.

Before he shattered her joyous time, he asked if he passed the exam, which she affirmed eagerly.

She only wanted to hear Jason approving her as master, but his next words shattered her dream immediately.

"Ms. Sharon, thanks for this kind offer but I have to reject it. I have other plans. Please keep in mind that you owe me a request from the Artisan tower"

Jason said before he took his calming potion back which he stored inside his storage device.

Antalia looked at him with a flabbergasted and depressed expression, not knowing what she did wrong or rather why Jason should reject her generous offer and she was about to rebuke his rejection, when a unanimous feeling approached her, preventing her from saying anything.

Jason noticed that and opened his mana eyes, only to see familiar mana fluctuations within the shadows, enveloping Antalia.

Shane didn't like the young busty woman next to Jason and after trying to lure his disciple over, he had to do something to release his anger, even though it was only a minuscule revelation.

With a slight amount of mana released, Shane caused Antalia to be unable to move around or even speak.

She wasn't hurt in any way and only restricted.

As such, Jason decided to let it go as he looked at Shane within the shadows before he turned towards the stairs he descended slowly.

If Jason was honest, he felt extremely disappointed in today's exams and even more so in his classmates.

From the initial 30.000 students, less than 10.000 had the required mana aptitude while less than 2.000 made the cut for the theoretical exam as they were too lazy or untalented to learn.

Even so, Jason hadn't seen a single proper forged item, concocted potion, or inscribed rune and everything seemed crude.

He wasn't sure if it was his high standard or the extremely low standard for the artisan occupations, but he couldn't help to sigh in regret.

'Maybe, the real talents already started with their forging or other lifestyle occupations some time ago? Why would they bother to show up at such a test, if they don't need the lectures?'



Maybe Jason wouldn't think so, if he didn't have the knowledge from his masters, which increased his standards by a large margin but fortunately he got to know them, causing his high interest in all Basic-artisan occupations.

Walking out of the slightly shabby building, Jason suddenly heard a voice below him.

"Good job brat! I've never thought that your first forged weapon and inscribed rune would come out this well.

But don't think too much of yourself!! You act way too slow and there were many flaws within your technique while the time you allocated for every step was also wrong.

There is much for me and Dalia to do once you finish reading the books about everything theoretical.."

Obviously, it saw Shane speaking and he praised Jason before he complained about him, causing Jason to cringe a little bit.

But even so, Jason had to acknowledge that his first work was crude while it was still valuable for his practice experience.

Jason knew that Shane only wanted to motivate him more, but he felt that Shane could use better words to make him strive for more.

Nevertheless, after today, Jason's desire for artisan-occupations increased, even the exams were boring.

With his first try in the different occupations, he found out the perks from each of them.

Jason found alchemy the easiest as of now due to its demand for focus and mana control, while forging took most of his time and strength.

Inscribing was somewhat between the two other occupations

Shane was inside Jason's shadow and he wondered how that was possible

'Is this an ability? But from which soulbond? Definitely not from the Death-Knight and neither from the bane of the thousand eyes wolf...Did he study his Darkness affinity?...or is it something else? It can't be a mixture between darkness and spatial affinity, right?' Jason was extremely astonished and that was exactly what Shane wanted from his disciple.

The desire to find out more about the world which changed completely after the mana outbreak.

As long as Shane awoke this desire within Jason, his whole potential could erupt.

In addition to the unimaginable potential of Jason's black origin flame, he had Artemis, the evolving snowflake owl, whose potential was also unknown.

Shane wondered how far Jason could go with enough time.

Reaching his own rank shouldn't be a problem as long as Jason survived and maybe humanity would even be able to fight to conquer their main continents once again.

As long as mankind united, recapturing the other mainlands should be possible with enough time passing.

Jason's desire was still not completely awoken but his interest in all kinds of affinities heightened causing him to wonder what he could do with his own fire ability he received from the black origin flame.

Abilities could be described as imprinted knowledge from soulbonds' special traits, at least that was what the books, Shane and Dalia gave him, said

Seron's mutated slime was able to store high amounts of mana and release them with an explosive speed, which was in return the mana injection.

As long as the mutated slime stored enough mana, Seron could even rival magus ranks with his vast amount of mana.

But to store enough mana to rival a magus rank, while the mutated slime was at the evolved rank, would take some time and it wasn't worth the effort one had to go through as one was still physically weaker and without liquefied mana which amplified one's mana output by a large margin

There was still much for Jason to learn and he talked with Shane for some time before they parted ways, as Jason went towards the forest to gather and refine mana.

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Chapter 144 - The Advantage Of Resources!

It was already afternoon when Jason found a decent spot with a high mana flow within the forest.

He wasn't sure if he would be able to break through until the next day but Jason wanted to give it a try.

The only thing he wanted to do in between was practicing the Heaven's Hell technique.

Taking out a bunch of grade-1 mana stones, Scorpio jumped around happily on his shoulder, before he leaped on his lap.

Without delaying any further, Scorpio curled up and began absorbing the released mana.

Looking at this, Jason smiled joyously and began to lose countless threads from the mana stones around him at the same time.

Leading the mana within towards him in addition to the mana in his surrounding, a huge mass of foreign mana invaded his mana channels.

Circulating the mana within his cleansed channels was much easier after undergoing the baptism but the sheer amount of mana that invaded him was also higher forcing him to focus completely on circulating the mana within him before he injected into his mana core to annex it.

The feeling of circulating mana and annexing it into his mana core made Jason ecstasy and it was even better compared to the day.

Sitting between trees within nature, absorbing nature's mana besides the compressed mana within mana stones was refreshing and Jason felt immediately much more vigorous than before.

Jason didn't even know how much time passed and he only subconsciously noticed the sun going under.

His initial plan was to practice the heaven's hell technique now, but that was unimportant for Jason right now, as he felt his body being slowly filled up with the mana in his surroundings and the addicting feeling enveloping him, filling his eyes with desire.

Instead of annexing the whole mana into his mana core, Jason also decided to fill up his mana eyes more, which he previously neglected.

But that would change now.

With his thousands of mana stones inside his spatial store, he had more than enough mana to fill his mana core and at the same time his eyes to a certain extent.

Furthermore, it had only been a week since he entered the Adept rank and with his cleansed mana channels, his passive mana gathering technique caused his mana core to be filled extremely fast.

It only took him a week to reach the barrier between the 1st and the 2nd Adept rank, which was extremely fast.

Normally one would need roughly a few months to reach each of the first three Adept ranks, considering that one possessed an average mana aptitude.

There were always differences between each individual and sometimes it would take longer or shorter.

In addition to the mana aptitude, the amplification from beasts was also an important factor as one had to fill a much larger mana core caused by the soul world's amplification increasing its size.

The average of youths in mana core ranks was that one needed slightly more than three to four years from the novice to the adept rank as the beginning was the most difficult with exploring the meaning of mana, how it worked, and how to circulate it without damaging the mana channels, while the average age for children to sense mana was 10.

Most children couldn't understand the importance of mana, as such, they were rather lazy with their mana absorption until they regretted it someday.

After one had entered the Adept rank, someone with an average mana aptitude would need roughly five years to enter the Expert rank.

