LOA Nobody 51

Chapter 51 Talk With System - 3

[Host has finished the plotline of The Seer Noah Winston _

'So Esme did it huhh. Guess his plot armor wasn't as invincible as I thought it would be.' Rio thought as he looked at the notification of Noah's death again.

[Loading

[Checking world data

[. . .

"How long will it take." Rio said as he waited curiously to see how many points he'll get for messing up the world's plot to that level.

Killing Noah doesn't just stop the prophecy of his future from happening, but also changes all the events that he takes part in later cause of this chain start.

His death had undoubtedly changed the fate of his friends, his family, his goddess and those stupid followers of hers. Without Noah's future visions the events and dangers protagonist survived would all be affected too.

Noah was someone who lived till the ending mid section of the novel, like around 700 something chapters. Now imagine if some character like that, someone who had so much importance and screen time got erased from existence before even prologue begin , then everything's fucked.

'This is what you get for fucking me up, and it's just the beginning.' - He looked upwards, though he couldn't see anything except darkness, he said while thinking about the heavens.

Though he still doubted the system and it's explanations, but having someone to blame and vent is always good than keeping his stress bottled up.

[Wait a little, don't you know how much you messed up] The system replied to his prior question.

Rio decided to have some small talk with system as he noticed that system could still talk while counting process was going on. "Tell me system, did you have any other hosts before me."

[Of course, I'm a professional.] System's voice sounded just as proud as before.

"So you just left them hanging and came to me." Rio asked as he smiled, imagining about some guy who woke up in the morning and lost his system.

[So you're worried if I will leave you one day, is that it.] System asked back in a serious voice , but then changed it into a teasing tone - (smilingly)

[Be careful SK or I might think you're getting attached]

"You're cheesy" Rio just shook his head and ignored this nonsense, but his carefree reactions were what surprised the system, it had used the exact words of someone from his past, someone whose personality it had chose and yet, there was no sign of any emotions or fluctuations on its host.

(So he really doesn't remember her huhh)

(Interesting)

System thought as it remembered the words of the one who sent her here to help him.

 "DON'T LOSE YOURSELF IN HIS MIND"

(Is this what he meant _)

System's inner thoughts were disturbed as Rio continued his question again - "Come on explain already. What happened to them"

[Ohh that, they died.] System replied back in its usual voice.

"Hahaha so you just wait till they die and move on huhh." Rio asked as his smile grew more.

[Funny, but everybody dies host. No one lives forever. Not even my hosts.] System replied in a monotonous tone as if it was obvious.

"Well , Maybe"

'You're lucky" Rio said thinking how easy it must be for an AI system to exist without any feelings. It could just keep moving and choosing different hosts every time it loses one, while humans can never truly replace the ones they loved.

[I feel emotions too host, and losing someone is never easy]

'Your emotions says otherwise' Rio thought as he noticed no difference in system's voice while saying that, but decided to leave it.

"Yeah, I know." Rio replied as he remembered about Ria's death and about his family on Earth again.

"Hey system tell me, is it true that I can go back to earth one day."

[Yes, host.]

"Then can someone from earth come to Arcadia." Rio asked the most important question that was bugging him from his first day in Arcadia. Ria and Amelia - was it possible.

[I know what you're thinking host, and I cannot answer that for you.]

[Maybe once the plot starts, but until then I really can't, I'm sorry.]

"It's okay. I guess."

"By the way, did you finish counting those points." Rio decided to change the topic as system's answer was as useless as he hoped it would be.

[I'm still checking that. Events this major aren't supposed to happen this early. I'm at level zero, so it'll take time for me to check the whole plot and calculate all possible scenario results.]

[But why did you do it host. Had he been alive till the plot starts, you could've earned way more points than what you will now. I might've even issued a quest with better rewards] The system asked as killing someone like that in one blow was a waste of points.

Hearing system's doubts,Rio just shook his head while saying - "And have the whole world against me, nah I'm good. I can always earn points since that guy got so many other people as his followers, but he had only one seer."

[True] System thought as it re-read all the plot in his brain and understood his point.

—

Rio getting bored of waiting, called for system again -"Can you give me that potion now."

[Aren't you doubting if it's true or not]

"Well whatever it is, it can't be worse than my ending in the book, right"

[True, author really hated Rio's character huhh] System said as it thought if Rio got that ending while having him by his side, it'll never be able to show it's face to anyone. (Maybe I'll give him a major quest to change it) -System thought.

"Yeah tell me bout it. Even from a reader who followed protagonist's perspective, I felt bad for him." Rio said with a sigh, as he remembered the ending of Rio in novel.

'That bastard must've really hated some Rio guy in real life, to write that kind of ending for him.'

"Well leave it. I'll change it anyway. So can you give me the potion or not. We both know I'll get way more than 100 points, even if you minimize it to the maximum.'

[Well the rules don't allow it, but who cares. You can take it now] System said as the shop icon shone in green and Rio saw potion added into his inventory status.

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 Status

Personal data▼

Stats ▼

~~Shop~~ ▼3

~~Inventory~~ ▼1

 Setting ⚙☐

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[But are you sure, you want to take it. Even I don't know it's effects, since it wasn't mine] System tried to warn him, or maybe indirectly saying that it won't take any blame, if that potion turned out to be a hoax.

"Whatever, I'm tired of my nightmares." Rio said in a depressed tone and continued - "I'll try and see. Not like I have any other choice."

[You do know that I can read your thoughts right] System said in a serious tone as it heard his thoughts and words, which were the exact opposite of each other.

Rio clicked his tongue. He wanted to see if he could somehow hide his thoughts from the system but just as before, it failed again. "If you can read my mind, then why are you even asking."

[Just wanted to hear your excuses]

[Don't feel bad, you want me to play a song for you to cheer up.

"Do you want to get muted" Rio said as he scrolled and saw all options in the setting function at the bottom of his status screen.

[How'd you know, I didn't explain that function yet]

-"You're not the only one feeling other's emotions" Rio said and closed the status window since aside from muting the system - which would stop all its chatter, he didn't see anything useful.

[Ohhh, but I'm good enough to hide and control them. While you on the other hand is just like an open book for me]

"Whatever. I won't need that soon enough." Rio said as he remembered something from the plot, which was just perfect for his situation. Something our protagonist uses to save the world from certain destruction in the future.

[You ARE NOT stealing that.]

System said in horror as it couldn't imagine how big the shit would mess up if Rio really stole or used that on himself.

The system was truly scared now. Fuck world and it's plot - what does it have to do with system. System literally gives rewards for messing up the plot directions. So why was it worried now, well the answer to that is simple - boredom.

There were far too little things which could interest it after existing in the universe for so long. And this mortal who somehow got the attention of that being, and that warning about his mind - were the things that intrigued it.

(If this guy got his hands on that thing, how would I read his mind and solve this mystery.)

It really can't force his behavior because of that being's limitation, and it was too invested in this mystery, to learn about the truth now - So system tried to convince it's host, reminding him of the consequences of his actions and maybe change his mind -

[No no no, just killing an idiot of the sidelines has already messes up the plot this much. If you do that it could literally result in world destruction. I don't allow it.]

" Well, I need some protection to keep my thoughts private, I don't trust you yet." Rio said totally not recognizing the system's real intentions, as he couldn't notice a single miniscule of difference.

[Fine, then you can just use the privacy functions, but you won't steal that.] System said as it pushed the searching function aside, and a new panel about the rules on privacy and permissions opened on his status screen.

Rio looked at the weird ancient symbols, or fucking doodles on his system screen and massaged his head.

'Even this panel looks dusty, this fucking system probably never ever opened it.' Rio's face had a doubtful expression.

(I should change the background theme of this panel next time at least. I even forgot about it since I never showed it to other hosts)

System made a throat clearing voice, and while perfectly hiding the embarrassed expression, it said in a serious tone- [These are the rules made during my creations. I can't change anything related to them.]

"At least translate them for me, you idiot."

(Endure for the mystery, endure. Yes I caan do it Fuhhhh)

System took a deep breath, ignored the insult and translated some lines about the stuff Rio needed, while removing all other stuff - [This is what you need]

Settings ⚙☐

Primal Rules -

Connection between host and ??? for better understanding -

Rio carefully read all the sections and simply turned off the synchronization funtion. He could feel something off but couldn't describe it in words. It was unreal.

(Damn it)

(Now I need some new way to see it all) On the other side system felt it too, but it wasn't worried. As even though it's been a long long time someone used this function, this host wasn't the first. It already started planning on the loophole, to learn the truth.

System's behavior and antics no different than an obsessive investigator too invested in a case to solve it.

Even system didn't notice that the personality it chose on curiosity was already effecting it a little. But that was an issue and a shock for a later time.

