

## O Summoner 261

### Chapter 261 - The Fall Of The Churches

Levin Cloud recalled what happened before the chaos. He and his master were called to attend the meeting regarding the marching undead. The two of them were in the great hall and one of the elders started talking about some things that need to change and whatnot.

The meeting suddenly started becoming weird as it became a bad mouthing fest. The elder started telling how some elders were not doing their jobs correctly while he eyed Elder Willow. Levin Cloud noticed that the comments are mainly targeting his master but Elder Willow did not look bothered.

"We are here today to put one of our elders, Elder Willow, to be put in trial. He shall be put in the Trial of Truth. All elders who agree raise your hands." An elder elf of the Church of Life stated which caused a ruckus.

The other elders were not informed that a trial will happen because if an elder especially someone like Elder Willow is subjected to a trial then it would need a unanimous decision. Some elders started spouting injustice as they were not informed. Some are also shouting abuse of power as some elders outrank others.

Every elder in room started arguing about not following protocol but they did not see that the elven guards surrounded the exits of the entire room. Only after some of the elders calmed down did they realize that the elven guards are armed and are in battle stance.

The strange atmosphere that is apparent in the room is felt by all the individuals inside the room. The others started scanning the surroundings to see if there is a need to increase security. Elder Willow saw this and was the first one to voice it out.

"Elder Oaken, what is the meaning of the increase in the guards inside the council hall?!" Elder Willow stated just loud enough for everyone to hear.

"You dare raise your voice on me when we found proof that you are colluding with the other churches to bring us down. You conspire against us because you think our church no longer holds value!" Elder Oaken stated loudly for all to hear but some were pre-occupied with the growing presence of security.

"That is beside the point, Elder Oaken. Why are the elven guards ready to do battle!? There is no immediate danger in the vicinity. Is there?" Elder Koa shouted which pressured Elder Oaken because they are of the same rank.

"Elder Elowen, why are the guards increasing?" Elder Oaken stated as he looked towards his right.

"We both know that Elder Willow is the most powerful of all of us so it does not hurt to get some extra precaution." Elder Elowen stated.

Elder Elowen then turned back towards Elder Willow but the crowd all gasp in shock. A weird looking spike suddenly protruded from Elder Oaken's chest. Elder Oaken suddenly spurted blood from his mouth and when he turned around it was Elder Elowen's arm that is piercing Elder Oaken's chest.

Not long after someone shouted and chaos ensued as the other elders suddenly began to panic. The elven guards that was supposed to protect them killed those who wanted to exit the council room. It became total chaos in the room but it was not just the council hall that spiraled down to chaos.

Screams erupted not only in the council room but also from the outside as the people are attacked by living sludges. The situation is more chaotic in the council room as the elven guards are slaughtering left and right like madmen but the others started to retaliate.

The retaliation is to be expected but what the other elders did not expect is that another elder beside them would attack them. Chaos ensued even further and through all that chaos, an attack is suddenly launched at Levin Cloud but Elder Willow blocked the attack with magic.

Elder Willow then hid Levin Cloud behind him as they retreated to the exit. Of course a lot of attacks could not be defended, Levin Cloud saw blood coming from Elder Willow's side as the old man clutched it with his left hand to stop the bleeding. Seeing that no path is appearing Elder Willow made a path and then they jumped out of the tree building.

Levin Cloud also saw the ensuing chaos outside but he then noticed that Elder Willow's wound is not easily closing even though it was getting poured with healing magic. Levin Cloud immediately thought of the strange restaurant and headed there while carrying Elder Willow who passed out.

"I arrived here and the dryad Makiling is already seriously injured. I guess this is the end for Neo Alnheim and the church of life." Levin Cloud stated in a sad tone.

"The Church of Life is not the only one that is attacked. The Church of Music, The Church of Love, and many others. Even the super strict Church of Light is attacked and the holy capital Sanctus is in full lockdown. I guess you are too distressed to check the forums right now." Adrian stated and the forums are buzzing.

"Then this is not an attack to just out church but a coordinated attack against all the holy churches." Levin Cloud replied.

"Tell me. Anything that you can recall. Did the elders who committed treason transform their bodies in some way?" Adrian asked and then Levin Cloud remembered clearly.

"If I remember correctly, Elder Elowen's hand became a mix of human flesh and tree roots. He used that to kill Elder Oaken. Even though I did not like that old man, it still bothers me that he died unjustly. He was just a stickler for rules but he is really not that bad." Levin Cloud stated.

"It is quite possible that the Faceless Ones are the one responsible for the attacks. It seems that the attacks were all coordinated all at the same time in order to generate as much confusion as possible. But it is quite different with how Creepysoo described." Adrian muttered.

"Champion Equinox! Ku..ah..ek" The dryad Makiling called out to Adrian while she still coughed up blood.

Adrian immediately went to Makiling and grabbed her by the hands. It seems that she is using all her energy to tell Adrian what happened to her. Instead of telling Adrian, Makiling used her touch to send Adrian what she suffered.

Adrian's vision became different as he is now looking at the scene that Makiling sent him like a movie theatre. Adrian saw it clearly as the perpetrator that poured the poison on the tree of life returned and Makiling confronted it.

The perpetrator is like a much more powerful version of the living sludge and it could even turn into a perfect humanoid form. That was not all as Makiling could have easily handle the perpetrator but then a surprise attack came from behind her.

It was another elf but it shed its skin and revealed its true form. It was actually a faceless one that is much more advanced than the ones Adrian fought. The stalemate between Makiling and the one who poisoned the tree of life turned to the latter's side.

The rest of the fight became one sided and Makiling became poisoned as a result. She had no other way but to retreat. She bitterly retreated but when she suddenly fell down on the restaurant. She fell because the tree of life suffered suddenly and she was bonded to it.

"Huah!" Adrian shouted as he snapped out from the scenery he was shown.

Adrian could tell that the Makiling used what strength she can muster in order to send Adrian that scenery. Makiling's color started to fade and her vitals started to plummet but she was still alive.

"It seems that her bond with the tree of life is what's keeping her alive. But if the tree of life dies then she will also die in the process. Levin Cloud, is there anything of value that the faceless ones want that is hidden inside the church of life?" Adrian asked.

Adrian is sure that the faceless ones did not enter the churches in order to take over them because if they did then they will not plan an attack. The only logical reason left is that there is something they want to gain hidden in the church.

"I can only think of one thing that is held secret even from some of the elders. It should be something like a puzzle piece of a medallion. I read about it once because it is mentioned in the history of the founding of the churches that each holy church must safeguard a fragment." Levin Cloud answered.

"What kind of fragment is it? You said it is a medallion so what is the name of the medallion?" Adrian asked but Levin Cloud could only shake his head as he does not know the answer to that question.

"The meda...h.." Elder Willow forced himself to speak.

"The medallion of Byagoona!" Elder Willow spoke forcefully but he ended up coughing up blood in the process.

## Chapter 262 - Escaping Neo Alfheim

"The medallion of Byagoona? What is that?" Adrian muttered but Elder Willow did not have the strength to reply because he fainted.

"I think that we should escape first. We need to get out of here because the whole city will get swept up in a monster rampage if the tree of life dies. I even got a mission to escort everyone in this room to safety." Levin Cloud stated but whispered the last sentence to Adrian.

"It is the wiser choice to try and evacuate but that would be difficult since we would become a large target once we set foot outside." Adrian uttered but then the other elves stood up.

"We shall be the bait. We will lure the other monsters away from you. As long as Dryad Makiling and Elder Willow escapes then Neo Alfheim will stand once more. Take the women and children." A male elf stated as he limped his way to the door.

