

## **LOA Nobody 221**

### Chapter 221 The Dinner And The Drama

"How many times did you use the mask?" Rio said, as he took off the mask of deception and his appearance of Shiva was changed back to his original looks. It was almost night time already, and he had to go back, as Amelia and Esme had told him about it hours before.

"Two times." Ryan said as he passed him a file "I didn't use it to fight and all, that was just for some meetings and to get a deal with some people who wanted to do it face to face."

Rio looked at the files which held a recording crystal, which probably had recordings of both times he wore his face, and the file which had the background of the people who saw him or met him at that time.

The Mask of Deception couldn't be used to copy someone's face and then to fool others easily. But since it was made by Loki, if you can get him to help you, you can do it.

Rio knew that there might be situations in the future where he couldn't be available due to various reasons, and Shiva might have to make an appearance. Or times when the world needed to see both Rio and Shiva together at different stages - so he made a deal with Loki when he got the mask, to let someone else use it for him for three times without any conditions.

Two years ago, before he went to that dungeon and to take part in the academy tournament, he gave some of his artifacts to Ryan for safekeeping, as the academy didn't allow the artifacts inside without permissions. And he didn't have the cheat like system storage space to fool everyone, he had to let go of his artifacts. He had also given Ryan the permission to use them if any situation arises.

And after that time on the tournament, he got trapped in the dungeon and couldn't come out for two years.

Though the whole world believed that he was dead, Ryan, Riley and a few others, were the only ones who knew he wasn't. Because one such artifact that he left behind was bound to his soul. And that artifact still maintained his ownership even after he was declared 'dead'.

But since they didn't have any direct proof and a way to get him out, they could only wait for his family to find him and free him.

That's why even when he wasn't around, they all kept working on his past orders and making connections, and making their name famous all around.

Though without his knowledge of the plot and the important characters to hire and target, their progress till now was subpar at best. But it still laid a foundation for him, and now that he was back and this time he could act on his plans himself.

Today, he just wanted to vent his stress, and let go of the anger that's been piling up in his head ever since he came back to the academy.

Seeing those traitors and cowards alive, and living free with a reputation of geniuses all around him. Seeing Saisha and Katherine here, and learning about all the changes and his past - his emotions were a mess. And he needed to let all that piled up anger out before he completely lost control and did something that could affect everything.

Dante was just a bonus gift, he never expected to appear here and catch easily.

But since he found him so early and unexpectedly, he had no idea how to deal with it. That's why, until he decided if he should kill him, buy him, torture him or turn him into a slave - Dante would have to wait in some dark cell.

After putting the file and the recording crystal inside his storage ring, Rio closed his eyes and laid back on the seat. While Ryan kept reporting all the things they did, or people they made deals with and hired under them. Rio kept listening to them, and at the end, he had only one thought in mind.

'What a waste of my money and resources. I thought they'd create an empire that could control the floating islands from the shadows, and they just made some stupid underground thug shop.'

'What a letdown. For me to wait two whole years and only get this result.'

[They didn't have the knowledge like you do. They didn't know which people and businesses would shine and which would drown. Nor who could grow and who would die - they did an average job in my opinion.] System came out and spoke to him.

'Average job doesn't suit the supporters of the main villain. If they're just average, sooner or later they, me and everyone else - would be killed in Leon's hands.'

'Should I just crush everything and start from scratch myself?' Rio thought in wonder, because this was nowhere near enough to his ambitions and needs.

Two years till the phase 2 of Emergence starts, and that is the only time he has for his growth. After that, there'll be too much chaos for him to handle business.

'I'll need to think more about this.'

"We've also collected the herbs you requested. Since you said to buy as much as possible, without making any loud noise, we've done our best." Rylie said something which finally caught Rio's interest and he opened his eyes. "We've also secured the lands we were keeping an eye on. Since we didn't know what you wanted to do with them, or which one you needed exactly, we just bought them all."

Rylie finished her words, and passed him another file from the front seat. Rio looked at all the deeds and details of everything - and finally a small smile came to his face. I think you should take a look at

'So you guys aren't completely useless yet. At least they did one thing right.' Rio thought and put away the file.

[Isn't that the place where...]

'Yupp, it's a backup against the Gods.'

[Are you planning to release them early? Or..]

'It'll depend on how strong I am at that time. Don't worry, there'll be no more mistakes in my plan this time.'

Since Riley and Ryan were the public figures working for Eclipse and Shiva, they could never be seen along with Rio. He had made preparations for these things and had briefed them in the past. But sadly these guys had made so little progress that no one even recognizes them yet, unless they say their names themselves, so she was still driving him back.

Ryan had changed cars and went back. While Riley chose to drop him where he needed to go and then leave.

"You've gotten more cruel now." Riley said when they were finally alone.

"Try living in a dungeon for two years." Rio scoffed hearing that and said "I've seen so many dead coming back to life, and trying to kill me, that being soft before killing anyone is a thought that doesn't even come to mind now."

"I'm sorry." Riley said, as she looked at him through the mirror.

"Naah, don't worry about it. I'm back and that's all that matters." Rio said, as he smiled and changed the topic, since the atmosphere in the car suddenly turned gloomy and awkward. "So what's going on with your life? Found someone yet?"

"Nope. No one's as good as you. I could only wait for you to come back." Riley said as she smiled.

"Cheesy, and a lie. You're getting better at it." Rio said and ignored her.

Just like this, while talking Riley kept driving him to the place where Amelia and others were waiting. It was a famous restaurant called 'Dorsia', which always reminded Rio of that American Psycho movie - no matter how many times he heard it.

Rio was about to go out, when he saw a scene which made him silent.

Through the tinted black windows, he saw that protagonist Leon was standing at the door of the restaurant, arguing with some security guard. Rio turned his head and saw Amelia, Becca, Rubina and Ayla sitting inside happily chatting with each other.

But then he focused and found there was one more person sitting at their table, a girl with long white hair and those symbolic pointy ears of the elves.

"Saisha" Rio muttered as he recognized her. 'What the hell is she doing here?'

[6 heroines in the same place, along with the protagonist and the main villain.]

[What a good stage for a big drama.]

Chapter 222 Pretending Protagonist Or An Idiot Protagonist

Rio looked at Leon standing at the gates of the restaurant and arguing with some security guard, and immediately all kinds of face slap routines started to appear in his head. He had read so many cliched s and plotlines in his life on earth, that he could practically remember a dozen of them which starts with this kind of setting.

If it was only Amelia and others in the restaurant, he would simply ignore Leon and won't even take a glance at this scene. As he had trained and influenced those girls enough to not fall for such stupid protagonist tricks to go help him or get curious about him. They were all smarter than that.

But the problem was that there were two other heroines in this restaurant at this moment - Saisha Ellsworth and Seraphina Starzl.

Both girls were the easiest target of Leon's harem in the . Leon got Seraphina's good graces from his little stay at Circle of Renewals in his childhood. And she was just also friendly and curious about rank 1, and thus fell for him easily over time.

As for Saisha, it was even more simple. The princess who was loved by all, and never came into contact with anything negative and wrong openly, got attracted to his righteousness and heroic personality.

She wouldn't fall so easily, but it was also original Rio's fault in the .

After all, the one who won the fastest race alone would never get as much attention as the one who defeated someone else. People like to compare and that comparison is what makes things interesting for them.

But it also worked in Leon's favor. As the more rumors spread about him, and the more his 'evil deeds' spread everywhere, the more famous Leon started to get.

[You should stop staring and go out there. Let's just stop Leon from showing off somehow, or maybe let's just kick him out of here. That should solve all the troubles.]

"No, Let's wait." Rio said.

"[Wait \_ what.]

[You want to wait. What if Leon finishes this plotline and gets some big benefits or connections. It would be too troublesome for you to handle.]

"At least I'll know if Shweta's personality really affected Saisha or not. Or if some new character pops up to help Leon or not."

[But \_ ]

'Just, listen to me. Will ya.' Rio said and ignored the system.

Riley, who saw Rio staring at Leon, asked "Someone you know, boss."

"He's Leon Heartwell. He's a student at the academy too." Rio replied, without taking his eyes off Leon. Though he couldn't hear what they were talking about, he could at least guess something through their body language and the way they talked.

"Ahh the top ranker huh." Riley said in realization, and also looked at Leon.

At this time, Leon's fame was everywhere, especially at the floating island, where the news about the academy was everyone's main focus. Plus Riley herself had checked every ranker when she was free, since they were all going to be Rio's classmates soon.

"Half the tables inside are empty. And we won't take long, it's just for a normal dinner." Leon said to the guard who stopped him from entering.

"Sir, I've informed you already. Many of those tables were already reserved by guests before, and others are kept free in case of some VIPs' arrival." The guard respectfully replied, feeling helpless at how else he should explain the same thing that is written on board clearly for everyone.

"To eat at Dorsia one needs a prior reservation or a membership card. Otherwise even if the restaurant is empty normal guests can't enter." This is common knowledge to basically everyone on the floating islands.

Yet who can say that to our protagonist, who just pops at every expensive place looking like a beggar or a thug.

Yupp, even though Leon is a noble and heir to the Baron family, he's still dressed in normal clothes, which were marked with dust and mud in some places.