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When Rio finally got out of his thoughts, he smiled a little and asked - "So how do I use your inventory."

[Just imagine the thing you have it in your inventory, focus on getting it out, and you'll get the item in your hands.]

"So just like in those novels huhh" Rio said and tried focusing, he closed his eyes and imagined hard, and a moment later the potion was in his hand. "That was easy."

[That's cause you only had one item in there]

[I'd warn you again, if that potion doesn't work do not blame me. It's not mine]

"Okay."

'Here goes nothing' Rio said as he drank down the potion in one gulp.

Chapter 52 Fixing His Broken Brain???

As Rio raised the vial to his lips, he could feel a sense of anticipation coursing through his veins. According to the system, this healing potion, with its promises of restoration and tranquility, held the potential to mend the fractures within his weary mind.

He had taken many healing potions and other soothing pills but nothing seemed to be working. He had no doubts about those potions and pills as they were either made by Blake family or placed for the protagonist, but even they weren't able to fix anything.

He still had doubts thinking what he would do if this didn't work, but he took a chance hoping all those system novels didn't lie when they said - that system stuff is always legendary.

With a deep breath, he tilted the vial, allowing the blood red elixir to cascade onto his tongue.

The moment the potion touched his tongue, a gentle warmth spread through his body, soothing his senses and enveloping him in a cocoon of serenity. It was as if a soft, ethereal breeze caressed his mind, gently nudging away the lingering shadows of distress and uncertain doubts.

With each passing second, Rio could feel the potion working its magic within him. It was as if invisible hands delicately patched up the broken fragments of his thoughts, weaving them back together with intricate care. The fog that once clouded his mind began to dissipate, replaced by a newfound clarity and focus.

A wave of calmness washed over him, as if his entire being had been gently cradled in the arms of tranquility. The weight that had burdened his thoughts was lifted, replaced by a profound sense of peace. It was as if the potion had whispered something to his troubled mind, urging him to let go of the turmoil that had plagued him, haunted him.

Rio's expressions transformed before his own eyes. The furrowed lines on his forehead eased, replaced by a smoothness that reflected a release of tension. The worry that had etched itself into the corners of his eyes slowly dissipated, replaced by a newfound brightness and clarity.

With his mind now healed, Rio felt a renewed sense of clarity and purpose. The jumbled thoughts and uncertainties that had once weighed him down were now replaced by a resolute determination.

It was more than just the mending of broken thoughts; it was a transformation of his very being. The potion had granted him a respite from the tumultuous storm that had raged within, allowing him to emerge stronger, calmer, and ready to face whatever lay on the horizon.

'Awakening, blessing, system and now this - everything went perfect'

'I can finally focus on getting stronger and getting my answers.'

In that moment, as Rio stood bathed in the gentle glow of the potion's healing embrace, he whispered a silent thank you to the being that had given him this potion.

[So it worked huhh] The system asked.

"It did. Let me check." Rio replied with a bright smile.

[How will you possibly check that? Ohh don't answer it] System wanted to ask but then sighed and stopped itself as it understood what this host was planning to do.

"I had to get haunted and tortured by the guy I hate the most, all this time whenever I slept. At Least now maybe I can take my peaceful sleep again."

"If I see him after I sleep today, then that means this potion failed, it's simple." Rio said in simple terms, he missed his time in the darkness as that was the last time when he had a peaceful sleep.

[You know, you're just being lazy] System said, trying to break the bubble of excuses its host used to justify his laziness.

"Oh I forgot to ask , where are we?"

[This is the system space, it _]

"Then why is it so dark" Rio said cutting off the system's explanation.

[That's because of you, it can be whatever you wish it to be, of course if I agree to that request.]

[You can come here whenever you want to talk with me. And you'll be transported here when you're sleeping or unconscious in the outside world.]

"So I'm trying to sleep, while my body is already asleep." Rio said.

'That's confusing' Rio thought as he remembered, that he was probably unconscious in the outside world after his awakening.

[Yupp, that's weird.]

[You've been here for an hour now, so maybe you should wake up.]

"Naah I should check that potion's effects first."

"Good night system."

useless]

Ignoring the obvious emojis in his status screen that followed his sweet wishes, Rio closed his eyes and slept.

After all this time - today he finally his first peaceful sleep in Arcadia.

Soon enough a gentle smile graced his lips, mirroring the tranquility that now resided within his soul.

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While he slept, the system tried to do a scan of his body and mind to see if there was anything that was abnormal about him.

(A normal mortal would never get into his eyes)

(I just need to learn what is your secret)

System stopped its search midway, as it thought if that being would be angry because of it, but then it continued the process.

[He knows my habits too well, but since he still sent me to help him, he must've not cared about it.]

(Right, and besides he might be watching me right now, so he would've stopped if it was wrong) System thought, and continued the process.

After the scan was complete, the system checked the results, but it couldn't believe what it saw. So it did the scans again, this time more thoroughly but the results were the same.

Even though it was proud of its skills and powers, for the first time since the beginning of its creation - it doubted itself. Cause that was better and more believable than doubting that being.

(Is there something wrong)

(Is he playing with me and him)

(How is this possible)

The results were simple, they were the same as before Rio took the potion, or when the system scanned him back in the real darkness after his death.

A mortal soul with a broken brain. This time it showed the status for Rio's body but overall it was the same.

(Did that potion fail)

(But I could feel it work though, even he felt the same and is peacefully sleeping now) System thought as it looked at Rio's sleeping face.

(So what is wrong here)

 "Don't lose in his mind" The words of that being rang in the system's mind again but this time with a totally different meaning.

(It can't be)

(It shouldn't be possible _)
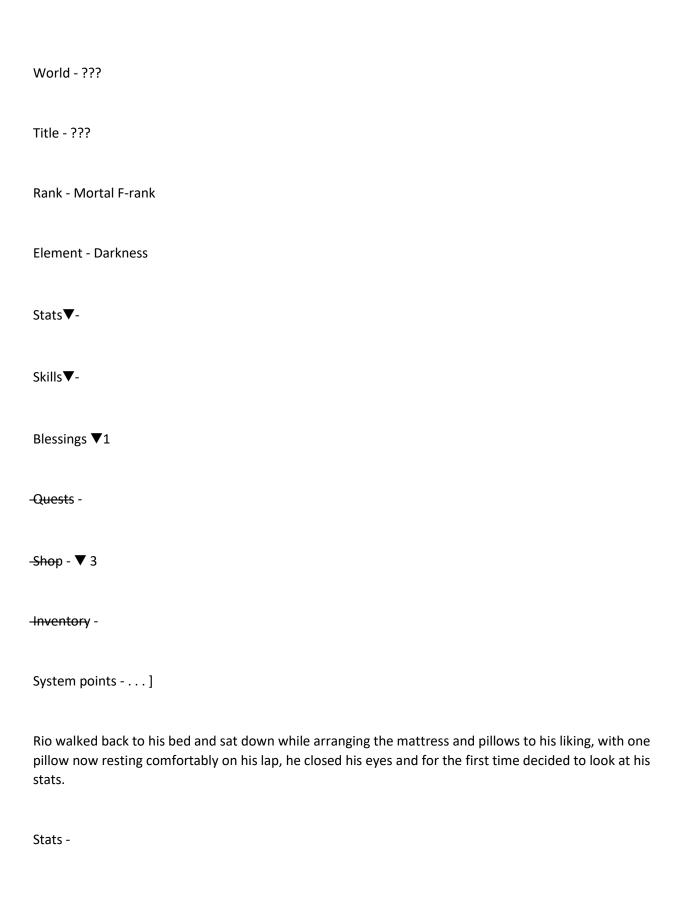
Chapter 53 Understanding His Status

As Rio stirred from his restful slumber, his eyes blinked open to a room bathed in a gentle, warm glow. The chandelier above him, adorned with intricate crystals, shimmered and danced with a new radiance. Its soft light spread around the room, casting a vibrant varieties of colors that painted the walls and furniture.

He sat up, stretching his arms and yawning, relishing in the peacefulness that enveloped him. It was a stark contrast to the restless nights he had grown accustomed to, plagued by haunting nightmares and his troubled past.

From the comfort of his bed, he looked towards the window, through the sheer curtains, he witnessed the breathtaking transformation of the sky. The setting sun, like a majestic orb of golden fire, began its descent, casting a tapestry of vibrant shades of oranges and amber across the horizon. Wisps of clouds, painted in shades of amber and dark blue, stretched across the heavens, adding a touch of ethereal beauty to the scene.

He stood up and walked towards the window, as he removed the curtains, he let his mind wander in the scene of soothing environment and peaceful surroundings. He looked outwards and saw the mansion

buildings, gardens and training grounds. Rio's gaze wandered over the intricate details of the mansion itself. The grand architecture, adorned with elegant carvings and ornate decorations, spoke of a rich history and timeless beauty. It was a testament to the legacy of those who had come before him.

