

GODS' IMPACT 341

Chapter 341 Forgotten Rage

[You have cleared the 94th floor! Proceed to the portal to enter the next floor or retreat!]

"Argh, come on! These asshats only gave half a million EXP!" he yelled in frustration.

[Congratulations, my liege,] Cerberus remarked.

Zach snarled at Cerberus and uttered, "I will shoot you next time on purpose and watch you bawl in pain!"

[My deepest apologies!] Cerberus quivered in fear.

SIGH!

"I leveled up by 3 so far in the last 44 floors. The next 6 floors are all boss floors, so I expect some high EXP gain." Zach placed his hand on his chin and muttered, "Even if I level up by 2 more levels, that will make this dungeon raid worth it."

[You are currently level 96, so 2 more levels will make you level 98,] Cerberus quipped.

Zach glared at Cerberus, and he disappeared into Zach's shadows.

Zach passed through the portal and entered the next floor. Cerberus immediately came out of Zach's shadow to assist him when in need.

"Let's see what type of boss this floor has. Not like it matters, but still..."

A few seconds later, an enormous monster spawned.

It was a mixture of the worm and the centipede. It had legs all over its body, and each leg was twice the height of an adult human, with hairs growing from each leg. The monster looked like a furball while it was hiding its sharp pointy legs within them.

Its mouth stretched open into 72 sides, and each side had hundreds of teeth on them. Its eyes were popping out of its body, and it was throbbing and glowing in a pattern that resembled its veins.

Level 300- Weak Boss

HP- [100,000,000]

"Hmm? This monster looks a lot similar to the Soul Eater with some changes. But it's almost double in size," Zach muttered.

[My liege, it is the soul eater.]

"Oh?" Zach looked at the name and shook his head in disbelief. "Looks like the gods got bored of thinking names for monsters. Or perhaps their humor has no sense."

Cerberus stepped forward and uttered, [Stay back, my liege. Only I can defeat this monster.]

Zach grabbed Cerberus' snake tail and said, "No, you stay back. I will handle this."

[By my liege, did you forget you had so much trouble even landing a hit on it last time?]

Zach's face twitched from the sides as he retorted, "I landed a hit on it, okay?!"

[And I was the one who killed it.]

"Wow! Did you just flex in front of me?! Fine, I will show you who the boss is!"

Zach unequipped his gloves, as magic had no effect on the monster, and equipped the cursed dagger.

"I will go full physical attack mode and show my true power~" Zach pushed Cerberus to the side and haughtily walked toward the monster with a dagger in his hand.

'Even if I don't fight it. I just have to land one hit on the monster, and the cursed dagger would do the rest!'

Zach tossed the dagger in the air and stretched his hands before grabbing the dagger and dashing at the monster.

He walked the first few steps slowly and suddenly picked up speed, disappearing from Cerberus and the monster's sight.

He used his most common move and appeared on top of the monster from the air.

"There you go!" he yelled and stabbed the dagger into the monster's body.

QUAKE!

The monster reacted to the stab and shook the entire floor with its movement.

"Uh oh! It's bringing back the fresh memories from floor 75! I can't say I have forgotten the near-death experience I had there."

Zach's emotions were dominated and confused by a single emotion, rage. While it may not be the same monster who took the lives of thousands of the people he tried to protect in front of his eyes, his rage knew no bounds.

[My liege...?] Cerberus called out to Zach, but he received no response.

He slowly stepped back and hid in the shadow of the nearby rock. On the other hand, Zach was standing still on top of the monster with a lifeless glare in his eyes.

Zach had four blessings active. One was Aria's, the second was Xie Lua's, the third was the sea god's, and the fourth was the demon king's.

Aria's blessings weren't currently useful in the battle, and he was using her dagger. Sea God's blessings were also useless as there was no water around. Using Xie Lua's blessings was a gamble as Zach wasn't sure if Phoenix's fire could be considered as magic or not, and he didn't have time or was in no mood to test it.

The only blessing he had left that wasn't related to magic was the Demon King's blessings, and ironically, that represented 'rage' too.

It was the perfect opportunity for Zach to use the Demon King's blessings and let himself be consumed by the rage. But there was a big problem: Zach could not control his senses in demon mode.

The issue wasn't him getting lost in rage, but the problem was to come back to his senses.

When Zach used the Demon King's blessing for the first time— even though it was only halfway through his body— Aria had difficulty bringing him back to his senses. And in the dungeon, there was no one to do that.

Zach indeed wanted to be consumed by rage, but only for a limited time, not forever. So the only person he could trust was himself or rather his love for the girls.

'Remember, Zach, if you don't come back to your senses after you have beaten the shit out of this monster, you will be lost forever and become a monster yourself. If you don't return to your girls, they will think you have abandoned them. That's why, no matter what happens, you have to come back to your senses. Or better yet, stay sane even in demon mode.'

Zach closed his eyes and activated his demon mode.

Chapter 342 Demon King's Blessings

RUMBLE~RUMBLE!

The ground shook as the monster made a slight moment, but Zach didn't move an inch.

He activated the Demon King's blessing and got consumed by rage.

When Zach used the Phoenix's blessings, his body turned into a Phoenix-like fire, but the demon had no magic element.

Strange marks appeared on Zach's body, but they disappeared soon after and got replaced by stripes. His eye sockets and the surrounding part turned black, and lines came out of it that spread on his entire body. Then, his eyes turned red, and two tiny horns sprouted from his forehead.

With a cloth ripping sound, a tail popped out of his back with a sharp, triangular blade at the end.

Cerberus, who watched Zach transform into a demon, couldn't help but hope for the best. He wished that Zach remained sane, but it was already too late.

It was Zach's first time transforming into a demon, and even if he wanted to, it was impossible to stay sane.

The only thought in his mind was rage through and through.

He jumped from the top of the monster and landed a few meters away from it.