Looking at that Rio could guess that the market fight scene which was supposed to happen in the morning might've happened already.

Don't ask if Leon doesn't have any other clothes, or if he doesn't know any cleaning spells - he does. Why he didn't use them, god knows.

Well probably even gods don't know, only the author knows.

Just tell me, is the protagonist pretending or is it an idiot protagonist.

"What's the hold up?" A man with a fat tummy asked loudly, and walked out from behind a counter and came to the door.

"You there, why are you just standing there and chatting with your buddies, instead of welcoming other guests."

He said to the guard who was busy talking with Leon for the past few minutes.

"Ahh sir, that he \_" The guard from earlier started stuttering in nervousness and was unable to answer properly, when the fat man cut him off and started speaking again.

"Do your jobs properly. You can't slack off just cause you're new. Now ignore him and stand at your post. You see how many guests had to open the doors themselves and enter. You're basically ruining the reputation of everyone."

After speaking to the guard, the fat man looked at Leon, and then ignored him and left.

Hearing his superior's order, the guard ignored Leon and went back to his post again.

"Welcome to Dorsia." He bowed and welcomed a couple who showed him a card and entered inside.

Leon, who saw the guard's respectful behavior, felt contempt and went to the fat man who was coming back after shouting at some other guard. "Excuse me. I wanted to book a reservation."

The fat man, with the name plate of 'David Turner' fixed on his chest, looked at Leon from top to bottom for a few moments and then sighed a little inside and said - "Sorry sir, but we're totally booked for the night."



"What? But he said, many tables are empty for emergencies. I just need a table for two and that's all."  
Leon said adamant on going inside.

"Sir, as you said, those tables are for VIPs and emergencies. Not just anyone can sit there." The fat man David said sternly.

The staff didn't want to look down on anyone or insult someone on the main gate where everyone who came and went could see and hear everything. But everyone felt helpless.

Every now and then some stupid people would come to cause drama in Dorsia, asking about places and prices of everything and then create a rockus saying they're so expensive and proud and what not. Mostly it's those competitors of theirs up front, who try to ruin their reputation, or some people who were just really bored and had nothing better to do.

Looking at Leon, the fat man could see it was the second type of person, who just had nothing to do. Cause if not, then after looking at the big note at the side, or hearing the answer from the guard and him, he should've gone away, instead of staying here and arguing with him.

"You \_."

"I'm a student at Zenith academy. You might've heard of me. I'm \_."

"Sir whoever you are, the rules are the same for everybody. Even if you're a student at Zenith or not. Without reservations you can't enter." The fat man said and ignored Leon and started going inside. Closing the glass door on his face.

But just at that moment, a voice interrupted the fat man - "Stop".

"He's with me. Let him in."

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Saisha, who was sitting with Amelia and others, and was talking happily and chatting with them. She was feeling a little restless at the dorms, so she decided to take a walk outside. She had heard from her fellow elves and Jaesin, that the food at Dorsia was the best on floating islands, so she came here for dinner.

[As the princess of Elves, and belonging to a royal family of high elves, she had her own membership cards for every major or famous facility on the floating islands. Some membership cards were the ones which are made for the whole family of generations, and some were ones which Jaesin had made for her, so she wouldn't have any trouble if she ever wanted to go alone somewhere.]

Once she entered the restaurant, she found her roommate there, who was sitting with her friends. She was going to ignore them and sit on her own table, when Ayla called her to join them and that's how she ended up with them.

Though she had seen Ayla with Amelia and Rebecca sometimes, but this was the first time she met them herself, so she introduced herself and they all started talking.

They were ordering food for themselves when she felt someone looking at her and turned back. She glanced at the door's direction, but found no one there. After searching a little farther, she found a black car standing outside near the door. After she used her mana and failed to see who it was, she decided to take a look herself.

After excusing herself, she came to the door and before she could exit and go to that car, she heard Leon's conversation with the owner and saw that scene.

She knew about Leon, and seeing how he was trying hard to enter, she decided to help him.

"My table's empty now. You can give it to them." Saisha said to the fat man, who could just nod his head in return. While silently wondering, how this idiot managed to get in the eyes of a princess.

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'Saisha'

Rio looked at Saisha's figure standing at the door and talking with the fat man. Though he couldn't hear anything, the scene was enough proof for him to guess what the situation probably was.

'Is she gonna pull him to Amy's table?' Rio wondered. And the little calm he felt after beating up those goons of Dante, started to disappear and he started feeling angry again.

[Calm down host]

[Maybe it's something else.]

'I've watched enough.' Rio said and walked out of the car. "Leave." Rio said to Riley and she drove away without waiting there.

'I should settle him for once.'

Chapter 223 Dorsia & Church Of Hestia

Rio got out of the car and started walking towards the restaurant. Once he was out, he could hear what Saisha and the guard were talking about, yet there was no expression on his face.

The security guard from earlier walked forward and opened the door for him.

"Welcome to Dorsia"

Rio entered the restaurant without saying anything and ignored Leon and Saisha, who were looking at him.

"Master" Esme signaled him with her hands, when she saw him enter.

Rio nodded his head and went towards the table and sat on the empty chair where Saisha was sitting earlier and started to talk with Amelia and Becca.

Currently they were all in a cabin like area in the middle, made of glass. These kinds of rooming arrangements were around the high midsection of the Dorsia price range.

[Lower range would be where guests sit in the open hall like area, then the mid sections where they were given a private cabin with little privacy. The higher range would be a private room with all kinds of arrangements and facilities. The higher the money paid, the better the arrangement one received.]

Rio didn't know whose idea it was to sit in these mid cabins made of glass walls, when Rebecca and Amelia, both had membership cards for the highest level.

Maybe it was the work of fate so one of these heroines could go and help Leon. Or maybe it was because the restaurant was busy and had no open rooms for now. Or maybe it was someone in his group being stingy. - but he didn't ask them, as he felt it was probably a nonsensical reason which would only hurt his logical brain if he heard it.

"You're so late. And the manager from Angel said you didn't even go there. Were you sleeping all this time?" Amelia said when he sat there and passed him the menu so he could order for himself.

"I was busy with my training and lost track of time." Rio said to Amelia, and passed the menu to the waiter without looking - "Ask Kael'thas to get me the usual." The waiter bowed and left.

"Yeah, definitely sleeping." Rebecca chimed in with a smile. Her words making all of them smile.

"You know the chef." Rubina asked, when Rio talked about the head chef Kael'thas and asked him to prepare his dishes. After all, Dorsia was one of the most famous restaurants, known throughout Arcadia for their quality of food. Not only because of the taste of their various dishes, but also because of the effects it brought on awakeners and whoever ate them.

It has several branches open everywhere, but aside from their main headquarters at Neisah, the branch at laurelia sanctum was the most famous. Mainly because of the talented head chef Kael'thas, also known as the magic chef or the Gourmet Wizard.

Dorsia was a restaurant managed by the Church of Hestia. Its main branch opened in Neisah along with their church house.

Hestia was one of the ancient Greek goddesses, who was also originally part of the 12 Olympian Gods. She's often associated with hearth and home. She's also known as one of the rarest Greek goddess, who was kind and righteous. And someone who didn't use her powers to play or punish others.

She liked peace and calm, and avoided trouble and games of power plays - that's why to maintain peace for herself and her followers, she even gave up her throne of being a part of 12 Olympian Deities of Mount Olympus to Dionysus.

"He's the master of my family's house chef. So we've met a few times." Rio said nonchalantly like it was no big deal.

Ayla and Amelia were fine, while both Rebecca and Rubina made surprised expressions hearing this news. Rebecca took a moment to think and then remembered something and looked at Amelia - "Say was everything you brought made by Kael'thas' disciple?"

"Obviously, do you think mother has that much time to prepare everything herself." Amelia said with a proud expression.

"Who's \_"

"She's a girl and her name's Tanya." Amelia said to Rubina before she even finished her question.

"Brother brought her home a few years ago, and she's his little fan girl now." Amelia meaningfully said to Rebecca and smiled meaningfully.

Hearing that Rebecca raised her eyebrows. She then looked at Rio in surprise, hoping to ask for some confirmation, but seeing him lost in his own world, she couldn't find the right words for her doubts.

-humha- cough- cough

A small chuckle escaped Amelia's mouth, which she covered instantly with a cough. Rebecca glared at Amelia, and Amelia ignored her angry eyes and started looking for the glass of water, while still maintaining her act of fake coughs.

'See how I deal with you back in room' Rebecca said in her heart and ignored everyone. She buried her face in her plate. Acting like nothing happened, yet everyone could hear the subtle clattering of teeth, and how she tightly held the spoon in her hand, almost breaking it in two.

Rubina, who saw this scene, ignored it as passing air. After all, everyone in and around Schilla knew about rumors of engagement between Blake family and Schott family. There were even rumors that once both their children finished their studies, their families would hold a big celebration for their graduation and announce the engagement. Though both families never said anything openly, seeing how every one of these children were always together and were on good terms with each other. The chances were higher that those rumors were true after all.

That's why Rubina didn't even think about that. Her focus on the other hand was on the girl named 'Tanya' who was accepted as the disciple of the gourmet wizard.

