

## O Summoner 431

### Chapter 431 - Attack The Soul

Numerous greater wind elemental abominations exploded due reacting to the fire element. Some manage to conjure up shield but the assassins in the group were not lucky. One of the tanks also sacrificed his life to protect Anastacia, Cersei, and Mariposa.

The group is reduced by three members. It was not Soleil's sole fault but Sylphis attacked them under the guise of the explosion. The Higher Elemental was also damaged by the flames, but it was not lethal to it.

"This place is too narrow which means we are an easier target than the higher elemental." Vayu complained as he blew apart the smoke that filled the area.

The whole party is riddled with injuries as a result of the large explosion. Soleil felt sorry for what she had done and expended three fourths of her health to defend everyone from the fierce explosion. She might not know it, but the others do not blame her because everyone makes mistakes.

Amidst the chaos comes order as Kabrakan's shield has actually changed. It was made of bronze metal at first, but it started to become encrusted in diamonds. Kabrakan laughed despite the large damage that he got because his two large shields finally evolved.

The battle between Vayu and the Higher Wind Elemental has become more difficult due to the former receiving damage. Adrian decided that he needed to join the battle as Vayu needs someone to assist him.

"Paradox, Summon the Sword Primordial Armament." Adrian stated and his weapon emitted purple lightning.

"Sirius, follow up with me. Twin Fang form." Adrian stated as he joined the battle with the Higher Elemental.

The others had to take care of the greater wind elementals that are still constantly getting spawned. Adrian in his twin fang form could just about keep up with the higher wind elemental. Sirius could keep up, but he could not catch Sylphis using his shadows.

Sirius could also not make the enemy bleed because of its unique composition. The enemy is made up of magical particles of the wind element. Although, something that is prevalent from the shadow element which is a subset element of the dark element is that darkness can capture everything.

All Sirius needed to do is catch the Higher Wind Elemental and they would be able to focus all their spells to it. Kabrakan is also eagerly waiting for this chance as his upgraded shield has a skill that deals a large amount of earth element to an opponent.

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Sylphis is a tricky opponent because it slips away whenever they are about to catch it. Adrian wanted to use Chrono Lag on Sylphis but temporal spells are difficult to cast. The time element is still unstable in the area.

If Adrian forced himself to cast the temporal magic, then he could create temporal quakes. He could not even buff himself with Chrono Shift in order to become faster than Sylphis.

"The only thing that I could do is buff myself using the energies that I have in my body. Thankfully, Primordial Essence is much more powerful compared to Soul Essence. Soul Essence can only buff one state per use, but his Primordial Essence could buff all his stats per use.

"Use a hundred of my Primordial Essence and all of my Nether Energy. Let us see if I could not match that higher wind elemental." Adrian thought to himself.

Primordial Essence covered his body while Nether Energy covered his weapons. Adrian vanished from his spot while the grinning Sylphis enjoyed his fight with the struggling Vayu. The group is now forced to decide if they want to reserve their skills or use them sparingly.

Sylphis grinned with each exchange with Vayu as it relished in the suffering of its opponent. Sylphis was an ordinary higher wind elemental until it became infected with something. The one to infect Sylphis is none other than Cristobal. Cristobal would not have been able to abduct that many elementals without the aid of another elemental.

Adrian who disappeared appeared right behind Sylphis which spooked it. Adrian brought down the sword in his right hand in order to hit Sylphis but the latter became wind. Adrian did not stop his attack as he activated his evil eye and locate the soul of the higher wind elemental.

Wind elementals can scatter their body into gusts of wind. In fact, all elementals can do just that but there is a catch. Any being might be able to scatter their material body, but they cannot split up their soul.

Adrian is using that weakness to get a decisive hit on Sylphis. One thing Adrian is certain with his weapon is that the Primordial Armaments deal greater damage to spiritual entities. It could be said that his armaments were specifically forged to kill enemies without true living bodies.

Adrian saw a flame like entity whizzing through the air and decided to immediately attack that. A loud scream suddenly erupted as soon as Adrian hit the flame like entity which is Sylphis' soul. The one who shouted in pain is none other than Sylphis as its body came together.

Adrian might have not used his full force with that attack, but he managed to shave off 5% of Sylphis' total health. Adrian was thankful that his risk paid off as he now has a counter when Sylphis would turn its body into gas. The downside is that he used all his buffed time to make it work.

Adrian became the target of Sylphis' attacks as the knowledgeable entity would target anyone that poses the most threat to its existence. Before Adrian could react, Sylphis is already in front of him. Adrian raised his swords to block the attack, but a literal tornado blew him away.

Adrian crashed into the wall while Vayu and Sirius tried to help him. Sylphis suddenly held out its hand which made Vayu shudder because the Higher Wind Elemental is now serious. It was now going to summon its weapon.

"Come out, Brise!" Sylphis stated as harsh winds started to flood the area. Wind blades started to slash even the walls and kill off the greater wind elemental abominations.

"Charon, use Soul Prison!" Adrian commanded and the coffin opened. Numerous chains latched onto the remaining party members and pulled them inside the coffin. If Adrian did not decide quickly then the raid would have been finished then and there

#### Chapter 432 - Brise

All of the party members including the soulbounds except Charon were pulled inside the coffin. If Adrian did not do so, then half of them would have been wiped out. It was also Adrian's first time to deeply appreciate the pocket dimension that he was in.

There were only a few accounts of a Lifeless Lord being born throughout the history of Pandemonium. Each being vastly different compared to the other as the first one to be born was holding a sword which was The Undead King himself before he reached the pinnacle undead species.

Charon's skill Soul Keep is influenced by Adrian's origin magic because undead should not have access to pocket dimensions. Sirius' Phantom Rush is an example of a skill that is influenced by the master. Even Adrian does not know how to achieve this as it was only due to the evolution for skills like this to appear.

Kanlaon and Saena have no skills influenced by Adrian which makes him believe that skills influenced by the master are not dependent in a soulbound's evolution. Still, the pocket dimension is filled with death energy.

"Where are we?" Anastacia asked as this was a first for her.

"We are inside the coffin of my soulbounds. We can talk in here, but we cannot use skills. We can still regenerate passively though. I pulled us in here because Vayu suddenly warned us, and I felt a large amount of mana coming out of the enemy." Adrian replied.

"So, it is something like a pocket dimension?" Levin Cloud asked and Adrian nodded.