The dagger was still plunged inside the monster, and its HP was decreasing every passing second. Zach equipped his gloves and conjured a spear in his hand, but it soon changed into a chain with a sharp blade in the end, which reminded Cerberus of how he was hunted down by Zach when they first met.

Zach swung the chain in the air and launched it at the monster, but the monster ate it as though it was a fly. Not only that, but it also began to suck Zach's mana, so Zach had to let go of the chain.

"..."

Suddenly, the monster's body began to glow, and it shot a laser beam that was three times more potent than the soul eater of the 75th floor.

One would expect Zach to run away or hide from the beam as it could literally raze everything on its way and even burn the very ashes. But instead, Zach stood there and stopped the beam with his hands.

However, instead of absorbing it like the last time when he got the gloves overloaded and damaged, this time, he blocked the beam with his left hand and directed it to his right hand, from where he shot it back at the monster.

The gloves had the ability to absorb any magic and store it to a certain limit, but they could also cast the same magic as the opponent after absorbing it. Here, Zach was already aware that he wouldn't be able to absorb it, so he simply changed the trajectory to the beam to let the monster taste its own medicine.

The monster's body was burned from the side, and its HP decreased drastically by 10%.

Zach remained unfazed and glared at the monster with an emotionless gaze. He was giving off such a cold aura that it could be sensed from the atmosphere. If any player was near him, they would rather commit suicide than encounter him.

The monster was enraged by the attack and rushed towards Zach to crush it under its massive body. It knew that the magic attack wouldn't work on him, and the physical attack was nearly useless as it was impossible to penetrate its thick skin.

If the monster crushed Zach, he wouldn't be able to do anything and die, or so the monster had been thinking. However, Zach's demon mode wasn't just for show.

As soon as the monster got near enough to Zach, he sprouted devil wings from his back and raised his hand in the air.

The cursed dagger that was plunged into the monster's body all this time reverberated and was pulled back into Zach's hands. As soon as that happened, the marks on his body covered the gloves, and his hands slowly turned into claws.

The dagger kept shaking as though it was trembling in the presence of the demon king and the red gem on it shone brightly before cracking and spreading the light around the dagger.

For some reason, the marks that covered the gloves also sheathed the dagger and changed its shape to something bigger than a dagger but smaller than a sword.

Even the color of the dagger had changed, and it emitted black matter matching with Zach's aura that kept growing dark and cold.

It was at this moment when Cerberus realized that the longer Zach stayed in the demon form, the more insane he would get by the rage.

The monster kept dashing at Zach even after his form had evolved, and as soon as it opened its mouth and jumped on Zach, the dagger in Zach's hand turned into mist and disappeared.

Cerberus was about to jump out of the shadow to help Zach, but he stopped when he saw the mist taking shape.

The monster was still in the air when the mist covered it and entered its body through the small holes. And before the monster could land on the floor, its HP dropped to 0, and it died.

[...!] Cerberus couldn't believe his eyes. How could a level 300 monster with 100,000,000 HP, who had no weakness and could eat anything, die instantly? What did Zach do?

Cerberus' mind was filled with those questions, but he still couldn't dare to come out of the shadow.

The mist that had entered the monster's body came out and turned into the dagger again. And Zach absorbed it like his other weapons.

The cursed dagger had the ability to passively deplete the HP of the opponent it touched, but the ability or the damage couldn't stack. Zach's demon form changed that.

The mist was none other than the very minute pieces of the dagger that worked as an individual dagger and stacked the damage.

Normally, it would take 16 minutes for any monster to die, but that changed to less than a mere second.

Chapter 343 Demon Mode

[...]

Zach stood in the middle of the empty floor after defeating the rip-off version of soul eater.

Since it wasn't the original soul eater and only its replica with higher level and stats, it didn't leave a core, unlike the real soul eater.

The gods had designed the dungeon of the last realm of the first realm in a way to make it impossible for a player to clear it and challenge the realm boss. But that was only applicable to the other players, not for Zach.

The blessings Zach had received were made to break the game and surpass the stats binding his true strength. However, there was a limit to how long he could use the blessing and stay in a blessed form.

When he used Phoenix's blessing, his body part went numb, and he couldn't even taste the food. The powers Zach received from the blessings had side effects on his body.

Different blessings had different side effects, and currently, the effects of using the Demon King's blessings were showing off.

[You have cleared the floor! Proceed through the portal to enter the next floor or retreat!]

[...]

Cerberus, who had been watching everything from the shadows, finally gathered enough courage to come out and hesitantly approached Zach.

He stopped a few meters away from Zach and reluctantly uttered in a low voice: [My liege, the floor has been cleared.]

"..."

Cerberus whined after getting no response from Zach. He waited for a reaction, but the silence made him anxious.

[My liege?]

Suddenly, Zach jerked and tilted his head towards Cerberus in an erratic manner and glared at Cerberus with a vicious smile on his face.

[...] Cerberus backed a few steps while staring at Zach. He wanted to find a shadow to hide into, and there was only one spot— the one he was hiding in before.

He gradually went near the big rock, but Zach, who had been staring malevolently at him, suddenly dashed at him at inhumane speed.

Cerberus turned around, rushed to the rock, and fortunately managed to hide in the shadow.

Zach still chased after him and stopped in front of the big rock with a lifeless expression on his face.

Even while hiding in the shadow, Cerberus couldn't stop quivering in fear.

Zach raised his hand and touched the rock as though he was confused. He peeked on the other side of the rock, thinking Cerberus had hidden behind it, but of course, he wasn't.

After that, he circled around the rock a couple of times to look for Cerberus, but a few seconds later, the upper part of his body drooped to the ground only to stand still with the support of his spine.

CRACK~CRACK~!

The cracking sound was so loud that it echoed in the empty floor, and it was coming from none other than Zach.

The small horns from his forehead began to grow, and the marks started spreading even more. His claws became sharper, and his tail looked more potent than before. Not only that, but this time, his teeth turned into fangs.

His demon form was still in progress, and he was slowly becoming a demon. As the time passed, he lost all his senses and memories, and he became a mindless demon, no different from a wild monster.