'She must be pretty talented to be chosen as his disciple. I wanna meet her.' Rubina thought, as she wanted to make a deal with her. 'Or. Should I ask Amelia or Rio instead. Nah, they don't know me well enough, so why would they help me? Let's hope this Tanya can help me.' Rubina thought with her face bent down, staring at the menu of food and their effects.

Rio looked at Rubina and read her intentions as an open book. There was a reason why he mentioned Tanya in front of her, and looking at her downcast determined look, he could guess she took the bait.

'It's so simple to fool people, if you have what they need in your hands.' Rio thought, and remembered some words Nashi once said to him back on earth -

"Know everyone's desires and wait for their desperation - do that and you'll have no one left you can't control."

'Hate to say it but the bastard always spoke words that matched my thoughts.' He thought, reminiscing about his past.

Ignoring Rubina, Rio looked at Rebecca and a smile came to his face seeing the gloomy vibe she was oozing off.

[Your sister's helping you to get a girl.]

'Shut up.'

[What?]

[You're not planning to stay single all your life, are you? Cause if that's your plan then tell me now, so I can go offline. None of my previous hosts died a virgin. I don't want you to break my record, and let you sully the name of being a system holder.]

'Just shut up.'

[Plus I'm living in your head, I don't wanna see and hear your indecent thoughts and urges all the time.]

'That's it, you're muted for a week.'

[Wait, I was just jok\_]

Ignoring system's pleading, Rio muted it. This time totally planning to not let it speak for a whole week.

'Let's see how this chatterbox feels then. Next time, choose your words carefully, you dumb AI.'

His thoughts drifted away thinking about the rumors of his engagement and other things. He knew who was behind those rumors, but he had no way to handle these things yet.

"I'll see you guys at the academy."

Saisha, who saw that Amelia's table was filled and Rio was sitting at her previous place, decided to leave them alone. She wanted to go back to her table, but then she remembered she gave it to Leon and the girl he brought her with. Since she couldn't go and sit at both places, she just decided to go back to the dorms.

But when she was about to turn back, Ayla's voice stopped her. "Where are you going, the food hasn't even arrived yet."

"Yeah, you didn't just come to Dorsia to see the decorations, right. Just stay for dinner. And then we'll all go back together." Rubina also nodded and said.

Amelia didn't say anything but looked at Esme. Esme nodded and was about to ask their manager to prepare another chair, when the fat man David from before brought a waitress who pulled another chair, and placed it in position around the table. While another waitress came with the extra plates and other cutlery.

Looking at Saisha who was standing near the door of their cabin, he felt glad that he already prepared everything beforehand. Otherwise if any rumor spread that the elven princess left empty stomach after coming to Dorsia, it would really be bad for their business. And they might even lose all their elven customers.

"Thank you." Saisha said after she sat down, while the waitress passed her a menu, so she could order.

[Changes in plotline detected.]

[New quest issued.]

[Please ask host to check it as soon as possible, to get better prepared.]

Rio was thinking about how Leon would pop in this room, since Saisha was here now. When suddenly a few automated messages from the system popped up.

'And so it begins. Leon's event to impress 6 heroines at once.'



## Chapter 224 Hunger, hatred and helplessness

[Changes in plotline detected.]

[Quest issued.]

[Please ask the host to check it as soon as possible to be better prepared.]

Rio read the notification and smiled. He wasn't surprised about it, as he had doubted that something was wrong the moment he saw all these heroines sitting in the open, with Leon who's present in the same restaurant. And when he tasted the food in front of him, he had already noticed what was wrong.

'Warzy, my dear old friend. I've been waiting.' Rio said in his heart while taking another bite, and munching on it.

{Hela scoffs at the fools who are trying to use poison on her chosen. She feels proud of her blessing, and asks the host to punish these ignorant ants.}

{Nyx smiles, saying you should kill them in a way that sets an example for others.}

{Loki looks forward to your performance. Make him laugh.}

{Odin and Indra casts their eyes at you. Hoping to see your progress with their own eyes.}

Rio read the notifications of some other gods too but he ignored them. It wasn't surprising that some of these guys came to watch the drama. Since an attack on floating island was worth watching and interesting enough for them to waste their energies willingly. He expected it, but then he saw something that got his attention.

{Den of Devils starts a gathering, batting on your chances of survival.}

{Ythranor looks at you and scoffs saying 'what an ant'}

'Guess Dante was his favorite huh.' Rio wondered as he read the notification of Ythranor, who looked like he was in a bad mood.

Den of Devils was a group made up of many evil members belonging to several myths and legends from all kinds of worlds. It was a collective community of many high ranking members of evil gods of evil races like Demon's, Asura's, Oni's, Ifrit's, Djinn's, Ghoul's, Lamia's etc.

At the beginning of Emergence, several righteous gods got pulled into Arcadia, and they started a hunt to kill all the evil gods and their followers, to wipe out the traces of evil from this new world and to secure their ruling position. While also trying to increase their reputation so they can get more faith power for themselves.

The righteous gods spread myths and legends of the cruelty of their enemies and called them evil races, riling up the people to Arcadia to kill them. This way it created a time period where all those righteous gods gathered up their followers and enjoyed the hunt of their lifelong enemies.

Everyone who was even slightly associated with evil gods, or who prayed to them or was chosen by them as their follower or an avatar - was banished, burned and killed by the righteous army. Making bodies pile up in mountains, while their blood flowed like rivers, dying the whole of Arcadia red.

When the evil gods and those who were now branded evil, felt the threat of life - after constantly losing avatars and followers, they all decided to form a joint front and oppose these so called 'righteous army.'

This is how the Den of Devils was initially formed. A gathering of gods branded as evil.

The collective front of evil stopped the hunt of righteous gods and their followers and both parties finally formed a momentary peace.

But then the tides started to turn, various gods and different races started to join the Den of Devils, pressuring the righteous gods into a corner.

After all, what Den of Devils promised was the freedom to do whatever they wanted. There were no rules which binded anyone, and if they had strength all their supporters and followers were free to do everything, their gods would back them up.

The allure of darkness and evil had always been something that was hard to resist, and just like that, Arcadia was pushed into an era of evil. An era, where lawlessness and crime were at peak, where lives weren't considered precious anymore, and evil became the new justice. Where looting, rioting, raping, killing etc became the new measures of prestige and power. That was the darkest period in the history of Arcadia.

Some history books say there used to be no sunlight seen for days in that era, as the world would always be covered in the gloomy shadow of darkness. That blood rains never stopped, as the will of the world cried daily seeing the state of Arcadia.

And one day, the ray of hope shone in the world, ending this dark era.

The avatars of many primordials and origin gods joined forces to fight against the Den of Devils. But instead of hoping to achieve the fool's dream of completely eradicating evil, the chosens of primordials put forth the condition of peace and coexistence - like how they've been doing in their own worlds for eons.

This way both the forces of evil and righteousness stopped their war, and decided to develop themselves and advance together in this new world. Instead of fighting and dying amongst themselves, and making the world system of Arcadia stronger.

Rio kept eating the poisoned food, and other than the fact that his taste buds were suffering, like they were forced to chew something unpalatable, he felt nothing else.

His expression to that bad taste and detail of poison didn't even make him frown, as he faced worse of these things when he was trapped in that godforsaken dungeon for two years.

After all, in a failed world, infected with death energy, the first thing that goes extinct is food. The world couldn't grow anything new, and whatever there ever was, was now corroded and filled with the death energy of that red sun.

Even though he liked to always prepare extra for everything, he couldn't just store things that could last him for two years. He had to keep everything in storage rings at that time, instead of the unlimited system inventory - and storage rings gets easily filled.

Once all the food he had on himself, and what he got through the rings of other students, which he looted or picked from their corpses, ended - he had to do everything to make sure he survived.

He couldn't go hungry for days, as once his mana ended, he needed to use his aura to fight against all those creatures who came for his life - and for that aura, he needed his physical strength.

Not to mention the aftereffects of mana and aura depletion which made his hunger go beyond the limits. And it hurt more as he couldn't waste his mana on suppressing these little effects.

As even more time passed and he got affected with EMMSY and started facing the mismatch of energies within him. He started losing his connection with mana, and it started taking longer and longer to replenish it. While in the beginning he could get his full mana back in a few hours, which later turned into full days, and by the end, he needed nearly a week if he wanted to get all his mana back.

Not to mention all this time he had to keep using his mana sparingly always to keep EMMSY from spreading uncontrollably and turning him into a zombie too.

The feeling of hunger, hatred and helplessness had nearly eaten away at his sanity. And it was probably only his luck that he survived all that time, until he got out.

Against all that, and what he had to eat there, this wasn't even a warm up.

Rio looked at Rebecca, Saisha and others, and saw that all of them were eating their food without any complaints or notice of danger. Ayla and Rubina weren't avatars yet so it was fine that no God could talk to them freely here. As for others, he knew the characteristics of Rebecca's goddess Selene and Esme's God Camazotz, both of these gods were too stuck up high horses, so they probably turned this into a test to see their chosen one's strength.

It was all within his expectations.

But the one who really surprised him was Saisha. He saw her eating her food without any care while talking with Ayla and Rubina - and he couldn't help but think, just what's going on with Gaia.

