

LOA Nobody 181

Chapter 181 The basics of Academy

After meeting with Rebecca, Bernhardt and Ayla at the academy gates, Rio and Amelia walked inside to finish their admission process. Though everything was already done, they had to report in with the staff. After meeting with them, we were given the ID cards, uniforms and the keys to the dorms that were assigned to us.

Thankfully ID cards here weren't some long string lanyards which one would have to keep around their neck, but a brooch like item, which upon contact displays the name, class and rank of that student.

The coin-like brooch contained just normal details and was worn as more of a sign of which year that student was in. Since the uniform of every year's student was mostly similar, these brooches became the difference. Yellow for first years(freshman), Green for second years(sophomore), Blue for third years(junior), Red for fourth years(Senior) and finally Black for fifth years(Ace).

Every student of the academy was given wrist watches. Which after getting the mana signature of their bound student, would display all of that student's details. From their personal information, to their studies, subjects and training methods, to their awakening rank and element and their rank in academy exams too etc. Everything related to that student which was public knowledge and filled in the forms would be displayed on that watch. This watch also had many other functions but they were mostly locked for first year students.

It gave everyone a free map of the academy, along with normal information regarding general places. Like training grounds, play grounds, battle arenas, shops and stages everything. It also indicated which areas of the academy were accessible to that student(marked in green) and which places he was not allowed to enter(marked in red).

It also had the function of tracking that student's location at all times while he was inside the academy and keeping a tab on his health. If ever your life is at risk or you exhausted yourself and entered the state of mana depletion, it would immediately notify the medical staff of the academy of your condition and location.

Once you leave the area of floating islands these watches stop functioning completely and you can't even see time in it. This is the academy's way of giving their students privacy, and to show that the academy has no responsibility for you once you're out of their premises, you're on your own.

As one could guess, since the academy is under control of world association, and tries to be equal to everyone. There's no concept of money or coins in the academies, so as to give fair chance and equality to everyone. The academy has their own system of different currency called MP (Merit Points).

Every student is given some points monthly as their allowance, based on their year, rank and results. These points are then used to access many facilities of the academy or to buy something from the academy shops. Money conversion to points is also a thing, but there's a limit to how many points a student can exchange and the more you do, the more costlier it gets. Though it doesn't help much, it still gives commoner students a chance to not be left behind. There are even ways to earn more points, but they're mostly for second years and further students. They're given tests, tasks, quests, jobs - through them they can earn more points for themselves. By clearing the dungeons or having high contributions in some academy work and projects also gives you many Merit Points.

The watch also keeps tabs on the points distribution. The amount, spending history, conversion and everything related to them could be tracked through these watches too. This is also to stop bullying, so powerful students don't bully weaker ones and transfer all their points. Yes, students can share and buy points from each other. Even some teachers and staff of the academy can share their points through their own wishes.

The watch also gives students access to the academy forum, through which they can get all kinds of information regarding the academy and what's happening around them. The ranks and results of tests also get posted there. As well as, notices of extracurricular activities or any other tournament and exams. It's like their official social media page, through which you can see all kinds of news and announcements of the academy.

Also it has the function of communication too, through which you can call any of the staff members.(obviously for a valid reason and following the chain of hierarchy) . You can also call and add other students and pair their watches too. Through which you can communicate with them too.

Each watch is specially bound to that student and would only give access to him through his mana signature. So no one else could access it. Thus there's no chance of stealing it , hacking it or forcing it.

(Author - These are all the functions of it for now. I'll add more and give details on more the more time passes)

Rio looked at his wristwatch and read the details given below -

[Rio Blake

Awakener rank - C+

Aura rank - Aura Manifestation

Element - Darkness

Blood group - A+ve

Class - First Year

Division - pending

Academy Rank - pending

Subjects - pending

Training methods - pending

Status - Healthy(normal)

MP - 1000]

He read the details and they were accurate enough. He could hide his rank and aura stage, but he saw no point in doing it. First of all, he was already 18 years old, C+ is the least he should be. His mastery of aura was obviously higher than everyone, and would probably give a shock to many - but even that

could be explained by him constantly fighting creatures of undeath for 2 years nonstop without wasting his mana much. Plus he was a born genius, in a family of rich geniuses.

Plus it didn't show his blessings or skills or any other secrets, so there was no need to be extra on edge. If anyone did try something, he could just waste his points and rank up any time he wants, so even this wasn't necessary.

The class division hasn't happened yet, and would only be finalized once everyone reported to the academy. There are usually around 3000 students in each batch of Zenith academy. While other academies accept even more students. Zenith believes in maintaining the quality over quantity, and that's why they have ruled over the position of number one academy for decades.

The class division of people who didn't take part in academy exams would be based on their performance of world association preliminary exams. Since Rio didn't do both of them, his place was gonna be random drop. But Artemis already talked to the principal that how he was still a little lost after his 'traumatic experience' so to allow him and Amelia to be in same division, as that would help him get over everything better. Principal had no problem with it and agreed. So Rio didn't have to worry that he would be placed in some last dumb D grade, while protagonist and all the heroines would be rocking in A grade. With Amelia's talent and her role in story he was sure she'd be placed in the same class as protagonist and thus he'd be there too. With him there, he could just act and change stuff whenever he wants and stop protagonist from getting anywhere close to people around him.

As for subjects, they're given options to students after he clears the first semester, which is 6 months after joining. Academy ranking for everyone would also only get finalized after that. For now the ones who participated in academy's entrance exams can have their ranks, while those who didn't can see 'pending' written there.

Training method, this choice depends on the students. As the students of the world's best academy, they're given access to the biggest hub of techniques and arts created by their predecessors.

<Anyone can donate their techniques to the world association, and if they found it worthy and suitable enough, they'd keep it in their library for future students to see and learn it. Some people do it out of generosity and wanting to help future generations, some do it for the credit and recognition. World association also gives pretty good rewards if the techniques/skills are selected to be stored.

This is also another reason, why students of rich families and noble backing, join the academies of world association, instead of learning at home or somewhere else. This place has garnered an enormous

amount of resources and arts created by many geniuses of history. Many families which are lost, many talents which die - unable to find a successor, the world association has garnered all their arts and skills.

To buy even one technique outside, one would need to empty their pockets, but at these academies, as long as you show good talent, results and have enough credits, you can read those arts, and even get guidance from the best teachers the world has to offer.>

Rio glanced at his points of MP, which was the regular minimum a new student could get. He had a lot of points saved up before, but since he was repeating his year, they were lost now. He wanted to talk to the staff to get his points of that year back too, as that was his hard earned results. But he also knew it wasn't possible. That principal already allowed him to repeat his year again despite his beliefs, so Rio wasn't planning to trouble the old man again for these little things.

He would just need to earn some points again. And knowing what he knew, it wasn't going to be hard for him. He had already done many things that changed stuff of the academy arcs, so he wasn't worried that the protagonist would get everything, while he was looking for points.

Chapter 182 Basics of the academy 2

Ignoring the issue of the points, Rio walked towards the store which was issuing them the essentials of first years - the uniform, weapons and the books needed for basic studies of the first year schedule.

Talking about the uniform of the academy that he received. There aren't many differences between the uniforms of various students of all the years. The academy only gives out simple t-shirts, shirts and jackets to everyone. Boys and girls have similar designs too. (Obviously except the obvious differences in making). Whenever you're in class these clothes are mandatory to wear.

(As for pants, there's no rule. One can just wear whatever color or style they have or want. Shorts and half skirts aren't allowed, because it isn't a beach and horny holiday. Academy also gives pants, so if you got none - we got you.)

The uniform of the Zenith Academy is blue in color, with light stripes of white in between. The logo of Zenith is made on the chest and back as their identification.

(I'll share the image of it later, once I'm done making it. And write about the design here. For now, just imagine anything you want) .

For training exercises and other physical activities, some tracksuits would be issued to students. All these uniforms are made of special clothes and through special methods and by people who had special blessings - these are more durable, adapt to other energies and have slight protection functions. The quality and protection of the clothes increases as your years in the academy goes by.

(You can't wear normal pants to a magic fight. A burst of mana/aura might burst your pants in public. SO BEWARE or your walk of glory in arena, might turn into a walk of shame)

After getting everything Rio just pushed everything inside his storage ring and started going towards his dorm rooms. Every student studying at the floating islands would have to live in their dorms too. So basically all students of the first year would be staying together for the whole year.

The dorm buildings are made separately for each year students. There are 5 such buildings for students of each year to live in. Their sizes and designs all vary from each other. But one thing they all share is, it is divided in 2 parts - one side is for girls and the other side for boys.

Even the world of fantasy has to maintain some rules, otherwise who knows what kind of creatures are living together with what kind of wool.

The building that first year students were going to stay in was called - "Mirage Mansion".

