

LOA Nobody 81

Chapter 81 Blessing Of Threads

"Give me the blessing of threads instead." Rio requested Skuld when she offered him her fate's blessing as her part of the deal. Deal

"That won't be helpful, you cannot control its power, or see the threads of others' fate. It'll be a waste." Skuld tried to inform him, as the blessing of threads was really wasted. No mortal could see the threads of fate, let alone control them. Even if she gave him that, it would be a 100% downplayed version of her skill, which would probably take years for him to master for any significant use. And once he learns that, he'll only complain about it later.

"Don't worry about me. Just do what you promised." Rio knew what her thoughts were, after all he had seen the story, and knew all about it.

Skill of threads was the ability of norn sisters through which they could see the threads of fate for anyone and learn everything about them. The sisters can even learn to create them or control them to their wishes, but a normal blessing cannot be that powerful. When someone receives that as a blessing, due to the limitations of the world system, it turns into a skill called -"Strings of mana".

Even though it wasn't useful much at the beginning and would probably take him years to master, Rio knew ways to strengthen it. After all, it was a skill custom made by the author for the protagonist. How can it be so simple? Since he already had Skuld's attention, there was no need for him to not try and get the skill that the protagonist was able to create using this blessing. Rio didn't have to waste his time thinking and learning its uses, Leon in the story had done all kinds of experiments with it, and gave him the idea of how to progress its mastery. He just has to do what the protagonist did and boom get the most badass skill in the novel.

Skuld regarded him with a mixture of curiosity and caution, as she waved her hand, a shimmering silver thread appeared out of nowhere and started moving towards him. Rio reached out his fingers making contact with the thread.

As Rio touched that thread, he felt a jolt of shock run down his entire being, a surge of energy coursing through his body. The silver thread started merging into his hands, its ethereal essence intertwining with

his very being. A radiant light enveloped him, casting an ethereal glow upon his figure. The marks of threads began to materialize on his hands, intricate patterns intertwining and weaving across his skin. Each line and curve carried a hidden pattern, a hidden meaning for all the different threads he will see, showcasing different emotions, different actions, different fates and their versions.

With each passing moment, the merging of thread became more intense. Rio felt a sharp pain, as if the threads were cutting into his skin.

his fingertips underwent a transformation. They darkened momentarily, the once unblemished skin now bearing the marks of his connection to the threads. Thin cuts and reddish marks formed on his fingertips, It was showing him the delicate balance between free will and the unseen forces of destiny, depicting the laborious task that awaited him if he ever wished to control the threads of fate.

The threads seemed to pulsate with a quiet energy, Rio endured the pain as he felt his fingers breaking and bending, healing and binding in that process, soon the merging of that silver thread was complete, leaving behind only the mark of the blessing.

A single black thread which formed a circle, emerged on both of Rio's wrists, symbolizing the blessing of threads that he received.

"Remember your words mortal, I'll be watching you." Rio looked ahead as Skuld's ethereal figure began to fade away, the world around him started to lose its solidity. Everything became transparent, fading into invisibility before his very eyes.

But just as quickly as the world disappeared, it reappeared in a different form. Rio found himself back in the familiar surroundings of the world tree garden. However, there was a noticeable change. A translucent glass wall now encased the garden, separating it from the outer realm.

Beyond the glass wall, the magnificent expanse of the Milky Way floated in all its celestial splendor. Stars shimmered and danced, while different stones and planets circled all around it.

"So I passed out huhh"

Rio said as he looked around and understood where he was, it was his new system space, which his system and he discussed some time ago. He was really shocked and impressed at how perfectly this system copied that style, the addition of a glass dome and stars outside was just a sight to behold.

[Yes host, you lost your consciousness as soon as you received the blessing. Even though you are awakened now, your body is still far too weak for holding them without batting an eye. You should be more careful next time.]

"I know, that's why I wasn't planning to look for any Gods anytime soon. It's just that Artemis suddenly asked that question and I had to improvise."

[I understand, but can you explain what you were trying to do threatening a Goddess like that. What was that dialogue 'I came to give you a deal, but if you prefer death, I can give it too.' Who do you think you are? If she wanted she could've killed you in microseconds.]

"But she didn't. It was just as I expected."

[Hmm I can read your mind, host. Don't think you can fool me. You just went nuts cause she talked about Amelia.]

"Yeah well it still worked out, didn't it? I got the blessing and she learned that she couldn't act out with me even if she wanted."

[But a risky move nonetheless. You depended too much on the novel's plot thinking you cannot die this early, which could easily backfire and get you killed if you were wrong.]

"You think I don't know that. If that was any other God I wouldn't do this myself. It was Skuld that's why I was even willing to talk."

You see, system, this is why it is very easy to deal with Gods who can see the future, they start to believe that only their visions are the truth. She too believed in them wholeheartedly.

We've seen notifications of how she was interested in my future ever since my awakening. Which means she must've tried to read my fate before, and saw something which was enough to make her curious and watch me constantly. Now what do you think is interesting enough to hook a goddess on me.

[Your ending] system said, as it tried to understand what he meant.

"Yes, my ending. Now tell me, someone who saw it happen, would that person kill me before, knowing what that will lead to. Skuld knows all too well the consequences of my early death. If anything, with this deal I just secured myself a free bodyguard till the novel's ending."

[Still I'll remind you not to try anything like this ever again. Skuld was naive to believe your threats and a fool to let you go. Not many Gods would do that. Some like to act on impulse, just like you.]

"True, but don't worry. With this blessing, alongside Nyx's blessing I have enough for now." Rio said as he thought about his future plans for growth. He had received foundation art from Agnus for sword techniques, Artemis would train him in mana control and learning spells, Nyx's blessing can help his elemental mastery, while Skuld's blessing would be a go to overall free to use however I want skill.

There were 3 things which he still lacked: endurance, defense and aura. Endurance will only depend on his training. Defense, well, he's packed from top to bottom on artifacts so no worry for that. Lastly aura, he needs to steal some stuff again to improve that, but that would probably be for the future and he doesn't need to worry about it now.

"So, how long will I be able to wake up? It isn't like when I'm asleep where I can leave from here whenever I wish."

[You will be able to feel your body when you're ready to wake up. And I can notify you too when it's time.]

"Hmm do that then, I'll sleep a little. Dealing with Gods is hard."

[Nobody asked you too]

"Whatever, wake me up when it's time."

While Rio was getting his second blessing, Artemis was making another training method for him, and Amelia too. Since she heard that their family would face danger soon, even though Rio said that he changed the events, she decided to make her kids as strong as possible, so they could survive on their own even if something happened to their family.

She got the report that the team of alphas she sent would bring Esme back to Damascus tomorrow, and she was now very interested in learning how Rio convinced her to attack a baron.

She had asked Camilla to stay at Harendale city and keep an eye on Baron Misha for now. Since Rio was trying to deal with him, as her mother she should finish the job.

Her thoughts and plans were interrupted when she heard a croaky voice "Your son is indeed like you, mortal"

"What happened?" Artemis asked as she dropped the pen and stood up.

"He has gotten another blessing. Barely a day has passed since his awakening and kid's practically surrounded by divinity from head to toe. He'll grow even stronger than that freak father of yours." As the voice finished its words a ghastly laughter echoed in Artemis's ears, as she started walking towards Rio's room.

"If you're that happy then give him a blessing too." Artemis asked as she hurried her footsteps. Unlike power hungry Rio, she knew how risky it could be to try and learn too many blessings with his weak body. "Can't he just enjoy his childhood"

Chapter 82 Hellish Days - Stamina Training L

Nearly 3 weeks have passed since Rio lied to Artemis about that fateful future, and from when he received Skuld's blessing. That day Rio had complained about some of his classes to Artemis, and Artemis being the dutiful lovely mother that she is -heard his pleas.

Nowadays Rio doesn't complain about his classes, hell he doesn't complain about anything. There are only regrets eating his heart and one thought roaring in his head -'Telling her that I know the future and hinting at what happens was a bad move. A very, very, very bad move.'

