

## **LOA Nobody 231**

### Chapter 231 Morfid Mana

"Now can we talk?" Rio said as he moved towards the hooded man.

"I underestimated you." The hooded man said, looking at the pieces of golems lying around on the ground motionless.

"You did." Rio said as he started moving towards him.

The hooded man furrowed his brows as he looked at Rio's shadow, which was growing larger on the ground and started covering the entire area, making him confused as to what he was planning to do next. Until he saw that the golems soon started disappearing in his shadow, and wherever the shadow moved the floor was cleaned with nothing left behind.

-Hahahaha- The hooded man started laughing seeing him looting all the remains of their battle. "Virgil was right, you're different."

"What else did he say?" Rio said as he closed in and touched the barrier. He exerted a little strength and ripples formed on the barrier.

"He said you owe him a hand."

"And he sent you to collect it."

"How did you use aura and mana, you were poisoned?"

"My goddess is generous to me." Rio said with a smile.

"Nyx?" The hooded man asked confused.

[Hela asks you to kill this insolent fool. She's going to burn his soul in hellfire.]

Rio smiled reading those notifications and started speaking - "It's Hela. The Ruler of Niflheim. She turned my blood into the cells of the nether. Poison doesn't affect me anymore."

"You're her avatar?" The hooded man asked.

"I am. Virgil didn't tell you that, did he?" Rio asked while smiling.

The man furrowed his brows at Rio's remark, thinking what he meant. "You see, when I fought with Virgil two years ago, he was on the peak of C+ rank, about to break through to B- rank at any time. It was a tough battle. I still remember how much I had to try to defeat him, while always looking out for the fact that he might just break through at any moment and kill me easily. But then his buddies actually blasted the dungeon core without informing him and ran away themselves."

"I still smile whenever I remember the frustrated and betrayed look he had on his face at that time. He even killed a few of his own men while trying to escape the crashing dungeon." Rio said with his eyes closed and a focused look, like he was remembering about his past clearly. "And that distraction was all I needed to land a hit on him."

"And boom- just like that, I attacked him, and that's how I managed to chop off his hand." Rio swung his hand in the air in a sword motion and finished his words.

"My sword was sprinkled with a little poison and the technique I used amplified that. Since I know the effects of my attack best, I can tell you it was something very hard to cure. Now tell me someone who lost the hand he's been accustomed to, the one he trained and used all his life, one day lost it. The blow of that level - it probably also delayed his break through I guess."

"Now Virgil, as someone who lost his treasures, his chance to rise in power and fame, and nearly lost his life too - who would he hate more? Me, who waved his sword, or his own people who left him there?"

The more Rio spoke the more worried the hooded man became. "Shut up." He shouted loudly while trying to suppress the feeling of dread that started rising in his heart as he looked at the barrier which was starting to form cracks, under the pressure from Rio's hand. Though the cracks fixed themselves instantly, the fact that they were forming constantly was scary enough. The feeling of fear that it could break any time and he'd be left open without any defense, was even more scary.

"I'll tell you, he'd hate us both. He'd want to kill us both." Rio said as he smiled and put both his hands on the barrier. Quickening the process of destruction of this barrier. The cracks were now forming faster than they were filled back, and small particles of mana started to float away.

It wasn't because he had too much strength in his hands was crushing the barrier under his hands, it was actually one of the techniques he trained with. Something that Hela gave him when she first became his chosen goddess.

Morfid Mana, a technique created by the beings responsible for managing the Netherlands under Hela's commands. A sinister art that held the power to corrode any source of mana and energy it touched. The practitioners of this art could tap into the darkest energies of the Netherworld, channeling its malevolent power on their command.

To utilize this technique, one had to willingly embrace the darkness within themselves, for the Netherworld's power demanded a toll on their mind and soul. Cause if not learnt right or lost control, then the technique may very well corrode the user itself.

A user with perfect mastery of Morfid Mana possessed the ability to corrupt even the most potent sources of mana. They could drain energy from powerful artifacts, dispel complex enchantments, and weaken formidable foes with just a simple touch.

Due to Rio's time in the dungeon where everything is already corroded, with EMMSY which was already corroding his body - he got a few insights on how to better handle the corrosion energy and control it. Though it hurt like hell every time he used this technique. But with constant repeats of that pain over two years, he could now pull it off without changing his expressions and showing pain on his face. It's not that it doesn't hurt anymore, he just got a little used to it.

"So he sent you here to die." Rio said with a smile "If you manage to kill me, it's good. But if not, well, then that just means I killed you, and he can send someone else to kill me again. Wearing out both of us little by little."

"You're wrong, he would never do that. He would never betray the organization" The hooded man shouted while backing away from the barrier. The more he listened, the more sense it made to him, and it made him scared. Not of death, but of these two people - one who could use him as a pawn, and the other who could see through it at a glance.

'Monsters' the hooded man thought in his heart, but was still not ready to believe it. "Don't try to fool me, Rio. The organization is too strict, no one dares to betray the Ruler or the seat holders."

"The fact that he didn't tell you about me being the avatar of Hela is proof of it. After all, the technique I used to cut his hand off, and now to destroy your barrier they're both the same. He knew about it, yet he let you come here. Do you care to guess why?" Rio said, while channeling his technique with full effect. He pressed his left hand with all his strength, as he clenched his right hand into a fist.

-bam-shatter-

He punched the barrier with all his strength, after coating his hand into a red energy that seemed alive and rolling on his fingers. The barrier which was already on the verge of collapse lost all its core power, and with a loud bang it shattered. The particles of mana floated in the air in the form of layers and disappeared soon. With a crack sound the necklace the hooded man wore around his neck also cracked and the green medallion on it shattered in pieces.

"Show me your face, will you? I should at least know who I killed." Rio said while moving forward.

"Rio, we have no \_"

"So I can send your family members and friends to join you too." He said as he took out the crimson dagger again. Let it increase another kill.

The hooded man, who heard his words and saw his actions instantly turned around and tried to run away. After all, he was just a newly promoted B rank, and after using his mana all this time to control so many golems, his mana pool was nearly depleted. And seeing Rio who seemed fine without any hint of being tired, he knew he was no match.

He was arrogant before thinking that with the three guards around him, all the golems under his command, and the barrier protecting him - even if Rio managed to cross all of them, he would be exhausted and he could kill him easily. But he never thought this monster would still be fine after everything and smile at him like a reaper ready to take his soul.

As for using aura to fight Rio, he never even thought about it. The scene of his avatar directly chugging down a fully powered golem, which could fight normal C+ ranker and even kill them, was still in his mind. He had never seen a monstrous atrocity like that, and the fact that it was made out of pure aura and was in Rio's control he was even more scared of it.

That's why he just wanted to run away now. His steps moved towards Leon's room, like he was planning to use the ones inside as captives and escape.

Chapter 232 Fate, you fucking bitch

Rio, who saw the hooded man moving backwards towards Leon's room, had a smirk on his face.

'Try harder, fate. I'm not going down so easily, this time.' He thought and raised his hand. Chains made of darkness materialized from the ground and started binding the elf.

"You see, I didn't talk all that bullshit to you just so you can leave afterwards. I talked all that nonsense, so you keep standing there like a fool doubting this and that, instead of running away, while I was dealing with your barrier. So don't even try to move a muscle now." Rio said as he waved his other hand, threads of mana formed around the hooded man's face, disrupting the spell he was about to cast.

"Let me go, Rio. We have no enmity. I can help you. I can tell you everything." The man begged as he saw Rio removing the hood over his head, revealing a face with dark skin and pointy ears.

'A dark elf eh. Fate, you fucking bitch..' Rio cursed in his heart as his mind tried to connect this scenario with the plotline of Saisha and the elven kingdom.

The elf seeing him silent started speaking again "Let me go, Rio. I can even help you get Virgil. I'll be your slave, your men inside Warzy, just don't kill me."

"Virgil huh, it's true that he's getting smarter. But I'm getting stronger." Rio smiled and said "I'll deal with him once he's done sending me enough experience packages. As for you, I have no need for fucking fools."

After finishing his words, Rio closed his fist and started muttering a spell in some ancient language. When he opened his fist again, an orb of pitch-black fire, flickering with malevolent energy, hovered

over his open palms. The intense heat emanating from it was so scorching that it threatened to singe his own fingers, but he remained resolute, unfazed by the searing pain.

The flame following his order floated over and fell on the pleading elf's head, burning it entirely. And then spreading over to his whole body.

-ahhh aww wahh aaaa-

In the process the screams of the elf echoed in the entire restaurant, breaking the silence which was forming with the end of fights everywhere. The elf kept screaming until his throat melted and he couldn't utter anything. His body kept shaking and rolling for some time until he died.

"Go in peace." Rio said, as he looked at the silent body collapsed on the ground.

