

Once Human 141

Chapter 141

'Did it give up?'

Still cautious, Arthur slowed down and sensed the surroundings with his sense and glanced at the World Tree while activating the special eyes but nothing was too strange .

At this point, no force waves were attacking him but it didn't make Arthur feel safe, on the contrary, he was feeling unease and confusion . Getting close to the target, whatever or whoever is attacking him should attack more not just suddenly give up .

The two wide flaming wings wrapped around him and the horn started vibrating more intensely . Arthur strengthened his Dark Barrier and advanced .

Unfortunately, the second he resumed advancing he was met with something that made feel a shiver down his spine . It wasn't a chilling or ominous aura of any sort, in case, the attacks were made of pure Mana but the alarming thing is what was coming towards him .

For the first time since he started this fight, he felt a bit of killing intent from the incoming attack . It was a force wave like another one yet way bigger and faster, by the time he reacted, it had already struck him and sent his body crashing to the ground .

'Booom!'

Trees were razed and a crater was formed, some plants and grass were burned due to the collateral damage caused by the ancient flames .

He couldn't even react in time to teleport, the Barrier didn't even slow it down and was practically shattered in an instant .

Fortunately, his wings reduced the damage by quite a bit so he wasn't heavily injured . Some of the black bones shattered but it's not his body so no problem .

With his wings still wrapped around him, Arthur slowly floated up only to be struck again by the same force, crashing him into the ground creating a bigger crater .

His Health was reduced by the benefit of possessing a corpse is that dying inside it won't kill him, he'll be forcefully pushed out of the body he was possessing with 20% of his Health and his stats would be halved for a day . So yeah, dying inside Griffin's body won't necessarily kill him a bit it'll greatly weaken him . There was the option of transferring to another body before his current one is dead but the effect would be multiplied by 4 times, it really wasn't worth it .

'It's playing with me motherfucker!'

Arthur erupted in fury as every time he got up and tried to fight back, the strong force wave would flatten him to the ground, not letting him a chance retaliate .

'Bzzz bzzzz'

Arthur teleported high up in the air and spat 4 Void Orbs which instantly transformed to innumerable small mouths . The largemouth of Griffin opened again and this time, a Fireball ten times his size was created, the heat was so strong that the plants on the ground showed signs of withering .

That was not all, [Transmutation] was activated and the Griffin grew double its original size and Natural Lightning covered its body .

'Let's see if you can block this'

Arthur followed after the big fireball which struck the force wave and exploded, creating a rain for flame, burning the ground and setting fire to the green forest . The mouths kept doing their job and ate bits and bits of the force wave yet it didn't seem it was weakened by even one bit .

'Hahahaha'

The Griffin became a streak of lightning which charged at the force wave, just before he struck it, The Griffin's body suddenly teleported to the back but all of that was not just an act, but to buy a couple of seconds, confusing the one doing this and perhaps cover whatever is whistling behind him .

When he teleported behind, a Heavenly Arrow half of the size of the original was whistling in the air and rushing at the Force Wave .

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The smallmouths seemed to realize something and all flew to the Heavenly Arrow and merged with it, making it bigger and faster .

Just like any other case, the Heavenly Arrow was unstoppable, the Force Wave was eaten in a second but that didn't stop the Arrow from advancing toward the World Tree .

Wave after Wave appeared to block the Heavenly Arrow but they were devoured in a few seconds . Arthur grinned as he watched them being absorbed as if they were nothing . After all, there was nothing that could stop the Void, not even Pure Mana, or so Arthur thought .

For 200 hundred meters, the Heavenly Arrow was an unbreakable existence, its only purpose is to strike the World Tree .

Arthur followed after it slowly but was astonished when he saw an illusory blue hand appear in front of the arrow . The hand was double the size of the arrow and surprisingly, the Void couldn't eat the hand .

The Heavenly struck the palm of that hand and at the moment of the impact, the small space between the tip of the arrow and the palm, the space shattered and a gray starry sky appeared from the other side . It was repaired in a split second but such a thing was noticed by Arthur, who gasped and retreated as he felt an absorbing power far stronger than the arrow come out from that small shattered space .

Moments turned into minutes but the Heavenly Arrow couldn't penetrate the palm neither could the hand extinguish the arrow, it's basically a stalemate .

When Arthur was ready to act, three extra hands appeared, they each took a side and started pressing the arrow, trying to crush it or suppress it .

When the process started, the hands turned green and a thin green line appeared between them . Half a minute after they appeared, the arrow was suppressed and a bright green light flashed the area before it disappeared, leaving only the four hands .

Soon, the hands dissipated too leaving only a strong force wave rushing at Arthur, who was not the least bit worried . Since it took it a lot of time to get rid of that Heavenly Arrow then what about the real one? Or the empowered one with Lucy's help?

One thing was for sure, this thing wasn't invincible . Whilst grinning, Arthur used his lightning form and started flying in a circle with an insane speed . In just a few seconds, before the force wave struck him, a towering lightning tornado was formed but that was only the beginning .

Streaks of white lightning descended on the ground, creating pits and destroying trees . The tornado was getting bigger by the second and when the force wave finally struck it, it was stopped by a creepy looking hand that came out from a dark book . The hand was made from rotten flesh and it had a very ominous aura around it, nonetheless, it easily stopped force wave .

[Lightning Golem]!*

Arthur had left the Griffin's body and was currently standing on the Golem's shoulder . The Golem was 10 meters tall and had a special armor made from White Lightning, a large hammer made from Natural Lightning and a shield in its left hand made from condensed Thunder .

"Let's see if you can stop my ultimate living creation!"

Arthur proudly said that then jumped back from the Golem's shoulder and let ordered it to attack . The creature followed its master's will and roared while it advanced toward an illusory blue hand that was clenched into a fist .

'Roaaaaaaaaar'

Being reinforced by the Lightning, the golem was fast albeit its size . With a loud roar, it swung its hammer at the blue fist, which caused an ear-deafening and created Godly Thunder that struck the hand from the high-above .

The Golem was like a moving fortress, it was meant for defense by with Arthur's help, it was like having a God for a puppet .

The green hammer struck the blue hand, again and again, creating strong and fast vibrations inside its target and decreasing the size of hand by each strike .

Like last time, having no choice but to suppress the Heavenly Arrow, the thing that was fighting Arthur had to use four hands . This time, now that it saw the strength of the Golem, three extra hands appeared and in just a second the four linked and glowed with green light .

"Ain't gonna work . "

Arthur smirked and folded his arms to watch the show . He knew the Golem capabilities and he wouldn't just send it to its death, after the reinforcement of the lightning, it wouldn't be suppressed easily .

Soon, the four hands were linked again and each palm pressed one of the Golem's side . In response, the Golem raised its Thunder shield to the air and roared . When the glowing yellow shield faced the sky, a thunderous sound resounded in the surroundings and a rain of thunder descended from above .

Countless thick streaks of thunder descended, striking the four glowing hands endlessly . The Golem followed with a powerful swing of his hammer, which had twirling wind around it .

'Boooooooooom'

It only struck one hand but the strike was so strong that the link was disrupted and the thin green line vanished . Although it started materializing again just after it vanished, the Golem was not as going to sit around and watch it reconstruct again .

The Golem let go of the shield which kept floating above it and sending Thunder at the four hands, then it used both of its hands to hold the large hammer and spun 360 degrees whilst holding the hammer . . .

Chapter 142

"Stop . "

A deep voice rang in Arthur's ears just before the Golem was going to launch the second phase of its attack . The voice contained a hint of surprise and anger .

As per Arthur's orders, the Golem put its hammer down but it didn't back away or dispel the lightning for it was not ordered to .

With his arms still folded and a cold smirk hanging on his face, Arthur looked up to the World Tree and asked

"Why should I stop?"

" . . . "

Hearing no reply, Arthur just shrugged his shoulders and ordered the Golem to keep advancing which it did but after only one step, it was once again stopped by the mysterious voice .

" . . . It is useless to fight . What you are seeking is not here . "

"And who are you to know what I'm seeking? Even a God can't so what makes you so sure about my goal for coming here?"

" . . . Nonetheless, battling here and ruining this precious land is not worth it . Turn around and leave . "

"What if I don't leave?"

"Then suffer the consequences of your foolish questions, Arthur . "

Hearing his name, Arthur's eyes narrowed and his look turned serious . Makaze appeared in his hand and black flames burned in its edges .

"So you even know my name?"

A period of silence passed before whoever was talking spoke again . It was either purposely remaining silent or thinking of an answer, maybe it was both?