As understood by the name, the building was made in the form of a mirage, a trick, a manor that looked dilapidated from the outside, but once you cross the gates and enter, it turns into the magnificent mansion of the fantasy world.

The building was made in the open space. The manor was divided in 3 parts - Right side for the girls, left side for the boys and the center building remained the common area for both where dining halls and other entertainment halls and services were made available.

[Image in comments and my discord server]

After getting the keys from the staff, Rio walked out of the office and saw Amelia was already done with her things and was waiting for him, along with everyone else. When he walked out, they started moving

towards the dorm buildings. Rio was walking ahead with Bernhardt, who led the way, while all 3 girls were following behind them.

Rio looked at Bernhardt talking about everything that happened in the academy for the past 2 years, and about things that changed in his absence.

Bernhardt had joined the academy together with him back then, along with Alfred. They were all classmates. But unlike him they didn't miss 2 years of their time, so they are now going to be 4th year students, while he'll still repeat his first year.

With Rio changing up the storyline of the Royal family, Bernhardt still hasn't begun his villain journey yet. Like in the novel, he doesn't hate Rio, but is friends with him. They've met each other many times after Rebecca's birthday celebration, and even shared the dorm room for a while.

Rio, who knew about his talents and chances that had helped him many times, and even supported him to get the Royal blessing of schott family ancestors.

That's why the king hasn't made any announcement of making Alfred the heir to the throne yet like in He might have wanted to, but with both brothers competing with each other it's hard for him to choose Alfred without a reason. Even if he made Alfred the crown prince now, it wasn't going to matter much,

Bernhardt's jealousy had sprouted since he was a kid, and that stopped his growth. Since after that he started focusing more on shaming Alfred and getting the attention of everyone else, he never trained or tried to learn much again, as it looked pointless to him. But with Rio slowly guiding him from the shadows, as he altered some events, now he could stand shoulder to shoulder with Alfred.

Though the shame of being the bastard son of a commoner, is still his biggest hurdle. But even that isn't his worries now, as the stepping stone is already happy with what he achieved till now. His talents had undoubtedly made others respect him and with the blessing of the ancestors, even the other royal members dare not look down on him and his mother.

Besides the rumors of the heir of Blake family being best friends with the bastard son, instead of their cousin Alfred, is also a deterrent in many people's eyes. So overall, these 2 fellows were quite happy with what they had now. Rio had gotten Bernhardt under his wings, as he became his eyes in the Royal

Palace. And Bernhardt had gotten a friend and partner who didn't discriminate against him and supported him.

"Do you know who my room partners are?" Rio asked Bernhardt.

Until the first semester was finished and rankings of everyone became fixed, the first year students were to live together. In one dorm room 3-4 students were to share that space. The distribution of rooms and partners would be done randomly and if there's a logic behind it, he didn't know. It is only when the new rankings come after the first exams that everyone gets their own separate rooms and facilities. After that, rankers get to live on the higher floors of the manor, and get access to more facilities, while other students get swapped out with different partners.

So for the first 6 months Rio had to share his room with other students. "I hate this arrangement." Rio thought, as he could just pray that his partners for the next 6 months won't be some troublesome guy, whom he can't bear to see.

"I don't know." Bernhardt shook his head and replied "I think you have one partner written in the registers, but I didn't take a clear look. Maybe you'll meet him soon."

"What about you girls?" Rio asked and turned around. Since Ayla and Rebecca had come here in the morning, they must've gotten their rooms already. "Who's your partner?"

His words made Rebecca smile as she happily pulled Amelia to her side. "Me and Amy are going to live together. Along with one other girl, who hasn't come yet."

Her words didn't surprise Rio, The other girl whom they haven't met yet, was also someone he knew from the plot, but that's not necessary to tell them now.

"What about you Ayla? Did you get yours?" Rio asked her.

Ayla nodded her head too, and said "Not until now, the warden said, one more girl will come but she hasn't reported yet, so I don't know."

"Really" That surprised Rio, as according to the plot, Ayla was supposed to live alone. But he could guess what changed this. Ayla wasn't just a random commoner, who got chosen to attend the academy, but was someone whom Blake family had nurtured. Plus her results are still better than what she had so it makes sense that some things would be changed too.

'Wonder who will get to live with her. I hope it's not some other heroine, that could change some more plotlines too.' Rio thought and kept walking.

Rio ignored it, since it wasn't something he could change anyway.

Soon they all reached the dorms, the girls said their goodbyes and left. Since the dining hall was common in both dormitories, they were going to meet there once they were done with their unpacking.

Rio showed his ID to the staff, and went inside. Bernhardt also left him and went back. Senior students weren't allowed entry in the freshman dorms, especially since it's day one of their stay.

"Been a while since I came here. Now let's head inside."

Chapter 183 Elvis Clarke (Umbra)

Standing in the familiar building, Rio kept walking around the hallways, he could still vividly remember everything, the year he spent here in the same halls, that time especially memorable as that was the first time he was alone and away from home in this world. Even some memories of earth and the time he left to live in the hostels, would come to his mind now and then.

"So you're really starting from here again?"

He heard a calm voice of a middle aged man behind him. He didn't need to turn around to see who it was, as he replied "Well, I couldn't leave you behind now, could I?"

"You just wanted to stay with the kids and show off. Afraid that your classmates would've beat you up."
Elvis said with a sarcastic smile.

Without replying to his remark, Rio just scoffed and kept walking towards his room.

'Beat me up - I'm the destined villain. Is it so easy to bully?'

The man just smiled seeing his reaction and followed him to his room. He looked to be in his 30's. His brown hair tied in a single braid, which draped over his shoulder. His hazel colored eyes staring at the scenes with a subtle smile, hidden beneath his carefully groomed beard.

He was Elvis Clarke, a Limit rank hunter, widely known in the outside world by his alias, Umbra. He's a past graduate of the academy, who's now working as the warden of the Mirage Manor's boys dorm.

Elvis is from a commoner family living in the outskirts of Thidrol city, a small settlement called Cairus. The place is a barren land, abandoned by the Duke family, because of the LOOSE DUNGEON*¹. Yet people live there since it's cheap compared to everywhere else.

Since all the first years stayed in one building, it is naturally common that there'd be cases of fighting, bullying or ragging due to the difference between status and ranks among the students. Though the rules were made and breaking them would be a punishable offense, but that is only if one gets found out.

That's why every dorm building has a supervisor to stop incidents like that from happening.

Obviously the protagonist lives in this building, and he even had lower status than many of the childrens from royals, nobles and even elite families, he'd be getting into trouble often. Even more so, since he took the first rank now. Many of the students who would be dissatisfied with him would come to trouble him. And even if no one came to trouble him, he'd find trouble by snooping his nose in other's business - that's why the author wrote this warden as the support character for the protagonist.

Leon, at the beginning of the academy, hadn't seen the world outside his house at all. Though he lived a tough life after becoming a cripple for years, his family still shielded him from many things. So the best he suffered till now were just some petty gazes and whispering remarks.

But here he had no protection, and his rank and popularity put a target on his back and those around him. In this situation where the protagonist would end up doubting himself and the world many times, it is this warden who gives him counseling.

In a way, Elvis was the motivational support for Leon, in the first year of the academy. And since Rio knew that, how could he ignore this guy?

So when he joined the academy 3 years back, he tried to be friends with the man. Even though he didn't have any other role except being the motivational cheering up guy for the protagonist, Rio tried his best on his part. After all, who knows when one would be helpful.

Just like now.

Rio stood outside his old room, the one where he previously used to stay with Bernhardt and Charles when he first joined the academy. He had requested Elvis to get him the same room as back then and the warden had no problem with it.

"Thank you for getting it for me." Rio said, as he swiped his wristwatch over the scanner.

"Count it as a welcome gift from me. It was empty anyway." Elvis said, as he shrugged his shoulders.

Once the security scan was done, and the ID was verified, the door opened with a click.

No one, except the students living in the dorms, could enter the room. And if they wanted to, they'd need to get the permission of the roomowner or the warden.

<<The mirage manor had 10 floors. Every floor consisted of around 50 rooms. There was an 11th floor, which was locked for now. And would be opened after the first semester results are out. After that, the top 100 students would be transferred on that floor. There's no difference between rooms in the first 10 floors, as they're all exact replicas of each other. But the 11th floor made for the rankers is obviously different and better.>>

(There were many elevators made around the building, so one doesn't have to walk an hour to reach his room.)

Rio's room was on the third floor.

[Room number 317]

Looking at the empty room, it became clear that whoever his partner was, hasn't arrived yet.

Rio walked in and started looking around the room. It was still the same as back then.

Before every new session starts, all the dorms and rooms get redecorated to their original conditions, so there wasn't a single sign of life living inside. It was as empty as it could be.