From then on their range of an average mana aptitude changed and it was unknown how long one would need.

The amplification of soulbonds made exact researches almost impossible but it wondered Jason, that he only needed a week to almost completely fill his mana core at the 1st Adept rank with a size of a 4th Adept rank.

Maybe it was only thanks to baptism, but Jason estimated that his next breakthrough would take much longer, considering that not only his mana core would increase in size thanks to him entering the 2nd Adept rank soon, but Artemis evolution also played a big role.

Artemis' evolution was still a mystery for Jason but he was already excitedly waiting for her to come back to him.

Jason was still carefully circulating the mana within his mana channels and injected it into his mana core while time passed without him noticing that it was already dark outside.

Only when the mana he absorbed from the outside lessened, Jason opened his eyes once again.

The mana stones around him turned gray and couldn't be differentiated from normal stones anymore.

Looking around Jason's perplexed expression told more than a thousand words as he had no idea that it was already dark outside.

Messaging the Fler's, he notified them, that he wouldn't come back today because he believed that he would be able to break through into the 2nd Adept rank if he worked hard enough for the next few hours.

Taking a glance at Scorpio, Jason saw with astonishment, that Scorpio's exoskeletons gleamed faintly, and activating his mana eyes, he was taken aback to see an almost invisible small affinity seed being constructed

'This small fella is working hard, let's also work hard!!' Jason thought while he glanced at Scorpio.

Taking out double the amount of grade-1 mana stones than before, Jason once again loosened up mana threads, leading them right into him.

Groaning from the sudden surge of mana, he immediately began to sweat but with the help of his passive mana gathering and refining technique, actively absorbing the mana was much easier.

As such he could take the sheer amount of mana rather after adjusting for a short moment before Jason once again lost track of time.

Without him knowing, he had even completely forgotten to practice the Heaven's Hell technique which was rather important.

Overflowing with mana, his determination to absorb it increased even more, and Jason smoothly absorbed it into his mana core after he circulated it carefully through his mana veins.

It was almost a single movement, without much time wasted and the suction force of Jason slowly accelerated.

The mana in his surroundings began to enveloped him, separating him from the outside.

Compressing around Jason, the mana looked like a cocoon upon closer inspection.

While the cocoon grew in size, Jason greedily absorbed the mana from within, without feeling even a tiny bit tired.

Hours passed and the sun began to ascend, shining on a paper-thin cocoon, which enveloped Jason.

An even thinner membrane of impurities stuck to Jason's clothes and it was mostly the impurities his body generated after the baptism.

Opening his eyes slowly, Jason's golden eyes flicked vigorously with a tiny black flame shimmering far in the back, demanding to grow stronger as it sensed more and more soul energy within Jason's soul world core.

Standing up, he noticed the thin film of impurities enveloping him.

He didn't take off his clothes but turned into a black burning torch in order to ignite the impurities on him which immediately incinerated like his clothes.

With this, he wouldn't have to wash up immediately.

Looking at the quantum watch, he noticed a few messages and also the time.

It was 5 am and Jason nodded his head.

Inspecting his own body, he could only laugh out loud, still naked.

He had reached the 2nd Adept rank only one week after he had entered the 1st Adept rank which could only be described as fast.

Even though he noticed that his mana core wouldn't be able to keep up with this speed, he was still extremely proud of his achievement.

Inspecting the size of his mana core, Jason knew that he was infinitely close to the 5th Adept rank, while his physique was also extremely close to the 5th Adept rank.

Scorpio woke up from its affinity seed construction because Jason threw him from his lap unconsciously.

Seeing its master laughing while being naked was a funny sight and Scorpio transmitted what it saw to Jason.

Struck by a lightning, he immediately stopped moving.

Clothes appeared out of his spatial ring and he wore them, without caring about Scorpio's weird sounds, trying to imitate a laughter in his mind.

Ignoring Scorpio, Jason entered the soul world as nonchalant as possible.

Around Artemis there was only a thin sheet of mana and snowflakes and Jason could faintly see Artemis' outlines which didn't seem to have changed that much.

'Soon!' Jason thought happily, as he went closer to his soul world core, which increased by one unit thanks to him breaking into the 2nd Adept rank.

With a soul energy of 18.2 units, Jason practiced the Heaven's Hell technique within 84 minutes, increasing it once again by 0.1 units.

It was already 6:30 am and before Jason did anything else, he replied to the messages from the Fler's group chat.



Everyone asked him why he stayed outside and only now did he reply that he cultivated through the night which eased the others' worries a lot.

It was not as if Jason was a relative of them but to the Fler's he felt comfortable, even though he knew almost nothing about them.

Jason knew that it might be foolish but his heart warmed up because they worried about him.

Even Mark was worried since the incident about last time's unannounced stay out was imprinted in his mind.

After the incident happened, Mark researched about the devilish valkyrie-shield fruit and the extremely shallow information was devastating, causing him to feel sorry for Jason, who had to endure such a terrible thing.

Mark also felt that Jason's ambition and determination were incomparable with anyone he knew, even his daughter who was a genius, wasn't that ambition to grow strong as Jason.

As such, each unannounced stay out would worry not only Mark but all family members, even though they didn't know what was going on.

They tried to distract themselves by reading books, absorbing mana, and sparring with each other but it was only partially helpful.

Sensing the Fler's genuine love and caring for him, he felt honored and warm around his heart.

He swore himself, that he would tell them more information the next time he would stay out, even though he couldn't tell them everything as he would probably stay with Shane and Dalia sometimes.

As such a slight tinge of guilt built up within Jason, before anything even happened.

Suddenly Jason's whole body cooled down and he shivered while his temperature decreased, visibly changing his appearance.

The surroundings temperature plummeted by a few degrees and a confused expression appeared on Jason's face, as his soul world began to shake violently.

"Little Princess, are you already done?" Jason thought with a bright smile on his ice-cold face.

GOD'S EYES

Chapter 145 - Chaotic Reunion

Jason's temperature further decreased, while Scorpio leaped away from him due to the unexpected cold.

Entering his soul world, he gazed at Artemis' hue which looked similar to her previous appearance.

The only difference he immediately noticed was that she grew in size.

However, he wasn't sure how much, as the sizes in the soul world were not necessarily right and without any measurement.

While the temperature around Jason plummeted further, he enveloped himself in a faint layer of flames in order to warm himself up.

Even though Jason awaited Artemis' evolution and arrival, she could have been a little bit more considerate!!

Thinking that he increased the heat of his black origin flame and waited patiently for the snowflakes around Artemis to disappear slowly.

Meanwhile, Scorpio didn't know where to go, as he didn't like the cold which caused him to detest entering the soul world as Artemis' evolution decreased the temperature within.

Now with Artemis, plummeting down the temperature around them, a magic circle appeared below Scorpio, as he appeared in the soul world.

Charging as far away from the snowflakes, the temperature within the soul world was more acceptable for it compared to Jason's surroundings.

Jason noticed that and smiled faintly, without averting his focus from Artemis within the soul world, as a pure white magic circle appeared in front of Jason with the size of 80 centimeters in diameter.

Fully leaving the soul world, Jason gazed shocked at the magic circle with a frown.