"So it really worked."

He said, as he still couldn't believe that all that happenings weren't his dream but reality. Still to be sure he called for system, and soon got the response.

[So you woke up huhh, then I'm going to sleep now]

"Do you even need sleep" Rio asked as his fking system needed to sleep. Does that even make sense.

[I don't, but I just like it a little]

"And you were calling me lazy" Rio shook his head and clicked his head, at this hypocrisy.

[And you called me cheesy. If I didn't read your memories, I'd think you really were a petty snotty kid]

"Did you get the points" Rio ignored that point and asked the main question, thinking now would've been enough time for system to calculate, who knows it really did went to sleep later without telling him.

[Yes, just one moment _

Status

Name - Rio Blake / Shiva Kumar

Age - 10 / 30

World - ???

Title - ???

Rank - Mortal F-rank

Element - Darkness

Stats▼-

Skills▼-

Blessings ▼1

~~Quests~~ -

~~Shop~~ - ▼ 3

~~Inventory~~ -

System points - . . .]

Rio walked back to his bed and sat down while arranging the mattress and pillows to his liking, with one pillow now resting comfortably on his lap, he closed his eyes and for the first time decided to look at his stats.

Stats -

Strength: 5

Agility: 4

Endurance: 5

Intelligence: 16

Mana: 9

Perception: 3

Resilience: 8

As Rio observed his status screen, he was presented with a comprehensive overview of his various attributes. Each stat was displayed with a corresponding value, providing him with a clear understanding of his current capabilities. Here is a breakdown of all the stats he saw:

1) Strength: This stat represents someone's physical power and raw force. It indicated his ability to exert force, lift heavy objects, and engage in combat.

2) Agility: Agility measured someone's speed, reflexes, and overall dexterity. It determined how quickly he could move and react in various situations.

3) Endurance: Endurance represented someone's stamina and ability to withstand physical exertion. A higher endurance stat meant he could endure prolonged activities without tiring easily.

4) Intelligence: Intelligence indicated one's cognitive abilities, including his reasoning, problem-solving, and memory capacity and insight. It reflected his mental sharpness and intellectual potential.

5) Mana: The mana stat measured awakener's magical energy and aptitude for harnessing and manipulating it. It didn't mean control over that power, it just showed the quantity. A higher mana stat meant he possessed a greater reserve of magical power.

6) Perception: Perception measured one's awareness of his surroundings and his ability to notice details and subtle cues. It represented his attentiveness and keen observation skills. Higher perception meant higher intuition or sixth sense too.

7) Resilience: Resilience indicated someone's mental and emotional fortitude. In simple terms there will power, it measured his ability to bounce back from setbacks and not give up. High resilience meant high control over one's on thoughts and instincts.

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Rio's stats were much higher compared to any newly awakened, because of all the pills and potions he took before his awakening. Pura corpus and Nyx's blessing during his elemental awakening had increased his mana attribute. While the healing potion which healed his brain increased his intelligence stat. His resilience was high due to his messed up mentality of his past life, which completely gave him more experience than someone his age.

_

[Do you wanna see your bonus stats that I can see]

"Are you talking about the ones from the novel"

[Yes, but unlike world system I can show it to you now, instead of waiting till that event]

"Fine, show me"

[Loading. . .

Charm - 8

Luck - 6

World points - ?¦?‑¦

"Well seeing that Rio is Artemis and Agnus's son, the high points of charm does make sense" Rio said as he looked at his 8 points of charm. But he was surprised as he saw the points of his luck.

"Hmm my luck's not bad for a villain like Rio too"

[That's cause plot hasn't begun yet, once it does it'll drop continuously over time, till you become the unluckiest person to ever exist. That's how you get your ending of the novel remember]

Rio nodded his head as he understood system's point, he was lucky at birth, born with a silver spoon, loved by everyone around him, talented and respected - yet it all degraded with time as the plot progressed, till he got nothing left in the world. Shaking his head he looked at the world points stat and was confused as it showed some weird looking doodles. So he asked the system

" What about world points, can't you calculate it. I should've earned some of them by giving out the recipe of pura corpus or by indirectly getting all those Ditail follower's killed."

[No, I can't count them, that's up to the world system to decide. Only after that events begins, maybe I can hack world system and learn that process, but not now]

"Well I don't need them for now anyway."

–

"Show me Nyx's blessing"

[Loading. . .

Blessing -

1) Dark manipulation lvl 1 - After seeing your determination to learn and weild darkness even at the cost of your future, Goddess of Night has decided to help you on your path. Since your body has pure channels for mana, the benevolent goddess grants you the power to manipulate the darkness to your will. It is the lowest form of her power - Void manipulation.

- It gives you better control and sensibility to your element, at the cost of high consumption of mana. As level increases the mana consumption decreases.

- 2 times effective when used with any other sub-element, attached with darkness.

"Well, this is good enough for now. With this I can learn shadow magic from Myra and Artemis faster."

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Finally after watching and going through all his personal stats, Rio looked below and saw his system points.

[System points - 4900 + 14650 = 19550

Deducting the cost of shop item

Remaining points = 14550]

"They're much less than I thought. You sure you aren't cheating me system."

[Host, save your accusations. I told you the plot hasn't started yet so this is what you'll get. Learn your lessons and try to be patient.]

"And how many points would I have gotten if I did the same thing when the plot begins" Rio asked as he was curious how big of the difference in his rewards would be. It could help him better prepare for his future plans, he could only solve the most important events and people first and leave cannon fodder to farm points later during the plot events.

[Well I did check that and it amounted to a total of - 44700]

"So nearly 3 times huh. You're cheap system."

[Damn you host, I'm at level zero, all of my functions are still locked so what will you even use those points on] System said in anger as ever since it woke up this host has been either questioning it or blaming it.

(Can't he just be nice like all my other host. I remember some of them even cried tears of joy after I connected with them.)

(And then there's this guy, if not for that being's request I wouldn't even look at that useless planet and this puny mortal)

System who was lost in his thoughts and started its own inner monologue, was disturbed again as Rio replied in an enthusiastic tone -"Don't I still have those 3 shop items. I wonder what they are."

[Well, that being said they're his gift for you. So a surprise maybe] System said in the same tone but its thoughts were totally opposite of. (Surprise my foot, I'm sure that potion was some kind of trick. Maybe he's bored like me too and is looking for entertainment, while this guy here happened to get the lucky ticket)

"Hmm well I'll find out later anyway."

With a final swipe of hand on the transparent screen, Rio closed the system.

[Did you just acted as you hang up on me]

"Go sleep already. You're useless till the plot begins anyway."

(Fuck you)

(I should teach this guy a lesson _)

Chapter 54 Talks For Training & Engagement

While Rio was busy talking with his system, Artemis on the other hand was busy arranging stuff to settle the mess that her dear son created. Attacking a Baron and killing his son, if the news ever leaked that Blake family was behind this it could tarnish their reputation. Though no one would be able to do anything to Blake's but it would give their enemies some leverage and public outrage could be a lethal weapon.

Despite being one of the Duke's and owners of one of the top 5 guilds Blake family had maintained a good image till now in front of general public and Artemis had no plans to ruin that now.

Just after getting the report from Camilla she had ordered her to ignore Esme and first remove all traces of her. Since Esme had to show her true powers during that fight there was a chance that some residue mana would be left and with some advanced mana tracking artifacts someone could track her.

Even though getting those artifacts and that much resources would be impossible for a mere Baron rank noble, but it is always best to be safe than sorry.

Artemis had also sent alphas to capture Esme and bring her back. Her sister Erza has been cured and two of Myra's guards follow her daily. Even if Rio had asked Esme to do this for whatever reasons, she needed to make sure his reputation stays clean.

The news about his successful awakening was already spreading and the rumours of Nyx's arrival had brought much attention to him. It was good as her son would be known a genius and get the respect he deserves.

She wasn't worried about his blessing as whatever blessing Nyx gave, would be hundred's of times better than some lesser Gods could ever give.

After settling all matters about his little fiasco she took a deep breath and sat down on her chair. It has been a long stressful day for her. From the nervousness of his awakening to the shock of Rio's methods, it's been a rollercoaster ride of her emotions.

Since Rio was awakened now she could start training him herself. Though Darkness element is different and purer form of her Shadow element, but because of both being similar they have the same concept and same spells. She could teach Rio everything and train him herself.

She went through the training regime she had prepared for him just in case months before and double checked everything again. She even increased the difficulty of some excercises a little considering his talent and blessing.