Though he called it a room and it even looked like one from the outside, after entering inside, one would see its size was 5 times more than what it seemed from the outside. It had all the amenities one would ever need.

In one dormroom 3-4 students could live freely. It had 2 rooms, 1 big hall, a kitchen and one training hall. There was even a mana chamber, but the mana density inside was just slightly better than outside. And there was a restriction on a student about how long he could use it. If one wanted to stay there longer, he'd need to pay for it with his Merit Points(MP).

"My room partner hasn't arrived yet. Any idea who it is?" Rio asked.

Elvis shook his head and replied - "Nope. I don't make the records and I haven't checked them yet. I was busy with some other stuff."

"Well, let's hope it's not some idiot like last time."

Rio said, remembering a fat snotty brat whom he was paired up with last time. If not for Bernhardt constantly pranking him everyday, he'd have to share a room for 6 months with a guy who'd pray to

gods in the morning for hours and then cover their statues with a sheet and indulge in God knows what shit he was fuming on.

Hearing his words Elvis smiled too. As he remembered the constant complaints he got for a month, before he changed his room. "Don't forget, he's your senior now."

"I'm surprised he's still here in the academy. How'd he even pass his exams every time anyway." Rio was really curious. The top academy in whose exams even geniuses get a headache, that guy is somehow always able to pass on the borderline.

"Maybe he's lucky, like you." Elvis smiled and said meaningfully. "Heard you caused quite the commotion on the ceremony by entering like that."

"Well, I had to show up someday. What better way than to come out when there was a stage already." Rio replied, while walking towards the window and opening it.

Letting the air pass, the empty room felt too stuffy even though it was empty. Breathing the fresh air was really right.

Elvis kept staring at Rio, to see his reaction and trying to read through his thoughts. His cheery personality and smile now gone, as he focused on him.

Rio looked at Elvis's expression in the glass reflection and smiled. This was his real personality. A guy who acted nice and social to get close to everyone and let them drop their guard. His happy helpful nature is what helped him become the first year's warden. So he could guide them and help them adjust to new surroundings. His kind words towards everyone, projected a face of someone who was nonchalant, yet he was the perfect warden. Even now he was probably thinking about the chaos Rio's entry would set off and if he'd create any troubles in his dorms.

'He's really the perfect spy.'

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*1 << Loose dungeons are dungeons which have been pulled into Arcadia, but haven't fully opened yet. They seem like a crack in space, which constantly radiates the otherworldly energy or the radiation.

Since the dungeon hasn't been opened yet, it can't be accessed and solved, thus the energy would keep poisoning the land all around until the space crack widens and the dungeon fully integrates itself with Arcadia. This is why it's dangerous to live near them as there's the risk of radiation due to constant uncontrollable exposure of energy, and the threat that the dungeon can open any time, any day and no one would know.

There are many loose dungeons all over Arcadia. Many people have tried jumping into the spatial crack, closing it with space magic, widening it with magic attacks - but none of these things work. The ones who jumped inside, died horribly due to the difference in environment and unstable space gap between both worlds. Healing and attacking it are also useless, as the cracks either repels the energy attacks if its not compatible with the world energy of that dungeon. And if it's similar, the cracks absorb the energy and the situation remains the same.

So people of Arcadia just let them be, instead of trying forcefully to open them. As no one knows what lies beyond. The whole dungeon might crash and people would lose the profits brought from the dungeon. Or it might explode, killing everyone in the nearby radius.

Chapter 184 Why Is It Happening Again?

~ Tring tring ~

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The sound of the alarm clock started ringing in the room, telling the one sleeping soundly that it was morning now and he should wake up. Rio just tossed in his sleep and waved his hand around, shutting off the sound. He just won his fight over the alarm clock when someone started pulling his blanket.

"Oyee, wake up already. You're gonna be late."

"Just 5 more minutes"

Hearing his answer the boy standing near him gave him an annoyed look and said "I told you to sleep early. It's already time for the first class."

"Just go away. I'll come after you." Rio said and pulled the blanket back.

The boy glanced at the time and then at Rio, "Fine, I'm leaving. Just try not to be late on the first day."

'Finally, some peaceful sleep.' Rio thought, as he heard the sound of footsteps getting slow and the door closing.

[Host, you can't sleep now. Just wake up and let's go for the classes.]

"Shut up."

[You know, the first scene of the protagonist is going to happen soon. He might bump into Amelia or Rebecca. You sure you want to take a chance.]

'Fuuuck' Rio cursed and opened his eyes.

"Did you see it?" He asked as he kept lying down. His empty eyes staring at the ceiling.

[Yes]

"And you're still telling me everything's fine."

[I see nothing abnormal, host.]

"Give me the potion." Rio said.

[There's no point in drinking them, host. The aftereffects of EMMSY were cured the first time you took it. Now you're just wasting your points.]

"Then what do you want me to do? If it's not EMMSY then what is it?"

[It's you, host. I can't stop your thoughts, neither can you. So stop wasting your time and stop what you can, their meeting.]

Hearing the system's words Rio just sighed and stood up to get ready.

It had been a week since his arrival in the academy. And 4 days since he started getting dreams of his earth life again.

After the healing potion 'the being' gave him years ago, his nightmares had stopped. And though he did get one or two sometimes, they weren't that effective and he'd forget them easily.

But nowadays it has become a constant repeat again. Everytime he sleeps, the scenes of his past start to appear in front of him. They weren't about Ria now, but about her - the one whom he loved and the one who left him, his Queency. (Scoffs)

The memories he thought he forgot were starting to haunt him again, and he didn't like it one bit.

At first thinking, these might be the aftereffects of EMMSY, as the disease is known to affect the soul, or the corrosive mana known for affecting one's mind - instead of waiting for Ayla to make a potion for him, he bought one from system and drank it.

He thought it'd be over after that, but it didn't. They just became more chaotic and vivid ever since then. Even though the system said he was fine, and he himself thought so too, he couldn't suppress these dreams again. He even got Thanatos's blessing of peaceful sleep, but even that was a hoax.

'Why can't I just forget everything. And why is it happening after all this time, when the plot is finally starting' Rio thought, as he lit a cigarette in the shower. Even though the water kept falling on his head, not a single droplet touched the cigarette.

'After so many years. Why now? Why did you have to appear now of all time?' He thought, as he came out of the shower.

He wanted to focus on the plotline. and he wanted to keep his full focus on the protagonist and other characters, but her memories have been making it hard for him to do anything.

After getting ready, he stood in front of the mirror, as he channeled his mana and waved his hand. His blessing came into play, making his figure bathe in a golden light. Once it was done, his face which previously looked stressed turned calm. The dark circles and slight redness of his eyes, disappeared and his charm increased by another 2 points.

This was due to Aphrodite's blessing - Blink of Brilliance.

It was simply a show off blessing, which amplified his charm. Whatever condition he was in, or however he looked, once he used this blessing, he'd appear his very best in other's eyes. A perfect tool for showing off in front of the crowd. And yet here he was, using it, to hide his worried face from his sister. I think you should take a look at

'She's surprisingly keen.' Rio thought, remembering how she started showering him with questions, even though he thought he covered his expressions pretty well.

[She is your sister. Now stop your dilly-dallying and move. Or you're gonna be late.]

Rio shoved his thoughts aside, and left his room.

'I should've gotten that skill. That would've made things a lot easier.' Rio thought, remembering about a certain skill, that could enable him to control his thoughts much better. He could've bought that from the system shop too, but this fucking system doesn't let me.

'Sentient systems are a pain in the ass.' He said when he remembered how this stupid system locked that skill so he couldn't buy it.

(Tsk_) System clicked his tongue hearing its host complaining again. It only locked that skill because it wasn't suitable for him. And he'd only hurt himself if he got it before he was strong enough to handle it.

(Your mind's already a mess, and if you fuck it further by creating an alter or getting parallel thinking, even I don't know what would happen.) System thought.

Rio swiped his hand on the watch, and a holographic screen appeared in front of him. He checked the notifications he got and messages he received -

[Amy - Did you wake up?]

[Rebecca - Stop sleeping.]

"..."

'Do I look that lazy in their eyes.' He thought after seeing the last 2 messages.

[Well, you do sleep a lot.]

"I train for even more hours. Never had they told me about that." He said feeling a little wronged, as this image of a lazy guy is really stuck to him now. He glanced at the display as he got another message.

[Amy - We're waiting in the canteen. Just come fast]

"On my way." He replied and closed the panel. Rio remembered the first scene of the protagonist. And the second meeting between him and Amelia. 'So it's about to start.'

[Or it already has.] System said, as it looked at the time. [Don't go overboard] It advised before going silent.

