

## **GODS' IMPACT 191**

### Chapter 191

Zach was genuinely surprised because he never expected Victoria to actually join Aria. But he was happy regardless.

Victoria placed her hand on Zach's face and moved her face close to kiss him, but she stopped when their lips were about to touch.

SIGH!

Aria sighed in disbelief and shook her head at Victoria as she said, "I knew you wouldn't be able to do it."

Victoria bumped her head on Zach's chest and muttered, "This is torture."

"Then you should become a masochist and get used to it since you will be seeing this every day, all the time once you join our party," Aria remarked with a grin on her face.

"Especially Aurora since she is Zach's favorite," she added.

Mentioning Aurora made Zach miss her even more.

"If Aurora was here, she would be sitting between you two..." he muttered with a distant smile on his face.

"Say, what's the reason she didn't come to the dungeon expedition? And why did you suddenly decide to marry her?" Aria asked with a curious look on her face, but then said, "It's okay if you don't want to tell, though."

"It's not that." Zach shook his head and said, "I just thought it would be better to show it to you rather than telling. Because it's hard to explain, and I suck at explaining."

After a brief pause, Zach uttered, "Aurora... she lost all her stats and skills."

"..." - Aria.

Victoria looked up at Zach's face and asked dumbfounded, "... what?"

Zach turned to Aria and said, "Do you remember eating crepes at Kayden's house?"

Aria nodded and said, "I don't know the names of the sweets, but there were a few varieties of them, yeah."

"When I was going to ascend to the first realm, Aurora wanted to ascend with me. She had already met the level requirements, but her physique was low."

"I was still stupid at that time and neglected Aurora's feelings assuming it was just temporary, but I had fallen for her by that time. I thought it would be better if she ascended at her own pace since that would be the best for her."

"I..." Zach let out a weary sigh and continued, "I decided to ascend without her, and I didn't even tell her because I didn't want her to feel betrayed."

"That's the exact opposite of what you were trying to do..." Victoria commented.

"I know. My stupidity has no limits," Zach scoffed softly. "But just as I was about to ascend, Aurora came. She told me everything."

"And that was...?"

Zach glanced at Victoria and asked, "Did you ever receive a quest where you were told to do something you would never do, and completing that quest gave you random rewards?"

Victoria nodded a couple of times before saying, "Yes."

"Aurora was given physique points as rewards. But instead of doing something, she made a promise—that was never to eat a crepe for her entire life," Zach uttered in a disdainful tone.

"Honestly, I was angry when I heard that considering how much she loved crepes. I was angry at myself too. But she didn't have time to think about it, so she made such a promise in a hurry." Zach lowered his gaze from Victoria and muttered, "The penalty for breaking that promise was that her stats and skills would reset to default."

"...!"

"So she lost everything," he completed.

"Then you should have brought her to the dungeon!" Victoria exclaimed. "We could have helped her."

"Her progress also reset, so she would have to start the dungeon from the first floor again." Zach sighed and continued, "I wanted to bring her to the dungeon with me, but she wasn't in the mood."

"Besides, she said I should join you since she didn't want me to upset you in order to please her," he said with a slight smile on his face.

"...thinking about her rival even a time like this... stupid..." Victoria mumbled quietly, but both Zach and Aria heard her.

"But I still don't understand how that led to you deciding to marry her all of a sudden?" Aria asked.

"She thought I would leave her behind and ascend without her. Actually, she wanted me to ascend with you because she didn't want to drag me down..."

"That idiot...!" Aria gritted her teeth and uttered out of frustration, "If I knew this was the case, then I would have smacked some sense in her."

"We can't blame her. She grew up in an environment where she was always surrounded by people. She got special treatment and what not. Her reaction and action were completely normal for her."

Even though Zach didn't like how Aurora wanted him to ascend without her, he still defended her. He understood her feelings, which was a sign that he was growing mature.

"She was scared to be alone. Then again, everyone is afraid to be alone," Zach muttered with a distant smile on his face.

However, upon looking at Aria's face, he regretted saying that.

Aria had been alone for thousands of years without any contact. She knew better than anyone how it felt to be alone.

Zach didn't know what he should say to cheer her up, so he gently squeezed her breasts and asked in a calm voice: "You okay?"

Aria nodded and said, "I am going to yell at her once we go back. But I wonder how she reacts when I kiss you in front of her."

"She will probably get horny..." Zach muttered with a soft scoff.

"That reminds me..." Aria kissed Zach on the lips and uttered in a low voice: "When are we going to do it?"

"Do what?" Zach decided to play dumb because he wanted Aria to say it.

"You know.... Make love...." Aria muttered with a little flushed face.

"I was going to suggest a threesome with Aurora once we go back home, but I think we shouldn't. I want to have normal sex on our wedding night, at least."

Zach smiled at Aria and said, "We can do it now, but I don't think this is the right time."

"Why?" Aria shot a glance at Victoria and said, "I don't really mind doing it here."

"That's not what I am talking about. We have to go out when floor 90 is cleared."

"...!" Victoria had forgotten the main goal of going into Aria's domain. She was there to call Zach and Victoria.

"It's already cleared! Let's go!"

Chapter 192 - Naming The Dragon

"It's already cleared! Let's go!" Victoria got off Zach's lap and stood on the throne. She wanted to jump down, but she didn't.

She turned to Zach and said, "I am scared to jump down. Can you carry me?"

Of course, that was a lie, and Zach knew that.

"Sure." Zach carried Victoria in his arms like a princess and jumped down.

Victoria smirked at Aria with a smug look on her face and kissed Zach on the cheek before saying, "Thank you."

"...!" Aria clenched her fists in annoyance and said, "Zach. I am also scared to jump down."

"...."

Aria spread her arms and said, "Carry me too."

"But... this is your throne, and I am sure you have got off thousands of times. Even I have seen you..."

Zach stopped speaking when he saw Aria pouting.

'She is so fun to tease! But hot damn! She looks so cute while pouting; second to Aurora, of course.'

Zach jumped on the throne, carried Aria in his arms, and landed beside Victoria.

Victoria and Aria glared at each other for a while, and Zach watched them with an amusing look on his face.

However, he couldn't enjoy it for much longer.

[Master, I have a request,] the dragon said to Zach.

"Yeah, what?"