"Arthur . Appeared on this land precisely 38 months ago . The race is unidentified but one of its properties is stealing the power of whichever target the user enters . These are some of many things I know about you "

A bit of killing intent was being emitted by Arthur as he heard the voice talk about him in such a calm manner as if it knew everything about him . He didn't burst out in anger and maintained a rather calm attitude despite the cold killing intent aimed at the World Tree .

" I do not need to hear it from you to know that you came here seeking to enter me and steal my powers just like you did to the others . . . It's not going to happen . . . not now and not a decade or a century later . . . it's but a waste of time . Turn around and leave . "

The voice was right about a few thing . First, if Arthur possessed a target, if it is alive, he'll gain its stats but the target will still have its stats if he leaves it without killing it . If it's dead, its stats are just transferred to him, so what was said was partially true .

Sure, Arthur wanted to try possessing the World Tree but he was more curious about it as a whole and not just gaining its powers . It would be great if he can increase his stats by possessing it but his main goal was just to inspect it first .

He was not sure if it was the World Tree talking to him but his guts told him it is, and if that's the case, possessing it became an impossible feat unless he kills it and definitely wouldn't do that .

If it dies, the Itas continent perishes with it and Arthur valued Astria no matter what happened to him on it . He considered it as his home and wouldn't purposely destroy one of its continents . For him, Astria was his one and only home, Earth was just a place he lived on in his past life .

" I thought you were a World Tree nourishing this continent . . . not a sentient being . "

"The truth is never so simple it's too early for you to know it . Turn around and leave, Arthur . "

"You know I hate it when someone tries to boss me around . . . or when I'm cornered and helpless or when I'm saved by an unknown bastard . . . or when someone lies to me or hides the truth with some bullshit they think it's righteous . I can only tell you one thing, I'm not leaving until my curiosity is fully satisfied . "

Makaze vibrated in excitement, seemingly impatient to cut some things and stab some hearts . Arthur fed it countless sword until it reached a certain limit, he has to break through for it to start devouring again but its sharpness and power now is unbelievable, it's by far his best weapon .

The four hands that vanished since a while ago, appeared yet again and instantly merged into one big green hand that faced him .

Arthur heard a long sigh followed by the sound of the voice .

"Foolish . That's what higher-beings call you Humans . Although I know your Race is not human . However, your action cannot be more humanly fine, if that is your decision then I'll allow you to know a bit of the truth if you can block one my blows . "

"Bring it on then"

With his katana unsheathed, Arthur readied himself for the incoming blow . His stare with fixed on the large green palm that pulsed with a small blue light in its center .

'I'm counting on you, buddy'

While tightly holding Makaze, Arthur activated as many passives as he could with his body as well as turning on his Pain Immunity to not fall unconscious from the continuous painful pressure .

The wind raged as the large palm rushed at Arthur, making the air whistle and creating small wind tornados . It was still far from Arthur yet he could still feel the enormous pressure pressing on him as if he is being crushed by a mountain . The previous force waves were nowhere near this attack's intensity .

"[The Boon]!"

Arthur shouted, making the motionless Golem flash with a yellow light and appear in front of its master . Without wasting any second, the lightning armor, shield, and hammer disappeared and the Death Golem which was made from black boulders transformed into an ominous looking Shield which decreased in size until it fit Arthur .

The Shield was pure black and only had a symbol on its center, black fog emanated from it and it was extremely heavy . Arthur was certain that to be able to properly use it, you need at the very least 50 Million in the Strength stat .

This particular skill can only be used with the Death Golem . It transforms into a shield that the user can use, the Shield increases the defense and magic resistance by a huge amount .

The Boon, Death Golem (Shield): +35% Defense / +35% Resistance to any form of magic attack .

Effect: +5% chance to reduce the damage received to 0 .

Unfortunately, Arthur can't use this shield permanently as it only lasts half an hour but it should be enough for now . While holding Makaze in his right hand and the shield in his left hand, Arthur lifted the shield and prepared himself for the impact .

The dark shield was lifted to cover his head and chest, after doing that, Arthur raised Makaze and banged it several times at the front of the shield .

At first, this didn't do anything but then the air around the shield began twisting bit by bit and the amount of black fog around the shield became denser and thicker .

[Bucker Of The West: Max Lvl](active): The user sacrifices 20% of his Health to increase reduce incoming attack by 10%

Cooldown: 1 day .

Cost : 10,000 Mana .

This was one of his strongest shield attack he has . He received it from a dead legendary warrior that created this skill by himself .

[Armageddon Shield Aura: Max Lvl](active): Your Shield is your ally, it is as infuriated as you are . The Shield spreads its aura, slowing the time around the user and creating time waves in all directions dealing 120% of the user's defense as damage .

Cost: 500 Stamina per second

'If I go all out in defense, not even that annoying Holy Goddess can damage me!'

Arthur let of Makaze, which rotated itself and pointed its tip toward the incoming palm . Arthur pushed his shield a bit to the front and activated the last skill .

[Death's Glory: Max Lvl](active): Death Chains are briefly summoned to wrap around the user's shield and reinforce it .

Cost : 9,999 Mana .

Cooldown: 10 days .

Rusty looking chains appeared from behind the shield and in just a second, they wrapped around it and made crackling noises continuously while tightening around the black shield .

'Let's see what a World Tree can do!'

With that thought in mind, Arthur roared and charged at the large green palm . Makaze floated without Arthur's help and flew toward the enemy with its master .

'DANG'

At the moment of impact, Arthur could feel his left hand turning numb but he wasn't pushed back neither was the shield cracked or destroyed . To the right, Makaze stabbed the palm with its tip while dark flames moved from the katana to the green palm, invading it and heading toward the pulsating blue light with insane speed .

As for the shield, it was motionless, like an unbreakable fortress . Albeit the increasing numbness and the cracking of some of his left arm bones, Arthur bashed his shield to the front with all his Strength, making the rusty chains open up a small hole in the front of the shield and soon, a dark beam was shot from that tiny hole .

The dark beam penetrated the palm and created a hole in it, which surprisingly weakened the pressure pressing on Arthur but this was at the cost of losing his left arm which by now, had every one of its bones broken .

Arthur dismissed the idea of switching the shield to the right arm as it had already done its job of blocking the palm . The dark shield returned to the Book of the Damned, which floated in front of Arthur and with his right hand, he caught the book and summoned the creepy and rotten hand .

An ominous and cold aura came out of the book, followed by a long rotten hand that touched the large palm and infecting it with [Death Plague] .

[Death Plague](active: Only with Book of the Damned): A plague is transferred from the book to the target, inflicting continuous death damage and absorbing it for the user to unleash .

The hand gripped the illusory green palm and something similar to a whirlpool started spinning and decreasing the size of the palm and at the same time storing it in the book .

Arthur felt proud to have so many powerful tricks but the joy soon vanished as the palm suddenly rotated and the only remaining finger pointed at him . At that split second of danger, one that many people could have the time to react in, Arthur's instincts told him to go back, retreat from the finger pointed at him but knowing the kind of person he is, he didn't listen to those instincts .

Without any hesitation, Arthur stretched his handheld Makaze then he immediately executed [Thousand Waves] accompanied with [Dark Burst] .

[Thousand Waves]: Combine the user's heart and soul to create a powerful slash that is worth 1,000 sword strikes: 400% damage in 2 seconds .

Cooldown: 25 Hours .

Cost : 125,000 Mana .

When both the skills were unleashed, a dark slash that could split the skies was created . It was unstoppable as the finger with all the rest of the hand was cut in two with no resistance . The slash continued further ahead, cutting the clouds in two and reaching the World Tree .

A deep cut more than a hundred meters was engraved on the thick trunk of the World Tree .

Chapter 143

Looking at the long slash he engraved on the World Tree . Arthur proudly smiled and said

"Is that all you got?"

His question was met with silence, an eerie silence that even made Arthur a bit uneasy . He didn't unsheathe his katana and instead held it with both of his hand while raising his aura indicating that he's not giving up .

The more time he waited, the better it was for Arthur to recover some of his Mana and think of some measures in case the World Tree goes all out .

" It is always said that curiosity killed the cat, so tell me mortal, don't you fear death? Or are you foolish enough to die because of the stupid thing you call curiosity?"

"Hahahaha, it's true that curiosity killed the cat but it's also true that satisfaction brought it back . "

" . . . What you'll experience may not kill you, but sometimes . . . the truth can be deadlier than a blade in the heart . Are you still sure you want to be foolish and learn how insignificant you really are?"

Arthur just shrugged his shoulders and stored his katana away . It didn't seem that the World Tree was angry on wanted to still fight . He didn't know what it will show him but he was intrigued and wanted to know what all of this was about .

Very soon, a green light covered Arthur, who was about to resist but was stopped by the voice .

