

LOA Nobody 41

Chapter 41 Day Of Awakening - Plans & Unknown

Rio groaned as he rubbed his eyes, trying to adjust to the sudden brightness of the room. He had barely slept last night, plagued by the nightmares. Before he could fully wake up, he felt a sudden splash of water hit his face. Rio's eyes shot open and he sat up with a start, staring at Amelia who stood next to his bed with her usual evil but cute grin.

"You've turned lazy, brother. You're always sleeping now." She said, her voice was sweet and playful.

Rio stood up and ruffled her hair as he went towards his bathroom. He turned around to see her trying to fix his messy bed, and said - "Wait a little, I will be back soon."

While Rio took a shower, he couldn't believe everything that happened with him. It all felt so unreal to him.

It's almost been more than 3 weeks since I woke up in Arcadia. A lot has happened since then, After taking the pura corpus potion, I have also taken some other potions which strengthened my body, I've also started some light training to get better control over Rio's body. My classes for all the useless stuff started a week ago, and now my whole day is busy as hell.

From morning exercises with some rankers and if possible with Agnus, then after breakfast a class with Artemis on learning about our territory and normal stuff a heir should know about. After that there are classes of nobles etiquette, a class for history, one for alchemy and one for monster anatomy.

In my whole day aside from time for eating and sleeping, I have 2 hours of time for myself, which mostly gets taken over by Amelia's playing & games.

The more time I spend with her, the more confused I get. She's scary for me now. I have started to avoid her a little bit now, cause her every habit and action is making me doubt if she's Ria, and I'm scared of what will happen to me if it turns out to be just a coincidence.

Aside from Amelia, I think I've gotten a little bit attached with Artemis too, though I can now see that she's doubting me, and because of that her habit of teasing me had gotten worse. Sometimes she would act just like a teenage bully who would team up with me to tease Amelia and with her to bully me. It's _ I don't know, nice I guess.

I haven't spent much time with Agnus, since he came back only last week. But whatever little it was, it felt nice. He's a silent type guy, so all our conversations were always on point, exactly opposite of how Artemis & Amelia behave.

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Besides Rio's family, after a week or so of continuously playing & losing, I can now defeat Rebecca in her games. She also started learning a little bit more about chess.

'Though I don't like to admit it, but she is different from what I read about her in the novel. Though that may be because she's still a kid and would show her real personality after growing up.'

'Her birthday is coming up soon, and that's when our families will first start the talks about our engagement. I have avoided this topic whenever Artemis started teasing about it, but I don't know what to do next.'

'At one point I want to ruin her cause of what she will do in the future according to the plot. But if possible, I also want to keep her with me, cause she's one of the main heroines and will be a big help for me.'

'If I leave her alone and ignore her completely and she joins the protagonist somehow, I feel like one way or another she would stand against me, and I would have to deal with her and the royal family both, which will all be a drag.'

So she's in the observation category just as Baron Misha. Potential danger is what I call them. For now I haven't decided what to do with either of them.

I have even talked with Rio's aunt, the queen Athena. She's just like Artemis but more subtle in her tricks. She even tried to cheat in our games when she saw Rebecca losing everytime. It was funny seeing Artemis's reaction when she found out.

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In the past weeks, Asher has finished collecting all the items that I have given him the names of, and since the people I named were all criminals they were silenced too.

The nightmares I had on my first day are still the same, so I'm avoiding sleeping every other day with the help of some pills Asher brought back. They're acting as refreshment pills or in earth's terms more like red bull or coffee.

I've even looked for cigarettes by asking some guards, but to my bad luck they aren't made here. And somehow some idiot fucker told Artemis about it. Next thing I know I'm having classes all day and Myra is following me the whole day.

'I doubt whose shadow she is.'

—

I haven't heard anything about Esme. I have asked Artemis about it, but she just avoids the question, or starts questioning me about why she's roaming all around the city.

Myra had brought Erza some days ago. There were some issues when getting her out undetected but she did it just fine. Ezra's sickness was in the starting phase and with Artemis's approval she's getting treatment.

I had to talk with Agnus explaining all about vampire spy thing and what I plan to do with Erza. She's still getting treated but once it's done, I think I'll keep her with me for a while.

'Erza's talents might be worse than her sister, but she could act as a nice binding for me to keep Esme chained & loyal.'

She's also someone who needs observation, since she was dead before the novel plot started, I have no idea what she's like or what she'll do.

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Talking about the novel, it started when the protagonist joined the Zenith Academy at the age of 18. So I have around 8 years till the plot starts .

But if I want to ignore the plot - I can just join a different academy from the one our protagonist joins - though the benefits of attending no. 1 academy in the world are great but my life is more important.

Or I could simply join the academy before the plot even begins and get all the stuff I would need to survive.

In Zenith Academy you can start your admissions from the age of 15-18 .

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*** The academy doesn't care about anyone's age as it focuses on their awakening. And that's why , after 18 years no admissions are allowed in any of the big academies .

As 18 years is the limit till someone can awaken their powers. If they don't - then they just have to live their life as a non-awakened person. They won't have the support of mana and if they want to get stronger they have to train their body the crude way.

—

So if I want I can join at age 15 and when the protagonist Leon joins the academy at the age of 18 , I would have already stolen all chances and would be much stronger than him. Plus by then I'd be a last year student so I can probably avoid almost every academy scenario plotline.

'This is a much better idea than me leaving those chances for Leon & joining some other academy which I have little knowledge about.

'But there are also some risks involved too. I should think about it more.'

—

People who could trouble me or Amelia in the short term have all been dealt with. Now if I want my answers as soon as possible then I should try to get a chance to meet him - the narrator.

'If I could convince him to help me somehow, I will have all my answers and maybe then it'll all be over.'

But for that I need strength, much more and much sooner. From the novel I know which Goddess would choose Rio during his awakening, and if it's the same, and I utilize all her powers, it would be enough for me to get stronger faster.

It's been a long time since I've been preparing for it, now when it is here, I'm getting excited over it. Finally it is time for me to get - my awakening, my system and that Goddess.

—

Rio who was excited over his awakening didn't know that far away from the realm of all existence, there were many who were eagerly waiting for this day too.

In the place where Shiva slept for who knows how long after his death, a sweet cheery voice sounded - "Finally, It's been so long. I thought he'd take even longer. Well now we can meet again. So I'll forgive you."

If Shiva heard this voice he'd be shocked to his core for hearing a voice he's been missing so long in Arcadia.

—

In the realm of dreams & darkness, the images of Rio's daily life were playing nonstop and a beautiful Goddess, covered in a dark gown watched it with relish, as she awaited his rise.

The chosen son of darkness, as he was called, had arrived once again to fulfill his destiny. She knew that his presence would bring chaos and destruction to the world, and she relished in the anticipation of what was to come.

Unknown to the Goddess who was lost in her thoughts, the void behind her grew ever more darker, and a melodic laugh echoed in the darkness, the Goddess watched dumbfounded as all her mirrors shattered into pieces. She clenched her fists as she saw the darkness getting sucked into a giant hole. In anger she stomped her foot and the space around the whole realm started to crack & collapse onto itself.

—

In a ruined world filled with darkness, where there was no room for light, which felt void of everything no sound, no color, no nothing - in that godforsaken desolate place, today the clanking of chains could be heard. The sound grew louder and louder as it echoed in the emptiness.

As the chains continued to move, some sparks flew out of them, illuminating the surroundings for a brief moment. A man, no more like a demon was bound in that place, his features were twisted into an expression of rage and frustration, his eyes blazing with a fierce intensity.

The sparks that had first appeared little began to grow brighter and more intense, as if feeding off the darkness around them.

A deafening roar soon echoed throughout the realm, and the darkness around him seemed to shudder in response.

He lifted his hands, revealing sharp claws, and tugged at the chains that bound him, testing their strength.

The man closed his eyes, focusing on his breathing. As he breathed in, he felt the chains around him loosen slightly, and as he breathed out, he felt them tighten again.

But something was different, the void around him was painted in a bloody hue of red now. The three dark moons in the sky seemed to glow with an ominous red light. The chains that bound him rattled with an unsettling energy, as if they too were affected by the sudden change in the environment.

The man looked down at his hands and saw that they too were covered in the same red hue. He clenched his fists and felt a surge of power coursing through his veins. The redness seemed to seep into his very being, filling him with a dark energy that he had not felt in a long time.

With a sinister look on his face, he started roaring, as he announced his arrival to everything, to every being - "And so it begins"

"Hahaha hehahaa hahaaha"

The man's laugh echoed in the darkness, and when the sound of the laughter died down, the silence was almost as oppressive as the laugh itself. There was a feeling of expectation in the air, as if something was about to happen, but nobody knew what.

The man glared at the red sky & floating moons, as he said to the heavens - "Save him, if you can. For no light of luck shall stop my darkness."

Chapter 42 Awakening Part 1 - The Process

After his shower, Rio wore the suit which was given to him for this ceremony days ago. It was a white color streamlined suit, with golden patterns of nature and all its element printed on the sidelines. When Rio first wore it, it was double his size but it was inscribed with adjustment functions so it changed into a suit fit for his body soon. He remembered it's description from what the novel said -

***Dress of Ishvar - It's a uniform type artifact. It could spread the surrounding mana it comes into contact with, to its whole surface uniformly. It would've been the perfect armor to lessen any attack damage, if it wasn't for the limitation that it can only absorb and redirect static mana and not attack spells. (The dress of Ishwar symbolizes that everything and everyone is equal in front of a God)

—

Artemis found this artifact as reward in one of the instant dungeons she cleared 3 years ago. This was the perfect artifact for the awakening ceremony, as it solved the danger of excess mana gathering around your heart, and your body not being able to handle it. This helped in reducing the number of accidents happening during the ceremony.