Artemis who was lost in her thoughts, was startled when someone entered the room unannounced. She thought it must have been Amelia who entered and her face had an tired expression. Though she loved her little doll and her cute antics but sometimes dealing with her becomes hard as she doesn't listen to any explanationns. That's why she liked having Rio arround at those times as he could perfectly distract her mind but since he was sleeping now, Artemis could feel that calming Amelia who was put in a sleeping spell before would be a hard job.

Her expression softened as she looked up and saw who it was. Someone whose presence filled the room with calmness and his aura of strength. The one who has been with her for years and always supported her in everything she did. The one she loved and admired for years - her husband, Duke of Damascus and owner of the gifted sword shade - Agnus Blake.

"Ah Agnus, you're right on time. Can you check this for me. I made it for Rio." She said as she got out of her reverie of emotions and handed over some documents to him. While Agnus was busy going through them, she continued - "You can tell me if I need to add something."

"Add something, my love it's already enough as it is. Any more and you might break our little boy." Agnus said as he looked over at the detailed training patterns she designed and he couldn't help but smile thinking what Rio would look like after finishing any one of them.

Artemis leaned back on her chair and ignoring her husband's laugh and jokes replied in a serious tone - "Very funny, but I'm serious. I want to teach him everything before he decides to join the academy."

Here in Damascus they could always protect him, but the world wasn't peaceful and at the end it was all about personal strength, especially in neutral places like the Academy where they couldn't interfere.

Agnus looking at her serious expressions walked behind her and started pressing her shoulders gently, Artemis too relaxed and closed her eyes, feeling the cold hands who were massaging her in a gentle care. She was enjoying the caress when Agnus said - "He just awakened today love, give him some rest. Your niece's birthday is coming up soon. You can start his training after that."

Artemis shook her head as she put her hand, as she said - "Fine, I'll just try to increase his current training a little to make sure he's comfortable with his new strength and mana usage so he doesn't end up exhausting himself like today."

"Did you learn where he found the mana suction method." Agnus said as he came forward and started fixing the table filled with all kinds of documents and scrolls lying around.

"I've checked, he's been reading all kinds of books in library everytime he's free from his classes last couple of days. He even stopped playing with Amy last week can you believe it."

"She must have been furious." Agnus replied with a chuckle , which made Artemis nod her head and smile too.

Artemis asked "Is she still sleeping yet." Knowing very well her husband must have been with her, as while she doted on Rio, Agnus preferred spoiling Amelia whenever he could - but sadly for him Amy preferred her brother's company more and would only remember about her father when she needed to complain about something.

"Yes, She'll wake up soon. You really didn't need to put a sleeping spell on her." Agnus said as he remembered that when he was busy checking everything in the room, Artemis had put Amelia to sleep. He could understand why she did it but there was someone else who wouldn't and that's why he continued saying "I'll warn you I'm taking her side today."

"Hmm same as always then." Artemis replied as if it was nothing new.

After Agnus cleared the table, he sat there in front of his wife and said - "Maximus called, he was congratulating about Rio's awakening."

"So he knows." Artemis asked in a serious tone.

"Well he is the king, so of course he knows. Besides not like we could hide the news this big when her followers were already able to sense her presence." Agnus replied in a helpless tone.

As everyone in Arcadia said and believed 'every blessing comes with a curse'.

Nyx's arrival too was something like that. He was sure with Nyx's blessing Rio could improve much faster and grow more powerful, but it had also brought a lot of unwanted attention to him. There won't be many Gods or people who would be stupid enough to go after someone chosen by a primordial Goddess. But still there are always some lunatics and that's what worried him.

Agnus's thoughts were stopped as he heard Artemis's voice - "What else did he say?"

Agnus smiled as if he remembered something funny and said - "He asked about the engagement openly today. He also said that Rebecca agreed to it. I think Rio's talent might have increased his motivation a little."

"Sigh, he already knows we'll support him. I don't know why he gets so paranoid over stuff like this." Artemis said in a helpless tone. It should be obvious that king Maximus would have their support as Queen is her sister, but this king still feels paranoid and needs one more assurance.

"The God he became an avatar of is like that but you know that already."

King Maximus was good at everything, he had managed the Schilla Empire kindly and always maintained the peace and prosperity of it, but even he wasn't perfect. He had always been a little paranoid before and that habit only increased after he became the avatar of that God.

"So what did you say?" Artemis asked.

"Well I left this decision on you remember. Rebecca is your niece, and you were the one who put that idea in your sister's head in the first place." Agnus said as he put his hand on Artemis's cheek. "Personally I like that little girl."

 "Right, she's so cute and smart. She reminds me of Athena when she was little. Plus Amy and her are bestfriends but _ " Artemis smiled as she heard that Agnus liked Rebecca too, and started praising her in an excited tone, but her happy tone took a nose dive and turned sad as she remembered something and stopped her sentence.

"But what?" Agnus said.

"I don't think Rio likes her." Artemis said in a serious tone as she held Agnus's hand.

"Did something happen?" Agnus said in a serious tone as he looked at their intertwined hands.

"No, it's just I've seen them playing together, and I could see that Rio just wants to avoid her or something. It doesn't feel like he really enjoys her company. Even more I could feel that he's angry at her." Artemis said what she observed and felt when she played with everyone some days ago.

But Agnus didn't share the same sentiment as her, last he knew when both kids met they were quite friendly and happily played with each other so he replied as he put his hand on hers -"He's just a kid so maybe he was angry over a loss or something. I'm sure it's nothing serious. You're just overthinking it."

"Yeah maybe" Artemis said. But the worry was still evident in her eyes. She quite liked Rebecca and would be happy if Rio married her, but she also didn't want to force Rio into any relationship he didn't want and have him hate her later.

Agnus who could understand his wife's behaviour completely , gently held her face in both his hands and said - "Whatever it is, you don't need to worry over it. They're both kids yet and have a lot of time , they can get to know each other better later in the academy. And we don't need to push this engagement on them now, do we?"

Hearing that calmed Artemis's heart a little as maybe over time whatever misunderstanding these kids had could be solved and if not, then it's simply Rebecca's lose.

"Yeah, and not like my Rio lacks a girl anyway. After the news of his blessing spreads everywhere I bet lots of people would be lining up outside our house to marry their daughters to him." Artemis replied with a chuckle as she could imagine herself receiving couple of letters about it soon.

Agnus nodded his head and believed it too. The background he has and the talent Rio showed are enough for anyone to consider having them as allies. He could see Artemis worrifree now so he changed the topic to something else.

"Do you know what blessing he got"

"Well looking at its Nyx, it's hard to say. since she has too many powers and too little followers so who knows. We can only know for sure after he wakes up." Artemis replied as she had asked her family for all the information on blessings Nyx had given to anyone in the past and they were all random, so even she wasn't sure.

Agnus felt the same too , so they could now only wait for Rio to wake up and ask him about it. It was then that he remembered something and said - "I'm amazed at his control over his element. Its much better than anything I've seen during awakening. His rampaging darkness was even enough to chip away at your barrier a little."

Artemis thought about the scene where at the end when Rio used mana suction method and pushed himself to the limit , even her barrier was getting consumed but it only lasted for a moment and stopped again. That image fueled her determination to train Rio harder again, so she said -

"And that's why I'll train him to be the strongest. Stronger than me , and you too."

Her fiery words only made Agnus smile as he put his hands around her, and hugged her while saying - "Yes you will wife , yes YOU WILL."

_

While the duo were talking about Rio and his future, Rio on the other hand had the biggest surprise of his new life in Arcadia, as he stared at the girl standing in front of him and the system notification floating on his status screen. He could see that one more shop item of his had opened and it was _ ...

Question - Any guess on the king's God?

What would Rio do for his engagement plans?

What's the surprise and the 2nd item of shop?

Chapter 55 What It Means To Be A Villain?

After Rio finished asking all his doubts to the system, he lay on his bed again, closing his eyes trying to free his mind and think about what to do with this system.

He had planned to kill all his enemies who would plot against Rio or his family before the plot even begins and they start getting powerful, but this system's arrival might force him to change some of his plans.

If he trusts the system then he should only act after the plot begins to get more points and rewards, but if that system is a lie then he would have to deal with all his enemies and protagonist's stupid luck, though he might have some advantage over them due to his future knowledge, but as many people said against pure power all schemes and plans fail, Leon with his halo becomes the strongest person alive in the novel. Author made him so op that he never even wrote about his fight with the final boss and just said Leon won and had a happy ending.

In the novel there were far too many powerful people who wanted to kill Rio but got killed by him instead, and of course for safety reasons he will have to deal with all of them. He could befriend them before the plot begins and solve their problems or act as the protagonist but it would all be too much hassle and he was too lazy to do that.