[Can you name me too?]

"Umm.. isn't your name Malinda Edna?" Zach wondered with a puzzled look on his face, seemingly unable to comprehend the reason why she wanted Zach to name her. After all, no one would want to be called by a different name other than what they were named.

[I have reincarnated because of you. You are my benefactor and my Master. I exist to serve you, and I shall die to protect you. Please, name me and let me be your pet.]

The dragon said that with her utmost sincerity, and Zach couldn't help but wonder how unyielding her loyalty was.

Zach felt as though he didn't deserve it since he hadn't done anything for the dragon.

"Why... why are you so loyal to me?" Zach asked out of curiosity. "I haven't done anything for you. It's true that I helped you reincarnate, but honestly, it would have been anyone."

[If you think that, then I feel saddened.] The dragon uttered in a disdainful tone. She looked up at Zach and asked, [Am I not worthy of being your servant?]

"No, no. That's not it. You are misunderstanding something. I am overjoyed to have a dragon as my pet; I always wanted one. But I..." Zach let out a weary sigh and said, "I promise you, I will make sure to avenge your death and slay that masked player."

[I am happy to hear that. However, I would be happier if you named me.]

Zach pondered for a while to find a suitable name for the dragon, but he couldn't think of one.

He turned to Aria and said, "Do you want to name it?"

"Hmm..." Aria placed her hand on her chin and looked at the dragon for a while. "How about Avengon?"

Zach squinted his eyes at Aria and asked with a judging look on his face: "Did you must mix 'average' and 'dragon'?"

"That's how people used to name things thousands of years ago," Aria responded with a shoulder shrug.

SIGH!

"Can I name it?" Victoria asked Zach.

"Sure."

Victoria smirked after hearing that. She never forgave anyone and made sure to take her revenge by humiliating them. And now, the dragon was her prey.

Since the dragon ignored Victoria when she asked for directions, she was now going to take revenge on her by naming her something awful.

"How about... flame thrower?" Victoria suggested and smirked inwardly.

[Master, can I burn this woman into crisp and turn her into ashes?] the dragon asked in an annoyed tone.

"No, you cannot." Zach frowned his face at the dragon and Cerberus and asserted, "Neither of you is allowed to hurt my friends."

"Oh? So I am your friend?" Victoria asked with a knowing look on her face.

"That's what we are, right? Friends?" Zach quoted 'friends' with his fingers.

"You are not wrong, but you know I love you. So I want you to refer to me as your harem member," Victoria stated.

"But it's exciting that way," Zach stated. "Aurora is a princess, so my relationship with her is already exciting. Aria is a goddess."

'And my aunt!' he added inwardly.

"Aquarius is a mermaid and a princess. And Ruli is Aquarius' aunt, which is too thrilling."

Zach nudged Victoria and said, "Now, if you are my friend, we will have a relationship of friends with benefits— although only I am allowed to have that privilege, it's still exhilarating."



Victoria shook her head in disbelief and walked out of the portal after saying, "You sound more and more like your douchebag friend Shay."

"... I feel offended..." Zach muttered.

[Master, my name,] the dragon insisted.

"Uhh.. nothing comes to my mind right now. So let's think of one after we have cleared this dungeon expedition of 100 floors," Zach said in a calm voice.

"Maybe Aurora would suggest a good name," he wondered.

Zach looked at Cerberus and said, "Go back into my shadow. You are wasting my MP. I will call you when I need you."

Cerberus bowed down to Zach and said, [As you wish, my liege.]

After saying that, Cerberus went inside Zach's shadow.

Zach turned to the dragon and asked, "And... what will you do? You are too small to aid me in the fights. And I can't protect you when I am fighting."

[I will go into your shadow as well. Please, summon me if you need help with anything.]

After saying that, the dragon vanished into thin air.

Zach and Aria left the domain and met with everyone else. They passed through the portal and proceeded to the 91st floor.

'Wait for a little more, Aurora. I will be with you in a few hours.'

## Chapter 193 - The Last Floor

16 hours later.

[Floor 99 has been cleared! Proceed through the portal to enter the next floor!]

Zach glanced at Victoria, who looked anxious to pass through the portal.

Out of the 60 guild members (35 male and 25 female), 30 (17 males and 13 females) retreated as they ran out of MP and got exhausted because of long fights.

Now, only Zach, Aria, Victoria, and 30 guild members had left.

Zach patted Victoria's back and said, "You can retreat if you want to."

Victoria shook her head and said, "I am just anxious thinking what type of boss would be on the next floor. Since it's the 100th floor and there is a single boss, then it will be strong, right?"

"The 75th floor was different. And the boss was unbeatable by a player. So I don't think the next boss is going to be stronger than that. The bosses on the 95th floor were tough but not unbeatable," Zach asserted.

"But... what if the next boss is the same as the soul eater too?"

Zach shrugged his shoulders and said, "I don't know. That's why, you should retreat with your guild members."

"No."

Victoria turned to her guild members and said, "There are chances that the next floor can turn out like the 75th floor, so if any of you want to retreat, they can walk out of the other portal!"

The guild members glanced at each other as though they were considering retreating. It was a natural thing to do; everyone was afraid to die after all. And the worst death was to get obliterated by a monster for no reason.

After talking with each other for a while, 25 guild members walked forward and uttered, "We want to retreat."

"No problem." Victoria pointed her hand at the portal and said, "You may leave."

"Umm... will you be okay?" one of the female guild members asked.

Victoria smiled at her and said, "Don't worry about me."

She then looked at Zach and said, "I have someone who will protect me."

The 25 guild members left, and only five remained.

Victoria looked at them and said, "I will say this again; you can leave if you want to. There is no need to worry about me."

"My girlfriend died on the 75th floor. So I want to avenge her death by growing strong and defeating the gods with my own hands," one guild member said.

"My friend died too."

"I want to help everyone out."

"I don't care about my life."

"I want to be one of the first ones who cleared up to the 100th floor," the fifth guild member said.

Victoria opened her mouth to say something, but Zach stopped her by placing his hand on her shoulder.

He stepped forward and said, "With your current attitude and mindset, you can't do anything. If you decide to pass through that portal to enter the next floor, then it's your responsibility to save your lives. Don't expect us to save you; we have our own lives to save."

"..."