`Don't tell me...` Jason began to think as a gigantic white plumage appeared in front of him, leaving him with a shocked expression.

\*Creezch\* Was the only thing Jason heard as a wave of emotion overwhelmed him while the pure white plumage attacked him.

Jason knew it was Artemis but he was still shocked to see that not only had her size increased to a length of 1 meter from her tail feather to the head and a wingspan of 3 meters but also her eyes turned glacier-blue while two small pitch-black horns appeared above her eyes shocking him to the core.

Artemis' weight was now probably around 10kg but rather than seeing that as a problem, her plumage was extremely fluffy, suffocating Jason almost.

Laughing out with a radiant smile, he was extremely happy to have Artemis next to him once again, after a whole month passed.

It was a long time and he missed her dearly.

Somehow, however, Jason was disappointed because her evolution was more unspectacular than he previously thought but before the disappointment could spread through his body, he was attacked by a searing pain which suddenly emerged within his whole body, mana core, and even soul world core.

Everything seemed to burn and Jason cried out in pain, causing Artemis to look at him worriedly.

Her evolution took so long because she wanted to take the most efficient way to increase her strength in order to help Jason out in getting stronger, causing her to digest the magical ranked mana core slowly, leading her genetic pool to change, but apparently, that wasn't well thought out.

Not only had Artemis evolved and amplified her strength, but she also created a more complete mana core in addition to an ice affinity seed within her mana core.

Jason had to fight with the sudden connection of an affinity, that was the complete opposite of his already existing black origin flame, but also with his physique and mana core becoming stronger and enlarging thanks to his soul world's amplification.

If that was everything, he could endure it easily, but Artemis' soul energy was much more than he had ever expected.

Right now Jason was forced to enter his soul world because his soul world core was trembling violently because Artemis' amplification of one-third of her strength caused the soul world core to get overwhelmed.

Holding it together with all his might, Jason's mind began to burn as his soul world core forcefully increased in size.

Without knowing how much time passed, he was still sitting in his soul world, while Artemis wanted to follow him due to her worry.

But it was impossible because Jason's soul energy was too low to store her within his soul world, causing her to feel frustrated.

She couldn't do anything to help Jason out which was worse as she saw sweat pearl dropping from his temples.

Wiping them away with her pure white feathered wings was the only thing Artemis could do right now as she waited patiently.

Hours passed and the worry in Artemis' glacier-blue eyes turned even more distinct when she noticed that Jason's pale face.

He seemed to be in pain and she couldn't do anything to help, rather than that she was the cause of his pain which traumatized her somehow.

Right now, Jason could barely hold the soul world core together in order for it to not shatter, and right after that happened, the soul world core slowly stabilized, causing Jason to sigh in relief.

Unexpectedly his soul energy has increased to 46,7 units, which was an increase of 2.5 folds.

Astonishing enough, Artemis evolved into a peak-awakened beast with a soul energy requirement of 90 units.

Jason wasn't even sure what kind of beast she was except her race being an owl.

She had suddenly gained blue gleaming eyes, two horns on her head appeared and her size tripled.

In addition to all of that, Artemis seemed to have gained a huge amount of infused mana in her blood, turning her even stronger.

Even though her almost complete mana core had only the strength of a peak-awakened beast, Jason could see and feel that she might even be able to fight evolved beasts head-on with her affinity.

'WAIT!' Jason shouted in his head, which felt as if it was mashed. 'She is about to construct an almost complete mana core? How?' Jason bombarded himself with questions and it seemed like Artemis not only digested the core but also used the liquefied mana within the core to slowly establish her own mana core, enhancing it.

'Does that mean feeding Artemis more liquefied mana cores will cause her to meet the requirement as a magical beast?! After a single evolution?!'

He was not sure about this though, but Artemis' evolution was just too chaotic and Jason wasn't sure what to think of her...How was he so fortunate to meet her, and what exactly was her mutation?

Jason didn't know and his head still burned from the searing pain thanks to the soul world core almost shattering.

Thinking about the possibility to complete Artemis mana core with a few magical beast mana cores seemed just too easy and he told himself to purchase a few magical ranked mana cores solely for the purpose to feed them Artemis.

His soul world was still ravaging and when it ended, Jason left the soul world, where he could immediately notice Artemis looking at him with a gloomy and distressed expression.

Jason felt her emotions but rather than being angry with her, he felt overjoyed that Artemis evolved into such a gorgeous existence which he showed her.

The amplification he received from Artemis was still not complete, because his soul energy was not enough, but it was still much more than he thought.

Thanks to her shared strength, Jason's mana core size and physique had reached the 5th Adept rank with quite a bit of surplus.

Artemis leaped towards Jason, attacking him with her plumage, while he caressed her.

Looking at the time, Jason noticed that there was not that much time left for him as he stood up with slight difficulties.

Unfortunately, he had to be present to the special combat class, but that didn't mean he wasn't allowed to be too late!!

It was probably not allowed but Jason couldn't care less right now.

He found it unlikely that many would dare to challenge him this week, as only someone within the special combat class was allowed to do that for now.

Only three days later once the new week began were students outside the special combat class allowed to challenge the students within the special class, as long as they had enough lace points.

Furthermore, the challenge was only accepted within the special combat classes, as such every student had to be present in the afternoon from Monday next week on.

Artemis had finished her evolution and Jason couldn't care less about others right now.

Sitting on the ground, he caressed her, while Artemis laid on his lap, filling it completely.

'I hope she won't increase too much in size, otherwise, I won't be able to take her with me all the time.'  
Jason thought worried and Artemis heard him before she transmitted a thought that calmed him down.

Apparently, she would grow in size, but she could adjust her size to her current size, which was the smallest form she was able to adjust to.

As of now, it was also her largest size, as she was still a youngling in her new evolution, which shocked Jason.

'Would she really be able to reach the magical rank without evolving another time?' Jason thought in his mind with a bright smile on his face.

He missed her so much and finding out that she wouldn't leave him in the near future for another evolution, caused him to be overjoyed.

GOD'S EYES

Chapter 146 - Why Is He So....weak?

More than half an hour passed before Jason decided to stand up.

The special combat class started a few minutes ago, but Jason straightened his back in a nonchalant manner before he turned into the combat arena's direction.

Artemis with her large body was squeezing herself on Jason's shoulder and he tried to take a good look at her.

Her plumage was pure white and, while the horns on her forehead were pitch-black in contrast.

Considering her previous black eyes, Artemis had now blue eyes and the infused mana in her blood was much higher in purity compared to before.

But her mana core was odd and Jason only knew that Artemis was at the peak-awakened rank while her soul energy requirement was at 90 units.

From Artemis pure combat prowess, Jason thought she might be able to defeat low-evolved beasts thanks to her affinity in addition to the constant supply of mana that was infused into her blood.

It was only weird, that Jason had never heard of a one-meter long owl race with blue piercing eyes and black horns.

As such he didn't really know anything about Artemis' racial limits, except the things she transmitted him.

From her ice affinity, Jason could tell that it was at least at the peak-awakened stage, which caused him to wonder if the ice affinity would grow with Artemis, or if that was the peak of her racial limit.