"Stop! Even if the men bravely sacrifice themselves, we would not be enough to protect the women and children. Even if the women know how to fight, they should prioritize protecting the children." Adrian stated which made those exiting the restaurant halt in their tracks as what the former said makes more sense.

If the male elves did what they steeled themselves to do then it would just be needless sacrifice. Although evacuating as a large group is dangerous, evacuating in a small group is even more dangerous. Adrian needs them to move while protecting those that cannot protect themselves.

"You do not need to be the bait. I will act as the bait. I will lure the monsters away from your group since among us all only I can fly. I also have soulbounds with me plus I am a demon. I can just use spatial magic to easily escape any pursuers." Adrian stated with a smile.

"But did you not say that...ow!" Levin Cloud did not finish his sentence because Adrian's elbow struck him in the stomach.

"Just do as I say and you people would be able to escape the city. Is there a shorter path that you guys know of that we can take?" Adrian asked as he does not know the full layout of the city.

"There should be a straight route from here that can lead to a gate that leads outside the city. The only problem is the monsters that we will encounter on the way." Levin Cloud answered as he already knows Neo Alfheim like the back of his hand.

"The plan is easy. I will first join you on the path. When we encounter monsters, I will then separate from your group and lure the monsters in the process. The only thing that you guys need to do is protect the back as monsters might sneak an attack against that part of the group." Adrian stated but Levin Cloud is still not sure.

"We do not have time as more monsters will accumulate inside Neo Alfheim as time goes on. Escaping in haste must be the top priority right now." Adrian added as the tree of life weakens as time goes by.

"Let's do it then." Levin Cloud stated as he stood up and told the other elves of the plan.

The elves made a makeshift stretcher from the tables so that they could easily carry those that cannot move using their feet. Once everyone is ready, Adrian headed out using the secret entrance in order to see if there are monster's nearby.

Although he was not happy that other evacuees were luring the monsters, Adrian had to use it to their advantage. He signaled for the others to get out carefully so that a movement sensitive monster does not detect them if there is one in the vicinity.

Each of the elves exited one by one as Adrian led them to the designated area. The group had no difficulty going for about ten meters. The members of the group that can fight protected those injured. The group moved in a circle formation so that they could easily react to attacks.

The speed the group is moving is fast as they could easily maneuver against slow moving monsters. Some of the monsters are low leveled because the protection of the tree of life and the highest that they have encountered is level 110.

The real roadblock happened when a monster that is a mixture of a tiger and a rabbit appeared. Levin Cloud told Adrian that it is a Pantheraculus. It is the favorite mount of the elven guards but this one seemed rabid because saliva is dripping from its mouth like a river.

Adrian did not attack it instead Sirius immediately charged towards it. Sirius had a one on one wrestling match with the Pantheraculus. Adrian gestured for everyone to immediately proceed as they need to evacuate immediately.

Sirius conveyed that he would be fine so they should go to the exit. Adrian knows that Sirius has been getting more and more intelligent lately. Sirius could now assess information and even suggest to sacrifice itself as long as Adrian would benefit.

Adrian then summoned Saena in order to aid the group with her heals. At first Adrian ordered Saena to absorb Makiling and Elder Willow's sickness but it was impossible for her. Their infection is too potent for even a bird designated to cure sickness could not extract or cure.

She was still a good support summon as she can now slightly recover stamina with each heal. She is also helpful as the elves that were focused on healing magic can now be at ease and help defending them from stray monsters.

The way forwards became much more difficult as they reached the exit because monster swarms started appearing and charging towards town. The problem is not the monsters were strong but their numbers are far too much for anyone to easily repel even with their group.

Adrian received a notification that he received experience points and Sirius emerged from his shadow. The next problem now is the horde of monsters in front of them. If that was not enough, there is a horde of living sludge monsters behind them so they no longer have the option to retreat.

"We are in a deep mess right now and I do not think we will live today so it was good knowing you guys." Levin Cloud started lamenting but he was actually smiling.

"Uhuh. I guess that smile on your face is saying that you have a spell that you really wanted to try but had no chance to." Adrian stated.

"Can you stall for ten seconds?" Levin Cloud asked.

"Should not be so hard." Adrian stated.

"Nether Domain." Adrian stated and nether mist started to roll in.

Some weak monsters fled but the living sludge monsters did not. The living sludge monsters became more ferocious when the nether mist rolled in.

"Netheros True Form" Adrian stated.

"Summon: Sirius" Adrian stated.

"Summon: Kanlaon" Adrian stated.

"Summon: Saena" Adrian stated.

"Summon: Charon" Adrian stated.

The nether forms of the Adrian's soulbounds sprung forth once more and the players who are helping the others evacuate saw the dubbed Nightmare Demons. What Adrian did not know is that there is another set of eyes that saw him.

Anastacia clearly saw Adrian transforming into his true form. She now knows that Adrian is clearly the demon in the videos that got every top guild vying for his identity. She wanted to help them but she is also evacuating her master that was her top priority.

Adrian indiscriminately attacked all the monsters that charged at them fiercely. Kanlaon's roar really helped since it demoralized some monsters with inferior bloodline which is most of the monsters. The group cannot move from their location because of the monster horde but it was not just monsters that came for them.

Other players unexpectedly flocked towards Adrian's location because they wanted to experience the buff that the phoenix looking monster gave. The players that felt the buff all prattled about it in the forums as the best feeling of their life. Some even said that it was so exhilarating compared to love making.

They also figured that they cannot escape the monster horde on their own so it was not bad to leech on a stronger player. Adrian did not bother or exclude them from the buff but he did not place Charon's barriers towards them. He only deployed the barriers to those in his group.

Slowly and surely the fight shifted and they could now move by an inch per second. It was not much but it was enough for them to actually clear the beast tide. The players were on cloud nine not only because of the buff but also the ton of experience coming their way. Adrian did not mind because a majority of the experience they are getting is distributed to him and his party anyway.

Levin Cloud who was chanting for five seconds floated to the air and his eyes glowed in a green light. His chanting became like music to those that hear them because it sounded like a song. After ten seconds of chanting, Levin Cloud finally activated the spell.

"Yewdrassil's Descent" Levin Cloud stated and a half rotten half golden seed dropped from the sky.

## Chapter 263 - Yewdrassil's Descent

"Yewdrassil's Descent" Levin Cloud stated.

A seed emitting two types of energy dropped from the sky at an unbelievable speed. It reached the ground in just a quarter of a second. The seed had a unique structure as half of it looked decayed and dried while half of it is golden and brimming with energy.

The ground itself opened up in order to receive this seed as if it welcomed the seed in open arms. A wave of terrifying and soothing energy enveloped the whole area. Levin Cloud did not hold this skill back since even he knows that the Church of Life is ruined starting today.

He had to hide some of his skills because if they were discovered then it would be disastrous but he no longer needs to hide it now. Levin Cloud wanted to use his skills that has death and life attribute but he could not because he might be called a heretic. He finally let loose today as he no longer cared for being branded a heretic.

A sprout immediately emerged from the ground in just half a second. Suddenly an explosion of rot and lively green happened which enamored all that saw it. Adrian's transformation was about to disappear as the counter hit zero but the icon never disappeared. Neither did his transformation cancel or disperse as the timer stopped at one second.

Behind Adrian is a tree that measures more than twenty meters and is very familiar to him. The tree even outgrew the tree of life present in Neo Alfheim. The only thing different about the tree is that half of it is like a dead decaying tree in a desolate land while the other half is much more vibrant than any tree in the world with bountiful fruits hanging from its branches.

[All domain and transformation abilities related to life and death are indefinite in the presence of the Tree of Life and Death Yewdrassil.]