After a brief pause, Zach continued, "If you are not ready or confident, then don't come with us. You will die, and your story will end, but there are people who have to live with the guilt of not being able to save you. So unless you think you will survive, it's better if you retreat. At least, you will get to live to see the new sun."

After that, the floor was filled with nothing but silence.

Sure, Zach's words were harsh, but he didn't mean anything bad by it. He just wanted the players to realize that things wouldn't always go as they planned.

Even Zach wasn't sure what type of boss would be on the next floor. It could be a normal boss. Or it could also be yet another unbeatable boss made to annihilate everyone.

Zach was ready to take the risk, and so were Victoria and Aria. He already knew they both were strong, so he didn't have to worry about saving them. They possessed the power to protect themselves, and maybe the guild members did too. But one can't think straight in front of death's door.

Out of the five guild members, 4 of them retreated.

'This guy's girlfriend died on the 75th floor, so he is probably going through a lot. There are chances that he wants to die, but he was performing well in the last floors.'

The floors after the 90th were random. There were random monsters, and all the floors were boss floors.

Some floors were mixed with various bosses from the previous floor. The climate, monster type, and the monster spawning were different, but the difficulty level was the same.

Zach led Victoria and Aria's hand and smiled at them.

"Let's do it," he said in a calm voice.

"Yeah."

Not knowing what type of calamity was waiting for them, Zach, Victoria, Aria, and the last guild member passed through the portal and entered the 100th floor.

At first, the 100th floor seemed like a normal floor. But its structure and climate were confusing, making it impossible for them to guess the monster type. There was a puddle between the rocks, but nothing extraordinary.

They walked to the center and waited for the boss to spawn, but even after five minutes, nothing happened.

"..."

Victoria glanced at Zach and asked, "Do you think the monster will spawn?"

"It should..." Zach muttered.

"But we have been waiting for 4 minutes now," Aria remarked.

"Oh!" Zach exclaimed and said, "The floors reset every 10 minutes, right?!"

Victoria nodded in response.

"So there are chances that someone else just cleared this floor?" Zach wondered. "Because I can't think of any other possibility."

"True..." Victoria pondered for a while and muttered, "But what are the odds?"

However, Zach's guess was wrong.

The boss of the 100th floor had already spawned, and it was watching every movement of Zach and the others.

Slowly, the water level from the puddle rose and flooded the floor.

"...!"

Chapter 194 - Sea's Wrath

"What's going on?!" the guild member yelled.

"Get back!" Zach yelled. "Go to the high ground! This must be a special skill of the boss!"

Victoria and Aria jumped on the rocks, but the guild member didn't.

"What are you doing?! Get your ass here!" Victoria shouted.

"No!" The guild member pulled out his sword from his sheath and dashed forward after saying, "I will be the one killing this boss!"

"You idiot! Get back—!" Victoria yelled, but it was too late.

The guild member didn't listen to Victoria and Zach's warnings and dashed into the water.

"...!"

Zach was about to jump into the water he could grab and save the guild member, but the guild member's body was pulled into the water by dozens of tentacles.

Seconds later, the water turned red. Seemingly, the guild member was killed.

"Argh!" Zach groaned in annoyance and muttered, "Stupid asshole!"

Zach was angry that he died in a stupid way. It was almost as if he did that on purpose.

The water level rose even more, and most of the land was submerged. The rock where Aria, Victoria, and Zach were standing also started submerging.

The floor had become a sea.

"What are we going to do?! We don't even know the boss yet!" Victoria panicked. "Is it yet another unbeatable boss?!"

"Don't worry." Zach cracked his fingers using his thumb and said, "I have got this."

"But—!" Victoria stopped when she saw the confident look on Zach's face. Then, she looked at Aria, and she nodded in return.

"Heh!" Zach smirked and started laughing out loud like a maniac. "Ahahahaha!"

Victoria grew anxious as she couldn't comprehend what Zach would laugh like when they were in a dire situation unless the person had lost their mind.

However, that wasn't the reason why Zach was laughing, nor was he laughing at something else.

He was laughing at the boss' bad luck.

"I have the Sea's blessing, bitch! I can control the water around me!" Zach yelled out loud with a smug look on his face.

He tried to control the water, and soon he heard a prompt.

[Congratulations! The Sea's Blessing has evolved into the Sea's Wrath!]

"...!" Zach was surprised to hear that. 'Even Blessings can evolve? But it was originally a skill named Sea's Blessing, so I guess that makes sense.'

In Gods' Impact, everything evolved when they reached a certain threshold and met the requirements. However, this was Zach's first time using the Sea's Blessing in a fight.

"But why did it evolve?" Zach wondered. "Is it because of the evolution tree?"

Zach had obtained Sea's blessing from the scroll. But when Aquitius the seventh removed the Sea from Zach's soul, Zach devoured the Sea God's power in the process and left Aquitius vulnerable but still the strongest in the Sea Realm.

When Zach used the Sea's Blessing, the blessing registered Zach as a Sea God since he had devoured the seventh's power. And that met the requirement for the skill to evolve into Sea's Wrath.

Its benefit was almost the same as Sea's Blessing; the change was in the power level.



Zach controlled the water around him and made some space so they could stand properly. Then, Zach removed the water from the ground and landed on his feet.

"Be careful..." Victoria muttered under her breath and watched Zach with an anxious and concerned look on her face.

Zach showed her a 'thumbs-up' without looking at her.

'Okay. I can control it without any problems'

The water around Zach started aggravating as though the boss was furious because Zach was controlling its water.

"3! 2! 1!" Zach smirked and said, "Readyyyyyy, go!"

Zach imitated the battle start of a game he used to play before his father's disappearance.

Zach clapped his hands together, and the Sea was divided into two parts.

"..!"

For a nano-second, Zach caught a glimpse of the tentacle. Seemingly, it was hiding on that spot.

'This is my first time using this in a battle, and it's tougher than I thought.'

Zach had to keep himself focused on the battle to control the water. And it was hard during the battle as he also had to attack and defend himself.

Zach slowly widened the gap between the two sides of the Sea, which revealed more land.

In a few seconds, Zach had taken control over half of the Sea.

'I can see the monster moving here and there. But it's fast as hell!'

Zach had decided to take control over every single drop of water on the floor.

