

## Once Human 161

### Chapter 161

The sudden appearances of the dungeons on Earth brought a lot of panic from all over the globe . Some officials even tried to revolt against other countries or create trouble this was all subdued when the International Hero Organization was created .

Usui, who was later known as the Flame Emperor, was enjoying his time on his balcony, reading a history book when the event happened . No matter whom or where, every person on Earth experienced an earthquake with a magnitude of 9 . 8 . Surprisingly, there were zero deaths and no buildings fall which dumbfounded several scientists who later claimed that it wasn't an earthquake but something more mysterious .

Usui graduated from Oxford University but he didn't directly find a job . His family was quite well-off and they didn't lack any money, moreover, he was a prodigy since he was young . Whether it's painting, poetry or even acting, he had numerous skills and excelled in every one of them . What he liked most was reading stories but since his parents always insisted he takes classes of this and that, his free time lessened every day .

As for the romantic side, his mother prepared a blind date with some lady of another rich family more than one time, but truthfully, he hated that .

The girls would fall in love with him and some of them were even a bit clingy but he would always reject them in a kind manner . Years passed and he managed to develop a unique nature, he never got angry or yelled at anyone, even when he was irritated by something, nothing would be shown on his face .

When the world changed, and what was supposed to be an earthquake struck the Earth, a blue window appeared in front of him .

Congratulations! You have gained a skill(passive): [Affinity with Fire]: Any fire-related skills deal 35% more damage . Your resistance to the Fire attribute has increased by 25% .

Due to [Affinity with Fire] you obtained 2 new skills (Fire Wave) and (Upgraded Fireball)

Congratulations! You have gained a skill(passive): [Born to be a Mage]: +250 Mana (+75 Mana every level) / 10% Mana reduction when using mage related skills / +100 Intelligence (+25 Every Level)/ +50 Wisdom (+10 Every level)

You have 5 unallocated points, please use them to enhance your stats .

Status Window

Name: Usui

Age: 21

Race: Human

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LEVEL: 0

Strength: 21

Agility: 15

Dexterity: 9

Intelligence: 138

Wisdom: 78

Vitality: 10

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Health: 40(0 . 05/s)

Mana: 250(0 . 1/s)

Stamina: 30(0 . 09/s)

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Fire Resistance: 25%

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Skills(active): Fire Wave Lv1, Upgraded Fireball Lv1 .

Skills(passive): Fire Affinity, Born to be a mage .

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Unallocated Points: 5

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Usui gazed at the blue notification in front of him for several minutes before he managed to comprehend what just happened . To be honest, he never was a fan of games, he tried playing a few of them but he didn't find them as amusing as reading books whilst enjoying a cup of tea .

Google search [free+web+novel.com](https://www.google.com/search?q=free+web+novel&rlz=1C1GCEwbnovel.com)

He may not be good at games, but he was acknowledgeable and after reading his status window a few times and checking his skills, he managed to comprehend a couple of things .

Such a sudden increase in Intelligence made him think a bit faster and remember some things from his infancy, the Wisdom was also helpful in coming up with more logical and better decisions or opinions .

He remained calm and picked up his book to try something, it was only a guess but it was confirmed when he found himself reading one page in a very short time . His reading and processing speed was augmented by a fair bit which pleased him but with power comes responsibility . Although he received something that should not exist, he was sure he was not alone and this was but the beginning .

The butler in their house rushed to Usui only to find him softly smile as he was looking at the book in his hand . He was worried for the safety of this young man but nothing out of the ordinary happened except that earthquake . No bookshelves fell and no ground was split apart .

'Now then . . . '

Usui took a breath of fresh air and sat up from his chair, he looked at the blue sky and raised his left hand while mumbling with a low voice

## Chapter 162

The preparations were complete, the plan was thoroughly explained by Arthur and the foolish ones were warned several times, all that was left is to activate the Warp Device .

Due to his chains, Arthur didn't need to be physically restrained by anything, as for Taliya and Lissandra, Gutcha has advised him to tie them with a special rope in his storage as the story more believable .

"Everything is in order, all that is left is for Arthur to come as well . "

The two women and the hideous creature stood near each other, waiting for Arthur, who was sitting in a corner with his eyes closed seemingly focused on something important . This began a day ago and he didn't stop for a second and after a few hours, a bright flash would blind their sight and when they recover, he would still be laying in the same position .

The three patiently waited for him to finish with Gutcha being a little bit anxious as he wasn't totally willing to go along with the plan, however, he really does not have any choice in the matter or else he would have hidden in a remote cave somewhere on Astria and seclude himself for a long time before coming out .

Fortunately, Arthur finally stood up after a few minutes after the predicted blinding light . He had a proud and happy expression as he walked toward them .

As a final precaution, Arthur summoned The Book of the Damned and hid under his black robe . If he were to be sneak attacked, the rotten hand would instantly absorb the damage and unleash the little bit of Energy he stored into it along with the recently absorbed attack .

"So, is everyone ready?"

Lissandra silently stared at the floor, Gutcha hesitantly nodded his head and Taliya resolutely nodded her head with clenched fists . Seeing their response, Arthur took out the Warp Device and activated it without delay . He didn't need Gutcha's help to use it with the presence of the Appraisal .

Very soon, the four of them experienced a pretty discomforting feeling, even Arthur felt that his body became a bit sore, the experience felt completely different from using a Spatial Tunnel .

Gutcha had already told him that the Warp Device is not very practical and it is only used when Spatial Tunnel does not exist, it is like a primordial version of teleportation . The warped people would also experience dizziness and in some rare cases, they would pass out, especially those with a weaker body, so Arthur laid a Dark Barrier around Lissandra as she is but a Mortal . As for himself, he wasn't worried about falling unconscious with such a high Vitality, his defensive layer from the Dark-Star Strengthening technique is permanently activated too .

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Contrary to the Spatial Tunnel which only took a couple of seconds or minutes if the distance is large, the Warp Device takes between half an hour and an hour for the users to arrive at the destination .

All he could see around him is a grey world with blurring environment, it was unpleasant to the eye and a discomforting feeling surged him, it wasn't to the point of annoying him yet it was still unpleasant to have .

A little bit more than thirty minutes, the four of them appeared in a big square with a large rune engraved on its floor . The weather was a bit hot and the sun was blazing hot .

Arthur was not bothered by such a hot weather, however, that was not left unnoticed by him . His only guess is that this strong heat is due to the wall of flames which is a distance away from here . Its intensity must be huge to cause its surroundings to suffer a rise in temperature .

One look at his surroundings made him certain that growing plants or anything in such a soil is practically impossible . The place resembled a desert but there were countless structures around the large square, they were buildings made from normal stones as wood would make its interior much hotter .

The very second they appeared, yelling sounds could be heard from all around them, several hideous creatures similar to Gutcha surrounded them with long yellow spears pointed at them from every single direction .

'There must be at least 50 around us . . . . let's see . . . . '

Appraisal was activated and a stream of blue windows appeared in his sight

'Hmmm between Lv800 and 999 with three at the Spirit Realm?'

It was quite a terrifying force, and this was only at this square, what about the rest of territory . From Gutcha, Arthur knew that his Golem was sent here so it must have caused quite the ruckus and caused them to be alerted which forced the higher-ups to station a remarkable force to guard this place .

'Quite the clever ones, huh?'

With his Sense, Arthur could sense more than a hundred extra spear-yielding monster hiding in the buildings around the square with a few ones who were quite skilled in hiding their presence, it's a shame that they couldn't escape from his Ability .

"C-captain Gutcha?"

One of the spear-yielding monsters hesitated before he stared at Gutcha with a confused expression . Clearly, he recognized his captain and dropped his spear whilst breathing a sigh of relief .

The others were not as relieved as that soldier for they were not all under Gutcha's command . There were just too many captains in the tribe that it is quite hard to remember them all unless one had done distinguishable feats . Gutcha was a newly promoted captain but in the past, he did the infiltration and scouting jobs, so his identity was not that famous .

"Drop your weapons, I'm Gutcha, a Captain in the third army, I have come back and brought a few hostages with me . "

Even after saying that, none of the soldiers dropped their spear . They only took orders from their direct superiors and Gutcha is but an unknown captain so they still maintained a serious expression, a cold glare and an intent to stab their spears at any sudden movements from the enemies .

"Drop your weapons . "

The three present Captains which were standing at the back spoke at the same time . When the spears were dropped, the huge crowd of soldiers who were surroundings Arthur and co, opened a path for the three captains, who made their way to Gutcha and his hostages .

"If it isn't Captain Gutcha, we didn't hear you for a while so we assumed you perished . "

Laughing heartily, a captain with a burn scar on his neck addressed Gutcha but his eyes were full of mocking and contempt . Albeit being at the same rank as Gutcha, he didn't seem to respect him and instead, belittled him in front of everybody .

Oblivious to the other party's mocking, Gutcha shrugged his shoulders, not caring about that and said

"A few unexpected things happened and I was ambushed by a strong group which led to the death of Captain Drok'e but I managed to defeat the enemy . "

Gutcha didn't offer a detailed explanation as that was planned for his superiors, not this captain . The other party did not hold enough authority to be able to force him to explain himself . Just by bringing precious hostages, he is considered to have achieved good merits in the Third Army .

Upon hearing Gutcha, a frown appeared on the laughing Captain, the other two also had a serious expression .

"What kind of strong group?"

Another captain was the one was talked, he had a pig face and was quite fat which made him look a talk fat pig .

"The details will be reported to the Major . "

"Captain Gutcha, this is no time to be holding on important information . Because you were so busy apprehending whatever hostages you brought, our tribe suffered heavy damages a few days ago when a monster suddenly appeared on this very spot . "

From his tone, it can be seen that he feared whatever he saw a few days ago . There was only one monster that was sent by Gutcha and that was the Death Golem, which also gave him a fright .

It was called a Golem but its appearance was scary and by no means did it slightly resemble a normal golem, only its size was similar .

Obviously, Gutcha wouldn't be as stupid as to say he sent the Death Golem because he was going to be killed by it so he decided to send it to his tribe to take care of it . All the Warp Devices the other captain who invaded Astria took, lead to this destination so any one of them is a suspect .

There was another piece of information that Gutcha was unaware of, it's that Astrith disposed of every one of his tribe and none were left alive .

Feigning a look of shock, Gutcha stared at the three captains with a look of surprise before speaking

"Is that true?"

The pig-faced captain nodded his head seriously and added

"Not only did it cause a lot of destruction, it killed more than a hundred soldiers and two captains, it required Major Bull and Major Billard to apprehend . It was only due to luck that they won, the monster suddenly fell on its own and died then its body turned into a black ash . "

"Major Bull was also promoted to a Lieutenant Colonel due to sacrificing his arm to protect his soldiers . "

The first captain who mocked Gutcha said proudly with a smirk . Major Bull was previously his superior and their relationship is quite good .

'Now that Major Bull is promoted, I expect that in no time I'll become the next Major of the 5th platoon of the Third Army hehehe'

Captain Reek didn't voice out his thoughts but from his expression, anyone can tell he was happy, not only that but almost everyone knew that he was close to Major Bull so the free position of the Major would necessarily be passed to him .

"Is that so . . . well then, I'll have to go report to Major Kal and bring those hostages to the prison . "

Gutcha grabbed the string which tied Taliya and Lissandra and bypassed the three captains . His reaction was a bit lacking to what happened recently but it wasn't a family but just a tribe made of random warriors, despite this, its heritage and prowess are long and powerful and it is a force that should be reckoned with .

Arthur remained silent and stared at what's occurring, his attention was diverted to his Sense, which spread with every step he took forward .

As far as he could tell, there was no imminent danger and it was going smoothly, he just needs to arrive at the prison and see if Sonia and Mary are there, there was also the Demon Princess but the two women came first as they were his and Lucy's friends .