Rio walked towards the elevator and pressed the button. While waiting for it, his mind drifted in the lines of the novel - Leon, who had joined the academy, in the first week didn't go out of his room much, as he focused on his training to rank up. He was E+ rank when he cleared his exams, and now he had the goal to reach the D- rank before the classes started.

Knowing that after the classes started, he wouldn't get as much as time to train, he wanted to level up before that. But even with an intense training routine for a month he missed his goal a little. That's why the week when everyone used to roam around and learn about the academy and its rules, he stayed in his room, trying to reach D- rank.

He had taken the permission of the warden and Elvis being Elvis agreed to it.

That's why on the day when the classes started, Leon finally got out of his room. And then he came across the drama and the people awaiting him.

In the common canteen where everyone was having their breakfast and chatting happily, his eyes landed on the 2 guys responsible for turning his life into hell for 6 years - Lincoln Korbil and Edward Sinclair.

But hearing the words of advice his God said to him, he decided to ignore them. But as anyone with a half brain cell could say - if the protagonist doesn't look for trouble, it'll look for him. And that trouble did find him in the name of Zirix Drakkar, ranked 8th of the first years. Heir of the Drakkar family, and self declared proud son of the heavens.

'Sigh that narcissistic annoying guy.' Rio sighed, as just thinking about his lines from the novel was making him cringe. "I hope he's not here." He said as he walked into the canteen, just to stop as he heard a shout

"Who do you think you are to tell me what I can and can't do?"

'Fuuck. I wanted to pull the girls out before this shit show started.'

There are many elite families which have been passed down for generations and had existed for centuries. Their power and influence not any less than the other nobles. Yet their status is lower cause they lack the unity which nobles have, due to their allegiance to one king.

In simple terms, where nobles had a leader and backing, elite families didn't. That's why the status quo of the human domain went like this - royalty, nobility, elites and then ...

Chapter 185 Rubina Alka Rosewood & Damon Cryptorn

"How long do you think it'll take for him to get here?" Amelia asked, after she read the message Rio sent.

"His room's on the third floor, so probably a few minutes." Ayla replied.

"I doubt it. He might be still sleeping and just lied about it. I wouldn't be surprised." Rebecca chimed in.

"He can't be that lazy right?" Another girl who was sitting near them said, hearing their conversation. She was Amelia and Rebecca's roompartner, Rubina Rosewood. She had the beautiful face of a maiden, with her auburn hair tied in a ponytail and hazel brown eyes which seemed full of light.

The pair of 4 girls were sitting on the table near the door. They were all wearing the academy's uniform and were currently in the canteen, waiting for him to show up, so they could leave. There's around half an hour left until the classes starts, and no one wanted to be late on their first day. They've had their breakfast and that guy still hasn't come.

"You only met him a few days ago, so you don't know him?" Rebecca replied. "What is his room partner even doing? I saw him leave some time ago, can't he drag him here."

"He probably tried and then gave up." Ayla said with a smile.

"I should just give him a big alarm clock, that'll blast his eardrums, so he can wake up on time." Rebecca said with a smile. "Right Amy?" She asked her friend.

Amelia shook her head, glancing at the door of the canteen "He's on his way. He'll be here soon."

In the past week, since the protagonist was busy in his room, Rio gave everyone a tour of the academy. And they had found that they're all in the same class. The first year had 10 batches, and the division of students was done randomly too. There wasn't something like rank or background in consideration, so all students were mixed up.

Obviously this fact would've been random, but with an absurd thing as fate and protagonist halo at the mix, most of the important characters were pulled into the first class, including all of them too.

They were all busy waiting when Rubina saw some students gathered around a boy and pointed towards them. "Hey, look there."

Rebecca turned her eyes and saw Lincoln arguing with some student. Since there weren't many people in the canteen at this time, she could hear what they were talking about.

"What, you think you're some hot shot huh? Looks like you forgot our last meeting." Lincoln said, glaring at a student with gray hair and a pale complexion.

"I already told you, it's not up to me." The boy spoke, his tone hoarse. His name was Damon Cryptorn. Cryptorn family is a lesser known family of Hexcasters - dealing in poison, curse and death magic.

Cryptorn's are less powerful as the topic they pride themselves in, is something considered evil in the common people's eyes. Thus they have less influence and are looked down upon.

This gap of identity only increases when one compares it to the noble families.

And by Damon's bad luck, he became the room partner of a noble - Lincoln Korbil.

Lincoln and Edward, who had been friends since childhood, so when they joined academy, they naturally wanted to stay together for fun, but since the decision wasn't in their hands, they could just hope they'll get the same room. But it didn't happen. Both of them got separate rooms and even separate floors. That's why they've been trying to force their original room partners to make a request for change and

leave the room, so they can shift together. The one living with Edward was someone from the holy church of Neisah, so instead of forcing him, they both decided to force Lincoln's partner, who was just a nobody.

"You just have to beg harder then. Maybe I ought to give you a beating, so you can learn your lesson." Edward said, as he came forward. I think you should take a look at

Since the use of mana attacks outside the classes and their own training practices was not allowed, he couldn't really use his skills and bully this kid. So he can just clench his fists and give him an old school beatdown.

"Don't, I'll talk to him again. This time more seriously." Seeing him Damon's pale face became even paler and almost turned dead white. He was scared of these 2 villains, cause he had been beaten by them once when he was a kid. He thought here at the academy no one would cause trouble for him and he could finally forget about the prejudice and learn what he wants freely. But the very first day, he got stuck with that guy as a room partner. And if that wasn't enough, now they're even forcing him to go and ask the warden to change his rooms. Normally this kind of thing wasn't allowed, but in some cases, if the warden agrees and you have a valid enough reason, one can still get their approval.

Hearing Damon begging for mercy, Edward showed a sinister smile as he grabbed his shoulder "I'll give you 2 days time. If I don't see the results," His hands started to exert more strength in his grip as Damon winced in pain. Edward came near his ears and whispered "Then I heard that quite a few people die from their own poisons as accidents in your line of magic."

Damon's forehead drowned in sweat as he heard the death threat. He never expected just after coming here he'd be treated like this. Seeing him shaking in fear, Edward showed a kind smile on his face and left him alone there.

Damon ran out of the canteen in fear, afraid that they might really beat him next or even kill him. He was more of an auxiliary type of mage, and even his rank was much lower than these rich nobles, he dare not stay a second and risk his life. As for asking the warden to change his room, even if he has to beg on his knees, he'll do it. The thought of complaining about them or reporting them to the staff never even crossed his mind, as the notion that nobles can do whatever they want is etched in his mind.

"Stupid bullies." Rebecca muttered watching the whole scenario. She even wanted to stand up and teach them a lesson but remembering what happened the last time she went forward to help someone, she stayed silent too. And besides, she knew things like this were normal in the academy.

If one doesn't have the strength to fight for himself, then there is no point in saving them. As then they'd only be dependent on you and drag you down too.

She learned this lesson 4 years ago, on a certain dungeon trip with her brothers, Amy and a lazy panda.

Ayla and Rubina simply lacked the saint contrast, so they didn't feel anything about it. Ayla had spent her childhood being labeled as a curse and scum, a death threat was the least to make her bat an eye.

Rubina on the other hand, came from the tribes of Alka. Which only valued strength and simplicity in their nature. They're known for their behaviors of being frank and open about their thoughts.

So in her eyes, weak getting bullied by the strong is the most natural thing. It was even fun to watch this. That's what her intention was, when she first pointed at them. She wanted to let her friends enjoy this drama too.

Leon entered the canteen at this point, as he collided with Damon rushing out with clear terror on his face. Ignoring Leon who wanted to help him, Damon apologized and ran out in a hurry. His behavior made Leon puzzled, but he didn't know anything or anyone here, so he couldn't do anything for help.

Ignoring him, Leon entered the canteen and saw Edward and Lincoln chatting with each other - smiling and cheering. Those smiles on their faces irritated him, as those reminded him of the time when he was getting beaten by their guards and they laughed at him looking down on him.

[Don't lose your temper, boy. They're just ants in your journey. Focus on your strength and then, none of them will matter anymore.]

He heard Apollo's voice in his head, urging him to let go of his anger, thus he did just that.

Ignoring them, he turned and walked towards the other side of the corner and sat down.

<The menu of the canteen would be sent to every student on their devices every morning, so they can notify the chefs beforehand if they have any preference or dislike. Students can also order their own dishes which aren't on the menu, but for that, they'd need to spend their merit points(MP).>

Leon was eating his breakfast in a hurry, while glancing at his watch from time to time, to see how much time he had left. When suddenly a shadow loomed over his table and he heard a voice -"So you finally decided to show up huh. Now fight me."

Chapter 186 Zirix Drakkar - Avatar Of Sun Wukong

The canteen of the first year dorms buzzed with students enjoying their meals, the clinking of cutlery, and animated conversations filling the air. Amidst this mundane scene, the sudden sharp voice cut through the atmosphere that interrupted the tranquil ambiance.