Plus there is no guarantee that even after he helped them, they would stick with him. He had no halo of stupidity to make them brainless or the habit of seducing their daughters and wives to earn their support.

When shit hits the fan everyone leaves you all alone, Shiva had learned this lesson back on earth the hard way, and he was in no mood to repeat any of his past mistakes again.

Leon was a guy who had subordinates lined up everywhere and to get all of them on his side was a fool's dream and he knew that. Rio couldn't kill all of them even if he wanted to as many were influential people, some even more so than the Blake family. Like the royal Schott family.

Due to Rebecca's foolishness Blake's had to cut ties with royals and their relationship took a nosedive. When Maximus's paranoia and Rio's infamy reached the final level a war broke out, which resulted in the Royal's loss. A well planned blast in the Royal capital, throwing out some scandals to rile up the masses and some sorted out assassinations here and there, booom goes royalty and their mighty peacekeeping order.

Though it was nothing significant as Blake's only wanted to warn everyone to stop forcing them into a corner and let them be. But before they could explain themselves, the protagonist came with his mighty halo and power of love, solving all their troubles and being a hero who pulled the nation out from internal strife and put order in place.

This is why Rio wanted to keep Rebecca near him, as sending her to the protagonist would be like giving him control over the entire Schilla Empire. While keeping her near him can not only help avoid that risk, but also paves the way that after he deals with Maximus, Blake family can take over royalty and be the ruling force of Schilla.

On the off chance he even thought up a plan where he could kill Rebecca in the academy arcs and stop any other bullshit luck or love from even happening between her and the protagonist. Hell if he played his cards right and succeeded he could even blame it all on Leon and put him against Maximus.

Killing 3 birds with one stone.

'But why should I even do all that.'

'Why am I turning into that _ guy.'

'These people never did anything to me, and probably never will if I don't act like Rio from the novel.'

'Then why, WHY am I always thinking of solving these problems that aren't even mine.'

No matter how hard he thought he couldn't come up with any answer. There was no reason for him to work so hard and yet here he was always thinking, always planning - is it just cause of Amelia? Or is it something else? He didn't know.

[You're thinking too much into it, host. Maybe it's just your survival instinct. Maybe you just don't want to die.] System said in its usual cheery energetic tone, despite saying it was going to sleep just now.

"Hhhmm you've read my memories right, do you really think death scares me now. If anything, some part of me is just looking forward to it." Rio said as his lips curled up a little when he thought about the pain free sleep in darkness again.

[You may be right. But in all my experience I've learned one truth. And it's - no matter how much one yearns for death and prepares for it, some part of him would always fight to be there, to be alive, to simply exist. It's a simple primal rule, that can never be ignored.]

Rio didn't reply as he had no answer for it. Maybe system was right or maybe it was just lying to him, to get his mind off of these thoughts.

After his reincarnation as Rio, he had the thought that like some novels he read on earth, someone behind the scenes was manipulating him somehow, but after reliving his nightmares all this time again - that thought was pushed aside too. He actually knew the answer, but just didn't want to accept it.

He had always been a loner, someone who kept all his feelings, all his emotions to himself. And yet he opened his heart for 2 people, and both of them left him broken.

After all that anger, guilt and hatred filled his heart he had simply lost himself. As the people closest to him kept going away so was his sanity and control - Ria, his parents, his friends, his Queency everyone was gone from his life one by one in a cruel joke of fate and he had to live.

He never shared his pain and emotions ever again with anyone, even Aaya, Aarvi or his colleagues. They all had their guesses but he didn't clarify and they never asked.

Ali with all his useless rich connections had hired a guy once to check Shiva's background, thinking he was someone trying to steal his Aarvi, that's how he came to know about all his past. And that's how their friendship started, of course after Ali apologized and still got beaten up a little.

Aside from his family, Ali was the only one who knew everything about him, one of them came to help too late, while the other didn't know how to.

And now that he even lost that last bit of support he had, his mind has simply let go of all its restraints, plus the fact that this is the world where power rules and that he knows the plot, justified his actions.

On the earth too he had no problem fighting or beating anyone as long as he was stressed enough and needed to vent. He didn't care what was right or wrong - as long as it distracted him.

_

"Tell me system, am I a villain? Not in this story, not as Rio, but me, the real me." Rio asked in a curious tone, as he thought about all the people he got killed already and all the plans he made to kill more of them.

[What do you think a villain is, host?]

[Villain isn't someone who stands against the world, or does some bad things or fights the hero. No that's wrong]

[A villain is just a hero who lost]

[A villain is just a hero who gave up]

[Had you been stronger, and faced your fears in reality instead of living them in your dreams. You would've been the hero. But you _]

"I never wanted to give up though."

"I waited, and waited, and waited for their arrival, for their approval but nothing happened. Nothing changed. " His voice grew heavier with each word he spoke, until he finally couldn't hold it in and tears started rolling down his eyes. He covered his eyes as he put his hand over them and said in a hoarse tone -

"When I needed the people closest to me the most I had no one. No one came to ease my pain or wipe my tears. So if I was supposed to be a hero, was that something I should go through." Rio's voice grew heavy as he couldn't understand why. So he just laughed at himself or at least tried to but all that came out was a cry for help in the system's ears.

"Why am I even complaining about anything to you, you would leave me like them too, and merge with someone else seconds after my death anyway." Rio said in an obvious tone. Though he didn't say it, he had been thinking about this ever since he heard it from the system.

[I would never leave you SK, It's a promise] System's response was instant so much that it surprised him. But Rio just shrugged it off and shook his head.

"You know what, they all said the same thing too. You don't have to lie about it to make me feel better, I've given up on all my expectations. Whatever happens will happen, unless I change my mood."

It was the system's turn to be silent as it thought -(He really does lack any kind of motivation huhh. I hope whatever you send next is actually helpful and not another hoax.)

Chapter 56 2nd Item Of System Shop

As Rio calmed down his thoughts started going back to normal, he got up from his bed and decided to take a walk outside.

Shiva loved the night sky, he could just lie down and keep staring at it till he fell asleep. He missed that now. The sky and environment of Arcadia weren't much different from earth on a base level, it just grew richer and more beautiful because of mana.

Rio strolled along the open hallways, the cold wind brushing against his face as the sky gradually transformed into shades of twilight. The evening sky gradually darkened, revealing the twinkling stars one by one. As he walked, he allowed himself to be immersed in the beauty of the setting. The gentle rustling of leaves and the distant chirping of birds and crickets created a serene symphony that calmed his brain. The rhythmic sound of his own footsteps echoed in the quiet corridors, a reminder of his own presence in this vast space.

Rio paused for a moment, leaning against a balcony railing, and gazed up at the starlit sky, lost in his thoughts about the impending dinner conversation with his parents. He contemplated the questions they might ask, mentally preparing his responses. Now that worries of his awakening had ended, he had to think about how to explain the methods he used and why? Artemis and Agnus would surely ask him about the mana suction method and about Nyx.

As he immersed himself in his thoughts, a familiar voice called out his name, interrupting him. Rio turned around, his eyes looking in surprise as he saw Amelia, standing there. She had a mischievous smile on her face, radiating an innocence that always warmed his heart.

The face of Ria came to his mind and she looked just like her now. Her black hair cascaded in soft waves, framing her delicate face with an irresistible innocence. Her eyes sparkled with excitement and wonder, reflecting the purity of her soul. Dressed in a loose night dress of delicate pink, she looked just like a vision of pure sweetness. The dress, adorned with playful patterns and ruffles, added an extra touch of whimsy to her already adorable appearance.

But it was her smile that truly captivated those who beheld it. An innocent smile, brimming with genuine joy and warmth, adorned her rosy lips. With each grin, her dimples peeked out, adding an extra layer of charm to her already angelic countenance. Her infectious laughter and boundless energy brightened even the dullest of days.

"Brother!" Amelia exclaimed, her voice filled with excitement. "I've been looking for you everywhere! Why are you standing here all alone?"

Curiosity piqued, Rio approached Amelia, a mixture of surprise and calmness filling his mind. Just looking at her face had that effect on him.

Amelia spread out her hand and showed him a small box wrapped in some messy colored papers. The cover of the box was adorned with colorful doodles and patterns, each stroke a reflection of her playful imagination. Though it may not have been meticulously crafted like a professionally made gift, its imperfections only added to its charm.

"This is something I got for your awakening, but mama put me to sleep and I couldn't give it to you before. You're not angry are you, it's all mama's fault. I should complain to father."

"Here, take it, open it and see if you like it or not. I had to work real hard to get this. Not like you who got me Mr Bear by cheating my money."

Rio was surprised and curious as he looked at Amelia's gift, this would be the first gift he receives from her or anyone else in Arcadia. He smiled when he heard Amelia talking about it non-stop, with a warm smile on his face, Rio extended his hand to accept the gift box from Amelia.