"Wait a minute . "

After walking a few steps, Captain Reek turned to look at Arthur and frowned .

"What is it, Captain Reek?"

Displeased that he was stopped yet again, Gutcha turned to look at the annoying captain and harrumphed . As two people with the same rank, the other party should at least speak to him with respect . 'Wait a minute' should be replaced with 'Please wait a minute', as Gutcha is not a person who cares about that, he was not bothered by it but the way he acts right now played a huge role in Arthur's

plan and he did not dare to divert from it, especially after witnessing the weird and scary looking ball that entered his chest .

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"Oh it's nothing important, I just happen to have something to do with Major Kal so why not head there together?"

Without waiting for Gutcha to reply, captain Reek strode toward the same reaction with an unpleasant grin on his ugly face .

Gutcha didn't press on the matter as he really didn't care about being mocked or disrespected, as long as Arthur and the rest to their destination without any problems, everything will go smoothly . As per Arthur's orders, he had to do a few things and the idea of fleeing far away from the tribe didn't cross his mind .

Each nearby tribe had their own unique Race so venturing into unknown areas is simply suicidal from his part, as for crossing the wall flames, that is even more unlikely .

There have been cases where experts would emerge from the flames and rest in one of the tribes, although they didn't help in any way, just by the fact that they rested in that specific tribe, its reputation, and status in the surroundings would soar astronomically .

The two other captains didn't follow Gutcha and Reek, instead, they instructed their soldiers to keep watch then left to one of the buildings near the big square .

Arthur silently surveyed the area but nothing was special or deserved to be paid attention to . They walked away from the several stones buildings and by the look of it, the prison is quite the distance away from the tribe's main territory .

There were mountains and hills made from sand, coupling that with the intensely hot weather and the fast pace the captains were walking, it became hard for the weak-bodied Lissandra to catch up to them which systematically made her fall and be dragged a few meters before Gutcha noticed her .

As a hostage, if he were to treat her with respect as she is Arthur's comrade, it would appear suspicious and if he were to yell at her or execute her on the spot, it would incur Arthur's wrath .

Helpless, Gutcha glanced at Arthur who was far at the back, he was not bound by the special ropes and instead, had chains around his feet and arms, but his face excluded total calmness as if he was not a hostage, to begin with .

Captain Reek didn't pay much attention to him and only frowned when he saw Lissandra fall .

"Captain Gutcha, it seems that the hostages you brought are way too weak! To think that they gave you a hard time, this is a disgrace to the Third Army . Even a Captain died \*sigh\* I'm afraid that our reputation will decrease dramatically if anyone hears about that . "

Reek didn't need to say it out loud for Gutcha to understand . Lissandra needs to be killed for such a stupid reason, however, Gutcha wasn't a pushover either . With a snort, he continued walking whilst saying

"Each extra hostage adds more rewards for me, moreover, it is not up to Captain Reek to decide what I do with hostages that I caught . "

Although a bit risky, he decided to leave Lissandra's case into Arthur's hand and hoped it would be solved, if he made a move and tried to execute her, he feared that he'll be the one to die instead .

'Even with a Dark Barrier around her, she's still this weak?'

It was indeed weird for Lissandra to fall like this . She's a Mortal, yes, but that doesn't mean she's that fragile . The intense heat is not even affecting her thanks to the barrier and all she had to do is walk, it can't be that hard to simply walk, even for a Lv1 Mortal, much less for an ex-God .

'Appraisal!'

Lissandra (Race: Human): Lv8 (Suffering from 'Mind Break', 'Soul self-devouring', 'Against Death' . . . )

A whole list was displayed in front of Arthur, who stared at it with gobbled eyes . Last time he appraised her is when he stripped her away from her powers, she was weakened to Lv10 Mortal but none of the statuses of the above were present .

There were at the very least 20 debuffs with names more astonishing than the others .

It seems that her sudden change in attitude and silence is strongly related to this and it was way foolish for him to not appraise her immediately but how could he ever think that she is suffering from all of those? She's just a Mortal and what could a Mortal suffer from except illnesses .

Arthur picked one random debuff and appraised to see its contents only to be flabbergasted

Against Death(Passive)(Permanent): Becoming a fallen God, the lower the Realm the stronger the effect and the shorter the time for him to live is . Gods age differently than Mortals but once the balance is broken, the past rules will apply to the fallen user, he will be marked by a Death Reaper and soon his soul will be reaped!

'Are you kidding me? A Death Reaper?'

Remembering the fearsome Death Reaper he had to fight, Arthur couldn't help but shiver unconsciously, it's true that he got rid of it but it was only thanks to the World tree's help and since he is not on Astria anymore, he can't request its assistance .

If a Death Reaper were to appear right now, the plan will be totally disrupted and things would get pretty messy .

To be honest, Arthur was not afraid for Lissandra, quite the opposite, in fact, he couldn't care less if she died by the Reaper's hands as he is not her guardian angel, if it's a beast or someone he could cope with then he'll save her but against a Reaper? Hell no! Especially with his body restrained by these damnable chains .

What he was more afraid of was that the Reaper will also sense him and will try to execute him along with Lissandra, getting two birds with one stone .

Furthermore, what if the incoming Reaper is more powerful than the previous one?



Feeling a headache, Arthur didn't even bother reading the rest of the debuffs, just this one is practically impossible to deal with, so if he reads the rest of them, it'll only make him feel worse .

The only thing he could do is push the matter to later when this plan ends at least then he will see what to do . The safest choice is to kill her right now but he was reluctant to do that . She did a lot of horrible things, that's true, however, if he were to execute her after all the torture he did to her, he would be no different from her .

Secretly, Arthur used his Ancient Threads along with Telekinesis to move Lissandra's body . She was barely conscious and she didn't struggle when the threads wrapped around her body and moved it on its own . The Telekinesis was only used at the beginning to adjust her body then removed .

Taliya kept a passive attitude and disregarded the falling Human woman, even if Lissandra would die in front of her, she would not bat an eye .

Her hatred for the Human Race far surpassed the feelings of pity to a miserable being . As they continued walking toward the prison, Arthur's body was like a dry sponge absorbing all the water around it . This world had Nether Energy and not a small amount of it .

It lacked a bit compared to the Underworld but nevertheless, it was enough for Arthur's body to start absorbing it like a massive whirlpool .

His empty reserve of Nether Energy began filling up in a matter of seconds and the chains around his waist, hands, and feet began vibrating intensely, making loud noises and even making a bit of the sand under his feet float for a few millimeters . It fortunate that Reek ignored the noise and Gutcha only threw a couple of glances whilst walking next to the other Captain .

The black orb inside his Dantian began rotating intensely and emitting a dark steam, an illusory talisman also circled around the orb . Arthur started feeling his body heating up on its own and the Dark Star strengthening technique along with the Dark Anguish technique acted on their own .

Being at 1999 Mental Power, Arthur was just one point away from breaking through . With no presence of Nether Energy on Astria, his body started to become a little bit to such atmosphere but now that it was thrown to a world with so much Nether Energy and adding that to Arthur's extremely high Nether Energy Recovery, breaking through was something that was bound to happen sooner or later, even if he didn't intentionally try to break through, with such accumulated stress and after holding back for quite sometime, stopping it from happening is almost impossible .

While gritting his teeth, Arthur closed his eyes and dived deep into his consciousness, where his soul laid . In the starry sky, Arthur floated to the bright light in its centre, which was his soul .

He didn't know much about the Orb of the Fallen Overgods which didn't act since a long time ago, or about the thick chains around the big blob of light but it didn't take a genius to know that they are means to restrain something, as for what it was, he didn't know yet .

Arthur noticed a slowly rotating cubic object which resembled the one he saw inside the ARK, the cubic object was silently rotating next to the Orb and the two have the same size, more or less .

Breaking through will bring countless benefits and if he's lucky then the chains would disappear, however, that was what he would think a few hours ago, not right now!

He honestly didn't know how strong he would become if he became a Divine being, but there was still the possibility of powerful experts laying nearby, he won't be reckless anymore and dive into their territory expecting to save everyone and come back safely .

Such actions will only be done when he holds complete confidence in battling Peak Grade Gods .

After thoroughly thinking about his decision, Arthur floated near his bright soul and grabbed the end of the thick chains at the bottom half of the blob and pulled it with all of his strength .

It was only after a lot of effort and full-strength pulling that he was able to bulge the chains and make them tighten just a bit around the soul .

It may not be a good idea to do that but it is the only way to stop the breakthrough, it'll buy some time for him at least . He was willing to break through when he is in his prison cell, but not in front of Captain Reek . He could still kill him and possess him but he was not sure if breaking through will remove the chains and everyone would find it suspicious if a captain is loitering around with chains all over his body .

'Argh!!'

As the chains tightened around his soul, Arthur experienced unimaginable pain along with an unpleasant cold feeling surging his physical body . The heat emanated from his Dantian lessened and the fastly rotating Orb was forcefully stopped . As for the talisman, there were no signs of it .

Arthur was relieved to see that, however, before breathing a small sigh of relief, he couldn't help but spit a mouthful of blood, freaking out Taliya who was sizing up Captain Reek and making some secret plans .

Obviously, such actions were seen by the two captain, who turned to look at Arthur since the second his chains started making very loud noises . When they saw that the hostage was acting strangely then suddenly spit a mouthful of blood, captain Reek shook his head in disappointment and continued walking, as for Gutcha, he was really surprised by the fact that Arthur, a person who he could not fathom his strength, was spitting a mouthful of blood out of nowhere .

Such thing was not mentioned when the plan was explained, nonetheless, he remained silent and followed captain Reek .

"With such weak hostages, they'll surely die in a matter of days . To think that a captain died just to bring them here . . . . "

Captain Reek kept complaining about how fragile and weak the hostages Gutcha brought . He turned a deaf ear to him and marched toward a yellow tower made mud with a cave entrance next to him . It was the prison of his tribe and it can be considered a desolated place .

"Are you okay?"

Taliya stared at Arthur with a strange face, since she met him, he would always say or do weird things but this topped them all . Who in their right mind would spit such a big mouthful of blood out of nowhere, even if it was acting, it would be too exaggerated so she couldn't help but feel a bit anxious as if he is injured then the probability of escaping if they are discovered lessened by a huge margin .

All her planned actions to take care of Reek fell and she could only glare at Arthur, who gave her no explanation and continued walking with his eyes closed .

'Hmpf! I just need to ascertain that Alina is in that prison then I'll figure a way out of here!'

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\*shiii\* \*shiii\*

The long chains were dragged in the sound as they entered the cave, which was supposed to be the prison of the tribe . Arthur's sense had already spread underground and he was able to notice a considerable amount of living beings . One was in a corner quite a distance away from the rest and from the looks of it, he is the one Gutcha described as weird .

"Now that we guided your prisoners as you wanted, let's head to the Major and hear your detailed explanation, there's no time to waste . "

Reek still insisted on hearing Gutcha's explanation about the ambush . It was unknown whether he wanted to learn the truth or find a mistake and blame it on his comrade to earn more merit or perhaps earn the rewards in his place .

After glancing at Arthur and obtaining the confirmation from him, he nodded to Reek and handed the rope binding Lissandra and Taliya to a guard stationed at the entrance of the prison .

"Yes sir, you can rest assured!"

The guard took the rope and pulled the two woman to the inside of the cave followed by Arthur who was ignored due to the visible chains restraining him .

. . . .

The prison, which was practically a cave with a few rooms dug inside of it, was not big at all, however, that is to be expected as they usually kill and don't take prisoners . This was only a special case where they needed to extract pieces of information from the captured prisoners . Gutcha said that they rarely resorted to torture as the prisoners are always scared senseless when they just see their appearance and they would spill everything they knew . As for the uncooperative types, they are, of course, tortured but they would give up after a few rounds too, with the exception of the weird young man .