Ever since Rio had told Artemis about how in the future their family would face some troubles and how it'll lead to their downfall, she had let go of all her restraints and become crazy.

She's been training him and Amelia like they're gladiators, about to go fight in arenas. She even forgot that they're both kids and is full fledged on making them stronger. While Amelia is busy all day in her normal theory classes, Rio on the other hand is getting everything all at once.

Artemis, who couldn't ask him about what troubles lay ahead, seemed determined to prepare him for basically everything, and in her fervor, she added an overwhelming number of training methods and exercises to his already packed schedule. The once-limited theory and noble classes had multiplied, filling his days to the brim. Rio couldn't help but marvel at how he managed to fit everything into the span of 24 hours.

With each passing day, Rio grew more convinced that telling Artemis about the future had been an enormous mistake. Her fierce protectiveness had spiraled into an obsession to train him beyond his limits.

He yearned for the motherly figure he once knew, the gentle presence that would comfort and tease him. He missed the times when she was cool and funny, or when she would bully him like a kid, he missed when he could just lie down and sleep peacefully in her laps, but that was all gone. Now, all he saw was a mama bear turned berserk, hellbent on making him stronger.

Rio questioned whether he would ever be able to escape this relentless cycle of training. His soul shivers every time he remembers that there are still 8 years until the plot starts and he'll have to live like this. He even doubted that instead of the protagonist it's this training that will end him first.

From the moment he opens his eyes to the moment he's so dead tired that someone has to drag his body to his bed at night, his whole day is just one big training schedule. He wonders now if reincarnating as a noble was a good thing or not.

Let me explain how it goes like -

— As Rio groggily opened his eyes, he was greeted by the sight of Myra standing over him, her expression stern and unwavering. She pulled his soft bed sheet that covered half his face, and with a swift motion of an assassin, she kicked his butt, making him roll over and fall down the bed. His body ached in protest from the brutal training he had endured yesterday. He tried to sit up, but the fatigue weighed him down, making even the simplest of movements a struggle. Looking at Myra's strict expression, the realization hit him like a ton of bricks, that this was his new reality.

----- It was now 5am. Time when even the sun hasn't come out, he was forced to be ready and start his physical training with Luke, one of Agnus's personal guards. He's all brawn no brain kind of guy, a musclehead - which makes him the perfect instructor for his stamina training.

After doing some warm up exercises, he had to start running around the gardens until his legs gave up and he fell face first. Then there was some other different stuff everyday like weightlifting, dragging some heavy stuff across the ground, jumping across the hills or running through the forest and whatnot. Anything that can increase his stamina or endurance, he'll have to do it. Since the idiot training him had no brain, Rio could forget about mercy and had to give it his all.

Rio groggily made his way to his personal training grounds, rubbing the sleep from his eyes. As his gaze fell upon Luke, a towering figure with bulging muscles, Rio couldn't help but stare at the man's imposing physique. He looked like a certain character from a certain series he watched back on earth. 'Man's practically a walking mountain of muscles.' Rio thought as he started walking towards him and that mountain only got bigger the nearer he reached.

"Morning Luke, you're up early to make me suffer again, I see." Rio said with a teasing grin, which was soon going to be replaced with a frown.

"It's called training young master. And I'm not early, you're late. Master especially asked me to prepare you to your peak. I've never failed any of his tasks, and I'm not planning to fail now. So forgive me for being strict." Luke said as they started to run around the training grounds. When running with Luke, Rio had to constantly watch his surroundings and maintain a pace the same as him. Sometimes he'd be running so fast like monsters were after his ass, and then suddenly he'd change his pace and start walking like a snail. Rio had to carefully follow his steps if he didn't want to fall face first in some traps that this bastard prepared beforehand, or just cause if Luke was too far or too behind him, then he'll get a shock jolting through his neck, due to the chain he was wearing now.

An artifact made to keep track of criminals, so they don't run away from a certain distance, used for training an heir of a duchy - and somehow this musclebrain came up with this idea. (Obviously he reduced the intensity of shock otherwise I'd be unconscious at once, but still it stings a lot.)

Chapter 83 Hellish Days - Stamina Training LI

After doing the light warmup, Rio and Luke both started running circles around the training grounds. Looking at the muscular men's physique, Rio felt curious about something and decided to ask his doubts - "Tell me Luke, what's the secret to your physique? I mean, you're like a little giant for a normal human and you don't even use aura." Opposite to how he looks and what everyone would expect from watching his build, this man was actually a pure magician. Why would someone who trains and focuses on mana would look like this, Rio had no idea. [A/N - as you readers can guess, Luke's character wasn't written in the novel Shiva read. Which is logical as Blake's family had thousands of people working under them, and Agnus alone had a whole guild as his subordinates. So MC meeting people who weren't in the novel is normal.]

Luke let out a deep laugh, his biceps flexing as he waved his hands and said "Aura and mana have nothing to do with this, young heir. I just like to be in perfect shape. Be consistent in your training and push yourself to the limits whenever you can, do that and you can be just like me too."

Hearing his words Rio shook his head, ain't no way in hell he wanted to look like a giant. Not to sound narcissist but Artemis and Agnus's pretty genes really did make him have good looks, it would be a waste if he grew muscles and tarnished his perfect looks. "No thanks, I don't want to scare the kids when I walk near them. I just want a physique that looks good in a suit."

"Suit or not, what matters is the strength from inside, your will, your endurance. Looks can be deceiving but habits can't." Luke said as he shrugged his shoulders and slowed his pace.

With each passing minute, the intensity of his training increased, after the run came some other exercises and then the classic weight lifting. Luke brought out two metal cuffs and placed them on Rio's ankles. Luke passed his mana into a designated pattern and the cuffs shone brightly for a second, suddenly Rio felt like someone grabbed his legs and dragged him to hell. He literally felt like his feet got trapped in place.

"Luke, I think you messed up a little, this isn't what we do daily man. Why don't you check it again." Rio said hoping that this was just a mistake and not what he thinks it is. But his illusion got shattered when he heard Luke's words "This is the new usual, young master. Get used to it."

The heaviness of the weights made it nearly impossible for Rio to lift his legs off the ground. He could only manage to drag himself forward, leaving deep scratches in the dust as he strained to make any progress.

Without showing any sympathy, Luke continued his relentless training regimen. He added two cuffs to Rio's hands, further increasing the burden on his already fatigued body. The weight was so intense that Rio's arms drooped, unable to withstand the gravitational pull. They fell heavily, striking his legs in the process, causing Rio to collapse onto all fours.

Rio tried to push his mana to his hands and feet, so he could stand up, but those damn cuffs sucked his mana dry as soon as it came into contact.

"No shortcuts young master." Luke's laughter echoed through the training grounds as he took delight in Rio's predicament. He seemed unfazed by Rio's struggles, relishing in the challenge he had presented.

As Rio struggled, he couldn't help but curse under his breath. Every movement became a monumental effort as he fought against the overwhelming force dragging him down. Beads of sweat formed on his forehead, his muscles trembling with exertion.

Finally, after watching him crawl on the ground for a while, Luke signaled an end to this exercise, removing the cuffs from Rio's limbs. His body felt lighter in an instant, a stark contrast to the immense burden he had just endured, and he collapsed onto the ground, gasping for breath. His body battered and exhausted, sweats dripping down his face, like he just came out of the shower.

Even though his body looked like that his mind only had frustration and anger in it -'System add this guy's name to the list.'

[As you wish host.]

If someone looked at his condition now, they would pity the poor soul he was, but the idiot guy who was supposed to be his teacher ignored his looks and said "Next time, instead of focusing on mana, focus on your strength young master. I know you can do it. Your body has just awakened, it can adapt to anything however you want, so do not slack off. You'll be meeting many of those royals at princess' party soon, you need to show them the power of the Blake family."

"We're going there for a celebration Luke, not war. I don't need to run around flexing or beat some brats, to show my power there." Rio said as he started to feel his hands again, he wiped his sweat, but he was still in no condition to stand up or even sit straight.