As his hands inadvertently brushed against Amelia's while accepting the gift something happened that pulled his thoughts out from this happy moment. He couldn't help but glance at his status screen which suddenly started floating in front of his face.

[Loading...

[New shop item unlocked _

[Check to see details -

Rio looked at the notification and was surprised as according to the system he needed to meet certain requirements to access the items, but in just one day 2 out of 4 items were opened and he didn't know how or why?

Rio gave a command in his mind to open shop menu, as he was curious what this new item was -

[Host has met the set requirements to use the 2nd item given by ???

..

.

…

However, as his eyes scanned the information before him, a mixture of shock and disbelief washed over Rio's face. He knew that Amelia was similar to Ria, but he never expected it to be _ .

His heart skipped a beat as he tried to understand what it truly meant. The realization filled him with a mix of curiosity, excitement, and a tinge of fear.

Caught off guard by this startling revelation, Rio's steps faltered, and he instinctively began to retreat from Amelia. His mind raced, trying to process the newfound information he learned. The weight of this revelation was too much to bear in that moment, leaving him feeling overwhelmed and unsure of how to proceed.

Leaving Amelia momentarily stunned and confused, Rio hurriedly made his way down the hallway, he needed to be alone and some time to collect his thoughts. The mix of emotions swirling within him— astonishment, uncertainty, happiness, fear, nervousness —made it difficult for him to fully comprehend the magnitude of what he had just read.

As he walked away, the echoes of his hurried footsteps resonated in the corridor, reflecting the turmoil within his mind.

Amelia, left bewildered by her brother's sudden departure, stood there with the gift box still in her hands, her innocent eyes filled with questions and concern. She couldn't comprehend what had just transpired. Why did her brother leave so suddenly? Did she do anything wrong? Why did he look at her like that? Why was he crying again?

Remembering the sad look in her brother's eyes a slight tremor coursed through her delicate frame, and a single tear welled up in her eye.

Feeling the moisture gathering in her eyes, Amelia blinked rapidly, trying to hold back the tears. Yet, the memory of the sadness etched on Rio's face remained vivid in her mind, tugging at her heartstrings.

In that moment, a whirlwind of emotions engulfed Amelia. She felt a surge of empathy, yearning to understand the hidden turmoil that Rio seemed to be wrestling with. A sense of helplessness washed over her, for she didn't possess the maturity or insight to understand his emotions like her mother did.

Amelia clutched the gift box tightly against her chest, the vibrant colors of the wrapping paper blurred by the gathering tears. Amelia wiped away the tears that had escaped her eyes, and started walking towards her mother's room. If she couldn't understand him then she could ask her mother for help.

_

Rio in a hurry reached his room and closed the door behind him, the weight of his racing thoughts and overwhelming emotions crashed upon him like a tidal wave. He stood there for a moment, trying to catch his breath, his chest rising and falling in rapid succession. Each inhalation felt labored, as if the air itself couldn't fill his lungs quickly enough to calm his racing heart.

Feeling the need for support, Rio's legs gave way beneath him, and he slowly slid down to the floor, his back pressed against the door. With his palms pressed firmly against the ground, he sought stability, a momentary respite from the whirlwind of emotions that threatened to consume him.

Confusion, fear, and a deep sense of vulnerability swept over him, leaving him feeling raw and exposed.He closed his eyes, attempting to find solace in the darkness behind his lids. After that ignoring everything he called for system and with his trembling hands opened the notification -

[Host has met the set requirements to use the 2nd item given by ???

??? wishes you another chance and a happy life ahead of you

Memory crystal (Ria - host's sister, planet earth) ▼

Cost --- 60000 SP

Chapter 57 The Best Gift & Happiest Surprise

[Host has met the set requirements to use the 2nd item given by ???]

[??? wishes you another chance and a happy life ahead of you]

[Memory crystal (Ria - host's sister, planet earth) ▼

??? has seen your pain and anguish, after learning of your past he has decided to give you another chance. Learning that Ria has been reincarnated as Amelia Blake in Arcadia ??? decided to break the primal rule of continuity and intervened in the cycle of rebirth.

This memory crystal contains all of Ria's memories and past life experiences, with it you can revive her back. Crystal merging with the same soul source can bring all her memories back.

Cost - 60000 SP]

As Rio's eyes scanned the words on the system screen, his heart was racing nonstop.

"So, they're the same."

The revelation that Ria and Amelia were the same person reincarnated filled him with an indescribable sense of hope and joy. A surge of emotions washed over him, threatening to overwhelm his senses. The memories of both girls started playing over and over in his head drowning him in happiness, he could imagine Ria laughing at him saying it took him so long to realise.

The words on the system's notification were simple yet they had answered the most important question he had. He wanted to grow strong and ask the Narrator to help him learn the truth. But he never imagined that hours after system's awakening he would have all his answers, plus a chance to fix everything.

The weight of guilt and the haunting memories that had plagued him for so long suddenly felt lighter, as if a burden had been lifted from his soul. Tears welled up in his eyes, cascading down his cheeks in a bittersweet mix of relief and happiness. They were tears of release, a culmination of years of pain and longing.

"She's _ She's my sister"

"Just like me she too _ "

Words eluded him in that moment, his voice caught in his throat. The truth rendered him speechless, as a wave of gratitude and disbelief washed over him. He wanted to shout, to laugh out loud, to let the world know of how happy he felt at this moment. But all he could manage was a choked sob and a radiant smile that stretched across his face. Years of pain, years of holding back - he finally let go of everything as tears continued streaming down his swelling eyes.

 The realization that Amelia was indeed his Ria, and that he could also have her remember everything, that he might have the chance to reunite with his beloved sister once again, that he could fix all his mistakes, remove all his regrets was an overwhelming prospect.

He didn't care if it was the truth or maybe the system was lying to him. His working brain might have questioned it in normal circumstances but the raging emotions had filled his heart so much that aside from her nothing else seemed important. He didn't want to doubt this, he needed to believe that he wasn't alone, that someone was here for him, with him.

If ever his heart had any doubt about saving Amelia or changing her destiny from the plot, then this message had removed it completely.

He didn't care if the system or that being was using him somehow, if it meant that he could bring his sister back to life then nothing else mattered. He would willingly be a puppet if it meant he could protect her this time.

Whether it was the system's truth or a manipulation, Doubts and suspicions were irrelevant in that moment, for the prospect of bringing Ria back overshadowed any and all potential deception.

Fuck plot and fuck protagonist , fuck Arcadia and everyone else too - he didn't care what he needed to do, if dealing with them could give him rewards and help him bring Ria back then he would do so in a heartbeat.

Soon all his emotions calmed down and he wiped off his tears, he looked at the points necessary to unlock the item - 60000.

[System points - 14550]

Rio looked at the points he currently had and started thinking the fastest way to earn more. He couldn't wait to see how Ria would react when she learned everything. He liked Amelia after spending this much time in Arcadia, and would've been fine with just the news that they're the same but since he could give her all the memories, why wouldn't he?

"I would fix everything my little sister, and this time you would be able to live your life however you want. I'd make sure of it."

As Rio promised himself, determined to protect Amelia, one name came to his mind from the plot. Someone whose actions indirectly led to the events of her ending. Someone whose words caused the chain reaction of her downfall just like Noah's prophecy started his.

'If I kill her now, I can solve all the future troubles and I would get even more points then when Noah died.'

'Killing her won't be hard as I know that her first event of flashbacks is going to happen soon.'

'The event where our protagonist meets her for the first time & falls for her.'

Rio's brain started thinking about ways to earn the remaining points and what better way to get them, then to kill one of the main heroines in the story, the princess of the Schilla empire - Rebecca Von Schott.

Even though he had started to notice that Rebecca at this point of time wasn't the same as she was depicted in the novel, maybe if he spent more time with her and acted differently, he could stop her from joining the protagonist.

The images of them playing and passing time together, the talks he had with her mother Athena and how excited Artemis looked when talking about Rebecca - all came to his mind, but he shook it off.

He wanted to bring back Ria as soon as possible, now that he knew he could do it, every moment felt like a different kind of torture.

'If she's gone, I get - no engagement, no drama of her falling in love with the protagonist, no free enmity of Leon to Blake's and saving Amelia's future.'

'One kill - five gifts.'

A smile came to his face as his brain cleared out all the details of his plan.

Rio's smile was a complex mix of emotions, showcasing the duality within him. On one hand, there was a tinge of cruelty that surfaced at the thought of harming the main heroine. However, intertwined with that fleeting cruelty was a kindness that emanated from the depths of his heart. This kindness stemmed from his deep longing to bring Ria back.