A message then reached all the players inside the vicinity of the burning city.

[The Tree of Life and Death Yewdrassil has taken root temporarily in Neo Alfheim. All beings affiliated with the twin gods will have double the stats for the duration. Beings only affiliated with one of the twin gods will get half the rise in stats.]

For the players who had yet to know the existence of the twin gods, they received a notification that is a not straightforward and rather cryptic.

[You have received a glimpse of the hidden truth. All stats +1]

Some of the players did not know what truth they have glimpsed but they are thankful for the additional stats nonetheless. The others that are affiliated with the Church of Life could somehow get a clue on what this truth is but that is only reserve for those who read the ancient records. In the ancient records, Gaea is always referred as one of the two but the other one was never mentioned.

Since most of the beings inside Neo Alfheim are affiliated with at least one of the twin gods, they got the buff. The beings inside also had an indirect buff that strengthened the aspect of the twin gods they are affiliated with. Those affiliated with the Goddess of Life Gaea got increased healing and mana regeneration. Those affiliated with the God of Death Abaddon has increased damage and will not die for the duration of the skill.

Most importantly, Adrian and Levin Cloud has both of the buffs with also an added aspect of their domain and transformation skills being extended. Levin Cloud cannot move during the duration of the skill but he is protected by Sanctuary for the rest of the time.

The Nether Domain and Yewdrassil's Decent gave Adrian a whopping 400% stat boost plus his true form gave him much more as his attacks are empowered for the duration.

"You have one minute before the skill duration ends. Be sure to wreak havoc and give us lots of experience." Levin Cloud shouted loudly so that Adrian could hear.

Adrian did just that and wreaked havoc towards the low level monsters in the horde. Thirty seconds of all out battling felt like an hour because of the mental fatigue that accumulated. Adrian could no longer count how many mobs he killed but he does know that his health has yet to drop because of the huge barrier covering him.

The other players are also doing well because of Levin Cloud's skill mixed with Saena's blessing. All things must come to an end as the effect of Levin Cloud's skill is not permanent. Yewdrassil that sprouted suddenly started shrinking in such a fast pace.

Yewdrassil became a seed once more and rose to the sky to return back to Paraiso. The horde of monsters lessened to a degree that they could now escape the city. Adrian had intense backlash due to being in an overexcited state so he is in a stretcher like Makiling and Elder Willow.

The players who rallied with Adrian's group escaped the city with great smiles on their faces that were previously filled with despair. Adrian stood up from his stretcher when his muscles are no longer sore and he saw the scene of the tree of life dying in the distance.

He cannot hide his dissatisfaction because he failed this quest big time. There is still two days in-game time before the tree of life dies completely but he knows that there is nothing he can do. The damage became worse even before he could put a band aid on it.

A loud shriek filled the distance and soon a giant living sludge covered the tree of life like a tidal wave. It soon swallowed the tree of life and the remaining greenish parts became poisoned as a result. The giant living sludge seemed to be different as it was darker and looked more potent. It even has the same color as the poison that Adrian extracted.

When the tree of life became totally poisoned, Makiling's condition became worse as she lost all her color. She looked like she will not last long as even the healing magic cast on her has no effect. Adrian could also feel that she has little time left as he could feel death calling for her.

"Champion Equinox, please come close to me as I need to tell you something." Makiling stated and Adrian came close to her.

"I am here." Adrian replied.

"I am sorry that ugh...you wasted your time because ack...I am sorry." Makiling stated as she coughed blood.

"I am the one that should be sorry. I could not find a solution early and the solution that I found is not even a sure fire way of solving it. In the end, I was incompetent." Adrian stated as his eyes got teary.

Adrian really did not like the feeling of helplessness because he experienced it firsthand when he became unable to properly walk. It did lead to depression. But thanks to counseling and his supportive family and friends, he managed to get through that phase in his life. Not everyone is lucky though as you also need high belief in yourself to succeed.

"Levin Cloud, come close to me please." Makiling stated as she tried her hardest to stand.

Adrian helped Makiling stand up because she really wanted to. Adrian knows that Makiling will tell something very important to his best friend and he knows that her time is coming soon. It seems that whatever the giant living sludge did had an adverse effect on Makiling's connection with the tree of life.

Makiling held Levin Cloud's hands as she transferred some kind of energy through him. Makiling coughed a lot more as she transferred this energy and the elves that are her followers looked



worried. Her elf followers wanted to stop her but she had made up her mind. Her followers respected her decision as they themselves know that Makiling will not survive long with her connection with the tree of life severed.

The transfer of energy stopped and on Levin Cloud's palm is a seed. The seed is embedded on his palm like it was grafted or surgically inserted there. Makiling smiled after doing what she did because she felt that Levin Cloud is competent enough to receive her dying will.

"That is the Seed of Origin. That seed will activate your fae blood and transform you into a leshy. You need to go to Alfheim though as I am no longer powerful enough to activate the seed. Your best friend should be able to take you there but you need to connect with the seed first." Makiling stated but this time she did not cough.

Makiling did not cough blood but her body is finally decaying like a tree dying. The only thing talking is her soul which dryads are able to separate from for a specific amount of time. Though this time, she cannot return her soul to her body because it has completely died off.

Adrian did not cry and swore that he will kill whoever the perpetrator of poisoning the tree is. A gate suddenly appeared behind Makiling that only Adrian could see. This gate is reminiscent to the gate that appeared when he summoned Thanatos.

Thanatos came out of the gate in order to collect Makiling's soul. Adrian only slightly nodded to Thanatos and the aspect of death did the same. The cry of the elven followers of Makiling could be heard but safety must be prioritized. After the prayers of the elves, the group fled to a safer place because there are still swarming monsters around.

## Chapter 264 - A Big Favor

Adrian could not bear to see the full destruction of Neo Alfheim. His best friend also needs to help his master. It seems that whatever weapon pierced Elder Willow has been dipped in the poison. Thankfully, it only made his regeneration weak and healing magic ineffective on him or else he would be dead by now.

The elves that served Makiling went with other evacuees to the next city that is safe. Reinforcements from the empire did arrive but the city is already in chaos and disarray. The mission to subjugate the monsters that entered the city became a rescue mission instead.

The empire soldiers entered the city but could only form a defensive perimeter at the outskirts of the city. They could not easily go to the heart of the city because the giant living sludge is there. One could easily see that there should be no one safe from that monster.

"Everyone, you must leave the city in under 40 hours. We shall bombard the city with a destructive spell. The emperor has decreed that the city of Neo Alfheim has to be erased from the map. All evacuees must head to the next city for treatment and aid. No one is permitted to return to the city at all cost." A female human that looks like a knight commander decreed.

The hearts of the evacuees sunk when they heard that announcement as all of their hard work went down the drain. They could not save their livelihood especially the local businesses. They are basically bankrupt and would need to live off their relatives if they even have one outside of Neo Alfheim.

Some adults would have to slave away in mines or doing dirty jobs. The children who no longer have parents would go to orphanages. Some of the teens that can fight will become adventurers or they might go the wrong path.

This day is especially a truth bombshell to players. This is their first incident in which a major city actually got destroyed. Adrian can see that this game simulated reality as wars always led to death and destruction. Some would say that this was not a war because monsters are the one that led the city to destruction but Adrian knows the truth.

Adrian knows that those hiding in the shadows can no longer hide and move sneakily. The next war with the dark gods might not be far ahead. The scariest thing in his mind is that some of the dark gods are sealed in the main world. The inhabitants of Pandemonium are scattered enough as it is and now an unseen threat is added to the mix.