"Do not resist, let it enter you . "

Albeit a bit hesitant, Arthur tsk'ed and didn't activate anything, leaving his body exposed .

'If this a trap, I'll cut that tree, I swear!'

The feeling was pleasant and in just seconds, Arthur felt his mind calm down and a wave of serenity cover him . He could no longer move and found himself in a white world with only him and a blue blob of light floating in front of him .

"What you're about to see is . . . what I am and . . . what happened . "

The white blurred and the surroundings warped becoming a mix of gray and red until Arthur found himself in an extremely large broken ship . A fog was all around it and the atmosphere was gloomy with some ghostly wails emitting from its inside .

Seeing Arthur becoming cautious and trying to activate Dark Barrier, the World Tree, which took a form of a blob of blue light, spoke

"You do not need to worry, we're only viewing events of the past, whatever you do will not affect what's happening, neither can anyone see you or feel your presence . "

'Anyone?'

No matter how much Arthur inspected the surface of the ship, he could not see a single living being except the few ghostly and creepy wails coming from the inside .

Two shadows suddenly appeared a few meters away from Arthur, the distance was close and albeit the presence of the dog, he could see their features .

One was an old man holding a purple box in his hands, he had a thick black and white beard and wore a black robe . The other person was a middle-aged man with a long red staff . He had a domineering presence and a long brown-hair, sword shaped eyebrows and a pointy nose . What's special about this man is that he had three horns sticking out of the back of his head, each had a unique color .

Arthur's knowledge about races was quite fast due to the enormous amount of corpses he possessed, he was not one hundred percent sure but he had a strong guess that this man was from the Demon Race .

Most of them had pale white skin and an appearance very similar to Humans but some strong Demons have horns which are a way to show off their powers . He only knew that the Demon Lord on Astria had one horn, as for two horns, he never saw or heard of anyone like that .

"Ha . . . those ugly beats were sure a pain in the ass . . . it's all thanks to you, Zodiak . "

The demon patted the old man's shoulder and then shifted his attention to the insides of the ship . He held his staff in both of his hand and the weapon was instantly emitting a red luster and in some weird way, it began stretching and bending around but at a second glance, it returned to its normal appearance .

'Zodiak?'

Arthur assessed this old man who had the same name as that skeleton . There cannot be such a coincidence, he never saw Zodiak's real appearance so he was confused . The robe was not the same so he couldn't ascertain his guess .

The two of them began marching to the interior of the ship when a flash of light brightened the surroundings and three extra figures appeared .

This was not the end, to the other side of where the flash of light appeared, the air was split apart by something and a hand stretched out from the starry sky . It was actually a bald man with a monk attire . He also had a golden staff in his hand and a small white beard .

"Ah . . it seems I was not late . "

The monk scratched his bald head as he gazing around the ship . His gaze passed the demon and Zodiak and fell on the three other figures .

These three were exactly similar to what an angel would look like . Majestic aura, long white wings made from pretty feathers and an appearance that would make anyone jealous . Two of them were men and the last one was a female .

"Filthy Demons! You're still trying to steal our treasure!"

One of the angels, a man with long blue hair and a long spear who appeared to be the leader, stepped forth and angrily stared at the demon with disgusted and enraged eyes .

"Your treasure? Don't make me laugh! I passed the trials successfully and arrived here by my own effort, not like some narcissistic, weak-looking, sissy angels . "

"What did you say?! We, the angels are higher-beings blessed by God himself! Not corrupted beings like you who only live to do evil things?"

The Demon sharply stared back at the blue-haired angel and pointed his staff at him whilst rebuking

"You say we do evil things yet you, who follow a lord you never met are but stupid and ignorant beings . Evil isn't the real threat to the word but stupidity is . "

The demon no extra word, he just vanished and suddenly reappeared in front of the angel, slamming his bending staff at him .

The angel was not weak, to begin with and his senses were on high-alert since the moment he appeared here so when the attack came, he was ready to block . He swept forth with his long spear and the two weapons soon clashed, creating a strong shock wave . If Arthur was here, he was sure he would not even be able to withstand the shock wave, much less an attack from one of them .

Seeing the two of them engaging in the fight, the bald monk watched the show with a funny grin for a couple of seconds before he turned around and headed for the interior of the ship .

One step . . . two steps . . . three steps . . .

His advancing was stopped by the two other angels who block his front and back, they raised their weapons and pointed them at the old man .

"Don't move . You may be from the Thousand Buddha Sect but this is a matter of our Universe . "

Unfazed but what he heard of their actions, the monk picked his nose nonchalantly and gazed at the beautiful female angel with him with a lustful . When he realized his own thoughts, he shook his head furiously and repeated

"Calm as water, emotionless as Buddha . Calm as water, emotionless as Buddha . Go away go away lustful thoughts, go away go away large boobs you should not exist calm as water . . . "

The monk slowly walked onward while repeating this chant continuously, the two angels were both confused but didn't have the time to think about it . With no hesitation, they rushed at him and pointed their spears at his heart and the back of his head, aiming for the skill with no mercy whatsoever .

The bald monk stabbed his golden staff to the ground and in a very blurry yet slow manner, he performed a roundhouse kick that not only crushed the front spear, it also sent the woman flying, you could even hear bones cracking .

With the same mysterious technique, in a way which seemed slow and visible to the eye yet it was way faster than any attack Arthur has ever seen, the bald man backflipped and palmed the angel aiming from the back of his head . The palm attack didn't emit any strong pressure or aggressive aura, it seemed like a simple palm attack but the back of the poor angel was crushed as he was flattened on the ground, unconscious with foam coming out of his mouth .

"Calm as water, emotionless as Buddha . . . go away go away, filthy thoughts, go away go away . . "

While continuing his chant, the monk picked his staff and resumed walking toward the interior of the ship . As for the demon and the angel . Their fight was reaching its climax as the bending red staff and the long spear clashed multiple times in just a second, creating one shock wave after another but it was visible that the demon had a slight advantage .

No signs of Zodiak could be seen as he seemed to have disappeared since the others came, as for the bald monk, he was completely oblivious to their fight as if it didn't exist, for him, all of this was a child's play .

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In a room inside the broken ship, Zodiak was performing dark seals in the air and creating several dark talismans while a gray nebula was twirling around him . A couple of centimeters in front of his face, a small green seed was floating and emitting a blue luster . The talismans were neatly positioned around the seed and the gray nebula linked between them, by the look of it, Zodiak was trying to either suppress it or get his hands on the seed .

Chapter 145

"What you saw a moment ago happened two hundred thousand years ago . "

One blink was all it took for Arthur to find himself returning to the present, still floating a distance away from the World Tree . A blue blob of light was in front of him, just like earlier .

"Two hundred thousands years ago?"

Arthur still couldn't believe the disparity in power between and him and individuals like that Joker or the Demon but the surprise was even bigger when he learned that it happened a long time ago .

If that Joker was alive until now, he would have become much more powerful, which is something Arthur would rather not think of .

'There's no way . . right?'

"Yes . . . for you it's been a long time but for me, it wasn't that long . A World Tree fully matures when it reaches a Million years . So I'm considered young . "

Arthur remembered when he heard earlier and asked the World Tree without holding back, after all, it showed him its past so why not answer a few questions now that the truth was seen . perhaps it would help him see think more clearly .

"So you're the seed of the World Tree of Heaven but what does that even mean?"

"The ancient World Tree of Heaven is what the angels and archangels relied upon to fight the demons . It's at the same time a blessing, a fortress . I don't know too much apart from what Zodiak told me but It is highly valued by the angels . "

"And why did Senior Zodiak steal it from that ship?"

"He purposely did it to weaken the angels . He didn't tell me the exact reason by I know for a fact that he hates them . "

Arthur subconsciously put his hand on his chin and began pondering on all that happened . There was just too many information so he needed a bit of time to let his mind process everything . There was the thing about the ship, the skull, the seed and the relation of Zodiak and the angels .

"Do you have any more questions?"

" . . . One last thing . What happened to the Joker?"

Hearing about that Joker, the World Tree remained silent for some time before answering .

"I don't know . Zodiak apparently went back to where the ship was supposed to be but all he found was shipwrecks and nothing else . I can only assume he managed to escape . "

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Arthur nodded his head but he wished he didn't hear that answer . It would have been alright if the Joker died but knowing that a strong and eccentric figure like that is still lurking somewhere made him a bit fearful . If he ever encountered him, he really doesn't know what to do .

An unknown amount of time passed and the silence was broken by the enigmatic voice of the World Tree .

"Now that your curiosity is supposedly satisfied, let me ask you a question: Arthur, what are you going to do?"