He bent down and took away his hellfire, the view cleared and he saw the charred body of that elf with black and red layers of skin falling off. The smoke emitting from his body wafted in the air, hitting his nose with the smell similar to barbecue.

'Meat's just meat I guess.' Rio thought, waving his hand, creating a wave of chilly air that completely cooled down the dead body and removed the pungent smell from near him. He moved his hands so he can do a memory search on the elf's mind - to see if the man knew anything interesting or new that could be useful to him.

But before he could touch the head of the dead elf, a gust of air pushed his hand back, making a large cut on his palms which were burned by the hellfire earlier.

"Stop it. He's already dead." Saisha's voice came from behind him.

Rio was about to ignore her and treat her as air, when another voice came to his ears from the front.

"The fight's over, there's no need for extra cruelty."

Looking up, he saw Leon, who came out of his room, holding Seraphina in his arms. His clothes were torn and covered in blood, his sleeves entirely gone with burn marks on the edges. The sleeveless shirt and torn clothes, highlighting his toned muscles and handsome appearance, the blood marks here and there, making him look like a warrior who just fought and won a great victory.

Rio turned his eyes at Seraphina and saw her pale face and shivering hands. Leon was hugging her wrist and she rested her body in his arms.

[Puff pufhaha]

'Shut it, system.' Rio said muting this system who started laughing while emptying his popcorn. He really should keep them in a separate storage ring so this system can't eat them whenever it wants.

"Brother, you're fine." Amelia's voice came from behind him as Rebecca followed her. Ayla was standing there, looking all around the restaurant. The bodies of the guests and the attackers were still lying around. The few people who were still alive were still looking around vigilantly or were crying over any loss they suffered. Her face was pale and filled with shock and fear, this was the first time she had seen something like this, the blood and deaths and all this cruelty was foreign to her. And from Rio's guess she'd need a little time and a few more events to get used to everything.

Rubina was badly hurt during the fight. Alka's were known for fighting openly and straightforwardly, so something like this was new to her too. And since she didn't have any high grade defensive artifacts to protect herself, she got hurt a few times.

Though her injuries were mostly healed after drinking a few healing potions, but the blood loss and effects of poison were still affecting her, so Esme was supporting her. Esme's eyes darted around the hall and she noticed the signs of battle that were marking everything.

The fight between golems and his reapers destroyed the surroundings entirely. After all, every attack done on reapers passed through them and hit some other corner of the walls or surroundings. Plus his moves with Scythes which left long stretches of cracks all over the area.

But since Rio cleaned up everything from the floors, there were no signs of anything except destruction.

Seeing everyone gathered a few people who also appeared around them, Rio brushed off the idea of doing his spell now. All these people would only distract him from focusing on anything and it would only be a loss.

But that didn't mean he was planning to hand over this corpse to someone else. If his guess was right and this elf turned out to be somehow related with the villain, responsible for the elven uprising, then it could cause some big plotlines to move forward. That would be detrimental for him, since he'll be stuck in the academy at that time, and things wouldn't be in his control.

"He's an enemy. The one who tried to kill me. And someone, I personally took care of. So don't butt in my affairs and tell me what to do. I don't like it." Rio said to Leon and ignored him.

Rio pressed his hand on the burned corpse's head and whispered an incantation in his heart, "May you find peace in your next life." He said and removed his hand.

Standing up he looked at Amelia and nodded his head. Affirming her that he was fine and there was no need to worry about anything.

He looked at Saisha who was still staring at the corpse. A frown formed on her pretty face, as she sensed some kind of magic energy when Rio was casting his spell. She tried to look for it or search for anything, but found nothing.

Rio moved his hand in front of her, obscuring her vision. And when she met his gaze, he started speaking. "I'll let this one slide." He said showing the cut on his hand which was still bleeding. "For what happened to your guard because of me."

"But next time you try anything that can hurt me, the empress might have to name a new heir."

Rio finished his words coldly and left them. Amelia stared coldly at Saisha and followed him. While Rebecca took a glance at Seraphina's condition and asked about it. With King Maximum's connections, she had visited the Circle of Renewals to learn if she can use her water magic for healing. So she knew and had met Seraphina a few times.



The barrier around the restaurant was still there, some cracks were visible on it now. And it was clear that it would break any time now.

The hunters and adventurers nearby were the ones attacking the barrier, while all the staff of Dorsia was probably somewhere in the church, praying to their Goddess or lying unconscious somewhere.

This is the problem when dealing with churches and gods, their believers and followers would follow all of their commands to praise their gods, no matter the price. Dorsia would suffer a major blow in reputation by not providing support in this incident, but what can they do against their God's wishes.

Hestia didn't want to interfere in any conflicts with other gods and thus chose not to interfere in the attack which was planned by Huitzilopochtli, the God of sun and sacrifice. And so her believers and followers would also not take part in it.

'Blind faith, what a terrifying tool.' Rio couldn't help but mutter to himself, as he realized just how much influence a single order from any God had on this world.

Chapter 233 Relationship of gods and mind break

233 Relationship of gods and mind break

Leon kept standing over the corpse of that elf and kept looking at the burn marks on the ground and he could still feel the heat of it.

'What kind of fire was that?' He asked his God, Apollo - as he felt the heat from that flame was even more than anything he controlled now.

[Hellfire. He doesn't control the flames, it's just a spell.]

Hearing that Leon breathed a sigh of relief, but still the fact that Rio had a spell like that still unhinged him.

'Can you teach me that?' Leon asked.

[... You should focus on learning the spells I've taught you already. Be patient.]

Hearing that Leon could only sigh silently.

When he was fighting inside his cabin and heard the sounds of battle outside earlier, and now when he saw the marks of chaos left on the ground, he couldn't help but feel like he was still behind Rio. Far behind him, and if he doesn't improve fast enough, then he's gonna lose his top rank when the real exams start. He didn't care about rank, but it was a condition given by a test given by another God, and if he completed it, then he can get a high level skill of his own choice as a blessing.

"No, I can't lose that chance." Leon muttered under his breath and thought - 'It seems I need to practice faster. I should learn the technique I got from the library under Miss Freya first. Then maybe ask God Apollo to teach me something about the art of archery.'

Leon was thinking while looking at Rio's back. But then he remembered something. Zirix, who fought with him on the first day was almost equal to him in strength, and yet Rio pushed him away easily without even trying. He then remembered about the spell or skill Rio used to do that and thought - 'I also need to increase the mastery of my current blessings of strings. This guy has something similar to that blessing too.'

While Leon was busy with his monologue of growth and dreams of surpassing everyone, Saisha was just staring at the ground. Her mind, a mess. Not because someone threatened her like that for the first time, but because she didn't mean it. She didn't want to attack him or hurt him, she just waved her hand normally to stop him. With his strength he should've been fine.

'And yet I hurt him again.' She thought looking at the blood dropped below that was from his hands - as the time of the library when the staff held him down also came to her mind.

Her mind not even looking at the body of that dead elf, or about the spell Rio casted earlier on his dead body, or why he was so angry to threaten her like that for that simple scratch - she was just lost.

Rio walked forward as Amelia, Esme and Ayla followed closely behind him. He had only taken two steps ahead that he remembered something and stopped.

He still didn't get the quest clear notification from the system yet.

Just to check, if he ignored it by mistake, he opened up the system and looked for it too, but found nothing there.

'Is this system slow? But that shouldn't be.'

'In that case, did I miss someone.'

Rio thought, and looked up. Seeing the barrier getting nearly destroyed, he knew he didn't have much time. Maybe once the barrier cracked open, whoever it was he missed, might just slip away.

He can't just fail his first quest, otherwise how would he get the investment of that dagger back. Or how many times he'd have to mute the system to stop it from laughing at him.

Thinking up to that point Rio closed his eyes and started focusing on every little detail since the beginning of the fight, no, even before that, since the moment he entered Dorsia - the scenes of everything started playing in his head again.

From the moment he saw the girls sitting there, to Leon arguing with the guard, to Saisha coming out, and to them getting poisoned - everything came to his mind without missing a single detail.

Until he finally found the anomaly of this scenario. 'Found you my fat rat. Now let's see which hole you're hiding at?'

Rio thought and flared his mana, his mana sense sweeping the entire building, every room, every corner, the entire restaurant, going as far as his mana touched the barrier and was blocked.

He opened his eyes and came in front of a pillar.

"Come out now." He said to him, as in his eyes came the shadow of the fat manager hiding behind the pillar.

Ever since the beginning this guy was here. He was near the door, waiting there for him to enter. He was the first to welcome him and he was also there when the food was served. This guy was also the one who came by himself when Leon was arguing at the gate to stop him from entering.

At first Rio thought it was because of Leon's halo that pulled hate and attention from everyone who saw him, but maybe it wasn't Leon, but Apollo, who influenced that routine. After all, how can the Aztec sun god let someone else kill his lover's chosen.