"I do not know what is in this pocket dimension, but it is giving me great strength." Levin Cloud stated.

"I feel you. My health is actually regenerating faster here like I was in the castle." Creepysoo added.

"What happens when a higher elemental pulls out its weapon?" Adrian asked Vayu.

"Once an elemental evolves into a higher elemental, they can form an elemental core where it can transform into a weapon. The weapon is tied to the soul of a higher elemental. Damaging the weapon also meant damaging the higher elemental." Vayu stated.

"Higher elementals also gain a large boost in stats when they wield their weapon. They could only do so for a few minutes as releasing the weapon would also mean releasing all the power in their bodies. There would be a huge backlash for a few seconds after that." Soleil added as she is also knowledgeable about elementals.

"How long can we be held in this pocket dimension?" Mariposa asked.

"About a few seconds but we could also be released if Charon gets killed. Thankfully, the enemies are elementals which deal more magic damage which he is immune from." Adrian stated but he got jinxed.

[Your soulbound Charon has died.]

[You will be released from Soul Prison.]

"Welp." Adrian thought,

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Sylphis managed to bring a literal hurricane inside the room. The sword Brise is like a fencing sword with a tornado being released with each thrust. The higher wind elemental continuously attacked the area, but it realized that there is only one being present.

Sylphis could see that the only one remaining is an undead that even it cannot identify. He can only deal a decent amount of damage against Charon which greatly angered it. Charon was also using Life Siphon in order to absorb health of the greater wind elemental abominations that are spawning continuously.

The damage it deals can be restored in just a few seconds which made the Higher Wind Elemental mad. It only came to play with the intruders because Cristobal told it that it was fun. Sylphis is not enjoying himself because it cannot see blood or see fear.

Despite the numerous tornadoes that Sylphis creates to damage Charon, the Lifeless Lord is not getting killed. It continued this attack patten for five seconds until it realized that magic cannot harm the undead.

Sylphis decided to use his ultimate move that deals magic damage that ignores a person's magic resistances. The sword Brise glowed in a bright peach light and sucked all the air inside the room. If the others were not inside the pocket dimension, then they would have difficulty in breathing.

With a sharp thrust, Sylphis almost tore the fabric of space. A huge hole appeared in Charon's body and was immediately executed. Upon doing so, the coffin broke and those inside are released back into the real world.

Adrian saw that the whole room is full of evidence that it was hit by a storm. If that storm is generating wind blades that could damage the dead body of a dark god. The greater wind elemental abominations were no longer in the area while Sylphis looked tired.

"Attack while we have the chance!" Vayu stated as he used one of his more powerful skills.

Sylphis may look tired but its health was still rather high. Sirius immediately grabbed at the chance and shadow tendrils came out of the Higher Wind Elemental's shadow. Sylphis was about to turn into wind to dodge but Kanlaon froze the air around him.

Freezing the air would not have been effective but Sylphis was tired from using its ultimate attack. With Sylphis now bound by the shadows, they can now direct their attacks towards it. The debuffs started piling up on the higher elemental but the greater wind elemental abominations started to spawn once more.

"Quantum Cascade." Adrian casted.

He used Sylphis as the epicenter while designating all others inside the room as targets. His raid members were not selected because they could die with what will happen next. Adrian looked at Soleil and told her his plan.

Soleil started to chant one of her powerful spells while he also told Peridot his idea. Peridot rose her weapon and the red floating gem started to spin. She is then covered in sparks of fire.

"Everyone, please hide behind the tanks!" Adrian shouted and everyone has done so. He gave them a hint of his plan before they were expelled from the pocket dimension.

#### Chapter 433 - Miniature Spatial Lock

"Regulus Roar!" Soleil chanted. A huge wave of fire is then released from a fiery silhouette that manifested in front of her.

"Fire Bellows!" Peridot chanted. A red magic circle appeared below the bound Sylphis and a huge torrent of flames erupted from it.

"Inherent Fire Arrows!" Alder chanted and released five arrows made of orange flames.

Sylphis did not care for the trivial attacks that are going to hit it. It was a higher elemental, and it was proud of its resistances from the other elements. All it needed to do was create a vortex that would absorb the flames.

Sylphis just thought it was bound but it could still use its powers. As it was trying to move the mana in the surrounding, it suddenly lost control of it. The higher elemental could not believe that it was unable to gather wind elemental mana.

"Debilitating Curse!" Creepysoo cast which made the higher wind elemental cast slower.

"Invocation Break!" Cersei cast which made the higher wind elemental have a 50% chance to fail in invoking magic spells.

Sylphis was still confident with its body resistance. It was sure that it will not get killed by the spells that will hit it. The confidence plummeted immediately when an unknown force made all the greater wind elemental abomination get pulled towards it.

When all the greater wind elemental abominations were pulled towards Sylphis due to Quantum Cascade. As soon as that happened, all the fire attribute spells hit Sylphis. A blazing inferno suddenly erupted which was about three times more powerful than the first one.

Adrian knew that they will not be able to survive it if they were to get hit by that. Kabrakan's diamond coated shield suddenly shined bright, and he slammed it into the ground.

"Crystal Shell!" Kabrakan stated as he slammed his two towering shields.

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Skill: Crystal Shell

Tier: Epic

Type: Area Defense

Effect: Create a dome made of crystals that is the same composition of your shield. The dome will have a health bar that is equivalent to three times your maximum health with it having your defense stats. The dome could expire early due to the health bar disappearing of after its maximum duration.

Duration: 30 seconds

Cooldown: 1 hour

Mana Cost: 1000 Mana Points

Cast Time: Instant

Unique Effect: The caster will lose his or her shield for the duration of the skill is in effect.

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The diamond like crust started to travel towards Sylphis in a fast pace. It soon formed a dome made of something like diamond or crystal. It then trapped the higher wind elemental inside that dome. Numerous explosions sounded inside the dome with an accompaniment of ghastly screams.

The crystal shell was supposed to be a wide defense skill that blocks attacks from the outside. Kabrakan used his wits to immediately think that it would be better to enclose the enemy with the dome instead of them. He wanted to finish this battle as they need a lot of time just to fight Cristobal.

The crystal dome did not seem like it would last as cracks started to appear and its health dropping at a fast rate. It seems the contained explosion is much more powerful than what they expect. Soleil's passive skill increased the damage of all fire type attacks she and her allies does which explains the explosive force.