It's true that his curiosity was satisfied, not completely but more or less . But what was asked by the World Tree is in fact what's important, because after all, what matters is what you do and not how you interpret it .

"Honestly . . . I don't know . "

He saw all of that but as for what to do, he really didn't know . Does he search for Zodiak before finding Lucy? What does this World Tree want him or expect him to do?

"Then let me give you two options . One: You turned around and leave, however, you will never come back here again . Two: Make an oath with me . "

In response to it, Arthur frowned and showed some dissatisfaction . To make an oath he doesn't know the contents of is an idiotic thing .

"An oath? Be more detailed . "

"It's as it sounds . You swear to protect me from any invading angels if the time comes and in return, you receive my blessing which is something not easy to earn . "

'A blessing huh?'

It sounded simple and he would be the one benefiting from the oath but in reality, it's a dangerous choice . He saw the angels and how strong they were, he can't beat them like how he is now . If they were to invade right now or even a month later, it would be his doom .

Everything was about Strength, whether it's finding Lucy, protecting the World Tree, securing a stable and safe life for his wife and daughter . If he wants all of that, then he requires strength and strength he shall get . He was given this race for a reason and he isn't the kind of person to sit around and watch when something bad happens to his home .

"Let's make the oath then . "

"A good choice, however, you must know that in case the angels or anyone destroy me or uproot me, not only this continent perishes but this whole world . I am the source of Mana in this world as it does not have a core for it was destroyed by the calamity that happened ten thousand years ago . I was forced to start nourishing all the five lands . It decreased my growth but I can still manage . "

. . .

"I, Arthur MoonStar swear that I will protect the World Tree from any invading enemies that have ill intent . "

" . . . The oath has been made, should you break it, my and every plant's wrath should befall upon you . "

Congratulations! You received The World Tree's Blessing!

World Tree's blessing: +10% to all stats / 100% resistance to Nature and Plant Magic / 50% decrease in the cooldown of any Nature or plant related skills / You can now use Plant Magic / +500 Mental Power / +100 Creation / You gained the special ability (Child of Nature)

More benefits earned if the user reaches God Realm .

Child of Nature (Passive): In the presence of any kind of living plant, your Health, Mana and Stamina recovery is increased by 30%

Child of Nature(Active): If the user's Health is less than 0 . 5%, he can sacrifice all the nearby plants to inflict the same injuries the user have to a specific target .

Cost: All nearby plants .

Cooldown: 1 Year

Arthur was expecting a more cheated blessing but this will do for now . All he could do is hope the new benefits unlocked at the God Realm are decent .

With nothing more to discuss, Arthur planned to leave but a sudden thought crossed his mind so he faced the blob of blue light and asked

"Could you . . . create specific spatial tunnels to a certain planet?"

"That is not possible . You'll have to wait until I mature . "

'Screw that! I ain't waiting eight hundred thousands years!'

Although Immortals can live thousands upon thousands of years, that does not mean it's easy for him to wait that long and by that time, a lot of things could have happened . He isn't going to let Lucy wait that long!

Arthur shrugged his shoulders and turned around to leave but he was stopped again .

"One more thing I saw you can use Zodiac's powers, so I'll tell you a good thing . If you can find his servant, she can take you whatever you want, after all, she specializes in Spatial Magic . "

In response, Arthur waved his hand then left the area . It was easier said than done, three universes and countless worlds and planets, how in the bloody hell is he going to find her? Moreover, he doesn't even know what she looks like!

. .

It didn't take him long to go back to the elven village . Many things happened but the five hours didn't pass . That moment he was taken back to the past, only a second passed when he came back and the fight with the World Tree was long either .

To pass the time, Arthur stopped in a secluded area near the Elven village and tried the plant magic he just acquired . Since he just got the skill and didn't obtain it by possessing, it was still Lv1, nonetheless, it is useful . . . for playing .

He can create thorns and vines that could attack or defense . If it is advanced, then maybe it'll deal more damage but as far as damaging a God? That was probably not possible which was such a pity .

In a way, it was similar to the Nature Magic he had . Nature Magic allowed him to instantly grow any tree or plant he possessed, but he can't control them . As for Plant Magic, it creates a limited amount of things and they can be controlled .

He can also control the already existing plants but since they are weak and his intelligence is high, they break too fast .

When the five hours finally passed, Arthur managed to upgrade his skill to Medium . Normally, it would take a long time but with his race, passives and many other factors, such a thing is easy .

Chapter 146

"You're late . "

With her cold eyes and deadpan face, Robin reprimanded Arthur, who so was immersed in trying the new things with the Plant and Nature Magic that he forgot about time . He only arrived at the meeting location half an hour after the agreed time .

"You told me to wait 5 hours and you're still complaining?"

Arthur didn't bother arguing with her much, he summoned the dark cloud and told her to hop in . She hesitated for a bit before she jumped on it but she still seemed stressed as she is now used to high heights .

"Relax . You won't fall so don't keep looking around and just sit . "

"W-who afraid! I was just ascertaining that no enemies are lurking in the darkness . "

She folded her arms and sat on the dark cloud . Since it was rather big, it was more than enough to fit both of them . Arthur also didn't dare get too close to another woman, not because he hated her but he would not want to face Lucy's wrath . That wife of his was so overprotective and gets jealous so fast, it's crazy . Even if they are separated by an unimaginable distance, a woman's instinct is pretty strong, or so they say .

With a playful smirk and a mocking tone, Arthur jokingly said

"You better hold tight or you might fall . "

Robin, confused by what she just heard, tilted her head while facing him but before she could utter a word, the dark cloud accelerated and disappeared from the elven village . It was soon by a cry coming out of her mouth . Her face became paler and her two hands were clutching the dark cloud as if her life depended on it but the sad truth is that even if was standing, she still wouldn't fall as Arthur put a barrier around the dark cloud .

She would suffer no wind resistance, shaking or anything of the sort, it's like an open first class seat in an expensive private jet on Earth except the sight was much more beautiful and it was way safer .

"Get me down! Get me down this instant!!!"

Poor Robin could no longer maintain her cold and calm demeanor, she was freaking out as the surroundings blurred and she could only high and small mountains appear and disappear in seconds .

"I told you we'll arrive fastly yet you didn't believe me . "

While shaking his head, Arthur created a small sprout that came out of his finger and grew into a two feet long green vine that wiggled in the air .

"You . . . you're the worse! I'm telling Miss Lucy you bullied me!"

While playing with his plant, Arthur shrugged his shoulders and nonchalantly replied

"Go ahead . "

. . . .

With the dark cloud's speed, to go from the Itas Continent to the Demon Continent, it wouldn't take more than an hour if not less . Arthur enjoyed the trip and kept using his new magic, as for Robin, she gave up and closed her eyes as she felt a bit dizzy .

As the dark cloud was traveling above the ocean, Arthur's focus suddenly deteriorated and his control over the dark cloud was almost cut . With the last bit of sense he got, he ordered it to halt and float above the ocean, however, his state became much worse for some odd reason .

It only started with a small headache which turned into an unbearable pain that didn't go away even after activating the pain immunity . He held his head with both of his hands and rolled on the dark cloud until he fell into the ocean, leaving only the panicking Robin looking at his falling body with nothing to do but call out to him .

His body was sinking in the ocean but he didn't have the time to move, he gathered his Mana and tried to get rid of the thing that's causing him pain but there was no poison, illusion or anything of the sort, which left him confused .

A sound similar to a banshee, very loud and deep, resounded in the ocean, making the calm water rage and the aquatic creatures shake with fear as they retreated away from the source of the cry .

Arthur didn't know what's wrong with him but he unconsciously emitted that banshee cry, his vision blurred and he seemed to be losing consciousness .

He even entered his consciousness to check if there is any evil being there but nothing odd was there, apart from his soul and the orb above it .

The pain was mainly situated in his mind, it's as if it was taking a huge load and couldn't bear such a sudden burst and a side effect was created due to that .

The pain lessened after a few minutes but when Arthur opened his eyes, he saw a rocky valley in front of him . He had arms and limbs but not of a human but of a beast . With a long tail and a furry body . He was in a red bear's body and a large one at that .

He turned around only to see three lion-like beasts with a horn erected from their forehead, these lions were growling at him seemingly angry .

Arthur found himself that he wasn't able to fully control the body . If he wished to turn around the view, he can but to move the body was another thing .

The fight that occurred afterward was brutal, to say the least . Blood and gore, a horrifying sight that no one would be able to cope with if they are not used to things like that . Whether it's cut off tongues, separated limbs, corpses cut in two pieces and even scattered eyes or hearts . The red bear fought hordes after hordes of lions, they were almost endless but this savage beast managed to finish them all .