Huitzilopochtli and Apollo, two deities titled the God of suns in their own myths and legends. When the Emergence happened, these two also fought against each other like other gods who had similar titles. After all, no gods wanted to share their records and titles with anyone else. It wasn't just about ego or pride, it was also about getting followers and belief more easily.

If there are a dozen God of suns out there, then if anyone prayed to just the sun or believed in the sun, then his power of faith would be shared among all those gods associated with the sun. But if the world acknowledges any one God, as the supreme God of sun, then that one God can just hoard all that power of faith and grow stronger beyond limits.

That's why the gods of similar titles all fought with each other, vying for that supremacy - until the World Will interfered and stopped everyone. Now all those power hungry gods could just find each other's avatars and kill them. Hoping to let the opponent weaken beyond limits and be forgotten by the world and consumed by the world system. Thus removing their competition and leaving more followers for them.

But as they say, there are always exceptions to everything. Not all gods fought each other - some joined hands, some submitted to others to stop making enemies, and some simply didn't care.

But Apollo being Apollo, with the luck of himself and halo of plot - went even one step further. After defeating his opponent, instead of killing him like others were doing, he let Huitzilopochtli go free.

Huitzilopochtli somehow became gay yandere after that.

Don't ask how or why?

Maybe it was the tone of Apollo and his ambiguous words, or maybe it was the reputation of Greek gods, who're just born lusty- but it happened.

Anyway, Huitzilopochtli, an old god with feathers covering his naked body, being lovey dovey for him, disgusted Apollo. So he beat the crap out of him again, this time for real. And when the aztec God still didn't understand his intentions, Apollo killed 3 of his main supporters continuously, to make his stance clear.

As anyone with half a brain can guess, doing all that while not killing the God directly, only made Huitzilopochtli more angry and obsessed over Apollo. He vowed for his revenge and to kill Apollo.

But Rio knew the future, and knew that this guy's still gonna be a licking dog for Apollo in the future again.

"I know you're there so just come out." Rio said as he noticed the fat man still hiding behind the pillar, using an invisibility spell or artifact and not coming out. He mainly doubted David, cause even now he could only find this one guy who was alive and conscious from all the staff of Dorsia.

Not in the mood to play, Rio just brought out his crimson dagger and started stabbing him directly. Everyone who thought he was just talking to air, was surprised as they saw red blood started gushing out from seemingly nowhere.

-urkgh kurgg-

Soon enough, the figure of David came in everyone's view.

Rio moved forward placing his knife on David's neck, and said - "Pro tip, next time you use an invisibility spell, skip the heavy cologne. Or better yet, just take a shower."

Rio slashed his neck and moved back. The flood flowed out like a fountains and soon David fell down, dead.

-shatter-

Looking up and seeing the barrier broken, and seeing many high rankers floating above, Rio ignored the idea of doing a mind search on this guy, to learn about Virgil and directly used the same spell he used on the dark elf before.

Mind Break, a spell used for exactly what its name implies. Breaking someone's mind - be it by flooding too much information than one can handle, or by extracting everything forcefully, turning one into a cripple. Since he didn't have time to search all his memories, he just broke his mind completely so no one else could do it too.

After all, if he can't have it, then why should he give an advantage to some law agency of world association.

"Let's go back to academy, now shall we?" Rio said to Amelia, after putting away his dagger. And swapping the system panel, congratulating him for finishing the quest.

Chapter 234 Druids and the freshers party

234 Druids and the freshers party

"Good morning, everyone. Before you all leave for your next classes, I'd like to make an announcement. My name is Elisabeth Heartwell. A fourth year student and the student council president." Lisa said as she stood on the stage behind the podium.

She was wearing the uniform with the blue jacket, with four silver stripes on her shoulders and a golden star pin on her chest. Showcasing her role as the fourth year student of Zenith and the president of student council. Her long black hair tied in a high ponytail. Behind her two other students were standing, also a part of student council.

Currently all the first year students were gathered in a large hall. As a combined class about the history of Emergence and the world before and after it, had just finished. The class was done by the grade two professor Valentine Whitman, A druid from the forest of Woodlands and Avalon Springs.

The colony of druids had been contacted with the World Association for centuries now.

Any normal Druid can live for a century without a problem, and if they're stronger, then they might live for several. But since the number of druids in Arcadia is much lower compared to other races, and the rate of their population growth had been in a steady decline ever since they first appeared, they agreed to make a pact with the World Association for protection against everything, any war, monsters or the dungeons. In return for this protection, they agreed to share their knowledge with the world.

Lisa, who was standing in the front continued her speech "Whenever a new batch of students enters the academy, there's a welcoming ceremony, organized by all the other senior students. You may know it as the Freshers Party or the first celebration."

Her words eliciting excited squeals from everyone in class, as murmurs and chatter about it started going around in the whole class. This event is what every new student has been looking forward to since they joined the academy three weeks ago.

"You might've seen the preparations for it happening around the auditorium and the event hall, and I'm here to announce the dates for it."

"The celebration will be held 10 days from today. It'll last for two days.

The first one is when you're the kings and are free to do everything you want. Second day is where your seniors join the celebrations too."

"Before you start fretting over it, or start spreading rumors or stories you might've heard about it, let me clarify, there'll be no bullying, no disrespects, or ragging. No one is going to force you to do anything you don't want to or don't like. This event is all just fun and games for everyone to enjoy themselves and be comfortable at the academy. So don't listen to anyone saying it otherwise." Lisa said addressing the issue of rumors which always scare many freshers every new year. Some seniors just spread them for fun, and make fun of the nervous faces of the newbies.

The boy with a face covered by tattoos and piercings, standing behind Lisa, came forward and continued her speech. His name was Gildart Mitchell, a ranker. His family is a part of mage tower and his father is the vice-chairman of their second main branch. "The purpose for this party is purely to increase the connections between everyone, and make the environment harmonious for every student at this academy."

"You will get to meet all your seniors, professors and other staff working at the academy. Some guests from the World Association and the other academies would also be joining us."

The other guy, with a simple look without any accessories or extravagance, came forward and continued the speech. His name was Mohan Das, another ranker, but from a commoner family.

"As it is an academy only event, some rules and proper etiquette must be followed. The details about everything would be posted on the announcement board, and would also be shared to you on your personal devices linked at the academy database. Further on, if you have any questions, doubts or suggestions - you can check the academy forum and ask them on the announcement page. We will review them all, and get back to you."

Once they were done, Lisa took the charge again as she spoke about the rules for this event.

"Since this will be your first event after joining the Zenith, I hope you'll follow the rules and won't make our work harder. Do know that breaking these rules might get you a penalty of your Merit Points or even a suspension, depending on the situation. So do read everything carefully and not make any mistakes, for both our sakes."

"The day before the celebration, the classes would be canceled. So you can make your preparations, get your partners or go shopping - you can do whatever you want."

"I hope \_ "

Lisa was speaking when Rio's words cut her off.

"What if someone doesn't want to join this 'event' of yours?"

His tone still the same monotonous with a touch of emptiness , which he used for talking with everyone except the few people around him. Gildart frowned seeing Rio stopping their speech in front of everyone, as it was just disrespectful. While Mohan just looked at him and nodded his head. But Rio just ignored their existence, like he didn't even notice them.



Rio's question stunned everyone in the class, as who would want to skip something so important. Not only the chance to meet all those seniors they saw on records, or professors who are famous all over the world - it was even a dream for many.

But it was also a good question for some students. As no matter what anyone says, the rumors of ragging are really everywhere. Even though the academy opposes it, and the staff prohibits it, but if as the sky collapsed above them.

11:09

At least that's what it was supposed to look like, but Amelia could only see weird lines and doodles. The seniors ask for anything, can any of them really refuse.

Plus not everyone liked to take part in parties, some didn't like the crowd and wanted to train instead of wasting time playing games.

Lisa looked at Rio who was still looking at her, waiting for an answer, and replied "As I said, this event is held for the freshman, so you can do whatever you want. If you don't want to attend this event, you can skip it."

"You can stay in your dorms, but you can't leave the floating islands. So don't ask for leaves, or permission to visit your families." The professor standing by the side also replied, stopping the thoughts of some people who wanted to go home at every other holiday.

Their words made some silent introvert students breathe a sigh of relief. If it's like this, they don't have to force themselves to stay somewhere they don't feel comfortable at. After all, instead of forcing themselves on trying to mingle or meet new faces or get into any trouble, it's better to just stay in their rooms and sleep, or train to get stronger. Once they're powerful enough, would there even be a need to do something they don't like.

"But I do hope everyone can join this event. A change of scenery and a happy environment might make you feel more comfortable. Who knows, you might make new friends and \_" Lisa started speaking again while looking at Rio, who started getting busy doodling on the table instead of focusing on her speech.

'Friends huh, the same people who could use you as a bait and stab you in the back.' Rio thought as he heard her words.