In the , the all mother Gaia literally doted on Saisha, as if she was her own daughter. She also helped her many times, and even acted to save Leon once since he was Saisha's friend. And yet that same goddess mama bear was watching the drama from the sidelines, without warning her avatar at all.

"Nyx, do you know something, what's wrong with Gaia?" Rio asked as he rubbed his fingers over the mark of dark moon, which was Nyx's symbol on his hand. .

{Pay back my last favor and I'll let you know.} Nyx said, reminding him about the promise he made to her in return for using her name, so he can hide about the system power ups and him ranking up overnight. Nyx had kept silent and no one knew that she didn't help him in that regard at all.

'You got so much power of faith due to my publicity, can't you just answer a little question.' Rio said stating facts, hoping she'd answer. After all, with his little fiasco and reputation Nyx got so many new followers.

But Rio got no reply from Nyx again. 'She just had to go silent now.'

'Damn it, this is gonna be a headache.' Rio cursed in his heart, as he failed to understand anything about Gaia or Saisha.

## Chapter 225 Warzy and Virgil Graves

Ignoring Saisha, Rio turned his eyes at Amelia who was eating her food with a frowning face, each bite of hers was getting smaller and smaller in size, while the time difference between those bites kept increasing.

'So she noticed it too huh. Was it some of Gauri's blessing or just cause she's a foody.' Rio thought in his heart with a smile.

Amelia looked up at him with questioning eyes, and he shook his head in response.

"Stop talking and finish your food first. It's already getting late." He said while looking at Ayla, who was happily telling Rubina and Saisha about her apprenticeship.

Amelia nodded her head and focused on her food too. Though if anyone who knew her enthusiasm with food enough, looked at her expression, they'd know something was wrong.

'She really needs some acting lessons.' Rio thought and made a mental note.

Rio looked outside of the restaurant, and at the crowd which was dining at the outside open hall, nothing seemed to be suspicious about anything and it all looked normal.

Yet he was sure, that an attack from Warzy was about to happen here. After all, the poison which he could taste in his mouth was something only people from Warzy used. He had gotten a sample of it when Warzy used this same trick to poison the staff members near the dungeon two years ago. And he secured another stash of it after he looted the corpses of their minions he killed inside the dungeon.

Mystic Hush, a poison whose recipe is only known to the higher ups of the Warzy organization. This poison once ingested can dull the mana sense of awakeners. Making it hard for them to feel, channel or control their mana.

While Evil's Scion had Nether Cards and Cursed Mana, Warzy had Mystic Hush as their trump card for killing awakeners.

All these things are only accessible to higher ups of these organizations in a limited amount. They can use these things however they want. And since no one else could copy these methods or recreate them - the organization had no worries showing these cards in the open.

Cursed mana was something only vampires and Evil's Scion could use without getting killed by it. While Mystic Hush was a poison potion made by a concoction of 32 different kinds of deadly poisons. All mixed in a way that it only worked against mana.

Mystic Hush poison has no threat to life directly, as all those 32 poisons negated each other's effects perfectly. So if one wanted to kill someone using this poison, they'd need to do the job themselves after the poison takes effect.

But what it lacked in direct threat to life it made up for it in its potency.

This poison is tasteless, colorless and odorless. And if one didn't have any high level poison resistance blessing, even S rankers would have a hard time suppressing the effects of this poison.

So Rio could guess that if the food for everyone was poisoned, then many people from Warzy must be here to finish their job.

Now that he knew who the enemy was, he just needed to know at what scale of attack it was, and what was their goal? After all, being the profit hungry organization Warzy is, they wouldn't move a muscle if they don't get a profit out of it. And he couldn't guess what kind of profit they'd earn after infiltrating and attacking at Dorsia.

This attack not only would make them enemies of Neisah, but also the world association. Along with his father who's been on a crusade against them, and all the other rich guys who've been sitting in this restaurant at this time - with so many negative points, why would Warzy attack here, and what do they plan to get out of it, that's what's concerning him.

'Is it all happening just so fate can make Leon shine, cause other than that there's no logical reason for an attack here.' Rio wondered.

Finding nothing strange, Rio wiped his hands and mouth, and laid back on his chair. He opened his phone and started to check some news, while opening the system panel and checking up the quest which was issued to him.

[Quests.]

[Quest 1. - A Minion's Menace

A side villain of the whose destiny was altered by your actions, had sent his trusted minion to claim your life and take back his honor.

Survive and solve this threat to your life.

Quest reward - 25000 points.]

'So someone's here for me huh.' Rio said in his heart and smiled that he wasted so much time thinking about their purpose, and in the end it turned out to be him.

He accepted the quest message and closed his eyes. His mind went through all the people of Warzy whom he fought against two years ago on that dungeon attack. After removing the ones who were killed by him, and those who died in the dungeon crash, he started arranging the ones who ran away or went missing after their fight. And soon enough he found the guy he was looking for.

'Virgil Graves - the man whom he fought against inside the dungeon, and got the technique of Rebound Art from.'

In the , Virgil was the one who had mastered Rebound art, and fought against Leon before Emergence phase 2 had started. But two years ago, Warzy attacked the academy and Virgil came across Rio.

Seeing the chance to get a defensive technique that this cheap villain came to deliver to the door, how could Rio let him go. So he fought with Virgil, until Virgil gave him the technique along with his hand.

[Ahh, the guy whose hands you chopped off so you could steal his storage ring.]

'I would've killed him too, if not for that bastard Alfred, and his group of other weaklings.'

Rio cursed as he remembered about all the shit Alfred pulled in that dungeon. If not for that guy, he would've killed Virgil that day, and now this chain event kind of trouble wouldn't be happening to him.

[Why don't you expose him. That'll be a nice punishment for a prince charming.]



'I didn't unmute you so you can play around again. So stop chit - chatting and help me deal with whatever happens next.' Rio said to the system as he felt the mana getting thinner in the air, and the background noise of the crowd disappearing slowly.

'Buy a few antidotes and keep them ready. Also send one of them directly into Amy's storage ring just in case.' Rio gave out his orders and closed the system panel.

After the system came back online, he had bought a pair of rings with a common storage space inside. He gave one of them to Amelia when they joined the academy, while the other was with himself. This way he didn't had to worry about anything and could just directly pass her anything through the ring.

Since he had his own private system inventory upgraded till level 3 , he didn't really need any other storage items. And with the help of system he could just buy anything according to the situation and throw it into that sharing ring, so Amy can just take care of herself.

'Though since she noticed it was poisoned and yet she's still eating it, I guess she won't need it. But whatever.' Rio thought and ignored it.

One antidote of this poison costed him 250 points, and this bastard system bought 10 without asking him cause he didn't soecify the number himself.

'Why do I need 10 potions, I just needed 5.' Rio asked the system, but the answer he got was that [10 is a lucky number, and counting price times ten is easy.]

'Just cause I have so many points doesn't mean they're for you waste, you spendthrift.' Rio cursed, feeling that he should never give free reign of shopping to this system again. Cause even though the system started to speak like a robotic AI now, but it seems it still has all the habits of whoever that girl Kajal was. It's like a bug had affected some software and now that glitch is the new norm for this version.

'Why aren't these bastards attacking me already, if they came for me.' Rio thought as he looked at the time and the night outside. He saw someone yawning outside, and now he did it too.

'Seriously people from Warzy never get their timings right. Now I look like I need sleep when I haven't eaten anything besides this fucked up dish since yesterday night.'

'I should call up Tanya to bring me some dishes she prepared next week. She must've learned a lot of recipes from earth that I gave her.'

Recipes of earth with the style & ingredients of arcadia, personally made by the disciple of Annapurna - I'm looking forward to it.

Rio, who was getting bored thinking about useless stuff while waiting for someone to come and slash at his neck, finally smiled as heard the sound of footsteps outside his room.

'It's finally here. I've been waiting to kill you Warzy minions for two whole years now.'

{Nyx nods at your excitement to kill your enemies.}

{Hela says she needs a better show than the one you put on in that club as your other persona.}

{She also says her father is watching the scene from some corner too. This might be your chance to impress him.}

'Can't she choose some better words.'

-slash boom-

Chapter 226 Warzy Attacks

"In our clan when we need to choose the next heir we hold a large tournament, and then there's a big battle for everyone. When I was a kid I saw it once, it was so exciting." Rubina kept telling everyone about the culture of her clan as she waved her hands and started stories about fights and other scenes like a proper storyteller.

"Aren't you all clansman why fight amongst themselves. Can't they choose the most talented one or through votes or something." Ayla asked as she never understood the idea of so much fighting at every turn.

"What, votes - that's just dirty politics. Let me tell you only strength matters, and only strongman can unite everyone under an iron fist. That's how we've been able to survive all this time, otherwise how many clans playing politics disappeared in Arcadia." Rubina said with a hint of disdain in her voice.

They were talking when the door to the cabin opened. The waitress from earlier came inside and started walking towards their table.

"Did someone ordered something?" Rebecca asked as she looked at everyone, and then glanced at Amelia the foody as if she knew she's the only one who would ask for more after eating all this.

Yet when she looked at Amelia's plate which was still half filled, she got confused and wanted to ask her something, but before she could utter a single word, she watched as Amelia picked up her plate and threw it at the waitress face. The sudden move made everyone surprised as they all looked at Amelia and then at the waitress with surprised expression.