Now pair this artifact with a body perfected by pura corpus potion, and you have clear pathways in & out your body for clear mana circulation.

And since the ceremony was going to be performed in the Blake mansion only, there was no need for Rio to be worried about anything.

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There are many ways to go with someone's awakening, but the main thing is it requires lots of mana. You could have lots of mana stones, ores, crystal or cores to supplement that supply. Or you could just go someplace that is highly dense in mana like dungeons , mines or churches where mana gathering arrays are placed.

Now awakening increases a person's strength & potential, but still there are many unawakened people on Arcadia, just cause they either can't afford the cost for a safe awakening ceremony or their bodies just aren't suitable for mana.

—

***[If you're wondering if awakening is so good & necessary, why aren't rulers of Arcadia making it free for the public. Cause just like everything else in the world - mana is a resource, and it is limited and expensive. So why would anyone risk spending something like that when no one is sure if that investment will be successful or not. Plus the people can never be trusted, the one you helped today might grow strong & kill you in the future for other rewards. Why increase the competition.]

- Though some kingdoms & churches do have some planned ways that make it cheaper or easier for the general public to awaken. Churches do it to increase faith in their God, while kingdoms do it to increase their army power to fight against monsters & dungeons.]

—

Rio walked out and found Myra waiting for him outside his room. She's been following him for days now, so he wasn't surprised.

"Good morning Myra." Rio said.

Myra nodded her head and said - "You're late, and lazy. I should ask master to increase your training a little bit more."

Rio who heard her reply couldn't deny it, as his sleep schedule was really messed up. Sometimes he'd be asleep and won't wake up till someone pulled him out of his nightmares.

So he changed the topic - "Where's Amy?"

"She's with master, they're all waiting for you in the awakening chamber." - Myra said and started following Rio as they walked towards the awakening chamber.

"You took a long time for the shower, feeling scared are you?" Myra asked in a teasing tone.

"No, I'm not." Rio replied instantly.

"You know, it's normal to be scared, even I was. When I went through my awakening_" Myra was giving out her pep talk but Rio cut her off as he said - "I'm not scared Myra not even a little bit. And your way of awakening, not a good example."

Myra was silent as she couldn't refute what he said, she really was reckless in her awakening. "But you should still be careful. When you feel the excess mana, don't try to force it and let it flow naturally. You

should just focus on staying awake & not lose your consciousness. Ohh and it would hurt in the beginning, like really hurt , so don't be scared and hold on okay. And one more _ . "

Myra was saying out all her advice when Rio turned to face her and said in a confident tone to reassure her - "I'll be fine Myra. I've taken the potion and I have this uniform, so don't worry. Nothing will go wrong. I promise."

When Myra heard his words she didn't know how to respond, as she really was feeling a little scared, as no matter how prepared they were, the chance of a failed awakening is always present. Everyone can go through the awakening at any time but if they fail once, then their meridians(veins) would be damaged, and going through an awakening again, would be even more dangerous.

Plus with all that happened till now about Rio's curse, Evil Scion's plan and those traitors, everyone had their doubts. That's why today the security of the Blake mansion was on high alert. No one except his parents or their trusted aides was allowed anywhere near awakening chambers.

As Rio who knew from the plot what is to come & that there'll be no danger during his awakening, wasn't feeling nervous. He actually felt excited at the thought of that power. He could finally start some of his plans and start getting stronger.

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Rio and Myra arrived outside a room, where several guards were standing outside securing a parameter. Myra showed her token while Rio started walking ahead, when the doors opened he could see a teleportation circle made on the ground. It was made with runic carvings and some light blue symbols and designs were lighting up the round corners. It was used to teleport people from here to the location of awakening chambers, as they were made a bit away from the mansion in case there were any accidents.

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Rio stood at the center of circle trying to see if he could understand anything, but all he could see were weird lines & symbols nothing else, so he gave up.

Soon Myra joined him while the guards activated the circle, while Rio blinked his eyes once they were already on the other side. He could now see Artemis standing in front of him, while Amelia was standing behind her.

Rio who was busy thinking how quickly that circle worked and looking around at the new surroundings when Artemis came forward and hugged him, as she whispered - "I'll be there too okay, so don't worry about anything."

Rio just nodded his head and hugged her back. No matter how many times he did this, it always felt felt loving. He had stopped feeling embarrassed around her now.

Amelia too came and pinched Rio's hand as she said - "Be strong my lazy brother, or next year I will beat you."

Rio smiled and slapped her head as he hugged her and said - "You're getting even more stupid little Amy, if you think you can beat me."

They all started walking towards the room where the ceremony will take place, when they reached the mana room, Rio saw Agnus waiting there outside.

Agnus looked at Rio and they both just nodded their head at each other.

"It's his awakening, can't you say something positive to him." Artemis complained as she shook her head, watching this father-son interaction.

Hearing his wife, Agnus smiled and said - "He's my son, I believe in his talent. Plus he already knows everything."

"Hmph" Artemis decided to ignore the obvious as she had been explaining to Rio everything every day this week.

Since everything else was prepared and they were just waiting for Rio, they decided to move in and start.

The mana room was a white-marble room with runic language all over the borders of the walls. Even though Rio didn't know what the runes did, he could guess they were made for mana gathering and were probably some of the best ones since he was here.

Rio walked ahead towards the middle of the room, where a large circle was drawn, everyone else except him stood on the side, while Artemis made a barrier which surrounded Amelia, who didn't listen and started crying when they decided to keep her out.

Rio looked at everyone , and he could see the love and care they had for him, aside from Agnus, everyone present in the room was nervous.

'He has too much trust in his genes I say.' Rio thought as he looked at Agnus watching over his guards as they activated the rune formation.

Rio took a deep breath and nodded his head. As he was closing his eyes the lines about awakening came ringing in his brain as if to warn him of what's about to come -

*** [During awakening ceremony, as the mana continues to flow and surge, the individual's body may start to transform. Bones may shift and elongate, muscles may grow and change, and the senses may become heightened or altered. These changes can also cause pain and discomfort, but are necessary for the individual to fully harness the power of mana.

This mana can feel like a burning sensation or intense pressure.

The duration of the awakening process varies from person to person, depending on the individual's strength and ability to endure pain or how much his body is adapted to the flow of mana.

The process can also be dangerous if the individual's body is unable to handle the surging power of mana, potentially leading to any injury to his meridians or even making him a cripple for life.]

As Rio opened his eyes again, he could feel the mana in the air increasing at a constant speed. He could feel the heaviness in the air, and soon enough he could feel his body getting warmer.

Rio could feel the mana moving through his suit spreading it all over his body. He winced a little as he felt pain when mana started gathering around his heart, and every part of his body started getting transformed.

His body began to change, his bones cracking as his muscles grew and his skin reddened.

The pain was intense, almost unbearable, but Rio gritted his teeth and refused to give in. He knew that this was just the beginning as changing your body was just the first step.

Suddenly, a surge of power coursed through his brain, causing him to cry out in pain.

'It's here.'

A pain that would break anyone's mind apart, that's what author called it in the novel, when world system merges with anyone during their awakening. Almost 80% of people who failed their awakening would fail at this point, and Rio who was going through that pain, was thinking - 'Was this it?'

The pain only surprised him at first cause it caught him offguard, but when that surprise was over he didn't even feel a thing. Maybe like a little tingle in his brain but that's about it.

So either this system is going easy on me, or I'm just too used to headaches.

When one survives the merging too, then comes the final part. It is now that someone can awaken their element.

*** [The elemental awakening lasts till you can feel your element and turn the mana in your body into that element. This is where most newbies hurt themselves & everyone around them. As no one who felt mana for the first time, could just transform the excess mana and turn it into any element. There's a risk of losing control , and all the mana in the surrounding would react and go berserk. In this condition if

you're lucky you'll get off easy by not learning any element but if you're not, then you hurt your newly built mana veins and that ruins your future development.

- If you're successful in awakening your element then you would have an easier time learning that element, but if you give up, it just means you will have to try and learn every element available just to see which one suits you the most. It would waste lots of time, and even then your proficiency won't be as good as people who learned it in their awakening.]

—

Rio's element in the novel was darkness, one of the 7 pure elements of Arcadia. And his proficiency in it was what attracted the attention of that Goddess, and she gave him her blessing.

*** [It is only after awakening and merging with the world system that Gods can interact with anyone. So if any God is interested in you, they'd give you their blessing if they want. Getting a blessing just after your awakening is super rare, and everyone who received it, is hailed as a genius.]

- And this was the part for what Rio was most excited about. Goddess of darkness, she was the one who gave Rio her blessing in the novel and it was something that made Rio stronger than his peers.

'I don't know how Rio controlled darkness in the novel, as it was said to come to him naturally. But for me darkness is something I've lived in, Is there someone else alive who can say they've seen the REAL darkness better than me.'

Rio closed his eyes as he imagined the scene of just after his death, floating in the darkness, the void, abyss whatever it was - that was the definition of darkness for him.

He felt the mana within his body leaving and moving out. He had no problem moving the mana as with pura corpus potion the pathways were without any impurity to hinder their way.

But instead of feeling weak for losing his mana, he felt nothing. This was where Dress of Ishvar played another role. It continuously absorbed the surrounding mana and supplied him back, so he continued the same process again.

Rio looked upwards. He could see the clear bright sky through the ceiling glass just before everything around him started getting covered in darkness. As everything turned dark, only one thought came to his mind -

'Where are you?'