Amelia looked at the table where Rio was making a drawing of a few monsters fighting against a man, as the sky collapsed above them.

At least that's what it was supposed to look like, but Amelia could only see weird lines and doodles. Resembling the designs she used to make when she was five years old.

"What a bad drawing, stop doodling and dirtying the table." She said as she waved her hand and wiped out everything.

"Was it that bad?" Rio asked, as he looked at her expression.

"It was the worst drawing I ever saw. If you can even call that scribbling stuff a drawing." Amelia said, while cleaning her hands of the left out ink.

"..."

[Special offer - Low grade painting skill experience card for the blind beginners]

[10000 points]

'Fuck you system' Rio cursed the system and muted it again, for the crime of making fun of him, while putting away the marker pen in his hand.

'Was it really that bad though, I thought it was alright.' Rio said again as he closed his eyes and dozed off to sleep.

Cause once this was done, he had go meet his therapist again for another session. That guy increased his sessions again, after he learned he was there when the Warzy attacked.

'I should just turn him into my puppet or something. System you got something like that?'

## Chapter 235 Sentinels and Arbiters

"So where shall we start this time?" Lucius asked, as he played with a little cat on his laps.

"Look professor, I've already told you everything. There's nothing new to tell. So can we, you know, wrap it up." Rio said, as he felt weird seeing that guy with a smile on his face, with no idea what he's thinking about.

"Oh hardly, we just started to get to know each other. You still haven't given me the book about that guy you found me similar to."

"I told you, it was something I read when I was a kid, I forgot its name." Rio replied.

"You also haven't told me that the people from Warzy, especially, came to kill you at that restaurant." Lucius asked.

"How was I supposed to know that?" Rio asked, spreading his hands, feigning confusion.

"But that's what The Sentinels said in their statement. Their reports also mentioned that you were the one who fought with the man who was supposedly their leader."

Hearing Lucius say that, Rio shook his head, as if he had no idea about anything, and this was the first he heard about it.

Yet inside his heart, he was cursing Leon and Saisha for interfering with him. Even though he used the spell of mind break, to make sure no Sentinels and other law organizations didn't get anything useful for free.

But mind break was a spell designed to torture living people, it was made to make living people go insane. But using it on dead bodies, even though it worked a little, the high ranked psychics could still read a few memories after trying their methods for a while.

And now after two weeks had passed since that incident, it was no wonder they found something. He was actually surprised, that they didn't just dig out some video footage of any kind from that restaurant.

There are two rightful organizations working under the jurisdiction of the World Association, tasked with maintaining peace and order on all the floating islands - Sentinels and Arbiters.

Sentinels, a law organization tasked to deal with all the public crimes and terrorist attacks. Meaning anything that isn't towers, dungeons or monsters related,, falls under their jurisdiction, and they have full authority to handle these affairs.

Arbiters, an organization tasked with maintaining the order of the supernatural on the floating islands. Meaning dungeons, cracks, gates, towers, monsters - anything related to them, falls under the jurisdiction of Arbiters to handle with full freedom.

Both organizations report to Council of Guardians, made up of high ranking members and leaders of the world association.

In simple words, Sentinels are simply the police force dealing with threats coming from inside the arcadia. While Arbiters, hold back the threat of any attack from monsters and gods.

Sentinels wear a silver armor with the logo of a shield with angel wings covering it. Symbolizing their duty to guard and protect.

While Arbiters wear red armor with the logo of a golden scale inside a circle, which is being held in balance by a sword. Symbolizing their role of maintaining the balance of the world.

The two organizations are designed to complement each other. While the Sentinels have more extensive jurisdiction over public safety matters and outnumber the Arbiters, the Arbiters hold a certain level of prestige and influence due to their expertise in unique matters. The Arbiters deal with more intricate and high-stakes cases, but on a day to day basis, they need to rely on the Sentinels to maintain general order.

Arbiters are more famous due to their reputation in clearing the dungeons or raiding the tower floors and venturing into the unknown, while Sentinels just stay on the floating islands and keep track of all the criminals and underground terrorist organizations.

Obviously as one can guess with common sense, Arbiters are more powerful than the Sentinels. But they're both equally dangerous.

The attack on Dorsia obviously came under the territory of Sentinels. So after doing a thorough investigation and checking everything in detail, they've released a report about it to the world association. And Since Zenith is the one presiding over Laurelia Sanctum, they got a report too.

'But how the hell did this guy get his hands on that report?' Rio wondered as he thought about it. 'Did someone tell him cause I'm under his therapy for now. People are so free in this academy to chit-chat.'

"Well, it seems you killed him before he could tell you anything." Lucius said, after seeing Rio had no intention of telling him, if he learned something about the attack.

This was the reason why the principal and the Sentinels agreed to tell him everything about what they found. So he can get some more details about it, if Rio knew anything others didn't.

The Sentinels proposed to have a talk with Rio themselves, but the principal refused it, saying he was just a victim, and they shouldn't trouble him, when he has already given his statements on the first day.

"Not all villains like to talk bullshit before they attack. That guy just started to attack me the moment he saw me, I could just try to defend myself." Rio said with an innocent look.

Lucius smiled seeing that act, and asked "The reports also said that the leader's mind was tampered with, so they couldn't extract all the memories from their brains. You noticed something weird about him, when you were fighting against him."

"I don't know. Man was controlling so many golems together to attack everyone. So maybe that puts a strain on his mind. Could also be a backlash of using some strange artifact." Rio said as he laid back in chair, resting his back comfortably on the sofa.

'I should get one of these chairs in my room too. It's quite relaxing.' Rio thought.

"You're right. It could be something like that. You said in your statement that he was controlling those golems with a flute. And when every golem was dealt with, they both disappeared. Was that right?"

"Of course, you don't think I took them for myself do you?" Rio said with a smile.

Lucius placed the cat on the ground and crossed his hands. "Well, it doesn't matter even if you took them. After all, you were the one who killed them. The rules clearly says whoever deals with these kinds of monsters gets to keep the treasures. So they're yours now."

"Well, I would've given them to the world association, if I had them with me. If you're curious about that decision." Rio said, while tapping his fingers on the armrest.

If the Sentinels asked him for those artifacts and golems he kept to himself during that attack, then they could just pay him money for it and he wouldn't mind selling a few of them so they can do their investigations.

This was actually a rule of Arcadia that he really liked, if you killed someone, you can take their treasures and no one would ask you to hand them over. At the beginning it was made since awakeners were busy dealing with towers and monsters, and they didn't have time to deal with normal ground level criminals.

But they also couldn't ignore it - that's why they announced this kind of policy. This way, normal people started taking arms against these terrorists and the crime rates subsided a little.

But now that situation is normal but the rulers haven't changed this rule yet - the answer is, cause people don't want to accept any changes now. This kind of rule is like getting someone's bounty and treasures both for free. And no one will kick you out.

An example of it from earth would be the reservation for lower caste systems back in India, or the rights of minorities for outside countries - these kinds of rules and laws were made so everyone can be equal and grow together. But over the years, the same lower castes which were backwards when the rules were made are now sitting among the rulers, the minority which were hunted and bullied are now the majority or equals - yet still all those rules remain. It's not because the public still needs them, no, it's

because the public is too used to them. That they can't lose the free profits. And if someone tried to remove these rules or change them, well then let's just riot and rebel.

"Hmm I see." Lucius said and nodded his head. It wasn't his money or his place to tell him to donate those things righteously so the investigation can happen smoothly, he himself wouldn't give a damn about anyone but do that too. Why should he share his profits for free?

"Can you wrap everything up for me, until the freshers party happens?" Rio asked.

"Why?"

"Cause people might think I'm crazy if they see how much time I'm spending here." Rio said his answer, as if it was the most obvious thing.

"And you care about their opinions?" Lucius asked.

"Well, then you can think of it like, I'm just wasting my time here talking, when I could just train to get stronger and control my skills better

After all, that's why this whole thing was started anyway,"

"I can see that you're perfectly fine now. So maybe you were right, and it was just a mishap. And you can handle yourself in the future." Lucius said, as he looked at the cat playing on the ground, trying to jump high and sit on his lap again.

"So.. "

Rio's words brought his focus as he continued "So I'll talk to Miss Freya about it, and get you all finished up." Lucius said as he closed his notes.

Hearing his words Rio smiled and nodded his head. Finally it was over. "Thanks professor."

The sound of a bell rang out from his watch, as the time for today's session was over, Rio said goodbye and stood up to leave. He reached till the door, but then he thought of something and turned back -

"Ohh now that I think about it , before that guy with golems died, he was saying something like there's only one God of sun, and he's coming back."

Rio finished his words and left without looking back. Lucius, who had closed his notes, opened them again and wrote down what Rio said just now.

"What do you think, Misty? Is he telling the truth?" Lucius said as he picked the cat and placed it on the table. The cat tilted it's head, looking a little cute and confused.