The latter was rather unlikely and Jason smiled, feeling Artemis' weight on his shoulder, while he walked towards the combat arena.

Jason was more than half an hour late for the special combat class, which attracted some attention because he was the highlight of the first huge special combat class sparring.



With his low mana core rank, he 'easily' defeated the 6th affiliated Vanguard school top 2 first-graders, using his special trait eyes with the support of Seron Gier, who was also seen as a mystery by everyone.

Seeing Jason walking into the combat arena with Artemis on his shoulder, everyone looked at him with variations of different expressions.

Astonishment, anger, ambition, determination, fear, and multiple more.

They were astonished to see Artemis on his should because they never saw such an owl race.

Furthermore, it was normally forbidden to summon one's soulbond out of the soul world during lessons, once they reached a certain height.

Small soulbonds would not attract the attention of others or hinder them in any way but Artemis radiated a noble and elegant aura which attracted the attention of her surrounding subconsciously.

Traces of anger could only be seen in the top students' eyes and they couldn't accept that the student with the weakest mana core rank of their special combat class was able to defeat their best student.

This was unacceptable for them but even if that was the case, fear made up the majority of their emotions, causing them to not challenge Jason or Seron needlessly.

They were scared to end like Milo and Bella.

The slightly weaker special combat class students that would most likely be replaced in a month remembered Jason's fight against someone seven levels above his own rank, motivating them while ambition and determination slowly accumulated within them.

Without ambition and determination, they wouldn't be able to reach higher mana core realms, as such they had to find someone they could look up to.

Jason's spar the day before was charismatic and dominating, causing them to feel a certain reverence towards Jason, filling them with their ambition and determination.

When he walked down to the combat arena, he tried to test out his newly obtained ice affinity, but it was much harder than he expected.

Nothing really worked the way he wanted and he could only lament that his fire origin flame affinity was much easier to handle.

This was probably because the black Origin flame soulbond was at the same time his affinity, which would listen to his transmitted thought, while Jason had to learn more about the ice affinity he received from Artemis by himself.

It seemed logical and Jason decided to train his ice and fire ability more in the future, as he could still see many areas of improvement everywhere.

His affinities were strong enough for him to defeat someone with higher mana core ranks and his ice affinity was at the peak of the awakened rank, while his black fire affinity was at the mid/late-evolved rank.

With that, he might even be able to defeat someone at the later adept ranks, as long as his proficiency with his affinities heightened, even though his mana core rank and physique were much weaker.

Not everything depends on one's physique and mana core rank, otherwise one wouldn't learn tactics, knowledge about landscapes, weaknesses, and strengths of one's enemies, and contracting soulbonds with strong affinities would become useless.

Till noticed Jason being late, but he didn't consider that as important after seeing Artemis on his shoulder.

`What owl-beast is that?` He wondered because he had never seen an owl-like Jason's soulbond, turning him curious.

Jason walked towards him before he said

"Mr. Greil, I'm sorry for being late, Artemis' evolution finished this morning, and adjusting to her amplification turned out to take longer than expected."

But instead of caring about that, Till noticed something else which astonished him.

"You already broke into the second Adept rank?" he asked bewildered, clearly remembering that Jason broke into the Adept rank only a week ago.

Nodding faintly, the surrounding students began to gossip, but it wasn't even closely comparable to their teacher's astonished face in addition to Seron who heard what his master asked.

Scanning Jason's mana core Seron's eyes widened as he asked himself in shock, what kind of beast Jason was.

`I need to work harder!` Seron thought, clearly remembering that Jason only broke into the Adept rank a week ago.

The difference between the first and the second Adept rank was always seen as the first step into cultivation, as the difference between the Adept ranks began to widen, in addition to the soulbonds amplification.

One could say that everyone followed a different path, considering what kind of beast they could contract and if they wanted to follow the path of a larger mana core size or a stronger physique.

Some tried to maintain a sole mana core size increase with small physique enhancements from their soulbonds to use their affinity in a larger variation, while others focused more on their physique with all of their different paths, like agility, endurance, strength, and so on.

Most parents told their children stories about wizards ruling the elements, warriors destroying mountains, and many more different paths one could take, as the number of soulbonds one could contract was numbered.

Being an allrounder was extremely difficult with a low amount of space for soulbonds within one's soul, as such it was better to be the best in a single field in order to defeat beasts and enemies in this way, while the soul-awakening could also prevent certain paths, by awakening a physical soul without being compatible with any element.

There were always people following multiple strengthening paths thanks to their high soul energy and soulbond space, but Jason could be considered as an exception.

If his soul energy was also vast in addition to his current soul, Jason would probably be the top of the Vanguard school of all grades, without even the need for anyone to reconsider it.

After Jason finished talking to Till, who looked a little bit complicated at him, he saw Seron.

Greeting each other, Jason introduced his first soulbond Artemis to Seron, who could only weirdly greet her back.

'Why is there a need to introduce his soulbond?' Seron thought in his mind but he didn't say it out loud, because some connections between soulbonds and their contractor were special, causing them to be like Jason.

Challenging Seron to a fight, Jason wanted to figure out more about his ice affinity.

Walking towards the combat area, Jason and Seron attracted a lot of unwanted attention, but there wasn't much for them to do against it, as they were seen as the most threatening opponents in this whole special combat class, even though Jason was only at the 2nd Adept rank while Seron was at the 3rd Adept rank.

Their physique and mana core size was roughly the same, with Jason being only slightly stronger after he received the amplification provided by Artemis.

Jason was already halfway through towards the 6th Adept rank, while Seron was on point at the 5th Adept rank in both mana core size and physique, which wondered Jason.

His soulbond was a slime without any enhancement in physique normally, but somehow he still increased his physique.

But it didn't really matter and Jason stood opposite Seron, who radiated a distinct fighting spirit.

Waiting for the AI to start the spar, Jason already circulated mana within him, in order to test out his ice affinity, while Artemis sat on the bench, looking around with curiosity.

When the signal rang out, Seron exerted his floating sky technique to the fullest as his speed accelerated from zero to 100% within a moment.

This move was something Seron had thought of and previously his speed would only slowly increase but now with his explosive increase of speed, he would be able to overwhelm Jason.

His eyesight was extraordinary and he could easily follow Seron's path but the problem he had to face right now was different.

'How do I erect an ice wall or something like that?' He asked himself with an odd expression as Seron appeared in front of him with his sword thrust forward.

Releasing his ice affinity with all his might, the only thing that happened, was a large mass of crackling ice particles spreading out from his hand preventing anyone from seeing both Jason and Seron clashing with each other.

Suddenly, the surrounding turned silent and the only thing that could be heard was the AI announcing.

[Winner: Seron Gier]

Everyone could only look at the ice mist in front of them weirdly.

'Why was Jason defeated so quickly? Why is he so weak? Was something wrong?'

Nobody could understand anything at all and even Seron who's sword almost pierced Jason looked at him dumbfounded with question marks in his eyes.

"Ups," Jason said with a childish smile as he looked at Seron "that was my fault!"

GOD'S EYES

Chapter 147 - Comprehending Ice

Even though Jason expected his proficiency with the ice affinity to be garbage what happened was ridiculous.