Chapter 43 Awakening Part 2 - His Goddess

As Rio waited for her arrival, he continued the process to control his element. Even with the support of Dress of Ishvar, soon his body started feeling the fatigue of losing mana. The amount of mana that he spent controlling the darkness increased with time but the supply of that artifact was constant.

His hands had darkened now and his eyes were shrouded in the form of the void that he imagined in his mind.

The entire mana room was shrouded in the black fog that started to spread everywhere as it consumed the lightning in the room and runes. The magic circles and formations too started flickering in their blue light before dying down and being broken.

Despite the darkness, somehow Rio was able to see everything, he could see the golden barrier that kept his family safe, and his element which was thriving and consuming everything else in the room was getting pushed back.

He looked upwards waiting for her arrival but that didn't happen, there was no sign of her.

'Is this still not enough for you?'

He thought as he looked towards his hands, not willing to lose the one advantage he had from the knowledge of the novel, he decided to do one thing which could further increase his elemental awakening.

He tried to take every last bit of mana that he could from his surroundings and the Dress of Ishvar, he focused hard to gather it all on his hands. his nose started bleeding and the headaches started coming back, he felt like he would lose consciousness any moment now.

But biting his tongue till it started bleeding, he focused on his mana, he watched as the black fog around his fingers turned into sharp nails, and with that he stabbed his chest.

Blood started dripping from his chest, but ignoring the pain, he continued to focus on learning the one thing Rio from the novel was able to do when fighting against the assassins from the Church of Cassandra.

'Rio did it when he was losing the fight, and now I'll show you that I'm better than him.' he thought as he started using the mana infused in his body.

*** The suction of mana from his heart, as every awakened had some mana infused in their blood & bones, they could use it in case of emergency. This was an imitation of how aura users could use their blood fusion or life force.

-This was a technique that was found by Adventurer Association, who saw it being used by some monsters in a tower stampede. They later experimented with it, and released it. Though harmful to your body, it can indeed save your life in an emergency situation.

—

Though he never did it, nor did he have any control over his mana like those rankers, but with the help of pura corpus potion he could feel the mana much better than others his age.

As he tried to fuse more mana from his heart into his element, the darkness started taking a red hue looking like his blood mixed in. But before he could see what it was, suddenly he felt a pressure that pushed him on his knees.

The pressure felt so intense that when he tried to just slightly move his hand, he could feel his bones getting crushed. A painful scream left his mouth as the hand that was still stuck on his chest fell down broken by that insurmountable weight.

Despite the pain Rio had a smile on his face as he had finally done it. He got her attention.

He heard the cracking of the glass ceiling, soon it broke and all pieces of shards started falling all around him. The black fog which was trapped by the runic glass finally found a way out and spread all around the place.

The sun which was high in the sky started getting dimmer as a new darkness started covering all the sky, the day had turned into a night all around the mountain, where mana chambers were built on.

'She's here.'

Rio thought as he looked at the changing sky, and felt the pressure on him gone. He looked upwards and he could see the fog turning into a figure of a woman shrouded in darkness, the fog acted as a veil covering her, hiding her from this worldly plane.

Her aura exuded power, mystery, and darkness, making it hard to look away from her. All her features shrouded in a veil of shadows, with only her eyes visible. Her piercing red eyes were the only thing visible in the darkness.

Rio soon felt his eyes burning in pain, as if just looking at her figure was a crime and he wasn't worthy. He looked down as he felt, that if he kept doing that, he really would go blind.

As the pain in his eyes subsided, he noticed the wounds on his chest weren't bleeding anymore, as a veil of darkness had covered it. He could see darkness seeping into his open wounds and sealing it.

'Took you long enough.'

'Goddess of darkness & dreams, Nyx.'

'The one who gave Rio her blessing and later chose him as her avatar.'

'The one who stood with him against the world, and the one who died by Amelia's hands in a failed attempt to save him.'

'She was the last person who stood by his side, and when she died, Rio had truly become alone. I should try to think of a way to change her ending too. She is far too important alive.' Rio thought.

"Ohh Goddess who resides over the void. One of the Primordials, ruler of darkness and dreams, of shadows and secrets. Thank you for granting this mortal with your presence."

"I, who had awakened your element, your power, beseech you to Choose me as your follower, Bless me, my great Goddess Nyx."

"And I shall bring your darkness to the ones who follow the light. I shall let the world know the glory of night."

Rio praised the shadowy figure as he bowed down, and asked for her gift of power.

His gaze was fixed on the ground when he felt something on his broken hand, he looked at it but instead of that getting healed like his chest, he felt as if someone was scratching his hand with a hot knife, he looked at his wrist and saw a symbol of a dark on his hand. It was her sign, her symbol, and a mark of her blessing.

Rio could feel the power coursing through his body, making him feel stronger than ever before. He looked ahead and saw Nyx's shadowy figure fading away in the smoke. The sky outside started changing colors again, as the darkness started going away.

Rio kept his head bowed for some time, after that he tried to feel his own mana, he could sense it. The blessing of Nyx had increased his elemental awakening to a whole new level. He could feel the darkness, the connection he had with it. It felt like it had become a part of him now.

—

Far away from the place where Rio's awakening was happening, in the empire of believers Neisah, an old man dressed in a golden white coat looked towards the sun, which was still hidden by some dark skies, and opened his book as he said-

"Everything is just as it should be, my Lord. The last dark spawn has been born. We are ready for the birth of the Golden Sun. Hail the originator, the true God of Arcadia."

—

As Rio who finished his awakening, was finally ready to get up and walk over to his parents who had a shocked expression, he found himself floating in the air, screamed as he got pulled into the sky.

He squirmed trying to free himself from whatever held him in place, when he heard a sweet playful voice - "Why are you trying so hard to run away?"

Rio was confused as in the original novel, nothing like this happened, Nyx's arrival was already a big shock for the world, as she was one of the strongest Goddesses, but this didn't even happen in the novel.

"Who are you? What do you want?" Rio shouted, trying to break free.

He was startled and terrified, not knowing what was happening or who was speaking to him. He looked around frantically, trying to see who had taken him, but he couldn't see anything in the darkness. Fear and confusion gripped him as he struggled to understand what was going on.

He took a deep breath and focused his thoughts on the power of Nyx's blessing. He could feel the darkness within him pulsing, waiting to be unleashed. But before he could do that he heard that same voice again, this time sounding deep menacing and sinister.

- "Over the darkness, comes chaos, my dear mortal."

"You haven't forgotten that, have you?"

Rio's surprised look turned into horror as he heard those words and watched as the surroundings which were still somewhat covered in darkness, started morphing into a bloody red smoke. The sun, the dark fog, the sky everything was taken over by the red.

Chaos erupted all around him as the ground shook and building crumbled. Screams and roars filled the air, and Rio could see shadowy figures moving in the distance, their forms twisted and dark. In just a few moments, the empty mountain was now turned into a bloody war zone.

It was then that Rio finally realised who this new voice belonged to, and he couldn't help but curse it in his head , as he thought

'She's not supposed to be here.'

Chapter 44 Goddess Who Defines Mother Nature

When Rio heard her lines he realised who it belonged to. Someone who was not supposed to appear this early in the story. Someone whose interest in him could change all his plans and the story as a whole.

The Goddess of death and destruction, of creation and compassion. The one whose love had brought peace to the universe, and in whose anger even the cosmos crumbled.

The peak Of Gods from Hindu mythology, the one who was known as primordial, eternal, benevolent, and malevolent. The one who thrives in chaos, and watches over everything

The embodiment of creation and destruction in one entity. The one who defined mother nature in its purest form - **Kali**.

—

*** After the emergence when all worlds merged into Arcadia, conflicts started, not only between monsters and different races, but between different Gods of different worlds too.

- No one who had been praised as a superior being in their world, wanted to be lesser than anyone else in Arcadia, and so began the War of Gods.

- No one knows the details, but it was only after the world's will interfered and forbade them from fighting against each other and destroying the world, that the war was stopped.

- But even the world's will couldn't control all those raging Gods, so the concept of blessing and choosing avatar came. Now instead of fighting between themselves, and resulting in the destruction of everything, fights between their followers and champions started.

- This is why one should always be aware of everything before being an avatar, as then other Gods and their chosen ones would be coming after you. With the world system in place everyone on Arcadia was bound by this rule.

- With this, everyone got what they wanted - the Gods could still fight indirectly for their superiority, the world's will had gotten peace and made the world's system, and the people got the powers to fight monsters.

—

In the original book Goddess Kali was supposed to stand against Rio, and also helped in his downfall.

It started with her little rivalry against Nyx, who was known as the real ruler of darkness in Greek mythology.

Both of these Goddesses had similar powers and origins. But before their battle to see which one of them was truly superior could end, and they could decide a winner, the war stopped.

So when Goddess Kali learned about Nyx choosing an avatar, she too decided to find one. Fate who was always ready to push Rio further on his evil path, made a twisted joke, and Kali ended up choosing Amelia as her avatar.

At the beginning it was just friendly competition or a healthy rivalry between the 2 greater beings. But with time, Rio's descent into villainy caused a greater rift in their newfound friendship.

And at the end when Rio finally decided to take up arms against even the Gods, Kali had finally given up on trying to save him.

While Nyx saw no problem in supporting Rio, for Kali the lines he crossed were considered evil. And as the Goddess known for being the right and punisher of evil, she decided to stop him for good.

—

'And you can guess anyone's ending, when someone as overpowered as her becomes your enemy.'

'But why is she here?'

'She's not supposed to learn about me, till I become Nyx's avatar.'

Rio's thoughts started racing in his brain as all the plotline of Goddess Kali came into her brain. He couldn't figure out what it was that caused her to focus on him so early.