Arthur could feel the body move, he felt the pain coming from the slashes and bites of the lions . Despite all the injuries it received, the red bear fought over and over until no enemies were around and only dead bodies lingered in every direction .

A few days passed and the red bear finally succumbed to its injuries, it was just wounded too severely to survive, it could be said that only the bear's strong will let it survive for these past days .

Even for Arthur, who was temporarily stuck in the bear's body, it has been a short yet painful journey . He was never a fan of pain but he received an endless amount of it and it only ended when the bear's body lifelessly fell on the ground .

He thought it was over, he thought this experience was ending and everything was going back to normal, however, life was never so simple, neither was this strange matter .

It happened in the blink of an eye, just like the first time and by the time his eyelids opened, he found himself stuck in another bear's body .

This bear was a normal bear . a Dark hind bear with sharp long claws, it's nothing special but this one too fought endlessly . This time, Arthur was not stuck for just a day but for 18 months! Only when the hind bear died due to a fight with a chimera deer was he finally able to leave its body .

After passing 18 months stuck in that body, Arthur started feeling numb but unfortunately for him, this was but the beginning . Following the two first bears, he was inside 20 bears in total with the last one being the strongest . Its power was at the very least in the Spirit Realm as its body was ten feet tall and it was as large as a school bus, calling it a bear is an understatement .

7 years, that's the time Arthur was stuck in this some sort of loop, he didn't know how to get out of it and could only bear with it . When the 20th bear finally died, Arthur found himself in a very dark place with water in all directions .

He released a long sigh that was contained for a whopping 7 years . It's finished at last so that's a good thing but the real question was if 7 years passed here too or was it just a second like with the World Tree .

He was sure all that he experienced previously were memories, old memories of the bears he possessed, maybe not all the bears but the strongest ones at least .

Congratulations! You received the skill(passive) : [Bear Affinity] : +50% stats when possessing a bear . Lasts until the host body dies or the user leaves the body .

Congratulations! You received the skill(active): [Fierce Calling]: Conjure an illusory image of a bear that can help you attack and boosts your Vitality .

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Cost: 500,000 Mana per second .

'Oh well . . . at least I got something in return . '

These skills he just obtained could be considered the second prize . The main one and the most important thing he learned or rather obtained in this 7-year long journey is his battle experience, his senses, and instincts .

They were honed and sharpened by experiencing thousands upon thousands of battles, whether it's his hearing, sense or vision, they were enhanced to another level . Usually, when raising Dexterity, those are increased too but this change was a bit more different .

He was sure that he wouldn't be ambushed ever again, even by a God Realm . Maybe he doesn't have an alerting skill but the beastly instincts he gained would warn him of any incoming danger .

While clenching his fist, Arthur looked up and flew toward the Dark Cloud, where Robin was still panicking . Apparently, he was unconscious only for a short time, once he spread his sense and found Robin, his guess was confirmed .

Chapter 147

"I told him to go slower tsk tsk . . . "

Robin failed to keep calm, she looked down and was only able to see the raging ocean and the bottomless darkness, there were no signs of Arthur whatsoever . She can't fly and she's stuck in the middle of nowhere . Fortunately, the dark cloud was high up in the air or it would have been hit by the chaotic waves .

A few seconds passed since Arthur fell from the dark cloud and when Robin was still thinking of a solution, an ear-deafening cry rang in his ears, making them bleed . Robin didn't hesitate as she drank a Health Potion and covered her ears but even doing that wasn't that helpful as the cry was too loud .

The ocean raged and gigantic waves were created . The good thing is that the cry lasted for just a couple of seconds before disappearing but the results it caused were catastrophic as countless weak aquatic creature died instantly by the sheer power of the sound waves .

Robin was in the air so she was safer, however, she still received some damage and her ears were bleeding . When she tried looking down, she saw some creatures floating on the surface of the ocean, it was apparent that they were lifeless corpses . One fish after another showed up, even a young Kraken was killed by the sound waves and it was unlucky to be near Arthur when he emitted that cry .

'Calm down *pheeeww* we're talking about that 'Arthur' there's no way he'll drown . . . no way . . . he was just thirsty, yeah thirsty!'

Time passed slowly as Robin tried to process what just happened . Luckily for her, Arthur reappeared and flew out of the water . By that time, Robin regained her usual deadpan face, while pushing her glasses to the back and looking as composed and calm as possible, she glared at him and voiced her dissatisfaction

"At least warn me before you roll around like a crazy person then jumps into the water . "

"How can I warn you when it was unintentional?"

Seemingly surprised, Robin pondered for a moment then added

"Weren't you thirsty?"

" . . . I knew it . You're just as dumb as ever . "

Arthur ignored her outburst and resumed his trip toward the Demon Continent . It's a bit illogical to call it a trip since they arrived 10 minutes later but for Arthur, it was a very long trip, one that took 7 years . He still couldn't believe that he experienced all of that, it was surreal .

He thought about it in the past 10 minutes and came to the conclusion that these memories were indeed from the bears he possessed, though he couldn't remember them all, he could remember possessing a stack of bones which resembled the outer appearance of the last bear .

"This is the D-Demon Continent?"

Looking at the strange dark trees and the roaring monkeys which jumped from a tree to another, trying to follow the dark cloud which flew with a slow speed right now . They were on the East side of the continent, precisely above the dark forest, which is known to be a one the dangerous places in this continent .

The Monkeys had an average Lvl of 150 and have strong arms but no matter how much rocks they threw at the dark cloud, the stones shattered once they hit the Dark Barrier .

"We're on the East side of the continent . Where were you ambushed by the black mage?"

"In one of the roads leading to Bunglan City . South-West of the Continent . "

The more they got close to where the incident occurred the more painful memories resurfaced in Robin's mind . How the subordinates of the black mage slaughtered her party, how her grandfather perished just before he teleported her away from there .

The last thing she saw before she vanished from that place is a bone spear piercing Belic's back and endless blood gushing out his the gaping hole followed by several mouthfuls of blood coming out of his mouth . A sight she didn't want to remember but was forced to as she absentmindedly stared at Arthur .

"South-West huh?"

Arthur mumbled as he spread his sense to its limits and flew with a slow speed toward the West . The black mage ambushed them there but his hideout is most likely in a secluded place which is exactly why his sense was spread out constantly . If it was an underground or a hidden cave, he'll be able to spot his with his sense .

There were two senses he was capable of using . One is the Sixth Sense, which is more effective but has a short range of only 2 and a half kilometers . The second one is the sense he gained when breaking through to the Immortal Realm . It can spread more than 30 kilometers but it's not very effective .

The Sixth Sense allows him to sense every living creatures, whether it's bugs, beasts or even plants . Basically, nothing would escape from him if it's inside his sense's range . As for the second sense, it's mainly used to find being which use Nether Energy . Of course, it can track beings which use Mana but compared to the Sixth Sense, it's lacking albeit having a wider range .

Slowly, the dark cloud advanced to the West while his Sixth Sense was spreading all around him and allowing him to sense any abnormality . Although their traveling speed decreased by several folds, it's better this way, after all, he wasn't a God to be able to search the whole continent in a second .

Having a strength equal to a God and being a God are two different things . If he stayed on Astria, the probability of becoming a God is very low due to the lack of Nether Energy, he needs to find a high-Realm world similar to the Underworld which has a dense quantity of Nether Energy wherever you are .

...

Three hours later, they finally arrived on the road where the ambush happened . To not make Robin relive those painful memories, Arthur didn't linger there a lot, he just inspected it and decided to head West to check the dense forest ahead .

'This will be harder than expected . '

Finding no traces albeit permanently spreading his Sixth Sense, Arthur thought that this vengeance would not be as easy as he expected it to be . From Robin's description, the black mage was pretty strong so he guessed that his Lv should be in the 500 or even higher . He was not worried about the mage's strength but about the amount of time that will be required to find him .

It's a bit late to stop and give up the search, after all, he promised her he'll help her . All he could do is put Lucy's matter aside just for the time being . Of course, he was unwilling to do that but he wasn't a traitor or someone who breaks his promises, if Lucy was with him, she would have helped Robin before searching for him as she considered her(Robin) as half a friend .

Groooooooooowl

Hearing this sound several times, Arthur turned around only to see a red face Robin who was looking away . The growling sound was obviously coming from her, or rather, her stomach . This woman is hungry, is what Arthur thought .

He retrieved a roasted meat from his storage and casually said

"Five hours to prepare yourself yet you forget to bring some food?"

With her hands crossed and her head proudly held up high, she retorted

"I can't help it, okay?! I was busy with a lot of things that I forgot to put my rings after taking a shower!"

The sweet smell of the roasted meat entered Robin's nose and enticed her, her eyes were following the meat which was being waved around by Arthur .