Adrian beckoned Levin Cloud to come with him instead of going to the next city. Elder Willow might be targeted if they just go to a normal city. Adrian feared that a nurse or priest in the next city is an enemy and kill Elder Willow when they are not guarding him.

Even Elder Willow could not be healed by normal priests so Adrian decided to bring the two to Alfheim. He cannot do it himself as he cannot perform interdimensional travel as he is not yet capable. Adrian guided Levin Cloud with Elder Willow in tow to the spatial fracture that he used to reach Neo Alfheim.

"Wait here. I need to speak to the elders about what happened to Neo Alfheim. I would also find a way to send both of you to Alfheim so do not worry. I will be back in a jiffy." Adrian stated.

"Can't you take us with you to the Paradox Planes?" Levin Cloud asked as even he is worried they might get jumped by monsters.

"I would if you guys can even survived there. There is no way both of you can last there as it is inhabitable to normal people. Why do you think that the Daemos chose the Paradox Planes to hide? Find a suitable nearby hiding spot as I will immediately ask for help." Adrian replied as he entered the spatial fracture.

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Adrian hurriedly went to Ascalor's abode and even used Teleportation to shorten the time drastically. He just barged his way into Ascalor's home via the entrance as he cannot access it via direct teleportation. Since Ascalor is a spatial magic user, it is expected that direct teleportation will not be useable in his own home.

"Old man! We have a problem!" Adrian shouted as he barged inside Ascalor's backyard.

Adrian suddenly stopped when he saw there were other guests in Ascalor's house. The guests are actually individuals that Adrian knows of. In a meeting with the other elders are the Undead King Arthur, the Elder Dryad Danaya and a man that has lion ears and a mane.

"Sorry for the interruption! Please continue" Adrian stated as he bowed and waited in a corner.

The Daemos elders did not mind Adrian's reaction because they can see messengers from the Daemos Corps waiting for them to finish the meeting. The Undead King did not mind because he

also dotes on Adrian because he is his son's friend. Elder Danaya is even waving at Adrian. The lion beastman though looks unamused but Adrian did not care.

"Do you have any other question that you would like to point out?" Ascalor asked the three visitors.

"The faekin are not opposed to your proposal but a gift of sincerity must be properly established. We want the Heart of the Forest." Elder Dryad Danaya stated while bringing out her dignity and elegance.

"The Undead are not opposed to the idea. We owe much to the Daemos and we will gladly join you without compensation. The God of Death wishes to establish footing on the main world Nebulon but the envoy has yet to revive the church. Still even without the church, the undead will join the cause." The Undead King Arthur stated while he radiate his kingly aura.

"I am not opposed to the idea but our race has already settled on our current home. Though what would make me change my mind is if you can help me unite all of my people." The lion beastman stated loud and clear.

"That is a tall order even for us King of the Wild, Leones. You do know that we must not interfere much with the order of things due to our duty." Bronx stated while crossing his arms.

"Interfere what a load of bull. You suggesting getting the council back together is interfering to the maximum degree so do not give me this no interfering nonsense." The King of the Wild Leones rebutted.

"What we mean to say is that we the Daemos Elders cannot interfere. The Champion of the Twin Gods on the other hand is another discussion." Koronn stated as he smiled towards Adrian.

Adrian wanted to protest but he must act in moderation because bigshots are present. Adrian wondered how Danaya and Leones could step foot on the Paradox Planes. He did not doubt the Undead King Arthur for being able to step foot because he is technically a living dead. The atmospheric difference and whatnot does not affect him in anyway.

Adrian used his evil eye and he saw that Danaya and Leones is covered by something like a veil of energy reminiscent of spatial magic. It seems whatever is cast on them lets them become immune to the changes in the surroundings.

"I must learn that magic!" Adrian thought as he still listened in on the conversation.

"The Champion of the Twin Gods? Do you mean that brat over there?! I bet he would not be able to help even if he could come to our world. I mean look at him. He is lankier than my five year old son." The King of the Wild Leones stated while giving a hearty laugh.

"You should never judge a demon by its cover King Leones. Even your eldest will use all her strength to defeat that brat." Ascalor stated with a smile.

"Anyway since the champion came rushing to his elders then it must be important. Why don't we hear his report? I bet it must be super important." The King of the Wild Leones stated in a snarky manner.

The elders then all looked at Adrian simultaneously.

"Okay. NO PRESSURE." Adrian thought as he stepped closer to all the elders.

"So the reason that I bolted hurriedly and like a madman is that the holy churches have fallen. Simultaneous attacks in all main headquarters of the holy churches have been made. The Church of Life is the one that took a big hit as the tree of life is dying and Neo Alfheim is being infested by monsters." Adrian stated without even stuttering.

The look of disbelief can be seen on the Daemos Elders and even the visitors. Ascalor immediately called upon the messenger if what Adrian said is true and sure enough it was. The Daemos planted on the each of the churches all submitted the same statement as Adrian. Some of them are even heavily injured.

"So maybe I can ask for a favor. A really big favor from Elder Danaya." Adrian stated but no one is listening to him as they are busy assessing the first information that he stated.

"What do they want? Why did they attack the holy churches?" Ascalor muttered.

"Apparently they want to take the fragment of something. What was it called again? Byadoora... Byuduo. Ah! Byagoona. An elder of the Church of Life said that they wanted to get the fragment for the medallion of Byagoona." Adrian stated and then the faces of the Daemos elders became heavy.

#### Chapter 265 - The World Changes For The Worse

Adrian told the Elder Dryad Danaya about his plight and she graciously accepted despite the worried look on Ascalor's face. She easily accepted Elder Willow and his best friend so Adrian immediately picked them up with an aid of another greater demon that Ascalor ordered. The greater demon and Adrian channeled their powers together since interdimensional travel with others takes a toll unless you are an Arch Demon.

Levin Cloud became amazed of how vastly different Alfheim is from Neo Alfheim. He now feels ashamed of boasting to Adrian that Neo Alfheim is the most beautiful city that perfectly combines nature and infrastructure. It seems that Elder Danaya already had contacted someone as there were guards already stationed in order to fetch Levin Cloud and Elder Willow.

The meeting of the elders ended so Elder Danaya returned to Alfheim and told Adrian that she will handle everything. Elder Willow was inserted in some sort of pod that would help him detoxify his injury. The elder had a calm look when he was put inside the pod compared to his pained face that he previously had.

When Elder Danaya saw the Seed of Origin on Levin Cloud's palm, she immediately understood what the dryad that gave him wanted to happen. She could also sense Makiling's lingering memories and sorrow of not being able to protect one's hometown.

"You have been blessed, young one. For a dryad to give you her Seed of Origin, she must have great hopes for you and has seen your potential. Though the road would be difficult because it has been a long time since an elf awakened its sleeping fae blood." Elder Danaya stated to Levin Cloud not to discourage him but to tell him that it will not be easy.

"I will try my best and make sure to successfully complete the awakening process. I need to do it for the lives that those vile monsters had taken. I need to prove that this is just a wall I must climb over before I become the Envoy of the Twin Gods." Levin Cloud stated with such sincerity.

"I see that you are the aspiring envoy. If that is the case then I will gladly help you succeed in awakening into a true fae. The next Envoy of the Twin Gods must come from the fae after all. I

need to have some bragging rights." Elder Danaya stated with a joke in the end to lighten up the mood.

"Still for the poison to actually kill off the tree of life, how potent is it that the tree that has enormous life force will be unable to flush it out? Is there a dark god of poisons or something? The poison should still be not that powerful even if it came from a dark god. The barrier should still be disabling its godly powers." Adrian uttered as he wondered how that happened.