"So you finally came out of your room, huh? Now, fight me."

The words hung in the air like a challenge, causing heads to turn and curious glances to be exchanged.

Leon, who was silently eating, minding his own business, thinking about ways to improve his strength and stabilize his rank, when someone interrupted his meal.

He looked up and glanced at the boy, who was wearing the same academy uniform as him, with a golden band tying his curly black hair. Leon remembered him as Zirix Drakkar, ranked 8th in the first year academy exams. He had seen him during the practice grounds at exams and he could tell he was strong.

After seeing his face, Leon ignored him and focused on eating his food.

Zirix, growing agitated by Leon's apparent indifference, couldn't conceal his irritation.

"What's wrong, rank one? The genius is too scared to fight me? Weren't you confident when you walked up to that stage, what's wrong now?" Zirix taunted.

Leon wiped his mouth and began to stand, choosing to exit the situation rather than engage in stupid fights. The surrounding students, who had been eavesdropping on their exchange, leaned in closer, their curiosity piqued.

Everyone was curious about the first rank in their year and wanted to see his skills for themselves. As the only impression they had of him was through those video recordings. Even in this whole week, many have tried to look for him to befriend him or to challenge him, but he had always been holed up in his room, so no one could see him.

But now he was out, and there was even a chance that a fight might happen soon.

Poor souls didn't know that just because of a certain anomaly, Apollo had increased Leon's growth rate by a lot. While in the novel, at this time Leon was supposed to be D- rank, currently he was C- rank. One whole major rank higher. (Other than the rank nothing has changed, as the plotline of breakthrough at last moment after coming to academy, is still the same.)

Leon, who was going to throw out his plate, stopped, as Zirix came in front of him and pulled out a staff from his storage ring, and pointed it menacingly to his face. "Don't worry, I'll go easy on you. No mana and artifacts too."

Leon looked at the staff and the headband and remembered something, his thoughts were cleared as the God in his head confirmed his doubts.

[He's one of the avatars. You should befriend him.]

Knowing that, Leon was even in less of a mood to challenge him. It wasn't that he was scared or that he couldn't win, but he simply didn't want to entertain these guys. He knew that many students would come flocking him for fights, after his rank was announced. Because his reputation was much lower than anybody else in the rankings, many would be dissatisfied and doubtful of the results, so he was prepared for this, that's why he wanted to rank up before the classes started.

so he changed the topic "We're late for class, you should go there instead. We can _ "

Leon, who was speaking, stopped as the plate in his hands was thrown away by the staff in Zirix's hands. "Don't tell me what to do, boy. Lesser ones should do what they're told." Zirix declared, a hint of superiority in his tone. "Don't worry, I'll leave you alone once I'm done, you won't be a cripple again."

Zirix said in a serious tone. The corners of his lips curled up in a smile, as he saw Leon finally showing the expression of anger after hearing the word cripple again.

Sun Wukong, the monkey King of the Chinese pantheon, and one of the most famous Gods of Chinese myths in Arcadia. He was the one who had chosen Zirix as his avatar.

Unlike other gods, his personality wasn't the patient and smart kind, he simply was the most carefree and barbaric god to come to Arcadia. That's why, where other gods over the years chose less and less avatars, so they don't lose their precious skills after the avatar's death. He for his fun simply made lines of his avatars everytime one died. He wasn't scared of losing his skills, as he simply recreated them in his head. Having an unlimited number of clones mastering the same technique again and again is such a simple feat for him.

(He always makes a demand while choosing an avatar that he won't teach him the skill of cloning. So he never lost that and any of his other skills for that matter)

Being chosen by such a carefree God, who crushed the army of heavens for his fun, Zirix has always maintained a similar personality too.

'In entire heaven and hell, only I am supreme.' That's what he always heard and started to believe over time.

Now how can someone with that mindset believe someone else superior, so in this one week he challenged everyone, whom he considered an opponent to him. His God had given him a task to set a target and surpass it, if he wanted to learn his next skill.

So in a hurry to prove himself to his God he even participated in public exams, even though he had a recommendation to join the academy, but the results he got only made him look like a joke. Forget rank one that he envisioned himself to get, he wasn't even in the top 5, that's why he wanted to beat Leon.

Looking at the scattered remains of food around him, hearing his arrogant tone and the word cripple, Leon lost his patience. Since he had just ranked up, and didn't have time to stabilize his increased mana pool, his mana began to leak out, causing the room's atmosphere to change.

Everyone in the canteen shifted their attention to the brewing conflict after sensing the mana. Even the girls sitting on the side, turned their eyes towards the commotion.

"So he's the rank one huh." Rubina said, looking curiously at Leon.

Rebecca looked at Leon and remembered him at a glance. Ayla merely glanced briefly at the scene before turning her gaze away. She always hated fights and violence, especially which was done for no cause.

Unlike them, Amelia didn't look at them and turned her eyes at the glass door, where she could see her brother standing silently, watching both of them, lost in his thoughts.

Rio, who had just arrived in the canteen, was hoping to avoid this scenario and leave, but seeing everything inside, that was now impossible. His eyes turned towards the girls trying to see their reactions, but stopped when he found Amelia was staring at him.

Knowing there was no way to call the girls out, he just took a deep breath and decided to interrupt the fight that was about to start.

Zirix on the other hand, seeing Leon's reaction showed a serious expression and swung his staff at him.

But before the staff could hit Leon, someone grabbed it from behind. Zirix turned his eyes to look back, and saw Rio holding it with his left hand -

"Stop blocking the door monkey."

Chapter 187 Fight Me, Are You Worthy?

In the novel, after Zirix challenged Leon and when they were about to fight, Amelia would come to stop them. But then Edward and Lincoln who recognized Leon too, would fan the flames from the side a little,

making Leon more angry. Rebecca would then come forward to stop the fights, as their arguments were getting the attraction of everyone around them.

Zirix, who saw many top rankers and top students standing near them, followed his God's advice to wreak havoc and start a brawl. In his eyes this situation was even better as he could now fight and defeat many rankers, and show off even more to his god. Thus he started attacking Leon, and when Rebecca interfered, her too. Amelia came to help her and pushed Zirix aside. While Lincoln and Edward took the chance in chaos to beat Leon from behind.

Surprised by the action, Leon got pushed into Zirix and it became a 3 to 1 fight for him. Amelia and Rebecca, seeing this, tried to stop them, as they reminded them that fights were not allowed or how they were late for class, but no one listened.

Zirix was enjoying his battle, as his God was happy with it. While Lincoln and Edward simply wanted to beat Leon to take out their anger. They had recognized Leon at the entrance ceremony and were just waiting to teach him another lesson, so he doesn't get any thoughts of telling anyone anything.

Leon, on the other hand, simply lost his cool after being called a cripple again and again, and seeing the 2 guys responsible for making his life hell fighting him.

Thus the silent canteen soon turned into the fighting ring of a brawl. No one used their mana as it was prohibited, but their strength was enough to cause enough ruckus in the cafeteria. The tables, chairs and even the floors or the walls bore the signs of their fight.

Obviously soon enough, someone reported it to the staff and wardens of the dorms came forward to stop them.

Due to all this, the 6 of them were late for the class on their first day. And when the news of what happened got around the class, it only made more reports and rumours.

This little fight scene not only made Leon familiar with Amelia and Rebecca again. But also helped him get 2 lackeys later in the form of Kevin and Zirix.

If you're wondering how, then it's simple, Zirix being the haughty one he is, wasn't satisfied with just one fight, and always came to challenge Leon whenever he got the chance. Be it normal training exercises, sparring sessions or later duels, he fought against him many times and as one could guess lost many times. This only made him more interested in beating Leon next time, and through this constant cycle they somehow became friends and partners. Later Zirix even joined Leon's party too.

As for Kevin, that's even simpler. After getting adopted into Blake family, he had always tried to get along well with everyone. And in the academy, since Amelia became friends with Leon, he followed behind her and joined team Leon too.

<If you're wondering what Rio was doing at that time, well he was sitting in his class. The rumours of him being the Devil were starting to spread again once he joined the academy, and his relationship with Rebecca, Amelia or Kevin wasn't good at that point. So he just tried to avoid them.>

But now, in reality, Rio didn't want to take part in this event, as he would get nothing out of it. Since they're all in the same academy, it was impossible for him to keep Amelia or Rebecca away from the protagonist, so he just wanted to keep their contact with this cockroach to the minimum in all events of the novel. But due to all those nightmares and him being late, he couldn't reach here on time and now, everyone was looking at the fight that was about to break out.