"Yeah, I think so too." Lucius said, as he started patting it. While his brain thought 'Sun god huh. Is it Apollo - he's the one who's been missing and silent since a long time.'

Chapter 236 Amaya Stormswill - The Savant Sage

[Hela says her father is very happy with your performance.]

[He's preparing a quest for you, if you finish it perfectly, you can get his blessing.]

Rio read the notifications from Hela and couldn't help but shake his head. At times like these he wondered if being Hela's avatar was really a right choice or not. She's basically live broadcasting him to her freeloader dad.

'And that Loki, he's just a little trickster, yet his tantrums are even more than many primordials.' Rio thought as he smiled and closed the system.

'Just cause I liked his marvel counterpart in the movies, doesn't mean I won't kill you, if you pull some shit.' Rio thought, as he remembered about his earth life.

"It's been so long since I watched a movie, I should go to a dungeon of some modern world." Rio muttered to himself, while going to the training grounds.



[You can't enter a dungeon, just cause you felt like watching a movie.] System spoke up after hearing this host's idiotic thoughts.

"Oh you were unmuted, thanks for reminding me." Rio said in a surprising tone and then muted it.

Rio was walking alone, when he heard a commotion inside a classroom and stopped to listen.

"What did I tell you, you don't take me seriously, do you?" Rio saw Lincoln pinching Damon's face and pressing it on the table. "It's almost been a month, but you can't even do a simple thing like this."

Lincoln said, as he started twisting Damon's hand.

"I\_ I talked to the warden. Please. He said he'll talk to the management. Just give me some time. Ahhhh  
" Damon started speaking while pleading, but in between his words, Lincoln grabbed one of his fingers and twisted it.

"I don't care what you do. But if I see you in my room tomorrow morning, I'll throw your sorry ass outside the window." Lincoln said and threw him away.

[Nyx asks you to help him.]

[She says he has potential to be one of her follower's chosen.]

Rio read the notifications of Nyx about Damon and ignored them. It wasn't the right time yet. And personally, he didn't want to save these idiots, and act like the protagonist to get their support and loyalty.

This guy's been getting bullied and pitted against, for the past one month. Yet he did nothing in return. He never fought back, never even argued or complained, or tried anything to save himself - he's just been counting days and praying that tomorrow would be better.

Rio had no need for pathetic ants like these, even if they had the potential to kill an elephant one day.

If he had to babysit and groom them all this time , create troubles and make enemies because of them - he might as well just die already.

Rio looked at Lincoln leaving and then decided to ignore everything and just go for his training. When he started moving, he saw Damon coming out of the class and looking around. Their eyes met for a second and then Damon looked away in fear. Rio didn't bother with him and left him there.

.com [Hela smiles at you, saying she's proud of you.] Rio heard Hela's voice in his head and smiled. He wasn't sure if she was happy since he refused to save that guy, or she was gloating since I ignored the task given by Nyx.

In the training grounds professor Thaddeus was continuing teaching the students of class A-1 & A-2 before them. Today was yet another combined class for every first year student.

There was no fixed routine for these changes, as professors decided these things among themselves. Sometimes when they didn't have much time, they'd combine all classes and finish their lecture at once, instead of teaching them all separately. Or when they needed to demonstrate something practically or just compare all classes and their performances.

Rio walked forward and stood at the back of his class group. He looked at the side and saw Amaya staring at him.

Amaya Stormswill, a heroine blessed with a mind dangerous enough to be listed among one of the smartest characters of the entire original .

If Rio had to name the few characters he took very seriously, and always on guard against, Amaya Stormswill , will always be one on that list.

She's from another noble family, her father is the Count ranked noble Eirwyn Stormswill. Stormswill family and Morbil family rule over the city of Morwill together.

(2 count ranked families look after a city, each gets half of it to rule and reign.)

In the , she was known by the title of 'The Savant Sage'. . (Savant means an expert and sage means someone very knowledgeable.) Her title means someone who's very talented and is an expert in the field of knowledge and wisdom.

Amaya got this title, despite being a mortal in a world where gods, demons and all kinds of creations exist. It goes to show how sharp her brain and thinking has to be to achieve that level in just the next few years. And not just useless knowledge, how acute her judgment would have to be, for even those much older and wiser men to agree to her title.

This is why Rio ignored her till now. He had met her a few times in some noble parties and royal celebrations, but he didn't want to be too close with this girl, lest she picks up on something and learns of his secrets. He didn't even have the system protection all those years, and he couldn't just have his family go to war with the Stormswill family, by killing her. So he tried to keep their contact to the minimum.

But now she was here, in the academy, in the same class as him, and standing on the side, staring at him.

"You're late again, Heir Blake. It's not good for our class's reputation if you're always coming late." Rio heard her voice, and for a second he had the thought of falling into an illusion where everything disappeared and only this soothing voice remained.

'What a dangerous girl.' Rio thought as he snapped himself back and stared at her.

Amaya had dark green hair, and bright red eyes. Her hair tied in a top bun, while the rest flew over her shoulders from both sides. She was wearing a green top and red trouser type pants. Since the class today was a long training session on an off day, students were free to wear whatever they wanted. For safety reasons many were still in the academy tracksuits. But those who had clothes with better quality lying around, they were dressed in them.

Obviously Amaya's Count or his Duke ranked families didn't lack anything.

Rio looked at Amaya's eyes and saw them changing their shades, from the bright red to light green color.

"It's not good to use your skills on others without their permission, miss Stormswill." Rio said to her.

"Oh please, call me Amaya. We're friends after all." Amaya said as she smiled, her beautiful face beaming with joy that seemed to hold the attention of everyone who looked at her and have them lost. "As for my skill, all of Schilla knows, I can't control them. Innate skills are such a pain. Don't you think so?"

"I wouldn't know, haven't awakened mine yet." Rio said with a smile, meeting her gaze, and seeing the transformation of colors of her pupils. "And we aren't friends, just acquaintances."

"Is that so? Pity, I'm sure you would've awakened something scary." Amaya said, placing her head on her hands and sitting in a relaxed posture.

"It still won't be something as good as yours, miss Amaya. After all, your abilities are practically broken." Rio said, as he started to use the blessing of Aphrodite, which just had the side effect of turning the user into a narcissist.

"But I can't control them." Amaya said, as she felt the slight resistance, as she looked at Rio.

"You have enough time to learn them." Rio said, shrugging his shoulders, and lying his face on the table, preparing to sleep.

"Do I?" Amaya asked as she tapped her fingers on the table and looked at Rio with a subtle smile. "A priest, who came to my house said I won't have long to live. So maybe my skills would be wasted."

Rio furrowed his brows hearing that and looked at her a little confused, but then he shook his head and said "Who knows what's in store for us, Miss Amaya. Maybe that priest was just a lackey of some low level God, vying to get more followers or swindle some money."

"Hmm you're right. He was someone from the church of Apollo, so maybe he did lie to get something from me." Amaya said, as she looked at Rio, her eyes turning into a shade of red again as she finished speaking.

But Rio didn't say anything in return and turned to look at the professor who was done setting up the array on the stage where some new test would happen.

'My skill failed.' Amaya said to herself as she looked at Rio but got nothing on him. 'Interesting, very very interesting. What are you hiding my sweet little devil. And how long can you hide it.' Amaya thought as a genuine smile came to her face for the first time.

'Did you block it?' Rio asked in his heart.

[Yupp. But you sure this is okay, it'll only hook her more on you? Her curiosity is a dangerous thing.]  
System said.

'Let's just give her a chance, to see if my plan works or not. If it doesn't, we'll just let fate play it's course, and let her die in Amy's hands.'

Chapter 237 Virtual Reality Competition

Amaya Stormswill, a girl who awakened her innate ability at the age of 7, before she even went through her awakening. Her innate ability was called "Pure Insight". A simple name for something so broken.

Pure insight allows Amaya to see through every illusion, facade and act. Along with her photographic memory which makes her skill of insight even more dangerous.

Every detail, every word, every fleeting glance or conversation, expression, or emotions, everything was etched into her mind with indelible clarity. She could recall even the most fleeting glimpses, as if they were paintings hanging on the walls of her memory, ready to be analyzed and revisited at any time.

If that wasn't enough she has the backing of Goddess Saraswati from hindu pantheon and the Titaness Mnemosyne from Greek pantheon. Both goddesses are associated with wisdom and memory. Giving their supportive blessings and guidance to Amaya.

Though she still doesn't know how to control her powers yet, or even fully understand how much more they can grow - but the fact that she has the potential to be one of the sharpest minds of human history is acknowledged by everyone.

In the , the author introduced her with great fanfare and gave the first impressions of her skills during the first main event which happens at the freshers party. She was set up to be the best helper for Leon but since the author made her too smart too soon, Amaya's character became too hard to write even for him. Because if Amaya was in an event then she had the potential to outshine many other important characters, that's why the author started to sidelining her, and when that didn't work, he killed her off.