'If there is no water, he wouldn't be able to move. Most likely, he can't survive on land, and that's the reason why it's not coming out.'

'Even if I am wrong, it doesn't matter since I am faster on land!'

Zach moved the control of the Sea from his two hands to only one hand since he was to control the rest too. He raised the water in the air to make more space.

When Victoria and Aria looked up, it looked like a floating river.

Aria's hands were itching to help Zach, but she knew Zach needed deep concentration, so she didn't call him out.

Victoria had her hand placed on the hilt of her sword. She was ready to jump down and slay the monster if it came out and tried to attack Zach.

Aria had also summoned her hand, and it was charged with a power attack.

Zach was worried about the attack and defense, but he was concerned for nothing. Aria was his attack, and Victoria was his defense.

Zach slowly took control over the 2/3rd of the Sea and merged it with the floating river.

'I can feel the weight in my hand. It's not much, but it's definitely heavy...' Zach uttered inwardly.

Soon, Zach took control of the entire Sea.

He merged the water with the river and muttered, "Let's see what you can do now."

However, Zach was left baffled after seeing the boss.

"Aquarius...?" he muttered in disbelief.

Chapter 195 - The Last Boss

"Aquarius...?" Zach muttered after seeing Aquarius

The monster was Aquarius in her mermaid form.

"Zach! Please don't hurt me!" she begged.

"What... are you doing here?" Zach asked.

"I don't know. I was here before I knew it! Please, release the water. I can't breathe properly!" Aquarius gasped for water as she yelled.

Zach was about to release the water even though he found it strange. But he didn't want Aquarius to suffer.

However, just as Zach was about to release the control over the floating river, something inside him didn't want him to.

"Hurry! Or I will die!" she yelled.

"Zach! What are you doing?!" Aria yelled.

"I don't know. I can't control the water properly! It's as if the power itself is telling me not to release the water!" Zach replied as she glanced back at Aria and Victoria.

Aria frowned her face and said, "Why... why do you want to release the water? Just hold it. We will kill it."

"Huh? What are you talking—"

Before Zach could even ask or say anything, Aria fired an arrow at Aquarius, and it pierced her body, or it would have if Zach hadn't caught and absorbed the magic attack with his gloves.

However, he lost control over the water in that process.

"What are you doing?!" Aria yelled.

"What you 'you' doing?! How can you shoot Aquarius?!" Zach yelled with a furious look on his face.

"What? Where is..." Aria's eyes winded as she realized something. "Be careful! This monster can use an illusion!"

"...!" Zach looked back at the spot where Aquarius was standing, and now, there was a giant sea monster standing in the water.

The monster had finally revealed its true form.

Level 200- Aquitax.

HP- [15,000,000]

It was in a humanoid Sea monster. Its size was as big as an average ship. It had several tentacles, only four of them were above the water level, and each was facing a specific direction.

Its hands were as big as the size of an adult human, and its claws could rip anyone apart in one hit. Its face resembled the face of a snake and turtle.

It had fins around its neck, moving up and down as it took breaths. The fins spread on its back, and they almost looked like wings. And there were sharp, thick scaled layers coming out of them, protecting its back.

The monster was perfectly created with agility, attack, defense, and intelligence.

It even had the power of illusion that made its prey see the person they loved the most.

Zach could have seen Aria or Victoria, but they were with him, so he wouldn't have fallen into the illusion. He could have also seen Aurora, but Zach knew for sure that Aurora couldn't be there.

That left only Aquarius and Ruli.

Zach could have seen Ruli, but he knew Ruli had no powers, so she couldn't possibly be the boss, which left only Aquarius to appear in the illusion.

For a second, he was genuinely happy that he got to see Aquarius again. However, it was all an illusion, and Zach was fooled by it.

The Sea God's powers inside him warned him about the illusion, but Zach couldn't understand it.

"..." Zach frowned his face in anger and took control over the Sea again.

Earlier, it took him nearly 30 seconds to take control over the entire Sea, but now he took it over within three seconds.

That was the power of the Sea's Wrath Which was resonating according to Zach's wrath.

That was the power of the Sea God.

Zach mixed both his hands together and formed a water ball to trap the Sea Monster inside.

The Sea monster couldn't do anything since it couldn't get out of the water. And its only habitat was taken over by Zach.

However, Zach couldn't do anything either.

"What are we going to do now?" Victoria asked Zach in a low voice to make sure not to interrupt his focus.

Zach unequipped his gloves and equipped the cursed dagger.

"That's...!" Aria recognized her feather.

Zach aimed the dagger at Aquitax and threw it. However, it dodged the attack.

Aquitius could still move freely under the water ball, but it couldn't get out of it.

Aquitius thought it was safe, but that wasn't the case.

Since Zach could control the water, he could also control the dagger inside the water ball by using the Sea's wrath power.

Aquitax realized it and started swimming erratically, but it was useless.

No matter how fast one was in its own habitat, it couldn't win against the habitat itself.

All Aquitax's effort to save itself was futile.

The dagger pierced Aquitax in the back and came out from its chest. However, it didn't die.

The attack only dealt 100 GMG to Aquitax.

HP- [14,999,900]

Aquitax thought it was worried for nothing. It looked at Zach and tried to attack him using its long tentacles, but Aria cut them off with her attack.

Aquitax folded its arm and waited for Zach to exhaust himself. After all, using the Sea's Wrath to control the water was mentally exhausting for him.

A normal player wouldn't even be able to maintain it for more than 1 minute, but Zach could hold it for long because of his mental strength in his stats.

However, Aquitax started freaking out when it noticed its HP slowly decreased by 0.1% every passing second.

Within one minute, 6% (899994) of its total HP was depleted, and it was continuously decreasing.

HP- [14099906]

Aquitax began using random attacks on Zach, but Aria and Victoria protected Zach from all the attacks and worked as his offense and defense.

"How does it feel?!" Zach yelled out loud with an evil smirk on his face.

Furious, Aquitax attacked Zach, but as expected, Aria and Victoria didn't let the attack reach Zach.

"Since you showed me hope by showing me an illusion of Aquarius! As my thanks, I will show you despair in return!"

#### Chapter 196 - Pathetic Death

Aquitax couldn't do anything. It couldn't get out of the water, nor would it escape. It couldn't attack Zach either since all its attacks were useless.