Even though Amelia never met Leon or Rebecca who didn't have a positive impression of him in their first meeting, Rio didn't want to take a chance to let them be. With Rebecca's habits of following the rules, there was a chance that she still might stand up to stop them if they started fighting. So he had no choice but to go in.

But before he opened the door, he heard a mellow voice in his head. It was Hela, the first goddess who chose him as her avatar.

[Teach that guy a lesson. Father would love that.]

Hearing her reminder, Rio remembered about some plotlines and nodded his head. The monkey king was also a little trickster in his ways, and Loki always hated competition to his title. So it made sense that beating his avatar might get Loki's attention.

Clearing his thoughts, Rio walked inside the canteen. Zirix was preparing to swing his staff at Leon, but he grabbed it in his hands.

"Who _" Zirix turned around puzzled at who stopped him, when he heard an arrogant remark "Stop blocking the door, monkey."

"What did you say?" Zirix said angrily, his eyes glaring at the white haired boy who dared to make fun of him.

"I said, get out of my way." Rio said and pulled his staff and threw it in the corner.

Ignoring the fuming face of Zirix and the curious eyes of other students he started leaving towards the table where Amelia and others were sitting.

"That's him right, Rio."

"Tsk, he stopped a fun fight."

"Who cares. Rio vs Zirix might be more fun to watch."

"Humph. Rio can beat that guy in a minute. Didn't you see the look on Zirix's face, he hasn't even realised what happened."

The few remaining students who stayed to watch the drama, started gossiping among themselves. Hearing their murmurs Zirix looked at his empty hand and then at Rio's leaving back.

A smile came to his face as he remembered Rio's reputation and rumours of his talent. Since his chosen God said to set a target and surpass that, won't this guy be a nice target too. So he went forward and grabbed Rio's shoulder "Where're you going after ruining my fun."

Rio slapped his hand away and ignored him. Seeing this guy ignoring him too, he clenched his fists -

[You aren't his opponent, boy.]

[Let him be.]

Zirix read the notification and it only fueled his anger. Ignoring it he sped up and appeared in front of Rio, "Why don't we have a fight. Let's see if your reputation is real or just a hoax."

Rio looked at Zirix's face like he was looking at some idiot. This is why he wanted to avoid this guy, he's simply an idiot in earlier times, and now he was blocking his way again.

"Come on, no need to be afraid I'm _ "

Zirix was saying his dialogues when Rio muttered something with an annoyed expression "Are you worthy?"

"What _ "

Zirix was asking something, when he felt a powerful kick to his stomach that knocked the air out of his lungs. He took 2 steps back and looked up, only to see two black eyes staring down at him.

"I said, I hate repeating stuff. Now out of my way monkey."

Rio said, and pushed Zirix away with his hands. Leaving him bewildered. Zirix tried to move and punch him, but to his horror he found he couldn't move his hands or feet at all. It was like someone tied them and he could just stay like that - a statue.

He flared his mana, trying to break free from whatever was holding him, but the more he tried, the tighter he felt the restrains on him. Soon enough marks of strings appeared on his hands and feet, threatening to cut his skin, if he didn't stop forcing them.

"Was that necessary?" Rebecca said, when Rio came to their table.

"He's the one who needed a fight." Rio said and ignored her "Let's go. We're getting late for class."

He said and started leaving again. Amelia and Ayla stood up to leave too. While Rubina cast a glance at Leon and soon followed behind them too. Zirix felt the strings lose and disappear, and he could move his body again.

[You should listen to my advice boy. Don't set targets you couldn't cross.]

'Hehehe it's gonna be fun.' Zirix said, as he massaged his wrists.

Leon, the protagonist, just kept standing there, looking at the backs of everyone, feeling a little lost and wrong.

Chapter 188 Freya Morgan - The Stormfire Sorceress

"How are you?" Amelia asked, as they were all walking towards the class.

"What do you mean?" Rio asked as he smiled and looked at her.

Amelia kept looking at him for some time and shook her head and said "Nothing"

'Did she get some blessing to look past illusions and other blessings.' Rio couldn't help but think, as he was sure she noticed something again.

'I should really fix my nightmares' Rio thought as he walked into the classroom.

[A-3]

That's the name of the class where he was assigned to. The name had nothing to do with rankings or status, it was just random stuff.

Until the first semester the first year students were divided in 5 classes, each having around 500 students. After the first semester, they would be turned into 12 classes with around 200 students. And then one class for top 100 rankers. (Total in 13)

Obviously half the important characters were in this class, as is the sense of any other novel. The only reason he could say, is that the protagonist with his halo pulled all of them near him. Some heroines, villains, stepping stones and obviously a villainess

"Why are you standing at the door?" Rio heard Rebecca's voice as she walked by him.

Shaking his thoughts away, he walked in the class too. The space inside was bigger than many halls, as the tables and chairs were arranged like in stadiums, from lower to higher. He could see lots of students sitting in groups and chatting with each other. His arrival started another wave of gossip between them, as some still couldn't believe he was back or that he'd be studying with them.

Ignoring them Rio walked till the mid sections and sat on an empty chair. Amelia and Rebecca and Ayla sat on the table in front of him. Rubina was in a different class, so she had already left.

"I'm surprised you made it on time." A boy came over to his table and said.

"Sit down already. Your shining head is blinding me." Rio said, dragging the bald monk to sit down. The boy sat near him with an annoyed expression.

His name was Takashi Kenjo. A bald monk from the city of believers. He was wearing the same uniform as everyone, but a circle of beads in his left hand and sacred thread(Janeu) resting on his neck, sets him apart from others. His face was average at best, while his ears showcase big empty piercing holes, highlighting his shiny empty head.

He was also the only one who was sitting barefoot in the class. His shoes were placed outside the class, as he believes the class is a temple and wearing shoes inside is an insult.

He was Rio's roommate in the dorms. A supporting character in the novel, and one of the many who died in the first big event.

Ignoring him, Rio turned his eyes towards the rest of the class. His gaze stopping on the characters he could identify from the novel.

'Katherine Winston, The Ice Enchantress. The cold heroine of the novel. Noah's sister and Leon's harem member.'

'Amaya Stormswill, The Savant Sage. The smart heroine with a dangerous mind.'

'Valtor Shade, The Shadow Sentinel. Leon's rival in the academy arcs.'

'Edward Sinclair, a petty villain in the beginning stages. Who'll die a horrible death.'

'Morphius Thornfang, Leon's supporting little brother. Werewolf tribe's next heir.'

'Celia Spencer, The Wailing Witch, a villainess who's crazy about magic.'

'Alaric Darhk, the hybrid of vampire and werewolf bloodlines.'

Other than these there were still some other characters who played important roles in the story too, but at that time Rio's gaze went towards the door, where the sound of high heels could be heard from.

The professor of first year class A-3 entered the room. As anyone could guess from the teacher of the protagonist's class, she is hot. Humm humhh, she is pretty, I mean pretty talented. Yes, that's it. Pretty talented, that's what she is.

[Holy cow! It's the Stormfire Sorceress.]

[I didn't know we were going to get her as our classroom teacher.]

[She's my idol.]

[She's even prettier than in photos.]

[I'm in Love Again.]

[I'm gonna fail all her classes, cause I can't see, hear or say anything but her praises.]

[I can fail happily if she's my teacher next time too.]

[Look at her walk, I wish I was that stepladder and she'd step on me.]

[Ohh weird, but I like that.]

She had just entered as lots of students started making noises with faces filled with excitement, especially boys. Even girls were talking about her with admiration and pride. Though it wasn't hard to understand them as the Classroom teacher of A-3 class was Freya Morgan, also known as Stormfire Sorceress.

She's also the youngest archmage with dual elements in human history. The S rank awakener specialised in air and fire magic.

She became S ranker at the age of 22, she is also believed to have the potential to reach rank SSS or even Zephyr. Her strength in air and fire magic coupled with her beauty has earned her the title of Stormfire Sorceress. She had greyish hair, and her eyes were as red as a burning coal. Her facial expressions and personality is similar to the element she practices, sometimes as gentle as air and of angered, as fierce as fire.

A smile came to Rio's face as he looked at her. She was his senior 2 years ago and now she's his homeroom teacher.

- Clap! Clap!

"Attention students! I am your homeroom teacher and until the first semester, I will be in charge of you all. Today is the first day of your academy, so let me introduce myself. My name is Freya Morgan. My rank is S+. I'll be teaching you magic theory and elemental awareness. Some of you have had your elemental awakening successfully, those who didn't, it's my job to help you find and teach your element."

"The academy doesn't entertain slackers and lazy people, and everything in this academy will be based on your result and performance. Your status, background, what you have or who you order, don't matter. Only when you show results will you be appreciated by the academy." She said with a stern expression. Her eyes scanning whole crowd.

"I hope you all have read and remembered all the rules that were sent to you. If anyone has any questions you can ask them right now." She said and concluded her lecture.