Cerberus couldn't bear to watch that. He didn't want to see his master turned into a monster in front of his eyes where he was hiding and saving his own skin.

He came out of a shadow and attacked Zach, or he could have if Zach hadn't found him before Cerberus could even do anything.

Cerberus was releasing all kinds of strong emotions from the shadow, and Zach sensed it. He placed his hand on the ground and pulled Cerberus out of the shadow with one hand.

He tossed him in the air and shattered the big rock into dust so Cerberus couldn't hide again.

Cerberus landed on his feet in front of Zach and stood on his ground. He had finally decided to fight head-on with Zach.

['If I can't stop you, I will stop you by killing you. That was your wish, my liege, and your words are my orders.']

Cerberus changed into his mighty enormous three-headed monster form and roared at Zach.

[It is time for round two, my liege!]

He charged at Zach without wasting a single second while constantly firing concentrated fire from his dragon's mouth. He knew that he would only get one chance at this, and the time, of course, was limited. He was well aware that if Zach turned into a full demon, he would be undefeatable, so he had to take down Zach before that occurred.

Cerberus flapped his wings and jumped in the air to land on Zach from the top, but Zach effortlessly stopped him and swung his fist to punch him. But Cerberus turned around and whipped his tail at Zach, sending him flying to the other side of the floor.

[You can't use the same technique to defeat me again, my liege. I have learned from my mistakes. Not to mention, your sane version is much more scarier than this one. Currently, you have the raw power to destroy everything but no brains to do it correctly.]

Zach was slammed onto the wall and buried under the debris fallen from it. But Cerberus prepared for his next move while there was still time.

BANG! BOOM!

The debris flew into the air with a loud banging noise before falling to the ground a few meters away. Zach stood up on his legs in a strange manner and gnashed his teeth with his lips in between.

His lips were minced between his teeth as he continued gnashing, and his chin was smeared red with blood. He jerked his body left and right while walking his steps forward but suddenly stopped and his incomplete demon wings from his back began to change their shape.

Zach had reached the final stage of the demonification.

Chapter 344 Demonification

The blood thirst Zach was emitting was something no monster had ever done in history. His demonification had reached the final stage, and his body had become 90% demon.

Even the inside of his body had begun to change, and his blood was replaced by a dark matter. His skin slowly turned dark and eventually became blue.

His hair had started to fall rapidly, and skin turned rough. His ears began to twist on their own, and his body structure started to deform.

Cerberus couldn't bear to watch Zach in such a state, and he had decided to kill him before it went further. Still, it was easier said than done.

He couldn't possibly think of harming Zach even in such a state.

['My Liege has always treated me kindly ever since I accepted him as my master. He fed me and taught me so many things. So why did it come to this?'] Cerberus asked himself.

['Had I not been so immature with him, he wouldn't have gone this far. I should have stopped him from using his Demon King's blessings.

I am such a failure. Even after talking so big about protecting him, I brought this upon him. Without him, I have no purpose for living. He is my master and my God. If he dies, I die with him.

That's why, I will stop him even if it means killing him. I don't care about my life, not in the least.']

Cerberus strengthened his resolve and asserted, [My liege, I don't know if you can hear me or not, but know that I was by your side till the end!]

Cerberus lowered his head, seemingly bowing down to Zach for the last time as the result of the battle ahead was unknown.

He flapped his wings while holding his ground, dashed at Zach without flying, and breathed his fire at its full intensity.

The debris around Zach, including the shattered wall, melted into lava, and the head began to crack the ground.

Cerberus didn't stop and continued shooting his fire as long as he could, but after a few minutes, he stopped to take a breath, hoping Zach would be burned to ashes.

[...!]

However, Zach stood unscathed with not even a single sign of burn on his body. He had devoured Cerberus' fire.

Cerberus stopped to take a breath so he could shoot fire for longer, but after realizing his fire had no effect on him, he became desperate and began using all sorts of attacks on him.

He used his lion and goat head as well as his snake tail, hoping anything would work, but Zach either dodged or blocked all the attacks.

Suddenly, Zach's body glowed, and he opened his mouth, snarling loudly while showing his large fangs and repeatedly hitting his tail on the ground.

Cerberus decided to attack again and opened his mouth to shoot fire. Zach did the same and shot black fire out of his mouth and overpowered Cerberus' scorching fire.

[...!] Cerberus jumped back, but the damage was already done.

Zach's fire had burned his dragon head, so now he could no longer shoot fire. He had overwhelmed Cerberus from every corner with no escape.

Physical attacks didn't work on Zach, and the only magical attack Cerberus could do was shoot the fire, which he could no longer use; even if he did, Zach would devour it like he did a while ago.

AARGH!

Zach roared loudly on the top of his lungs, which blasted his burned throat, including his vocal cords. Black tears came out of his eyes, and his mouth vomited the remaining blood he had in his body.

Cerberus had it enough. Even though his dragon head was burned by Zach, and he was in immeasurable pain, he didn't care about himself. He was looking for a way to bring Zach back without killing him, which seemed more and more impossible as time passed.

The last hope he had left was wavering in front of his eyes. He kept blaming himself for everything, but even if it was his fault or not, it was indeed too late to regret it.

Zach jumped in the air and flapped his wings to fly higher. While Cerberus watched him and waited to see what he was trying to do.

But the next second, he realized everything. Zach was doing to drop kick him and end everything in one shot.

Cerberus flapped his wings and stepped back without moving his eyes from Zach. Sure he could fly, but he couldn't fly as high as Zach, given his massive body that required balance and sight of the three heads.

So the only thing Cerberus could do was to keep moving and changing his location, so Zach wouldn't be able to pinpoint dropkick him, or so he thought, but Zach moved faster than his thoughts and landed hell sinking dropkick on Cerberus.

BANG!

As soon as Zach hit the ground—no, even a moment before that, the floor cracked and shattered on impact, rumbling the very surface the dungeon existed on.