He wanted to erect an ice wall but what came out was an explosion of ice particles forming an ice cloud around the two of them.

The only thing it was useful for, was to prevent anyone from seeing what happened inside but neither did it protect him from Seron's sword nor could he do anything with it.

Expecting to form at least a crude wall was a dream to him and only now did he understand why it was so hard for normally procured affinities to control and use.

His origin flame was an exception and Jason relied on his experience from there only to be completely betrayed.

Standing up slowly, he could feel more than one hundred pairs of eyes staring at him and they were full of ridicule and amusement.

Jason, they praised, admired, and even feared for his fight the day before was defeated with a single strike, unable to do anything at all.

Some even began to suspect that their sparring against Milo and Bella was fake if the eerie and monstrous killing intent Jason released wasn't real.

The whole situation turned awkward and some youths began to laugh, happy to see Jason being defeated, while others decided to mind their own business and train themselves in order to survive the next few months until the Big-Three tournament would start.

Once Jason stood firmly on the ground, Seron gazed at him weirdly, not knowing what was going on.

"Sorry, Seron... I wanted to test my newly obtained ice affinity and it seemed like I was too impatient. I would have never imagined that it would be this difficult to handle an affinity"

Jason explained and Seron could only nod. He didn't have an elemental affinity as of now, but his master told him that it was extremely difficult to learn an affinity and it will take some time to understand even the basics.

Using an affinity the way one wanted was even more difficult and it would take even longer to learn how to handle one's first affinity.

Learning the second, third, or even more affinities would become much easier because one would roughly understand what to pay attention to.

Jason wondered how long it would take him to learn how to handle the ice affinity and he was even more curious how the following affinities would work.

From his knowledge about his soul world, it seemed as if he could be able form a contract with whatever beast he wanted to, without any exception.

This could be considered good but the problem was, that Jason didn't have enough time to learn every affinity.

Circulating mana within his mana channels, Jason slowly activated his ice affinity with the desire to form an icicle and it seemed to work until his focus lessened while the frail constructed icicle fell to the ground shattering into thousand pieces.

`This is really difficult` Jason thought as he ignored Seron who still stood next to him inside the combat arena.

Trying out multiple different shapes with his ice affinity, Jason seemed to get the hang on it pretty fast and Artemis, who was shocked about her master being beaten landed on his shoulder.

She transmitted him multiple thoughts, giving Jason tips on how to handle the ice-affinity and with her instructions, he could already form a stable icicle only 30 minutes later.

Throwing it towards the ceiling its velocity seemed to be slow while the might behind his attack was already decent.

But it shattered way too easily and wouldn't even penetrate into thick skin, which bothered Jason.

It wasn't bad that his icicle shattered as it could deal additional damage but it should only shatter once he infiltrated his opponent's body, creating much more lethal damage.

Deep in thoughts, Jason completely lost track of time and Seron decided to leave him alone inside the combat arena, while Till picked him up to take him outside the arena with his mana enveloping him.

Distracting Jason right now would be extremely bad as he seemed to have entered a fully focused state, where one's comprehension heightened to a certain extent.

Artemis still provided him with pictures, the feeling and thoughts and her input astonished Jason, as she had never used her ice affinity in front of him.

Nevertheless, she seemed to be proficient with the ice affinity and Jason got the hang of the basics much faster than he estimated.

While the other special combat class sets looked at him with ridicule and amusement, Seron and Milo were passionately fighting against each other.



Milo overwhelmed Seron slightly due to his high mana core rank but Seron's mana injections balanced the fight out, causing them to be in a stalemate.

Hours passed and the special combat class was almost at the end when Artemis flew back to the bench with Jason waking up from his deep comprehension.

He thought that using his ice ability all the time would improve his proficiency and his sub-area with the passive mana replenishing, was immensely helpful to provide him with enough mana to balance his consumption.

Understanding the basics of his ice affinity thanks to Artemis' guidance, Jason was once again ready and prepared to fight back with all his might.

Walking towards Seron, his golden eyes had a whitish trace, as his ice affinity was used constantly, without wasting any mana.

Feeling the ice affinity was one important aspect to learn how to control a newly obtained affinity.

It was like Jason gained another set of muscles and learning how to move and use them was important.

His surrounding was slightly cooler compared to the rest of the arena and his eyes spread a coldness, causing goosebumps to appear on students that looked straight into his eyes.

Seron and Milo were still in a stalemate when they noticed Jason walking towards them.

Seeing how confident Jason walked towards them, Seron immediately knew that he comprehended something important, while Milo was not exactly sure how to behave in front of Jason.

His exceptional gut feeling still told him to follow Jason, but today's fight was extremely embarrassing and Milo wasn't sure if he should put his pride over the gut feeling.

But seeing Jason's confidence, Milo was sure that his gut feeling had to be true.

Standing in front of Seron and Milo, Jason wanted to fight both of them at once, but if he was to do that, he would only be beaten up and it was better to avoid that for now, even if the pressure would help his combat prowess to soar.

In the beginning, he wanted to fight Seron, but when he saw Milo's wind affinity and speed, he changed his target to Milo.

"Let's fight, Milo!" Jason said before he nodded to Seron, who stepped back.

It was not that Jason didn't want to fight Seron, but he understood that Milo was the better training partner for now, while Seron and Milo couldn't pressure the other party enough in order to squeeze out their potential.

In Seron's opinion, Jason was the best sparring partner for him, as his strength couldn't be underestimated.

A few weeks ago, he had to restrict his mana core and physique by a large margin but now he was able to fight Jason with all his might and special techniques he was only barely able to control.

This could be considered a godly feat and Seron was even jealous of Jason's fast increasing combat prowess, causing him to work even harder since he met Jason.

Due to this, his mana absorption and refining speed accelerated by a large margin.

Standing roughly 30 meters apart from each other, Jason gazed at Milo with his 7th Adept rank mana core.

His physique and mana core size was already at the 9th Adept rank, indicating that he contracted an evolved beast which gave him his evolved ranked wind affinity.

It surprised him that Milo and even Bella were only at the 6th affiliated school but it was most likely because of their background or something like that.

The 6. Affiliated schools were only namely divided into weakest to strongest and it was only a coincidence that the 6th affiliated school was considered the weakest, which was mostly the case because the more students from average households with high potential went there.

Nevertheless, there were still prodigious talents standing out from the common grounds, climbing up the social ladder with their mana aptitude and soul rating.

It was rare but happened often enough to consider the first class of the 6th affiliated school comparable with the main Vanguard weaker classes.

As such, defeating Class 1 was as if Jason defeated the main school's weakest class, causing Jason to be extremely satisfied with his current results.

Nevertheless, striving for more was a must for him and his unbending determination could be seen gleaming in his eyes, as he stared at Milo, while the AI started the countdown for their spar.

Issuing the start of their fight, Milo immediately enveloped himself with a thick layer of wind transmuted mana, while he executed his wind affinity movement technique.

Crossing a distance of 30 meters was nothing for him with his physique at the 9th Adept rank, in addition to exerting his movement technique to the fullest, while being enveloped with wind transmuted mana.

Trying to attack Jason from the side Milo didn't attack his opponent from the front when the surrounding temperature plummeted.