The force behind the plate knocked the waitress a step back, but she didn't scream or cry instead started walking towards them again with a maniacal laugh on her face which started dropping blood. Soon everyone discovered the anomaly as they watched with glued eyes when the body of that waitress started bloating at speed visible to naked eyes. Red veins started to appear on her skin and before anyone could understand or react to what was happening, a loud blast sounded in the their ears.

—boom—

The waitress blasted herself inside the room, throwing the room into a complete darkness. Blood and body parts splattered everywhere, marking their faces and clothes red. Ayla puked and threw out all her food when she saw a part of broken hand which suddenly dropped on her thighs. She stood up in hurry and moved back, knocking the chair.

Same was the case with everyone, they all stood up in shock. Though initially surprised they all calmed down and tried to assess the situation for any attack. After all, every one of them was a talented genius

of their own origins. Yet the biggest shock was still remaining left, when they all tried to channel their mana they found they could feel nothing.

The fireballs they tried to create were like a mere flames of a candle or a lighter. And even that required their utmost attention to maintain.

Screams could be heard in entire room as the sound of people fighting started to appear around them. From what they could see through the glittering lights of their spells the whole room was filled with masked man dressed in black.

"Show yourself you cowards." Rubina shouted as she swung her fists in the empty darkness. A scream escaped her mouth as she felt a sharp cut on her back. "Die" She turned around and threw a kick with full force, but her feet felt like she was hitting an iron wall.

"They're not humans." Rubina shouted trying to warn everyone while backing away, as she felt another wound in her stomach.

"They're golems." Rebecca shouted as she felt her knuckles hit a wall with the previous punch. She picked and bashed a chair on her opponent, and backed off immediately. But soon she stumbled over something and fell down on the ground. She noticed a silver sword streak coming towards her and disappearing midway.

"Not all of them." She heard Rio's voice as she felt some liquid falling over her. Blood of the masked man who was about to attack her. She picked up a broken leg of the chair and stabbed it behind her as she heard the sound of heavy footsteps. "Some are still humans." She said while kicking the dead body while pulling the wooden stick back.

Ayla who backed away subconsciously towards the corner in the beginning heard someone's footsteps coming towards her, she tried her best to use any spell to hold her opponent. Yet without mana even the elemental mastery of wood refused her command and no spell could be casted. She heard a swish sound in air, and felt a gust of air hitting her skin. She closed her eyes and covered her face, as she felt she was about to be slashed at. Yet at the last moment she found her body being pulled to the side. It felt like someone grabbed her and threw her away. A scream escaped her mouth involuntarily. "Ahhhh"

"Ayla" Amelia shouted as she kicked her opponent away. Currently she was facing off against three masked man around her, while moving towards the place where her brother was sitting earlier. She created an aura blade with her hand and threw it towards the ceiling.

As the blue wave of aura moved towards the ceiling she took a glance around the room in the light. She saw Ayla huddled in a corner with a barrier that covered her, and Rubina, who was trapped between two masked man holding a dagger, with a bleeding stab wound in her stomach.

The bluish hue of aura hit the ceiling and disappeared. As the attack got absorbed by some kind of formation pattern.

Seeing Ayla was fine she turned her attention back at her opponent, grabbing his hand she twisted it and took his sword from him. She kicked the man away and slashed at him while moving forwards. She started swinging her sword at the remaining two masked man around her. Yet while fighting this time her senses started to get dull at an alarming rate, her steps started getting wobbly and hands felt numb.

"Don't use your aura. Something's wrong with the air." Amelia shouted as she backed off, her back colliding with someone. She slashed her sword without looking, but her attack missed and someone grabbed her hand instead.

"It's me. Don't attack." Saisha said as she let go of Amelia's hands. While pulling her away as she saw a silver hue attacking her from behind. She moved back and grabbed the hand of the masked man and stabbed it with the chopsticks she picked up from the table earlier.

"I didn't need your help." Amelia said as she moved forward and swung her sword, killing the man who was screaming in pain. Ignoring Saisha, Amelia moved towards Rubina's direction to help her.

"You don't mess with food. Can't you get that one thing right." Amelia said as she kicked a man in stomach and then when he was on his knees, swung her sword, cutting off his head in one swift motion.

The screams of the masked man and attacks kept sounding in the entire room, as the smell of blood permeating kept getting heavier. Even their own sounds of help or calls were echoing and drowning in the sea, making grouping together hard for them. If that wasn't enough, some loud blasts and screams from outside could also be heard making everything confusing. They weren't sure how many people

there were in the room, or how many had died already. They couldn't even focus on what was around them, as all their focus was on their opponents.

"Just die already." Rubina shouted as she plunged the knife in her hand at her opponent. "Fucking golems." She cursed as she felt the knife was stuck inside and she couldn't pull it out.

She heard the sound of sword slashing through the air and was about to move out, when she heard Amelia's voice "Never knew you cursed, lady leader."

Amelia said amusedly while slashing her sword constantly at the golem opponent Rubina was fighting against, until she heard a loud thud of him falling down.

'Brother don't you dare do something stupid.' She prayed in her heart as she noticed she hasn't heard Rio's voice at all for some time now.

She had realized there was something wrong when she tasted some kind of poison in her food, but seeing Rio noticed it too and didn't act, she stayed silent. Though she noticed the poison, but she didn't have any high poison resistance skill so she still kept her guard up, but not long after that she could feel the small effects of this poison inside her.

'Warzy.' She cursed in her heart as she realized who their attackers were when she identified the method. Anger started rising in her heart as she remembered about what happened two years ago, and how because of these damn profit hungry maniacs her brother had to suffer alone in that dungeon.

She was about to lose her cool when she felt a slight disturbance in her storage ring. Channeling her mana she found an extra potion placed inside the ring. "Don't do anything. And Use that potion if necessary." Rio's voice sounded in her ears, so she kept silent.

It was only that before the waitress entered their cabin she felt a high spatial distortions around their cabin and seeing her brother nodding at her that she decided to act.

She was about to beat that waitress and then go out with her brother to deal with everyone who probably used some kind of teleportation circle outside. When the waitress instead of attacking directly blew herself up, blasting all the light crystals in the room.

Then these masked man started appearing suddenly in the room, she wanted to use her mana to fight them but then she heard her brother's voice in her head that ordered her not to use mana and only fight normally. So she could only bite the bullet and hope he's not planning something stupid.

"Now this is fun." Rio said as he stood outside the gate of their cabin and saw three masked man standing there, while behind them stood a figure in a shrouded in a red hoodie.

"So you're the one who came for me." Rio said to the hooded figure. He raised his hand in the air and clenching his fists pulled it back.

Thud-thud-thud

The sound of heads hitting the ground rang out, as the bodies of the three people standing in front fell down after a few moments too. "Let's talk privately, shall we?"

Chapter 227 Beginning of bloodbath

Few minutes ago

As soon as the waitress entered the room, Rio smiled and straightened his back. He could feel the mana gathering outside and the sudden surge of people entering the restaurant or the ones who walked out of their rooms or stood up from the main hall - like they all got a signal to act.

Their synchronization was so on point that it even scared the ones around them.

"Golems" Rio muttered under his breath "Neat trick."

Rio scanned everything around him through his mana sense, which was boosted by Hecate's blessing of magic sense. His eyes stopped at the room where Leon was sitting with Seraphina. Rio smiled as he sensed the high amount of fire element inside there.

'Protagonist, he really smells trouble by a mile huh. And even those idiots, if they came for me shouldn't you attack me first. What a waste of time.'

[Protagonist's are always the one, who sees something wrong and gets a clue of any event or attack first - it's their right as the chosen son of heavens and being the favorites of author.]

'You know, I just said that as a rhetoric and wasn't really asking for your opinion, right.'

[...]

Rio stopped using his blessings and the notifications he got from Hela. He looked at the bloating waitress who was ready to blast herself and the moment she did, he waved his hand, splattering all the blood mist away from him.

The blood mist was another form of attack used by the low level minions of Warzy. These people were basically brainwashed and turned into puppets and their only role in the organization was to be a suicide bomber. The bodies of these guys is filled with a kind of poison which once inhaled blocks the aura movement.

The poison's name was called Blood Vapor Veil, it was simple, effective and hard to detect. Once injected directly through smell or taste, this poison directly mixes into the blood, making it harder for the user to find and suppress. That's all this poison does basically, but if someone were to use aura after using this poison, then this poison which is mixed in blood creates a veil over your veins, making it hard for you to channel your aura and making their senses slower.

Even this effect though seems overpowered but could easily be stopped if one has some blessing of poison resistance, or even has high control over their mana and use these to eject the poison directly.

But Warzy has Mystic Hush potion which can stop anyone from using mana - thus the addition of both these things makes them even more deadly.

After all, what can someone do without mana and aura. Even if someone's a high ranker, if they lose these two, then what's left is just their enhanced body and physical strength left. If not then they're just like normal nobodies. Making them easy prey for Warzy to hunt and kill.



Just at that moment of blast, Rio also used the control over darkness element to destroy all the sources of light inside their cabin room. Though the darkness of night had little effects for everyone in the room at normal times, and they would see through it easily, but with their senses dull and mana suppressed, even this was enough.