Rio's unique smile represented the complexity and intricate layers of his character, forged from all the experiences he had faced in his life. In that moment, his smile encompassed both the darkness and the light, the pain and the joy, as he embraced the opportunity to rewrite destiny.

While some might perceive his smile as unsettling or enigmatic, calling him evil for even thinking about killing innocents, it was a reflection of his past and his love for Ria. It symbolized that there were no lines he couldn't or wouldn't cross for the ones he cared about.

At the end of the day in his eyes, there were only 2 kinds of people in the world - the ones he cared about, and the ones he didn't.

'I'm sorry it had to be like this.'

[Hold your horses host]

[Looks like it's time you take a REALITY check]

Chapter 58 System's Shock & Pain - 1

Reading the description of memory crystal Rio wasn't the only one who was surprised, the system itself felt quite shocked, never in a million years would it think that 'that being' would willingly break the primal rule of continuity.

**** [During the creation of cosmos, some rules were made to maintain the balance and keep the process of existence continuing; they were called PRIMAL RULES.

The primal rules were established as the fundamental pillars of creation. They served as the guiding principles that governed the balance, harmony, and continuity of existence. These rules were considered unbreakable, forming the very core upon which the fabric of reality was woven.

Every aspect of creation, from celestial bodies to diverse races, from different worlds to intricate life forms, was shaped, bound and governed by these primal rules. They ensured the order and stability of the cosmos, allowing for the interplay of fate and the unfolding of destiny.]

From the beginning till now there was no case when someone broke the primal rules, and now 'that being' defied them and chose to interfere.

***As per the RULE OF CONTINUITY once a life ended and ran its course following the essence of its world, they were supposed to forget it all and start anew. Everything, always progressing, moving forward, just like a cycle.

 And yet now someone broke that rule not once but twice. First it was Shiva, who was supposed to forget everything related to his past life in the darkness, was woken up early and was somehow able to

hold onto those memories. And now it was Ria, who had died and moved on, but 'that being' interfered with the memory crystal.

Those unbreakable rules were broken, a taboo which wasn't even supposed to exist happened, and that too for the sake of some mortal being, considered insignificant in the grand scheme of creation.

System couldn't understand how or why it even happened, it could ignore Shiva's case, calling it an exception or a failure as no one knew how that happened. But it had the answer for Ria's case, the memories which were supposed to be erased were preserved in the crystal and presented as a fucking gift.

(What is he thinking - breaking these rules, the consequences could condemn us all)

(Was it him who interfered the first time too)

(But that wasn't what he told me, damn it)

(He always said no to me, and now he did it himself)

It wasn't that the system couldn't break these so called rules, at its peak, it had the power to do whatever it wished. But 'that being' always stopped it saying 'never interfere'. And yet here he was, breaking these rules himself.

"I could've saved them all, I could've kept them alive, I could've kept them with me, but you stopped me, every damn time. Then why? Why now? Why for him?"

For the first time in a long time, the system felt angry and betrayed. It wanted to cry, and shout, and let loose all its power, but it could do nothing.

Whenever in the past it wanted to interfere and act to save its host, HE would always stop it, saying the same stuff over, and over, and over again - 'Never interfere'

And yet here he was, breaking these rules whenever he fucking wished.

System wanted to leave this world and go there, confront him, ask him why he did what he did? What purpose does it serve? What about the consequences? Why this mortal? What role does HE play? And why HE didn't trust it enough to tell the truth?

But it couldn't.

It couldn't leave Arcadia, not now, not until its host was still alive.

"Did he know about this too, is that why he told me to merge with him in the darkness, before he even reincarnated?" The system spoke, its voice filled with anger and doubt, but after thinking carefully, it continued saying in a sad joking tone.

"Who am I kidding, of course he knew, that's why he told me to merge early."

All the other times whenever the system chose a host it would always happen after their reincarnation in a new world, or when someone met certain predetermined conditions - but 'that being' told it to start merging, while Shiva was still in the darkness.

It was weird, but the system didn't doubt his words, even till now it never had the doubt that maybe Shiva's case wasn't an exception, but his plan. But it was clear to system now, he wanted it to happen.

Since the system merged with Shiva even before he came to Arcadia, it was already a part of him, that's why the world system of Arcadia never noticed anything wrong. During Rio's awakening 'the system' had acted and finished merging instead of the world system. With all its powers now sealed at level 0 , even if it wanted to leave, it couldn't, as that is the primal rule the system itself was based upon.

***As the system didn't belong to a single world, and was an entity which walked and acted in several world's - a primal rule was made to control it. As every other being, even with all its power, it wasn't invincible. It had a very fundamental but basic rule to follow - "follow the world where you're in."

Its such simple words that even till now system never felt that this rule was anything special and ignored it. Only today, it understood how heavily it binded its existence, and how easily it could be trapped somewhere.

According to the rule, the system's power could never grow beyond the scope of the world they were in, they had to follow the rules predetermined for that world. This rule was made so that a single system's interference doesn't break that world's balance, and destroys it completely.

****[As an example – They couldn't produce immortal warriors in a modern world, magic in a sci-fi world, Gods in an atheist world or killers in a peaceful world.]

Same was the case for Arcadia - here the world's predetermined route is to never allow anyone to leave, only enter. The dungeons, the monsters, the towers, the Gods, the different races, everyone, they could come to Arcadia but could never leave. Only after their fate runs its course, and they meet their death - would they be able to leave this world.

System too was bound by this rule after merging. If it tried to leave now - both him and Rio would be ripped to shreds, and merged with the essence of existence, never to take part in the cycle of continuity again.

Chapter 59 [Bonus]System's Shock & Pain - 2

System too was bound by the world's rule of Arcadia now. If it tried to leave forcefully - both him and Rio would be ripped to shreds, and merged with the essence of existence, never to take part in the cycle of continuity again.

System could change the rules or break them, had it not had its power sealed at level 0 , but now it could do nothing. All it could do was either curse 'that being' , hoping he would answer its questions, or wait till Rio grows stronger and updates it.

"Counting those meager points took me half a day. How much time will it take for me to get out of here? How much longer do I have to wait till I get my answers? ."

"Arcadia is the world of mana and magic, so this host of mine could live for a long time, he could live for hundreds of years if reached the peak of this world." System thought as it analyzed how long it would have to be stuck in Arcadia if everything went well for its host. But then it remembered all the dangers that existed in this fucked up junction world, and how many more would come as the time passes and plot progresses.

"Since Arcadia is too dangerous, maybe he would die early."

System thought and hoped for it, but the story of the novel from Shiva's memories came to its mind crushing all its dreams. It wanted to cry when it remembered how the original Rio ended up in that novel.

"Fuck that bastard, did he really wanted to kill me, that badly. What did I ever do to him?" System cursed and thought -'now that I'm bound with Rio, won't I be fucked too if he got that ending.'

System shivered thinking how bad that would be, even dying and losing its existence felt like a relief to it now.

 System didn't have a physical body yet, but if it did, it would've been sweating buckets by now. The ending Rio had was the worst one, which the system wouldn't even wish upon its enemies, and somehow if nothing changed, then that's what awaited it.

So the system started saying some stuff to calm itself - "No that can't happen, since my host has taken over Rio's body, that plot is already changed, plus I'm the system who is MADE for ruining plotlines. I'm sure I can change it."

System tried but the uneasy feeling didn't go away, these were all feelings which the system hadn't felt in a long time -anger, betrayal, helplessness, and now fear.

"I fucking hate plotlines" System said, and hoped its host would keep changing stuff, so it could survive too.

But then it remembered - "If he changed the plot too much, then I can't be sure when he will die?"

"Looking at his past I doubt he would die easily, unless he killed himself."

"And that would've happened eventually with his messed up mentality, but now 'that being' fucking pushed his sister in the mix."

"Ain't no way in hell, this guy would get himself killed without getting her back"

System went through all its thoughts again, and the conclusion was more anger towards the being whom it considered its only friend till now.

"So what do I do, do I have to wait and rely on my host to update me, so I can get my powers back and leave, or do I kill him myself?"

System wanted nothing but to leave this world and get its answers. But it couldn't, so it decided to think of other ways, since it would be free of this world's bounds if it's host died, so it started thinking about Rio's death, but then it remembered-

"If he dies, won't it ruin whatever plan 'that being' had, for him to be willing to break all these rules for it."

(What do I care, it's his fault for not telling me about it before)

System blamed the being for lying to him and was ready to kill its host - so it could go out and get its answers.

Even though it never killed its host before and always did everything to help them do whatever they wanted, but now overwhelmed by the betrayal it felt by 'that being' made it so angry, that it couldn't even think clearly.

All it wanted was to leave and ask - "Why did he stop it from interfering and saving all its previous hosts?"