Suddenly Jason's body was covered by a thick ice wall that increased in size, directly shooting towards Milo.

GOD'S EYES

Chapter 148 - Ice And Fire

Jason summoned a spiked wall that charged towards Milo who was proficient in dual-dagger, and the five-meter-tall spiked wall charging towards him, which was unexpected.

In Jason's view, this wall was extremely crude as it was just a lump of almost 30% of his mana reserves forced together into a single attack.

Milo twisted his body and landed five meters apart from Jason, who looked at him, only to notice that the left and right sides were completely sealed off by ice walls giving Milo a single path left to attack.

Straight towards Jason!

What Milo didn't know was that the walls, Jason manifested after using the large lump of ice to distract him, were only thin walls one was barely unable to see through.

Nevertheless, through the pressure Milo gave himself, he didn't even consider trying to break out of the encasement as he charged straight at Jason with his movement technique still exerted to the limit.

Jason smiled lightly as the white tinge in his eyes was replaced by a black flame as he used another 30% of his mana to form six hand-sized fireballs he threw towards Milo one after another, slowing the shocked Milo down.

Suddenly Jason vanished from Milo's view right as the last two black fireballs flew simultaneously at him.

Severing the two black fireballs, Milo was barely able to sense something rushing past him, as goosebumps spread all over his skin.

Milo only felt a slight cooling sensation on his neck, as cold steel pressed on it, when the AI announced the result.

[Victory, Jason Stella!]

Everyone was astonished as Jason's control over his ice affinity suddenly increased by leaps and bounds, ignoring the normal struggle everyone had to go through.

But for Jason, he didn't think that it was something special, as his brain was refined, increasing his capabilities to an extreme high, while Artemis guided him with the sensation and memories she seemed to have inherited when she evolved.

Furthermore, looking closer, Jason's ice affinity was still crude and not very detailed or refined, as the big, spiked ice wall was just a lump of mana pressed together by his ice affinity without a high resistance and at most capable to shock someone, while the other two walls that sealed off Milo's path were almost thin enough to see through.

Using his fire ability, Jason knew he couldn't hide it anymore but this was only a small problem because he already showed his black origin flame at the Artisan practical exam.

As such revealing the black fire affinity wouldn't be considered so bad, even though Jason didn't have a hidden trump that nobody knew left.

This could be considered a minuscule issue but nothing really threatening, while his reputation in addition to his dominance was once again showcased.

He had to do that in order for other classmates to fear him at least slightly once rumors would begin to spread.

In order to not be challenged by every Tom and Jerry, Jason had to show his dominance and Milo was the best target for this, as he was the second strongest student at the 6th affiliated Vanguard school.

In the end, he only won because Milo underestimated his ice affinity while he didn't know about his fire ability but that didn't really matter right now, because more than hundred pairs of eyes stared at him with admiration, jealousy, fear, and also anger, as they couldn't believe Milo lost once against Jason once again, indicating that the spar a day before wasn't luck.

Without the surprising aspect in his attack, Jason wouldn't have been able to beat Milo with his own speed, because of the gap between someone with a physique and mana core size of a 5th Adept in comparison to someone with a physique and mana core size of a 9th Adept.

The difference was vast but tactics and the perfect usage of affinities were apparently enough to overcome the difference to a certain degree.

In a head-on spar, Jason would definitely lose with his current capabilities and he knew that but it didn't change his crazy combat prowess to fight someone a few levels higher than himself.

Initially, Jason was only a 2nd Adept rank but after obtaining the baptism from the black origin flame in addition to Artemis' and Scorpio's amplification through the soulbond, Jason's physique and mana core size were already halfway on their path towards the 6th Adept rank, which was an amplification of almost 4 levels.

Fighting someone four levels higher was already amazing but Jason was even able to fight Milo, who is initially only a 7th Adept rank, crossing a gap of 5 levels solely because of his soulbonds benefits as his black origin flame was also Jason's soulbond.

Seron hadn't seen Jason using the black fire ability and he was shocked, while Antalia the rank-4 alchemist already informed Till about his students' special fire affinity with the request to force him to enter the Artisan tower, which caused him to smile dryly.

How could he force Jason into entering the Artisan tower, if he was Shane's student?? A being with prismatic crystal formed into his mana pool, indicating that he already solidified some of his mana within it.

In the end, this meant that Jason was the disciple of one of the most terrifying powerhouses of humanity, which was also called Sovereign rank, one rank above the Lord rank.

Till wasn't sure how many human Sovereigns existed but there hasn't been a single being that crossed this realm and entered the rank above, otherwise, this one being would most likely reign whole humanity, uniting, suppressing, or dominating it.

Nevertheless, Till couldn't force Jason into doing anything if he wanted to survive and live a peaceful life.

As such he ignored the rank-4 alchemist's request, while he read the message a few times.

'He can even cleanse the impurities within herbs and plants?... Jason..who the hell are you?' Till wasn't sure what to think of Jason anymore, as he shocked him one time after another, while the most shocking was when he refined his brain and created a sub-area while being at the novice rank, even though he helped out a lot.

It was extremely easy for Jason to control his fire ability as it worked perfectly fine with a single thought to his origin flame, while he had to instruct his ice affinity one step at a time, which slowed down the response to his wish by a small margin.

While his black origin flame responded immediately, the ice affinity took roughly 2 seconds, which was way too long, considering that it could decide if someone lived or died, including his own life

Jason was confident in increasing his proficiency with both his fire affinity and the ice affinity, while his ice affinity would need most of his focus.

Taking away his dagger from Milo's neck, he went outside, while the crowd of students looked after him.

Jason went towards Till, while Artemis landed on his shoulder.

It was already late and it wouldn't be long before the special combat class ended and Jason notified Till that he would leave before he walked out of the gym.

Right now, Jason thought that he had too many things to do and not enough time for everything.

He pondered what he should focus on the most, while other aspects had to be less prioritized.

Jason had to practice his affinities to a certain extent, hone his newly obtained martial skills in addition to his old ones, and workout in order to stay fit.

If that was everything, he would have already much to do but not only had he also the responsibility to read all the books about herbs, plants, ores, runes, forging, alchemy, and so on, for the time being.

Furthermore, Jason also had to increase his soul energy in order for Artemis to enter his soul world which was the most comfortable place for every soulbond beast.

Even without sleep, he would have a fully packed schedule and he could only frown displeased by how short a day was.

Practicing the Heaven's Hell skill three times a day, was a must which would already take more than 4 hours of his day, while honing his martial art techniques could be done in his afternoon class while sparring with all kinds of stronger special combat class students.

Practicing with his affinity in the morning and reading books in the evening would most likely work out, while he could workout in the morning and before sleeping.

With this tough timetable in his mind, Jason happily entered the shuttle in front of him with a pleased smile.

Having a rough schedule was definitely better than not knowing what to do and Jason would start using this schedule for the future if nothing important came into his way.

Inside the shuttle, he practiced the Heaven's Hell technique with his immense amount of soul energy, increasing his braiding and injecting time to increase to slightly more than 90 minutes.

The shuttle had long arrived in front of the Fler's house and Jason left it immediately after he finished up his practice.