Adrian knew that they will not survive if the explosion spreads. He needed to do something, and he thought of one. He needed to lock the space where the crystal dome is located. Isolating the space so that the fiery explosion will not affect them.

"Paradox, what will happen if I forcefully isolate the space surrounding that crystal dome?" Adrian asked the Cube of Paradox.

"There is a 40% chance that master will die due to exertion of his control over space when it is already volatile. If master uses all the essences and energy that that he has then the risk will lower to 15%." Paradox replied.

"If I use you as a medium, will the burden be lessened?" Adrian asked as he thought of using the Cube of Paradox' unique interaction with origin energy as a loophole.

"The risk will lessen up to 10% with you consuming all your energies and essences." The Cube of Paradox replied.

"I will take that chance." Adrian stated as he filled The Cube of Paradox with his mana while using all his energy and essence.

"Commencing skill: Miniature Spatial Lock." The Cube of Paradox stated as it separated into tiny pieces and created a prism.

The prism looked like it was made of a purple glass that would shatter with a great blow, but it was just the manifestation of space isolating. The crystal dome finally shattered and Kabrakan's weapon came back to him. Upon the crystal dome shattering, they saw Sylphis still perpetually burning and screaming.

It is also that time when Adrian felt how powerful the backlash of the space isolation. He started coughing blood just five seconds in. It was not only the fiery inferno that he is trying to isolate but also Sylphis' attacks.

The higher wind elemental is letting its attacks thrash about in an attempt to shatter the Miniature Spatial Lock. It must also be the reason why the Crystal shell broke faster than Kabrakan anticipated. With each attack that Sylphis made, Adrian would cough blood.

Adrian is now losing 5% health every three seconds and it increases to 10% whenever Sylphis attacks. Adrian is determined to hold out as he saw that Sylphis health is already below 40%. Due to the current situation, Levin Cloud, Anastacia and Saena are all focusing on healing Adrian which is a huge burden.

The Cube of Paradox' calculations also considered the healers in the team as participants. Since it considered the healers as a factor, there will be no power of friendship or whatever to happen in this situation.

The flames started to die down as soon as Sylphis' health reached 10%. Adrian was also about to die as he started to even reject healing magic. There is a condition called mana intoxication where healing managed is reduced or ineffective depending on the severity.

The flames died down and Sylphis is left with 7% health. It launched an attack against the prism and Adrian had to let go of his control. Adrian's health is in the red while Sylphis started attacking aimlessly once more.

Vayu had to use one of his most powerful skills. His blade started to glow in a bright peach color and his body turned illusory. His eyes glowed in the same-colored light and he did a word drawing stance.

"Sonic Force!"

Chapter 434 - At The Heart

"Sonic Force!" Vayu stated and he suddenly appeared behind Sylphis in just a split second.

Sylphis had a look of shock in its face before turning into particles of light. Vayu returned his katana back to its sheath as he already executed the enemy. When Sylphis turned into particles of light, some of that light went towards Vayu and assimilated in his body.

[You have succeeded killing the Tainted High Wind Elemental, Sylphis.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[Your soulbounds have leveled up.]

[Your soulbounds have leveled up.]

Vayu suddenly floated in the air as his body turned more into air and started to shed some of his human features. Adrian could see that Vayu became more than he already is. Vayu is no longer a half elemental, but he was not a full elemental yet.

"We took too long fighting that higher wind elemental. How much time do we got?" Levin Cloud stated as he healed everyone in the party.

"We have about three hours and forty-five minutes to reach Cristobal." Adrian replied.

"We lost quite a few members, but we could still clear it if we get more buffs." Anastacia stated.

"Why are their bodies still there though." Alder asked as he saw that the bodies of their fallen comrades not disappearing completely.

Adrian looked at Levin Cloud as he knew that he has a revival skill. Levin Cloud shook his head as he can only revive people about one minute after they die. Creepysoo suddenly noticed it and raised his hand.

"That should be the effect of my skill. They should be in Limbo right now. I could revive them as undead. They could control their bodies once I revive them. The only downside is that they will not get any experience points from this point on." Creepysoo stated which greatly shocked everyone.

Everyone knew that necromancers are able revive the dead. The liches are able to revive dead players, but those dead players could not be able to control their bodies. They usually became monsters that the necromancers directly control.

"Arise, my comrades. Use your new life to complete this journey with us!" Creepysoo chanted as a black smoke covered the bodies of the fallen party members.

The black smoke filled the bodies and it started to become animated once more. A few seconds later, the fallen party members are revived but they became undead. The tanks became Death Knights while the assassins became Death Scouts.

"We are alive!" One of the assassins stated in shock.

"Where were you guys?" Cersei asked as she was curious.

The previously dead party members were sent to Limbo where they saw the souls of the NPCs passing through death's door. They told the others about how numerous souls were passing through this big door that humanoids with jackal heads were guarding it.

Adrian listened eagerly and is a hundred percent sure that they were in Limbo. The humanoids with jackal heads were none other than the Anubises. They went to Limbo due to Creepysoo's skill. Adrian is in awe because Creepysoo has a game breaking skill.

The act of reviving your fallen teammates into undead is extremely useful. The only downside would be they cannot be healed through normal means, but their team is not normal. They have Levin Cloud that could heal undead.

The members of the Evergreen guild want to know what that skill is, but they are shy. They have never met the player that is called Prince of the Undead. This was their first meeting, and it would be rude to ask the skill. If they pressure him, he might not want to meet them ever again. They fear that he will avoid them, so they kept their mouth shut.

"What are the benefits of us being undead?" The tank player asked, and everyone perked their ears.

"You will be affected by my passive skill so you guys will have 25% more stats. You will also be immune to status ailments. Instant death spells will be unable to kill you as undead cannot be executed as we have the blessings of the God of Death." Creepysoo explained and their mouths became ajar.



"That enemy did not even drop anything." Peridot grumbled as she searched the area where Sylphis died.

"Sylphis actually dropped something but it is not a physical aspect but a skill. A passive skill to be exact. Look at all your system logs." Adrian stated as he always checked his system logs.

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Skill: Wind's Mischief

Tier: Rare

Type: Passive

Effect: Wind Attribute Resistance + 5%. The owner of the skill also has a fixed 1% chance of evading any type of attack. The more attacks that hit you, the chance of evading an attack becomes higher. (Evasion does not affect status ailment or debuff skills that are target assured.)