"Come on! I don't have all day, I have to guard the entrance!"

The guard's attitude changed 180 degrees when they walked away from the two captains . Violently, he pulled the rope binding the two women, almost making them fall which resulted in receiving a piercing glare from the maid . It didn't seem like he was looking at living beings but just inferior livestock which is normal as Humans are an alien race in their territory . However, what seems a bit off is that from Gutcha's mouth, Arthur heard that the strong beings who came from beyond the wall of flames looked similar to Humans, so what lingers in the guard's mouth should not be contempt but fear as these prisoners are of the same Race as these strong experts, or so thought Arthur .

Since the prison was not big, it only took a few minutes to reach a large room which had thick iron bars blocking its entrance, inside the room was a large crowd of people, each minding their own business and divided into several little groups .

The guard used some kind of cylindric device to make the iron bars open up a small hole, enough to fit both ladies, who were pushed by him .

As for Arthur, who was expecting to be thrown there too, he surprisingly wasn't put in the same place . The guard gestured for Arthur to follow him without coming close to him and when they descended a few stairs, an extremely small cold room laid before his eyes, only a figure was silently sitting on what seemed to be a rough bed and when the two of them entered, the young man opened his eyes and lifted his head whilst happily smiling .

'I guess I should have expected this . '

Seeing that he was dumped next to the strange young man, Arthur shook his head and remained silent . With an appearance like his, he wouldn't look that shady but if we add those long thick chains all over his body, it's perfectly normal for the guard to think of him as a dangerous fellow . He wasn't even tossed like the two ladies, the guard just opened the gate and waited for him to enter without uttering a single word then he darted out of the cold room in a split second .

"Oh! A new roommate, pleased to meet you!"

The young man walked to Arthur and stretched his hand in greeting, however, the latter ignored him and didn't even spare him a glance . He may have fooled the others with such a friendly attitude but one appraisal was enough for Arthur to know who he is and how strong he is .

Vyncent (Race: Human): Realm: Immortal 6th Grade .

'No wonder he was not broken by all that torture, must've been an act from the very beginning . But what are his motives for all of this?'

It was indeed intriguing but Arthur does not have the time to ponder about that or waste it on this young man . Vyncent looked like any normal teenage boy, a blonde hair and hazy green eyes, it could not be denied that he was handsome and except his poor attitude from the current circumstances, anyone from Astria would mistake him for a Noble or a wealthy figure .

Arthur's goals are to first locate and rescue Sonia and Mary if they are here then he'll need to either find if this world is isolated like Astria or not, if it is not then he needs to go to Earth and if that doesn't work then he'll need to find a good Spatial Master and possess him, in that way, he'll create a Spatial Tunnel himself, however, the chances of finding a Master in Spatial Laws is extremely meager, even in high-Realm World or Planet .

"Oh! I didn't notice the chains in your hands, excuse me!"

After seeing that Arthur was not going to talk to him, Vyncent said that and bowed his head in apology whilst keeping the usual friendly smile .

This kind of character reminded Arthur of good old Kilan, the leader of the Monster Race in the Underworld, however, Kilan had a unique cold aura around him which made him less friendly than Vyncent, who really looked like a friendly guy . Arthur would have greeted him back, if not for the appraisal result and the things he heard from Gutcha .

The room they were in only had one bed and nothing else, although the coldness didn't affect Arthur, he could still feel it and there was even a small layer of steam on the roof, which had many water holes .

It was an unusual place to build a prison, especially with the presence of water, which should not be here when the surface is a literal desert . They are not that far underground for water to exist, barely ten or so meters .

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Despite being totally ignored by the other party, Vyncent still kept his smile and sat on his bed while throwing a couple of glances to newcomer every now and then .

It has already been an hour since he arrived yet this grey-haired man sat cross-legged in a coin with his eyes closed and did nothing . Vyncent started to contemplate the chance that his new roommate is a mute or an eccentric person . He tried probing him but wasn't able to perceive anything which meant that either the other party's Realm is higher than his or it is covered by some kind of treasure or technique .

It's been a while since he got a roommate and Vyncent was feeling talkative yet this black-robed man was just sitting there, completely silent . Vyncent tried beginning a conversation more than one time in the course of the last hour but he felt as if he was talking to a wall, heck! At least the wall will stare at him but Arthur just didn't pay him any heed whatsoever .

'Maybe I should give him a gift before he can talk? . . . but they took my ring so I have naught but two dry pieces of bread and if he is Spirit Realm or above, going hungry is the least of his worries . . . \*sigh\* what to do . . . '

As Vyncent stretched his hand from under a torn cloth to grab a piece of bread to enjoy it, the figure at the corner of the room finally made a move .

Vyncent's hand froze as he stared at Arthur, waiting for him to do something or strike a conversation to relieve the boredom of the last long hour, yet what the young man expected never happened .

All he saw was a black nebula forming in front of the grey-haired man, then the nebula contracted until it took the same exact appearance of the grey-haired man .

'What just hap-p-pened!'

At the middle of his surprise, another astonishing thing occurred, the grey-haired man before Vyncent's eyes transformed into black flames which quickly dispersed into the air and vanished in a matter of seconds .

Curious and flabbergasted, Vyncent stood up and approached the grey-haired man who was formed from the black nebula . He looked exactly similar, even the chains were present . The man sat cross-legged with his eyes closed, just like the previous posture .

"E-emmm, friend . . . "

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ONE HOUR EARLIER

When Taliya and Lissandra entered the big cell full of people . The head maid looked around in a rush and dragged the silent Lissandra with her, almost making her fall again .

Her head turned left and right, searching for her missing niece . The usually calm Taliya looked distressed with flushed face and fastly beating heart if Alina is not here then it only means that something happened to her . Gutcha described the famous girl with silver-hair and from his descriptions, Taliya was sure that he was talking about Alina, the Princess of the Royal Demon Family .

"Alina!"

Once Taliya saw the figure of a silver-haired girl come out from a small group of people, she immediately dashed toward the girl and hugged her before the latter or anyone around could react .

As they were both new prisoners, many people gathered around them due to their curiosity, Alina was one of them and since she was famous and helpful, all of the prisoners present respected here and followed her instructions .

The princess was just in the middle of talking about something with her group when she heard from nearby that two new prisoners had been thrown inside the cell so she wanted to welcome them and assure them as mostly every prisoner who is thrown here is either scared stiff or had been tortured then thrown here .

She is known for her miraculous healing skills, so very few did dislike here if not none .

"A-aunt Taliya?"

Unable to believe who was hugging her, Alina stood in total disbelief, she couldn't comprehend why her aunt is here . You have to know that this is not Astria and simply getting here is extremely hard . She was kidnapped more than a year ago so she managed to accumulate quite a bit of knowledge, and the method to come and go between this place and Astria was also known by her .

"Yes! It is me, your aunt . I have come to get you back!"

With a relieved smile on her usually cold face, Taliya stroked her niece's head lovingly and checked the condition of her body, ascertaining that there were no injuries .

"Alina, who is he?"

A white-haired demon with a half-grown horn and an eye-patch on his left eye walked near the duo and looked warily at Taliya . A well-hidden short ten-inch blade was under the cloth on his back, his hand was touching it as he walked near Taliya . From the looks of it, he was not that trustful of her, especially on how she suddenly appeared and hugged their leader . He just needs one word or signs from Alina to attack .

It is quite unfortunate for this young man that Taliya was an expert compared to him, their Level difference was just too big and such a movement was easily perceived by the maid, who pulled Alina behind her and stared at the eye-patched young man while coldly saying

"To even think about raising a blade against me, you must be reckless, boy . "

She may not match Arthur or even his Death Knight, however, these prisoners are not experts either and amongst them, very few are high-leveled and fewer are of the same level as her . A cold killing intent emanated from Taliya's eyes, suffocating the young man and forcing him to take a step back, nonetheless, he didn't back down and was about to take out his short blade when the silent Alina interrupted him and got between the two .

With a panicked face, she motioned for him to stop and hastily said

"Lucas stop! She is my aunt! The one I've talked to you about!"

Alina may be their leader, and he has blind trust towards her, furthermore, she is liked by quite a lot of people from the Pigolo Tribe who go as far as giving them extra meals thanks to her healing hands and friendly attitude, however, there are still some who wants to get rid of her due to an internal conflict, and for a tribe with such a prowess, it shouldn't be too hard to capture her aunt and use a strange technique to make a clone or an illusion that would fool Alina, or so thought Lucas .

\*\*\*\*

Somehow, Alina managed to calm down the young man and make her aunt refrain from literally cutting him down . Taliya may be gentle to her family members but except for them, she is a ruthless warrior and if not for Arthur being strong enough, he would have been tortured by her at several occasions with the first one being when they just accidentally crossed each other's road .

"A-aunt Taliya, how did you come here?"

This was the question that was bothering Alina the most . She knew how difficult it is to come here from Astria with her aunt's ability, although she's decently strong, she shouldn't be able to come here without any external help . Gaining the trust of most of the prisoners and making some tribe members like her, the demon princess was easily able to deduce such a conclusion .

Her line of sight changed as she stared behind her aunt, specifically at the silent Lissandra, who hasn't spoken or moved an inch since they got here .

Even Alina was able to notice her due to the rope tying the two ladies . Taliya didn't give a detailed or honest reply to Alina, she slashed the thick rope wrapped around her waist and instantly cut it, freeing herself from this useless binding . She then surveyed the crowd around them and casually replied

"How I got here does not matter, we have to go back immediately, this place is dangerous . "

Taliya looked to ascertain if the two friends of Arthur, Mary and Sonia are here or not . He did help her a lot but for now, her highest priority is to get Alina out of here, it's no place to live and if she finds Arthur's friends, she'll bring them along too repay the favor .

By no means did she think of breaking her promise but she'll only be willing to follow Arthur if Alina is back safe and sound .

As her eyes looked around and inspected every person, her sight fell on a laying figure not too far from her position .

From the description that Arthur gave her, the figure laying on some torn clothes appeared to be Sonia, the younger sister of the woman managing his sect . She looked a bit similar to Anastassia but only a bit, her hair was different and her facial complexions were a bit pale .

A bit annoyed that her aunt ignored her and gave her a half-assed reply, Alina didn't fret about it albeit her inner annoyance and frowned when she saw her aunt focus on the female human laying a couple of meters away from her .

The demon princess only knew that the female is called Sonia and she had another friend who kept taking care of her . She tried giving her a helping hand but her friend and even her strongly objected, saying that they did not need a help from a demon, a royal one at that .

Before Alina could ask again, her aunt walked near the laid Sonia to examine her only to be stopped by a tall female . It was Mary, who went missing way before Sonia, she didn't have the axe that Lucy gifted her and a scar could be seen on her neck despite covering all her face with a veil .

Back then, Mary had a sort of childish behavior, being easily enraged but that didn't stop her from being forgiven by Lucy and they even became close friends . Lucy would always tell Arthur how much she missed talking with Mary when they were in the Underworld .

The relationship between Lucy and Sonia is still a bit weird, as for Arthur, he stayed out of their way and rarely talked to them, even when Lucy persisted that he should socialize more, she was rejected by the pretext of having her is more than enough for him .

It was kind of true as Arthur only needed his wife and daughter, however, that didn't mean he doesn't have any friends, it's just that he does not have the necessary will to fully trust someone other than Lucy, perhaps his past played some part in this .

. . . . .

"What do you think you're doing?"

quite some time have passed and Mary grew a bit stronger but she is still weak compared to an old expert like Taliya, despite that, she didn't back down and stood tall in front of the head maid, not letting her get close to Sonia .