"Is that so . . . you forgot your food, but I proposed to help you but not babysit you . "

"Hmpf!"

Robin turned her head and gazed at the sunset after snorting, she was unwilling to ask him for some food after hearing that . Plus, she is as easily infuriated by him as before, it's just that she learned how to not snap at him every time he angered her .

"I take it you do not want this delicious roasted meat? Alright then . . . "

Arthur acted as if he was going to throw the meat away but was stopped when Robin uttered a soft cry . Her hands unconsciously stretched forwards and snatched the meat from his hand .

"It's such a waste to throw it, let me have a bite . "

Although she said she would only take a bite, she began devouring it the big piece of meat . At least her eating was a bit lady-like as she took small bites and cleaned her hands from the oil by a handkerchief that she took out from god knows where .

'Didn't she say that she forgot her storage rings?'

Arthur's focused suddenly shifted from the hungry Robin to a certain part of the forest . His eyes narrowed and his Sixth Sense focused mainly on that part .

Since all his Sixth sense was directed at one point, it was easier to see what is there . Apparently, there were 4 robbed figures which raised their hands and chanted some incomprehensible words . In the center of them laid a dissected corpse of a horned deer, the sight was gory as its belly was open and the organs were taken out .

The heart was put in a small silver cup and a circle with a symbol inside of it was drawn under the feet of the four robbed figures .

The circle was made from the blood of the deceased deer and what's creepier is that the heart inside the silver cup is still pulsating .

Before he went to them, Arthur spread his sense deeper into the cave only to find a narrow corridor leading further down . He focused his sense deeper and was surprised to see more than 10 rooms which had 4 robbed figures performing the exact same ritual except the corpse was different . There was a bear corpse, a snake, a large rabbit and even a human or rather, a demon without a horn .

"It seems we found something "

Robin stopped eating and listened to Arthur carefully, expecting him to lay out a plan but knowing his strength and attitude, it was meaningless .

"Just don't do anything rash and cause yourself to die . "

Arthur warned her then the dark cloud descended slowly until it was a dozen meters away from the hidden cave .

Robin was fidgeting as they approached the cave, she was worried and a bit afraid, after all, she could not forget how her party was slaughtered, the sight was too brutal for a young person like her .

"Alright, so we are going to immediately head to the last room without wasting time with the extra . "

The first room they entered reeked of blood as four robbed figure laid on the floor, lifeless . Arthur used his threads and added Natural Lightning to instantly burst their heart and kill them .

Every room they entered, Robin would see the same subordinates of the black mage which killed her party, but this time, they were the one brutally killed . It seemed Arthur liked a bit of change as he would sometimes cut their limbs, heads or burst their heart .

It didn't take them long to reach a big room, with several large pillars reaching the roof . The room was devoid of any light except a light circle in its center, illuminating the surroundings .

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Only two figures were standing inside the light circle . One was a bearded old man and the other was a boy . Arthur looked at Robin, waiting for her to confirm the identity of the old man but from the look on her face, it didn't seem she knew him, she was just repulsed and disgusted .

'I'll not bother asking questions then . '

Arthur didn't even want to know why they were doing those rituals, if they're dead then they can no longer do it . A lightning fast invisible thread shot out of his hand and beheaded the old man before he could even react .

All that was left was the boy standing next to him . From the look of it, he didn't appear to be a hostage so Arthur was going to eliminate him too but was stopped by Robin, who grabbed his hand in panic .

Chapter 148

"Wait! What do you think you're doing?"

Robin resented the black mage and his subordinates for what they did but she couldn't tolerate Arthur's actions . She couldn't bear to watch him brutally behead a little boy .

Her reasoning was obviously wrong as the boy may be just young in appearance, he may even be a monster or some kind of shape-shifter . Having a weak heart in such times can be quite troublesome . If you spare someone because of pity or sympathy, there's bound to be terrible consequences, no matter how insignificant the person you spared was .

"I'm getting rid of an enemy . Stop pitying enemies and try to remember what this crazy cult did to your grandfather . I'm not trying to be cruel to you but it's because you let appearances trick you or you spare anyone that looks weak is exactly leads to consequences you are not ready to face . "

As her friend, Arthur had to wake her up and tell her that this is not a world where every little boy is innocent . Just from the dazed face and unwilling expression, he knew she was not convinced yet so he retrieved his threads and spared the little boy .

He had short black hair, pale skin, and a thin frame . He was strangely quiet but emitted a creepy aura, to be more precise, it's blood aura, the same as the ones from the people in Meyzu's clan, the ones who used Blood Magic .

'So it is Blood Magic after all . '

He had a small guess when he saw the blood circles and the hearts inside the silver cups but he wasn't too sure, when he felt his blood aura, he was able to ascertain his guess .

The boy was shocked by the sudden death of the old man, he gazed at the headless corpse for a couple of seconds before he turned his head and noticed Robin and Arthur . First, his eyes narrowed but they sure turned moist and tearful, then he began crying .

'Yeah . . . talk about shallow acting . . . '

Arthur shook his head and ignored the crying kid as he inspected the gloomy room . He noticed several corpses to the side which were missing their hearts but except that, nothing was worth paying attention to .

Robin ran to the kid to see if he's alright . She clearly didn't even doubt his acting and thought he really was innocent despite being in such a dangerous and creepy place . As for the little boy, he was happy when he saw the target approaching him with her defense open .

Unfortunately for him, a hidden killing intent that suffocated him and stopped him from acting surfaced and rendered him unable to breathe normally .

All his secretive plans to take this defenseless woman as a hostage were soon abandoned when he felt the killing intent from Arthur, who staring at him from the corner with two eyes shining with a gray light in the dark cave .

"What's wrong little boy . . . are you alright?"

Seeing Robin crouch down and check the little boy, Arthur really wanted to knock some sense into her .

'How can she not see he is acting? tsk . . . women . . always so kind to any kid they see . '

Even Lucy had a weak heart toward kids which is why she insisted too much to help and adopt Saly . Well, he was going to help her anyway but Lucy was the first to voice out her thoughts .

"T-they forced me *sniff* . . . I'm s-sorry . . . *sniff* *hikk*"

Arthur could barely hold himself back, he didn't like lying and acting bastards, much less if he or a friend of his is easily fooled by such a simple act .

With the little bit of self-control he managed to muster, he held himself back from cutting this boy into pieces . He wasn't as merciful as to spare a boy, for him an enemy is still an enemy no matter his appearance, race, or gender .

The three didn't linger too much in the dark cave . They left the underground cave system along with the boy who apparently was named Rey .

Robin held his hands and talked to him and tried to reassure him but honestly, any person would feel suspicious of him, it's confusing on why a smart lady like Robin is oblivious to all .

Rey, who was playing it the pitiful little boy act was shocked when he saw all the beheaded corpses in all the other rooms . He was expecting some reinforcements but none but him were left alive . He wasn't stupid and instantly realized that Arthur, who was walking behind them was the one who did all of that .

He had such immense strength yet he couldn't see through Arthur, he wasn't able to react before the old man was beheaded in front of him . He would have been dead like them if not for Robin who interfered .

"So . . . Rey is it? What were you doing in such a place?"

Once they left the hidden cave, Arthur faced the little boy who was holding Robin's hand and questioned him while staring at him with confused yet piercing eyes that made the kid feel a deep chill down his spines .

'T-This person is crazier than master! I,I have to use this woman!'

"M-Mister . . . T-they kidnapped me and my friends . . . w . . . we couldn't retaliate . . . "

"And when was it?"

Arthur casually sat on a rock and crossed his arms, he knew this going to be a long, very long interrogation .

"About a w-week ago "

"Then why are you the only one alive? Where is the rest? If they died then where are their corpses? Why were you with that old man?"

A bombardment of questions came out from Arthur's mouth, each harder to answer than the previous one . Stuttering and unable to properly give a good response, Rey hid behind Robin and played 'the scared boy' card which marvelously worked since Robin had long since fallen deep into his Oscar-level acting, or so he thought .

"Knock it off, would you? Can't you clearly see he's injured, plus he's just a little kid, what can he do in such a situation? Of course, he has to do what he is told so quit your questioning and give me something that relieves his injuries . "

Robin walked toward Arthur and dragged Rey with her, she pushed her glasses back and stretched her hand to Arthur, expecting to receive some good Healing Potions .

Since it was quite boring with Robin always complaining all along the way, it wouldn't hurt to add a bit more spice and have this kid on board, for the time being . At least he could enjoy having a liar who has been seen through trying to hide his real intentions .

With a flick of his hand, a Health Potion appeared in his hand, he passed to Robin and watched how the kid boldly consumed it while glancing at him a few times .