Cooldown: None

Mana Cost: None

Cast Time: None

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"The skill that we got beats any drop item as evasion type passive skills are the rarest of all the passive skills." Adrian stated in which Anastacia nodded.

Evasion passive skills are rare to the point that skill books with that type of skills would bid for no less than a thousand gold coins. A rare tier evasion skill will be about ten thousand gold coins of sold. The fact that they received a great passive skill is proof that the enemy was powerful.

"If everyone is recovered, we should head out. We must not waste anymore time." Mariposa suggested and everyone moved with the undead assassins scouting ahead.

The undead assassins returned and reported that the next room was different. The wall they will encounter is pulsating much vigorously than any other wall they encountered. The wall up ahead also had a purple or dark violet color.

"We believe that it is the heart." One of the Death Scouts reported.

When they arrived at the pulsating purple muscle wall, notifications streamed in their system logs.

[Congratulations! You have succeeded in clearing the Emergency Quest 'Do not Breathe'.]

[You have been given a temporary buff in which you will receive 10% less damage until the end of the dungeon. Additional 30 minutes in the countdown timer.]

The purple muscle wall suddenly pulsed with more vigor until an entrance is created.

Chapter 435 - Corrupted Sphinx

They entered the hole that the purple muscle wall created upon pulsating. Upon entering the room, two pulsing flesh spheres could be seen inside it. One was pulsating slowly compared to the other and the silhouettes inside could be seen due to the light.

Adrian could vaguely see the silhouettes and could tell that it might be the sphinxes. The silhouettes have the body of a lion and one of them had wings. Adrian saw Cristobal earlier, but the Mad Warlock disappeared.

Anastacia finally spoke up as she thought it was odd no enemy is coming after them. She then realized that a huge amount of power is being transferred to the spheres. Everyone in the room finally notices the strong energy being pumped in the spheres.

"Attack the spheres!" Anastacia stated in hastily manner as she figured out the trick to this room.

All the Evergreen guild members did as she ordered. Adrian's group looked at each other and trusted her decision and it was good that they did. As soon as they hit the flesh spheres, health bars suddenly appeared above the two flesh spheres. The two spheres are monsters that would only reveal their true nature upon being attacked.

Monster: Gestation Sphere

Level: 200

Health: 9,918,098,876 / 10, 000, 000, 000

Mana: None

Description: Weird monsters born from the Mad Warlock's experiments with the dead dark god's body. A special type of abomination that nurtures those that is inside it but also warps them to become corrupted. The longer an individual or monster is inside the Gestation Sphere then the more warped it will become.

Upon seeing the description and guessing what is inside, Adrian scrambled to kill the monsters. If the sphinxes become enemies, then it would be a major headache as they could manipulate time. Adrian decided to kill the one pulsing slower because it felt like it was close to hatching.

"Kanlaon and Sirius, focus all your attacks on the one at the left." Adrian stated as he summoned his Axe Primordial Armament.

Adrian summoned the axe because it was the one with the rawest damage. The Evergreen guild handled the Gestation Sphere on the right while Adrian's group handled the one on the left. A shrill scream will be heard each time the Gestation Sphere is attacked.

The monster's defense mechanism started to kick in as it grew tentacles. These tentacles were rather easy to cut off due to the monster before them not being the aggressive type. Adrian's anxiousness could be seen on his face as he hacked away without a care for his stamina.

When Adrian's attacks the Gestation Sphere, he would also leave about three space mines on it. He was dealing both physical and magical damage on the monster. Soleil and Vayu focused on the DPS while Creepysoo focused on lowering its defenses.

Levin Cloud would also use his limited pool of attack spells. He even used one of his epic skills called Death Blossom.

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Skill: Death Blossom

Tier: Epic

Type: Active Damage over time

Effect: Conjure up a black seed that drains the life of the entity it is planted on. The black seed will continue sapping the health of the entity until four flowers called Death Blossoms bloom. Each bloomed Death Blossom will then explode and deal the amount of health it sapped as damage. Can be cast early and the seed kept inside the inventory.

Max number of Seeds that can be kept in the Inventory: 5 seeds

Duration: 1 minute per flower to bloom

Max Health Sapped per flower: 5%

Cooldown: 12 hours

Mana Cost: 5,000 Mana Points

Cast Time: 5 seconds

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Levin Cloud still has five seeds in his inventory but he used the skill so he will not waste those. He planned on using those five seeds on the Mad Warlock. Fortunately, he can still conjure up one seed but cannot keep it in his inventory.

He already stacked up on seeds when he got the skill because it was convenient. He never knew when he will need these seeds, so he stacked up on them. The seeds were also considered an item that can be planted or be used in apothecary. He planned to sell them if he is short on money.

Levin Cloud jammed the black seed that he generated onto the Gestation Sphere. The seed was black in color and the had a small white skull in the middle. The seed also released this kind of deadly aura which would make one suggest that it is cursed.

Levin Cloud got this skill when he befriended a certain leshy that is made up of mushrooms living alone in the Whimsical Woods. For some odd reason, the old leshy liked him and gave him the skill book. This was also the first time that he saw the effect of the seed.

When he jammed the seed, it immediately took root. Vines started to spread around the Gestation sphere and covered it completely. The odd thing about the vines is that it was not affected by the attacks of others. Fire did not burn it, or wind could not cut it.

The vines seemed to like the mana that Creepysoo is providing it via curses. When the poisonous cloud filled with death energy touched the vines, it suddenly became thicker like the vines are on steroids. Adrian saw this and tried giving it nether energy, but the vine receded when it got it.

After a minute of attacking, a beautiful flower finally bloomed. The flower that bloomed looked like a chrysanthemum but black in color with a touch of white in the middle. Another minute passed by and another black flower bloomed. Soon all four flowers bloomed beautifully.

If the Gestation Sphere looked like a normal mound of earth, then it would have looked beautiful. Instead, the black flowers only made it looked even more horrifying. Levin Cloud soon advised his team to get away as the flowers will explode soon.

The Gestation Sphere is already below 20% health when they stopped attacking. The black flowers glowed in a bright white light and exploded. The explosion is more flower petals scattering in the wind rather than a loud boom. One last cry from the Gestation Sphere erupted before it popped like a balloon.

Upon popping the Gestation Sphere, the monster inside woke up and it was none other than the sphinx of the Sun Dias. Adrian knew that it was not the Sphinx of the Sands of Time because this one had a tail of a scorpion.