A big hole appeared on Cerberus' body that was see-through to the other side. Since Cerberus was also an undead, he had no blood, but he had senses and felt pain like an alive creature.

Because of the hole in his body, Cerberus could no longer stand up or even move. He watched Zach approaching him with the same demonic smile on his face and an inhumane walking style.

With heavy footsteps, Zach walked closer to Cerberus as he tried hard to move his body. Knowing what was going to happen soon, Cerberus gave up and closed his eyes.

To him, dying at Zach's hands was an honor, but that person was no longer Zach; not in appearance nor in mind. He had become a full-fledged demon.

He was a mindless monster born from unbearable pain, ruthless rage, devastating despair, and sorrowful suffering, whose only goal was to destroy and devour everything on his way.

Chapter 345 At Death's Door

Cerberus opened his eyes to see the monster had spawned again as the cooldown time of the floor had ended.

Zach, who was approaching Cerberus with heavy yet slow steps, sensed the presence of the monster and stopped on his track. He looked back to see the monster, but he didn't react to it.

The monster charged up and shot a laser beam at Zach, but instead of dodging, Zach opened his mouth and ate it. Even after five minutes, the monster didn't stop shooting the laser beam, and Zach had devoured it all.

Then, he raised one hand in the air and summoned hundreds of portals above the monster. And when he lowered his hand, the portal shot a black laser beam and obliterated the monster with hundreds of holes in its body.

The monster died after a few minutes, and Zach received 10% of the EXP he received the last time for clearing the floor.

[...] Cerberus watched the whole fight and, deep down, hoped that the monster would overwhelm Zach and make him weak enough to stop him.

After defeating the monster, Zach jumped and landed in front of Cerberus. He raised his hand to summon the demonic version of the cursed dagger.

Cerberus had seen how he killed the soul eater rip-off in one shot and waited for his death. He had no regrets except for leaving Zach in such a state. But there was nothing he could do.

He tried his best to stop Zach but failed miserably, and now he was at death's door.

He closed his eyes and accepted his fate, but he never felt the pain of dying.

One second passed, ten seconds passed, thirty seconds passed. Before he realized it, a minute had passed. Another minute passed, and then 5 minutes passed. Ultimately, ten minutes passed, but Cerberus could still sense his body and feel alive.

With no other choice left, he reluctantly opened his eyes and saw Zach passed out on the ground with an unknown figure lying beside him.

[...] Cerberus recognized the figure as he had seen it before.

It was Thomas' Chick whom Zach had used necromancy on.

['What is she doing here? And what happened to my liege?'] he wondered.

He tried to get up but couldn't move his body with a big hole. However, Cerberus' IG was higher than any other monster.

He changed his size to a mini Cerberus and turned even smaller than it. His current size is the same as a puppy, and because of that, his wound has completely vanished from his body.

He walked to Zach, but to reach him, he had to pass through Thomas' Chick, who was also lying unconscious beside Zach. So he walked all the way to the side and stood in front of Zach's face.

[My liege...] he uttered in a very low voice, and even his voice had changed to a very low pitch because of his size.

[Can you hear me, my liege?]

Cerberus wanted Zach to wake up, but he was also afraid of him waking up. Zach was still in his demon form, and he didn't want him to go insane again. Still, there was no other choice.

After calling out to Zach a few times and not getting any response, Cerberus decided to risk it and tapped on Zach's head with his tiny paws. But suddenly, he was grabbed from behind and raised him in the air.

It was Thomas' Chick. And she was snarling and glaring at him with golden eyes.

Cerberus was so small and weak that he couldn't break free from her grip.

[What are you doing, you lowly servant! Let me go!] Cerberus yelled furiously.

Even though he was the one being overwhelmed in his current state, his haughtiness had no bounds.

Thomas' Chick kept glaring at Cerberus while he continued to break free from her grip.

[What are you glaring at me for?! Unhand me this instant, or I will burn you with my fire, you lowly servant!]

Cerberus shot fire from his dragon mouth, but only smoke came out.

[I... I will forgive you for this once! Now, unhand me!]

CRACK! CRACK!

Cerberus heard a cracking sound and thought Thomas' Chick had rushed his bones, but the sound was coming from beside him.

He and Chick looked at the side and saw Zach's body had begun to break apart. The cracks grew rapidly as his horns, wings, and tail turned into ashes.

His skin and fangs returned to normal, and the marks on his body slowly started to disappear. His claws turned into hands, and the rest of his body had become normal.

His demonification either failed, or it was stopped by Thomas' Chick.

[My liege!] Cerberus was now more excited than before as he was now sure that everything was fine now.

[My liege!] He kept yelling Zach's name while Thomas' Chick stared at Zach with a dazed expression on her face.

Zach's eyelids moved a little, and he opened his eyes a few seconds later.

"...."

His vision was blurry, but he could hear Cerberus calling his name. Seeing someone sleeping beside him, he rubbed his eyes to clear his vision.

He sat up while grabbing his head and glanced to the side to see Cerberus' puppy form and Thomas' Chick staring at him with an innocent look on her face.

SIGH!

Zach curled up and hugged his knees while his body tried to heal itself from the cracks of the damage received from his demonification.

[My liege, are you okay?] Cerberus asked. He was still in Chick's clutches and constantly trying to break free.

Zach raised his head and glanced at his surroundings to see the destruction he had caused.

"I... failed to stay sane... I don't remember anything after activating the Demon King's blessings..."

[My liege... I have something important to tell you...]

"Yes?"

After a brief silence of suspense, he said, [Can you ask this lowly servant to put me down?!]

Chapter 346 Coming Back to Senses

Zach looked at Chick and said, "Put him down, or he won't shut up."

Chick followed Zach's order and placed Cerberus on the ground.

[Hmph! Foolish servant!] Cerberus sat in front of Zach and looked up at him while wagging his tail.

"So. What happened? What did I do? And... why are you in puppy form?" Zach asked with a gloomy face.