"My speculation is that it is not made using only one poison that came from a dark god but an amalgamation of it. It must have taken them immense time and effort to make it because even poisons can neutralize other poisons. They made it for the purpose of killing of the tree of life." Elder Danaya stated.

"It is not that bad right because the destruction is limited to Neo Alfheim anyway. Right?" Levin Cloud looked at the bright side but Elder Danaya's face said otherwise.

"With the tree of life gone, it can no longer hold boss monsters inside the dungeons. More powerful monsters will also appear in the wild. The ecosystem of the world will shift drastically." Elder Danaya stated in a worried face.

[The Tree of Life supporting the all life in Nebulon has been destroyed. The powerful monsters are no longer held back inside their territories. Tread lightly as danger is now always present.]

The world message that everyone heard was not something like a good thing but it was something to be dreaded about. Safe zones are no longer entirely safe and monster attacks will now occur more frequently. The increase activity of monsters might be a big plus for the players but not for the inhabitants of the world.

The chaos that will be generated will definitely affect the livelihood of everyone. There would be sharp rises in prices for commodities such as food because farmlands are no longer safe. Price of Armors and weapons would either become higher or lower because of the influx of defeated monsters. Though Adrian knows what he must do and that is to become stronger.

Adrian must level up until he could kill high level monsters now that they are more rampant. Levin Cloud and Adrian both agreed that they need to cool down. They both log out in order to see what is happening in all parts of Pandemonium.

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Adrian logged out and he is surprised to see that his sister Mina also logged out. It seems that she wants to ask something but she just waited for Adrian to come out of the game pod.

"You need anything?" Adrian asked as he searched the posts in the forums.

"I was wondering if you know how I got killed by a level 200 monster that roamed a field area that is for level 120." Mina stated rhetorically.

"The tree of life died so the monster restriction is no more. If only I did my quest a bit faster then I might have saved it." Adrian answered even if he did not need to.

"Tell me everything." Mina stated as she pulled up a chair and Adrian did tell her the summary of events.

"I am pretty sure you were never meant to complete that quest anyway. Did the dryad not get attacked when you received a way to fix the problem? Do not be so hard on yourself as I am pretty sure it was set up to fail the moment you received a way to fix it." Mina stated as she could see that his brother is disappointed with himself.

She knows that Adrian is disappointed when he sighs a lot and scratches his head every second or so. The moment she died in Pandemonium made her immediately search the forums. The trending video is the one where the dubbed Demon made an appearance.

Adrian did a great job escorting the evacuees outside and clearing a path but he knows that his brother would have liked to have done something more. She just came into Adrian's room in order to calm his brother down so that it would not haunt him in his sleep. She could sometimes hear Adrian waking up from nightmares but it was not a regular occurrence.

"You do not need to be so hard on yourself." Mina stated as she hugged Adrian and then he just cried his heart out.

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In a room with monitors across it and people wearing futuristic visors...

"How much will the damage be as the destruction of the tree of life has been accelerated than the estimated time frame?" The chief developer stated as he tapped the table.

"The Envoy of the Dark Gods made a deal to power up the faceless ones and now he has another power he can use thanks to the blessing of the dark god with a million faces. The overall power shift will be in favor of the forces of the dark gods." A woman in a futuristic visor replied.

"How about the undead forces of the Arch Lich?" the chief developer asked.

"It seems that they have recovered enough for them to not need the aid of Star Mother's core. It would seem that the war between the undead will now escalate as the tree of life's destruction has lifted their movement restriction. With the holy churches in disarray, the forces of the Arch Lich has a 39% chance of winning the war." A man in a futuristic visor replied.

"Only 39%? Why is it lower than I anticipated?" The chief developer asked as it is not fun if war is one sided. It would be called a massacre instead of war.

"The huge variable is the Netheros, Chief. It seems that he made contact with AI #0 but we managed to intercept him using AI # 13. His existence himself is very difficult to predict as he got missions that would normally take high affinity to acquire. It seems he finds a way to force the AI's to give him the mission. We will manually patch some of them to prevent it from happening easily." The man in a futuristic visor replied.

"He has a knack for getting high affinity quests. We did make the intelligence of the Legendary NPCs unpredictable so it is our fault. Did the system agree to update AI mechanics?" the chief asked as he will not change the AI behaviors if the system did not recommend it.

"Yes, the system has stated a minor upgrade in behavior in order to keep difficult missions not easily accessible." The man in a futuristic visor stated.

"Perform the minor upgrade then. It should have been for next patch but just hotfix it but only what is recommended." The chief developer replied.

## Chapter 266 - Duel With The Goddess Of War

Frey is standing on a field full of corpses of both men and women. If anyone sees what the dead people are wearing then it would be easy to say that they died in war. Her golden armor is stained with the blood of those she slew in battle.

She would not have expected that she would be able to win a war against a thousand people. Thinking about it, she did not expect that the war she would be thrown in will be a fight against the forces of another goddess.

After flying in their Pegasus for what seems like two days, the Valkyries entered a golden gate high up in the sky that is guarded by a winged race with only beautiful people. She did not like the attitude of those winged people but she had to admit that they were strong. The winged people even dared to badmouth her even in the presence of the other Valkyries.

The other Valkyries did badmouth them in return for speaking like that to Frey. She really liked the Valkyries because they emphasized sisterhood instead of personal gain. Frey was told that they were angels and that they protect the sky gates but it seems that they do it out of penance.

It seems that their race was punished to guard every gateway to a minor realm controlled by a god. This minor realms are not like godly sanctuaries but places where a god can physically reincarnate for a limited amount of time. This is some sort of a way to breach the barrier of planes but only possible to the gods that made the godly separating barrier.

There are pre-requisites in order to reincarnate in the mortal plane though. The first rule is that the minor realm must have complete faith in the god or goddess. The god or goddess must have all the inhabitants on that minor realm be devoted solely to them.

The second rule is that no other god or goddess that owns the minor realm that they chose. This is so that the power of faith of the god or goddess will be pure and untainted. The power of faith will be the fuel for the god or goddess to make a physical body on the mortal plane. The incarnation will only be about 1% of the total power of the god or goddess.

The final rule is that a god or goddess cannot control more than one minor realm and could only reincarnate every other century given that they have accumulated enough power of faith. This is one of the reasons that can restrict the gods and goddesses to make descendants from humans.

The third rule was not in place before and due to that a surge of individuals that could easily become demigods appeared. The gods and goddesses could be controlled by the twin gods but their descendants were another matter. The demigods who were not properly raised became something like monsters hungry for war. This event in history was erased but it was called The Great Deicide.

Frey knew this because one must have knowledge that surpasses a normal individual in order to become a Valkyrie. Valkyries must not only be skilled in the art of combat but also possess great knowledge. Frey thought that she had already cleared her mission to win a war but she has yet to receive a notification.

She wanted to ask the other Valkyries if she has already won but they were all looking ahead. Frey then copied where the other valkyries' line of sight is and she saw the figure of an armored woman coming towards them. The armored woman is wearing a full set of armor unlike the famed bikini armor that female warriors tend to wear. She was also wearing a military helmet that is worn by roman generals. She had black unkempt hair peeking from her military helmet. She also wore a red cape but it was only up to her waist and just covered the right half of her back.

"Very good. It has been ages since I have enjoyed a battle with a promising mortal. Let me introduce myself, I am Bellona. One of the Goddesses of War of Pandemonium. The Goddess Freyja promised me a worthy battle that would cure my boredom and she was not wrong." The Goddess Bellona stated or rather her mortal reincarnation.