Monster: Corrupted Sphinx

Status: Weakened.

Chapter 436 - Time Out

Monster: Corrupted Sphinx (Imperfect)

Tier: Legendary (Imperfect)

Level: 250

Status: Weakened

Description: The guardian of the Sun Dias that has been corrupted by the Mad Warlock for years. The guardian tried fighting off the corruption but being trapped for years made it go insane. It is still not fully corrupted, so it still has a chance of being cleansed when the Mad Warlock dies.

The Corrupted Sphinx is different from the Sphinx that accompanied him. The corrupted sphinx has no wings like the other one. It also has the tail of a scorpion which might be due to the corruption.

The skin of the corrupted sphinx turned pale gray. The runes on its body also changed into a pale green color like it was tainted with something. It also released a suffocating aura that dealt damage to those near it.

[You are in the presence of the Corrupted Sphinx.]

[Time is unstable in the presence of the Corrupted Sphinx. Temporal spells will have a 20% chance of activating. Temporal spells that fail will have a likely chance of it resulting into Temporal Explosion.]

[The Corrupted Sphinx releases a dreadful aura and all those around it would lose 1% health per second.]

"Continue to free the other sphinx while we deal with the one that we released." Adrian stated as he and his friend get ready to distract the Corrupted Sphinx.

Adrian knew that they needed the help of the other sphinx in order to subdue the corrupted one. All of them knew that they had to free the other sphinx because the one attacking them has infinite health. Adrian tried finding alternative ways to deal damage to the Corrupted Sphinx but found nothing even with his evil eyes.

"It is still a guardian which means that it should still have the rules of a guardian. Guardians must give out tests to those who want to use the power of the relic it is guarding. I should figure out its

rules so that I could incapacitate it for a few minutes." Adrian thought as he dodged the scorpion tail.

Kabrakan tried his best dodging because he got 20% of his health shaved when he tried blocking one attack. It came to the point that he even got in the danger zone at 30% health when he got stung by the tail.

The Corrupted Sphinx' attack pattern is more physical in nature unlike the other one. The corrupted sphinx would attack with its claws first then follow up with a bite. If you dodge the bite using a jump, the corrupted sphinx will attack using its scorpion stinger.

Each attack is lethal that Kabrakan had to ask Adrian and Vayu to help him deal with the corrupted sphinx. Adrian wanted to help but Kanlaon almost got killed with one strike.

Vayu is different as something awakened within him when they killed Sylphis. He is gliding like the wind and fluid to the point that he would dodge the attack with an inch of space. He shouted that he could deal with the corrupted sphinx, but he still needs support.

Vayu got all the buffs that increases speed and reaction time while Kabrakan got the health regeneration and defense increases. Adrian decided to help the Evergreen guild with killing off the other Gestation Sphere.

The Gestation Sphere that the Evergreen guild is attacking is almost killed. They were strong but the heavy damage dealers are in Adrian's group which is why they finished first. When the Gestation Sphere holding the other sphinx started to get low, the corrupted sphinx changed target.

The corrupted sphinx' aggroed the other group as if its instincts were telling it to protect the other pod. The tanks of the Evergreen guild were the first to react and used their protection spells. They were able to hold it off, but they still took great damage despite mitigating the damage among all of them.

They did manage to buy time for the others to use crowd control on the corrupted sphinx. Levin Cloud used a skill that used vines to constrict the corrupted sphinx. Creepysoo used Bony Hands which summoned a giant skeleton hand from below the ground to grip an enemy.

They safely chained crowd control spells, but it only lasted for a quarter of the duration. They bought enough time as the damage dealers all rallied to break open the other Gestation Sphere. All of them managed to break the sphere holding the other sphinx.

When the other sphinx was released, a loud snarl could be heard from the corrupted sphinx. It did not look happy at all as it finally used a skill. Suddenly time stopped and it was only Adrian who could move freely albeit terribly slow.

He saw that the corrupted sphinx suddenly made a swiping motion towards Levin Cloud's head. It seems that it was still intelligent enough to deal with healers compared to the main damage dealers. It prioritized healers because it could not be damaged. All the spells that were aimed at it only dealt a flat value of one health.

Adrian feared that Levin Cloud would be killed instantly and threw his axe with an ability.

"Nether Soul Strike!" Adrian stated as he threw the axe as hard as he can.

[You have dealt tremendous damage to the corrupted sphinx.]

Adrian is shocked upon seeing the notification because he only dealt one damage so far. Upon hitting the corrupted sphinx, time flowed back once more. The group suddenly saw that the corrupted sphinx had 95% health left which was odd because it was still infinite when appraised.

"It can only be damaged when time is stopped!" Adrian shouted with glee as he found the way to win but the others could not say the same.

"You are the only one who could move when time is frozen. That means if you die, we all die." Alder pointed out but the other sphinx finally regained consciousness.

"I can help you with that, but you must beat him quick. Cleanse my sibling of its corruption." The sphinx stated as it buffed the whole team.

Chapter 437 - So This Is What Power Feels Like!

"I will help you stop time and grant you the ability to move while time is stopped. It would only last for a few seconds, so you have to incapacitate my sibling." The sphinx weakly stated weakly.

"Why does it have a time limit if you can freeze time?" Levin Cloud curiously asked while still using his crowd control spells.

"Will undead be affected by your magic?" Creepysoo asked with beaming eyes as he continued casting his crowd control spells as well.

"Can you please focus!?" Peridot shouted.

"Your friends are weird, Equinox. I will start the spell right now. I can only maintain it for 45 seconds so beat him in that short amount of time. This is free of charge as my sibling needs help." The sphinx stated as it weakly tried to stand up. One of the feet of the sphinx also turned purple which signifies that the corruption has started.

The sphinx conjured up a magic circle that enveloped everyone in Adrian's party. An ankh then appeared on each of their foreheads. The sphinx then made time stop as it was the only way to damage its sibling.

The race to incapacitate the corrupted sphinx has now started. At first, the corrupted sphinx tried to escape as it knew it could get hurt but it was trapped. The sphinx also thought of that when he stopped time.

Seeing that it cannot escape, the corrupted sphinx opted for the other way. It aimed for the weakened sphinx that stopped time and preventing its escape. The tanks did not let it get near the sphinx as they knew it would be the end once the other one is skilled.