[Let's just say that things happened and... shit happened. There is no point discussing it as it won't change anything. But if you want to know what happened in simple words, you went berserk and almost became a mindless demon.]

"Those simple words weigh heavy..." He let out a weary sigh and asked, "Did you stop me...?"

[I want to say yes, but unfortunately, I didn't. It was this lowly servant.]

"How did she bring me back to my senses?"

[Sadly, I don't know. My eyes were closed when all that happened.]

Zach turned to Chick and asked, "What did you do? And how did you come out of my shadow without any orders?"

Chick slowly sat up and sat in the same pose as Cerberus. Seemingly she was imitating him.

"..." Zach raised his brow and wondered, 'Did her IQ degrade even more than the last time? I knew she couldn't speak, but I expected her to tell me something in sign or at least write something on the ground. But she is becoming more and more like a mindless puppet.'

Zach lowered his gaze and gritted his teeth in annoyance.

"What have I done? I used necromancy on a dead human and made her like this. I didn't even let her soul pass peacefully. This is no different than defining a corpse to pleasure oneself.

Now I know why Aria warned me to not use it on a human. This girl had it cruel. She was shunned and betrayed by her sister and lover. I didn't want to kill her, but I was forced to since I had no other choice but to stop her from using that annoying ability.

And then I used necromancy on her and put her in an even crueler state..."

Zach covered his face with his hands and took a deep breath.

Cerberus glanced at Chick and then turned to Zach:

[My liege, I think you are mistaken.]

"What do you mean?" Zach asked with his hands still covering his face.

[It's my honor to serve you, and I am glad to have you as my master,] Cerberus stated proudly.

"I wasn't talking about you, Cerberus. I was talking about her."

[She feels the same.]

"Huh?" Zach removed his hands and asked, "What do you mean?"

[Since we are both undead, we can kind of communicate without speaking. We share the same master and space. And she is saying that she is glad that you revived her,] Cerberus asserted calmly.

Zach furrowed his brows and asked, "You are not lying, are you?"

[Why would I lie to you?]

"To make me feel good so I don't regret my actions?" Zach wondered.

[No. You are our master, and we are ever loyal to you. We would never lie or betray you,] Cerberus uttered with his utmost sincerity.

"Then what if she is saying all that because I am her master? You said you all are loyal and would never lie to me, then doesn't that mean you are not saying it because you are loyal to me, but saying it because I am your master?"

[I am not sure I quite understood what you were trying to say, but are you implying that we serve you because you are our master and not because we want to serve you?]

"Yeah," Zach nodded.

[My liege, what do you know about necromancy?]

"Actually... nothing..."

[I thought so. I don't have enough knowledge on it myself, but you can't use necromancy on someone who doesn't want to be your servant. And you can't use necromancy on everyone. Sometimes, it would fail too.]

"Hmm. I had a faint idea about that since I failed to use it on the other players I had killed in the ten-battle tournament; it only worked on this girl. So does that mean she was okay with being my servant?" Zach asked with a curious and confused look on his face.

[Precisely.]

SIGH!

Zach sighed in relief and said, "Thank you for telling me this. Now I feel a little better knowing I didn't ruin someone's life just to sate my curiosity. But still, I can't see this girl in such a degraded state."

Zach glanced at Chick and saw her smiling at him with an innocent look on her face.

"Yeah, I can't..." he repeated.

Zach recalled how naming Cerberus had evolved him and how he officially became his servant after that. He swore his unyielding loyalty to him and became his best undead companion beast.

"Say, Cerberus, if I name this girl, would she regain the ability to talk and have conversations like a normal human girl?"

[It depends on the bonds between you too. And uhh... I can't recall the correct word, but it was something related to... well, her feelings towards you..] Cerberus responded in an awkward manner.

"Hmm..." Zach patted Click on the head and uttered, "Do you want me to name you? I don't know your real name since you had some weird nickname."

The Chick didn't reply and stared at Zach with puppy eyes.

"I will take that as a yes." After pondering for a few seconds, Zach took a deep breath and uttered, "From here onwards, your name shall be Layla."

As soon as Zach uttered that, Chick's body was enveloped by a bright light that blinded both Zach and Cerberus.

When Zach opened his eyes, he almost couldn't recognize Layla. Her body had become a lot like a human. Her skin was soft, and her hair had become silky. Her eyes looked lively, and her lips seemed juicy.

If someone saw her, they would think of her as an NPC since there was no tag on her head.

Chapter 347 Layla

"Wow..." Zach was awed in astonishment. "Not going to lie, I didn't expect this much change. Now you look more like a human than a corpse."

[Praise me, my liege,] Cerberus said while wagging his tail.

"Uhh... for what? You didn't do anything, though."

[If I had kept my mouth shut and let you weep in regret, I could—]

"Okay, okay. Wow. Did I just get threatened by my own pet?" Zach let out a soft sigh and patted Cervberus' head while saying, "Thank you for everything. I know your current form is also because I did something. So thank you, really. You can now rest in my shadow and heal."

[Actually, you can heal me by pouring mana into me. It wouldn't even take five seconds for me to regain my almighty form!]

"I would love to do that, but I still need to clear the rest of the floors. I do have more than enough MP, but I am saving them in case of emergencies. So if I have any MP left after I clear this dungeon, I will use the rest of it to heal you. I hope you are okay with that," Zach stated.

[Absolutely, my liege. And if you ever need me, just call my name, and I will use my remaining lifeforce and fulfill my duty to protect you,] he said confidently.

"It won't come to that...." Zach lowered his gaze and smiled bitterly before saying, "I have decided to never use the demon king's blessing. If this had happened outside, I would have hurt many innocent lives. I would never be able to live with the guilt of massacring innocent lives."

[...] Cerberus opened his mouth to say something, but he didn't know what. He was haughty and proud of himself and never comforted anyone.

He didn't want to say something that could make Zach even more depressed, and he came to the conclusion that he would rather stay quiet than say something that would be deemed inappropriate in the current situation.