It was left hopeless. All it could do was wait for its HP to reach 0 and die helplessly.

Five minutes later: HP- [9599936]

Another five minutes later: HP- [5099966]

Five more minutes later: HP- [599996]

Aquitax desperately tried everything it could in the last fifteen minutes to save itself, but everything was futile. It even used its illusion technique again and showed Zach the illusion of Aurora, Zoe, and Erza, thinking it would make Zach weak, but that just made Zach even more furious.

Zach and perfect defense (Victoria) and attack (Aria). However, he didn't have unlimited mental strength.

Zach lost control over the water, and the water ball broke apart.

Aquitax immediately dashed at him under the water.

Zach had yet to get back to his senses, so Aria and Victoria got in front of Zach to protect him. But Zach pulled them back and threw them back on the rock.



"Zach!" they both yelled with a concerned look on their faces.

Aquitax emerged from the Sea and moved its claw to rip Zach apart. However, its body slowly turned into ashes, and it dissolved into the Sea.

HP -[0]

"How sad," Zach uttered with a vicious grin on his face. "The last boss died in the most pathetic way possible."

Aria and Victoria landed beside Zach and yelled at him for putting his life at risk.

"If you had such a powerful weapon, why didn't you use it on the Soul eater?" Victoria asked with a judging look on her face.

"I was going to, but to use this dagger, I would have to unequip my gloves first. Everything happened so fast that I didn't have time for it. And at the same time, the soul eater had fired the light beam, so I had to keep my gloves on to absorb the attack." Zach nodded and responded in a calm voice.

Zach picked up the dagger and handed it to Aria before saying, "I think this belongs to you."

Aria gave it back to Zach and said, "I can't use it even if I want to since it's soul bound to you now. And besides, I can pluck my feathers and make as many daggers as I want."

Zach raised his brows and said, "But you can't change your form, right?"

"Yeah, but I can manage to turn back to my goddess form for a few seconds, but only in my domain since my powers are at the peak there," Aria stated.

"Fair enough."

Zach equipped his gloves and stood in the middle of the floor to wait for the rewards for clearing the dungeon to the 100th floor.

"What are you doing?" Victoria asked with a confused look on her face.

"Rewards...." Zach muttered with an awkward smile.

"You should have already received the rewards," Victoria asserted. "Check your inventory."

"What is the reward for dungeon clearance anyway?" Zach asked with a curious look on his face and added, "Since you have also cleared the dungeon to the 100th floor in the beginner's realm."

Victoria squinted her eyes at Zach and said, "Why don't you check it yourself?"

SIGH

Zach opened his inventory to see a mythical rank armor, mythical rank staff, mythical rank ring. 500,000 coins. 50,000 Divine grade jade runes. And an envelope.

"What did you get?" Victoria asked curiously. "Since you are the one who did most of the work, you should have gotten some handsome rewards."

Zach raised his brows and asked, "What about you two?"

"I got a mythical rank bow and an epic rank cape to wear. Apparently, it increases my defense by 60. Then, I have got 100,000 coins and 10,000 divine grade jade rules," Aria responded in a calm voice.

"I have got a mythical rank sword and an epic rank dagger. 100,000 coins and 10,000 divine grade jade runes," Victoria responded while checking her inventory.

"You guys didn't get the envelope?" Zach asked curiously.

"Nope..." Victoria shook her head and said, "But first, tell us your rewards."

"I got a mythical rank armor, mythical rank staff, mythical rank ring. 500,000 coins. 50,000 Divine grade jade runes. And an envelope."

Zach selected the envelope, and it appeared in his hand.

Aria and Victoria gathered around Zach to see what it was.

"Invitation to secret realm...?" Zach read the words on the envelope before opening it.

Inside the envelope, there was a palm-sized black card.

"It's like a credit card..." Victoria muttered.

"Kredick kard?" Aria muttered with a confused look on her face. "What's that?"

Victoria looked at Aria with a judging look on her face and asked, "You don't know what a credit card is? Sure, you are a goddess and all, but you should be able to see what's happening on the earth, right?"

"That's not how it works." Aria scoffed softly and explained, "Even the current 12 gods can't see what's happening in the real world or in this game."

"So, how do they know everything?" Victoria asked with a curious yet puzzled look on her face.

"They have angels watching everyone, but they don't interfere," Zach quipped.

"And they can't see everything. They take turns and inform the gods if something happens. But mostly, they simply watch and enjoy. It's their job, and to do that every day... no wonder they are bored," Zach added with a scoff.

Aria was surprised to know that Zach knew about that. No one was supposed to know that since it has never been told to anyone. It was heaven's secret, and no one should know about it since it showed how lazy and incompetent the gods were.

Of course, Zach knew it because Erza had told him. Not only that, she had told him many things about the creation of humans and why they came into existence, but Aria also told Zach about that a few days ago.

#### Chapter 197 - Rewards Distribution

Zach explained how angels watched over the world and reported it to the gods. But when he looked at Victoria's face, it looked like she didn't understand a thing.

SIGH

"Imagine a CCTV camera. People monitor everything through them, right?"

Victoria nodded and said, "I think I got it."

That example was enough for Victoria to understand what Zach was trying to say. One way or another, the technology could rival magic, but both of them had their own merits and demerits.

The black card had written Zach's name in Cyan color. And below his name, there was something inscribed in golden letters.

"The Lord awaits you."

Zach placed the card back in his inventory and looked at the other things.

'I can give staff to Aurora since she wanted one. I could have given her armor too, but it's full-body armor, and we have already ordered Xie Lua for a cloth-type armor. So....'

"It's useless..." Zach looked at Aria and said, "Do you want the armor?"

Aria shook her head and said, "I don't like wearing them. They are annoying as fuck."

"..."

"Where did she learn to speak like that?" Zach asked with a judging look on his face.

"I heard the guild members talking like that. Apparently, adding 'as fuck' and 'as hell' at the end of the sentence shows deeper emotions, or so the woman had told me when I asked her," Aria responded.

"Bad influence..." Zach was acting like a parent who heard a cuss word from their kid's mouth for the first time. Although, he was Aria's nephew in this case.

Zach then turned to Victoria and asked, "What about you, my friend?"

"You don't... want it...?" Victoria asked to confirm.

"Do I look like a guy who wears armor?" Zach scoffed and said, "They are a pain in the ass."