Luke sneered as he heard those naive words, "You should always be prepared young master. You're the future heir, what'll you do if they show off in front of you? You represent the future of our house, you can never be called weak." His expressions took a serious turn as he announced "Your prestige should surpass the Duke's image young heir, that's how you can make him proud."

"I'm an awakened Luke. How many kids do you think can finish their awakening successfully at the age of 10? I even awakened my element, and got a blessing, they'll think twice before doing anything stupid." Rio said trying to place his point.

[Even though anyone can awaken whenever they want, most parents still try to have their kids do it when they're around the age of 15. Cause then they have higher chance of enduring the pain & control themselves, and not shit their pants while screaming for mommy when awakening starts. Painful process of restructuring your body and merging of world system weren't to be taken lightly.]

"And you're only saying that because you haven't met them. Let me tell you all royals are snakes, saying something to your face and doing the complete opposite behind your back. Don't they teach you this in your classes." Luke said in a bitter tone, trying to enlighten Rio.

'What a musclehead. If anyone in Haven heard his words they'll have his head.' Rio thought as he heard Luke's words about openly dissing the royalty. His dislike for royalty was something everyone knew due

to something that happened in the past. But since it wasn't mentioned in the novel Rio had no idea. But then he remembered something and a playful grin crept on his face as he said "You do know that the royal Queen is my aunt right. I wonder what mother would think about this." Rio's smile widened as he saw the nervous look on that big mountain.

"Well, that's uh...oh look it's time already. We'll talk tomorrow, young master. Walk slowly." The barbarian said, turned around and left in a hurry.

'Not like I can run around in this condition, you hobo.' Rio thought as he slowly pushed himself up from the ground. After 2 hours of gruesome labor he finally got free from this torture, but this was just the beginning of his day. There were still many hours left till he could sleep peacefully again.

Chapter 84 Hellish Days - Learning Theory

— After finishing 2 hours of his morning training with Luke, Rio has to freshen up and then get ready for breakfast with his family. After spending all his energy on that training, obviously he needed to eat a lot to fill his stomach to recharge himself. Plus the food always tasted so good that he couldn't eat less even if he wanted to.

— At 9:00am, a different type of hell starts. His theory classes, for 3 hours straight he needs to sit and listen to different people coming and going, teaching him about Arcadia's history, world affairs, dungeons and monster anatomy, basically all kinds of stuff he should just know by heart, if he wants to live well. The teachers who came to teach him were obviously very knowledgeable and experienced.

Now this may sound easy since Rio already knew some stuff before from the novel, but it's not. He had just eaten his fill and his body needed sleep. Keeping his eyes open during this period was a mental torture.

(Every time he fell asleep either a pat on his head or a basic water spell greeted his face.)

"According to what we know of mana and its connection with the world, it is believed that unlike aura, mana has no form. It is a simple energy that can be sensed, felt and used, but cannot be seen. Now if you wonder if mana has no form then why can we see it while using the spells or how some high rankers control it to their wishes - well that's cause when we use spells or any element, we don't use pure mana, we take it in and try to change it into something we wish for."

Rio's eyes began to droop with weariness. The exhaustion from his training and then him eating too much was making it difficult to stay awake and fully focused. His eyelids fluttered, repeatedly closing and opening in a struggle against sleep. Just as he was about to succumb to sleep, a small gust of wind slapped his cheek, rousing him. He shifted his attention back to the teacher, hoping they hadn't noticed his momentary lapse. Meanwhile, the teacher continued his explanation, seemingly unfazed by the interruption.

"As for how high rankers can control the mana, that's because as you reach higher in ranks your body gets attuned with mana, after years of progress just like everything else mana too becomes a part of it. Giving you a sensory feeling which is far more enhanced than anything else, making them more sensible to mana. Since they can sense every property of mana better than others, it is easier for them to control it. Now if you understand it all, then we'll proceed to the next topic, beginning of spells."

Rio's eyelids grew heavy once more, his focus slipping into sleep. He wanted to stay awake but this was all too damn boring for him, he already knew this stuff. Maybe he didn't but who teaches anyone just after they've finished their food. It's like they're begging the student to fall asleep in class.

This time instead of ignoring Rio's sleeping struggles, his teacher waved his hand and a small water bubble started floating towards Rio's face. As soon as Rio's hand slipped and his face fell, the bubble hit him, startling him awake. Rio blinked rapidly, trying to look around if anyone saw him. He glanced at the teacher, who wore a subtle smile.

"That is me using a basic spell of water element called 'water bubble'. Now let's continue."

Rio straightened his back and started doodling in his diary trying to look focused, while cursing his luck.

— After living through that boredom and repeating that cycle for 3 hours, now it was 12:00 am, time for his most annoying class :Noble's etiquette. A 30 something old dude named Eckart teaching him about how he should behave. He taught him about how he should act according to his status, graceful movements, how to talk in social gatherings, how to manage political speeches, what to avoid and who to respect, basically all kinds of shit that makes no sense.

We live in a world where monsters and dungeons exist, and yet this guy wasted one hour today teaching him about how to maintain his appearance, about how he should dress and always look like a noble. He

even gives tips on how to woo girls at parties, like what the fuck dude. Let me sleep if you got nothing useful to teach.

— After this 1 long ass hour of boring stuff, comes something interesting at least - Lunch.

'Ohhh how I've missed the taste of food.' Lunch always tastes extra delicious since that E cart bastard would sometimes give him something to eat in the middle of his chapter, just so he could see what his table manners are. Shiva who basically survived on instant noodles back on earth, could never satisfy his keen old eyes, which always picked out faults.

— After eating his lunch, he gets 2 hours of break time, which he happily spends playing around with Amelia and Rebecca. Erza, Esme's little sister also became friends with Amy, and she keeps her company while Rio's busy.

***Erza's sickness Ratten was only in the beginning phase so it got cured easily, after giving her some high level monster blood and healing potions. Looking at how Rio especially asked to save her, Artemis probably thought she was someone important and decided to keep her alive for now.

Esme too was brought back by Alphas she sent some time ago, and she's been forgiven a little. Obviously Artemis didn't trust her fully again, so she gave her the ultimatum of death or slavery, Esme happily chose to sign the slave contract with Blake family. Esme has also taken mana oaths and blood oaths so she can never harm anyone from the Blake bloodline.

Now she was back at being Rio's shadow. Even though her freedom was done for, unless the protagonist does his halo magic, she was still happy about it.

Her sister, which is why she went nuts in the novel, was safe and sound, happy too as she got a new friend in Amelia, which helped her get over her experience in slave mines and the Belmont family.

Esme's wish to be free from her burdens and happily living together came true, if it costs her one oath which she would've done anyway - she's okay with it.

So where were we - ohh so what comes after the break

— At 4:00pm he has alchemy class, which is somewhat better and more interesting than other ones. Since Rio knew recipes of tons of potions, and knew locations of where to find more, he was really interested in learning this. Since he wasted too much time and effort into making pura corpus potion despite knowing everything about it, he had decided to take this a little bit seriously.

After all, doping is a thing in this world. And besides, what better way to power up than just eating some pills as candies.

His teacher for this lesson was a famous alchemist named Riona Pabbit. A halfling, she has a part rabbit bloodline, Rio never heard of her in the novel, so he was curious about her life, but she doesn't talk about it, since she had to leave her clan to join alchemy association.

After one hour of making and mixing potions, trying to learn and identify different herbs and their uses, Rio could finally get out of that place.

Chapter 85 Hellish Days - Learning Magic

— At 5:00pm it was finally time for him to learn some magic. Myra took care of that aspect, she taught him elemental magic and how to control his mana usage. Since shadow and darkness magic were somewhat similar at the beginning, her knowledge was a big help in better understanding of his element.

He pulled that stunt in awakening on a whim easily, since he was basically surrounded by shit ton of mana, so converting that into his element was easy, but now even trying to get a wisp of black smoke looked like a hard job to him. As the author of that novel explained, during awakening when someone is surrounded by a high density of mana, they would have an easier time learning about their element and trying to use it.