"Ma'am won't we start with introductions, we haven't seen many students?" One of the students asked his question.

"Didn't you guys have a week to get to know each other." Freya said, "And next time, you want to ask something, raise your hand, stand up, and then ask your questions. That's rule 101 of any class."

The student who was called out, smiled and started looking into his books to hide his face.

"Anyone else." Ignoring him, Freya asked again. Her gaze glancing towards the whole class.

"What about the attendance?" Another student raised his hand and asked.

"You didn't read the booklets sent to you, did you?" Instead of answering, Freya asked him a question in return.

Some students started giggling around him, making the one who was standing sit back down with an embarrassed face. He just wanted her to take attendance so he could hear her call his name. Was that too much to ask?

Crushing his dreams, Miss Freya replied "Read that once you go back today. To answer your question, every door in the class had mana sensors installed in them, so as soon as you pass through them, it records the data through your wristwatches and that's it."

Hearing her say that, many students glanced at their watches and the scanner on the door.

This was a nice method, as it recorded the data automatically once any student entered the class. It saved the time wasted on checking on every student or calling their names. This also saved the chance of someone missing their classes or asking for someone else's help -as the students couldn't take off their wrist watches without permission in the academy, so no one else beside them could mark their present.

There's also the rule that every student needed to maintain 75% attendance at the minimum if they wanted to take part in final exams. Without proper reasons or permissions, if one didn't meet this criteria then they'd either have to repeat their year or be directly expelled from the academy.

"Miss Freya, what about the freshers party? When will that be?" One of the girls in the front rows stood up and asked.

Her question brought many people to perk up their ears, as they were all excited about the party. After the entrance ceremony, senior students along with student council members organise a party only for the students. It's like a welcoming ceremony for all the new students.

"There has been no news about that yet, if there's an update, members of the student council would come and announce that." Freya replied, her answer dampening the mood, but noticing this she continued "But from what I've heard, it'll probably happen around the first month's end or earlier weeks of second month. So you guys can get familiar with the academy, staff and your classmates till then."

"For the entire period of 6 months from now, I expect you to maintain your image as best you can, many of you may not know this but the academy also cares about the student's reputation and their behaviour in the classes, so be careful of the rules you break. As there might be some punishments."

"Now that that's done, let's start with the class. Open the book of _ " Freya said and started walking towards the dashboard, when someone interrupted her lecture and asked.

"May I come in, miss?"

(Why is this idiot late again? I even solved that monkey brain for him in canteen.) Rio said, looking at the haggard protagonist, standing at the door.

Chapter 189 The First Class - Mana Relativity

"May I come in, miss?"

Hearing this everyone's eyes turned towards the door where Leon was standing, his breath heavy, hair disheveled, clothes dirty, looking like he just came after a brawl.

His appearance confused Rio, as he couldn't understand where this guy got into a fight again. He had seen Zirix leaving the canteen behind him, so who did he fight?

Some students started whispering to each other as they noticed him, curiously talking about him, while miss Freya was just staring at him coldly.

"Why were you late?" Miss Freya asked, her tone straightforward and cold.

Leon, appearing somewhat flustered after looking at Miss Freya's face, glanced around nervously to hide his expression. His response was hesitant, as he managed to mutter "Uh, that—I'm sorry, miss. It won't happen again."

'This guy. Is he blushing?' Rio thought as he looked at Leon.

[He's a lost cause.] System said.

Even this AI understood the protagonist's usual routine and the fact that miss Freya asked for a reason and not an apology.

Miss Freya just sighed and seeing he was only wasting time.

"Get in." She conceded, not interested in further questioning this guy. "But I'd hope this is the last time it happens. There'll be no excuses for being late next time." She said to Leon and then turned to look at whole class "The same is the case for all of you, if you're late in my class, there's no need to come in and disturb everyone else. You can just stay outside or sleep in your bed. Is that clear?"

A chorus of affirmations echoed through the classroom: "YES MA'AM!"

'Is it just me, or was she looking at me when she said the sleeping part.' Rio thought.

[No, I'm sure she was looking at you.]

Rio felt wronged with system's answer.. 'Just because I was late a few times back then doesn't mean I'm always late.'

[Seeing your memories, it was way more than a few times. You even got a notice from the student council, with her sign on it, remember?]

Hearing system's remark Rio could just cough and be silent about it. That was all in the past after all.

"Now that that's done. Let's start today's class." Miss Freya spoke getting the attention of everyone. "I need you to open your book of mana relativity. We'll start with the minor basics of that, and once we cover them, we can go for the practical training. Where you all can show me your elements and how much you've mastered them."

Mana Relativity, a book written by Myrrhylan Corvallis, head of the magic tower. It was the work of all his lifetime, which covered all his knowledge and research on mana and it's effects on any living being and the surroundings. It taught about the proper way to use the mana, easiest way to channel it in spells and converting it into different elements. It was written in 3 parts, with each semester covering one part in the academy.

what do you think mana is? What is your understanding of mana and it's origin? Anyone wanna take the lead." Miss Freya had just asked, when half the class had their hands up in the air, ready to answer. She looked around at everybody and just randomly pointed at a boy -"You, tell me."

"Mana is the core energy of Arcadia. Through which everything works. It's present in basically every _ "

"Now you?" Miss Freya interrupted him and pointed towards a girl in front row.

"Mana is the source of magic. The energy that radiates from the core of our world. It's present everywhere and after awakening we just learn to feel its presence and channel it."

"Right but Bookish. I need your personal opinions, not the definition you read in some library." Miss Freya said and told them to sit down "You." She said and pointed towards another girl.

"Mana is a tool. A way to achieve our goals." Katherine stood up and answered. Her tone plain and icy just as her expressions.

"Good." Miss Freya nodded and signaled her to sit down. "Anyone else."

"Mana is the blessing of the originator. The prime God Apollo gave the world mana so the first residents of Arcadia could live freely."

"Mana is just air. The one we breath. It's origin is nothing, as it's always been there."

"Mana is power. A way to fight and survive. And to get whatever you want."

Following Katherine's straight answer many students started giving their own view on mana and it's origin.

clap "Okay, you all can sit and listen now." Miss Freya interrupted all students and started speaking "All of you are right. Except you." She said while pointing towards the one who praised Apollo for mana "The academy doesn't promote any propaganda for any God. You believe them, that's good for you. That's your freedom, but please refrain from announcing it next time."

"It's same for everyone, the gods you believe in, the ones you follow, that's up to you. But you should also know that others may not follow them or like them. So to avoid causing friction among yourselves, keep your religion out of the academy gates. Is that clear?"

— " YES MA'AM "

"Now let's start again. From Mana _ "

'She's extra icy. Don't you think system?' Rio said, glancing at Katherine.

[Well, you did kill her brother.]

'Yeah, but she didn't even like him though.'

[That doesn't change the fact that he was her brother.] System said and continued [You know how Winston's are, in that family, Noah was probably the only 'normal' one. With his death, a lot of things would've changed.]

'You mean kid Noah. Don't forget what he did in academy arcs and worst even later on. He was far from a normal guy.' Rio said, as he remembered the plot of the now dead seer. Every time he remembered that, he was glad that he woke up before that prophecy from that guy. Solving him after that would've been a trouble.

[You might've increased the difficulty our protagonist has to go through to conquer her now.]

Rio just smiled and replied 'Well, that doesn't matter to me. Let's monitor her for now though.'

[Father says to focus on your class and learn, instead of looking at girls all day.]

-cough cough-

Rio read the notification from Hela and started coughing.

'This guy, he's really something else.' Rio thought after reading that notification. Since Loki himself couldn't talk to him due to all those barriers, he's using his daughter to send his messages.

'Is this why he let Hela choose me as her avatar. So he can hop on a free ride. He's even tricking his own daughter.'

[He is a trickster down to the very last bone.]

[You should focus on class now, your teacher's staring at you.]

Rio read the notification and hurriedly averted his eyes from Katherine and focused back on the front board. Only to see Miss Freya staring at him. Looking at her angry eyes, he could just pretend to be serious and start doodling in his notebook.

'Next time tell me that first, you useless AI.' Rio said and took a final glance at Katherine and started focusing on the class.

Just as he looked away, Katherine looked in his direction for some time and shook her head.

After quite a while, when the theory lesson was done for, Miss Freya closed her books and said "Well, that was tiring. Wasn't it?"

— "No Miss" —

The boys said out in unison. After all, how can anything be boring when you get to look at the beautiful face and back of the famous Freya Morgan.

(A/N - and seeing their enthusiasm all girls could only sigh and say 'Men will be men')

Ignoring the enamoured looks of the boys, miss Freya continued "Well, since the theory part is done. I'll be taking you for some practicals. Since today is your first day, I'll only see your element and record your mastery of it."