"I do agree they are annoying and heavy. They also make you sweat a lot, and it gets all itchy and frustrating. But they do give defense and protect us," Victoria asserted with mixed feelings.

Zach opened his menu and sent the armor to Victoria.

"Are you sure?" Victoria asked with a knowing look on her face.

"Umm... since I am giving you a mythical rank armor, why don't you give me something special in return?" Zach grinned and said, "Maybe something soft and warm..."

Victoria hugged Zach and said, "Happy?"

"Not that. Maybe something wet too."

Victoria kissed Zach on the cheek and asked, "Happy?"

Zach tapped on his lips and uttered, "Maybe a little more wet."

Victoria squinted her eyes at Zach and said, "Why don't you say it directly?"

"It's more fun this way," Zach sneered.

Victoria licked her lips and slowly moved her face close to Zach's lips. Then she placed her lips on his lips and kissed him.

At first, Victoria was going to end it with a short and simple kiss by touching their lips. But Zach knew Victoria would do that.

Who knows, how much time and effort would it have taken Zach to get Victoria to agree to kiss him again?

That's why, Zach wasn't losing his chance.

He placed his hand on Victoria's face and kissed her deeper. He stuck his tongue in her mouth and started kissing her passionately.

Victoria resisted at first, but soon, she gave in to the pleasure and kissed him back.

After a few minutes of kissing, Victoria had completely forgotten about her commitment of staying friends with Zach.

She wrapped her arms around his neck and gave him deep kisses without any care in the world. She had forgotten about her surroundings, and most important of all, Aria.

Aria frowned her face after watching Zach and Victoria kissing like crazy, but she was okay with it.

'I thought I wouldn't feel this stingy feeling in my chest once Zach and I have become lovers. But I guess it's going to take a while for me to get used to it,' Aria thought inwardly.

After a few more minutes, Zach and Victoria finally stopped kissing and stared into each other's eyes with alluring gazes.

It looked as though they were about to jump on each other to kiss again. So Aria stepped forward and stood between them to prevent that.

She glared at Victoria and said, "Aren't you getting too friendly?"

Victoria averted her gaze to the side to avoid eye contact with Aria and Zach before saying, "Zach forced himself on me."

"What the—!" Zach tried to retort, but Aria stopped him.

"So you are saying that you didn't do it because you wanted to, or you felt good, right?" Aria asked with a judging look on her face.

"No..." Victoria stuttered.

"Good to know."

"Huh?" Victoria was utterly confused as to what Aria was trying to convey.

"You feel good when you kiss the person you love, and since you didn't feel good, that proves that you don't love Zach," Aria remarked with a shoulder shrug.

Victoria's face turned pale after hearing that.

The last thing she wanted anyone to say to her was that she didn't love Zach.

"No!" Victoria hugged Zach and said in a muffled voice: "It felt good. And I kissed him because I was longing for it after seeing you kiss Zach again and again. I kissed him because I love him!"

Zach patted Victoria on the back and shook his head at Aria, who was smirking and laughing out loud.

He placed his hand on Victoria's shoulders and asked, "Did you level up enough?"

Victoria nodded and asked, "What about you and Aria?"

"I leveled up ten even though I was just backing up the guild members. But I did most of the work on the floors after the 75th floor."

"I leveled up a lot, too," Zach nodded.

"I will go back to the guild now and report everything to Elliot. Then, I will come to you," Victoria said with a smile on her face.

"Yeah. I also have to get ready for the wedding."

Zach, Aria, and Victoria left the dungeon.



## Chapter 198 - [Holy Treason]

Ten hours ago in the hall of heaven.

[Humans are the best. Look how far they have evolved,] the first god uttered with an amusing smile on his face.

[Who cares. They are annoying pests, nothing else,] the second god retorted with a scoff.

[What are you saying? They are a perfect race. We put them in a completely new world, with somewhat similar mechanisms mixed with fantasy and video games they love so much. And yet, they have learned to survive. If that's not great, then I don't know what is,] the third goddess said with a shoulder shrug.

[That's because we are letting them survive,] the fourth goddess asserted in a haughty tone.

[It doesn't matter what we think. We are talking about the facts here. Humans are truly an exceptional race,] the fifth god remarked.

[What fact are we talking about? We went easy on them and gave them all they needed. We have given them food and shelter in our online world too. If we hadn't, they would have to learn everything the hard way,] the sixth god stated in an annoyed tone.

[This game was supposed to be their redemption. And I am satisfied with how things are going,] the seventh goddess said with a smile on her face.

[I agree with the sixth. It's not 'surviving' if 'we' are the one letting them survive,] the eighth goddess seconded sixth.

[I still don't understand the point of punishing humans. Seriously, when did we become so petty?] the ninth god asked in disbelief.

[We are not petty! We voted for it, and the votes were in favor of yes!] the tenth goddess shouted with a furious expression on her face.

[Argh! There they go again,] the eleventh god sighed out loud.

[We have some serious temper issues,] the twelfth goddess muttered.

[No matter what any of you say, humans are the best creation of the gods!] the fifth god declared. [If you don't want to admit it, then don't. It won't change the truth.]

[Ah, yes. Gods and their well-beloved, cherished humans,] the sixth commented as he laughed out loud.

[Aria and Erza were the ones who created them. It was their idea, and I have to admit that they did a good job,] the first god said.

[....]

[....]

[...]

The hall of heaven went silent after the first god mentioned Aria and Erza.

It was a taboo topic for them.

[Wait... a minute...] The third goddess stood up from her throne and said, [Who exiled them from the heavens?]

[Did you forget it already? Well, it has been 80 thousand years, so I am not surprised. But you should know since we always vote our decisions,] the tenth goddess responded with a sneer.

[Yeah, I know that. But... weren't the votes equal?]

[That's right! It was a draw!] the fifth god yelled as he realized what the goddess was trying to say.

After that, the entire hall of heaven was filled with whispers. All the gods started talking with the one sitting beside them.

[Wait, wait, wait!] the first god yelled. [Silence!]

Everyone turned silent and looked at the first god.

[What is the meaning of this?] he asked. [Aria and Erza provided us with equal power. They gave us equal authority, so we need to vote when we make our decisions.]

[If the voting was equal, how did Aria and Erza get exiled?]