It was like when you drop someone in the middle of the ocean, even if he didn't know how to swim, he'll flap his hands nonsensically and somehow still manage to come to the surface at least once. But if you

put that same person in a small swimming pool, his feet would touch the ground before he could even flail around a little, and would never learn how to swim.

The same is the case with Rio now, since he had no control over mana or no knowledge about it, he couldn't utilize the thin amount of mana present in the air. That's what he needed to learn now. How to sense mana, absorb it and channel it through his body.

After awakening, a person's body undergoes a transformation that renders it suitable for containing mana. It becomes a vessel capable of holding and utilizing it. However, the capacity and absorption rate of mana within the body vary depending on an individual's rank.

For those with a low rank, their body can only accommodate a limited amount of mana. Their capacity is relatively small, and their ability to absorb mana from the surroundings is even slower.

As a person's rank increases, so does their mana capacity. Their body becomes more adept at channeling and storing mana within their being. With a higher rank, individuals can hold and manipulate large amounts of mana, allowing for more potent spells and abilities.

The absorption rate of mana also improves with rank. Higher-ranking individuals possess a heightened ability to draw in mana from their surroundings, replenishing their own reserves more efficiently. This enables them to recover their mana more quickly during intense magical fights and engage in prolonged spellcasting without becoming depleted.

Myra began her lesson on mana and its flow circulation within the body. She explained the importance of understanding how to absorb and feel the presence of mana within oneself.

"Mana is the essence of magic, a powerful energy that flows through everything in this world. As an awakened individual, one possesses the ability to harness and manipulate this energy to their own will."

She continues, "First, let us focus on the concept of mana centers. Many refer to it as the sea of mana or elixir field or in simpler terms dantian. It is a space within your body where mana gathers and resides. After awakening, you may feel a sensation of emptiness or hollowness in this area, located near your heart."

Myra gestures towards her own chest, indicating the approximate location. "This mana center serves as a reservoir for the mana you absorb from the environment. It is here that you can store the mana within you."

"As you work towards advancing in rank, it is essential to understand the significance of increasing your mana capacity," Myra begins. "The mana capacity of your dantian, or the sea of mana within you, plays a crucial role in your advancement."

"From F rank to A rank, one of the primary focuses is expanding the mana capacity of your dantian. This can be achieved through various means, including consistent mana absorption, specialized mana cultivation techniques, and training exercises that stimulate the flow and expansion of mana within your body. As your dantian expands, it allows you to hold and manipulate larger quantities of mana."

"After reaching A rank, one needs to form their mana core, separate from dantian, where they can store even more mana. That's how you reach the limit rank. The process to reach S rank differs even more, but that's for the future."

Now try to channel the mana like I taught you. Let it move within your body, try to sense it, feel it in your veins, once you do that, then try to control its direction. Have it move slowly towards your heart, but not into it, send it lower, into your mana center. When you learn to control the mana within you, that's when you proceed to control the mana around you. Continue this process until you feel you can do it in your sleep. This should become a habit so much so that with every breath you take your mana should be replenished a little."

"Imagine your blood is a river and mana is a boat, currently it is sailing along the flow, moving constantly with the path it was fixed upon, floating on the waves. Now try to separate the two, try to see them as two different entities, a gap between the boat and the river. That is where your will comes in. Command the mana within you, focus your mind solely on that, and see where that mana takes you. The more familiar you are with your own mana, the easier it gets to learn elemental magic."

Now imagine the feeling you had during your awakening, what did you think when you were using your element for the first time. What did you feel when all your mana turned into darkness, was it something you wished for, was it something you could control, imagine that darkness, imagine that feeling and let it happen."

In all of his training, Myra was the only one who practically went easy on him, she didn't force him to push his limits or keep trying till he dropped dead. Well it was because of how forcing him to use

elemental magic could be harmful, as his mana could go berserk, hurting him in the process, since he had no control over it. But still she was still being friendly and nice, except when she came to wake him up in the morning.

— After one hour of playing around with his magic, where he just have to sit around and close his eyes, comes the shitty part that he hates. His physical training, after all not everything depends on magic, once he lost his mana, only his fighting ability and reflexes would save him. There were many ways to stop someone from using their mana, a simple void spell, null magic, antimagic cuffs, some sepric runes, some formations or artifacts- any one of them could make someone powerless. So physical training has always been a part of Arcadia. There are no simple mages who can't fight at close range, well there are, but those idiots will die soon if they don't learn their lessons.

This is why even awakeners try to learn aura as that would make them even more stronger and guarantee their safety. As they say if you stay in the fight long enough or struggle hard enough, some Gods might like your willpower or pity your strength and bless you with something that can actually save your life -so everyone wants to be an all rounder, hoping to stay alive long enough. Always trying to win the favor of the Gods, who simply don't give a fuck...

Chapter 86 Hellish Days - Physical Training (Beatdown)

With a loud thud, Rio's young body hit the ground, his body aching, his breath heavy and sweat dripping down his forehead. Bruises marked his skin as a testament to the intense training he had endured. Determination burned in his eyes as he struggled to rise to his feet once more, his small hands trembling as he reached for his wooden sword, the weight of it familiar in his grasp. He charged towards his master, hoping to finally land a successful strike. But alas, his swing missed its mark, leaving him vulnerable and exposed. In an instant, his assailant swiftly countered, their wooden sword connecting with Rio's stomach, causing him to double over in pain. As if that wasn't enough, a sharp slap landed on the back of his head, sending him crashing to the ground once again. The impact jolting through his body. He winced, feeling a mixture of physical pain and frustration welling up within him. As he struggled to catch his breath, he heard a single word escape his assailant's mouth, "Again."

Rio pushed himself up, and ran towards his assailant, swinging his sword with all his might, he aimed to strike from different angles, hoping to catch them off guard. However, his young and inexperienced movements proved futile as his assailant effortlessly dodged and parried his attacks. As Rio swung his sword at his assailant's hands again, his assailant moved a little backwards and pushed their sword down, hitting Rio's hands so hard that his sword fell down, his wrists turned red, starting to swell a little. But fueled by anger and determination Rio ignored the pain, and started to throw punches and kicks at his assailant, yet his assailant showed the gap they had in their agility and skills, as she dodged everything and while Rio's right leg was in the air, they kicked his left leg, making him fall down again.

Pushing through the pain, he summoned all his strength and stood up once more, hoping to get his revenge, even a little bit of scratch would give him happiness, But just as he rose to his feet, his assailant, cold and heartless, delivered a powerful kick that sent him tumbling across the ground. The impact rattled his body, his spirit wavering for a moment. The word "again" reverberated in Rio's ears, a constant reminder that he had to endure this torture.

Exhausted and disheartened, Rio let out a frustrated breath. "Fuck, I give up," he muttered under his breath, his voice barely audible. He needed a break from the relentless beatings he was receiving. As he lay on the ground, he gazed up at the evening sky, even the floating clouds looked less reddish than his skin.

'What kind of heartless monsters beat a 10 year old kid like this.'

Amidst his fatigue, he caught the sound of laughter and chatting from two girls nearby. One voice stood out—his sister's.

"Attack her from the left, brother, her left! You'll definitely be able to scratch her," Amelia exclaimed, her voice filled with encouragement. Rio turned his neck toward her, wincing at the pain radiating from the slap he had just received. He wanted to retort, to remind her that she wasn't the one getting beaten, but the exhaustion left him wordless and drained.

With a mix of exhaustion etched across his face, Rio remained silent as Amelia continued her pep talk.

"Come on, brother, one more time. This is the last. And then I'll win."

Her voice dropped to a soft whisper towards the end, almost as if she didn't want anyone else to hear her words. But sadly for her Rio who had recently awakened and had heightened senses caught wind of her faint whisper, causing a flicker of curiosity and suspicion to dance within him. 'Did she bet on how many times I could get beaten?'

He looked towards his sister with a weak smile, hoping to find a confirmation that would put his doubts to rest. However, Amelia, sensing her brother's thoughts, deliberately avoided his gaze..

"Wow, look at that tree! It's so green!"