"But miss, some of us didn't had our elemental awakening yet." One of the girls said, feeling a little down.

Elemental awakening, is a tough thing and not many people can hold on till that point and successfully go through that process. So it's not a surprise that while all the students were awakeners, not many had awakened their own element yet.

Miss Freya smiled and said in a gentle tone "There's no need to worry about that. For those who didn't awaken their elements yet, I want you to show me whatever element you're most familiar with. As for awakening them, that's my job, so I'll help you to do that."

Her confident words calmed the girl as she smiled and sat back down. After all, who's better to teach them about elemental awakening than the person who managed to successfully awaken 2 of them on her own in the very first try.

"Now come on, follow me," Miss Freya instructed, a touch of sternness returning to her voice. "No sightseeing and no loud noises. Don't disturb the classes next to you."

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Elemental awakening info -

<<Some people may have connection with 2 or more elements, while in most cases the one whom mastering is easy for that awakener becomes the main element. Like if one had connection with Darkness and shadow element, then they may awaken shadow. Or if it's ice and water, then they may awaken water. As turning Mana into that element is easier than the other one.

This situation depends on which element that awakener can easily channel and master, that element becomes their main element of awakening.

But there are also very rare cases, where someone has connection with 2 separate elements with equal mastery of both of them. So there's a tiny chance that they may awaken both of them. It is rare and risky, as chances of failure and losing control of your Mana is much higher.

So even if someone does have 2 elements, many people choose to give up on one and focus on the one which they find best.

But there's always some lunatics who want to try harder and break past their limits, so there's a tiny chance that they might be able to awaken both elements on their first awakening. Awakener like them are called dual elementals.

Dual elementals have high power and easier time to master their main elements compared to other awakeners,, but there's also the downside that they'd have to give twice the amount of effort if they want to learn 3rd element or 4th element.

Chapter 190 The First Class - Mana Spells

"Those who haven't awakened their elements yet, I want you to stand on my right side. Others come to my left."

After coming to the training grounds Miss Freya stood in front as she started dividing students in 2 groups. Around more than half of the class didn't have their elemental awakening yet. Others who had awakened their element were asked to stay in lanes as she started calling them in groups of 5 to perform one of their elemental spells which showed their finest control and mastery.

Since keeping a check on the process of 300 students would be tough while teaching them, some assistant professor came to help and guide the students, while Miss Freya was busy. Every professor responsible for teaching first year students would be given 2 assistant professors, to aid in their tasks and training students. Assistant professors were basically professors-in-training, who were selected from outside the World Association. These guys will stay on that post for a year and the academy will see their performance & results. If they passed they'd be promoted to one star professor. Otherwise they'd either have to expand their training period again or join some other academy.

Those who hadn't been called to the stage were given time to practice on their own or observe their classmates.

Since it was the first day everyone was excited to show their progress to others, and learn everything, so following the guidance of assistant professors they divided in groups and started performing their spells one by one. There is a saying that to know how potent one's control over their element is, to let them form a spell and have them keep it study, instead of releasing it. There are certain steps to every spell, how much mana it could hold, how much time it can be controlled after getting casted, how much it would be affected by surrounding mana or surrounding elements.

Now in a place where around a 100 students are performing their spells of different kinds and different elements simultaneously, the longer the students could keep hold of their element before losing focus of their spell, the better control they'd have of their element.

There's also other things like can one turn the direction of a spell already casted, can one play around with that said spell and make it more amplified. Can one double cast or control some other spell or element while maintaining the first spell. How much mana the spell needed, how much you used and lost - These are all things which show how much mastery of that element and mana you have.

Every student was standing in front of some stone statues, and everytime anyone thought they had reached their limits, they were to release that spell on the targets. As students cast their spells simultaneously, the training grounds became a dynamic and colorful spectacle.

The dummy statues were made of specialized ores, and are inscribed with various different runes, to make them withstand the impact of spells. Some of them were even inscribed with null magic runes, which can nullify the effects of spells.

After every hit the stone statues would emit different colors of light, reflecting the intensity of that attack and level of danger. Starting from white which meant no threat, then yellow for defendable, amber which meant minor injuries, and red for serious injuries. The concept of death is something these stone statues aren't familiar with so no reaction.

"Aren't you going to show your spells?" Amelia asked, as she saw Rio just standing still looking at others practicing their spells.

"Nah, I'm more interested in watching everyone. Come, let me show you something." Rio said, as he told Amelia to sit near him. They were currently sitting below the stage where Miss Freya was calling everyone who had awakened their elements, to perform one of their spells in front of her. She would

then use her own magic to either dispel Or disperse their spell. She did this so she could get a clear understanding of the mistakes anyone made in their conjecture and creation.

"Which element will she be using?" Rio asked, as he looked at a girl going up on stage.

"Probably ice or maybe fog." Amelia replied, as she felt sudden coldness in the area.

"You learned that, after she started casting her spell." Rio said and pointed towards professor Freya
"Now look at Miss Freya."

They watched as the girl created three sharp icicles and sent them hurtling towards Miss Freya on stage. In response, miss Freya just waved her hand and the ice projectiles dissipated in thin air.

"What did you see?" Rio queried.

Amelia pondered for a moment before answering, "She created a heatwave that vaporized the ice."

Rio nodded in agreement but probed further, "Yes, but what else?"

As the students took turns demonstrating their spells, Amelia observed Miss Freya more closely. At one point, a student's spell spontaneously dissipated without any action from the professor.

Seeing that she didn't reply, Rio continued "She absorbed the mana her opponent used in her spell, after dispersing the ice. This way, she can practically fight with her opponent forever and never run out of mana."

Amelia was astounded. "Is that even possible?"

"It is, if you have enough control over mana," Rio confirmed. "Before releasing any spell, the caster cuts off the supply of mana in their spell, which makes it one concentrated chunk of elemental mana. Now if someone has enough control over their own element and mana, they can just disperse that condensed mana and absorb it."

"Won't that mean no spell can hurt you if you have enough mastery over mana." Amelia asked another question.

"Yupp. That's why dragons are always superior, since they have more control over mana than any of the other races." Rio nodded his head and replied. I think you should take a look at

"Same is the case with elements. This is why fighting elves with nature magic, vampires with blood magic or fairies with air magic is useless. Because they have inherent control over those elements. So unless you're more proficient in that element compared to them, or it's a special spell attuned with some other effects, it's hard to fight against them using the same methods."

"But I've seen fights where even those who had more control over their element lost or got hurt." Amelia asked.

"If they were hurt by their own element, then they weren't strong enough or simply lacked mana." Rio said and stood up "Or they were just nobodies. What I told you, is the thing geniuses do. So be careful if you ever fight against them."

Leaving Amelia stupefied at what he meant, Rio started walking towards a corner.

What he said, was a method only known by people in high circles and that too, by those of other races. Humans had no inherent connection with any element, thus they couldn't do this, unless they were a genius themselves and had mastered that element perfectly.

With Amelia's talent and Goddess Gauri's guidance, it won't be hard for her to learn to do this. And the sooner she learns to do this, the sooner she can start her training in controlling the element of chaos.

'That way she'd be safer once those guys start to act.' Rio thought, remembering about the cultists blinded by the belief of chaos and Kali.

After telling Amelia about Freya's method, Rio ignored her and came towards the practice dummies. Now that the effects of EMMSY had been solved and his mana was back to the amount he had, it was time to increase his resilience and then level up to B rank.

I don't know what would change due to all my altercations, but that attack would soon happen nonetheless.'

Remembering Alfred and what that bastard did in that dungeon 2 years ago, anger surged in Rio's heart. The thoughts of killing that guy came to his head, but he couldn't kill him yet. His role was too important to be finished this early, and if he tried to kill him the changes could spiral out of control like back then. So he just decided to settle with killing his minions in the first year.

'You want the throne that bad right, let's see how you compete without any support.'

"Now that that's done, I should start training myself. But who should I choose as a partner?" Rio thought and looked around to find someone to fight against.

"Becca, do you wanna spar?" Rio called out to Rebecca, who was practicing nearby.

"Is that allowed?" Rebecca asked, glancing around at the other students, all of whom were either practicing alone or receiving guidance from the assistant professors.

Rio reassured her, saying, "We'll just use basic spells. It's the same thing."

Still hesitant, Rebecca looked towards the stage "Let me ask Miss Freya!"

Seeing her walking towards the stage, Rio smiled and said "Come on. Don't be scared, I won't be using my element of darkness."

His words reminded Rebecca of the last time they sparred, where she ended up losing and having a nightmare for a few days. Who creates a demon-like shadow to sneak up behind their opponent to scare her. "Who's scared, I'll beat you even with that."

Seeing her agreeing for a spar, he smiled and said "We'll see."