[Maybe someone faked their vote?] the sixth god wondered.

[But why would someone do that? Even if they had voted against Aria and Erza, it's not like they would have done anything. So why pretend to be in favor?] the third goddess asked curiously.

[No. You are wrong. They didn't fake their votes to look bad; they did it to fool us,] the fifth god stated.

[That doesn't even make any sense,] the sixth god remarked. [Everyone here knows we don't give a fuck about what one thinks of others.]

[What's going on?! Who is the traitor?!] the third goddess yelled.

[Wait a minute. Let's first clear up one more doubt,] the twelfth goddess quipped.

Everyone turned to the twelfth goddess and waited for her to speak.

[What about the Gods' Impact? We punished the humans. But who voted for who?]

[I voted for no.] - first god.

[I voted for yes.] - second god.

[I voted for no.] - third goddess.

[I voted for yes.] - fourth goddess.

[I voted for no.] - fifth god.

[I voted for yes.] - sixth god.

[I voted for no.] - seventh goddess.

[I voted for yes.] - eighth goddess.

[I voted for no.] - ninth god.

[I voted for yes.] - tenth goddess.

[I voted for no.] - eleventh god.

[I voted for no.] - twelfth goddess.

Everyone glanced at each other and counted the votes.

[There are five votes for 'Yes'. And seven votes for 'No.']

[....]

[...]

The tension in the hall of heavens grew even more after they realized a liar and a traitor was sitting among them.

The clouds rumbled with thunder as the golden rays from the hall of heaven slowly turned dark and red. The heavenly atmosphere had turned eerie.

All the gods summoned their respective weapons in their hands and banged them on their pedestal.

[I never thought this day would ever come where the heaven would become corrupted,] the fifth god muttered.

[Who is the imposter among us?!] the eighth goddesses yelled.

[It has to be one of us...] the eleventh god uttered.

[Wait a minute. We can narrow down the imposter by checking the votes,] the twelfth goddess suggested.

[It is one of the seven who voted for no. Out of them, one is pretending to be good,] the fifth god asserted.

[The ones who had voted for no, raise your hands,] the first god ordered.

The first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth, eleventh, and twelfth gods and goddess raised their hands.

[And how many of you voted with 'yes' when we exiled Erza and Aria?]

Out of the seven, only the eleventh god raised his other hand.

[....]

[So it was you—!]

[It wasn't me. I simply voted with yes because I was bored. I wanted to see some drama. But even with my vote, the result was a draw! So it's not me!] The eleventh god defended himself.

Chapter 199 - [The Imposter!]

Minutes passed by, and the atmosphere in heaven grew more and more tense. None of the gods wanted to come out and admit that they were the imposter.

Even the seven gods who were prime suspects weren't confessing.

[Let's save all our time, and whoever it is, come out and admit. It's not like we are going to punish you or anything. Each of us has our own mindset and perception. Otherwise, we would just be overlapping everyone here, so how about we just end all this,] the first god asserted in a calm voice.

[True. I agree with the first. We don't have time for fighting among ourselves,] the third seconded the first.

[Yeah. Even if it is one of us, we will forgive them,] the fifth stated.

[But who is it?] the seventh wondered.

[Can I ask why only seven of us are being seen as suspects?] the ninth asked.

[Yeah. It could be one of the other five too,] eleventh uttered while glaring at the other five.

[Agreed. I don't like how only seven of us are seen as a suspect when it could be any of us,] the 12th uttered.

[So... who is it?] second, asked.

[I don't mind being seen as a suspect if we can find out the real culprit,] the eighth said.

Even after 30 minutes, no one was ready to confess, and they made no progress.

[If we keep doing this, then thousands of years will pass. And we wouldn't find the imposter,] the sixth sighed.

[Let's do what we always do,] the tenth suggested. [Let's vote on who we think might be the imposter.]

[What will we do with the voting? Everyone is against each other now,] the third muttered.

[And what if we vote from someone and the real culprit turns out to be someone else?] the seventh wondered.

[True. We might not even find out if we branded someone as a culprit when they turned out to be innocent,] the first stated.

After pondering for a while, they voted not to vote.

[I can't believe we seriously decided on something and all of us agreed on it. This might be the first time in the heavens,] the first god laughed.

Suddenly, a long spear came and pierced the first god's body.

[...!]

Everyone was left baffled by the sudden happening.

[Who was it?!] the second yelled.

[Who dared to attack the god?!] the third yelled with the second.

[Don't worry...] the first pulled out the spear from his body and inspected it. He glanced around the remaining eleven gods and said, [I think I know who the culprit is.]

The first's wounds healed within a second after pulling out the spear.

[Who... is it...?] everyone asked at the same time.

[For us gods, weapons summoning or beast summoning is child's play. We can spite a realm by a single snap, but the heavens monitor each and every action. Just like how we have assigned angels to watch over the worlds, the higher gods have assigned supreme angels to watch over us. But obviously, they are too busy to care about this,] the first scoffed.

[Yeah,] the third nodded. [Otherwise, they would have already eliminated us from punishing the humans in such a crude way.]

[They warned us the last time we did something evil— that was to exile Aria and Erza. But they couldn't undo our decision since they had promised Aria and Erza that they would never interfere with their heavens and the world they created,] the seventh uttered in a solemn voice.



[Exactly. And since Aria and Erza had given us their powers and authorities, they couldn't oppose us either,] the fifth quipped.

[To be honest, if they wanted to bring Aria and Erza back, they could have done it long ago without caring for any lost promise. But they didn't. I wonder why?] the twelfth wondered.

[Because they are not as petty as us,] the ninth remarked.

[Enough!] The first said in a loud voice and continued, [Everyone. Get off your throne and walk down to the center. I am going to announce the culprit.]

All the gods and goddesses walked to the center of the hall and stood in a circle.

[...]

The atmosphere was tense since the first was about to declare the culprit who had been fooling them for over 80 thousand years.

[The imposter is...] The first glanced at everyone, and his gaze stopped at the sixth god.

[What...? It wasn't me...] the sixth stuttered.

Then, the first moved his gaze to the ninth.

[It wasn't me...]

Then, the first moved his gaze to the fifth and said, [It was you.]

[What?! Why would I do that?!] the fifth exclaimed. [I was against Aria and Erza exilation. And I was against punishing humans too!]