When the tanks blocked the charge of the corrupted sphinx, they could finally see it receiving damage. They found a sense of relief from seeing the opponent that only took one damage finally getting its health reduced.

"It can finally be damaged!" One of the tanks exclaimed with joy.

They are enthusiastically attacking the corrupted sphinx with all their might. They are pressed for time, so they need to incapacitate the corrupted sphinx immediately. Vayu is the receiver of all the buffs as he is the hardest hitter among them.

"Chrono Lag!" Adrian tried using the spell and it worked.

[The Corrupted Sphinx has been slowed significantly.]

"Chance! Chrono Shift." Adrian uttered as he buffed himself.

He noticed that the sphinx managed to make time in the area stable. It seems that it knew of Adrian's struggles and decided to aid him albeit still weakened. Adrian did not let this chance go as he hurled himself to the corrupted sphinx.

"Whirlwind Axe!" Adrian chanted and even buffed the axe with nether energy. He is like a three colored tornado ramming himself against the corrupted sphinx.

The corrupted sphinx tried to dodge but Sirius showed up behind it and bit the former's back neck. Kanlaon also helped by morphing his body to become smaller and constricting the corrupted sphinx.

[Your soulbound, Sirius, has been affected by miasma.]

[Your soulbound, Kanlaon, has been affected by miasma.]

Adrian had no time to read the notifications as he clashed head on with the corrupted sphinx. Soleil then enchanted Adrian's attack with the fire attribute which burned the corrupted sphinx. Adrian's skill ended and the corrupted sphinx managed to counterattack.

Adrian is sent flying and his soulbounds were also shaken off due to weakening from the miasma. Sirius and Kanlaon plopped to the ground. Two of Adrian's soulbound was about to get killed when he activated Invigorate that healed them back to full health.

Despite regenerating back to full health, a direct attack from the corrupted sphinx still damaged them greatly. When the corrupted sphinx is about to use a deadly move, Kabrakan swooped in and blocked the attack. A crack could be heard from his shield as its durability decreased by a lot.

"Elfin Sniper!" Alder stated as he used one of his more powerful skill. He used it because the corrupted sphinx is finally at 40% health. The time left before time moves again is ten seconds though.

Alder drew his bow and an arrow made of three different elements appeared. The elements are wind, fire and earth. It seems that the longer he charges the arrow, the stronger it becomes. Once he deems the arrow fully charged, Alder fired the arrow directly at the corrupted sphinx.

The elements are mixed harmoniously so that they will not erase each other. To even achieve this by pure skill alone is testament that Alder has talent in understanding the elements. If he picked a mage then he would have become the best elementalist.

The arrow filled with three different elements hit the corrupted skill with complete accuracy. The first element that affected it is the wind element as it gave the piercing effect. The next element to hit it is the fire element which scorched the corrupted sphinx.

The last element that afflicted it was earth which made its body heavier thereby reducing its speed greatly. They used the remaining time to bash the corrupted sphinx. Time finally moved again but the corrupted sphinx looked battered to the extreme. It tried reversing time on itself to recover but the other sphinx foiled its attempt.

"That would be enough, my sibling. You are far too corrupted and injured to control time. I am shocked that you could still stand." The sphinx stated as it used some type of spell to lock the corrupted sphinx in place.

"Is it over? That was refreshing. Never knew time magic is awesome. So that is what it feels to wield phenomenal cosmic power." Creepysoo stated as he was tired mentally because undead have unlimited stamina.

"We have been fighting the corrupted sphinx for two hours. We need to reach Cristobal or else we are doomed." Anastacia stated but the whole party was affected by the miasma. Some were even poisoned by the stinger.

Adrian, seeing ordinary potions will not work, looked at Saena. He then ordered her to use her latest skill.

"Saena use Final Sacrifice." Adrian commanded and his soulbound looked at him with extreme dedication.

Saena flew to the air and radiated a blinding holy light that cleansed all their status ailments and healed their health by 50%.

#### Chapter 438 - The Mad Warlock's Plot

[Your soulbound Saena used the skill Final Sacrifice.]

[All types of status ailments that are affecting the whole party will be cleansed.]

[The party has recovered 50% of their total health.]

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Skill: Final Sacrifice

Tier: Legendary

Type: Cleanse and Heal

Effect: Cleanse all the status ailments and status reduction of the entire party. Heals all party members by 50% of their maximum health. The Caladrius will die upon using this skill as it would use all of its life force. (The soulbound will not be available for summon for one whole day.)

Cooldown: 1 day

Cast Time: Instant

Cost: The casters life

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[Your soulbound, Saena, cannot be summoned for a whole day even if her resurrection counter goes to zero.]



[No external force can bring her back or revive your soulbound for the duration.]

Adrian admits that the cost is far too little compared to the effect. Although, he is sad that Saena would not be able to level up since she cannot be summoned again for a day. Adrian could once again summon Charon as the Lifeless Lord only needs one hour to regenerate.

All of Adrian's soulbound could be summoned in an hour after being defeated. Previously, the wait time was one hour and thirty minutes but that was when he was a Soul Summoner. Now that Adrian is an Eclipse Summoner, the wait time decreased by one hour.

Adrian wanted to use Rewind, but the last system notification hindered him. It seems that was put in place so that he cannot abuse the skill. The skill, Final Sacrifice, is too powerful when it comes to cleansing skills because it can cure all at the expense of the caster's life.

"Champion Equinox, you will find the Mad Warlock deeper. I must warn you that he managed to suck some of our essences out. We fear that he might be able to use that to manipulate time so be warned. I will hold my sibling here and revert him back so we can aid you. Hurry!" The sphinx stated.

"Can we trust it?" Anastacia asked Adrian as it questioned him.

"He was my guide when we went inside this labyrinth. What is the Mad Warlock doing?" Adrian asked.

"Even I do not know but he has been so jolly when he captured me. He said that he can finally transform himself into the pinnacle being. He also held a small vial that had an awful smell. It smelled like you but rotten." The sphinx stated which only made Adrian confused.

"Could it be a blood of a demon?" Adrian muttered.

"We do not have time. My skill is telling me that we must kill this Mad Warlock or else he kills us." Cersei stated. She got a message from her contracted devil god, Vepar, that a huge amount of power is being pulled to their current location.

"The mad warlock is below which means that entrance there leads to a hole. Let us hurry." Mariposa stated while he looked at the others.