Her voice held a forced enthusiasm as she pointed toward a nearby tree. Rio's heart sank as he realized that his sister was intentionally evading the topic,

"Yes, it really is." Rio looked at the other girl who was standing there with his sister. She had the expression of someone who was trying her hardest not to laugh, but still kept failing.

It was clear that she was complicit in Amelia's act of betrayal too, they were both part of the betting scheme.

He looked at the girl, his eyes saying - 'Is this why I saved you? What a great way to repay your debt.'

She was Erza Scarlett. Esme's little sister. The character who was supposed to be working as a slave in mines, someone who should've turned into a zombie and died - he saved her life, and this is how she's thanking him.

His assailant, who was feeling ignored, spoke - "Come on, master. One more time. This is nothing."

Rio's gaze shifted towards the voice, he glared at the person speaking to him, who's been beating him senseless till now and had an annoying smile plastered on their face. She was Esme, his 'training instructor'.

After he fooled Artemis with that fate and future story, she somehow went easy on Esme, seeing that I was still willing to trust her even after seeing my fate. Ever since then Esme's back at being my shadow again.

This is what makes Rio even angrier, someone whom he freed from prison, helped them avoid death penalty and also saved her sister's life, is beating him daily. Hell, she was even enjoying it.

Just looking at all 3 girls around the arena, only one thought was left in his head - 'traitors, all of them.'

He felt anger and frustration but he was helpless. Gritting his teeth, Rio slowly got up again, he wiped the sweat from his brow, his body trembling from exhaustion and the pain. He looked at Esme, who still had that sly smile on her face,

'Damn this child's body, if I met you back on earth I'd show you what's what.' Rio thought as he remembered the time when he used to be the one beating others senseless.

[That's your delusion host. She would still beat you back on earth. But you would get some hits in, unlike now when you can't even touch her.]

'Fuck you system. If you were somewhat useful, I wouldn't be in this situation.' Rio cursed this useless system who's been doing nothing for the past few days.

Chapter 87 Hellish Days - Beatdown LI

While Rio was busy cursing his system, he felt a little sting on his neck, causing him to instinctively reach for the source of the discomfort. To his horror, his fingertips brushed against the cold edge of a sword pointed directly at his throat. His eyes widened with fear as he glanced downward, his heart pounding in his chest.

"Never let your eyes off your opponent." Esme spoke as she shook her hand a little.

The sharpness of her voice sent a shiver down Rio's spine. He could feel a droplet of blood trickling down his neck, evidence of the sword's graze. Even though it was a wooden sword, with her speed it was enough to cut him.

Reacting on pure instinct, Rio hastily backed away from the threatening sword, his heart racing with a mix of fear and adrenaline. In his retreat, his foot caught on his own wooden sword, forgotten on the ground, causing him to lose his balance and fall on his rear with an undignified thud.

The frustration and pain boiled within Rio, causing him to utter a curse under his breath.

"Fuckk"

Amelia who watched her brother getting beaten again was happy for her win, when she saw him back away, only to fall on his butt again. It reminded her of her own past memories as she thought 'that oughta hurt.'

Esme's voice echoed in the air once again, her tone stern "Always watch your surroundings."

Rio's thoughts churned with a mixture of anger and annoyance. He couldn't help but think sarcastically, his internal monologue laced with frustration.

'A little late, bitch.' He thought as he massaged his back, it really fucking hurts.

[Language host. You're a 10 year old, remember.]

Hearing his system's reminder about manners, fueled Rio's anger further, as he cursed again -'This useless...add her name in my list.'

[She's already in it.]

'Then add it again.'

[Host, system logs aren't your personal diary of revenge. They're there if you want to keep the plot written and saved, so you don't forget something over time.]

'It's my choice. Imma use it as my diary. Now add her name, this beating is a debt I should pay back someday.'

[Hopeless]

'Enough being fair. I'm a villain, so let's play dirty now.'

[And shameless too]

As he thought that, his angry eyes turned pitiful and with an expression of defeat and self pity he said -

"Esme, I'm your master right." watching as Esme nodded her head, he continued pleading in his voice "You're my shadow. Can't you go easy on me. Look mother or Myra aren't here, no one will know. Just for today, Please."

Esme looked up and down at her pitiful master, and agreed. "Fine, but you better train extra tomorrow."

Hearing her words a smile came to Rio's face and he said energetically -"Of course. Tomorrow it is, bye Esme." Saying this Rio turned around, his mind filled with the desperate hope of escaping this wretched place. He wanted nothing more than to leave before anyone could stop him for further torment. But his brief moment of relief was abruptly shattered as he sensed something peculiar happening around him. A wave of unease washed over him as he realized his feet were no longer touching the ground. His heart raced with fear as he looked down, only to be met with the shocking sight of himself suspended in mid-air.

Esme's voice cut through the silence, her words piercing his fragile little heart. "Never trust your opponent, and show him your back."

Rio, guessing what will be coming next, pleaded in fear -"Esme, let me down. This is too much right. You want training, then let's train on the ground. I'm good, I promise. One more try right 'again'."

However, his pleas fell on deaf ears as Esme continued her lesson " Or it'll result in your fall."

Then with a swift motion, Esme withdrew her mana, severing the invisible force that held Rio afloat. The sudden loss of support sent Rio hurtling towards the unforgiving ground, his body crashing down with a resounding thud. The impact was bone-jarring, knocking the wind out of him and sending waves of pain coursing through his battered form.

Amelia turned around at the sound of the impact, she couldn't bear to witness her brother's painful descent. She covered her ears and squeezed her eyes shut, unable to confront the sight of his suffering. Her heart heavy with worry, but there was nothing she could do.

Meanwhile, Rio lay on the ground, disoriented and in agony, his back likely bearing the brunt of the fall. His mind raced as he contemplated the extent of his injuries. Thoughts of a broken back and a life confined to a bed plagued his mind, but he clung to a sliver of solace, a small consolation amidst the searing pain, imagining an end to these grueling training sessions. "At least I won't have to endure these training sessions anymore."

But even that fragile sense of relief was short-lived, his fleeting hope shattered as Esme approached him, a healing potion in hand. She poured it down his throat, its magical properties working to mend his wounds and alleviate his pain. Rio felt a surge of both relief and frustration wash over him.

'Who the fuck made these potions. They're used to heal, not torture someone.'

Esme's words stung with teasing delight, echoed in his ears like a haunting reminder. "Same time tomorrow, Master."

Accompanied by her sister Erza and Amelia, Esme departed from the training grounds.

Rio was left lying there on the training grounds, he looked like a dead body, slowly getting revived as potion worked its effects.

His body slowly recovering from the ordeal. The pain subsided, replaced by a dull ache that served as a constant reminder of the grueling injuries he endured. It felt like a form of hell, being pushed to his limits day after day, his body and spirit tested to the brink.

[Host please stand up, if you get late for dinner. You'll miss Artemis's class.]

"System"

[Yes host]

"Add yourself to the list. I'mma fuck you up for being useless."

[Trainings are to help you get stronger host. This is for your own good.]

"Fuck off Tony Robbins*1."

Rio mustered what strength he could, dragging himself up from the ground, his movements sluggish and pained, resembling those of a zombie. As he made his way towards the showers, his mind clouded with a mix of frustration and resignation, he muttered under his breath.

"This is hell."

With a heavy heart and weary body, Rio stepped into the showers, hoping that the cold water would wash away not only the sweat and grime but also the lingering sense of hopelessness.

As Agnus observed Rio making his way out of the training grounds, his body fatigued and his steps heavy, he couldn't help but feel a pang of concern. He turned around to face his wife, a concerned expression etched on his face, he voiced his worries about the intensity of Rio's training. "Isn't it too much, Artemis? He's still just a child," Agnus said, his voice filled with a mix of concern and fatherly protectiveness.

"He's still standing, isn't he?" Artemis responded, her voice steady yet laced with a touch of sadness, "I know it hurts to see him struggle, Agnus. It pains me too. But as his parents it's our job to prepare him, to make him stronger so that no one could ever hurt him."