"I believe that I am an unworthy rival to the Goddess of War herself but I would be glad to receive teachings from a powerful woman such as yourself." Frey stated as she bowed but raised her head and her face hardened for battle.

"I hope you can entertain me while I can still hold my mortal flesh. I will not blame you if you get lucky and defeat me. This mortal body does have limitations after all. I just hope you do not die before I had my fun." The Goddess Bellona stated as a broadsword materialized on her right hand and a round shield on her left hand.

Frey did not utter any reply because she knows that she must win this fight in order to become a Valkyrie. The two women did not need to speak words and a fight of mentalities happened between them. Though the two women are not moving from their position, it is clear that they are having a face off against their wills.

It seems that the Goddess Bellona does not have that much patience as she suddenly charged towards Frey without fear. The Goddess Bellona charged while her round shield is upfront in order to block a piercing attack from Frey's spear. The clash of steel could be heard from their battle and the other Valkyries only observed Frey.

"Are you sure that sister Frey will be alright in battling an incarnation of the Goddess of War by herself?" Alruna asked Brunhild.

"Though their incarnation can only channel 1% of their total godly might, for a human being that would still be quite difficult. But I believe that Sister Frey has a fighting chance albeit a slim one." Brunhild replied as she watched the battle and has no intention to ever join it.

"Despite their mortal incarnations having 1% of their godly power, it is still unfair because they have a difference in experience. Sister Frey has not even spent a decade battling others while the Goddess Bellona has fought countless wars that could even blow up planets." Alruna stated as she pouted because she really liked Frey.

"You should have faith in our sister, Alruna. Look." Brunhild stated as she told Alruna to shift her gaze to the two ladies fighting.

The broadsword is sent flying ten meters away and Bellona was pushed on the defensive as she only held her round shield. Frey can be seen panting due to exhaustion but she was proud of herself because she managed to disarm her opponent and that opponent was a goddess of war.



"Hahaha! You are good! It seems that I have to take you on seriously." The Goddess Bellona stated as she heartily laughed with a craze.

The Goddess Bellona threw away her round shield and is now holding a spear that is the same size that Frey holds. Frey now shows a smile upon her face because this is a great chance to learn spear techniques from a real goddess of war. She would definitely pass upon this opportunity.

Due to excitement, Frey is the first one that charged towards battle. Bellona responded in kind and charged towards Frey. Both of them started with piercing attacks and both also dodged at the same way. Their attacks would have aimed at their heads so both of them just tilted their head a little which is enough to evade the piercing attack.

Their exchanges lasted for about twenty minutes and both were tied. It seems that whatever spear techniques that the Valkyries taught Frey is also like that of what the goddess of war is using. The only problem though is that Frey is clearly outmatched in terms of mastery and skill. Frey has yet to become perfect or achieved peak form using a spear so she is using this time to study the goddess of war.

Bellona can read what Frey is thinking but she only found it amusing. She is fond of people trying to become like her and become a master of war. It is also somewhat a form of faith directed towards her. Still, she will only show her skills using a spear to Frey.

Once Bellona decided that Frey has learned enough, she decided to throw away her spear and is now brandishing a thorn whip. Seeing as Bellona exchanged weapons, Frey had to change her method of attack. She utilized the thorny whip function of her spear in order to deflect the attacks of the goddess of war.

Although Frey knew that it is not a solid solution because the gaps in her defenses is clearly shown. The Goddess Bellona's weapon attacked faster and faster until Frey was riddled in wounds. Her health plummeting in a fast rate where her own regeneration cannot handle. Frey's health reached 5% in a matter of seconds.

Frey could only hope to dodge the next attack but her sight could not even get a hold of the whip. But as she was about to be hit, the whip suddenly became particles of light. Frey opened her eyes and can see that the Goddess Bellona is becoming particles of light.

"It seems that my sister Nike is smiling upon you, young Valkyrie. My mortal body could no longer bear my godly might. Still it is a great battle. For now, it is your victory because you were able to last long." Bellona stated with a smile as she finally disappeared.

#### Chapter 267 - The Cold Really Bothers Me Anyway

[A Valkyrie has risen from the bodies of a thousand men. A new war maiden has risen from the ashes and is dedicated to purge evil.]

The whole world received the message that a Valkyrie has appeared. The world became buzzing once more because they knew who is the Valkyrie being mentioned in the world message. The top guilds also viewed this as a signal that the most famous and powerful female player would become more powerful.

They did view Frey as a threat before but now she is even a much bigger threat because she can clear mission just by herself. With her new class, she would become even more formidable because a Valkyrie can master any type of weapon according to their research.

The scariest part for the top guilds is that a Valkyrie thrives in battle. Back when she was just a Spearman, she needed help with difficult raids but the situation is now different. Now that Frey is a Valkyrie, she no longer needs the help of top guilds because she could do it herself.

The top guilds equated the potential of a Valkyrie to a Berserker but without the madness debuff. They managed to find an excerpt in a book that Valkyries become much stronger as the battle passes. They do not know how much but due to the book saying that they could rival five men at their peak then one could assume that Frey can become five times stronger as the battle becomes longer.

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In a desolate place filled with only ice and snow, a certain demon heard that world message. Adrian heard the world message and he could only sigh.

"I guess she finally managed to achieve what she set out upon while I am here regretting my life choices." Adrian said as he shivered due to the cold.

He was now travelling in Niflheim after much difficulty of even finding the spatial fracture for it. He went there in order to retrieve the Everfrost flower that he promised to get but he is having no such luck even finding the flower.

The first thing that Ascalor told him when he said that he will go to Niflheim was 'Are you insane?'

It seems that Adrian asked something quite bold that the Arch Demon had to question his sanity. Adrian could remember it very clearly as it was just a few hours ago.

"Why are you even thinking of going to that cold and desolate place? Are you looking for your grave because of what you overheard in our meeting? You should not worry about it if that is the case because as you are now you would not be much help to the King of the Wild anyway." Ascalor stated. From his tone, Adrian knew that the old man was not joking.

"Can you describe what the topology of Niflheim is? It should not be that bad right?" Adrian asked.

"It is that bad. Bad does not even begin to describe that place. You could say that it is the worst world out there that even the gods do not want to claim it. It is so freezing cold and desolate that not even the toughest weed could grow there. Life basically gave up on that realm." Ascalor stated but that only made Adrian hit head at a nearby wall. The wall broke instead of Adrian's head though.

"Why are you even going there for anyway? There is nothing on that realm except for ice and snow. Also, stop banging your head on my wall, it is expensive you know." Ascalor stated as he flicked Adrian's forehead that made the latter fall down.

"I need to find something called the Everfrost flower. Any idea where that is in Niflheim?" Adrian asked but Ascalor just laughed slightly while patting Adrian's elbow.

"So the portal is restricted so you need to ask the guards. You just need to say that I told you that I gave you access." Ascalor stated as he drove Adrian away from his house.

"At least now I know why that grumpy old man immediately gave me access to a confidential realm. The guard even stated that nothing grows there when I asked about the Everfrost flower.

Here I am now. Lost and has no idea where to go. The spatial fracture area is lost because a freaking blizzard made me lose direction. I mean why does the mini map not works in this realm? I am basically in a freezing death trap and I willingly sent myself here." Adrian

Adrian wanted to summon all his soulbounds. But for a strange reason, he cannot summon his soulbounds. He could not even use magic like Chrono Shift to make him faster in searching. Although, the skills available to his weapon and armor could be used.

"I should have summoned Kanlaon before I went in if I knew this would happen. Why did the old man not even warn me that you cannot use magic here? I am even beginning to show signs of frostbite but I cannot even see a cave in the distance." Adrian grumbled as his bluish tin skin became even much blue as layers of frost builds on it. Nevertheless, Adrian continued on as he was very determined despite his grumbling.