Fortunately, the shuttle service wouldn't throw him out of the shuttle and it would only be paid more per minute he wasted.

Credits weren't a problem for him anymore and he entered the Fler's mansion with Artemis on his shoulders, attracting everyone's attention.

Not only was it important for them that Artemis finished her evolution but also that Jason seemed fine, even though he looked a little bit dirty right now.



Happily caressing Artemis, who transmitted her overjoyed emotions towards Jason, everyone looked at him with shock, as they sensed his mana core at the 2nd Adept rank.

Gritting his teeth, Greg felt extremely jealous, while even Malia could only look at Jason with shock in her eyes.

The whole Fler family had one thought in common as they saw Artemis' evolution into an unknown race in addition to Jason's extremely fast breakthrough rate.

[Monsters]

GOD'S EYES

Chapter 149 - Progress

Waking up early in the morning by a sharp sting in addition to suffocating within fluffy plumage could already be considered a part of Jason's life as he opened his eyes slowly.

Looking at Scorpio's 30-centimeter long body while Artemis stood next to him, Jason smiled brightly.

Not only increased Scorpio in size, but his exoskeleton's blue stitch got deeper, while he already broke into the awakened rank it longed for tens of days.

Artemis in front of Jason also increased slightly in size and was now 1.1 meters long while her wingspan reached a whooping length of 3.3 meters.

But even more shocking was that she already broke into the early evolved rank a few days ago, shocking the Fler's, Till, Seron, and even Jason himself.

It has already been a whole month since Artemis finished her evolution and fortunately enough, there was not a single accident during that time.

The only thing that Jason did was follow his strict schedule while accepting a few challenges from pseudo-powerful schoolmates of him within the special combat class lessons.

It was more like practice for Jason, but even that was helpful, as such he couldn't complain about receiving a few challenges.

Nevertheless, rumors about his strength went viral and everyone in school knew about his feat, causing them to disregard the idea of challenging him, exactly like Jason planned.

He prevented a huge hassle and could silently digest everything slowly.

From honing skills, to increasing his proficiency with his affinities in addition to practicing Heaven's Hell, everything went smoothly, which satisfied him.

Jason was happy over the last 30 days as he could silently read all books about smithing, alchemy, runemaster and so on which was the goal he desired.

But that wasn't everything that happened.

Jason never forgot to practice the Heaven's Hell technique for a single time over the last 30 days, causing his soul energy to increase by leaps and bounds.

But this was also thanks to Scorpio breaking into the awakened rank 10 days after Artemis finished her evolution.

Scorpio reached its limit a few days later with 15 soul energy units, causing Jason to be even more motivated to meet Dalia once again.

He wanted to increase Scorpio's limit in order for it to evolve or breakthrough without an evolution if that was even possible.

The most important reason for Jason to increase his soul energy by a few times was however, Artemis who provided him with a large increase in soul energy thanks to the amplification he received from his soul world.

On the 20th day after Artemis finished her evolution, she broke suddenly into the low evolved rank after digesting dozens of beast mana cores Jason provided.

With that, Artemis' soul energy increased to 130 units, which once again increased Jason's soul energy

It was only on the 25th day that Jason's soul world began to shake, for a while because it increased in size by a small margin, before he noticed that his bond with Artemis and Scorpio was strengthened as it seemed to be more solid.

Trying to figure out the cause of it, the most simple answer could have been Jason's soul energy reaching 100 units, which was a small threshold for one's soul energy.

Jason would have never thought that he would reach 100 soul energy units so soon and it was mostly thanks to Artemis that he achieved this feat.

Nevertheless, he was still more than glad to have reached this threshold and multiple days passed.

28 days after he broke into the 2nd Adept rank, Jason broke silently into the 3rd Adept rank, without the need of absorbing mana by himself.

It was solely thanks to the passive mana gathering and absorbing, that made it possible for him to achieve that, as Jason didn't use a single second to absorb mana from mana stones.

He had too many things to do at once and his mana core rank was the only thing he could passively increase without caring about it.

As such Jason neglected it and only when he broke through, he noticed that 28 days passed.

Breaking into the 3rd Adept rank without wasting a single second on gathering and refining mana after 28 days was extremely fast, even though it was rather slow for him if he actively absorbed it with more time.

Nevertheless, Jason could do so much in the meantime, that his combat prowess increased by a huge margin, while his soul energy reached 116.2 units.

Compared to before, this amount was extremely vast but it was still not enough for Artemis to fit in, as her required soul energy increased to 130 units, while Scorpio occupied 15 soul energy units.

Without having nurtured the black origin flame with a single soul energy unit, it was still at 0.01 soul energy units.

In total, Jason would need 145.01 soul energy units for Artemis to fit inside and it would still take some time for him to reach this threshold.

But even so, he was already much closer to his desired goal.

While most students with a high aptitude towards mana increased their mana core rank by at least one, some prodigious increased their rank by two ranks within a month due to their desire to become stronger, like Seron and even Greg, which was astonishing.

These two individuals were so shocked about Jason's achievements, that they could only work harder and strive for more in order to not get overrun by Jason who wasn't aware of their competitive spirit against him.

Jason was rather satisfied with Greg reaching the 6th Adept rank, which was an incredible accomplishment, considering that he broke into the 4th Adept rank around the corner when Jason broke into the 2nd Adept rank.

As such he barely needed one month to break through two ranks, which was only possible thanks to him absorbing nature's mana in addition to high-quality mana stones, day and night, without pausing for a long duration.

Jason gifted Greg a few high-graded mana stones, as he had more than enough for them at the moment thanks to Chen Sharon visiting him one morning unannounced.

This shocked the Fler's and even more so after they found out that he broke into the 6th Blacksmith rank, which was also called Grandmaster Blacksmith as the first human on Astrix.

When Chen came over to Jason's house in order to give him all required materials he exchanged for the cloud titanium anvil which was a pseudo-magic grade-3 item previously.

He was shocked to see that Jason lived in such a small house with a minor noble family and there wasn't even the faintest smell of a smithy, telling Chen that Jason required the ore and other items he required for something else.

But it wasn't for Chen to doubt Jason's behavior, as such, he went home after a short chat with Jason, without wasting too much of his time

The black-haired youth with golden eyes was still a whole mystery for him and he would rather be careful instead of doing something stupid.

After Jason received everything he asked Chen for, he wanted to gift all of the Fler's a bunch of grade-3 mana stones because he was still in their debt but Gabriella and Mark declined shocked, saying that the three of them would need them more than them, as they doubted that they would be able to increase their mana core rank by a lot.

And even if they could, the days with their best years with the highest potential were already over and it was better for the younger generation to use the limited amount of resources for themselves.

As such Greg and Malia reluctantly accepted Jason's gift.

Malia reached the 2nd master rank, while Greg reached the 6th Adept rank and it was also because of his gift, that it was possible but more important was their desire to get stronger, as they noticed that Jason seemed to have met someone powerful that could nurture him.

Otherwise, why would Jason have so many grade-3 mana stones spare?

This shocked them and they could only frustratingly absorb mana day in and out, trying their best that Jason wouldn't be able to overrun them someday.