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Since all Health Potions Arthur has are of good quality, the wound on Rey's shoulder healed in a few seconds which made him speechless . The boy rubbed his hand on his shoulder to see if he could feel any pain but no pain was felt or blood was seen .

'T-This is one of the precious healing potions Master talked about! I must get them all!'

Rey glanced at Arthur with dark thoughts rampaging in his mind . He was trying to come up with a clever plan but it's a shame not even a thousand of him could beat Arthur .

One thing ascertained Arthur's guess was when he saw Rey being Lv94 and being a Demi-Human . Although his daughter, Saly could beat this kid, she would still come out injured despite winning as Blood Magic is lethal to everyone, including the user .

. . . .

Arthur wanted to continue searching for the black mage or other hideouts until they found him, however, Robin insisted they headed to the nearest city to let the kid rest as he witnessed enough horrors .

Rey, who knew that going to the city is a bad idea since the lies about his family would be exposed so he supported Arthur's opinion and said that he wanted to bad guys who hurt his friend to be punished .

Four hours later, Arthur had just killed another old man who was doing the same thing as the previous old man . This was the 5th hideout he found after they 'found' Rey, no other kids were found which made Robin believe Rey even more but not Arthur .

Rey, as for now, was completely terrified by Arthur after witnessing how the people died all around them without him lifting a finger, he wasn't even able to see what's killing them but his guess was that they were razor sharp invisible blades .

"Kid, enjoying the sight?"

Arthur smirked as he played with an old skull, these past five hours were quite entertaining with Rey telling one lie after another and Robin sympathizing with him and promising she'll take care of him .

"B-Bad people should b,b-bbbe punished . . . "

"Ah, is that right? I mean like . . . I could have sworn I was attacked by some kind of Blood Magic more than one time in the past five hours must be my imagination, right?"

Rey, seeing that all his secretive attacks were seen by Arthur, began sweating and feeling uneasy and panicking . For fear of being killed, he hid behind Robin yet again and leaned his head, peeking at Arthur and trying to see his expression .

Robin was going to defend him again but Arthur was not going to just ignore it, it was time to head to the big boss . Telekinesis was used and Robin was easily pushed toward Arthur . Before she could react, Arthur used Advanced Earth Magic and used [Earth Cage] to imprison Rey in a cage made from Black Earth .

The little boy reacted fast and waved his hand, shattering the cage with a small wave of blood magic that kept floating above him as he stared at Arthur coldly .

"Good good, entertain me more!"

As he said that, Arthur used Plant Magic and a long thorny vine appeared from the ground and wrapped around Rey's legs, disabling his movements .

The kid was smart and had fast reflexes, the blood above him transformed into a two-edged sword and without hesitation, he slashed at the vine . Unlike what he expected, the vine was cut only after five desperate slashes .

Since Arthur injected a bit more Intelligence in that vine, it was a bit durable than the Black Earth but if he used all his strength to create a thorny vine, only Heavenly Realm or above can cut it . The difference was just too big to even compare him to Rey .

Chapter 149

Rey managed to get rid of the long thorny vine created by Arthur but it was only done after a series of continuous slashes from his condensed blood sword .

When he saw the vine fall and noticed that his legs were released from the entanglement and only pain received from the thorns remained, the little boy jumped a couple of meters back while raising his blade toward Arthur and staring at him with fear and anger .

He passed five hours with Arthur and he knew that it was impossible to defeat such a monster but there may be a chance to escape if he played his cards right .

"R-Rey?"

Robin stared at what happened with wide open eyes, she couldn't believe that the little boy who seemed so fragile and weak to be able to use such strong magic . She knew more than any person how strong Arthur was, to be able to block his attacks or deflect them is no easy feat . Unfortunately, she didn't know the whole truth and that Arthur is only playing around .

'Argh! I have to escape quickly!'

Rey didn't reply to Robin, instead, he glanced around the dark room but the only way to escape is from the main entrance, which is behind Arthur . With no way but to gamble on that chance, Rey threw his sword at Arthur then circled around him to escape .

The blood sword suddenly transformed into a large bloody beast claw, its target was not Arthur but Robin . Rey guessed that Arthur would try to protect Robin and that would buy him a second or two at least to escape, that should be enough for him to create some distance then try to hide in a secret place .

What the boy didn't expect is that the bloody beast claw struck a dark barrier that turned visible once it was struck . It was but a simple Dark Barrier, however, it was more than enough to stop the claw and completely disperse it .

"Boy, we ain't done playing yet, stick around for a bit more . "

An invisible force wave which was caused by Telekinesis had suddenly sent Rey flying backward, he could not react until his body hit the wall . With blood leaking out of his mouth and a haggard state, Rey angrily stared at Arthur, wanting to kill him immediately but he knew that he was helpless and weak as the enemy didn't even lift a finger .

"Stop hurting the kid . "

With her righteous attitude, Robin stopped Arthur from making any more movies . She thought it would work like last time but Arthur was done playing, the lie has been stretched for far too long, it's time to stop!

"Enough . You should stop being so dumb and open your eyes, the truth is in front of you . He's obviously not a normal kid that got kidnapped, he never was and never will be innocent one look at his eyes and you know "

"Stop spouting nonsense!"

"Nonsense? It's because you're too soft that you didn't notice . But as a cold-blooded killer, I can recognize a fellow mate when I see one, just one look at the aura . . . the eyes "

Arthur then pointed at Rey, who was cautiously moving around and said

"I mean, can't you feel it? The bloodlust, the killing intent, the chilling feeling you get when you're looked at by his eyes, however . . . it's too weak . "

After he said what he wanted to say, Arthur ignored Robin and focused on the kid while seriously saying

"Brat . . . let me show you what real bloodlust really feels like . "

Just when he finished his sentence, a chilling, bone-freezing bloodlust was emitted from his two eyes . They turned gray and a cold aura was being emanated from his body . It's like he turned into another person, even Robin unconsciously took a few steps back . Fortunately, the killing intent and bloodlust was not directed at her or else she would have fainted .

As for the target himself, Rey felt like he fell into a bottomless abyss, the two gray eyes of Arthur were like two star-sized whirlpools that are ripping him into shreds millions and millions of times .

Bloodlust (1st Level): Release a portion of your bloodlust to pressure and intimidate the target .

Cost: none .

Cooldown: none .

It was a skill Arthur gained when he woke up after the banquet battle . It was probably obtained when he was unconscious, he didn't know how he acquired it but it's pretty effective against weak opponents, such as this little boy for example .

Rey, who was currently holding a blood bomb in his hand, was trembling non-stop and the blood bomb was dispersed due to his focus being lost and shaken .

Fear covered him and he no longer had any will to use the Blood Magic . It was standing naked in front of a hungry lion, totally helpless and waiting for death to come .

Even his legs betrayed him and as he knelt on the floor and stared at Arthur with a dumbstruck expression and a shaking body, it was apparent he can't fight or even stand after receiving a head-on attack from the horrifying bloodlust of Arthur .

Since he was reincarnated on Astria, Arthur killed countless people and he never regretted killing anyone . There was only the matter about the princess when he overreacted and cut off her limb but he

apologized for that . Now that he is alone again, albeit being a short amount of time, he felt the same loneliness and emptiness he had before he met Lucy .

Maybe he was too dependant on her? Nonetheless, it was slowly affecting but it was not too dangerous as it didn't reach an irrecoverable state .

Arthur stood in front of the petrified little boy and mockingly said

"No more tricks? Let's start the questioning then I like this part a lot . "

. . .

Surprisingly, after experiencing his bloodlust, the boy confessed what he knew about the black mage, which turned out to be his master . Robin was still acting kind towards him albeit knowing he is a bad person, maybe she pitied him because he was tricked into becoming something that or just sincerely hoped to save him from the evil he succumbed into .

Apparently, Rey's master is a very strong mage who came from another planet called 'Green-Bean Planet', it's a middle-Realm and it had endless wars, unlike Astria which was too peaceful in comparison .

Rey tried to answer the best he can, he didn't even dare trick or lie after what he had experienced . He killed many people and is and will always be a murderer, but he was also a kid and after what Arthur did to him, the little boy kept a rather passive and polite attitude .

For a second, Arthur thought that maybe this kid is acting again, but it didn't appear to be the case as Rey would shake every time he was talked to by him .

In just a few minutes, he came to know that the black mage is hiding in an underground cave right under the main city of the Demon Continent . Hiding under them is the place they would least expect, a daring yet smart move from his part .

Unfortunately for the black mage, his grim reaper is coming, and he's coming fast!