It's been a short time since Sonia came here, she was captured in a very sinister way and since then, the poison that they used to immobilize her worn off but the after effects were not something the captains who captured her had expected .

It is slowly draining her of her Vitality stats, which was extremely weird, even after trying to inquire what type of poison was used, Mary was rejected and almost beaten up .

As per Sonia's words, her status window showed that her Vitality is slowly but surely decreasing and the speed is fastening every day . In just a month, she became unable to walk and a few days ago she fell unconscious with no signs of waking up .

"I'm just trying to help your friend . "



Taliya was not going to force her way, now that she confirmed the presence of both of Arthur's friends, then he certainly knows, as for when he'll act, that is not something she knew because for her, getting out of the prison must be done immediately .

The silver-haired maid took out a Healing Potion that Arthur handed to her and put it on the ground then she turned around and walked toward the prison's thick iron bars .

Mary ignored the bottle and continued taking care of the unconscious Sonia, stroking her cheeks and measuring her temperature . As for Taliya, she went to the prison bars to try something only to be stopped by Lucas who blocked her way and said

"There is no use trying to get out of here, you think that after all the time we passed here, we didn't try anything? You'll only make more noise and annoy the guard which will result in him not bringing any food for us today!"

This time, the eye-patched young man didn't hide the blade and instead, pointed it toward Taliya, trying to make her step down but all he got was piercing glare and a chill down his spines .

Alina also sided with Lucas this time and with a flustered expression, she hurriedly said

"Aunt, please calm down! These iron bars are not something that can be cut easily, it'll only bring trouble, please believe me!"

The head maid remained oblivious to the pleas of Alina and the panicking crowd .

She retrieved her two short blades and motioned for the people block her path to go to the side while seriously saying

"We won't know until we try . "

.....

AN HOUR LATER .

Arthur used his Dark Cloud to create a clone of himself that'll act as a decoy then with the use of [Faster Than Death], his Race ability and the Nature attribute and Plant Magic, he was able to freely leave the prison and inspect the territory of the tribe .

His sense had already found Mary and Sonia, with the latter being in a tricky situation but it wasn't death threatening so he didn't immediately act .

Now that the first stage of his goal has been achieved, all that was left is to send them back . It shouldn't be too hard to get them out of the prison and bring them to the big square . He had the Warp Device but he can't just lead them there with his real appearance, he needs to possess someone of high importance or else the whole tribe will gang up to kill him .

He teleported multiple times while he was possessing a body of an extremely small plant . He traveled through the Earth, barely visible to anyone . It was a small green plant appearing and vanishing in a split second, each time, it'll cross a distance of 150 meters .

The reason Arthur waited one whole hour is for Gutcha to finish his part of the plan and proceed to the next phase . First, he should speak with the Major as it is necessary then he is tasked to ask every possible person about any Spatial Master in this tribe or the other two . Arthur could not just go around and search every person by possessing them . Having someone do the hard work for him is way easier and more practical .

Arthur spent a couple of minutes to thoroughly investigate the surroundings of the prison but all he saw was desert, the soil was dry and unfertile, the weather was as hot as ever and apart from stationed guards, there was nothing amiss .

He followed Gutcha's description and headed straight to the living area of the high officials and experts of the tribe . Gutcha was a bit uncertain but he said that all the Majors and above lived in that place .

With the body of an extremely small plant, Arthur used the ground to teleport countless time and head straight to his destination, expecting to find a suitable prey to possess .

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Rows of well-built houses made from a special stone that Arthur never saw were lined up in front of his sight . His Sense quickly spread and covered part of the residential area and searching for an official . Gutcha said that this area was the high officials of the tribe live, so anyone he finds here is most definitely a good prey .

Arthur had a lot of limitations in the abilities of his Race after a couple of evolutions, they were not too drastic and some of them even gave him unimaginable benefits .

For a short amount of time, he can possess someone with a higher Realm than his but Peak Grade Divine Realm is the maximum limit . If it is someone who has lower Realm than his then possessing him would be an easy feat . As for God, it becomes a bit trickier . He can still lay dormant in a God's body as long as he wasn't discovered, or he could weaken the Mental State of a God then possess him . Coping with the recovery of his Mental State, even a God is not strong enough to resist a sudden invasion from an alien party into his body .

In the body of the small plant and adding [Faster Than Death], Arthur was undetectable as he appeared inside a house after another, appraising one person after another . He was searching for a specific person and that is Gutcha's direct superior . If he randomly possessed someone useless, it would disrupt the plan by a fair bit so if he just patiently searched for this Major Kal's house and possessed him, then with a decent authority, there would be no problem navigating through the territory and safely guiding Mary and co back to Astria .

'Oh?'

As his Sense spread with every teleport he made, he stumbled a house bigger than the rest, it's a bit false to call it a house as it is at least five times wider than the rest and there were even two guards stationed at the front gates .

Since a big fish appeared, Arthur didn't hold back and teleported inside of it, all that was seen was a small green plant suddenly appear on one of the empty room inside this house .

Arthur could sense four presences with three being weak, only in the Spirit Realm and one who is at the peak of the Deity Realm, only a step away from becoming an Immortal .

Without hesitation, Arthur teleported near the strongest presence only to see a well-dressed monster . He wore a red noble-like dress with three small metallic pieces hanging on his chest . Honestly, Arthur didn't know how to differentiate their ages by looking at their appearances as they all looked hideous with some scarier than others .

'Appraise!'

Hakim (Race: Pigolo): Realm: Peak stages Deity .

He could be considered a real powerhouse on Astria, even the strongest, but in a place like the Underworld, there would be hundreds of peak deities or even Immortals roaming the city . There was even an army of thousands of zombies and ghouls being at the Spirit Realm . Individually they are weak, but defeating an Immortal with such a big number shouldn't be a problem, however, the consequences wouldn't be light either as half of the zombies would perish in the process .

Hakim was peacefully writing something on a parchment, his expression was calm and he didn't seem to have noticed the plant that grew out of his stone floor just a few meters away from him .

Arthur waited a couple of minutes as he was pondering on whether he should possess this one or just continue to search for Kal .

If this was a Major then it would be ideal to control him . Unfortunately, Gutcha knowledge about the upper echelons of the tribe was not sufficient so Arthur didn't know how to find out a person's rank from their clothes . Suffice to say, this Hakim sure looked like a high-official and not a mere captain .

'Well, at least his position shouldn't be too low for him to own such a big house . '

With that thought in mind, the plant vanished and a split second later, a black whirlpool appeared next to Hakim, before he could even react or blink, his vision turned black and he was possessed by Arthur .

You successfully possessed Hakim

. . . .

A row of pointless notifications, it's either skills he already had maxed or a stats addition .

'It would be convenient if there is a way to fuse skills or create something like an upgrade of all these useless ones . '

Just as he possessed Hakim, the chains sound rang in his ears, forcing him to remember their damnable existence . It's fortunate that Hakim's robe was quite long so it shouldn't be hard to cover them, as for their noise then he'll just activate [Sneak], [Terrain Focus] and [No sound, no action] .

Sneak can be permanently activated if it's maxed and it'll make him less detectable and the noise he emits unnoticeable .

Terrain Focus(Passive)(Max Lv): The user has 10% of passing unnoticed when he does any action, he will also gain 5% Dexterity as long as he remains undetected .

No sound, no action (passive)(Max Lv): The user chooses one object he is wearing to make it emit almost no noise, the effect is tripled if it's used for daggers and decreases by one fold if it is used on heavy weapons

This was originally a skill obtained from someone who had the assassin class, it is rather useful and in almost every fight, Arthur has it activated . With those three and a concealment skill, there should be no one who is able to notice the chains . Arthur didn't bother hiding them on Astria because he didn't need to but in such situation, he had too .

Surprisingly, this newly possessed body was easy to adjust too and the feeling was similar to controlling a Human or any humanoid being in general .

With the chains concealed, Arthur dropped his head and looked at the parchment which was being written by Hakim . Half of the smooth looking paper was written in a weird language .

'En! This is the Pigolo Language . . . . easy as always . '

With a skill letting him learn any language of any new Race he possesses, Arthur was able to acquire their language the moment he possessed Gutcha fallen comrade, who died at his hands .

Upon a further look, Arthur was a bit shocked to see that the internal conflict that he heard of from Gutcha was more serious than he thought . Moreover, the second written part, which was not finished, explained how the attack that was going to happen, as for what attack and on who, it wasn't mentioned .

It's a shame that Arthur couldn't obtain the memory of those he possessed, it would be useful yet it would cause serious damages to him . Imagine having the memory of thousands upon thousands of lives, it would make him go mad if his mind didn't burst already .

He experienced a few lifetimes of beasts and it already damaged him, so what can be said about thousands of them? It would be catastrophic, even if he did survive that, he wouldn't be himself anymore .

Arthur folded the parchment and stood up to leave the study room . His destination was obviously the prison . The further he got his friends out, the better . He needs to focus on finding the Spatial Master and to do that, he needs to ensure their safety first .

He already got rid of Bucama and his people, and with all the defense lines he put around his sect, there shouldn't be any danger .

. . .

Soon, Arthur left Hakim's house and was greeted by the two guards at his house's gates . They performed a formal weird bow and shouted loudly

"Greetings! Colonel Hakim!"

Although he didn't know Hakim's behavior, Arthur wasn't a fool either . He waved his hands in response and nodded his head . He walked towards the direction of the prison . The two guards followed him leaving only a small distance between them . They vigilantly looked around, afraid of any sneak attack .

Arthur was inwardly shaking his head as their behavior is a bit exaggerated, however, maybe he's mistaking and this Colonel Rank is higher than he thought?

He wasn't well versed in the Army ranks and didn't know a lot about them, even in his past life . For him, a Colonel is probably something at the middle of the echelon, not too bad yet not too good, but it is certain that it's higher than a Major so he did indeed strike a big fish .

Having only walked a hundred meters, there wasn't a person who didn't greet him, they would stop doing their chores and perform that bow . Only a few minutes have passed yet Arthur felt like he was a president, having everybody look at him with admiration and respect . It felt good yet a bit uncomfortable as he is not the actual person .

With a friendly smile plastered on the ugly face of Hakim, he made his way to the prison with no one stopping him or questioning him .

'It isn't a difficult plan after all . . . '

----

Arthur just exited the residential area for the high officials when a strange earpiece that he appraised earlier suddenly vibrated and a panicked voice rang in his ears . Apparently, this was a communication device used by the high-ranked officials and they would only be used in emergency situations .

Arthur really wanted to ignore it and pretend as if he heard nothing but the damn earpiece that was like a small grey sphere suddenly emitted a secondary loud noise which was similar to a beast's screech .

Such noise was obviously heard by his two guards behind and some of the people around him, who were either respectfully greeting him or admiring him from afar .

'Tch! Someone is definitely playing with me!'

He was just rejoicing about the easiness of the supposedly difficult plan when this happened . If this wasn't instant karma then what the hell could it be!

Fortunately, the emergency he heard was about several mysterious figures invading the Purple Fading Crystal Mine that belonged to the Pigolo Tribe .

The Purple Fading Crystal was a special type of material used to activate instant teleportation and several other mechanisms . In a way, it can also be used as a currency along with Red Spirit Stones but the latter was of much higher quality . Albeit that fact, the Pigolo Tribe paid special attention to the mine, protected and valued the enormous amount of Purple Fading Crystal that was procured from it .

By no means was it a meager amount and twenty percent of the tribe's wealth came from that mine, accidents such as this one could be said to never have occurred as the mine is extremely close to the main headquarters of the tribe and there was a Major permanently staying next to it, to protect and guard against any suspicious actions or invading enemies .