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"The Valkyrie has finally soared. It seems that my activities will not be as easy as I thought." Eldritch stated as he saw his latest quest that suddenly appeared.

**\*SUDDEN QUEST NOTIFICATION\***

**BEWARE OF THE WAR MAIDEN**

The Valkyrie has finally risen from the common folk. You have been decided as the first target of the Valkyrie. She will deal double damage upon you whenever she attacks you so be always on guard. The Valkyrie is one of the Envoy of the Dark Gods greatest enemies so beware.

Goal: Survive the 90 day hunt of the Valkyrie

Failure: The Star Mother Core will be dropped upon death to the Valkyrie.

Kill Reward: 10% increase in stats and 5% increase in energy for the Star Mother Core

Survival Reward: 5% increase in energy for the Star Mother Core.

"Aishh. That freaking cold woman would want revenge because I managed to beat her once. She is really competitive that she always attacks me whenever we meet but I will just kill her again like last time. A change in job class will not overturn the odds anyway." Eldritch stated as he stared at the green orb.

Chapter 268 - Walked In At The Wrong Time

Adrian did not know if he traveled to about half the area of Niflheim but he was certain about one thing. That one thing is that he will not find the Everfrost flower today. He decided to retreat for today because he had no idea where to go and could not even use magic. He was thoroughly unprepared for his travel here.

Adrian took out a teleportation scroll and tore it immediately in order to return to the Paradox Planes. He needs to find a person that knows about Niflheim and he thinks that he already encountered the right person for that information.

Adrian reappeared at Ascalor's backyard while the old man was actually relaxing. It surprised the old man that he spilled his drink. The unfortunate thing is that Adrian is now doused with it and summoned Kanlaon to become his personal dryer.

"Have you finally realized that your endeavor was hopeless?" Ascalor asked as he once again become dignified then sipped his hot drink.

"If you told me what kind of harsh land Niflheim was then I would not have make a fool out myself. It was all snow and ice. I walked for a few minutes and it was still snow. There was not even a sign of life in that realm. I would have been quite happy if a monster appeared because I could at least follow it to where it lives." Adrian grumbled as he took the kettle and poured the hot drink in another cup. He then took a sip and was surprised that it actually really good.

"Anyways, I hope that you give up on your quest to find a flower there because there is no flower to begin with." Ascalor stated as he knows that Niflheim was empty to begin with and that magic cannot be cast there easily.

"How can I circumvent the restriction of not being able to cast magic there anyways?" Adrian asked himself.

"Tsk...Tsk. You are a scribe and yet you could not even imagine what you need to if you cannot cast magic there. You should make talismans to aid you as activating it would not require you to cast magic. But even that is not enough because there is really nothing there." Ascalor stated.

The elders of the Daemos only put restrictions on realms that are considered dangerous if unprepared. Niflheim is one of those realms as magic could not be cast there easily due to a fluctuation in the magical atmosphere. Only demigod level people could cast magic there but it was still restricted to low tier magic.

"Thanks for the hot drink old man! I need that because that place even froze my balls." Adrian shouted as he rode Kanlaon to the spatial fracture.

"Yah! Watch your mouth brat! My reputation is plummeting because of you!" Ascalor shouted back but the old man is actually smiling.

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Adrian directly use Teleport to go to Aurgelmir's forge because he thinks that the frost giant might help him. There was no hammering sounds so Adrian just let himself in as he thought that the frost giant might be resting. The sight that he walked in on was very controversial to say the least.

He felt like the world stop because two people were eating each other's faces in front of him. In other words, the two people are actually making out. Adrian had to shield Kanlaon's eyes from the horrors of the adult world.

"I got to admit that the old lady has game. I did not even think that the old man had in him because he is obsessed with crafting weapons. Still, it has been like thirty seconds and yet they are not stopping. It feels like I walked in on my parents when they exercise or something. I better let my presence be known." Adrian thought as he let out a cough.

As if lightning stroke the two and pulled them away from their own world, they fixed their hair and clothes because it was disoriented to some extent. Adrian has to admit that despite the two being old, they are still full of passion. The evidence being a lot of blacksmithing materials scattered across the ground. Adrian did not want to imagine what happened but a scene would pop in his mind from time to time.

"Sorry if I am interrupting your...um...whatever it is that you two are doing. I could return in a later date if you think that I am being a burden." Adrian stated as Aurgelmir and Elona are standing straight and acting like nothing happened.

"So have you returned because you have found what I have asked for?" The Ice Queen Elona asked in her stoic face but Adrian pointed out that her crown was still tilted.

Elona fixed her crown while Aurgelmir just stood there like an ice statue. Adrian scanned them both up and down like he was a warden staring at inmates that started a riot. He is actually enjoying the role a bit too much but he decided to become serious.

"I made it to Niflheim but all that was there is ice and snow." Adrian stated as he noticed Aurgelmir's face suddenly reacted for a split second but that was enough to prove the former's theory.

"The Great Star Gazer said that the Everfrost flower will be located in a land only filled with ice and snow. That place would only be the rumored realm of Niflheim. No other realm has been said to be made of ice and snow because water can hold memories. I even used all my strength to make sure that is the case." The Ice Queen Elona stated in a hurried manner which made her almost grasp for air.

"Are you crazy!? It would have taken all of your strength to push the limits of reading the memories of water! Is that why you were not strong enough to contend that Arch Lich and even got hurt in the process." Aurgelmir berated Elona as he became worried that she pushed herself too hard.

"So old man, do you know anything about Niflheim? I have been reading your expressions the whole time we were having a conversation and you look like you want no part of it." Adrian asked as he acted all high and mighty but he should have not because he got whacked on the head for it.

"Ouch!" Adrian reacted.

"Respect your elder's boy!" The Ice Queen Elona shouted at Adrian after she whacked his head. No damage was accumulated but strangely it hurt.

"I really should not be saying this but I cannot hide it forever anyways. Niflheim is like that because it is a resting ground of a god." Aurgelmir stated weakly.

"Resting ground? Do you mean like a burial site? If that is so who is buried there?" Adrian asked as he is curious.

"The one buried there is me." Aurgelmir replied.

"Eh?!" both Elona and Adrian shouted at the same time.

Chapter 269 - Truth Of Niflheim

"Can you explain on how it is your burial ground? You are here in front of us. You fixed the crown of the undead king. You are even making out with the Ice Queen so you are surely alive." Adrian stated but he could feel a cold piercing gaze just beside him.

"What do you mean your burial site? You have been living in this northern continent ever since I was born. If you were dead then the aspect of death would have escorted you to the afterlife." The Ice Queen Elona asked as she became very confused with the situation.

"If you are dead then I would have known it. If you are a soul then you would be afraid of me right now. All spirits with sentience tend to steer clear of me. Even though I wanted them to give me missions." Adrian stated while he just uttered the last sentence to himself.

Due to Adrian's title of being The Shepard of Souls, he can get quests from wayward souls but they tend to steer clear of him. He wanted to know why and when he finally cornered one to ask, they told him that his aura makes them terrified of him. Even if Aurgelmir is a demigod soul, Adrian would still have a strong influence against him.

"It does not mean that this body of mine is dead per se. What I really mean is that my godly body is no more and it is basically the realm of Niflheim itself. You can think of the me in front of you as my mortal incarnation. Are you not curious why a frost giant could harness the power of flames?" Aurgelmir stated as he tried to explain his current situation.

"Still a mortal body would not be able to house a godly soul easily or without consequence. The only case of that happening is when dark gods possess mortal bodies but their strength will be greatly weakened." Adrian replied.