The others also nodded as they knew they are wasting time. Even though they do not want to go in blind, there is not much information about Cristobal. They need to only trust themselves and do their best. They entered the hole and inside is a giant hole just like the sphinx said.

All of them descended with the aid of Kanlaon and Peridot. Kanlaon let half of those that cannot fly down while Peridot used a spell that an air funnel that slowed their descent. As they made their way down, an eerie pulsing red light could be seen from above.

All of them found an individual creating a magic spell. It was none other than the Mad Warlock Cristobal. It seems that he did not care for the untimely arrival of his 'guests'. In fact, the Mad Warlock seemed to relish the idea that he will have spectators for his momentous achievement.

[You have entered the Zone of Silence.]

[All spells or abilities in the area will be forcibly stripped down and turn into mana.]

"Crap." Everyone thought as it basically meant they could only swing their weapons.

"Welcome my visitors! Even though you were not invited, I will gladly keep your company for I finally made the greatest potion to transform me into the most perfect being. It will turn me into a being that will be equal to a god!" The Mad Warlock Cristobal shouted with horrifying glee.

"Let me ask all of you here! What is the most perfect being created by the gods that even the dark gods tremble before them?" The Mad Warlock asked their group, but none answered.

Adrian suddenly felt a chill as he could see where this is going. He also felt his blood boiling when he saw Cristobal. He thought it was just out of anger for the mad warlock, but it was not his demon side but his Asmodian side getting riled up.

"It seems that each of you has yet to know of the truth of the world. Why not ask your demon friend there? I am pretty sure that he is knowledgeable about the topic I am speaking off. I even tortured one of his kind to know about the origins of the originals." The Mad Warlock rambled on, but their group cannot move as they fell directly on a trap.

[You cannot move. Your mana is being drained by the magic circle.]

"You talk about the perfect being, but an ordinary man cannot ascend to become an Asmodian. It is not in your blood." Adrian replied in order to burst Cristobal's wishful thinking.

"Asmodian?" Everyone except those of the asmodian descendants started asking.

Equinox, Levin Cloud and Kabrakan already knew about Asmodians as they are descendants of this races after all. Among the three of them, only Adrian knows where they really come from. If Cristobal tortured a demon for this information, then he was given a somewhat false story.

"You are right, little demon. I could not become someone like you who was born with the blood, but I can transform myself to become something similar. My long life has been very helpful in pursuit of the greatest body as humans have limits after all.

The Asmodian races however do not. Descendants of a timeless race that cannot die of age. Even High Elves cannot live as long as you. I managed to get a sample of every asmodian blood in existence. The last one was a bit troublesome as dryads are difficult to get a hold of.

Thankfully, there was one dryad in the main world. That place was called Neo Alfheim. Ha! More like Fake Alfheim. All I needed to do was to aid in creating the poison. The other servants of the dark gods could do the rest." The Mad Warlock Cristobal stated with an evil grin.

The members of the Evergreen guild including Adrian and Levin cloud became fired up in anger. The reason that the efforts of all their guild members are wasted is because of the man before them. They did not care if the individual in front of them is code. They are all infuriated.

"We will have your head!" Anastacia stated with intense age even though she rarely lets her emotions consume her.

Chapter 439 - Vial Of Asmodian Blood

"Have my head? It seems a worthless elf that has yet to even reach her first century is yapping. Are you mad that I aided in the downfall of your pitiful city?" The Mad Warlock Cristobal stated.

The Evergreen guild and Levin Cloud wanted to kill Cristobal, but they cannot move. The magic circle restricted their movement. Adrian could tell that this was sort of a cutscene but the game not controlling them.

A lot of players stated their displeasure of not controlling their body during a cutscene. The developers listened to the player's suggestions and made sure that cutscenes are deleted. The developers did become smarter about it as using the boss monsters being invulnerable or the players being caught in a trap like this.

Adrian is thankful that they managed to reach Cristobal in the appointed time. The timer also stopped and disappeared when they landed on the magic circle. The timer stopping could only mean that they will be given ample time or unlimited time to deal with Cristobal.

The disappearance of the timer is either a blessing or a curse. It could be a blessing because they will not be pressured to finish off the boss in a given amount of time and they will not fail because there is no time limit. A curse because having no time limit means the game judged that the boss is too difficult to handle for there to have a time limit.

Adrian is sure that the time limit is erased because of the Mad Warlock's strength. The only thing that worries him is the small vial of red blood hanging on Cristobal's neck. He could clearly see that the vial is Asmodian blood.

"You should know that Asmodian blood could become poison if handled the wrong way. It is also extremely volatile." Adrian stated in order to throw off the Mad Warlock despite him not believing it will work.

"You say that because even you demons have not found a way to get the delicate balance needed to transform any other being into a perfect being. Even the demons are not perfect because they cannot use elemental magic.

I had centuries of practice. You have seen my failed experiments roaming around like the garbage they are. After trial and error, I finally found what I missed in my equation." The Mad Warlock prattled.

"You used all these elementals just for that. At least failure never displeases you. If only every person in the world is like that." Adrian jokingly stated.

"After gathering all the blood of the five asmodian races, I thought that would have been enough, but I was wrong. Even with all of their blood, I was not able to synthesize the potion to turn me into the ultimate being.

The potion did prove effective against the higher elementals as it bent them to my will. After exploring that guardian's mind, I finally arrived at the thing that I am missing and that is blood from an Asmodian. I scoured the main world and was finally able to get my hands on a small vial of blood." The Mad Warlock Cristobal stated in joyful glee.

"What will happen if he drinks that potion?" Mariposa asked.

"Even I do not know for sure because records of Asmodians are far too little even for the Daemos. The records only said that they are the first creations and perished when the dark gods invaded. They sacrificed their lives in order to seal away the dark gods." Adrian replied.

Just the few words 'first creations' made everyone's jaw drop. It has been stated in stories that the first to be created were always exceptional.

"Enough chitchat. All of you are my witness for this momentous occasion. Watch me transcend the confines of the human body!" The Mad Warlock Cristobal shouted.

The Mad Warlock Cristobal then mixed the vial of Asmodian blood with a larger beaker filled with some sort of potion. The red colored potion in the beaker turned into a mixture of streaks containing the colors of purple and blue.

The Mad Warlock Cristobal showed no hesitation and drank the potion. He savored every drop from the potion as it was delicious beyond anything he tasted. The potion tasted like the most heavenly drink ever and Cristobal even licked the beaker to make sure every drop is not wasted.