If this strange earpiece, which was called 'Clarity Call', rang in any Colonel's ear, it means that the situation is dire . It's unfortunate that Arthur didn't know that but he was still planning on checking what was going on as he could not just act oblivious to the whole matter after the loud noise was heard by all the surrounding people .

"Call the three Lieutenants and tell them to bring their Companies to the Purple Fading Crystal Mine North-East of here!"

With an authoritative and cold voice, Hakim ordered the two guards following him and darted to the North, heading for the Mine . Using his Immortal Sense, which was less accurate but could spread wider than the Sixth Sense, he sensed a gigantic cave which was most likely the mine, it was exactly thirty-two kilometers to the North-East and there were hundreds of living beings present inside of it . There was turbulent and chaotic airflow at the entrance, which was probably where whatever is occurring is happening at .

Thirty-two kilometers, that is a distance Arthur could cross in literally three seconds on Astria, however, due to the thickness of the Nether Energy and the difference between the two worlds, albeit having a sky-high Agility stats, his speed significantly decreased and he was only able to arrive there after half a minute . . . .

He kept his original form and didn't rely on any movement technique or the lightning form or else the time spent would be halved .

There was an almost invisible dome enveloping the Mine from outside, it was very similar to a barrier, it had a greenish light that was barely unnoticeable . Arthur was only able to distinguish it using his [Eyes of the Noble Sea] . The eyes of Hakim pulsated with a dazzling blue light as Arthur squinted his eyes and stared at the entrance of the cave, where hundreds of presences could be felt .

Almost everyone belonged to the Pigolo Tribe except six figures which wore a long brown robe covering their whole body from head to toe and each one of them was wielding short daggers .

'\*sniff\* \*sniff\* Ooooooh . . '

Arthur smirked as his nose caught the sense of poison, with maxed [Poison Mastery] and a suitable body like Hakim's which could activate quite a few of good passive skills, Arthur was able to notice the poison which was perfectly hidden as no liquid appeared on the sharp edges of the short daggers . Not only could he sense the poison, he also knew that it was the lethal type, which would instantly invade the person's heart and drain every last bit of life in it .

Whether it's [Poison Immunity] or even [Acid immunity] Arthur had them all maxed, however, he could not help but feel a bit startled and curious . This was close to the headquarters of the Pigolo Tribe, one of the three leading forces in this large desert, so it is not common to see some bold people who are willing to invade such a large force foolishly .

'This does not seem right . . . . '

From the looks of it, these six figures were strong but not to the point of being able to overpower the hundreds of raging warriors charging at them .

A single soldier is at least Lv500 with some being Lv800 and above, there were even two captains clashing with the six figures, who were only at the peak of the Spirit Realm . Arthur didn't even have to interfere but if the situation was like this, why did the Clarity Call activate?

This question was soon answered as a loud 'boom' noise entered his earlobes, it was soon followed by the change of the winds, which turned from calm to raging tornados .

A fight between Spirit Realm can cause a lot of damage and even change the atmosphere if the intensity of the attacks is high, but not to this point . Arthur was five kilometers away from the entrance yet he could feel the raging airflows .

'It must be a fight between Deities!'

His Sense spread even further, following the source of the noise only to sense two peak Deities fighting high in the sky, ten kilometers to the west of the mine .

'So it is indeed serious, however . . . even with such force, it is still foolish from their part . . . unless . . .'

With his hand crossed and a calm expression, Arthur closed his eyes and pondered for a few seconds before opened them again and turned his head to the South, where the prison was .

'Unless this is merely a diversion!'

Just as he was going to turn back and head for the prison to hasten the plan, his sense caught two additional Peak Deities joining the fight, now it was three versus one and from the looks of it, the Colonel belonging to the Pigolo Tribe was the one who was in a disadvantage .

Even when he saw the colonel in danger, Arthur didn't even flinch as he wasn't going to waste his time with them but he never expected such a serious situation to happen, this wasn't merely a diversion as he predicted, it was a full-scale attack from another unknown party .

With such noise and fighting, no one would notice a few prisoners fleeing, especially with his help . He wanted to send Astrith but the lightning wolf was in deep slumber, after calling a few times and hearing no response, he gave up and decided to personally go . He wasn't planning on returning to Astria but the others had to as it is not a place for Mortals to live in, a small aftershock of an attack of a Deity can easily kill a Mortal like Alina or even heavily injure Taliya if not cripple her at the spot .

As he was flying using his lightning form, a yellow line passed through countless battlefields where invaders and soldiers and their captains defended against the enemies . Chaos was everywhere, a couple of buildings were being destroyed due to the fights of the big heads and the ground was slowly but surely being bathed in a mix of black and red blood with a stinking bloody stench that Arthur had could never forget, not after what he saw in Bucama's world . Albeit the sudden invasion and the extremely big number of the unknown brown robbed enemies, the Pigolo Tribe had a well-composed and strong army, with the orders of the captains and majors, they were slowly pushing back the invaders, however, not all places had a favorable situation .

Actually, before he transformed into his lightning form, Arthur sensed the death of the Colonel who was fighting the three peak Deities . He purposely let them go them live as killing them would cause more trouble to the tribe and buy him more time .

Arthur just passed a certain location in a flash but a moment later, he reappeared in it again with a complex look . He sensed Gutcha's presence along with Reek and another who was at the Heavenly Realm .

Surrounding those three were four robe individuals with two at the Heavenly Realm, one being at the early stages of the Deity Realm and the last was only at the peak of the Spirit Realm . These were not

that strong compared to the ones Arthur saw earlier, however, they were more than enough to defeat these two captains and the Major .

After hesitating a bit, Arthur rushed beside them, completely taking them by surprise . Their distorted faces, which were way uglier than their present expression, drastically changed when Arthur appeared . Reek's angry eyes stared at the Colonel with proudness and arrogance .

"How about you repeat what you just said!"

With both of his hands on his thick waist and an arrogant posture, Reek faced the four robed individuals whilst showing a row of pointy teeth and a sneering expression .

Gutcha stared dumbly at Hakim before he did a quick low bow and faced the enemies with his spear in hand . As for Major Kal, his eyes, which were worried and anxious, relaxed but he didn't dare spout nonsense and could only glare angrily at Reek, who was proudly showing off when the colonel appeared .

'A second ago, he was scared witless and even proposed to us that we surrender . . . to think that his true face would appear only in extreme situations . . . '

Major Kal shook his head in disappointment and tightly held a long silver spear which was pointed at one of the Heavenly Realm figures . Every Colonel was at least in the middle stages of the Deity Realm, so Major Kal had to only take care of the rest, only the Deity Realm person was the one that bothered him as he was not his match .

Only freaks like Lucy and Arthur, who can defy the nature of everything would be able to frog jump a Realm or two to face Divine beings and Gods . For a Heavenly Realm, it is almost impossible to defeat a Deity, the same thing applies for a Deity and an Immortal, the difference was just too big, adding the variable which was the techniques and circumstances, this would make it more so impossible .

"Go help the East side, the Battalion is falling and the death count is increasing, there are some innocent bystanders too . "

Arthur looked at the resolute Major Kal and instructed him with the same authoritative tone as before, his expression was calm and his voice was cold with a hint of killing intent .

Being only a Major, Kal nodded his head seriously and left with his silver spear in hands, he didn't even bother instructing the two captains . Just as he was their superior, Hakim was the superior of his superior, and in times of crisis or even training, they must obey the orders immediately with no questioning whatsoever, such rules have been forcefully engraved in their mind since the moment they joined the army of the Pigolo Tribe .

Reek paid no heed to the departing Major Kal, as long as the Colonel was still present, his contemptuous look and arrogant look never vanished, instead, it grows stronger every passing second .

"Audacious! To think that a mere captain dares to act so arrogantly in front of us!"

One of the two Heavenly Realm individuals dashed toward Reek and stretched his hand, preparing to smash his head . In return, Reek maintained the arrogant posture, not the least bit afraid of the incoming danger as he was certain that the Colonel would save his life and defeat these enemies,



however, reality was always cruel and Reek came to know this when the enemy was just a few meters away from him yet the Colonel didn't even move a single finger . His face froze and his smirk stiffened, he was just about to raise his weapon to act but it was too late, he was but a Spirit Realm, facing a Heavenly Realm, more so giving him time to approach, there was no way he would be able to block or dodge .

'poof'

The hand crushed Reek's head, making blood splatter across the ground and throwing brain matter all over the place, Gutcha's face turned white and a look of shock appeared on his ugly face, as for the enemy, he just kicked the headless corpse of Reek and harrumphed .

He too, was surprised by the fact that the Colonel didn't act, when he raised his hand to look at Hakim, he saw the other party look back at him with his hands folded and a look of amusement plastered on his ugly face .

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"C-colonel . . . . "

The words couldn't come out of Gutcha's mouth, he was just too afraid and surprised when he saw a comrade of his, despite his dislike for him, die brutally in front of his eyes with no means of retaliating or even a simple resistance . The disparity in strength is just too great .

Anyone present, including Gutcha, expected the Colonel to interfere, after all, the enemy attacked a subordinate of his, someone of his tribe, so it is his duty to defend the weak, just as it is his job to protect the tribe from invaders .

"Don't mind him, he was a nuisance that should have died long ago . Now that we're alone, how about we speak for a couple of seconds?"

The astonishment of Gutcha never stopped increasing as he heard the weird words the Colonel just uttered, it's as if he wasn't on his side . This thought crossed the captain's mind and made him soaked with cold sweat, he unconsciously took a step back .

Before he could think of a suitable route or an efficient plan to flee from this place, Gutcha saw the colonel advance toward the brown-robed figure who stood there, gazing at Hakim from under the dark hood, which covered his facial features and his whole appearance .

Arthur didn't have all day, he wasn't going to personally waste time to fight these small fries as it was unnecessary, however, to gain a better knowledge of the whole situation, possessing one wouldn't require that much time .

If he is planning to stay here on a longer term, having a broad knowledge about the enemies would facilitate things for him if he wants to change sides, especially with a suitable body to possess .

From the Appraisal, Arthur was able to see their Race, which was the Desert Gargoyles, however, from his knowledge and from the stories and notes of Zodiak, who adventured in many stars and planes, Gargoyles have never resembled Humans or Humanoid figures, not even the least bit . With a talent in manipulating pure Darkness and an evil nature, they are usually despised and cast out in the edges of

the world, so this confused Arthur quite a bit, nonetheless, by possessing one, he would gain a fair amount of knowledge about their body, skills and so on .

After only walking a few steps, when he was only five meters from the closest enemy, the one who just killed Reek, Arthur's figure suddenly vanished from their sight and by the next second, you could only hear a small noise resembling the fall of a corpse on the ground .

A second is a short time for Mortals, but a mere second is enough for Gods to kill thousands of Mortals, with a power equal to a God, killing these four, who are slightly stronger than a Mortal, is nothing to the current Arthur . Although saying they are slightly stronger than Mortals is an exaggeration, for Arthur, a Mortal or a Deity are no different, they would die with only one attack .

The four lifeless corpses of these Desert Gargoyles fell on the ground, under their brown hood, their eyes were full of disbelief and unwillingness to die, it was too sudden and even if they were a hundred times stronger, the result would have been the same .

With a small manipulation of Dark Magic, invading their minds and corrupting in an instant is but a child's play for Arthur . It was a function he just discovered as he usually uses this strong Magic in a physical way rather than a mental one . It is unknown if it works on God or not but it is unlikely as they are beings who transcended and the difference between them and a Deity is big .

...

Gutcha stood there, petrified as he could no longer move a muscle when he saw the four enemies die instantly . He didn't even see how they died, although he was stricken with immense fear, he wasn't dumb enough to think that a Colonel would be that strong . Strange and incomprehensible thoughts surged in his mind, he even assumed that the Colonels were hiding their powers from the very beginning but that assumptions were just too biased and stupid .