The girls can still rely on their heightened physical senses to fight with people of Warzy for some time. As for those who were a little troublesome to deal with for the girls, Rio planned to deal with them himself first.

[You just want to confuse and busy them in their fight, so they don't see you stealing stuff..]

'Shut up.' Rio said, standing up from his seat, as he controlled the threads he spread all over the room.

He stopped the system from speaking, but it was the truth after all. The golems used by Warzy were the best automated bots money could buy. And now that his old friend Virgil sent them as a gift to him, how could he not take it.

Defeating these golems generally wasn't hard, as they were low in grade and their strength and skills were fixed, and easy to predict, but what made them truly scary was the unlimited stamina they had. These guys could hold their own against a normal similar ranked awakener and might give a tough fight, but to all these heroines and important characters they weren't anything special.

But now that the girls couldn't use any mana Or aura, then dealing with all the golems, while fighting against the few living humans who sneak attacked on every chance and turn - was going to be very hard. That's why for their good too, Rio planned to solve all the golems for these girls first. As for other assassins, these heroines and characters can deal with them themselves.

'A fight or two like this - was probably good for their experience, and would teach them a lot of things.' Rio thought as he moved fine threads all over the room in a swift pattern.

Soon enough many footsteps started sounding in the room and the sound of fighting started. The first to jump forward was Esme, but expecting it already, he sent a mental message to her. "Handle the one's outside our cabin, who're in B rank. Let everyone fight for themselves and polish their skills."

Rio had already sent a message to her asking her to keep silent about it. After all, Esme was a part of shadows, and was literally poisoned multiple times in name of training and building her senses. Every shadow and someone who worked as a part of Silent Reapers, had to go through all kinds of hard trainings to make them perfect bodyguards and assassins. After all, Blake family can't raise lukewarm people to protect their important members.

Esme stopped and looked at Rio, through the darkness she could see him fighting with someone who showed no sign of life. As a vampire her senses were sharper than everyone else, and she was extra sensitive about the blood and heartbeats. She could sense nothing from those golems.

She wanted to ask him or go to help him, but she remembered what he said to her a few moments ago, when she asked something about why he still wanted to eat a deadly poison and wait for enemy's attack.

"You know questioning and doubting me once or twice over my decisions is good. But you're making it a habit now. Just do what I said."

It was a clear order and she understood it too. So she could just suppress her questions in her heart and do what he said. She was still ready to contact the elite members of Alphas stationed at Angel, but she decided to wait and do that if things started going out of hand. She changed her direction and moved towards the wall which was broken in another blast and some people were entering from there.

Rio watched as Esme intercepted them before they could come inside and attack everyone else. Once Esme was out Rio finally breathed a sigh of relief and then started his work.

'Let's get looting.' He thought, while trapping the golem in front of him into threads. Once the golem's movements were restricted, Rio took out a short ceremonial dagger with a blood red hilt and plugged it deep into the golem's forehead.

The mechanical golem whirred for a few seconds and then fell limp on the threads he was binded with. Rio waved his hand and put that into his system space.

'One down, more to go.' Rio said and moved towards the other golem whom he could notice in the room.

Through his mastery over darkness, he could see everything as clear as day even though there was no light around him. Rio kept moving and collecting all these golems into his system inventory.

These golems also had similar creation methods and the way of dealing with them was simple too. Just find and destroy the magic core which is used as a power source to function these mechanical robots.

Finding the core wasn't hard, as sensing condensed mana in their bodies was quite easy once these golems stood still. Since Rio could still use his mana himself, and he could use threads to bind these golems and trap them- he could do it even more perfectly and knock them out easily.

One by one the golems which entered the room to confuse everyone and kill them, started to fall down and Rio swepted them all into his system space.

He could let these golems out once he destroyed the runes placed on their bodies by Warzy, and then he'd just need to fix them up again a bit and they'd all be his minions.

Though he wasn't much interested in some low level bots or golems, but the material used to make these golems was a little rare and expensive, so why waste them if they're a free gift from the enemy camp.

Rio also helped Ayla to stay away from everything and fixed her in a corner. After all, there was no need to put his money machine in danger for a little fighting experience.

Soon enough Rio had removed all the golems he could find inside the room, and threw them like trash in his system inventory.

'Now that that's done, let's start with the bloodbath.'

'Warzy, you owe me a little too much to be left alone. Since you made a move again, then just stay and be a stepping stone for me this time.'

Chapter 228 Huitzilopochtli - God of sun, war and sacrifice

After dealing with all the golems inside and storing their bodies inside his system space, Rio walked outside the room from the gate. He looked to the side and saw Esme was still fighting with 3 of the

masked men who surrounded her. She was still handling them easily, even without using her transformation of true form. Looking at it, it won't take long until she dealt with them and came to his side again.

He also looked back and saw that Rebecca managed to access her storage ring during the fight and threw some light crystals in the room, removing the darkness that enveloped it. He also watched as Saisha managed to control her element and remove all the blood mist from the air, which could allow them to use their aura a little easily now. He looked at Amelia, who was covering Ayla and Rubina behind her while holding back 4 men who surrounded her. She also started using her mana now and was fighting with them.

Seeing that, he also understood it won't take long for them to deal with everyone in the room now, if there was no variable popping up. There were only a few men left for them to handle.

Looking outside he noticed the whole building of Dorsia was destroyed, and the fighting sound was coming from everywhere. He looked upwards and outside, and could faintly feel the signature of a barrier which covered everything. He also saw some weird shining symbols on certain walls which were probably connected to a formation pattern, he wasn't sure what this was. As there are too many things like formations which Warzy used in the , and were never explained clearly in detail.

But seeing that he didn't see anyone from outside coming to help, it only meant two things - one, they couldn't notice what's happening here. And second, there's something more bizarre happening outside which needs their attention first.

Rio couldn't understand why in the hell Warzy allowed such a large attack in the heart of floating islands and for what reason.

He knew Virgil's reach in that organization, it was nowhere near the level to bring so much firepower and initiate an attack this big for no reason, but just to kill him.

It may have been Virgil's personal goal, but the fact that higher ups of Warzy allowed something like this, means those guys are planning something.

'Is it related to the first major event coming up soon?' Rio wondered, but failed to understand the goals of Warzy.

He never for a second believed that such a big event happened just for his head, if it was a personnel attack on him somewhere outside, he could still take it. But this was not Warzy's style. No matter which angle he looked at it, this only leads to Warzy making enemies from everyone and yet getting nothing in return.

'Are the gods behind them starting to move.' Rio wondered as he felt this attack was just a show and nothing serious. With Warzy's background they could flatten the Dorsia if they wanted in a minute, but they're playing around with barriers all around it and sending out golems to fight, instead of sending their high rankers.

[Maybe they want to establish their reputation again. After all, the constant hunt from your father and other nobles is bad for their business.] The system spoke, giving out its theory.

'I have a feeling it's not so simple.' Rio wondered as he started moving towards the room where Leon was fighting against some people, while protecting Seraphina.

If he needed a clue about what this event was all about, then it's better to go where Leon is. After all, the clues of chain events always appear near the protagonist in the s. That's how they're the first ones to know and understand everything. He was sure the minion, Virgil sent to kill him, is also going to appear somewhere near Leon, and decides to fight with him first. It could be an excuse of him getting horny over Seraphina, Or just greedy over the prestige of killing the next beat genius. -he would appear there and give Leon some clues of their real plan and then die. That's how every routine works.

Rio started running forward, ignoring the fights happening around them. The screams of everyone fighting without mana and aura, while golems which were holding everyone back and their opponent who could use magic to kill them - were happening everywhere. Many guests died and their bodies were littered on the floor dying it red.

The cries of agony and screams of pain and anger were making the environment gloomy. Smoke and dust was flying in the air making it hard to breathe or see clearly. Rio also came across some bombers who were blasting themselves so the amount of poison never went down a certain level.

Along the way he noticed he didn't see any staff of Dorsia fighting against the masked men, and it was only the guests who were fighting for their life.

Rio took it lightly before, thinking it's probably a little assassination attempt on him through poison, due to Virgil's anger. But looking at the scale of damage outside now, and seeing no response from anyone outside, he realized how wrong he was. Cause this attack was too big to be just termed as trying to kill him.

Unless \_

[Unless Warzy needed to do something and Virgil took the task to create a diversion. And in doing that, he chose to plan an attack on you, to get his revenge and a perfect diversion. Two goals, one shot.] System said, finishing his words and perfecting the theory that his brain came up with.

Rio agreed with that too, as that was the only plausible explanation. But there was still something that he didn't understand, how did they know? How did that guy know he'll be Dorsia at this time? He himself didn't know that, as it was just a sudden decision by Amy and Becca?

[You're forgetting this world has seers, my host.]

[Warzy has a ton of them on their back and call. It won't be surprising if one of them managed to capture a vision of you here. That way they just needed to wait and be ready till you came here.]

'But still how much time did it take for them to infiltrate Dorsia, get the formations and barriers ready. Cut off connection points, create a teleportation circle - just how long have they known about it.' Rio wondered.

Unlike our dear old dead prophet Noah, other seers can't see anything past a certain time limit and clarity. Most of the times visions blur and overlap, and many times they themselves would forget and get confused about them as it becomes too hard to understand them. Noah was a special case in the , that's why he became the best seer and world famous instantly. But others couldn't do that.