Her words were firm, but her heart ached as she watched Rio push himself to the limits. She recalled his screams and observed the toll it had taken on his tired body. However, deep down, she knew that this rigorous training was necessary to prepare him for the challenges he would face. Ever since she heard that her whole family would be ruined in the future, her heart had been shaken, she vowed that she would never let anything happen to anyone close to her as long as she lives. Artemis had made a difficult decision, stealing her heart away to train Rio to become the strongest he could be.

Agnus didn't know why Artemis was so focused on training him, as she promised Rio to not tell anyone about his blessing. But since he knew his wife so well he could see that nothing he could say would change her mind. He only thought she was still worried because of that curse incident and those traitors, that's why she wanted Rio's safety.

Tony Robbins is a world famous motivational speaker. Indian readers, if you don't understand, then just think of him as a Hollywood version of Sandeep Maheshwari.

Chapter 88 Dinner And Departure

After enduring a grueling training session, Rio mustered the last remnants of his energy to drag his weary body towards the shower. The cool droplets of water cascaded down, providing a soothing feeling for his tired muscles. The water revitalized his spirit, washing away the sweat and exhaustion of the training session.

Once his shower was complete, Rio emerged from the bathroom, feeling refreshed but still drained. He made his way to his bed, collapsing onto the soft mattress. The fatigue quickly overcame him, and he succumbed to a much-needed sleep.

However, his peaceful slumber was abruptly interrupted as Amelia and Esme entered his room, gently calling out to him. Their voices pierced through his dreams, slowly pulling him back into consciousness. Rio groggily opened his eyes, his vision blurry as he adjusted to the light.

Amelia's face beamed with a mixture of care and concern. "Brother, it's time for dinner! You can sleep after eating. Let's go."

Esme, standing beside Amelia, nodded in agreement. "Of course master, Duke and lady are already waiting. Not to mention if you're late now then your class with your mother will be late too."

Hearing about another class and training Rio just sighed and closed his eyes again, it was too much. But knowing if he didn't wake up nicely now, then either Myra or Artemis would come, and he'll get either a kick or a splash of water. Rubbing his eyes and stretching his weary limbs, Rio mustered his remaining strength to sit up and swing his legs over the edge of the bed. He yawned, feeling the weight of fatigue still lingering within him. "You girls can wait, just let me wash my face."

Putting force on his feet, Rio managed to stand up on wobbly legs, his body protesting against further movement. But he slowly made his way towards his bathroom. Amelia and Esme waited patiently as Rio

took his time freshening up, together they all made their way towards the dining room. Even the forever hungry and energetic Amelia was walking slowly today, so Rio doesn't have to force himself to walk alongside her. Since the walk was taking a little longer due to a certain someone's turtle speed, Amelia started chatting about how her day went. Her eyes sparkled with excitement as she remembered something and animatedly shared it. "Brother, you won't believe what happened today!" Amelia exclaimed, her voice filled with both delight and a hint of mischief. "Guess what, I managed to bunk the etiquette class again! I went to mama's study room just before my class started and never came out. Since no one came to look for me there, I kept playing there. But since I forgot to bring some games with me, I fell asleep there and forgot to come out." Amelia sighed as she shook her head and slapped her head, thinking about how stupid she was.

Rio's tired expression softened as he listened to her animated storytelling. "What happened next? Did mother catch you?"

"Of course not. But it was a close call. Myra came in with some documents waking me up. I was so scared that she'll tell mother. But luckily then father came and he told her not to. I was so relieved. I was lucky today. Hehehe." Amelia said her innocent eyes beaming with happiness.

Rio chuckled, his fatigue momentarily forgotten as he found amusement in her antics. Ever since he found out that this cute peach is his little sister, she's been his light in this new world.

Amelia's face brightened as she watched him smile, but then she remembered something and suddenly turned around in a hurry, Esme was still following them closely behind. She had spoken everything, thinking it would cheer up her brother, but if Esme told this to her mother then she'd be punished, but to her relief, Esme signaled with her hands that her lips were sealed, silently conveying her secret was safe with her. Amelia finally took a calm breath and excitedly started walking again chattering about something else.

As Rio and Amelia entered the dining room, the warm aroma of delicious food filled the air. Once the siblings were inside, she gently closed the door, ensuring their privacy. All the maids and guards were also standing outside, waiting for any call to go in. The dinner room served as a cocoon for the family to enjoy each other's company peacefully and keep the outside world at bay.

Agnus was sitting in his majestic chair of the family head exuding the air of authority, while Artemis was sitting beside him, the perfect contrast to his stern behavior showcasing her elegance and grace as she kept serving dishes to different plates, making sure to arrange them with precision and care, knowing how Amelia couldn't wait to eat something and Rio who would've been tired.

Amelia wasted no time, as she ran in a hurry and sat beside Agnus. Rio followed suit, settling down beside his sister, a mixture of exhaustion and hunger evident on his face. Artemis, ever attentive to her children, waved her hands as the plates she prepared settled in front of them - "Let's eat."

As the family savored the food, a comfortable silence enveloped the room. The clinking of cutlery and occasional murmurs of appreciation for the food filled the air. It was in these moments, surrounded by loved ones, that Rio found solace and a sense of belonging.

The dining room buzzed with activity as the maids swiftly cleared the table, removing the remnants of the sumptuous meal that had nourished the family. Agnus gently lifted Amelia into his arms, eliciting squeals of delight from the young girl. He promised to tell her a bedtime story today, making her eyes shine with anticipation.

Meanwhile, Rio, still recovering from the physical and mental exhaustion of his training, took cautious steps towards the exit. His eyes darted around the room, assessing whether the coast was clear for his silent departure. However, before he could make his escape, a familiar hand landed on his shoulder, causing him to freeze.

Turning around, Rio found himself face to face with his mother, Artemis. She wore a mischievous smile, her eyes sparkling with affection as she playfully chided him for trying to evade her. His heart sank momentarily, realizing that his hope for an early rest had been dashed.

"My dear son, are you forgetting something?" Artemis teased, feigning hurt. "Or is it that my little Rio no longer wishes to spend time with his mother?"

Rio's emotions swirled within him, a mix of amusement and resignation. He wanted to laugh at her playful act and cry at his failed escape plan. His tired body ached, and all he longed for was a moment of rest, he wanted to just crash on that soft spongy mattress and sleep.

"Mother, I... I was just... I'm really tired today," Rio pleaded, his voice laced with weariness. "Can we continue the training tomorrow? Please?"

Artemis's eyes sparkled mischievously as she feigned surprise, her lips curling into a playful smile. "Oh, my, are you trying to escape from your training?" she teased, her tone dripping with amusement.

Rio's face flushed with embarrassment, his heart sinking at his failed attempt to slip away unnoticed. He knew his mother saw through his feeble ruse, and he could do nothing but squirm under her playful gaze. Her teasing continued, as if savoring the moment. "But I can't allow it." she jested, her laughter dancing in the air,

A mix of frustration and amusement swirled within Rio as he watched his mother revel in his predicament. Despite his tiredness, he couldn't help but crack a small smile at her playful behavior. He knew that underneath her jesting, her love for him burned bright.

Finally, Artemis relented, her smile turned into laughter watching his deadpan expression. She placed a hand on his shoulder, her touch gentle and reassuring. "Alright, don't look at me like that. I'll allow you to take a rest today."

Hearing her agree to that so easily Rio couldn't believe his ears, tho it hasn't been much but he had come to know her a little and could see there was still something more, and just to prove him right she continued -"But remember, tomorrow we'll all leave for the capital city to go there for Rebecca's birthday."

"There are still 3 days till the celebration though. Why're we going early?" Rio asked as he remembered about Rebecca's birthday.

"Yes, but that's for others. We're family so we should go first. Besides, your aunt's been urging me to come help her with little stuff." Rio nodded his head hearing that and started thinking about how he should act there. Artemis finally couldn't resist her one final tease and said "Maybe you should say thanks to Rebecca for saving you from your training tomorrow when you meet her."