Soon, Gutcha's eyes witnessed the Colonel appear near one of the four corpses and transform into a black whirlpool which lasted less than a second and disappeared inside the corpses . If he didn't see this process in the past, he would think that he was surely hallucinating .

Back on Astria, Arthur did the exact same thing to his comrade . It was something inexplicable and adding his position, he didn't dare to question what was done or even think about asking, after all, the most dangerous thing in this world is the unknown, you could fear the gods but what is more fearful than these beings is what you don't know, that if you knew them, you would rather die than live any extra second, that is how Gutcha thought .

For him, bowing and kneeling for anyone is worth keeping his life, it is still a much better fate than death . However, Arthur wouldn't share his thoughts, for someone who sought death more times than he could count, sometimes it is better to just die than face horror no one would be able to fathom . Ranging from something as tragic as Lucy's past to the torture the people from Bucama's world experienced .

The fastly beating heart of Gutcha calmed down after a few seconds had passed, when he saw that strange whirlpool, he was certain that it is Arthur . Since ancient times, there was only one evil Race known to be able to possess or corrupt other beings, and that is Devils, a Race matching the Angels if not stronger .

Gutcha also thought that since Arthur was able to leisurely use someone else's body then he must be a Devil but there was a few inconsistencies, nonetheless, what he was sure about is that Arthur is by no means Human .

He wasn't sure that if someone tortured him, he would or would not spit everything he knew about Arthur, but for his life, he would do anything so it is highly probable that he would spit the beans . He feared Arthur the most, but that is only second to Death itself .

It is unfortunate, however, that with the detonator that Arthur planted inside of him, coupled with a special poison, the second he diverted from the plan, started planning behind his back or spoke even a single word concerning Arthur, the tall and hideous body of Gutcha would only turn into minced meat and leftover liquid from his burned brain, a tragic death indeed, unwanted by anyone . What's more unfortunate is that Gutcha didn't know that, he only knew that Arthur planted something weird looking inside of him, as for its function, he assumed it was like a radar, assuming the original user to locate his position wherever he was .

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A row of notifications appeared in Arthur's vision . He stored the Colonel's body in his ring and entered this one, the process was smooth as always and the same second he possessed the Desert Gargoyle, he was able to move the body freely as if it was his own . Arthur didn't exactly know how his Race functioned but the amount of time it takes to possess and move the body has become a lot shorter when he just came to this world, it would take about three seconds to possess and more than ten seconds to stabilize the body and get used to it .

'You have successfully possessed Gilot (Race: Desert Gargoyle): Realm: Deity Early Stages .

'You have obtained a new skill(passive): [Gargoylan Language] .

'You have obtained a new skill(passive): [Gargoylan Bloodline]: 00 . 07% (99 . 93% to fully awaken)

You have obtained a new skill(active): [Earth Attribute: Advanced]

You have obtained a new skill(active Lv14): [Dark Wings]: Gargoyles are angels of night, with fully grown black wings, the user's flying speed would be multiplied by 1 . 5 times .

Additional effect: Releases Evil Aura causing any target within a hundred meters to weaken by 3% and cause damage equal to 0 . 5% of their full health every 10 seconds .

Cost: 25,000 Mana every second .

Cooldown: None .

The list was long but only [Dark Wings] and [Gargoylan Bloodline] caught Arthur's attention, especially the bloodline thingy, it was too sudden but enticing . Gargoyles are not weak creatures, it's true that is disliked by many but that's because of their evil nature and cruel behavior . Arthur recalled a note written by Zodiak which stated, quote by quote

'I once stumbled upon a mysterious Shrine at the corner of the Heaven and Hell Universe, it was an isolated star called 'The Dark Ice Star' . Honestly, I got in a big trouble with one of the local Devil Lords but what was more troublesome is entering it, the thick miasma was harmful even with my Dark Cloak . .

. . I seem to be diverting from the main issue, what I found in that shrine is beyond belief and in the process, if it was not a nest full of gargoyles, I would have dived deeper . I was lucky to survive as they seemed to be enslaved and couldn't come out of the shrine or else I wouldn't be here, writing this journal . . . . '

Such strange places that he never heard of were often mentioned in Zodiak's notes which is why he didn't pay them much importance at first, but as time passed, he came to discover that these were not just simple notes, a mighty figure such as Zodiak wouldn't just write a journal of all of his experiences just on a whim, what was weirded is that it is not full, it was a thick journal but half of it is empty, only yellow paper, which became dusty due to its extremely old age .

'Show me details about the Gargoylan Bloodline'

A lot of people didn't know but the System could be used in a lot of ways, whether it is detailed information about a skill you have or something else, it's helpfulness is beyond limits, even to someone such as Arthur .

Bloodline: A sequence of direct ancestors especially in a pedigree, it can be of any ancient creature as long as it was strong enough to produce a bloodline which carries special characteristics or unique skills .

Currently, the user has 4 active bloodlines .

Gargoylan Bloodline: 00 . 07%

Geo Dragon Bloodline: 0 . 004%

Titan Bloodline: 50%

Wyrms Bloodline: 74 . 8%

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Seeing something completely new, Arthur was flabbergasted for a few moments as he stared at the blue window in front of him . It's the first time that he discovered this, previously, he thought that all bloodlines were the same, for example, once he got a drop of titan's blood, he would have its bloodline but it seems that there is a large difference . Of course, different bloodlines grant different kinds of powers, just like there are ancient and godly bloodlines, there are also useless ones, however, for Arthur, nothing can be useless, even if it increased his strength by a mere 1%, it is still worth acquiring .

From the looks of it, the Wyrms bloodline has the highest percentage . It's to be expected since Arthur possessed a lot of ancient corpses made only of broken bones, most of them were snake-shaped which were subspecies of the Wyrms, which is an ancient Race with a high standing and a commendable power .

It was unknown what will if the percentage reaches 100 but it must only be a good thing for Arthur, however, reaching 100% is easier said than done . Arthur possessed more than ten thousand snake species, coupled with different elemental Wyrms and so on, and to obtain more, it'll take some time, even on Astria .

'Maybe I can ask the ARK later about it . From his annoying clone, Arthur knew that the ARK is a purely scientific creation that has a vast knowledge no one could obtain, it must be like a Heavenly Library, but the problem is if it'll answer him or not .

Arthur pushed all these thoughts to the side and stared at Gutcha, who remained silent and just looked at him with a mix of fear and hesitation, it's as if he wanted to say something but didn't have the guts to do it .

With a solemn voice, Arthur used the Gargoyle's mouth to talk

"Go hide in a safe place . . . . also, it is better if you focus on finding the Spatial Master, the sooner the better . "

Now that his suspicions were cleared, Gutcha clenched his fists tightly and nodded his head before turning around and rushing far away from this hellish place . The deal between them was clear, if Arthur successfully achieves his goal then Gutcha will be freed .

Although Arthur seemed like a ruthless and cold person, he never was a person who didn't uphold his promises . They started off as enemies, that is indeed true, but that didn't mean they should be enemies for life . They weren't archenemies, no one held a grudge against the other and if we're talking about a grudge, Gutcha only disliked Taliya as she was the one who tortured him, apart from her, he didn't even think of double-crossing Arthur or acting against him, quite the opposite in fact, he would rather build a good relationship with him .

If anyone of his tribe heard his thoughts, they would treat him as a traitor and execute him on the spot, but he was sure that apart from him, there are countless people in this tribe who wanted to leave .

The life is not bad, each had their own shelter and never starved but a monotonous life was boring and in times of war, even the civilians would be used as disposable pawns .

When Arthur was sure that Gutcha was out of danger, he waved his hand and stored the Gargoyle's body into his storage and maintained his real appearance . Since there is chaos everywhere, the plan to send the prisoners back to Astria wouldn't be difficult . With the body of the Gargoyle and the Colonel, it would be a piece of cake to infiltrate the tribe once again once everything was settled .

Arthur's body emitted crackling noise as Arthur started walking but the sound soon stopped as his figure transformed into a black shadow that crossed a thousand meters within the blink of an eye, with such a speed, amongst the various fights scattered in the territory of the Pigolo Tribe, no expert was able to notice him .

Surprisingly, Arthur spotted a few Immortals clashing against each other but he completely disregarded them and headed toward the prison .

As he was heading toward the prison, Arthur noticed something that kept bothering him since he arrived at this world . He felt as if his speed, or maybe his overall powers decreased, it wasn't a big deal where his whole prowess was affected, but the change was still felt . The numbers on the Status Window didn't change and the presence of the chains proved that his body still had immense strength, it's just that something didn't feel right . Another inquiry was added to the list of questions Arthur prepared for the ARK .

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The tension in the prison increased as explosions were heard from the roof, which was the desert around the cave, what was even more frightening is horrific shouting and painful yells were heard, accompanied by helpless cries of help and loud orders of the captains, who were commanding their subordinates .

It wasn't hard for the prisoners to figure out what's happening, the guard didn't even come to inform them or even bother with them, he was so afraid that he locked himself on top of the tower near the cave entrance and hid there . It was a cowardly move but he valued his life and was not a brave warrior or a soldier, in fact, he only did a couple of spars and never had to fight for real, he would only act haughtily in front of the weak prisoners .

"Wh-what should I do? The metal doors of the tower could defend against an attack from a person at the early stages of the Spirit Realm . . . . I shouldn't panic too m-much . . . "

With shaking hands and a distorted face, he sneaked a glance at the usually empty area around the prison only to be thoroughly flabbergasted by the sight .

More than a dozen figures were running straight at the tower with three brown-robed shadows behinds them . Clems, the guard of the prison recognized the person who was bleeding intensely and was helped by three soldiers, he was amongst the dozen rushing straight at the tower and the injured one was a newly appointed Captain . There were eleven soldiers and an injured captain chased by three enemies, two seemed to be under the Spirit Realm and the last one, who held a long wooden staff, was at the early stages of the Spirit Realm .

Clems didn't know that his fear grew more intense when he saw that a dozen of soldiers were fleeing from just three people, he came up with a crazy assumption which is that these three are insanely strong .

While keeping his head ducked to not be spotted, he shivered as he covered his small ears and ignored the banging sound which was caused by the soldiers, who were shouting and banging on the metal door of the tower . They desperately banged on the door, wanting whoever was responsible to open it for them as they may survive or have a chance at least . Fortunately, the soldiers were a bit ahead of the three people but the distance was shortened as they spent a whole ten seconds banging and when no response came, they finally knew that this was it . Although unwillingness lingered in their eyes, their resolute expression proved that they aren't just going to beg the enemies, they were soldiers after all .

Clems turned a deaf ear to the cries of his fellow tribe members, in a way, he was like Gutcha but way more cowardly . Even someone like Arthur wouldn't blame him if he didn't feel any closeness to the tribe and had no friends to help or protect, keeping himself alive is the best choice .

The banging sound, which lasted an eternity for Clems, finally stopped as the soldiers turned around, raised their spears which were dyed with the blood of their fallen comrades or the blood of the enemy .

A soldier stayed at the back, helping the captain stand up and the remaining ten pointed their spears at the incoming enemies and charged with loud roars . There is no escaping from death, at least they must die an honorable death instead of simply waiting for it to come .

Just as the clash was going to happen, a strong gust of wind that none of the present people could resist, the fourteen bodies were sent flying hundreds of meters away from that area, even the brown-robed Spirit Realm couldn't resist the wind which sent him flying . He was only able to stabilize his body after he was flung four hundred meters away from his previous position . A cold shiver ran down his spine and fear surged through his heart . This was by no means a mere gust of wind, even a tornado wouldn't send them flying this far .