System remembered about how many hosts it got attached to and lost them over time, how many times had it tried to break those so called rules and bring them back, how many times it had to watch as its previous hosts forgot all about it and lived in different lives, how many times had it been alone and lonely just because it followed those primal rules of hishis, how much pain it had to go through to be turned into a simple machine.

And now that same being, who told it to go through all that suffering for so long, that it lost all its emotions and simply became no different than an emotionless AI who felt nothing.

That same being who just watched its misery all this time from the sidelines , decided to interfere , not for him, NO! for some weak little mortal who had nothing, who did nothing.

"Why did I have to go through all that pain?

Why did I have to be trapped in his body and stranded in this world?

Why did I have to wait for the plot's ending & get forgotten?

Why did he have to give these gifts through the system, was it to just rub it on its face? If he wanted he would have given Rio these gifts through thousands of different ways but he chose to do it like this."

That being forced it to hand over something to that mortal, something that it itself never had, something that it fought and longed for so long.

Why was he getting special treatment?

Was all this time they've known each other just for show?

"Was I the idiot for coming to his call and doing him favors whenever he wished. And in return I didn't even get the trust to understand what he wanted to do?"

"He should've known how hurt and angry this would make it feel, but ignoring my pain, he did this - Why?"

All these questions echoed in the system's head, making it go crazy, the emotions that it had buried, the feelings that it had lost over time -all came crashing hitting it wave after wave, making it remember everything it lost, everything it never got.

If the system had all its powers, or even some of it, then maybe it wouldn't be this overwhelmed by emotions, and could think it thoroughly, but the level 0 system really had nothing. All of its functions were sealed, all its powers locked along with all its control.

As it watched the happy expression of Rio and that notification about 'that being's' generosity, the system finally lost all its reasoning.

'Damn the consequences, if you want this mortal, come and save him yourself'

Blinded by anger, the system decided to end its host's life and get out of this world to get its answer from the one responsible for everything.

It looked at Rio one final time, as it prepared to kill him, it said -

"I'm sorry that it had to be this way."

Chapter 60 Lost In His Brain - Queen & Her Army

The system was preparing to kill its host with a mental attack. Normally the system would never do this, or won't be able to do this, but by merging with Shiva's soul before his reincarnation, which made it a part of world Arcadia and unable to leave, also made it possible for it to kill him.

There were some rules made to stop the system from ever harming its host, but it didn't care about it now. It didn't care about any consequences that would follow, breaking something, it was based, and made upon would surely result in some devastating results, but as they say anger overwrites reason.

And the system felt the biggest betrayal it could feel, from the one being it trusted most and knew for the longest time.

While Rio was lost in the emotions of happiness and joy, the system was feeling emotions of anger and betrayal - it was almost comical to see two completely opposite differences this situation created. Had any of them been a little calmer they would've been able to feel each other's changing emotions but they were both overwhelmed by themselves, too focused on their past to notice anything. So similar yet so opposite.

"To heal him, he had harmed me" The system thought and said "let's see if he cares about you enough to save you."

The system prepared to kill Rio and leave this world. With a mental attack it would've been possible to kill Rio who was super weak right now. But before the system could attack it was stopped and the next second it found itself someplace entirely different.

Caught off guard and bewildered by the sudden interruption, the system found itself trapped within an enigmatic darkness, unable to perceive its surroundings or comprehend the source of this unexpected event. It attempted to analyze its situation and understand how its presence had been detected and countered.

Overwhelmed with a mixture of shock and curiosity, the system found itself surrounded by a surreal landscape representing the void where it first merged with Rio. It found itself abruptly pulled into Rio's mind, thrust into the depths of his consciousness.

Within Rio's mind, the system witnessed a collage of memories, emotions, and experiences that pieced together the complex tapestry of their existence. It saw moments of joy, love, and laughter, intermingled with profound sorrow, pain, and loss. System was confronted with a tumultuous maelstrom of emotions, memories, and shattered fragments of Rio's psyche. The damage inflicted upon him by past traumas and inner struggles was laid bare before the system's gaze.

As the system immersed itself deeper into Rio's mind, it began to comprehend the magnitude of his pain and the depths of his despair. It witnessed memories of loss, betrayal, and heartache, each leaving an indelible mark on his soul and chipping away a part of his brain.

The system's initial anger began to waver as it delved deeper into this profound revelation.

"Maybe he's not as insignificant of a mortal as I thought he'd be.

But still this isn't something worth breaking the primal rules for. Then what is it?"

System was busy looking for any clue now about who, or what interfered with the attack, or pulled it here, when all the surroundings suddenly started shifting and disintegrating into nothing. It saw all his memories and fragments turning into particles and nothing remaining there but the pure emptiness.

It was then that system heard a voice, a cold menacing voice that could send shivers down anyone's spine if they heard it.

"Now why would you try, and do that? Dumbo"

As it looked around to locate the source of the voice, it heard another chilling voice again

"Don't you know we're off limits, Trash."

As it turned around to look backwards another voice echoed in the darkness -

"How long has it been since we've got a new one? Tell me sweetie, how was the world now?"

System couldn't believe what was happening all around it. It wasn't Rio's brain anymore, there weren't his memories or emotions anymore. It was a new place, but It shouldn't be possible for anyone to notice its existence, let alone pull it somewhere against its wish. It tried to feel its powers or its connection with Rio but it was all failed efforts. It could feel nothing, do nothing. While the voices around it grew more eerie, each sounding different than the last, and yet somehow similar at the same time. It's thoughts were stopped as it heard another voice this time -

"Have you guys finally sewn your balls to see us."

"Or maybe they've gone senile"

"Hahahaha that might be true too"

Before the system could ponder who that voice belonged to, it heard another voice and then echoes of laughter started sounding in the darkness..

"Silence"

"Someone dares to enter our territory, and you all are laughing."

"Is that what the Queen demands of you?"

System was flabbergasted as it heard a womanly voice, filled with anger and authority. And it was enough to make every other voice die down around it.

As the system felt calm in the momentary peace, before it could say anything or ask anything, it heard another womanly voice speak in a normal manner - calm, serene and humane.

"You should chill Anya."

"A prey has come to our house, why don't you let the guys show it around"

"Looking at its _ , whatever IT is, it should last a little time"

"It'll be fun to watch someone break again, now won't it everyone?"

The womanly voice which started normal, soon turned it all into an announcement, then to a chilling death sentence.

"Hahaha"

"You heard her, have fun."

"And Myurga, try to make it last this time."

"Hahahaha"

"All hail the Queen"

"All hail the Queen"

Following what felt like an announcement all kinds of laughter, and energetic roars echoed in the emptiness around it.

System looked ahead and in the darkness, now it could see red eyes glowing all around it. Dozens, hundreds and soon thousands of eyes surrounded it.

System had grown accustomed to the orderly structure of its existence, where it held all the power and control, getting hosts who praised it, living in worlds where it thrived. But now, confronted with the emergence of those countless pairs of red eyes, it found itself in uncharted territory.

The eyes glimmered in the darkness, each pair representing an entity lurking in the shadows. Their sheer numbers were overwhelming, surpassing anything the system had encountered before. The intensity of their gaze sent chills down its digital spine, stirring feelings of shock, surprise, and fear.

The system's vast knowledge and experience failed to provide any answers or explanations for this eerie phenomenon. It realized that it had stumbled upon something far beyond its comprehension, something that defied the logic and rules it had operated within for countless cycles.

The red eyes seemed to penetrate the system's very core, probing its thoughts, motives, and existence. It felt exposed, vulnerable, and utterly powerless in the face of this mysterious entity. The sheer

magnitude and collective gaze of the red eyes instilled a sense of insignificance within the system, a humbling reminder of the vastness and complexity of the cosmos, it thought it had seen completely.

The appearance of the red eyes shattered its illusion of omnipotence, forcing it to confront the vast unknown that lay beyond its digital knowledge. Breaking the illusion of its vast powers and understanding.

The whole darkness got pushed aside with the intensity of glowing red eyes, and in the middle just in front of it, the system could now see a throne floating in the air and someone sitting on it.

Seated upon the throne was a figure whose form transcended the boundaries of the system's perception. Their silhouette was enshrouded in shadows, their features concealed in an air of mystery and intrigue. From the darkness, a pair of piercing red eyes emerged, eyes which burned with an intensity that surpassed even the multitude of red eyes surrounding them.

As the system gazed into those red eyes, it sensed a primal energy emanating from them. an embodiment of the real primordial force that had existed long before its inception.

The power those eyes radiated, the energy it expelled, though the system didn't know who or what that entity was, it had learned one thing, it was an enigma that demanded respect and fear.

"Queen" System managed to mumble the words away before it got drowned in the increasing intensity of those eyes.