Obviously since not just anyone can handle Amaya, so he chose Amelia as the one who killed her. It acted as a nice twist to the happy go to story, and it fastened the process of making the whole world hate the Blake's.

'Church of Apollo huh, did someone really do a prophecy of her death, or is she just shooting blinds hoping to see through me.'

Rio thought, as he couldn't guess what's up with her mind. She had a habit of saying and doing whatever it took to gain a deeper understanding of the people and world around her. To learn about everything and everyone. And if she can't learn anything now, then who cares, her future self could always see her memories as clear as day again and that'll make things easy for her.

"What are you thinking?" Rebecca asked as she walked towards him slowly, making sure professors didn't notice her. A princess can't break any rules and lead by an example right, that's her belief.

"Nothing" Rio said and shook his head. He smiled as he thought what she'd do if he pointed her out and attracted the attention of some professor.

As if guessing his thoughts, Rebecca glared at him with a warning look. Her big blue eyes getting that serious look was funny. But seeing that, Rio still raised his hand in surrender and let her be.

But not trusting this lazy panda, Rebecca just stood where she was and didn't move. This guy might really start clapping if she went there.

"Attention everyone, since all the classes are here, I'll announce that today would be a special class to see your standards. Today you'll all enter your first virtual world, and go through a competition. Since this is the first time, we've made it easy for you - a simple game of defense." An assistant professor came forward and started making the announcement.

"You'll all be divided into various teams and sent inside. Since the tournament between classes might not be fair due to random distribution of rankings, you'll have to first face off against your own classmates. The winners will then keep moving forward until only one team is chosen from all the classes."

"Then all those five teams would face off with each other. It's all nice and easy right." The professor said after explaining all the rules. "Now with that aside, let me tell you about the game itself. In this game the teams would both be teleported to a castle at the beginning, all you have to do is protect that castle and destroy the one your opposing team has."

Professor said as a projection of castles on the opposite side became visible in the air. Blue and red dots were showing the positions of students occupying that castle.

"Every castle has a magic core at the center, which is powering up everything. Destroying that core would destroy the castle, and thus get you a win."

"You all understood everything, right?" The professor said, as he finished showing off the location of the core, and visuals of destroying it on his projector, ending victory with a blast of fireworks.

"Yes sir."

When everyone agreed, another professor came forward and started saying "Your performance for this test will be recorded, and it may affect your rankings after the semester exams. So be sure to give it your all. Since you can't die in these exams, show us what you got with all your might."

"Mana, what about mana professor? Some of the rankers are higher awakeners than others." A student at the front seat raised his hand and asked.

"If it was a real test or exam, there would've been no changes. They're high rankers cause they tried and trained harder. So what's the point of insulting their hard work by sealing their mana to make it easy for you lazy bums." The professor said with a not so friendly smile and continued "But since you're all just starting here now, the weaklings can rest assured that everyone's mana would be sealed equally to a certain amount for every exam. That applies to everyone so be sure to use whatever mana you get clearly."lights

The professor said, with this rule everyone's mana would be at the same level. So everyone had a chance to show off their skills and abilities.

"Once you're defeated, dead, or wounded to a level, which is considered life threatening injury in the real world - you'll be kicked out of the test. So be sure to play it safe."

"What about healing magic? If we have a healer who can heal those injuries, does that count?" Another student raised his hand and asked.

"What part of you're free to use all the spells and skills did you not understand? If even the first year student healers can save you, then is it considered a life threatening injury in real life?" The professor said while glaring at the student.

"What about pain, since it's not real, would we feel anything, or is it just counting health points like video games?" A girl raised her hand and asked..

Hearing another stupid question, the professor furrowed his brow and thought 'Why are all these idiots sitting in the front? So annoying.' This professor was Harkin Inkspire. The homeroom teacher of class A-1.

"It is just virtual in name, you will feel pain, so just surrender and give up, if you're afraid of getting a beatdown." Professor Harkin said.

"Does only destroying the castle count as a win or is there a point system for defeating other students too?" Another student asked.



"Finally someone who's asking the right question. Good." Harkin praised him as he looked at the previous students like looking at some idiots.

"There'll be no points for defeating other students." He then continued, his words dulling the excitement of many students, who were just planning to kill off every weak opposing team member and get points to win.

"But that's only till you're fighting against your classmates. When teams of top talents are chosen from each class, then you will start getting points for defeating other students. No points for killing off weaklings."

"One more thing, there's a time limit for each match, and if you can't defeat the other team, both teams will be declared losers. So don't just try to be a turtle hiding in your shell." The professor said and finished explaining all the rules he remembered.

He'll just tell them other things later if he remembered it, or better, let them find out on their own to build up the suspense.

'System, what're the chances of Leon winning this?' Rio asked.

[100 percent host.]

'....'

[Normally it would be 100 percent, now you can change it, host.]

[But know that, this event is with all the other important characters too, so even if you win this, Leon would still manage to meet and leave an impression on many important characters.]

'What if I just beat the crap out of him and knock him out the moment he enters inside. He'd be kicked out, with no chance to show off to any professor, heroine or beat any other villain.' Rio thought, and liked the idea of what Apollo would do or say after he gave a beating to his avatar.

[...]

'Well, let's do just that.' Rio thought and stood up. 'After all, because of him I had to leave that body of those goons from Warzy behind, and now Sentinels are aware that someone's coming after me. If those Sentinels start getting serious, how would Virgil deliver him his experience packages from time to time.'

Chapter 238 Open Dungeons

[Are you sure about this? Why don't we take a moment to think huh, it's a big decision after all.]

'Nah I'm good. Let's just beat him up, so he or anyone else doesn't get any funny ideas.' Rio said to the system.

[Apollo. Apollo is there, you sure you want to create trouble with him now. He still got a lot of hole cards, you know. He might even further Leon's progress and that might even trigger some other events.]

'This guy's already one major rank higher than he was supposed to be. Let's just show him the difference between me and him, so next time I do something, he doesn't put his nose into my business.'

[What about Lisa? Don't you think that's gonna trigger anything. What if she sides with Leon instead.]  
System tried to warn its host again. It's good that you can play the enemy from the shadows, why do you need to show up at the door and then beat him face to face.

Hearing the system's remarks Rio thought for a second but then shook his head and replied 'If she sides with him, then she dies. There's no need to wait for another betrayal.'

[If you just want to beat him, let your Shiva persona beat him. Don't act like a villain with Rio's personality. Not without any reason at least.]

'But.. Fine, I don't think he can't give me a reason. It's the nature of the protagonist to create trouble with the villain.' Rio sighed and agreed, but only about the no reason part, he definitely wanted to give a beating to the protagonist.

His mind even thought up a few scenarios where if Leon doesn't do anything, he could pull something off, that can create some friction between them and give him a 'valid reason' to beat him.

'Ayy system isn't there some hidden quest for me beating the protagonist. It's like the basic setting of a villain system, right?' Rio thought and asked, other systems are telling their hosts to beat up protagonists and insult them everywhere to steal their luck. And his system is here advising against it.

[...]

'So there really is.' Rio said in an excited tone after seeing the system getting silent over his question. Now he was even more eager to fight Leon, his last quest reward was just some dumb points, he already has enough. He wanted to see if beating up the protagonist can get him something extra special.

[Host, why don't we take a moment and both take a step back to relax. You already have so many points right, why do you need some more pocket change.] System said, while sweating a little.

How could it say that it doesn't care about Leon at all, and Apollo is just a bitch. Even its host might be able to hold him off, if he used all those points of his in the right way.

It's just, it knew the habits of this host and knew if he got a taste of those rewards, would Leon ever even get out of infirmary in the entire plot.

It can even picture Leon just taking a step out and getting beaten up again. If that happens, how can the system enjoy drama and see other plotlines? The plot is already too different and messed up, what would happen next?

'Okay, then it's decided, we look for a reason and then we beat him up.' Rio gave the final verdict and muted the system before it could say anything else..

Rio started walking towards the stage, where a large magic circle was drawn and was shining in a bright light. Everyone started moving forward too. This was a teleportation circle, which would send everyone to the facility where virtual reality capsules were fixed. Since the academy was too big, if one were to walk from one facility to another, it would simply take at least 15-30 minutes considering the distance.

Now since the whole of first year class was about to move, the duration of that time would obviously be higher. So as not to waste time, the academy had teleportation arrays placed between each facility.

A few professors were standing near the stage, sending a group of 100 students forward every time. That was a limit to this circle, as it could only teleport one hundred people at one time. lights

Huge chunks of mana were getting used for this every time, but even that amount wasn't even considered a drop in the vast ocean of mana the academy grounds had.

The floating islands were all pieces of magical lands from an unknown world. It had what one could call a spiritual vein from the cultivation world stories, it could store huge amounts of mana from its surroundings every moment and store it inside to nourish the island.