He was especially careful not to change anything that was related to Gods. This was the reason he only killed Noah and not the protagonist himself. As Leon got one God watching over him always.

He also didn't interfere in the mines where the **second phase of Emergence - 'Dance of a God's Soul'** was supposed to start. As he didn't want to take a risk of unwanted attention.

'What the hell changed?'

The uncertainty of not knowing was eating him up as he continued thinking about his every decision since the moment he arrived in this world. But he still couldn't figure it out.

—

It was then that Rio heard her voice again - "Are you thinking who I am?"

As soon as her gentle voice came, all the chaos in the surrounding calmed down like it was never there. The scene that looked like a blood rained warzone changed into a peaceful snowy mountain.

He could see a silhouette of a woman walking towards him from the top. No she wasn't walking, HE was getting pulled towards her.

It was then he realised even as the environment changed so much around him, he couldn't feel his body.

'An illusion maybe' Rio thought as he was still slowly floating towards the mountain peak.

—

Despite his obvious worries, a part of him was also stuck with awe and wonder as he thought of seeing goddess Kali.

'I never believed in Gods even when I was on earth. The only time I prayed to them would be when my parents or Ria forced me.'

'After her death the only time I went to temples would be when I needed to complain and vent out my frustrations.'

'I blamed Gods and my luck, but everyone does that, right.' Rio thought as he remembered his time on Earth.

—

But even if he was termed an atheist, the thought of seeing someone whom he had only watched posters or statues in temples, the Goddess whom billions of people prayed to daily, filled him with some unknown emotions.

'she was here, in front of him.'

'Well not here per se, as the world system separates the plane of existence, but still _ '

'How many of her devotees would kill to get a chance to see her, to hear her voice.'

'But fuck, WHY is she here.' Rio thought again as he pushed all those distracting thoughts away. He was feeling so many emotions and so many questions that his brain couldn't even sort them all out.

'Wait, does she know about me?'

'Is she the same from my Earth.'

'Is that why she's here'

Rio was lost in her thoughts as he heard her voice again, this time sounding much closer and calmer -
"Your thoughts are running quite fast, boy."

Rio looked ahead and he could see her. A silhouette of her, sitting atop her lion in her gentle form. She radiated a sense of calm and serenity that belied her fierce reputation. Just one look at her was enough to make Rio forget all about his worries and let go of them.

The figure was imposing and majestic, showing an aura of power and grace.

The snowy fog made it difficult to see her clearly, but he could make out a blurry image. Her eyes were closed, as if lost in meditation. Her long black hair flowed down her back like a river of darkness. Her red clothing was adorned with intricate patterns and golden symbols that seemed to shine in the snow. It looked as if she had plucked the stars and used them for decorations.

The lion on which she sat seemed to be a reflection of her strength. It was unlike any lion he had ever seen in any pictures or in TV's , with thick mane and golden furs, eyes which were gentle yet focused as if it could look through someone's soul, with its powerful muscles and sharp claws that seemed to rip the place apart when it touched the ground. Rio couldn't help but feel a sense of respect as he looked at the goddess and her mount together.

Despite Goddess Kali's gentle appearance as Goddess Gauri, Rio could sense the immense power emanating from her. Rio's mind was filled with wonder as he continued to stare at the silhouette of Kali, unable to take his eyes off of her.

For a moment, he felt as though time had stopped, and all that existed was him and the goddess before him. He could feel himself being in the presence of something truly divine, something that transcended his understanding of the world to a new different level.

—

Since Shiva never believed in Gods since his childhood, his father had forced him to read all the mythological books he could get to enlighten him.

Though it never really changed his opinions but only solidified his atheist beliefs. In Shiva's eyes either Gods only did what anyone else in those situations would've done, or in other scenarios they were just winners and got praised for their victory.

Plus the fact they were all stories which changed its meanings and portrayals every new generation. So no one even knew if they were true.

—

But since he still read all those stories, he knew enough about the Goddess in front of him to respect her, for she was a force of nature, and angering her would result in his instant death. So without thinking anything else he fell to his knees and kept his head down.

"This lowly mortal greets the Eternal Goddess. Ohh Trikaldarshi Devi (All-seeing Goddess), My life has found its meaning seeing your arrival. This follower has been enlightened. Your presence has brought _."

As Rio looked at her, his mind stopped working with all this development, so he started blabbering whatever words of praise came to his mind. He could feel it was embarrassing but he couldn't stop himself, but his prayers stopped, when the surroundings changed again.

Everything was back to being a warzone, he looked around but her figure disappeared from the mountain. Next second she appeared in front of him, as he heard a voice-

"Stop with the lies, kid."

"I hate it when my children lie to me."

In that moment, Rio got the biggest scare of both his lives, he saw her gentle form of Gauri changing into her other avatar of KALI, the one where her smooth skin started turned into a deep shade of dark blue, one where her silver pearls necklace turned into a garland made of skulls around her neck. Her gentle face and motherly aura was replaced with a fearsome and intimidating presence. Her hair which were silently flowing in the wind till now, were covered in blood and whipped around her like a raging storm. Her eyes were glowing in an intense red light, that made Rio feel as though he was looking directly into the very heart of the sun.

Rio's eyes were wide open in shock and fear as he wondered if he did anything wrong. He could feel the ground shake beneath his feet, or maybe it was his body that was shaking.

He saw four hands growing out of her shoulders and each of them was holding a different weapon, while one of them held a severed head of the hell Asura(demon).

When Rio saw a hand in which she held a machete coming towards him, he screamed on top of his lungs , the loudest he could, and lost his consciousness.

Chapter 45 No System For Our MC

When Rio came back to his senses, he found himself floating in the darkness. The peaceful feeling and surroundings had calmed his nerves somewhat but even after all this time passed his heart was still beating faster every time the figure of Kali appeared in his head. He could feel Goosebumps on his skin with just the thought of it.

'Fuck, just because this world setting was overall a little peaceful, I forgot how ridiculously dangerous anything can be here.'

'I thought if I avoided everything from the plot I'd be fine, but just one look from her was enough to scare me to death.'

'These Gods and their battle would end me, if I'm caught up in it.' Rio thought as he looked around, while wiping his sweat and trying to calm his breathing and shaking hands.

'Fuck their rivalry and competition, why was she even there.'

'Did Nyx blabber something'

'No, it couldn't be her, it should be them.'

'I should have just ignored everything and fucking leave.'

'Damn my luck and their powers.'

The questions about everything started coming back, Rio could think somewhat clear now so he could guess about how Kali came to know about him so early.

'It was probably because of those 3 sisters, Gauri have them on her back and call.'

'But even then why was she so angry, not like I did anything wrong. I mean my prayers were old, but they're cliched words.'

'Or does she know everything about my past now. Is that why she was angry.'

'Even then why was she in her battle form.'

As Rio remembered the last moment before he lost consciousness, the hand that was coming towards his neck with a fucking bloodied machete in it, Rio's body shuddered as his hands touched his neck. It took a moment for him to calm down, and only one thought was left in his brain-

'I should ignore everything that has anything to do with the plot now.'

'Fuck their treasures and techniques, if stealing them puts me in these guys cross hairs, then I better stay at my home.'

'Blake's have everything, I don't need to worry, even if I don't drag heaven's stuff, I should still be able to survive.'

'And where the fuck was Nyx, can't she see I was nearly dying there. Damn her, I should let her die like in the plot.'

'Damn my brain is gone, now'

[Well it was just an illusion] Rio heard a voice.

"Then the fuck was my system doing."

It was only after Rio said that, he realised that the voice didn't belong to Nashi like he thought. But someone else.

"Who are you?" Rio asked as he turned around but beside the darkness he couldn't see anything.

'Another illusion, fuck is that system doing.' Rio thought and cursed the world system.

***As it was the system's job to protect the user, so Gods couldn't interfere or meddle with the weak one's mind, and turn them into their followers to increase their faith power.

'Don't tell me I don't even get a system, since I'm not from Arcadia.'

As that thought came his mind started thinking about all the possible bad situations that could happen and he won't even have any protection.

'I should have known when I didn't feel any pain during the merging process, it was cause that shit didn't even merge. The world system connects with a soul, and since mine wasn't from this world. Fuckkkk. '

"No, I can't give up like this, let's try calling it."

"Status"

.

.

.

Rio called for the system and waited for a few seconds but nothing happened. He closed his eyes and lay down in the darkness. The world system should've responded but it didn't, and not having it would mean, his mind was without any protection against the Gods.

'Nyx might hold on for a little while, but who knows what she'll do after she learns about it. '

'Forget someone as overpowered as Nyx, any one of them Gods could just come and use me like a puppet, and I would have no chance to fight back.'

Rio felt like giving up, it was a smooth journey till now so he forgot about all the complications Arcadia has. And without the protection of the world system there was no way he could survive in it.

***The world system wasn't just used for showing your stats or mastery in skills, those were just extra additions. It's main job was to protect any awakener's mind from directly being influenced by any god, and help their weak bodies to adapt for Godly blessings. No one's body could handle the power and laws those Gods have learned, so the world system acted as a dam to stop the flood. Without it if anyone received a power too great and their bodies would turn into particles and merge into the world.

- The world system increased the mental protection so no God could control their avatar and take over them. This was what happened in the second phase of emergence.

—

Rio was feeling lost, the awakening that he wasted so much time preparing for had failed, the hopes and plans that he had were all crushed, all because he overlooked the simplest thing that was so obvious, HE didn't belong here.

He was so lost in his thoughts that he even forgot about the voice that he heard a little while ago. The only thing that was playing in his head were the lines about the ending planned for himself and Amelia.