Greg's physique was even tougher than Jason's due to his physical soul amplification in addition to his mid-evolved soulbond Taurus.

Even though Greg's physique was stronger and tougher than Jason's, he was faster and could use three affinities, thanks to Scorpio producing an awakened poison affinity, that was rather useless for right now.

Nevertheless having an affinity was better than not having one and Jason was glad that Scorpio worked hard in order for him to receive more possibilities to fight against opponents.

Unfortunately, an awakened poison affinity was rather useless for him at the moment, as his other two affinities were both at the evolved rank, causing much more lethal damage.

With Jason advancing to the 3rd Adept rank in addition to Artemis and Scorpio's breakthrough, Jason's physique and mana core size reached the 7th Adept rank, turning him into a beast among the 3rd Adept ranks within the 6th affiliated school.

It was still morning but today was very important as one month passed since the special combat class was established, allowing all affiliated schools and even the main school to challenge everyone within the special combat classes.

Jason knew that the 6th affiliated school would most likely be seen as parasites from some nobles as he made himself ready to go to school earlier than he would normally go.

GOD'S EYES

Chapter 150 - First Wave

After Jason worked out in the morning and washed up, he just ate a small breakfast, before he called the shuttle that drove him to school.

Practicing the Heaven's Hell technique, his soul energy increased almost by a whole unit causing him to grin widely, as he left the shuttle arrived in front of school.

It was still early in the morning and previously he wanted to meet Shane and Dalia now, as he finished all required books, but he received a message from them, saying that he should come the day after, which soured Jason's mood by a lot.

The only contact he had with the two of them was the exchange of a spatial ring he received from Till with the commission from the goblin basement.

Jason hoped they would talk at least for a few minutes but Shane only appeared in front of him, took the spatial ring, and disappeared, completely disregarding his existence, which frustrated him and made him extremely angry.

And now, they wouldn't even meet up with him? Were they really his masters? Jason was extremely infuriated but he had to calm down as the temperature around him fluctuated by increasing a few degrees before it plummeted almost to zero degrees within a single second.

He forgot that he practiced with his fire and ice affinity by utilizing both of them all day long.

With his outburst of emotions, the control over his affinities became unstable, causing them to be released, but fortunately, Jason was in the open and not somewhere inside.

There was still some time left before the special combat class would start and today, Jason would have to work extremely hard, if he was to be challenged by some students from other affiliated schools.

One couldn't say that he was scared and rather than that, he felt motivated and even excited to show his progress to others.

Over the last month, Jason's proficiency with his ice affinity soared and reached the familiar proficiency, while his black origin flame reached the experienced mastery.

With enough mana supplied, Jason was able to do almost everything he wanted with his black origin flame, while the control over his ice affinity was still relatively rough, even more so after Artemis broke into the low-evolved rank, as his ice affinity increased equally.

The affinity seed would change if its strength increased or also decreased which was also possible if the contracted beast shattered its affinity or degenerated it by digesting a magical treasure with the exact opposite elemental affinity, which was a fire affinity in Artemis case, and the proficiency would in return lessen by a certain degree.

As such, Jason would have to work hard to practice with both affinities, because was sure that they would increase in power with him.

The black origin flame would evolve into a tier-1 origin flame somewhen in the future, while Artemis' mana core was increasing steadily with her absorbing magical ranked mana cores.

Artemis was able to digest a whole magical ranked mana core within a week and her strength increased after she digested the third one.

The difference to before was, however, that Artemis didn't have to go to sleep in order to digest the violent mana from the magical ranked cores which was a huge benefit.

As such, Jason bought a bulk of magical ranked mana cores to provide enough for Artemis' future development.

The only thing that bothered Jason, was Scorpio's mood after it noticed that it reached the racial cap in addition to the increased limit it received from eating the holy white bacuri fruit.

This was devastating information for Scorpio and only after reassuring it, that Dalia was able to increase its potential, Scorpio calmed down.

Practicing with the two affinities inside him, Artemis pressured herself a little bit by flying through the forest with a decent speed in order to train her reflexes, movement speed while she adjusted to her strength with every day passing.

When it was lunchtime, Jason practiced the Heaven's Hell technique smoothly in 70 minutes which was insanely fast, considering that his soul energy increased by a few times over the last few weeks.



His soul energy was extremely pure and stable due to its multiple refinings every single day.

Smiling lightly, Jason ate something before he went to the combat arena.

Not even fifteen minutes passed before Jason saw a huge mass of students lingering in front of the combat arena, waiting for something or someone and a bad premonition build-up within Jason.

Walking towards the combat arena, the students in front of the combat arena gazed at him hostile, before they noticed his uniform in addition to his 6th affiliated class 54 emblem.

Seeing the emblem on Jason's uniform, the surrounding youths stared at him like hyenas and he immediately understood the situation in front of him.

Smiling brightly, he lifted his head and ignored the surrounding youths' whole existence before he walked into the combat arena, through the students' group.

And when Jason finally entered the combat arena, the predicted reaction came into play, as he could hear multiple loud voices complaining, stirring up chaos.

"What an a\*\*\*ole..."

"WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?"

"Class 54? Let's beat him up later!!"

Jason could only smile at their reaction but he was rather disappointed as he hoped for a more chaotic reaction.

Unfortunately, that didn't happen and Jason had to be satisfied with the somewhat slacking reaction.

Nevertheless, while walking through the masses of students, Jason noticed a few things which were interesting and anticlimactic at the same time.

Jason knew that the 6th affiliated Vanguard school was one of the weakest and it was noticeable by comparing the mana core ranks from the other affiliated school to theirs, but somehow the students he saw in front of the combat arena seemed extremely weak?

If he wasn't wrong, there didn't seem to be any of Vanguard's main school students among them, while multiple other affiliated Vanguard schools could be seen.

Nevertheless, most of them were at the 6th Adept rank, which was only one level above the average of their special combat class.

There were also stronger students at the 7th Adept rank, but the amplification they received from their soul due to the soulbond they contracted seemed lacking, while Jason only saw a few 8th Adept ranks and not a single 9th Adept rank.

Walking into their assigned combat ground, Jason saw Seron as the first one and his mana core at the 5th Adept rank could be seen brimming with energy.

Seron's rank increased by two levels over the past month but he was still at most on par with Jason's combat prowess more likely even weaker as Jason held back with his most lethal affinity attacks while Seron's did the same with his mana injections, even though he still used them.

Jason's increase in combat prowess was insane and Seron admired him for his persistence and endurance to hone his skills, train his proficiency and widen his horizon by reading for the whole day, which he couldn't do before.

Only after getting to know Jason, he began to understand what ambition and determination really meant, and seeing Jason's fast progress, Seron didn't want to be left behind, increasing his aptitude towards mana by a lot, as his ambition heightened.

After greeting each other, Jason looked at Till, who nodded at him as he was the last one to arrive before he turned towards the whole group as he announced.

"STUDENTS! Pay attention to everything in the next few hours... If any of you want to remain on their special combat class spot, be aware that you have to fight with all your might.

A single step might immediately throw you off..."

Turning to the closed combat arena door, he announced

"Al, open the door and let the first wave begin!" and the doors opened slowly, revealing a group of hungry hyenas, also called students.