However, Layla slowly moved her hand forward and patted on Zach's head.

[You foolish servant! What do you think you are—!]

Zach raised his head and smiled at Layla. He patted her in return and said:

"Thank you for worrying about me. I am okay now."

Layla smiled at him but didn't say anything.

"Umm... can you speak now?"

Layla nodded in response.

"Then... try speaking something."

Layla stared at Zach for a few seconds and slowly opened her mouth to say:

"I..."

SIGH!

Zach let out a sigh of relief and muttered, "Thank fuck you can actually speak."

"I... am. Glad."

"..."

"Thank. You. For Giving. Me. Another. Chance. To. Live. Again. Thank. You. For. Reviving. Me," Layla uttered monotonously like a robot.

Zach turned to Cerberus and whispered, "Why is she speaking like this?"

[She should be able to speak more fluently as the time passes.]

"I see..." Zach cleared his throat and asked Layla, "Do you remember anything about your past life?"

Layla shook her head and said, "I. Do. Not. Possess. Any. Memory. But. I. Remember. The. Feeling. Of. Regret. When. I. Was. Revived. By. You."

'Should I tell her about herself? I myself don't know but...' Zach decided to keep it a secret from her as he didn't know what could happen if she learned about her past life.

"I want to let you know that I was the one who killed you," he uttered calmly.

However, he didn't want to hide the identity of her killer.

[My liege, you shouldn't have said that.]

"There is no way I could hide something so crucial. I mean... you also know that I was the one who killed you, so..." Zach shrugged his shoulders and tried to say something but stopped when he noticed an unfamiliar expression on Cerberus' face.

"Wait..." Zach gulped anxiously and asked, "Don't tell me you didn't know that I killed you."

Cerberus stared at Zach for a few seconds and then said, [I was aware of that. You may have forgotten this since you were busy with the girls, but I wasn't your servant when you revived me. I pledged my loyalty to you and willingly became your servant when you named me.]

PHEW!

"You kind of made me nervous for a second there. I didn't want you to go berserk in my current condition," he sighed with a soft chuckle.

[Are. You. Feeling. Alright?] Layla asked with a concerned look on her face.

"Yeah. Currently, I am perfectly fine, but not for long. I don't have much time before the side effects of the demonification kicks in..." Zach looked at his hands and uttered, "When I used the

phoenix's blessing, the fire only covered my hand and face, and they got numb for a day. I lost my sense of taste, and it also affected my hearing.

I cannot imagine what would happen to me next. The demonification had spread to my entire body. It made a mess of my body from both the inside and outside. That's why, I must clear the rest of the dungeon before that happens."

[What would you do if it happened in the middle of the fight, my liege?] Cerberus asked calmly.

"Well, that's the worst possible scenario. But if that happens, I will let you out and release my remaining MP in you, so you can maybe defeat the monster and take me home."

[Anytime, my liege.]

"Alright then." Zach got up and patted his clothes. "I will have to get a new pair. This one is ripped from many places."

Layla also got up and stood beside Zach. She looked at him in excitement, seemingly getting ready to fight.

"Uhh... you are also going back into my shadow. I can't risk anything."

Layla lowered her head with a gloomy face.

Cerberus and Layla disappeared into Zach's shadow while he passed through the portal and entered the next floor.

SIGH!

Chapter 348 Last Floor

Breath in~ Breath out~

Zach was breathing heavily, and he was drenched in his own sweat. He was tired from fighting, but the side effects of the demonification had begun to appear a while ago when he was clearing the 99th floor.

Currently, Zach was fighting against the monsters on the 100th floor.

As the player reached closer to the 100th floor, the difficulty obviously increased, but not in a way one would think. After the 94th floor, all the floors had strong bosses.

Floor 100th was supposed to be the same with one strong boss. However, there was more than one boss.

The 100th floor was dark and seemed more like an enormous chamber rather than a dungeon floor. Of course, the floor appearance or the environment didn't matter to Zach, but the bosses on the 100th floor were unlike anything he had fought before.

There were statues, colossal statues that could crush anyone under their feet. They were so tall that an average adult human would seem smaller than an ant. And there were not one but a dozen of them.

When Zach first entered the floor, he waited for the boss to spawn, only to realize later that the statues weren't for decoration, but they were the bosses.

Normally, he would have suspected it as soon as he entered the floor, but the number of the boss was supposed to be one, not twelve,

Not only that, but the status was just tall, and they had powers too. Some could use magic, while the rest were using their sheer physical strength with their weapons.

They all attacked at the same time, making it hard for Zach to dodge. He could avoid one, two, or even five attacks at once, but dodging twelve attacks at once wasn't an easy task when his body was in pain and had become heavy because of the side effects of the demonification.

However, he still managed to avoid most of their attacks while taking minimal damage. But since some of them could use magic, there was no limit to how much they could attack at once. The attacks were also unpredictable unlike the physical attacks.

If it was someone other than Zach, they would have been overwhelmed and died within less than ten seconds unless they were in a party and had top-tier skills.

'What should I do? They are not giving me any chance to attack them. All I am doing is jumping here and there to save myself, but that exhausts me even more. I have to do something before this pain renders me useless. I don't think even Cerberus can handle this floor alone. They are freaking statues!

I first tried using the cursed dagger, but it couldn't penetrate their body. Punching and kicking it didn't work either.

I have enough MP left, and I am currently at level 98. Clearing this floor would surely make me a level 99 player. I don't care about reaching level 100 right now. I can get there later, but only if I survive.

Should I use my blessings? I won't use the Demon King's blessing since I can't control it, but I can control the Phoenix's blessings.

However, I am going to suffer in hell. The side effects are not affecting my HP or anything, they are breaking the foundation of my soul. If I push my body more, I might become crippled. That would be the worst thing.'

Zach thought all that while dodging the attacks from the bosses. So many things were going on in his mind that he couldn't come up with a proper plan.