He held no special love for his own new life, he had started caring a little about Artemis, Myra and Agnus, but the thought of failing Ria again was what haunted him the most.

"I miss you Ria." Rio said out loud as he remembered the last time when he heard her voice, the one where she wasn't blaming him but being caring for him. It was when he was dying back on earth. Though she may have been an illusion or a ghost, but even then he had started missing that too.

It was then that he heard a voice, the voice that he so longed to hear in Arcadia -

[DING] [TING] [TIDING]

[FINALLY , FOUND YOU.]

[DID YOU MISS ME???]

Chapter 46 Awakening Part 3 - His System

[DING] [TING] [TIDING]

[FINALLY , FOUND YOU.]

[DID YOU MISS ME???]

Rio stood up with a shock as he looked around frantically for the source of the voice, but still couldn't find anything.

[Hey, stop looking around like an idiot]

[And answer my question, did you miss me?]

Rio heard the voice again, same voice as her, the playful insults, the teasing tone - he was all too familiar with it. There were only very few people who would talk to him like that, and this voice belonged to someone he loved the most.

"R _ Ria" Despite his doubtful expression a smile came to his face, at the thought of seeing her again.

'Is it her ghost again or another illusion.' He thought as he started walking in the darkness faster hoping to see her again. It has been nearly a month in Arcadia and who knows how long in the darkness, that he hasn't seen her, and as always she was here for him when he was feeling lost again. His heart felt warm with that thought.

"Ria" He shouted as he still couldn't see her.

[Sigh, why're you calling her name now.]

[And can you please stop fooling around, I'm in your head]

Rio's steps came to a halt as he heard her voice, he was so happy to hear her voice again that he couldn't even focus from where it came from.

"What?" Rio said as his face turned serious, his voice sounding much colder than before as one possibility came to his mind, that it was all someone's illusion, that she wasn't real and someone was just playing tricks with his brain.

The memories of a scene that happened during one of his therapy sessions back on Earth came to his mind and the results it led to. Let's not talk about the therapist and his conditions after trying to use hypnosis on him to get rid of his trauma. That was why Shiva hated the therapy and never went there again.

[Can you stop with your depressing thoughts, It's ruining our reunion.] - Her voice sounded again in his head.

"What, sorry, I didn't mean to Ri_." As he heard her voice which sounded a little mad, almost instinctively he replied with an apology until he realised about the illusion again and stopped.

'Is it Kali, is this her way to say that she knows about my past.' Rio's fist clenched as he remembered his prior illusion of Goddess and thought this was her doing too. It made perfect sense in his mind as without the protection of the world system his brain was open for anyone to control and she was the only God near him during his awakening.

'If it's her then _ ' Rio's anger was rising as the thought of someone using Ria's memory to play tricks with him, was the worst thing to do. Fuck Gods and everyone else, she was off limits , for everyone.

His thoughts about anger were going haywire when he heard the voice again - [I'm not an illusion dummy, I only came because you called.]

"What, WHO ARE YOU?" Rio asked as he felt confused hearing her words.

[I'm your system. Didn't you call for me just now.]

[And then you didn't even answer my question when I came.]

Hearing the same tone as her, but then calling herself a system confused Rio. As no matter how capable the world system was, it wasn't capable of conversation, but here it was. Someone or something using the same voice as Ria claiming to be his system. He would've doubted the voice but as soon as it finished speaking a blue screen came in his view, it had the same viewing panel as the world system of Arcadia.

[Loading data . . .

Welcome Awakener

Status

Name - Rio Blake / Shiva Kumar

Age - 10 / 30

World - ???

Title - ???

Rank - Mortal --

Stats▼-

Skills▼-

Blessings ▼1

~~Quests~~ -

~~Shop~~ - ▼ 4

~~Inventory~~ -]

[So do you believe me now] the voice sounded again excited.

"The world system doesn't talk." Rio said as he started to calm down a little, the anger from before was there, but the doubts and possibility of the unknown got the better of him after he saw the transparent panel, so he decided to ask the voice.

[Ohh that's cause we aren't from the world called Arcadia, are we.]

[That's why I'm different]

"Why are you talking to me in Ria's voice?" Rio asked the question that bugged him the most, he could accept the unknown and everything, but the fact that this system was talking to him in Ria's voice was still questionable.

[Ohh that's because you wished for it.]

"Me, I didn't even know about you moments ago." Rio asked as he couldn't believe what that voice said.

[Not now, I was actually going to merge while you were in the darkness, but you got pulled out before it was supposed to happen.]

[While you were getting out, the last thing you asked for was to hear this girl's voice, so now that I'm here, as a sign of goodwill and my greatness, I learned it.]

The system's boastful words were cut short as Rio's cold voice reverberated in the darkness- "Change it."

[Did I get something wrong, I'm pretty sure I copied her perfectly though] the system was confused as it only followed what its host wished for.

The system had watched all of Shiva's memories while he was in the darkness, but it still couldn't understand why its host was now angry after hearing the voice he wished for in the darkness. *** It was because in the darkness even when Shiva went through all his memories, he had felt at peace and no regrets were haunting him after his death. But since he merged with Rio and started living in Arcadia and got to experience everything again in his visions and nightmares, all that pain and regrets came back.

—

"Change your voice, I won't ask it again." Rio said again, Though it felt nice to him to hear Ria's voice in his head again, but knowing she wasn't here, and it was just some system using her voice still couldn't sit well with his consciousness.

He had no problem with seeing her ghost or talking to that illusion, as he couldn't control it, but now knowing the system, he wasn't willing to let it have her voice and play with his emotions, it felt like cheating. It was like asking someone to cosplay as her and act like her just so he couldn't remember her and replace her with someone else. So he asked his newly awakened system to change her voice.

[Fine]

[Loading. . .

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Fuuhh, seriously you should learn to be calm a little. Your habits are really out of control these days.

You were so much calmer in the darkness]

The system spoke after changing her voice and way of speaking to another feminine voice, if before it's voice and personality was sweet, playful and teasing , then now it had changed into a gentle, calm and a little mature tone.

The system wanted to ask for its host's opinion but before it could do that, it felt that something was wrong with its host, and it made the system doubt if it had made another mistake somehow.

(What did I do now, it was only the 2nd voice he wished to hear. Don't tell me I have to change it again.)

The system thought as it could now feel the different raging emotions going through in Rio's head and when it saw the tightly clenched fists & his eyes turning red in anger, its premonitions came true.

(Fuck) was the last thought it could have before the system heard it's host's cold voice dripped in anger again.

Chapter 47 Talk With System -1

'Queency, just what I needed to increase my nightmates.' Rio thought as he massaged his temple.

"I will only say it once, change it this instant." Rio said as he took a deep breath to calm down, he really had enough of this sad trip down his memory lane daily nowadays. If somehow his system always talked in the voice of people whom he failed or the ones who failed him, he better not have it or would just put it on mute mode or something.

[Fine, then tell me yourself what you want. And you only get one chance so you better be smart about it.] System spoke without any stop, even it had enough of it's host.

It only chose the voices he wanted to hear, it hasn't even given it's own introduction yet and this idiot host is already complaining to him, so it decided to just ask him before deciding it himself like last time.

It could only change itself 3 times and it already wasted 2 chances because of this stupid host who doesn't even know what he wants.

"Fine, choose Ali then, I miss his idiotic jabs to ease my mind a little anyway." Rio said as the face of that idiot friend came to his brain.

Hearing his host's words system had a look of surprise as it never thought that it's host would like to hear a male's voice in his head all the time. That too the audacity of him to ask it to change into a man's voice. Can't he guess that I like a girl's voice seeing I chose those 2 from all his memories. So it decided to specify it's preference -

[No, I will only choose a girl's voice]

[Man are creepy]

Rio who was already imagining if having Ali's voice in his head is a good idea, was stumped after hearing his system's words.

'What is wrong with this system. Isn't it some AI like in those novels , and man are not creepy'

'I mean some are, but there's no need to rub it in on the first meeting'

"Then choose anyone else from my memories I don't care." Rio said as he lost interest in chatting again.

[Loading . . .

"Ohh don't you dare choose Aarvi's voice." Rio said in a hurry as he remembered about her.

'She's for Ali, not for me.'

The system choked on it's thoughts a little, as it really had shortlisted Aarvi's personality for future uses.

(I wanted to make my own different personalities later with every update, but I already wasted 2 of my chances, sigh whatever, I'll let it slide since he's new) The system thought and praised himself for being the generous and started the search again.

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[. . .

"What's taking so long, you picked Queency's voice in a heartbeat." Rio asked as he watched the big searching data symbols on his status screen.

[I have certain standards, so I had to dig a little deeper to find one which suits me]

[It was my last chance, I don't want to stuck with a voice I don't like]

The system's voice sounded after Rio finished his question.

'So it picked the energetic cheery type voice, which I hate'

'Is it my luck or is this system useless'

[I'm not useless, it was just hard to find a nice girl in your memories]

'Just wow, now I'm stuck with this'

"So who's voice did you pick." Rio asked as he couldn't recognize it.

[You don't even remember it]

"I don't know maybe it's from some tv shows or movies maybe. I did watch a lot of them." Rio replied to his system's voice as even when he focused he couldn't remember if he ever heard this voice.

(That's weird) System thought but decided to ignore his host's answer thinking it was due to his cracked brain where it was stuck in all this time.

[If you don't remember then leave it.]

[Now let me introduce myself again]

[I am the great _]

System's great intro was cut short as Rio questioned something that he couldn't focus before because of Ria's voice. - "You said you were with me from the darkness, then why didn't you just come out when I woke up or when I called for it on the first day."