What was an attack that could not be resisted was actually only Arthur using a bit of his Wind proficiency to push them back, their fighting was none of his concern, however, he would rather send the prisoners out of here with no eye-witnesses, including the shivering Pigolo on top of the tower .

Unlike the fourteen others, Clems's body was sent flying toward the opposite direction, you could only hear his loud cry as he was scared witless when he realized he was mid-air with no proper means to land .

Arthur surveyed the surroundings one more time using his Immortal Sense then he entered the cave .

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"What should we do? Alina . "

"W-we should try to find a way out, I can hear the explosions nearby and the roof wouldn't hold on much longer . "

Although the fights were not that close, the roof was showing signs of destruction as clear long cracks appeared on it and small stones fell one after another, if not for the hard and resistant iron bars, it would have fallen a long time ago .

The helpless prisoners surrounded Alina, seeking hope and a solution, they relied so much on her to the point of being unable to think properly in any risky situation . Taliya clicked her tongue and stood next to Alina, emitting a cold aura and sharp killing intent, resulting in the crowd being pushed from fright . Lucas stood at the other side of Alina and said

"When Alina sought your help multiple times, you turned a deaf towards her and now you expect to be saved? See if I do not finish you immediately if you keep pestering her and spouting useless words!"

The reason he was annoyed was due to the people who were talking . Some were even blaming Alina, they were the ones who would talk or try to get close to her in such situations, there were some likable characters who were helpful, but those kept silent as they knew that Alina was just as helpless as them in such place, however, some unnecessary parasites would show up when an opportunity shows up, and their main purpose is to take the leader position and at the same time, getting rid of Alina .

Being shouted at and feeling the terrorizing killing intent of Taliya, they could only back away as their knees trembled and their faces paled .

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## Chapter 164

With both of her blades unsheathed, Taliya scared the crowd and forced them to drawback, then she shifted her attention to the still intact iron bard, which blocked their way of escape .

Although the bars were unscathed, it won't be too long before the roof will fall on them, Taliya may not die, even Alina will only suffer minor injuries, however, the maid and Lucas were not going to let this happen .

'bang!'

Lucas was the one who acted first, he walked near the iron bars and struck them with his legs, the attack did close to no damage as the iron bars shook by a little bit . Lucas didn't flinch and continued with a violent series of kicks . As if they already agreed on this, Taliya followed him and used her sharp blades to slash at the iron bars, trying to cut them or weaken bit by bit .

Although they looked like normal iron bars, these were reinforced with a special kind of iron found in nearby mines, if Taliya was in the Spirit Realm, breaking out of them wouldn't be that much of a struggle, unlike now .

The difference but the Mortal Realm and the Spirit Realm is a big deal, after all, only by overcoming their Mortality and feeling the Energy of the world would the person be able to break free from the shackles that were holding him down .

Precise and powerful slashes landed on the iron bars, unlike Lucas, who couldn't do any damage to the bars, Taliya was slowly but surely causing these bars to weaken and tremble, the never-ending fast slashes of Taliya coupled with the big pressure the roof was exercising on the iron bars, it wouldn't be a long time before they finally fall .

Taliya fully knew that shattering the iron bars would result in the roof falling, but she was confident in being able to get Alina out of this underground room before it collapses completely, the stairs were just a couple of meters away from the cell .

Alina was standing at the back, with an anxious expression, she looked at the roof and couldn't hide her worry . She knew that her aunt will save her but the others would surely die miserably .

She sneaked a glance at the female beastmen and Sonia, but the redhaired lady was still unconscious with a pale face . Mary kept a stubborn attitude and didn't take the potion that Taliya put on the ground .

Some prisoners joined Lucas and Taliya and started banging on the iron bars with all their strength but it only resulted in them being tired and panting heavily as they didn't have a strong physic and their Stamina was bottom-low .

As they were struggling to get out of here, a whistling noise came from the other side of the room, which led to the cell where Arthur was held . The whistling noise obviously attracted the attention of the everyone, including Taliya, who had stopped her slashing .

It didn't even take a minute before the source of the whistling arrived near the iron bars, he had a calm look despite his tattered clothes and poor state . With a playful smile, he turned to look at the prisoners and casually said

"If it isn't my ex-roommates! Are you doing alright, Alina?"



He didn't seem to be bothered by the falling stones all over him, it's as if he had all the time in the world . His gaze swept everybody before it fell on the figure of the Demon Princess, Alina .

Vyncent was someone who had been imprisoned in the same cell as them but his behavior was eccentric, he was way too friendly and despite being tortured for a long time, that smile never left his face . Quite honestly, Alina used to talk a lot with him so their relationship wasn't that bad .

"A-ah it's Vyncent! hurry up and get us out of here, please!"

Alina was surprised and happy to see her friend, she didn't know how strong he was but she was not a fool to think he was a weakling . Just by the fact that he is standing in front of her eyes proves that he managed to escape his cell, one way or another, moreover, his cell's iron bars must've been stronger than these ones, which were on the brink of shattering with a little push .

Vyncent didn't seem to object, he nodded his head and lifted his head to look at the slowly falling roof . He put a hand on his chin, pondering for ten seconds before he shook his head and said

"It seems the situation is a bit tricky . if I cut the iron bars, you'll only have a few seconds to escape and judging by your numbers and the narrow escaping route, the outcome is easy to predict and most of you bunch will die whilst you are trying to escape together . "

He stopped for a second before he lifted his hand and showed one finger

"One, that is the number of people I can save from this place . "

As he said that, Vyncent's focused on Alina's expression 'Let's see what choice are you going to make, Demon Princess . '

He talked a lot with her, so he knew about her exaggerated kindness and her will to save everyone, now that she is stuck in such a desperate position, he wanted to see what choice will she make .

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With clenched fists and a pale face, Alina stared back at Vyncent without retorting, she knew that saving everyone with only her power is impossible, even a person such as Vyncent wouldn't be able to save them unless he showed all his power . An Immortal could easily use his Nether Energy to stop the roof from falling, it's an extremely easy feat, but he wouldn't do such a thing, he didn't owe these prisoners so it's needless to sacrifice being found out just to save their pitiful lives .

"F-fine then, I want you to save my aunt!"

Alina felt guilty as her aunt came all the way from Astria just to save her yet she would die when she almost succeeded . Although Alina wanted to save the silent woman who came with Taliya too, perhaps her selfishness and her love for her aunt made her made this choice . Many people looked at her with a sad and begging expression but she ignored them all and chose her aunt, who was flabbergasted as well when she heard that .

The maid walked to the young girl, held her shoulders and said

"Alina! What are you saying! Quickly tell him to get you out of here, I'll follow right after!"

Taliya was a bit relieved as she thought the whistling was coming from Arthur, who finally decided to show up after so much time have passed, however, it was a complete stranger, nonetheless, he seemed to be friends with Alina and she could feel a strange oppressing aura emanating from him, if he's that strong, then he may be able to get her niece out of here, she was confident in being able to sustain the damage from the falling roof .

Alina resolutely stared at Vyncent, from the look on her face, anyone could guess that she wasn't going to change her choice . Vyncent's smile became a wide grin, he shrugged his shoulders and said

"Are you sure?"

In response to him, Alina nodded her head and gestured for him to hurry up as the iron bars started shaking . Seeing that her words have no effect, Taliya turned around and walked to the iron bars and resumed fiercely slashing her blades . The blades were emitting a frosty aura due to using Ice related sword skills, the aura around her intensified and the iron bars started freezing with one of them shattering the instant the blades struck it again .

"Vyncent! After all the time we passed together, you still try to maintain that stupid pride!"

Lucas wasn't happy about the presence of Vyncent, he stared at him with eyes radiating killing intent, it is as if he would leap at him through the bars and tear him to shreds .

The grinning young man chuckled as he waved his hand, binding Taliya's movements and stopped her torrent of slashes, then he nodded his head as he looked at Alina 'Indeed, I did not choose wrongly, she is perfect!'

Just as he was going to take Taliya and Alina out of the iron bars, a chill ran down Vyncent's spines and his grin disappeared . It was because of the sudden appearance of a tall black shadow in front of him . The iron bars all fell at the same time as they couldn't hold the roof anymore, the big boulders and dirty sand fell on the big crowd of prisoners, who cried desperately and covered their heads .

Five seconds passed yet none of them was hurt, just as the tall shadow appeared, the falling boulders froze mid-air and not a single grain of sand fell on the prisoners . With a slightly long grey hair and smooth white skin, a man appeared in front of Taliya and Lucas .

It was Arthur, who was using his real body, he flung the people outside far from this area and teleported inside the cell . He was going to act immediately but he chose to patiently wait for a second just to see what this Immortal young man was going to do .

Using [Eyes of the Noble Sea], Arthur was easily able to see Vyncent's Nether Energy circulate and lock on Alina the moment he appeared in this room . From the very start, he was planning on saving the princess . He said he could only save one person to see her reaction and choices and at last, he chose to save Taliya too since Alina said so .

Although it was a strange skill or technique, Arthur was able to feel the Nether Energy slowly transforming into a yellow mist of magic belonging to the Earth Attribute, it wasn't hard to guess that this young man specialized in Earth Skills . Navigating underground or getting them out of the room shouldn't be a problem for an Earth-attribute user .

Lucas stared at Arthur with a bewildered expression, the words he wanted to blurt out got stuck in his throat with the sudden appearance of Arthur, his eyes also landed on the frozen boulders mid-air, it didn't take a genius to guess who did it .

Alina had wide eyes as she lifted her head from Taliya's chest, who instantly appeared next to her and hugged her as to protect her from the falling boulders .

"A-ah . . . . "

With the exception of Lissandra, who had a vacant look, all the prisoners were staring at the stranger who appeared out of nowhere .

Taliya soon followed as she turned around and saw Arthur . Before she could mutter any word, another person talked

"A-Arthur . . . . is that really you?"

The appearance of Arthur changed drastically since Mary last saw him, whether it's his left eye which would rotate between grey and red every few seconds or his long hair, he became a bit taller and the aura around him was a bit different . In the past, he would always radiate a negative cold aura, which pushed everyone from him, but now, despite the fact that the cold aura lingered, it wasn't as intense as before, and the look in his eyes didn't emit disgust when he stared back at her .

"Yes, I'm sorry I was late, I had a few things that needed to be taken care of . "

No matter what she had done, Mary was Lucy's friends, and in his heart, he had already forgiven her for what she did to him and Lucy, her and Sonia's safety was his highest priority as they could be considered members of his family .

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As he said that, Arthur glanced at the unconscious Sonia, who was still suffering . With appraise activated, he was able to see what the debuffs were, as he previously assumed, one high-quality Healing Potion or a Medium-quality Poison Resistance will drive away the lethal liquid out of her body .

Although she was suffering, her condition was not urgent, even if he did not interfere, she would survive for a few more days . However, he wouldn't be so mean and ignore her completely, if he did that and Lucy came to know, he'll surely be glared at and ditched for at least a week .

It's kind of funny how Lucy never yells at him when she's angry, she just snorts and ignores him completely, if he tries to embrace her, she would just dodge and throw him a piercing glare, making him break with cold sweat .

Arthur paid no heed to the dumbfounded looks all the people were giving him, he walked near Sonia and fed her the Potion that was left alone earlier by Taliya, since no one came to proclaim it or touch it, it laid there on the ground for quite an amount of time .

Gently, Arthur lifted Sonia's head and used his telekinesis to drive the liquid of the potion down her throat . Its effect should be near instantaneous so Arthur didn't bother ascertaining .