The main city of the Demon Continent is called The Demon City . It's a large city and it even had an adventurer's guild so Humans and Demons are forbidden to fight inside of it, though there is still some discrimination toward the Humans no matter their status, it was the demon's home after all so there is bound to be some lingering between the two parties .

The Demons are ruled by a Demon Lord and a council of elders advising him, he's known to be pretty strong, rivaling the deceased pope if not stronger .

Arthur's sneak skill and the countless camouflage skills were maxed out so he was able to sneak out easily, as for the remaining two, they just paid the fee and were told by Arthur to just stay at an Inn for the time being until he locates the black mage .

Since Rey said his master was underground, then Arthur began searching the sewers, he possessed a Lv3 Sewer Rat and dashed between the small holes with lightning speed . Since he was possessing a creature and not a human, Arthur activated the special camouflage skill which let him merge with the surroundings and decrease his presence by 80% .

It was an ancient skill named [Silent Statue] gained by an ancient invisible Lizard, by the time Arthur possessed it, it was only a pack of bones .

Be it poison, invisibility, or even magic, Arthur could use them all in just a Rat's body which is an amazing thing to sneak attack people, it's just that God Realm individuals would be able to sense him rather quickly .

They may find it strange for a rat to be this strong but at the very least, they would be able to sense that the rat is at the Immortal Realm which something unreasonable so their guards will be raised instantly .

As he was dashing through here and there, the lightning rat crashed into a wall and a banshee's cry was soon heard in the deep underground .

'Not again!'

Noticing his vision darkening and the agonizing and intense pain surging his mind, Arthur knew the same cycle would be repeated . Last time it was 7 years then how long will this one be?

Chapter 150

Last time this happened to Arthur, he was stuck inside for 7 years . It is a long time for him although he only watched from inside bear's body . It may not be as long as literally living 7 years but it's still a long time, moreover, most of the time it's fighting and the pain is unbearable .

When the darkness disappeared and Arthur was able to open his eyes again, the first thing he saw was an endless sea of clouds . It did take him a couple of seconds to know inside what creature he was stuck currently .

From the two wide wings and long beak, Arthur was sure he was inside an eagle and a big one at that . The process was just like the previous except the lack of battles . The eagle would rarely fight and would only join in to steal a prey or to finish a wounded creature . With its powerful beak and sharp claws, it did quite the damage but the most outstanding thing about it its eyes and speed .

It could see a prey from miles and miles away and with just a few flaps of its wide wings, it would travel that distance in seconds, especially when it's descending, its speed multiplies by four or five times at the very least .

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The struggle had just begun as the long life of the eagle was displayed in front of Arthur's eyes . He only wished this process to be shorter than the last one as he really didn't want to spend all the time alone . The more time he passed without Lucy, the lonelier and sadder he became .

To say it was exciting to watch an eagle fly for a whole day would be a big fat lie . The thrill may remain for the first couple of minutes but by the second, third and fourth day, it becomes boring .

And so, the boring life of a big eagle began, Arthur was forced to watch it all until the damnable eagle died because of a poison it received from a mysterious mushroom .

His luck was not so good to be able to finish this process this early, from the body to of an eagle he transferred to a bird's body, this bird was weak and died in just four months, fortunately .

. . .

It was only 7 years later that Arthur was finally finished . It lasted the same amount of time as the previous one but for Arthur, it felt like 70 years rather than 7 since it was so eventless and boring . At least he gained some perks after he opened his eyes .

Congratulations! You gained a new skill(passive): [Eagle affinity]: When possessing any kind of flying creature, you gain +50% stats and your flying speed increases by 15% .

Congratulations! You gained a new skill(active): [Piercing Eyes]: The user can activate this skill to lock on a target . If the user is chasing that target, his speed is increased by 200%

Cost: 125,000 per second .

Cooldown: none .

'This could be useful but the cost'

It was really a good skill to have but the cost was just so high so he can't permanently have it . His Mana pool is pretty big, enough for him to use this skill for more than an hour but it's not the same thing as having it permanently .

If it was Stamina then it would have been much better, since he has an infinite amount .

With the small body of the rat, Arthur continued dashing between the small holes but this feeling was a bit nostalgic as it had been a long time since he moved on his own . The Sixth Sense was spread and in just a couple of seconds, he was able to locate several strong presences .

The closest one turned out to be a rat king, it had thousands upon thousands of small rats with it being the biggest and highest in Level .

It had the size of a normal lion and it was quite high-leveled, unfortunately, it was instantly killed by Arthur . He didn't even need to kill it, just forcefully possess it and kill it when he was inside of it .

Arthur decided not to move with this large body since it isn't so practical in these narrow sewers . After he gained what little stats the rat king had, he possessed another rat and dashed out of the swarm or rats .

The second strong presence he felt was a carnivorous bug that resembled a cockroach, truly disgusting to the point that Arthur didn't possess it, the stats it will give would be meager so it's no problem if he ignored one .

When he dug deep underground, Arthur finally found what appeared to be a ritual room, similar to the ones he found in the hidden caves but this one was way bigger and creepier .

There were two people standing around the blood circle, one of them was a foreign Race and had an appearance totally different from humans, as for the last one, it was a hooded figure .

Arthur just stood to the side and watched them both, since he was in rat's body and he didn't do anything strange, there is nothing to worry about . What's more is that both of them were at the Spirit Realm so they didn't unlock the Immortal Sense yet .

"Tsk tsk, I've told you to clean up and start the operation, what is taking you so long?"

"I, I'm sorry but the d-demon lord of this world is a bit weird, he uses clever tricks to locate me and one of my subordinates told me that the demon army is invading the underground in two days . "

The hideous looking figure appeared annoyed by the complaining of the hooded-figure, he spat on the ground from annoyance and retorted

"*sigh* You can't even take care of such a simple thing? You just need to connect the two worlds! I didn't hire you to mess around and do some experiments, the boss is impatient and it's not you who is going to suffer from his anger!"

Spit came out of the monster's mouth every time it talked . It was over two meters tall and had an ugly face with a pointy nose, a row of strangely curved teeth with two long fangs . Basically, if we add its black skin, this monster's appearance is the nightmare of every little kid .

The monster took out a cylindric object and after injecting some of its blood on it, a light soon covered it and teleported it out of the underground .

What was left was the hooded figure who Arthur guessed must be the black mage . Despite the fact that he could have killed both of them, he stood still and watched from the side . He still wanted to know what's happening in here, moreover, after hearing what was said, he became more curious and confused .

The monster clearly stated 'Two Worlds' and judging by his appearance, it should not be from Astria . Surely, killing the black mage without any answers would bring more troubles, especially if it's not dealt with correctly .

"Fools . . . you think I'll help you after I discovered how precious this world is? Hahaha"

The hooded man started laughing hysterically as he waved his staff and surprisingly summoned two skeleton warriors . He looked around for a second to check if the monster is still present or not then he took out a box from his sleeves and looked at it for a couple of seconds while laughing .

Arthur was surprised to see him use Necromancy too, not only can he use death laws, he can also use Necromancy? The two are close and strongly related but Necromancy is not something easy to obtain .

'Perhaps it's similar to Necromancy?'

The skeletons warriors were just like the ones Arthur uses but they were way weaker since the black mage's Intelligence and skill level are probably low .

The black mage handed the brown box to the two skeletons then he ordered them to slowly open it while he backed away and raised his staff in preparation for something .

Arthur was not afraid so he didn't back away and instead, he sneakily approached the two skeletons . In any case, he always had a Dark Barrier around him, it already became a habit .

When the box was finally opened, the box instantly disappeared and what replaced was 6 feet long portal . From the other side of the portal, you could see a starry sky and soon, the unimaginably strong suction force followed .

"What!? Wh-Where is the tunnel?"

Astonished by what he's seeing, the black mage turned and around and prepared to leave the room as the suction force was too strong but what terrified him is not that force but what he saw, it was that starry sky which seemed harmless at first but it's actually a very, very bad sign, however, it's unfortunate for Arthur as he didn't know that and simply stood there, watching what's occurring .

"Haa you made things easier for me . "

A deep, bone-chilling voice originated from the portal, it was soon followed by a handmade from bones stretching out from the starry sky and holding on the edges of the portal .

Arthur didn't even have the time to curse or react before a long gray scythe was swung at him, cutting the rat body in two halves . His reaction was late but at least he managed to leave the body before he was killed instantly .

Albeit successfully leaving the rat body, Arthur still had a long scar on his abdomen all the way to his neck . It was caused by the gray scythe which was currently held by a tall hooded-skeleton .

Steam came out of its mouth as it looked at Arthur with its two pulsating red eyes, even Arthur felt chills when he looked at the what's in front of him, for the very first time, he felt as if he was at death's door!

Grim Reaper (Lv???) Realm???