(This bas_ hmm hmmm) System felt angry as it's introduction was cut short again. But as always it decided to be generous on this newbie host and explain itself.

[Well that was because we aren't from this world and I had to wait till your awakening, so Arcadia's world system doesn't detect us.]

"So you're scared of the world system,are you." Rio said in an amusing tone, though it didn't matter to him if his system had nothing, he could make it all work as long as no Gods could influence his behavior. But since this system was the one who made him go through his memories of Queency that he ignored till now, he decided to tease it for fun.

[I'm not scared of anybody. Where do you think world system is now. If not for me taking it over during the merging process, you would've been found out and probably killed.] System said in her defense as its host doubted it's capabilities. It took pride in her powers to defeat the system made by this world's will in its own world. How many people can do that. Even those so called Gods are bound by the world system but it had defeated it.

(Come on, praise me. I know I'm awesome right.) The system thought as it saw Rio lost in thoughts. But sadly it's dream of could never come true as Rio completely ignored it's existence and barraged her with all the questions he could think of.-

"You said I got pulled into Arcadia earlier than I was supposed to. What does that mean? Was me coming to this world fixed? Who sent me here? What do they want? Why me? Who are you an AI, or something else? Ohh and according to you when was I supposed to come to Arcadia and what changed it?"

System heard all these questions and didn't know how to respond.

(Don't all hosts feel happy after getting a system & praises it. Why do I feel like I'm getting investigated instead.)

(And what does he mean AI, I'm clearly me. Can't he feel my emotions as I can feel his. And I would've told him all about the great me, if he hadn't interrupted me .)

"Hey, you there. Or you went offline again." System which was lost in its thoughts was pulled out, just to be insulted again.

(Offline and me _ deep breaths deep breaths)

(Don't be angry, he's a newbie)

(He doesn't know anything, ignore his ignorance.)

(Once he knows what I can do, he will be begging for my favor, yeah that's right. I'm not on his level so I should just guide him, isn't that why he sent me here.)

[Fine, I will answer all your questions, but don't interrupt me again, you foolish host.]

'Damn is this a virus. Will she grow and take over my body.' Rio thought and as expected system's angry voice sounded in his brain [I can read all your thoughts, so you can stop with your experiments now and listen to my explanations.]

As the system said Rio could feel something different with himself if he started focusing hard, so he just wanted to see if the said system could also read all his thoughts and emotions too. But this interruption only made it angry and Rio decided to continue it later.

[So to answer your questions yes, your arrival was fixed in Arcadia. Though your timing of arrival has been altered because you died early.]

[I can't tell you who is responsible for your reincarnation or why they chose you for it, since we both aren't ready for the truth yet.]

[As for me, I'm a highly intelligent being sent by an even higher being, to guide you and help you on your journey. If you want to learn more do your quests and upgrade the system.]

[As for when you were supposed to come here, it was when the plot starts, so you're like 8 years early]

Hearing all her explanations Rio got some of the answers or atleast a hint behind his reincarnation but still it gave birth to even more mysteries and questions. Why was he chosen to come to Arcadia? Who is the being system spoke of? Is it the author of the novel? They were going to reincarnate me after plot started into Rio's body, who would already be known as a Devil by then, do they want me to end up just like in the book. And what does it mean he came early because he died - it was not his fault that he died. That guy Kevin killed him.

[I know what you're thinking, so let me explain how it was all your fault that you died.]

[Because you broke the rule 101 of living in any world _]

Chapter 48 Talk With System - 2

[I know what you're thinking, so let me explain how it was all your fault that you died.]

[Because you broke the rule 101 of living in any world, you messed with the protagonist.] The system spoke and before Rio could ask anything else, it confirmed his doubts-

[Yes, Kevin was the protagonist. Your role on earth was just a nobody in the train scene. But instead of acting like how a normal man should act and get angry over it, which could lead to a fight where protagonist needed to show off his capabilities, you kept silent.]

[After ruining his one plot, when heavens tried to fix it by adding another fight scene, you somehow jumped into the scene of that kidnapping and ruined his plot to save the school beauty too.]

[If that wasn't enough you also went nuts and picked a fight with him for no reason. So as a punishment heavens decided to alter the plot's direction and it led to your untimely death.]

Hearing the system's explanation of the reasons behind his death didn't surprise him much now. He could already guess Kevin being a protagonist with his high luck and stupid cliché plots, but what surprised him were other details. So he decided to ask the only one who could answer it for him - "I only acted like how I usually would that day. The fight with those goons and Kevin had their reasons. Those goons were kidnapping a girl and my mood was off. Fighting with Kevin was only because he was wearing that bracelet. Both incidents were because of stuff that happened with me years ago, it wasn't sudden so shouldn't heavens already know about it. And why would I be in that plot. I was a nobody."

[You were only part of his story because the plot needed a reason to pit Ali against Kevin. At first it was decided to happen because of Aarvi's interest in Kevin after he saved that school beauty near her company, but due to your alterations it was changed with your death which would start Ali's enmity.]

[As for your unique behavior, heavens aren't omnipotent. They only care about their chosen ones, what happens in the life of nobody's like you, has no interest to them. And that is why they never expected some extra character to jump in between and ruin 3 plots continuously]

[Do you get it now?] System asked as even it felt that heaven's were too stupid to do this.

"So my death will lead to Aarvi meeting Kevin and Ali turning into a villain." Rio asked as he thought about the consequences of his anger. His only friend would lose his love, and his life to that lucky bastard. All because he was too high in his stress to notice anything wrong and acted on a whim.

[It's not your fault. Even if you did nothing, the plot would still progress smoothly and Ali would still be forced to stand against Kevin. It was his fate to be a stepping stone for him. Your death only fueled his hatred much early.] The system tried to clarify thingsthings when it noticed it's host acting weird again.

Rio tried to calm down, he did feel anger towards Kevin and the heavens who made the plot, he felt worried thinking what'll happen to Ali and Aarvi next. He could guess their ending but there was nothing he could do about it now. So he asked the other important questions -

"So I wasn't supposed to die like this. And since I died early I got sent into the Arcadia early." Rio asked as he remembered that according to system he was supposed to wake up in Arcadia when the plot started.

[No. Even if you died early you would've just been stuck in the darkness till the fixed time, but something went wrong again and you got pulled out much faster.]

"The curse, that wasn't mentioned in the novel. Is that the reason."

[I don't know the answer to that question. I was also in the darkness with you remember.]

[If you update the system, I might be able to answer all your questions.]

"And why should I do that. I don't even know anything about you."

[You should know that without me you will be turned into a puppet for any random God and you could do nothing. Plus as I said my only purpose is to guide you, if you don't want my help, I simply would not help.]

(Not like I want to work overtime.)

[You're living in the world where different planets collapse together and Gods exist, if you update the system enough, who knows you might be able to go back to Earth]

"Just tell me one thing, is the author of the novel the one who sent me here and you to help me." Rio asked as he still couldn't believe he was inside a novel.

[Yes and no, it's a complicated question. You need answers, so do some work to get them.] System said simply as it was obvious, it did not have permissions to tell him anything.

"So what does he want me to do? Help protagonist or kill him."

[Nothing, he wants nothing from you.] System laughed a little thinking what this puny mortal could do for that great being. It was a joke in system's eyes. But ignoring this system continued on with its demand -

[I, who's your system on the other hand, wants you to ruin the heaven's plan anyway you see fit.]

[Any changes you make in the story will result in corresponding points depending on their effects on the plot, and you can use those points for whatever you want.]

[Since you've read so many novels, you already know everything about basic system stuff. So I won't waste my time explaining the full details.]

[As you can see the status screen of mine is similar to that of world system, it is just so no one could spot any difference, even if they look at it closely.]

[Other than the things world system can do and show, you get a shop function. Where you can buy and sell whatever you want, with the set price and no bargains of course.]

[Inventory is the same as you think, it can store all non-living stuff.]

[If you want to earn some extra points and rewards, you can choose to finish some quests which the system will issue on certain situations. It is entirely your decision to do them or not, I cannot force or influence you in anyway. If you reject the quests you would not be punished, but you would lose your rewards.]

[But sadly for you all these funtions can only be accessed once the plot starts. So you should wait till then.] System tried to explain all it's funtions in the simplest terms to save time.

Status

Name - Rio Blake / Shiva Kumar

Age - 10 / 30

World - ???

Title - ???

Rank - Mortal --

Stats▼-

Skills▼-

Blessings ▼1

~~Quests~~ -

~~Shop~~ - ▼ 4

~~Inventory~~ -]

"But what're these , I can already see some items on the shop icon on my status." Rio asked as he saw the 4 written near shop icon.

[Those are items which have nothing to do with the plot, and more to do with you. They're issued by the being who sent me here, while we were in the darkness.]

[You should check them before you ask anything more.]

—

Status

~Shop~

Item 1 . Healing potion

Item 2 ???

Item 3 ???

Item 4 ???

—

Rio looked at the shop menu and was surprised to see only one item, shining on the screen. While other 3 items were grayed out and only question marks were visible in their place.

"What the, hey you broken or what? Where are the items?" So he asked the system.

[The other items will be unlocked when you meet the certain requirements to open them.]

Rio looked at the healing potion, and clicked on it. It gave him the full description of the item.

Item 1 - Healing Potion

- The rushed soul merging had damaged your mind. This will result in future nightmares, loss of controls over any of your persona and their emotions. With time the damage would affect your brain more and more, and stops you from focusing on one thing. This potion heals you completely, it frees you from all your troubles and calms your soul.

- So be a good little boy and drink this potion, only for 5000 points.

Rio read everything and it was fine till he saw the last line. "Why you asking points as soon as you came. Can't you give it to me like some starter package gift."