After the Mad Warlock Cristobal finished the potion, he felt elated, and a smile filled with ecstasy is seen in his face. But that smile soon disappeared, as his face looked like he was about to puke. The Mad Warlock's body suddenly felt hot, and he started to take off his robe.

Everyone saw the horrendous and morphed body that the Mad Warlock Cristobal is hiding in his robe. Cristobal's body is just like his experiments as it could only be called an abomination. It was different masses of limbs of animals or monsters. Some with weak stomachs even gagged just at the sight of it.

"You wanted to get the perfect body because you fear what every mortal fears and that is death." Adrian stated as he saw Cristobal's state.

The shadow of death has been looming over the Mad Warlock Cristobal for quite some time now. The shadow of death wants to claim the soul of the Mad Warlock, but it cannot. The Mad Warlock Cristobal kept doing experiments on his body to prolong his life even if it was just a day.

"I can feel it! I can feel my body transforming me into the most perfect being!" The Mad Warlock Cristobal stated in a crazed tone.

The magic circle that restrained the raid party also activated. The magic circle started absorbing their mana in order to give it to Cristobal who is at the center of it. The whole party's mana is becoming the foundation for the spell as Cristobal cannot cast it himself.

"He is using us as a way to complete his transformation. It was his plan to lure us here. He needed the mana of other people to activate the magic circle." Cersei warned.

Chapter 440 - Asmodian?

The magic circle that bound the group sucked all their mana dry. Once all their mana was gone, they are no longer rooted into the place. The first thing they did is to replenish their mana since the boss seems occupied at the moment.

The sound of bone cracking and reforming could be heard from the distance as the Mad Warlock's body is reforming. Even his body started to deform and suddenly reform. The pain that the Mad Warlock Cristobal experienced would make even an elephant die from shock.

The Mad Warlock Cristobal is laughing and screaming in pain at the same time. It seems that his mind is filled with the joy of reforming his body even though it is extremely painful. What the Mad Warlock did not know is that the will of a dark god planted on his mind also started to activate.

"AHHH!" The Mad Warlock Cristobal screamed out loud as his back split open.

Something like wings sprouted at the back of the Mad Warlock and it seemed similar to the angel race's wings but the color is pure black. The Mad Warlock Cristobal's body also started to change into a younger looking one as if time is being reversed.

"He sprouted black angel wings. If it is an Asmodian then should he not have wings like yours?" Kabrakan pointed out.

"You see the funny thing about that is angels are actually the copycats. The Goddess of Light was so jealous of the beauty and perfect form of the Asmodians that she almost copied them to the tee. That is the reason why angels have wings of a bird but white. The Goddess of Light does not like black colors as she views it as dirty." Adrian explained. It was one of the information that the remnant will of Chaos told him.

A few minutes later, the Mad Warlock Cristobal finally changed his overall appearance. If anyone were to describe him then he would be called handsome or even the handsomest person to ever live. Cristobal's hair now measured until his waist while his finely built body is for all to see. The women in the raid party even blushed.

"This is it! The perfect body! I have finally turned into an Asmodian! I will live forever!" The Mad Warlock Cristobal shouted in his excitement. He even stood proudly as his black feathered wings showed their might.

"You see this, demon! This is the perfect form that I have been dreaming of! With this body, even the demigods could not hold me down!" The Mad Warlock Cristobal shouted with glee.

The Mad Warlock was so proud of his achievement but the half asmodian in the crowd did not seem pleased. Adrian knew that the universe would have announced it if a new asmodian would be born. The remnant will of Chaos told him that the Asmodians were so precious that the universe would rejoice upon the birth of one.

"You are not real. You are fake. The stench of the dark god has filled your system which means you are incompatible with Asmodian blood." Adrian bluntly stated as he could see energies from the dark gods emitting from Cristobal.

"I did this on my own! You cannot tell me I am fake because this is the perfect body. Kneel before me, peasants!" Cristobal stated as he cast magic that altered gravity. The gravitational field in the room suddenly became ten times more powerful. The Mad Warlock Cristobal is drunk on his power when his own magic suddenly cancelled itself.

"I have been waiting for this moment!" An eerie voice suddenly sounded which made Cristobal wary.

The raid party members could see where this voice is coming from. The eerie sounding voice came from the mouth that suddenly formed on Cristobal's forehead. The raid party members could see that the mouth was moving and talking on its own, but Cristobal could not find the source of the sound.

"After years of waiting for you to reform your pitiful body, I can finally surface and take control of it." The mouth on Cristobal's forehead stated as it laughed heartily.

"What! What do you mean ashaeg..." Cristobal stated. The mouth on his forehead traveled down to his face to replace the other mouth that disappeared.

The Mad Warlock Cristobal eye's started to roll back and his body started fidgeting. After a few seconds of continuous seizures, Cristobal's eye rolled back down but something was off. The crazed look that the Mad Warlock had were no more. Cristobal's eyes became clear but there is a hint of utter disdain hidden in them.

"Finally! After centuries of slowly influencing that pathetic brat, he finally succeeded in creating the perfect body for me to inhabit. Only the body of an Asmodian is fit to hold my godly essence." Cristobal stated as he raised his hands up in adoration for himself.

After basking in his own glory, Cristobal or the entity possessing his body turned towards Adrian. It seemed to sense something that is similar to himself.

"It seems a wolf is hiding amongst the sheep. Who knew that the demon in front of me has a high blood purity? I would savor you well as your blood will fuel my thirst for vengeance. That Asmodian Cain will taste my revenge!" The entity possessing Cristobal stated as it started to fly towards their group.

"Protect Adrian!" Levin Cloud shouted and the tanks immediately surrounded Adrian.

"Pesky rodents. Get out of the way while I am still in a good mood." The entity possessing Cristobal stated as it created balls of condensed gravity in its right hand.

The pressure coming from that ball of condensed gravity gave everyone the chills. They could feel how deadly that attack will be if it manages to connect. Everyone is nervous except for Adrian because he can finally see the results of him telling everyone to be patient.

The ball of condensed gravity dissipated which greatly confused the entity possessing Cristobal. It tried conjuring up more, but it always resulted in failure. It decided to give up and just grab Adrian, but its own body started to break down. Cristobal's body started to explode in a red gush of blood as he slumped to the ground in immense pain.