So whatever mana they wasted by using these teleportation circles, this all would probably be regenerated in a matter of a few minutes again.

Don't ask why no one from the world tried to attack and loot these 'spiritual veins' or take control of these islands - that was the reason why the World Association was formed. At first these islands were taken by a group of separate families and there would always be wars to own them amongst everyone, but over time, the owners of the islands came together and formed an association to show a combined front against everyone else.

That's how the World Association was first formed, by a bunch of rich folks to capture these islands. But when the rest of the world still didn't give up and would keep fighting them from time to time, they knew no one would be able to share this pie alone. So they decided to turn their residence into a sect, where everyone from everywhere could come and train.

Fast forward by a few centuries, the sects had now become academies and the collective front of owners, became the current World Association. This rich environment and mana density is also why the five academies are holding their place at the top.

Rio walked the stage and stood over it, when the professor finished the preparations, he channeled his mana into the various flags or key points, and the array lit up in a blinding light forcing everyone to close their eyes.

When they opened their eyes again, they were standing in a new place, a large open hall where a few teleportation circles were lighting up every second.

Everyone looked around and noticed the new place and environment which was giving them the vibe of a sci-fi world. Rio too curiously looked around. Things had changed a lot since the last time he visited here. When he first came here two years ago, he couldn't help but stare at everything like it was a dream. After all, everything here was similar to what was shown only in movies or fictions. The technology of earth was far behind what was possible in this facility.

The hall was adorned with neon lights that bathed the surroundings in a vibrant, otherworldly glow, that exuded a futuristic, sci-fi ambiance. Square metallic platforms floated gracefully through the air, carrying a variety of objects, from advanced machinery to holographic displays. Metallic drones whizzed overhead, zipping through the space in a precise manner.

If you think about how this is possible, when the outside world didn't even have phones till a few years ago, how did this facility manage to advance to this level in just the time skip of ?

You don't have to think much, because this facility wasn't even a part of Arcadia, this was an Open Dungeon.

Open Dungeons were dungeons which once connected to Arcadia forever stayed there. They had no core to destroy nor any missions to fulfill, in order to clear them. They were simply chunks of lands attached to Arcadia.

People and technology which was pulled here along with this land would forever stay inside these dungeons and couldn't be taken out. So no matter how advanced this open dungeon became, none of it could be useful in the outside world. Except the knowledge, which could help Arcadia grow further too.

This dungeon belonged to a future dystopian world, and after merging with Arcadia it had always been under the control of the World Association. The world association pumped many resources into their research and helped them with everything. When the people of this dungeon world grew used to Arcadia and started learning about mana, their existing technology took another leap and became this hifi.

What did the world association get in return if they couldn't take anything out, well they got knowledge, knowledge about all this machinery and stuff which was made possible in other worlds. Now their own researchers just have to learn how to create all this stuff in Arcadia.

Plus if they can't take anything outside, doesn't mean they can't send anyone in right. Like right now, the virtual reality capsules of this world had been much more advanced than most of the illusion magics and similar technologies of Arcadia. That's why the academy can send their students here to train and learn everything.

Rio was looking around thinking about the past and enjoying the scenery of the new tech, when someone just put their hand over his shoulder and pulled him in. "So do you still remember to come back here huh. If I didn't know any better, I'd think you died again."

Chapter 239 The scifi setting

Rio looked at the girl beside him and said "Is this how you greet your friends now? No wonder no one visits you once they leave the academy."

Hearing his words and that amusing laugh, The girl increased her strength around his neck, just trying to choke him. "You little, it seems you really did grow up a little huh. Now you're even talking back to me."

Rio placed his hand on her stomach and released a wave of mana, blasting her in the air. "I can even beat you up now. Why won't I dare."

"You, good very good." The girl said as she stood on a metal platform in the air, and looked at him aggrievedly. "I'll blast out pain receptors again, see how you come crying to me then." She said, as she jumped down the platform.

"Do that, and I'll tell your grandpa, that you're the one who scrapped \_ "

"Fine, shut up. You're gonna get me kicked out." The girl said, stopping him from speaking anything else, in front of the whole class. "You better come by the shop, once you're done with your tests, or I'm really messing up your VR capsule next time." She said and turned around to leave. She tapped on her tablet a few times, and a metal platform came beneath her feet and she left.

From the beginning to end, she didn't even take a glance at anyone else in the hall or even noticed their presence.

"Brother, who was she?" Amelia asked as she came near him. Followed by Rebecca.

"That's Joi, she's a researcher here. You see those capsules we're about to enter\_."

"Don't tell me, did she make them?" Amelia asked in a surprised tone.

"No, I was gonna say they were made by her grandfather." Rio replied with a smile.

"So what did she do?" Rebecca asked.

"Well, she \_ she helps around."

"She's a lazy idiot just like you, isn't she?" Rebecca asked as she looked at him defending her.

Rio was just thinking about what to say cause what she does is kinda similar to him. He can't just say she's gonna be the next best techie of Arcadia right. Well, let's just stay silent.

An old man with white two part mustache came forward and started speaking. "Students, since everyone's here, I won't waste your time. From where you're standing now, you can see two large halls on the side." He said, and Neon pathways leading to those halls lit up on the ground. "On the right side is the hall for all the girls, you can follow along the lines and go inside. The left side is for the boys."

"Once you're there, just look for the capsule with your name on it, or just search up your identification number on the watches and it'll light up for you." The old man said, guiding everyone.

"Master, \_ master." Joi called the old man as she appeared behind the old man. But when he didn't hear her, she shouted again "Grandpa"

"What?" The old man asked about why she was interrupting his speech.

"You forgot about the suits. The suits remember." Joi said as she signaled the old man about the clothes.

The old man understood after a little time, laughed a little and said "ohh before you enter anything or go anywhere, you might wanna collect your suits for the VR and then proceed to the hall." He finished his words and tapped on his watch as a transparent screen popped up on it. "You all got a notification on your watch, so just fill out your details in that form and the drones will get you your suits."

"Once you reach your respective halls, you can change into them. Before you ask, there are several booths made inside, so you can be rest assured about your privacy."

As his words finished everyone's watches buzzed up with a notification sound and they all started filling out their details in the said form. It wasn't anything much, just the same data they first submitted to the academy - name, ID number, blood type, health conditions, or any previous incident or experience with similar technology etc.

Rio looked at his notification and could just glare upwards at Joi, who was just waiting for his reaction. [Student Rio Blake, already exists in the username list. Unknown credentials.]

[You should've come by the shop earlier if you wanted to get a new ID.] Joi's message popped up on his watch and he could just turn it off.

After filling the details of the registration id he was given two years ago, he successfully logged in. And a drone soon came in and dropped a package over his head. Catching the box before it hits him, he just gave a final angry glare at Joi before walking inside, one of the booths at the side.

Removing his blue academy jacket and trousers he stored them into his storage ring and started putting on the new black color suit.

After fighting with that for five minutes he finally managed to put it on.



'Damn the bastard who made these suits.' Rio cursed as he finally managed to breathe a sigh of relief once he was done struggling with his suit.

As the name suggests the suits were 'skin-tight' meaning that one could feel all his muscles getting tightly compressed by the suit. It felt like someone just laminated all his body and wrapped it in a tight plastic.

Wearing this suit made his movements become extremely stiff. Because it was so weird, it looked like he was a robot, and not even human anymore. Moreover, Looking at his own appearance in the mirror , he wished he could just find a place to bury himself or throw all these suits aside.

It was freaking embarrassing to look at.

Thankfully the academy didn't give this kind of suit outside this facility, or he'd have to walk around the whole campus wearing this abomination every time there was something VR related.

That would've been a true walk of shame.

But now he just needed to leave this booth and go find his capsule and that was it.

Walking out of the cabin, Rio looked around and noticed almost everyone was walking around in a robot like manner. Some students still walked normally, showing that they were used to this kind of suits and the VR routine.

Probably all the rich kids and families had their children adjust to all the situations, plus they might've just bought VR to play games since they were a kid.

Though the products of this dungeon were a little better than the ones outside, still some of the students got used to these suits easily.

Everyone was looking around curiously to see each other's reactions, and Rio could just sigh at himself. He would have been fine too if not for Joi.

'I should really get her kicked out from here.' Rio thought as he looked at the difference between his suit and the ones others had. His was simply the old version and looked like their ancestor.

This just drew everyone's focus on him even more, and he could just act like he didn't notice and increase his pace towards his capsule.

Easier said than done though, with his stiff movement, he even felt he might fall down somewhere in between.

'Atleast girls are not here.' Rio thought as he relaxed thinking it was only boys in this hall. If there were tons of girls filled in this hall, walking around in these skin tight suits, he didn't know what would happen.

'Though if there were girls, no one would look at him then right. After all, the figures of all those heroines and villainesses were on display.'