Rio just shook his head hearing that, knowing full well of her habits, her jokes and teasing used to work on him when he first came here, but now he had somewhat gotten accustomed to it. "Good night mother." He said and turned around to leave. Internally, he couldn't help but think, 'So it is finally time. To play my part in my first event. The first scene, described in flashback scenes of Rebecca. Questions flooded his mind about how him changing her future would affect that guy? How will his involvement alter the event? Can he prevent them from meeting? Or can he stop the protagonist from falling in love with her? As per system, Rebecca is the first major heroine, so her events should be hard to change, so after his interference how will luck come to save her chosen son?'

But he shook his head as he knew they would all be answered soon. Tomorrow is when he'll meet his destined fiancée, it'll be the first time he will see her face to face, and he had no idea how to act around her.

"We've reached your room master." His thoughts were broken as Esme's voice reached his ears. He glanced around, realizing that he had indeed reached his room without even realizing it. A faint smile tugged at the corners of his lips as he contemplated the familiarity of this place. The large hallways which used to scare him once that he'll get lost in them, now became etched in his head that he could instinctively walk in them without even focusing.

As Esme opened the door to his room, Rio stepped inside, his gaze sweeping over the familiar surroundings. He walked towards his bed, the weariness of the day weighing heavily on his shoulders. With a sigh, he let himself collapse onto the soft mattress. As his tired body sank into the mattress, he closed his eyes, the events of the day, the training, the conversations, swirled in his mind and lastly only one thought was left in his head as he let himself be dragged into sleep once more.

"Whatever happens will happen, unless I change my mind."

Chapter 89 Aina - The Destined Maid Of Maiden

From the morning of the next day, Rio had no classes for today, it felt so free and different from his daily hectic schedule, he could simply just roam and play around. He watched as the others busied themselves in their works, Agnus had gone out due to some guild work, while Artemis was even busier than daily, as she was giving out instructions to everyone about how they should take care of their house while she's gone. Rio waited outside the hall as he watched all the staff coming in and out of the room with different expressions. Artemis, him and Amelia would be leaving for the capital city today, Agnus would join them on the day of celebration. It'll probably take a week until we come back, so everyone was busy with their work.

In the absence of the main family the security of Damascus and the work of guild was handed over to some trusted advisors, while the safety and maintenance of the mansion was handed over to Alphas and other staff. If in any unforeseen situations any dungeon or cracks appeared, the guild members and Alphas were given full freedom to act according to their wishes.

Artemis, who had heard Rio's prophecy about how the general public would raise their arms against them in future, has been even more focused on keeping the image of them clean and respected. Finally after sitting around for an hour Artemis called for him, she needed to give him all the instructions for his

safety too. Even though their family had the nice relations with royal family, it didn't mean there won't be other people attending the function or people who simply just wants to use kids to either get connections or start some dramas. Nobility has always been the political play as much as it has been about power. Even though he would have people follow him every moment for his safety but still she needed to warn him again.

It would be Rio's first social appearance after his awakening and even if the Blake family had suppressed the rumors, the news of Nyx's arrival and his blessing had already spread in every high class circles, and everyone around the world would be curious about it. There'd be many people with different agendas vying to know more about his blessing, Blake family already had enough influence and power before, the support of a Goddess on that level and the possibilities of this unknown blessing could invite all kinds of trouble to them.

Yes, asking someone about their powers and blessing was not allowed, but when has that ever stopped anyone. Especially when the one they're asking is a 10 year old. Artemis wasn't worried much about Rio as she had seen he wasn't as naive as how he used to be, in all these days and training sessions she had seen how much he had grown, but her gentle heart still couldn't keep calm and needed to be prepared for everything. She had ordered Myra follow Amelia every moment of day while they were in Haven, while Rio had Esme to watch him.

After giving him another lesson about all the things he should watch out for, or people he should just ignore, they talked about normal stuff.

As noon approached, Rio started preparing himself for the departure. He stood before the mirror in his room, his reflection revealing a young noble adorned in a sky blue shirt and tailored black pants and suit. The colors accentuated his youthful charm, while the designs of the clothes exuded an air of sophistication and nobility.

As he adjusted the collar of his shirt, his fingers lightly grazed the golden brooch that adorned his lapel. It shimmered under the soft glow of the room, a subtle yet distinct symbol of his family lineage.

Aina, his trusted maid, stood by his side, diligently assisting him, passing him the accessories that best suited his clothing today. Her delicate touch and attention to detail made the process smoother. Her deft fingers carefully arranged the rings and the bracelet he chose to wear.

It had been a while since Aina was assigned to be his personal maid. She's the daughter of Kastor Narcius, butler of Blake family. Her family has been serving the Blake's for generations. So ever since her

childhood Aina has been trained in everything, knowing one day she'll have to take over her father's place. That's why Kastor sent her to follow Rio, the next heir. So they can get accustomed together, as both will take the positions of their fathers in future.

Her silky black hair were neatly tied up in a ponytail, allowing her delicate features to take center stage. With her expressive black eyes, highlighted by a charming mole near her left eye, an innocent smile was plastered on her face as she busied herself in her work. She wore the typical black and white colored maid uniform. The uniform was impeccably tailored, hugging her figure in all the right places, while remaining modest and appropriate for her role. A white apron adorned her waist, adding a touch of purity and innocence to her looks. She was a clean freak in real life as one could see it by how she always wore white gloves on her hands. She was someone who took her job seriously, someone who followed all her rules, always behaving appropriately, minding her manners, focusing only on her work. She was the perfect maid in every aspect. It was Amelia who brought her out of her shell and called her friend instead of a lowly maid in the novel story and this time maybe it'll be Rio's job to do.

In the original story she was supposed to follow Amelia after a few years, but somehow Rio's changes have altered her course of events too. Aina was someone who had protected and kept Amelia company in the story until she died. And that was enough reason for Rio to respect her and keep her near him.

Maybe once he was sure everything is the same, he'll have her follow Amelia this time too. But whatever it may be, one thing was sure, and that was that her sad ending was altered. Even tho that novel was just a story, it had given Rio the idea about which people can be trusted or what their true personalities are- someone who valued loyalty and morality like Aina, didn't deserve to be killed off just so Amelia can feel hurt and that bastard can come to give her some emotional support.

'Damn that author and his tricks to give the protagonist harem. I should find him and have a proper chat if I ever go back to earth.'

"Master, your hand." Aina's sweet voice broke him out of his thoughts, as she pulled his other hand to put the bracelet they settled on before.

As Aina finished the final adjustments, a flicker of admiration sparkled in her eyes. "It's done. You look perfectly handsome as always, master."

"And your words are as sweet as always, Aina." Rio said as he shook his head.

"It is the truth, master. You can see for yourself." Aina said as she stepped aside to let Rio take a clear look at himself in the mirror.

Rio gazed at his reflection, a flicker of surprise appeared on his face as he watched his looks, he really did look handsome. Aina had outdone herself today, if he simply rated his appearance in both his lives, no doubt this would've topped the charts. And that's saying something since he basically lived 30 years on earth.

After having Aina around for all this time, helping him with everything, it doesn't feel embarrassing now. But it does feel weird.

It had been a while since he had someone micro-manage his appearance, helping him with little stuff. The memories of Queency flooded his brain, the moments when she was with him, doing everything. A mix of emotions kept rising in his head, threatening to break the facade of a kid he had created here now.

But he shook his head, burying all those emotions deep within him again. They were all a thing of the past now. She had made her choice when she left him back then. He had kept his hopes till he was alive on earth for her to come back, but it was all a waste. She didn't come, and now he was dead. His life of earth was already over.

'Maybe she's living there happily now.' Rio thought as he couldn't really imagine how she must've felt for him. 'Wonder how she reacted when she found out about my death. Knowing Ali, he must've informed her at least.'

"Wasn't I right?" Aina who saw Rio lost in thoughts said, thinking he was simply admiring her work.

Hearing her words Rio just smiled and pushed everything aside "Was all this even necessary?" He said as he turned to look at her.