'Do they not have a weakness? Surely, they do, right? Everything in this world has weaknesses.'

Amid his thoughts, he came up with a simple plan, which was to attack them one by one and decrease them in number.

He jumped to the nearest statue and used DT on him, turning him into ashes in less than a second.

'Holy shit! That drained more than 40% of the MP I had. I can now only use DT one more time! Well, fuck it! I am tired of jumping! I will just go all out!'

Zach jumped on the next statue and used DT on it too.

'Now I only have enough MP required to heal Cerberus. I can't use it. I don't think I will be able to walk out of this floor on my foot.'

'I guess Xie Lua has to wait for tomorrow to get today's supply of the MP potions.'

Zach used five hundred 50MP potions and increased his MP by 25000.

"Let's go bitches!"

Zach ran past three more statues and used DT on them. And then one more.

'There are six more statues.'

Zach took a deep breath and muttered, "If I am going to suffer hell later, then adding some more pain won't make much of a difference."

He activated Xie Lua's blessings and manifested a half-phoenix's form.

'I was expecting an upgrade in the form since Xie, and I are lovers now, but I guess that's not how it works. The only possibility I can think of is that it needs fore soul powers to manifest a full Pheonix form.'

Zach jumped in the air and pointed his fire hand at the statue.

"Burn into ashes!"

Zach intended to burn the statues into ashes, but Phoenix's fire was so scorching that instead of turning them into ashes, it reached far above their boiling point and became glass.

However, Zach didn't want them to break free, so he kept using the fire and approached them. The glass hardened even more, but it eventually started to melt with the statues.

Then, Zach used his brute strength to punch them again and again in the Phoenix's form and broke them into pieces.

[Congratulations! You have cleared the last dungeon of the first main realm!]

[Leveled up!]

Zach received the rewards even though he wasn't interested in them. The only thing he was interested in was a way to increase his soul powers.

Chapter 349 An Unexpected Reward

"All these rewards mean nothing to me. Especially the weapons and the armor. I don't need any of them. Yeah, the coins, runes, and the powders are indeed helpful, but I earn a lot from selling the potions, and I get free powders for materials used to create the MP potions bottle.

And... the runes are used to buy items... in other words, weapons and stuff which, again, I don't need," he muttered.

However, the rewards were extremely useful for the other players as they could help them increase their stats by using the weapons and wearing the armors. Coins were also valuable for everyone. And the players could sell or exchange powders and runes for an item or coins.

"I was here for the EXP, and I am satisfied with it..." Zach stopped and sighed after looking at his level.

Level 99.

"One level..."

Still, Zach leveled up by 16 in one day, which was a significant achievement considering how hard it was to level up on the high realms as the EXP capacity increased tremendously according to the player's level.

"Hmm...?" Zach noticed he had also gained something else as a reward. "What is it?"

[Item- ????]

'I got a similar reward upon clearing a quest a way back. If I remember correctly, it was a reward for cultivating 5000 MP.'

"But what are they...?"

Zach merged the two '????' rewards together, and they formed a puzzle piece that required two more '????' to finish it.

"There is no information provided regarding what it is. Not even a name..." Zach furrowed his brows and muttered, "This better be something good, or I am going to be so pissed that whichever god is responsible for these rewards will receive a reward from me too— which is the cruelest death!"

Zach Phoenix's form suddenly deactivated, and he landed on the ground but later dropped to his knees and coughed out blood.

"I guess I reached my limit..." He dropped to the ground and uttered, "Cerberus. I leave the rest to you."

Cerberus came out of Zach's shadow in the puppy form and placed his head on Zach's hand.

Zach released all the remaining MP into Cerberus and healed him to the max before passing out.

[My liege...] Cerberus lowered his head and muttered, [Why must you do everything alone. I know it's not that you don't trust your subordinates or your lovers, but doing everything and taking the responsibility is an act of sheer folly.]

Cerberus grabbed Zach by his clothes and tossed him in the air using his fangs. His body landed on top of Cerberus.

[What am I going to say to Lady Aria...?]

Cerberus walked out of the portal and left the dungeon.

[...]

Outside, it was late noon, and no one was around.

[I can reach the portal, but how can I pass through it? Of course, I can! If those lowly servants managed to descend to the lower realms to clear the dungeon, why can't I, the best servant of the universe, pass through it!]

Even though Cerberus had a near-death experience while fighting Zach's demon form, his attitude remained unfazed.

After that, Cerberus ran his way to the portal and descended a few realms, but he messed up and went all the way to the beginner's realm, where 30% of the players were still living.

The portal of the beginner's realm was in an open garden of the capital, and it was filled with players.

When Cerberus descended there, it caused a huge uproar.

'A monster has spawned!' That was what every player yelled.

Most of them ran away in fear, while some of them tried to fight back after seeing Zach on top of him. They thought Cerberus had attacked Zach and would eat him even though the reality was something else.

However, they had no way of knowing that.

Some of the players called for a backup, and they formed an army to fight Cerberus, but Cerberus quietly passed through the portal and ascended to the correct floor, leaving all the players dumbfounded and clueless.

[Seriously, who do humans always choose violence? I didn't even do anything. I was as surprised as they were. But I attack no one. Yet, they all came with weapons in their hands as though I was some kind of monster— oh! I am a monster, aren't I?]

[Hmph! How dare they compare me to the other weak monsters. I am the strongest monster in the universe. Even the soul eater is nothing compared to me. I am the mighty Cerberus, the only one who is worthy of being my liege's number one and his favorite monster!]

Cerberus hastily made his way to the church.

Aria, Victoria, Ninia, Noah, and Elina were preparing for the summit and had created a stage and a throne for Zach to sit on.

They all thought that Zach was with Aurora, while Aurora thought he had gone back to the girls.

When Cerberus arrived there with unconscious Zach on top of him, they were baffled. They had no idea what had happened, and the only thing they could do was panic.

Cerberus told them everything, and Aria snapped at him for allowing Zach to do something so reckless.