[Exactly...] the first frowned his face and said, [This is why... it has to be you.]

[You are lying!] The fifth glanced at everyone and said, [He is lying! He is trying to fool us all! He is the imposter!]

[...]

[...]

[All of us know that the first is the oldest and the first god Erza created. The second goddess was created 100 years later by Aria,] the twelfth muttered.

[Yeah. We believe the first and his words,] the eleventh nodded.

[He has brainwashed you all! Snap out of it!] the fifth yelled. Then, he turned to second, fourth, and sixth, and said, [You all trust me, right?!]

The fourth looked into the first eyes and asked, [Do you have any proof that the fifth is the one who did it?]

SIGH!

The first sighed in disbelief and muttered, [I never thought there would be a day when my fellow gods would doubt my words.]

He looked at the fifth and said, [Just admit it. No need to drag things out.]

[I am innocent!] the fifth yelled.

[I didn't want to do this, but I guess I have no other choice...].

The first broke the spear into two and speared it with his divine powers.

Soon, the spear turned into ashes and flew away. But, the ashes changed into the shape of an arrow, and it was pointed towards the fifth.

[...!]

The first shrugged his shoulders and said with a smile on his face: [Here is your proof.]

Chapter 200 - [Heavenly Betrayal]

[Do you want more proof?] the first asked with a smile on his face.

Despite being in a dire situation and standing in front of a traitor who not only fooled him but also tried to kill him, the first was awfully calm.

His patience had no limit, and that showed how mature and understanding he was.

[He is lying!] the fifth yelled. [Everyone knows he can manipulate all the living and non-living beings, even the magic itself. He is doing all this to frame me!]

[This is enough,] the third uttered.

[You can't fool us for any longer,] the seventh looked at the other gods and said, [What are we waiting for?]

[Well, we can't do anything even if the fifth is the culprit,] the sixth replied with a shrug.

[Exactly! We don't possess any power to kill our fellow gods. Nor do we possess the authority to punish or judge them. Otherwise, I am sure we would have been at war for hundreds of years,] the tenth stated.

[But we never planned to do that in the first place. We just wanted to know who was being an imposter all this time and fooling us for thousands of years,] the eleventh commented.

The fifth glanced at everyone with a baffled look on his face and said, [Do you all truly think I would do something like this?!]

[Fifth...] The first finally broke his silence and glared at the fifth. [Don't make me angry.]

[...]

[Just tell us why you did all that. You know we can't do anything to you, so what are you afraid of?] the twelfth wondered.

[...] After a brief silence, the fifth sighed and nodded as he said, [Okay.]

The fifth raised his hand and uttered, [I surrender. I confess that it was me. But there was a reason why I did all that.]

[What reason? What could possibly make you betray the heavens?] the first asked with a curious look on his face.

[I did it for an important reason. I had no other choice but to do it. And it was...] the fifth suddenly smirked and snapped his fingers.

STAB! STAB! STAB! STAB! STAB! STAB! STAB! STAB!

The first, third, sixth, seventh, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth gods and goddesses were stabbed by the second, fourth, and eighth gods and goddesses.

[...!]

However, the gods' wounds didn't heal this time, and they even bled.

[What is... is?] the first asked with a baffled look on his face.

[Haha!] the fifth laughed out loud and said, [I always wanted to see you lose your patience.]

He glared into the first's eyes and asked with a smirk on his face: [How does it feel to feel pain?]

[Impossible... no weapon should be able to harm us...] the third muttered.

[Don't worry. Even these weapons can't kill you. But you will be weakened, and these weapons are sucking your powers,] the second stated.

[Within a few minutes, you will lose all your powers, and you will become weaker than the humans,] the fourth added.

[Preposterous! No such weapon exists. I am the oldest, and I have never heard of such a weapon...] the first retorted.

[Yeah, they don't. Not in this heaven, but they do in the higher heavens,] the fifth snorted and said, [The higher gods had created weapons to get rid of us at any time they wanted. I sent my faithful angel to steal them. He was scared of the higher gods, but I told him I would make him the next god, and he took the risk.]

[And here we are... you all are slowly getting weaker and weaker. But since we are not the higher gods, we can't use these weapons to their full potential, so we can't kill you. However, it will leave you weak and helpless.]

The gods tried to move their bodies, but all of their bodies had stopped responding.

The existence of gods was solely based on divine powers; without their powers, they were just empty shells.

[So you four were in this together, huh?] the first asked.

[That's right! We have been planning for this day for over 80 thousand years, even before we exiled Aria and Erza!] the eighth sneered and twisted the weapons in the gods' bodies.

[Why would you do this? What could you possibly gain from this treason?] the third asked.

[Even if you gain our powers, you can't get our authority. You still wouldn't be able to make decisions or vote on our behalf,] the eleventh stated.

[Oh, we don't care about any of that. We have no interest in this heaven,] the fifth asserted. [We plan to—]

[Attention! Attention! The cosmic monster— Soul Eater was slain nearly a day ago—!]

An angel dashed into the hall of heaven to inform about the Soul eater, but he was left baffled after seeing the gods fighting each other. However, that angel was soon obliterated by the fifth.

[Annoying pest,] he then said.

[What was that about? How can someone defeat the Soul eater? It was one of our best creations...] the fourth muttered.

[It doesn't matter. We will create a stronger monster once we are done dealing with our fellow gods,] the fifth said with a smirk on his face.

[Wait... what do you mean that soul eater was slain?] asked first. [It was locked in the cosmic prison, the only weakness of the soul eater. How can...]

The first stopped when he realized what the fifth had done.

[You... released the soul eater in the Gods' Impact...?] he asked while stuttering.

[You know, as much as I hate you. I admire your perception skills. You can solve any mystery within seconds. So I had to be extra careful with my plan. But in the end... you still caught me.]

After a brief pause, the fifth said, [Yes! I released the soul eater in the Gods' Impact. And I did it in a surprising way. I set it as a boss on floor 75 of the dungeon in the first realm.]

[Are you out of your mind?! The soul eater can eat all the realms of the Gods' Impact within a minute!] the first yelled with a furious look on his face.

The fifth smirked and said, [Do you think I care about that?]

[That was our plan, after all,] the second and the fourth said in unison.