"That is because this is not my full godly soul. The rest of it is in Niflheim which is why magic is greatly forbidden there due to my godly law." Aurgelmir replied.

"I see that is possible but the act of tearing one's soul is crazy to begin with. You have to be either desperate or foolish. The act would make the person who tear his soul apart be in such great pain that they would wish that they would die instead." Adrian replied.

"The dark gods were very difficult to battle and my godly body was dying. Encased in my dead godly body is a dark god that control flames. That dark god has been locked there since the war with the dark gods. I sacrificed myself in order to subdue that dark god but an eternity with him will make me go mad. I separated my soul in order to be able to reincarnate." Aurgelmir stated.

"Then if your godly body is Niflheim itself then you must know where the Everfrost flower is. I need that to save someone I care for." The Ice Queen Elona stated as she clasped Aurgelmir's hands.

"I do not know if there is one because I myself am barred from entering that realm. If I step foot in that realm then I might fuse back with my godly body and undo the seal for the dark god. We must not let that happen and it will not happen because only the demons can access that realm." Aurgelmir replied.

"So I am really going to enter that realm alone again. I thought I could at least drag you there but it seems that would result in a much larger headache. I cannot let a dark god roam around." Adrian stated while he thought of what to do next.

"Yes. You are right." Aurgelmir nodded.

"I do not want another quest thrown at me and make my hectic schedule more troublesome. I need a vacation from my duties." Adrian replied which stunned the two people with him in the room.

"Is there really no other hope? I need that Everfrost flower." The Ice Queen Elona stated as her eyes became watery.

"There should be other realms full of ice and snow that can support life. It might not just be Niflheim. Although you told me the place is Niflheim, as long as I get the Everfrost flower then everything would be all good right?" Adrian asked as he asked the Daemos Portal Guards and they replied that there are other realms of ice and snow.

"I am fine with that but the time limit is very difficult to adjust because I only froze her temporarily. I cannot bear to see her in pain which is why I delayed her illness using a spell. So you need to get the job done before my spell disappears." The Ice Queen Elona stated in a weary tone.

[The quest Find the Everfrost Flower has been updated. Please look at the updated quest log.]

**\*QUEST NOTIFICATION\***

Find the Everfrost Flower (Updated)

The Ice Queen Elona wants you to find a certain flower in the frozen land where it could possibly bloom. Find it so that you can repay the favor you have been granted. The Ice Queen Elona might give you a reward if you do a great job.

Condition: Find the Everfrost flower that is said to be the only flower that can bloom on a frozen land.

Reward: Unknown

Failure: You will be unable to journey to the far north as Ice Queen Elona will bar you from the borders of her kingdom. This might be overturn with the information you hold. Knowledge is power so take note of that.

Time Remaining: 25 days

"It seems that I can get a reward because of the updated quest. I knew that quest can be updated but it usually just changes it to become worse. I can breathe a sigh of relief because I know that I am going to be rewarded." Adrian thought.

"Since it is getting late and you two might get jiggy, I will excuse myself and find that flower. Wherever that might be." Adrian stated as he picked up Kanlaon who was playing with the rare metals. He teleported out of the forge and smiled sheepishly at the blushing couple.

Chapter 270 - Librarian Of Worlds?

Adrian teleported himself to the nearest spatial fracture that led to the Paradox Planes. He wanted to return and ask the guards about the other realms of ice and snow. Adrian is actually extremely doubtful of the words that the Great Star Gazer stated that the Everfrost flower is located in a land of ice and snow.

He knew that such a flower would not be possible normally and if it does grow then those that find it keep it a secret. In Pandemonium, plants or herbs that grow in extreme conditions are usually if

not most of the time considered a treasure. This plants or herbs are often called miracle medicine which made Adrian sullen after realizing his foolishness.

He now regrets his decision of easily accepting the deal without thinking. He knows he made a rash decision but he needed immediate help at the time so he had to accept his mistake. He asked the Daemos portal guards if there are other realms that is full of ice and snow and they pointed out three.

One of the three is Niflheim so that made only two more realms to search upon. Adrian explored the two realms only to find nothing. He wasted ten days just exploring unexplored land in the frosted realms. He did level up and is now close to getting level 150.

He thought clear and hard but he did not know what this Great Star Gazer is so he went to Ascalor to ask. Thankfully, Ascalor knew what this Great Star Gazer was and it is actually some sort of mystic that can read the stars in order to give answers. The only problem is that their answers are rather cryptic and not direct which is why normal people do not like them.

Ascalor told Adrian that there was a time that their fortune telling became a hot topic because a king of a certain country managed to become powerful due to the advice of a Star Gazer. Due to this occurrence, numerous royalty started roaming the lands in search of them. There was once a time that Star Gazers were akin to something to having powers like that of a royal adviser.

Due to the rise of power because of the profession, numerous people started coming forward to royalties as Star Gazers. A very tiny percent were genuine but a large number of those who presented themselves were frauds. This lead to numerous beheadings which made the real Star Gazers hide their gifts.

The frauds were not the only reason why the Star Gazers became persecuted. Another reason is that the Star Gazers have no control of what they see. They could see a person's past, present, or future. One unlucky Star Gazer was captured by a tyrant king and she told him that he will die a painful death with nothing to his name. Needless to say, she did not survive the next day.

The unique nature of the Star Gazers was also not a good thing for the dark gods because one managed to foresee a dark future. She said that she saw a great tree burning and lakes poisoned with something that has no cure. The next day after telling that prophecy, she quietly vanished from her home without anyone knowing.

"In conclusion, you have to bet everything on luck and a miracle in order to see what you want to see. Star Gazers really have a cruel fate if you ask me because they can see the downfall of others." Adrian said to Ascalor.

"The Great Star Gazer is different though because they are born from only once every millennia. Though the sad part is that they are said to be destined to die at a young age due to the great power they hold. The Great Star Gazer can accurately see whatever they please but it takes great energy to do so." Ascalor stated.

"And that energy is...let me guess...their life force." Adrian stated in a confident tone.



"Exactly. That is the main reason why they do not live for long and die young. The Great Star Gazers expend their life in order to divine anything they want. The life force expended is also proportional to how far they want to see. They can peek into the far future accurately but that would mean killing themselves because that is taboo." Ascalor stated.

"Is there a limitation on what they can see? Something akin to a boundary?" Adrian asked he speculated that this land of ice and snow is not really a different realm.

"Of course. The Great Star Gazers cannot pierce through the veil of the gods and the afterlife. They are also limited in seeing things that are only present in their world. So they can only see what can happen on the world they are residing in." Ascalor answered.

"I see. So it is like they can see the records of the world like they are the librarians." Adrian muttered which Ascalor heard clearly.

Ascalor is actually greatly pleased with the analogy that Adrian made. The analogy that Adrian made is actually perfect which increased Ascalor's appreciation of the former even more. Ascalor really thanked the gods that they sent someone bright and has a decent heart.

"Then that means that the land of ice and snow is located in Nebulon. Yet if it is the far north then the Ice Queen Elona should have found the flower already. Wait! I visited a place of extreme temperatures to evolve Kanlaon!" Adrian suddenly realized as he shot up from his seat and bolted to the exit.

"Aishh...That brat always leaves without even offering to clean up. What does he think my house is? I swear that I will lock that boy in an Infinity Prison once he is not doing anything. I will make him clean up all the dishes on that day." Ascalor grumbled as he saw Adrian run away.

Adrian ran off to find Pann because he does not know the location of Infernofrost Ridge. He wanted to know how to get there because he would need to know a safe passage. The hotshots in the east do not like them very well.