[Free gifts don't drop from the sky my greedy host. And the system is already giving you free protection against the Gods isn't that enough.]

[As for these items, they are issued by the being, as a bonus gift to you, you can never find them anywhere else. It is up to you if you want to buy them or not.]

"So how many points do I have now. I already messed up quite some stories of the plot."

[Calculating. . .

[Checking world data. . .

[Host has solved the Evil Scion's members hiding in Damascus - 300 points]

[Host has finished the Beric Zastan plotline - 1000 points]

[Host has altered the fate of Esme Scarlett - 300 points]

[Host has altered the fate of Erza Scarlett - 100 points]

[Host has altered the fate of Chiron the beehive Berserker - 500 points.]

[Host has created the potion of pura corpus, stealing the chance heaven designed for protagonist - 1500 points]

[Host has stolen several gifts prepared for the chosen ones by heaven's - 1000 points]

[Host has altered the fate of Asher Vridal - 200 points]

[Total points - 4900 points]

"What, I did all that and I only get this much."

"Why is Esme's points so little, and what about me stealing his sword technique, or about getting Kali's attention didn't that change the plotline."

[Need I remind you host that no matter what you do before the plot starts, you will only get minimum points, cause heavens has a chance of altering the plot and getting the same results back. Just like they did on Earth.]

[To explain the point distribution, the more irreversible effect it has on plot and important people in it, the more points you get]

[That's why you got more points for finishing a complete plot line for Beric Zastan, as he is dead now and even heavens won't be able to bring him back.]

[For Esme you only changed her plot direction for a little while, since her plot could still salvage itself and return to the way of heavens, you got no rewards.]

[You would've gotten Goddess Kali's attention before the plot began anyways, so it hasn't changed anything related in the plot.]

[As for moonshadow sword technique, you have only stolen the key to enter the location, if you think that can stop a protagonist then you're solely mistaken]

"What, what about Chiron. He was the one who saved the protagonist on that journey, without him Leon would've died."

[You're forgetting that Chiron's only role was to give protagonist the key and later used as a sacrificial pawn. The protagonist can still get the key and get the other person who was there to sacrifice themselves. You haven't changed anything until that happens.]

[This is why I said that the points you get before plot starts are nothing, compared to what you get when plot starts or you finish the quests]

[Had you did all these things once the plot began you would've been rolling in the rich amounts of points, but sadly it's all a waste]

"So even after all this time and preparation I didn't even get enough points to buy your potion to heal myself." Rio was contemplating that if system had awoken early he would've done things differently. But he didn't regret much as it was still much better than system's wishes of him not changing anything and start acting when he's already known as a devil.

While Rio was busy thinking his future plans, system got some warnings on its screen & nearly got a fake heart attack. [WARNING] [WARNING]

[Major changes detected in plot...]

(The fuck _)

[Checking world data. . .

[Host has finished the plotline for The Seer Noah Winston

[Host has altered the fate of himself

[Host has altered the fate of Esme Scarlett

[Host has altered the fate of Baron Misha Winston

[Host's actions has brought major changes in heaven's plan

[Host has gotten the attention of Goddess Cassandra

[Host has gotten the attention of Goddess Skuld of the Norns

[Host has gotten the attention of Goddess Gauri

[Host has gotten the attention of...

[Host has gotten the attention of ...

[...

[...]

[...]

[Host has gotten the attention of God Apollo]

[Calculating rewards]

[Calculating. . .]

[TOTAL POINTS -

[Goddess Nyx laughs at the actions of her follower]

(The fuck is wrong with this host)

Chapter 49 Death Of Noah

Some hours ago,

In the lively and bustling market, the air was filled with the scent of various herbs and flowers, the sounds of merchants calling out their wares. The colorful stalls lined the streets, showcasing a variety of goods, from vibrant fabrics and intricate jewelry to aromatic food and exotic trinkets.

The crowd cheering for the group of people performing the magic tricks and playing circus. Among the hustle and bustle, a young boy, full of energy and excitement, darted through the crowd, his eyes wide with wonder.

The boy eagerly explored the market, his laughter mingling with the ambient chatter. He eagerly sampled the mouthwatering street food, savoring the flavors that danced on his tongue. His small hands

clutched tightly onto a bag of freshly roasted nuts as he weaved through the maze of people, his gaze darting from one intriguing shop to another.

He was Noah Winston, Son of Baron Misha Winston, who ruled over one fourth of the Harendale city. His father managed the very market he played in. Gale market was like his second home. All the shop and stall owners feared his dad and thus no one ever bothered him or his friends. But the naive kid thought that fear was respect and loved his father.

Noah continued to play around with his friends, their laughter echoing through the bustling market square. They played games of tag, chasing each other through the narrow alleyways and ducking beneath the colorful awnings of the shops, their carefree spirits lifted the atmosphere, creating a sense of joy and camaraderie.

As the sun began to set, casting a warm glow over the market, Noah finally felt tired, his boundless energy beginning to wane. He bid farewell to his friends, his steps gradually slowing as he made his way back home, unaware of the watching eyes that followed his every move from the very beginning.

—

Noah's life had been simple from his childhood, after his mother's death while giving birth to him, his father married another girl and she gave birth to twins. Though Noah wasn't her son, she had never let him feel that loss and acted as her real mother. His friends too liked him and were very eager to play with him daily.

But despite all this there was one person who never liked him his big sister Kathrine Winston. She blamed him for her mother's death and always called him the bad child. She would always bully him and all this only increased after her awakening ceremony. She had awakened the powerful ice ability and since then her mood had become even more colder. That's why Noah likes to stay away from her.

Today too after seeing her sister who stayed at home to help their father, he secretly went out to play with his friends, just to be away from her.

'I really hope I don't see her today.'

Noah prayed as he made his way towards his house, outside the market.

Unbeknownst to him, hidden within the shadows of the market, someone watched his every move with a calculating gaze. Their eyes gleamed with an unsettling intensity as they observed the his innocent joy, plotting something sinister in the depths of their mind. With each step the child took, this mysterious figure lurked, their presence shrouded in darkness, their intentions unclear.

—

As Esme observed Noah, her heart wavered with conflicting emotions. The worry for her sister's life hung heavy on her shoulders, intertwined with the guilt of the impending act she was about to commit. Watching Noah's carefree laughter and innocent play, a pang of doubt began to creep into her mind.

Though she had killed many before, but killing an innocent child was first for her, she remembered the first time she killed someone, it was during their training in the clan when she was forced to kill some humans and drink their blood to properly awaken her bloodline abilities.

She recalled the words of Rio, the command to end Noah's existence echoed in her ears, along with a chilling reminder of the stakes at hand if she failed. She was sure that if anything happened to Rio, she would never see her sister again, Artemis would simply not allow it.

In her mind's eye, she pictured her sister's face, and Rio's face as the fear and desperation etched into her very being. The thought of losing her, of failing to save him, fueled a flicker of determination within Esme's core. She reminded herself of the desperate circumstances that had brought her to this precipice. She clenched her fists, steeling her heart against the doubts that threatened to consume her.

In that fleeting moment, Esme's resolve hardened, her eyes reflecting the determination that burned within her. Though her heart ached, she steeled herself against the torrent of emotions, drawing strength from the image of her sister's face and the whispered promises of a brighter future.

—

She had been watching Noah daily for the past week looking for a chance, and today was the perfect opportunity for her. She had already wasted enough time doing nothing and roaming around the whole city so no one could find any trace of her.

As the distance between them narrowed, Esme's grip tightened around the knife she held, her fingers tracing the cold metal with a mix of anticipation and trepidation.

She first created a barrier around the empty street so no one could see what was happening inside, and then with a swift motion she lunged at Noah, her knife ready to pierce his heart and end his suffering in one attack, but sadly for her, fate had given Noah a helping hand as the body armor he wore just to be safe from his big sister's beating shone in golden light and stopped the attack, but the force behind that was still enough to send Noah crashing into a wall.

Esme was surprised as she saw no armor like this in the past week when she used different methods to examine Noah, but instead of feeling flustered she tried to attack him again. She moved like a wind as she appeared in front of Noah and tried to slash his neck, but the armor stopped it too. She saw the necklace around his neck glowing in red and knew it was probably some kind of warning sign that she triggered, which meant soon more people would come here.

Despite looking at the terrified look on Noah's face, Esme didn't stop herself and continue attacking at the same place.

Though Noah was afraid he remembered his father's words, and tried to act strong.

"You little thief, how dare you attack me."

"I'm your young master Noah Winston."

"My family would kill you."

Ignoring the idiots rambling Esme continued with her attacks, each attack of her was lightning fast and precise, so much so that Noah's chest was caved in now, though his armor stopped all attacks but the force behind it still pushed half of Noah's body into the wall.

Esme's attack speed increased as she felt some people coming towards her way. She remembered Rio's words about how she would only get one chance to kill him, and if she failed what would be the consequences. With a renewed vigor she used half of her mana as she coated her knife and plunged it into the armor, with a cracking sound the armor started to shatter around Noah heart.

Along with that armor, the naivety of Noah's young mind that he'll be fine shattered in pieces too, giving way to an overwhelming sense of vulnerability and despair. Tears streamed down his face, mingling with the traces of snot as his cries for help echoed through the desolate place.

"Wh_ who are you?

"Please don't kill me?

"Someone Father please

" Mommy save me.

""Poonhh He shit himself as he begged his attacker for mercy-- "Please don't kill me, I'm just a kid."

With each sob that escaped his trembling lips, Noah's heartache and desperation became painfully evident. When Esme grabbed his collar and pulled him out of the wall, Noah desperately scanned the surroundings with his tear filled eyes, hoping to see some righteous hero who came to save him like in those stories, but he couldn't see anything.