[Maybe they didn't have to. Warzy is such a big organization. Which had been passed down for more than two hundred years. And with Dorsia's prestige it's no wonder if they had their spies already planted here for a day like this decades ago.]

[And besides you prepared so many Trump cards, so nothing goes wrong like last time. So what're you worried about? I mean with all the things you got stored in line, unless SSS rankers or gods directly come down, you can still escape with your sister unscathed.]

"I'm not worried about my safety. I'm just worried it'll be too much trouble to handle things if they start dragging out without any reason like this." Rio said, shrugging his shoulders.

'Though if it's the big guy himself, then it could be a little troublesome.' Rio thought as he remembered about the character of the head of Warzy, and the plethora of Gods behind him. It was very very unlikely for him to act now, but just to be on the safe side, Rio decided to ask his doubts.

"Hela, are the gods involved in this?" Rio asked as he felt a bad feeling about this.

[... ]

He waited but got no response. He didn't ask Nyx, as he was sure she'd be a bitch about it and say nothing. Why waste his breathe and effort.

"Skuld, tell me who's involved?" Rio said as he channeled his mana into the mark of threads of his wrists. Which was the symbol of Skuld's blessing.

[...]

'Tell me, or I'll tell goddess Kali about your little secret.' Rio said to her as he waved his hand and severed the head of a bomber who was running towards him.

[Don't you dare.] Skuld's reply came instantly, sounding a little scared. After all

'Then tell me, which God is pulling the strings.' Rio said, as he was sure Skuld knew something about it. After all, this goddess waited for a thousand years to free her sister from Zeus. She's been staying away from everyone, but she's been paying attention to everything, to see if things are going in the same direction as her vision or not.

Since Warzy is going against their fate by pulling this stunt, there was a chance Skuld might notice it too and agree to help him. And his guess was right, as Skuld's answer came next second.

[It's Huitzilopochtli. He's a God of sun, war and sacrifice from Aztec Myths. He plans to \_ ]

'That bitch.' Rio said, interrupting Skuld while starting to laugh loudly.

[What a waste of my brain cells to think so much and get that guy as a result.] System said in annoyance, and personally wanted to solve this sun god, instead of leaving it for Rio to handle.

Knowing about the God's name who's heading this event, Rio and system both calmed down. After all, what can an idiot God of sacrifice, plan for except, well nice sacrifices. In the too, Huitzilopochtli had done many attacks for human sacrifices so it wasn't surprising that he attacked here.

"Virgil, you're really my lucky charm buddy. You send me good things every time you appear." Rio said as he jumped high and disappeared from his place, leaving the goons behind staring at his back in shock. Until spears of darkness erupted from the ground and pierced through everyone's back. Slowly draining their vitality and lifeforce, until only husks of their dead bodies were left behind hanging in air.

Now that Rio knew who was behind this attack, he was calm and happy. So he started going towards the place Leon was at.

Chapter 229 Give me your hand?

Rio reached outside the cabin where Leon was sitting at first. He had to fight against a few minions who were blocking the way, but they were easy to handle. Whatever golems he saw across him, he took them away after destroying their magic cores.

They have runes of tracking too, but what can anyone track once Rio puts them into his system inventory. He would just erase all those runes and then take them out.

Unlike his sister, and Becca and others, who despite having the membership card for top level benefits, chose to stay and have dinner in that open cabin, Saisha had chosen her table only at the VIP section. So Leon was personally enjoying benefits which even his father never enjoyed for free.



Rio looked forward and saw that in front of the cabin, there were four people standing there. Three masked men and one who was wearing a red hood over his head.

"So you're the one whom Virgil sent, right? The one who came here to kill me." Rio said as he moved his hands and ice spears started to form and float behind him. He dispatched them whenever someone came close to him by a certain range.

Those who could dodge the spell, counter it or fight him - they were met with the sacrificial dagger in his hands. Their bodies falling down with a clean precise cut that made their end as swift and painless as possible.

This dagger was something he bought from the system shop. Its name was 'Cursed Crimson Dagger' . What it does - simple, it kills. The more it kills, the sharper it becomes. After unlocking a few of its seals which require a set number of kills using this dagger, he could upgrade this dagger to a level where it could penetrate all armors ever made.

Systems words.

Though Rio calls it empty boasting of this robotic AI

But he bought it just to give it a try. And since it was an offer of 50% off, which system gives him once every month. It still cost him around 26000 points though.

And seeing that this quest gave 25000 points as a reward, he took this dagger out just to see its sharpness and quality today. To see if it was really worth his points or not.

[The first seal of Cursed Crimson dagger.

37/500]

'If I had this dagger two years ago, then with the number of those undead I killed, I would've unlocked max level already.' Rio said, feeling satisfied with the dagger.

As Rio began his advance, a few minions blocked his path. Trying to stop him from reaching the hooded figure. However, they posed no significant challenge, as he swiftly incapacitated them, rendering them useless.

The man in the red hood, frustrated by seeing his henchmen's failures, finally spoke. "You can freely use mana, how?"

Rio chuckled. "Didn't you hear, I'm an angel; we don't get poisoned."

Unfazed by Rio's confidence, the man continued, The man who heard his words looked at nearly a dozen dead bodies scattered all around him, and was thinking 'if this is the angel, then what the hell is a demon and the devil.'

But he didn't care and continued "Don't get arrogant; you will die here today." As he finished his words he signaled the three men who were standing in front of him, to move and attack him. "Kill him and bring me his hands."

Yet even after he finished his words nothing happened, the masked men didn't move.

"Don't worry about them, let's talk in private, shall we?" Rio said, while walking towards him. He waved his hands and the heads of those 3 people fell down with a thud. And blood kept flowing out of their empty heads like a fountain.

Those 3 all had the aura of around C rank. So he had some confidence. Four on one, all with similar ranks, what could Rio do. No matter how much of a genius he's believed to be. But he never thought that with just a wave of his hand they all fell down.

A wave of shock and horror passed over him, as his hair stood on end. He remembered the words of Virgil echoing in his head again 'take him seriously and kill him as soon as you get the chance.' He finally understood.

He waved his hands after coating it in aura, and felt it pass through some resistance and then finally stop. He looked up and his eyes shone in a red glow beneath the hood, he noticed several threads appearing all around him. A whole bunch of them twisted and turned amongst themselves to lighten

their durability. He saw them vibrate at high speed, acting like a chainsaw that cut everything in its path. With their invisibility and effects, it managed to cut even the heads of those guards in C rank, before they even noticed or had a chance to avoid it.

He tried using flames through his hands and ignited the threads, but as he guessed nothing happened. The threads looked tangible bluish, like something that was there and wasn't at the same time.

"What ability is this?" He asked, feeling very interested in this invisible binding skill.

"Why don't you come to my side and I'll tell you?" Rio said, touching the barrier wall of some type that separated him from reaching the hooded man.

"Virgil told me you'd be interesting, let's see how much more." The hooded man finished his word, and an old looking black flute appeared in his hands.

He started playing it, and as if hearing the command from their master, golems from all over the restaurant started appearing all around him. Whoever they were fighting, they left them and came here to answer the call of that flute.

"Show me everything you got, Angel?" The hooded man said with a smirk.

Rio looked at the increasing number of golems around him, and squinted his eyes. He also felt these were a little different than the ones he fought along the way. They all oozed a metallic aura from their bodies and were holding several weapons in their hands.

'Aura sealing and enchanted weapons.' Rio muttered as he jumped to the side to avoid the slash. "This could take a while." Rio said as he spread his mana and noticed on the other end of that wall Leon was fighting against two C rankers. And with the constant heat that he was feeling in the air, it won't be long until he kills them.

[Hela scoffs and says you have your own legion to call for. Why worry about the numbers.]

Rio heard her voice and shook his head. But there wasn't any other choice.

'There's no limit ranked or higher present inside the barrier right.' Rio asked the system, to confirm his doubts before using his main skills.

[Yupp, so don't worry and let loose. let them see the dread of the dead.] System said encouraging him.

Rio nodded his head and used the mana in his body using Hela's blessing - Call of the Underworld.

A long, sinister scythe made of black fog materialized behind Rio, its presence radiating malevolence. With a swift movement, Rio held the ominous ethereal weapon in his hands. The very air around the scythe began to shimmer as if reality itself was bending to the Reaper's dark presence. The light crystals started to flicker and fail, as the death energy spread everywhere. The floor started to tremble and crack under the black smoke emanating from the scythe.

'By the will of Hela, Queen of the Netherworld, I invoke the cursed ones, the eternal specters. Heed my call, O herd of reapers, residents of nether, and part of my legion. Come forward and follow my will. Let the world be drowned in the deaths of enemies we kill.'

His incantation had just finished as the black fog swirled ominously around Rio, shrouding him in a sinister cloak of darkness. The scythe in his hand pulsed with a reddish glow, and vibrated with an eerie hum.

A low, ominous creaking echoed in the hallway, as if the doors were opened below the darkness. The black smoke on the floor was sucked away instantly, as if a gateway to the Netherland had opened beneath it, and the darkness was eagerly swallowed into the abyss.