Aria then recalled how Zach had changed the schedule of the summit from morning to evening because he was planning something else. She also blamed herself for not realizing it sooner.

They took Zach inside and placed him on the bed so he could rest.

"What should we do? Should we cancel the summit?" Victoria asked Ninia and Aria.

"I..." Ninia was the one looking forward the most for the summit as her Lord was going to gain more followers.

"Screw all that!" Aria yelled. "We have to see what's wrong with him and heal him in the fastest way possible! Ninia, you should know what's wrong with him, right?!"

Ninia shook her head and said, "I already checked, and nothing seems wrong. As Cerberus said, this is the side effects of using the blessings... no, they are not blessings. They are curses!"

"..."

"Blessings don't have side effects, and they never cause pain! They all have cursed him!"

"Calm down, Ninia."

"How am I supposed to calm down when—" She stopped when she recognized the voice.

It was Zach.

"Can't I even nap in peace?" he chuckled softly.

Chapter 350 Zach's Old Secret

"My Lord!" Nyxia jumped on top of Zach and hugged him tightly in front of Victoria and Aria.

Aria frowned her face and tried to push her aside, but Victoria stopped her and said, "She is as happy as we are."

"Oh, come on. Since when did you become so reasonable and kind?"

"Why do you think Aurora is his favorite?" Victoria asked Aria in a low voice.

"Uhh... because they have spent more time together than any of us?" Aria wondered.

"No. I am the one who has spent the most time with him."

"Then why...?"

"Aurora was with him when he needed someone. She is the one who changed him." She pointed her gaze at Ninia and said, "And she is different from us. I am sure she wouldn't have stopped Ninia if she was here right now."

Aria raised her brow and asked, "So are you saying that she is his favorite because she gives him the freedom to do whatever he wants?"

"Not exactly, but yeah. If he kept nagging him, he would obviously feel annoyed. I get it that you don't like it, but that's not a reason to act like that. Everyone deserves to love him and spend time with him."

She shrugged her shoulders and continued, "That was the first thing I learned when I agreed to join his harem. Did you also spend time with him yesterday? I could have nagged him if I wanted to, but I didn't. So you should treat everyone like how you want to be treated by them."

"...." Aria stared at Victoria with a confused look on her face and said, "I am well aware of all that. Why did you make such a simple thing so complicated?"

"Huh? Weren't you getting jealous of Ninia...?"

"Yeah. Because she is not a part of his harem nor his lovers. And look at his current condition." Aria pointed her gaze at Ninia and said, "He might be in pain, and she is basically crushing him under her voluptuous body."

"Oh..."

Victoria pulled Ninia back by her veil and said, "That's enough. Let's examine his body now."

"Don't tell me you are going to strip me naked," Zach commented. "I wouldn't mind it, but you will have to help me—"

"We are not." Victoria held Zach's hand in her hands and asked with a concerned look on her face: "How do you feel?"

"You should have asked while placing my hand on your boobs. I can't really feel your hands," Zach responded with a soft scoff.

"If he is passing jokes like this, then he is probably alright," Aria stated.

"Yeah, I am alright."

"But... how is that possible?" Aria asked with a confused look on her face. "You mentioned that using Phoenix's blessings got your body numb. And Cerberus told us how you used the Demon King's blessing and lost control."

It should technically have a worse effect on you compared to— oh!" Aria shook her head and hands while saying, "I don't mean that I want that to happen. I am just—"

"Yeah. I get what you are trying to say, but I am perfectly fine. Maybe not all the blessings have side effects? And... My mother is a demon, so I am technically a demon too. Perhaps that's the reason?"

"That's possible," Aria nodded.

"Umm..." Victoria felt left out as Zach only talked with Ninia and Aria.

Zach smiled at her and said, "Don't worry. I am fine."

"My Lord, should I cancel the summit?" Ninia asked.

"Oh, no. It's my first summit, and I don't want to make any bad impression. Who knows how many of them would return to the next summit if we cancel this one."

"That's true." Ninia turned to Aria and Victoria and said, "Shall we go and confirm everything is alright?"

"Yeah."

They left the room, but Zach grabbed Victoria's hand and stopped her.

"You stay here. I want to talk to you about something."

"Okay..."

Ninia and Aria left the room, but they also left the door open.

"Can you close the door?" he calmly said to Victoria.

Victoria nodded and rushed to the door to close it.

"So... is there something you need...?"

"I... have to confess something..." he said while averting his gaze.

"Okay? What is it?"

"I know what I am going to say will prove that I am an s-class asshole, and I won't blame you for getting angry..."

Victoria hugged Zach and said, "Say it. I don't think there is anything that could make me angry now. I have accepted everything."

"When we were dating..." After a brief pause, he continued, "I... cheated on you."

"..."

"It wasn't exactly cheating, but I don't want to make excuses."

Victoria let go of Zach and asked, "With who?"

"It's Siesta..."

"That's... Shay's sister?"

Zach nodded and said, "Yes. But I swear it wasn't a serious relationship."

"Heh..." Victoria scoffed bitterly and muttered, "Just when I thought you would never disappoint me, you did just that."

"I know what you are thinking, but I want you to listen to me carefully."

"Let me ask the correct questions." Victoria frowned her face and asked, "Did you sleep with her?"

"What... no. Of course not. As I already said, it wasn't a serious relationship."

"When did you start cheating on me, and for how long?"

"That was actually before we started dating..."

"Doesn't that mean you cheated on her and not me?"

Zach shook his head and uttered, "I... I killed that teacher."

"Wha...t?" Victoria managed to stutter with a pale face.

"The teacher who framed you... and me..." Zach lowered his gaze and continued, "That night, I went to Shay's house. Siesta was there, too, obviously. I asked Shay if he could do something and get me the address of the person spreading the edited porno."

After finding his exact location, I flew there using my power. And... I killed him on the spot. It was all in rage. I didn't mean to kill him, but I had no remorse. That wasn't my first kill, after all."