"You're visiting the capital for the first time after your awakening master, you'll have extra attention on you. Besides, the city will be filled with guests and people from everywhere who came for the young princess's celebration. You should look like the noble you are." Myra replied in a confident tone, informing him about the importance of his appearance.

Rio was already aware, but could never agree to it. So he just changed the topic "Whatever. Thanks for your help. It would've taken me hours if I did all this by myself."

"It is my duty as your maid master." Aina replied as she bowed a little, showing her professionalism.

"Why don't you go and help Amelia a little now. She's been getting excited to meet her best friend since this morning. I bet she's made a mess of her room by now." Rio said as he turned around and decided to walk out.

"As you wish." Aina said and left in the opposite direction.

'Memories, what a funny thing to have.'

[You're the one who held on so hard on them. If you let go, you would've forgotten them all.]

'All ' is the keyword here system. It's just some of them which are painful to remember. Not everything.'

'And besides, if I forgot everything, how would I remember Ria.'

Chapter 90 This World Is A Canvas

Currently Rio, Amelia and Artemis were sitting in the backseat of the car, they were on their way towards the magic tower branch of Damascus city. From there they can use the teleportation gate to go to the capital city Haven. The branches of bigger organizations were connected to each city by teleportation gates and circles, to make the transport faster. While the use of gates was only fixed for selected nobility and some higher class people, the teleportation circles were open for the general public too, albeit too expensive.

To go from one city to another, there were even vehicles like mana trains, or service roads built. But that would take too much time and the risk of danger is higher, that's why nobility were given the privilege of teleportation gates -safer and faster.

Cars and mana trains were the inventions of people who were pulled into Arcadia through the dungeons of some modern worlds. The resources like petrol or diesel weren't possible in Arcadia, so it all worked on mana. They use mana crystals and cores as fuel.

Ever since emergence, over time many different parts of worlds have merged into Arcadia via some dungeons or spatial cracks. Unlike in other novels anyone read, dungeons in Arcadia weren't simple places where monsters existed and spawned endlessly. In here dungeons were actually a part of a world which got pulled and attached into Arcadia, after the balance broke during the emergence.

In the past 1000 years many dungeons of different worlds have opened in Arcadia, allowing everyone access to knowledge and dangers of that world. Some dungeons were simpler which brought people of different races, while some opened in places filled with nothing but monsters, some cracks pulled a whole city into Arcadia, while some brought upon nothing but emptiness of an uninhabited island. Some dungeons had merged a whole cultivation sect into Arcadia, while some opened the new sci-fi world of technology. Some dungeons showed the dystopian future of apocalypse, while some showed the signs of early creation. Some showed the war torn civilizations, while some showed signs of a world built upon no sins and only peace.

Over the years people of different cultures, races and beliefs had been brought into Arcadia through those portals. Every dungeon was different from each other, the people who got pulled into Arcadia were trapped here, never able to go back into their own world. So they settled here, trying to become the pioneer of their belief in this new world.

Thus Arcadia became a unique creation where everything you can think of coexisted. It was a world filled with magic and mana at its core, but now it had changed into something much more. There were people who adapted to cultivation, realism, urban, scifi, drama -the world changed over time and so did the people living in it.

As the author said in his novel, Arcadia was the canvas where every color of creation coexisted.

He even wrote special substories about settings which readers requested. 'I remember one of my suggestions from comments, was even introduced as a tower -wonder if that also exists here.' Rio thought.

Towers are basically connection points which teleport you to a different location; they're like separate spaces or mini worlds. They first appeared empty where monsters were trapped back when emergence

first happened. Over time somehow more towers appeared on Arcadia, but instead of being empty and used as prisons, they were already filled with creatures. Hell towers, that's what people called them.

As the name suggested, hell towers were connection points to different hells, netherworlds and underworlds of different worlds which got pulled in Arcadia. They were filled to the brim with monsters and if they weren't cleared or controlled, the monsters would be free to leave towers and ruin everything.

Different Gods, different factions fueled by their egos tried to control them, hoping to show their superiority, but the rules of the world gave them a tight slap of reality.

At the beginning the differences in everything brought upon wars and battles, but over time with constant failures and increasing death counts everyone learned their lessons. They all agreed on one thing, survival. And in Arcadia survival depended on unity, no one knew when the increasing number of those monsters or hells of towers would overwhelm everything and destroy it all.

So after centuries of this same process repeating in different situations, everyone set aside their differences and stood united to fight against monsters. Thus the momentary superficial peace was born.

Obviously it is all on the surface, and the world would be thrown into chaos once the plot starts, so our protagonist can shine. But that was still in the future and Rio had enough time to prepare for everything.

"Brother, what're you thinking?" Amelia asked in her cute voice as she saw Rio lost in thoughts looking out the window. "Is there something interesting?" She hopped up from her seat, pressed her nose against the glass to get a better view.

Rio chuckled and gently tugged her back, forcing her to sit on her seat again "There's nothing outside. Just sit down." Amelia pouted for a moment but soon got distracted by something and forgot about it again.

The car smoothly maneuvered through the busy streets, making its way to their destination. The surrounding buildings and scenery kept changing and in all this journey Amelia's excitement never went down.

As the car pulled up to the entrance of the Magic Tower, Rio, Artemis, and Amelia stepped out, greeted by a welcoming committee. The head of the branch, a distinguished mage named Mysfil Kraton, stood at the forefront, accompanied by some other staff of the tower. Myra was also standing by the gate, waiting for their arrival.

Watching her master Myra bowed as a greeting and soon the staff of magic tower followed suit too. In the city of Damascus the rule of the Blake family was absolute and everyone knew that. "Welcome lady Artemis." Mysfil exclaimed as he approached them with a warm smile, his voice brimming with enthusiasm. "I hope the journey here you didn't have any trouble on the way."

"This is our city professor. How could anything in it trouble us?" Artemis replied as she nodded back in greeting.

"Of course, without the Blake family we wouldn't have the peace and quiet we have in Damascus today." Mysfil replied, not minding Artemis's sharp words. Everyone in the high class circle knew about her way of habits and they've grown accustomed to it. Not like they could do anything to her, even if they don't like it. She was the Duchess of a city and the daughter of the famous Raven family, if that wasn't enough her own personal strength wasn't anything to scoff at. The rumors of her adventures as the shadow sword of Schilla in the past, are still spoken as legends among the commoners. Any one of her background was enough to shut everyone out.

"Ignore the pleasantries professor. Has everything been prepared?"

"Ahh yes, we've made all the arrangements ever since we got your message. Allow me to guide you to the VIP teleportation gate."

As they exchanged pleasantries and started talking among themselves, Rio's attention wandered, his gaze fixated on the magnificent building before him. The Magic Tower stood tall and proud, though not as grand in scale as his mansion, it exuded an aura of innovation and intellect. Its unique design caught his eye—a circular structure with multiple floors, each one showcasing the pursuit of magical knowledge.

Rio marveled at the constant stream of people entering and exiting the tower, their faces alight with curiosity and determination. Scholars, researchers, and mages from all walks of life congregated within those walls, pushing the boundaries of magic itself.

Myra approached him and asked -"Do you like it?"

"It's okay." Rio replied in a flat tone.

"Do you wanna take a look?" Myra said as she noticed his curious gaze wandering everywhere.

"Can I?" Rio asked as he looked at the staff standing beside him.

"Of course, young heir. I can arrange someone to guide you." The man replied happily. Even though Rio was just a kid, his standing in the society was far above anyone here, and that was a thing to be respected.

Rio was busy thinking where he should go and what to watch, when Amelia's voice cut through that conversation, her tone filled with frustration and Impatience. "No brother. No wasting time. Let's go to Rebecca's house. She's waiting for us."

Rio's brows furrowed, he wanted to explore the tower, and look for someone but guess it'll have to wait. 'It's not like that girl has joined the tower this early anyways.'

He turned towards Myra and said -"Well, you heard her, maybe another time." He placed his hand on Amelia's shoulder and said -"Let's go then. We'll give her a memorable visit."

Unaware of what he meant, Amelia happily exclaimed "Yayyy" .