As he saw Esme pulling out another knife from her storage ring and coating it in mana, he begged her for one last time -"Please, I'm _."

His cries were ignored as Esme plunged the knife deep into his chest, the pain that Noah felt was too much for his little brain to handle, that he couldn't even scream properly.

He missed his family, his parents, he missed his bullying sister - but no one came to save him. He cursed his luck, his fate and his family for not protecting him.

He stared at his attacker's face covered in a black mask that only showed his big red eyes.

'Devil' Noah didn't know why, but that word came to his mind as he looked into those eyes. He could see his death in them and lost all hope.

But fate had other plans for him, It was then that he felt a sudden surge of energy entering his body. His wounds started to close itself slowly and he could feel somewhat better than before.

When he opened his eyes a little bit he could see his attacker fighting with someone, his body had gone numb from the pain but in his heart a hope rekindled that maybe he could survive if held on to his life.

But that hope was soon lost too as he felt his body floating in the air, and blood leaking out from his chest again. Noah watched as his blood started moving in air towards his attacker.

He could feel his body shriveling up as he looked at his attacker who had black wings coming out of his back now.

"De__vil" He could only mutter this as he looked into the shining red eyes of his attacker, before he closed his eyes for forever.

[If anyone's wondering why Esme who was an A rank couldn't even kill an 8 year old easily. so for that there are certain reasons - first she wanted to give Noah a quick & painless death. --she wanted to avoid the use of mana, as then there might be some traces left behind which could be used to track her, with some artifacts. --- physical attacks were stopped by the armor. ---- She wanted to avoid using her bloodline abilities which are her main attacks.

Chapter 50 World While He's Lost In Awakening

While Rio was going through his awakening his parents who were watching by the sidelines had worried expressions on their face. Myra was now biting her lower lip in nervousness as the ceremony continued. As Artemis looked at the pain Rio would've gone through in the transformation phase, she clenched her fists and cursed the Gods for making awakening like this. Agnus was worried too, but tried not to show his expressions as he tried to keep himself busy by double checking every mana and security formations.

Amelia who was still in the barrier was put to sleep by Artemis, as she didn't want her to see or hear her brother in pain. Artemis only brought Amelia, thinking Rio might like it. But since he was now busy in his awakening, there was no need to scare Amelia.

***[The awakening is known to be painful & scary, so usually in churches & every other place where ceremony is held, no one who hadn't gone through awakening is allowed anywhere near. Just so they don't feel scared or get traumatized enough to not even go through their awakening & back out. Plus the fear, hesitation, doubt these emotions can affect your state of mind and you might fail during the merging process.]

Soon the transformation process ended and merging process began, as with a scream Rio held his head and bent down. Everyone present knew how painful it would be, but there was nothing anyone could do to help him. So they could just pray for his success, but even after some time passed there was no reaction from Rio after that.

'Did he fail?'

This one thought came into everyone's brain, but their question was answered when his eyes shone in blue color. It only lasted for a moment and anyone would miss it if they didn't look for it, but everyone present in the room had their full attention on Rio so much so that they even forgot to blink, as they watched his eyes, it put their minds at ease. This was the sign of successful merging.

"How?" Artemis asked as she was confused about how fast it ended. While Myra still couldn't get out of the shock that he didn't fail, and passed the merging so easily. Agnus just smiled watching that and puffed out his chest, feeling proud over his son and happy for his successful awakening.

Though they were all confused about why the merging, which was known as the most painful step in awakening was done, without Rio going through any painful experience, no one complained about it.

Or maybe they didn't have the time to do so, as seconds after that Rio started channeling his mana from his body and started his elemental awakening. It didn't take long for them to get out of their stupor when they saw black fog starting to materialize in the room and starting to spread everywhere.

Instead of getting worried or scared when that pitch black darkness started to consume everything and collided against the safety barrier, his parents had a smile on their face.

"My son's a genius."

Artemis declared with a happy smile that would put everyone else to shame and make them lose their focus, but bad for her that there was someone who had grown immune to her charms over the years. Agnus scoffed at her words and said - "You're forgetting the blood of Blake's runs in his veins, he is born to be strong."

Artemis's smile stiffened hearing that and she glared at her husband, who looked even more proud than before. How that was even possible at this point was something she couldn't understand.

Despite the odd behavior a smile was ever present on their faces as they let go of all their worries. They were just waiting for Rio's mana to run out, so they could go ahead and congratulate him, when something unexpected happened, Rio started gathering all his mana and stabbed himself.

"What happened?"

"Is that the mana suction method."

It took a moment for them to understand what happened and what Rio wanted to do.

"Did he lose control." (Agnus)

"I'm going to stop him." (Artemis)

'What are you doing Rio.' Myra thought, as the one who followed him almost everyday for last couple of weeks, she knew there was something different about him ever since he woke up from the curse, Artemis even inspected his body herself once when he was asleep, but they didn't find anything abnormal and let him be.

But never had anyone expected something like this to happen.

Artemis and Agnus went out of the barrier to help Rio, while Myra stayed there to protect Amelia. They only took two steps out when they were hit by a new wave of darkness.

"Who even taught him that." (Agnus said while trying to cut off all the surrounding mana)

"He must have learnt it by himself." Artemis replied.

Despite the rampaging mana, when Artemis was just about to reach Rio, she was pushed back by a sudden shift in pressure.

Artemis wanted to try and find Rio, but it felt like she couldn't even take one step from her place.

They both watched as the ceiling broke and the entire surroundings were drowned in the new darkness, so much so that now even after coating their eyes in mana they weren't able to see anything.

Agnus was about to flare up his mana to try and find Rio when he heard his voice and decided to stop.

"Ohh Goddess who resides over the void. One of the Primordials, ruler of darkness and dreams, of shadows and secrets. Thank you for granting this mortal with your presence."

Though his voice sounded weak and barely above a whisper, both his parents were able to hear it clearly. And it shocked them to their core.

Getting a blessing from any God just after their awakening was already rare, but getting one from someone who was on the level of being called a primordial was unheard of.

Yes, they were still worried about Rio's safety, but instead of acting out and possibly angering a strong Goddess, they chose to wait till it was done. And then they could ask Rio or check it themselves.

**[A/N - If you're wondering why they didn't doubt how Rio knew about some God's arrival or which Goddess it was, It's cause before some Gods come to bless you, world system would inform the awakener of their attention to him and their arrival.]

It didn't take long when they felt the pressure on them gone and they could move again. With a gust of wind Agnus was already in front of Rio, who was now lying on the floor unconscious.

Artemis too came and checked for any wounds on Rio in a hurry, her face was ashen pale and eyes moist, her hands were shaking as she removed the bloodied dress of ishwar from his upper body to see the wounds. The tears she were holding back till now, finally fell down as she saw no sign of any wounds and hugged him tight.

"He's fine Artemis. He just lost consciousness due to mana loss." Agnus said as he placed his hands on her shoulder and continued - "Lets bring him back home first." Artemis nodded her head in response and walked back to Amelia as Agnus picked Rio up and started moving out.

At Blake Mansion

It's been 6 hours since Rio has been sleeping and hasn't woken up. Artemis was still standing near his bed just like that day of his curse, but she wasn't worried today.

They've thoroughly examined Rio's body and found nothing wrong. There was nothing wrong with his awakening and he had become quite stronger than before, his body was just exhausted from exerting total mana and needed some rest.

She had heard from Myra about how Rio would constantly have nightmares in his sleep past few days, but now looking at his face, she found it peaceful. He had a calmness on his face, like he felt at peace now. And it calmed her too.

'What're you hiding Rio.'

Artemis thought, as she held a letter about the report she got from one of her special guards Camilla, who was tasked with following Esme's every move.

Though she had promised Rio to let her go free, but Artemis was someone who never liked loose ends, how could she let some spy who's been working in their house for so many years, go free with all that knowledge and secrets - just cause her 10 year old son asked her to.

No, she was far too smart to make idiotic newbie mistakes like these.

Maybe she would have given in to Rio's requests before, but after his curse incident she didn't trust anyone. Especially someone who's been lying to everyone for so many years.

Thus Artemis had sent her best tracker to follow Esme's every move & kill her on instant, if she was to be found sharing any secrets of Blake family.

Though Artemis had used Truth Orb on Esme, but she still liked to be careful. And the reports she got on first week proved her points true. 'She's keeping an eye on Baron Misha's house.'

By the second report it turned into 'She's scouting everyone in his family' . Artemis was too familiar with this pattern, after all she was the one who taught it to every shadow guard.

Artemis burned the letter in her hand as she finished reading it.

'The vampire attacked & killed Baron Misha's kid. Baron fought with her, but survived due to his security teams who intervened. She had to run away by using her bloodline ability. She's flying back using her shadow's crest now. Should I cut her wings, or let her rest in the nest.'

***[**Shadow's Crest**, is a mark given to every shadow guard in Blake Family, which after getting supply of mana - shows a map with locations of some safe houses called "**Shadow's nest**" These are mainly prepared for them to be used in case of emergency or some special missions. They're hidden from public's eye, and equipped with all kinds of necessary stuff.]

"Just how many secrets are you hiding Rio, and why?"

Artemis looked at Rio's sleeping face which had a mild smile on it now, with gentle hands she carefully fixed his tousled hair, she leaned forward and gave his forehead a tender kiss. It was a gesture of pure love, a silent sign that she would always be there to protect and support him - no matter what secrets and emotions he held within.

Rio unaware of her presence and his little blip of lies kept sleeping peacefully, but he still smiled unknowingly for that warmth and love he felt some moments ago.