Soon in the place of that empty darkness, stood twelve terrifying figures. Cloaked in smoke, their bodies seemed surreal, yet their presence was undeniably chilling, with scythes in their hands and their heads covered with a black hood.

They were the reapers - the ones who harvested the souls of the dead, who brought the souls of sinners to the underworld, under Hela's command. They all bent down on their knees paying their respect to Rio. The mark of their queen was oozing her aura on him, forcing them to submit to his will, and follow his command.

This was a blessing Hela gave only to her avatars, and something he asked for after he came out of that dungeon. Even though before he got trapped in the dungeon, Hela chose him, except for her technique and another simple blessing she never gave him anything. But when he returned he asked for this blessing and she agreed to give him.

He fought alone in that dungeon like an idiot for so long, so this was the first thing he secured so something like that never happens again. He even asked Nyx to give him her blessing "Ruler of Shadows" - but she refused saying he wasn't worthy yet. And he should just focus on mastering her first blessing, instead of collecting trashy tricks from other weaklings.

Rio looked at his spectral reapers and then at the golems who were surrounding him, and gave his order "Show them hell."

As soon his words finished, the reapers floated in space and scattered all around him with their scythes ready to strike everyone down.

Chapter 230 Reapers vs Golems - Magic against metal

"Show them hell"

Rio finished his words, and the reapers bowing to him obeyed his order. Their forms started to rise in the air, floating above the surface. The floor beneath them started pulsating with an eerie energy. Their scythes started to shimmer with a malevolent force. Their presence alone exuded an aura of death that could send shivers down the spines of the living.

Yes, using reapers against golems which don't have souls wasn't a nice idea. As half their skills focused on targeting the souls of the enemy and taking it to the underworld. But this was the first time Rio was using this skill in a fight and he wanted to test the limits of these reapers under his command.

Call of the underworld, a blessing given by Hela to only her avatars. As the Queen of Niflheim, the realm of the dead, Hela has full dominion over the souls of the departed and the spectral entities that dwell in her realm. With this blessing, her avatar gains the ability to call for the reapers of the Netherworld to do their bidding. As one masters this blessing, its power, range, and the number of reapers he can summon increases. With more mastery the level of power and spectral abilities of reapers also becomes more formidable. One can also call forth other entities of the netherworld to his command too.

At its core, this blessing allows Rio to summon spectral reapers from the Netherworld. These reapers are ethereal entities, wreathed in black fog, and wielding ominous scythes. They are bound to Rio's will and follow his commands with unwavering loyalty.

The blessing grants Hela's avatar a fragment of her authority over the realm of the dead. This enables him to exert control over souls, manipulate spectral energies, and even access the knowledge and memories of the departed under certain circumstances.

[Hela nods her head at you, saying you should learn her skills soon so you can summon your own legion to fight for you.]

'Let's see how long they last.'

Seeing the notification from Hela and the reapers flying towards the golems who surrounded him, Rio thought in his heart.

This blessing has a huge mana consumption, and the more reapers he summons or the more complex the tasks he assigns them, the greater the mana drain. Once he exhausted his mana pool completely, all these reapers would disappear, and he won't be able to control or call for them again until he recovers his mana.

For now he could summon 12 of these reapers on his command and maintain them for 5 minutes, before losing more than half of his mana.

Rio watched as his reapers floated towards the twenty or so golems all around him, and engaged in combat.

The golems made of rare metals and materials, fought against the reapers without backing off. Their bodies glistened with a bluish hue that covered their arms and feet giving them boosts in their strength and agility. Their bodies, marked with runes that increased their resilience, making them highly indestructible. Each golem wielded a unique enchanted weapon, from blades wreathed in frost to spears crackling with lightning. The elements of enchantment bolstering their effectiveness. They moved with an eerie grace, their every step sending tremors through the restaurant's floor.

Rio watched as he noticed the collision of their weapons. Each strike sending sparks flying across the hallways. The air crackled as the scythes covered by the death energy collided against the weapons covered in different elements.

The reapers were spectral entities who passed through their attack and phased through the bodies of those golems. Their aura of death corroding the magic cores of golems hidden beneath the surface. Each time they passed through the golems, their touch was like a chill of death, sapping the very energy that powered the metal constructs.

While the golem were exactly opposite of his reapers. Instead of avoiding or dodging the attacks they took those attacks while trying to kill those reapers. Their resilient bodies making them indestructible to the scythes of reapers.

The arcs of ice, fire and lightning left their weapons tearing through the air, colliding against the fog of darkness that surrounded the scythes and the reapers.

None of these opponents roared in pain or shouted in ecstasy, both were constructs made to fight silently. As some say action speaking louder than words, then these two were constructs which only let their actions do the talking.

The restaurant which was once famous for its cuisine lay in ruins. The tables and chairs were flying everywhere, while the walls and chandelier cracked everytime an attack missed its mark and roamed free. The once beautiful artistry around them was scattered on the floors, showing the chaos that was happening all around them.

The reapers moved with a supernatural fluidity, their movements a dance of death. They weaved through the onslaught of enchanted attacks, their smoky forms evading strikes that would have felled any mortal. The scythes cutting through the very elements golems wielded. Black fog met fire and ice, resulting in steam and frigid mists that obscured the battlefield.

As the battle raged on, every now and then a blinding light would show up on the battlefield with a loud sound of boom. The cores of energy which powered the golems would shatter in the shards of light and disappear in the air, leaving their bodies to fall down.

The hooded man standing behind the barrier that separated him from the ongoing battle, took his magical flute out. A sinister smile played across his face, as his heart felt fascination and frustration watching the battle.

Fascination for the battle of magic vs metal happening in front of him, while frustration that he was losing.

He placed the flute on his lips, and started blowing on it. Soon a haunting melody began to emanate from it. The eerie notes seemed to command every golems, with a signal of his hands they all gathered together and four new golems came forward, standing on every corner of their formation. These golems had a red magic circle drawn on their chest metal plates.

They were all marked with magic which seemed to stop the ethereal phases of reapers. The reapers who were close to the golems failed to pass through them, and fell to the attacks of those golems. Their forms dissipating into the shadows, disappearing from the realm of living.

Rio looked at the golems which came forward and killed three of his reapers in a few moments. Feeling the loss of connection, his expression darkened. It took him nearly two months to learn the basics of this blessing. And increase the number of reapers to 12, from the initial 10 that Hela gave him. Meaning two months of his hard work gone to waste in just a few moments and even more so.

He grabbed the long ominous scythe floating behind him and waved it towards the golems. Sending an arc of death energy that pushed the golems back. He ordered his remaining reapers to fall back and not confront them until he destroyed their formation or killed them.

He moved forward, dragging the scythe along the ground, leaving sparks and cracks trailing in his wake.

"Got you." The hooded man, still playing his magical flute, directed the golems to encircle Rio. The four golems swung their weapons at him from all sides, hoping to kill him at once. Rio looked at the incoming attacks, and bent his steps, readying his stance. He swung his scythe in a precise circular motion, intercepting and deflecting the arcs of energy the golems launched at him.

"My turn"



Rio muttered under his breath, and moved towards the golem in front of him, leaving his back open for the remaining three. One of the golems seized the opportunity and advanced, ready to strike him down from behind.

But just when the golem closed in on him, Rio moved his aura at full course. The aura avatar bound with the skill of gluttony came out of his shadow. It lunged at the golem that had come from behind, clamping onto its upper body with a sinister form of a large mouth.

The hooded man, startled by this unexpected turn of events, attempted to trigger the golem's self-destruct mechanism, a desperate attempt to take Rio down with it. However, the skill of gluttony acted swiftly, destroying the magic circle that controlled the golem's detonation. The magic core within the golem exploded with a blinding flash of light soon, but the insatiable hunger of his aura avatar consumed the destructive force, leaving no trace behind.

Meanwhile, Rio's scythe cleaved through the golem he had been moving toward, slicing its figure in two from the waist up.

With two of the anti spectral golems gone, the reapers joined the fray again. Fighting against the remaining few golems gathered in one place. They surrounded all of them and phased through them in fluid motions. Their scythes constantly cleaved the bodies of golems, destroying their magic cores.

With the reapers rejoining the fray and engaging the normal golems, Rio turned his attention to the two remaining special golems. With a sinister grin, he raised his hands as black chains of darkness emerged from the ground, and entwined the golems instantly, immobilizing them. Before the golems could free themselves, under the eyes of the hooded man Rio waved his scythe. In one fell swoop, his scythe cleaved through their midsections, scattering enchanted fragments and leaving them in pieces on the floor.

The battle was soon over, the once-numerous golems were now a scattered heap of enchanted debris. Rio stood there holding his scythe, his breathing heavy and ragged. His spectral reapers hovered triumphantly behind him, making him look like a God of death.

-thud-

Rio bashed his scythe on the ground, creating a loud thud sound that echoed in the now silent hallway. The impact sent cracks spreading on the floor like a spiderweb. The scythe disappeared from his hands, leaving just the fog of death in the air. The reapers disappeared too, each one fading into nothingness one by one.

"Now shall we talk?" Rio said, as he ran a hand through his sweat-dampened white hair, swatting away the perspiration that clung to his face. Turns out using more than half his mana in one big spell and channeling aura while getting suppressed by the poison leaves one feeling a little tired.