'I wonder how they'd look though.'

[Stop imagining weird things, host.]

[I'm warning you, if you need to think up some fantasies and fetishes, just tell me beforehand, so I can cut our connection.]

The system came out and started speaking in its righteous robotic voice, like it just saw some injustice happening in his mind.

'What, it's normal that my mind would imagine how they'd look. It's not like I got perfect control over everything and wouldn't think anything. I'm a young man too, you know.'

[Ohh so now you're a young man. You literally lived for 40 years now. 30 on earth and 10 here. The girls here aren't even half that age. Tsk tsk tsk this host is a pedo\_]

—muted—

'Damn you, system. See if I unmute you for a week this time.' Rio cursed it in his head and closed all the panels.

[Hela takes note of your appearance.]

Rio, who had just closed the system, looked at Hela's notification and a black line formed over his head. 'She's gonna show it to Loki, isn't she?'

'Damn it, Leon. It's all because of you. Get ready to be beaten.'

Rio blamed every scenario on Leon's head and decided to give him one more punch for this embarrassing scene.

Leon, who was enjoying everything, and was excited about his first VR experience, suddenly had a bad premonition that said 'Just run away' yet he couldn't understand why?

VR suits were designed from advanced nanofiber materials that just stick close to the wearer's body. The suits featured biometric sensors, seamlessly woven into the fabric, which enabled real-time monitoring of the user's vital signs. This data was crucial for ensuring the user's safety during VR experiences.

Tiny haptic nodes were also discreetly integrated into the suits, enhancing the sense of touch in the virtual world. These nodes provided sensations like pressure, warmth, texture, and everyone's favorite, pain -adding to the realism of the experience.

The suits also featured a built-in temperature regulation system, capable of adjusting the temperature of the user's body in case of some emergency.

Chapter 240 Valtor Shade

Following the guide map towards the red dot on his watch, which showed the pathway to his capsule, Rio reached there.

Taking the VR headgear placed near the capsule on a table, he just took a long breath and placed it over his head. It covered half his face. After adjusting it carefully, he pressed the button at the side with his thumb and the headgear was turned on. The digital display came to life, projecting a transparent screen in front of his eyes. Various notifications started appearing in front of him.

[Initiating Biometric Scan...]

[Initiating Retina scan... ]

[User Identification Confirmed: Rio Blake]

With the scans and identification complete, Rio stepped into the capsule. The interior was a pristine and sterile space, lined with sensors and equipped with a softly padded floor to ensure the user's comfort.

The transparent cover smoothly descended over him, sealing him within. The cover was made from advanced smart glass, providing a degree of translucency that allowed for minimal light and shadows to filter through. Once he was settled in, another few notifications popped up.

In the VR world though the users had to keep the same appearance as the real world, but the digital data still gave the option to customize everyone's avatar. Students could choose the clothes they would like to wear.

[Select Clothing Option: Casual | Formal | Futuristic | Historical | Fantasy]

Seeing the notification Rio just chose casual and then instead of picking up styles or colors, he just clicked on random and then ended it. Once that was done, the final process started, as the display about the final confirmation appeared

[Enter : Y/N]

Clicking Yes without even looking Rio swiped his hand. Gotta say, it had become his habit of swiping screens sideways after talking with that useless system for so much time.

[Staging the transfer. VR network\_Zenith Aqua]

[Transfer complete.]

[Health Parameters: Optimal]

[You're now in Quantum Nexus]

[Welcome back, Rio Blake]

Once the last notifications sounded, he opened his eyes and found himself in an endless white hall. Gone was the VR capsule or headgear, everything was so clear and real now in front of his eyes.

He raised his hands and clenched his fists to check for the movement and sensations he could feel. He still had a doubt if Joi really messed up some settings on his server or not. That girl had a turtle brain so he couldn't even be sure.

Rio looked down to see his clothes, he was wearing a long sleeve T-shirt in gray color and a brown casual pants.

'Hmm seems nice enough' he nodded his head while pulling his sleeves up a little on both hands.

He looked around and saw many students who started appearing in the white hall.

This endless luminous space was called Quantum Hub. The entrance point for the virtual world. Everyone connected to a server would be transported here first. And from here after the administrators allows, one would be sent to the other zones.

This is where every student first enters and then rests between their tests. Those who lost or died would also be transported here, instead of directly being sent to the real world.

Rio looked around and noticed many of the idiots, who were on their first rodeo of VR choosing clothes that they liked. Like some of them chose historian clothes and were wearing stuff like they were going to get married or attend the Royal court.

Some girls were roaming around in cyberpunk style with neon plastic skirts. While some were looking like a mad Max dystopian theme junkie, with all the haggard and ragged clothes they had.

Wait, did that guy just choose a feather and leaves dress, what the fuck is wrong with him.

Rio, looked around at the weird fashion senses of some people and wanted to laugh at them, as he remembered, now they'll have to fight and finish this test in those clothes.

'That feather guy is so fucked.' Rio thought and prayed for his walk of shame later.

When all the students appeared in the hall, the projection device lit up in the center and the figures of a few professors became visible to everyone. Those were all the homeroom teachers of all the first year classes.

Harkin Inkspire for class A-1.

Mythila Nelson for class A-2.

Freya Morgan for class A-3.

Osborn Evergreen for class A-4.

Arabella Lawrence for class A-5.

Apart from them, battle arts professor Thaddeus Winthrop, and technical engineering professor Dorian Lancaster were also present there. The figure of Jorvik, Joi's grandfather also appeared in the hall, as he was in charge of maintaining all the VR tech.

Aside from everyone here, a few healers were stationed to monitor everyone's vitals and pull them out in case of some emergency situation. After all, VR is good and all, but it's also risky. Your brain is basically connected to a digital world and your subconscious is pulled here in Quantum Hub, so if anyone pulled the plug or simply released a high energy wave, it could kill everyone here easily. Having someone being brain dead and having them trapped in Quantum is also a high possibility, that's why VR rooms and halls are always secured completely every time any test Or exam is going on. Except for selected staff no one can ever enter the halls once students enter the capsules. So it's all relatively safe.

The professors glanced at everyone and saw their attire. Professor Harkin noted down those who chose stylish clothes from his class and remembered their faces. Rio could see from his expression that he'll have them punished in tomorrow's class.

All the other professors did the same too, after all, it's common sense for them to think about something like this. They're coming here for a test and they're dressed like this.

"They do this every year, don't they?" Someone came near Rio and asked.

"Yupp," Rio said and turned to the side. And there he saw, one of the main characters of the , Valtor Shade. He was wearing an all black attire, which could accentuate his fighting style and element of shadow. He was also looking pretty good in it too. Rio just needed to turn a little, and he could see the girls fawning over Valtor from a distance. Well that was to be expected. After all, Valtor was too famous.

The son of the guildmaster of Nexus guild. Someone who was measured for the potential ranking of SS rank. awakened at the age of 12 and had been training among the guild ever since then. At the age of 16 he entered his first dungeon raid and cleared it. Ever since then, he's been going on with his guild members on many dungeon raids to get experience and grow stronger.

He never made many appearances in outside parties and social events, so there wasn't a single bad thing said about him anywhere.

Obviously his reputation was still an inch lower than Rio's own, who basically had the habit of breaking all these records of the characters of the . Whatever Valtor did, Rio did it better.

There was even a time when everyone would compare both him and Valtor, after all, both of them were talented and had similar elements. Shadow and darkness - different but similar.

But since Rio was supposed to be dead, Valtor had been on an even higher rise since then. All that can't just be changed and forgotten since Rio came back, right. So there were still a lot of little fangirls for our little rival of the protagonist.

"Heard you were attacked?" Valtor asked, breaking Rio out of his thoughts.

"Aren't you asking about it a little too early? It's been more than two weeks now." Rio replied. And asked straightforwardly "Just tell me what you want, Valtor. You were never good at small talks."

Hearing his direct question, Valtor hesitated for a little bit and then asked "What do you think about the first ranker? That Baron's son."

"Ohh are you curious about him? I wonder why?" Rio asked as a smile formed on his face. He didn't think it was gonna be such an interesting conversation.

"The fire and the way he uses his techniques, they aren't normal. I'm sure you noticed it too. That's why you've been paying attention to him right?" Valtor said, voicing his doubts, as he looked at Leon.

After fighting with him in spars for so many days, he had noticed a few abnormalities with the way Leon fights. The techniques he uses were no way normal, and anyone with discerning eyes could see it too. Valtor, who wields the opposite element of it and had faced those skills head on, knew about them the best.

"They're way too high level for something someone can learn in just two years after awakening. Or something a Baron can get." Valtor finished his words remembering the way Leon fought against him in every spar.

Rio, who heard his words, had a smirk on his face. 'Looks like you're not doing a good job, Apollo. People are picking up on your avatar's lies. Up your game a little. The real fun haven't even begun yet.'