Seeing the worried look Mary had on her face, Arthur gave an honest smile and said

"She should be okay, you don't need to worry . Just get ready to leave this place, it would be better if you held her . "

Arthur didn't explain the reason but Mary obviously knew his character, even if it's an urgent or desperate situation, he would rather not carry a woman, much less touch her . Neither he nor Lucy would like that, what's more, Mary was not injured so she should be able to carry Sonia with her high Strength .

Now that things quietened again and silence ruled over this cold and crowded cell, Vyncent stared at Arthur's back with startled eyes, only now did he managed to react and say

"I-if it isn't my new roommate! I'm so glad to finally be able to see you again, you left so fas-"

The last word had not yet finished and was instead swallowed down by Vyncent, who received a cold glare from Arthur, it was but a glance, however, the thickness of the killing intent and the oppressing aura coming out of it was something Vyncent never expected, he couldn't help but shiver for a split second . It only took a glance for him to determine that he was not Arthur's match .

Previously, when he saw Arthur disappear from the cell and create a clone exactly like himself, Vyncent had a high impression of him and was both curious and surprised, but now, all he felt was an impulse to run away, which he didn't by the way .

He had a certain goal in mind and going back empty-handed is not a choice he can consider, not in this lifetime at least .

Arthur didn't focus on Vyncent after that, he turned to face Taliya and the Demon Princess and was about to speak again but he was interrupted by Taliya, who harrumphed and said in a reprimanding tone

"Hmpf! What took you so much time! We almost died in here!"

Although she was partially blaming his lateness, Taliya was secretly relieved, with Arthur around, there is no fear of danger as she knew that he has monstrous strength, even her big sister, the real Demon Lord, could never dream to match him, they were just in different leagues .

Shrugging his shoulders, Arthur was already used to such attitude so he didn't particularly get angry

"Some things are more important than others . Now, less talking and more walking, we need to go immediately . "

Using his Immortal Strength, Arthur was able to see who was heading toward the prison, since the range of his Immortal Sense is quite big thanks to possessing thousands of beings who possessed Mental Power .

It is quite complicated to fully explain, however, Arthur's Immortal Sense is a bit unique . An Immortal, even a Peak Grade one, would have a Sense that could spread at most for five hundred meters around him, if it's stretched to only one direction, it would become 1 kilometer, it is indeed a long range .

However, Arthur can spread his sense up to 1500 meters around him and 3000 meters to one specific direction, what's odder is that Lucy, who is supposed to be weaker than him in term of stats, have a range that is more outrageous than his . Just when she was the third Grade Immortal, her Immortal

Sense could spread up to 5000 meters around her and ten kilometers if she focused only in one direction .

Lucy said that it is maybe due to her special Yin Body, but Arthur thought differently, he told her that it may have a relation with her Race, the status window showed Half-Demon with the remaining half shown as '????' . No matter what it is, for her Sense be so outrageous and her talent to be top-notch even better than him, who possessed so many beasts and corpses, it's just cannot be explained with only her special body .

...

Sensing no threatening presences around the entrance of the cave, which obviously was the prison, Arthur gestured for the rest to for Mary to follow him before heading out of the room . The rest of the prisoners only stared at him with a mix of awe, fear and some curiosity, as for Taliya, albeit fuming with anger, she grabbed Alina's hand and followed closely behind Arthur . Lucas had long since snapped out of his daze, unlike the other people, he stared at Arthur's departing back with a strange look, with clenched fists and a resolute expression, he followed right after .

The big boulders were still frozen mid-air and by the time the room was empty, they finally fell down, creating loud crashing noises and making huge amounts of dust fly out of the small path leading upstairs .

A small Wind Barrier blocked the dust from disrupting their vision and like that, the group of prisoners with Arthur leading headed left the prison at last .

"A-aunt . . . who is he?"

Alina nudged her aunt's sleeve and asked with a low voice . It's unfortunate for her that Arthur's hearing is inhuman, so it seemed as if she was talking next to his hear, much less this low voice, even if it is multiplied by ten, he would still be able to hear it and not just him, even Vyncent or a Deity would have extraordinary senses .

"Actually, I don't know much about him either, a lot of things happened since were went missing . He is the Patriarch of the sect controlling the Western Continent, in comparison to your mother, his strength many time higher . "

Taliya didn't hold back and told Alina everything she knew about Arthur, she wouldn't keep secrets from her niece and since they were a distance away from the crowd, only Mary was close enough to be able to hear it, but the beastmen didn't pay attention to the maid and stared at Arthur with a stunned and complicated look .

The young man, Vyncent, felt conflicted too, he was in a rather difficult dilemma as he needed to bring Alina with him, bypassing Taliya would not be hard at all, however, under Arthur's watchful gaze, especially when he knew nothing about his abilities, it would be too risky! Heck! It wouldn't be wrong to call it suicidal, with just that one glare, he knew that the other party wouldn't hesitate to kill him on the spot if he tried to do anything .

With a shiver down his spines making him feel uncomfortable, Vyncent threw some glances at Arthur but he dared not act, at least not immediately .

Speaking of the leader, Arthur walked slowly while focusing his attention on the surroundings . Approximately five hundred meters away from the group of prisoners, there were three brown-robed figures, they were squatting near a small sand valley . They were looking at Arthur, who was leading the large group of prisoners in the middle of nowhere .

In fact, it didn't take them much time to return here, however, they were afraid of death and since the enemy was able to fling them so far without being able to retaliate, they couldn't act recklessly .

"What do we do, leader?"

One of them spoke in the Gargoyle Language, he shifted his head to the middle figure, who had a staff behind his back . As he was their leader, they had to follow his orders in such situations . Their mission was to kill as many people as possible and create havoc, this goal has been achieved thanks to their great number, but an unknown entity has shown up, they sent someone to report what happened and possibly bring reinforcement and the rest stayed to either buy some time or deal with this matter personally, if possible that is .

"That grey-haired man, I can't help but shiver every time I look at him . . . we should just watch them from afar and see what they are up to, we are no match for him, much less all of them combined . "

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As he said that, the leader couldn't help but gulp some saliva and rub his forehead to get rid of the invisible cold sweat .

What they didn't know is that Arthur had long since caught their presences but he wasn't going to bother with them . As long as they didn't cross that boundary and stayed passive then it is fine as well .

. . . .

Taliya told Alina about the recent events, the new rising powers such as the MoonStar Sect, what happened in her first meeting with Arthur and so on, the young girl had her mouth shaped in an 'o' as she listened carefully to her aunt . The more she heard the more incredible Arthur sounded, it's like he's a living legend, to be able to control such a strong sect and even come here to save her, she felt deeply moved, however, such thankful emotions vanished when she heard that her aunt agreed to follow him once he did his end of the deal .

With a flushed face, furrowed brows and a somewhat angry looking expression, Alina snapped as she couldn't control her surging emotions and shouted

"No! You can-"

Fortunately, Taliya was fast enough to cover her mouth while seriously saying

"I'm a demon born in the Royal family, as long as you are brought to the castle safely, I will keep my promise . It's not like he asked me to die so don't cause too much trouble, Alina . "

Hearing them argue, Arthur chuckled but still maintained his silence, just as he was about to tell Vyncent to go on his way since they were close to the big square, his body became numb and his movements froze .

A familiar pressure and agonizing pain struck his mind but no cries were emitted from his mouth, knowing that this event is re-occurring at this very second, Arthur didn't waste any second as he used the last bit of conscience he had left to immediately summon the Death Golem and the Book of the Damned, which simultaneously appeared next to each other, with his last breath, Arthur muttered 'Dra'lka', unfortunately, his last try was futile as he didn't enter the ARK and instead, the pressure on his mind intensified and his vision blurred before it blackened .

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The familiar yet unpleasant feeling covered Arthur body, making his body feel numb, almost nonexistent as if he was but a wandering ghost with no physical body .

Arthur couldn't help but curse his bad luck, out of all possible times, this happened right now . Fortunately, he managed to summon the Death Golem and the Book of the Damned, which had the rotten hand to support it, with such a powerful duo, protecting them from enemies from the Divine Realm and below should not be a problem . Furthermore, although this process would last years for Arthur, only a few seconds would pass in reality . He was hoping the ARK would activate and he would be sent to the endless white space but the reality was never that fair and instead, he was soon thrown into the body of an unknown entity, observing from their vision, feeling their pain and experiencing their life .

What surprised Arthur, even more, is that the second he began sensing things around him, his vision was still blackened, however, he could hear baby cries, loud baby cries that were kind of annoying, yet accompanied with these cries, he also heard the laughter of a man and the gentle voice of a woman, who most certainly was carrying him in her embrace, as he could feel her warmth .

The baby cried for ten minutes but he quietened down, his cries became louder when the man held him but after being scolded by the woman, he could only give her back the child .

Arthur was no fool, it didn't take a genius to figure out this situation and honestly, he was not the least bit angry or depressed, in fact, he felt extremely relieved .

'At least, passing a few years in the body of a baby or a kid is better than experiencing bloody battles every day in the bear's bodies! That pain is unbearable, I can't even activate my Pain Immunity!'

Although he felt like that, he didn't hate the benefits that it brought him . It is unfortunate that he didn't know what's about to come, but for him, now at least, experiencing the life of a baby is much better than countless bear species .

The skills he got from the Bear and Eagle are not bad, especially the latter, but compared to his outrageously Godly offensive skills, they lacked a bit . Perhaps it had to do with the species, or maybe he was just underestimating them but when he tried them, they were a bit weaker than a mini Heavenly Arrow, or a bombardment of fireballs, plus, Dark Magic and the Ancient flames literally cost nothing, if he injected Mana into them, they would become stronger, but only by a little bit as they were special .

At first, Arthur was confused on why he can understand their language without possessing any one of them but he later guessed that this 'sharing bodies' thing is considered possessing too, it's just that no notification popped up to confirm his thoughts .

Three days passed and without them needing to introduce themselves, the warm and gentle voice that whispered in his ears from the morning till late at night is none other than the mother of this baby, as for the man who always laughed and lifted him up high in the air, making him feel dizzy and cry, is obviously his father .

Three days passed and an issue occurred, the parents of the baby, who was named Curtis, appeared to be nobles as albeit his inability to see, for the time being, Arthur was able to hear a few ladies talking to the parents respectfully . They invited an old man and had him check the pulse of the baby . Arthur was unsure what's happening, but he was able to feel the withered hand of the old man touching his small hands and then his chest .

After half an hour, a sigh came out of the old man's mouth, he looked at the parents, who were looking at him attentively whilst keeping their silence, and said with sorrowful voice accompanied with a forced sad smile

"Unfortunately, the young lord has a red magic core indeed, as may have suspected . "

Although he did not display it, the old man felt sad too, as it is a miracle they were able to have a child, but to expect another accident to happen to them, they were indeed hated by the gods .

Without speaking any further, the old man got up and left after giving a light apologetic bow . The woman did not utter a word, she just picked the baby and tightly hugged him, afraid of losing him, as for the man, he stood there dazed with a blank look for an unknown amount of time before his lips quivered and his eyes landed on his son, who was peacefully sleeping in his wife's hands .

He did not shout in anger, nor did he blame the unfair heavens, he just clenched his fists and calmed down then he laughed heartily whilst patting his own chest

"Hahaha so what if my child is ordinary, if he can't be a king then he'll be a general, if he can't be a general then he'll be a soldier . . . and if he can't be a mage then he'll become a knight!"

The woman maintained her silence, but from the look in her eyes, you could say she approved what the middle-aged man said .

Arthur didn't particularly feel any sorrow, it was not his life, nor was it his body, he was just here as a spectator, unable to do anything but watch how things proceed . In a way, it's like watching a 3d movie, but in much much more realistic way .

The worse thing that he experienced til now is feeling the hunger of the baby and the urge to relieve himself, of course, the baby did not hold back and let it all out then he would start crying loudly .

Surprisingly, however, after just one week, only a few days after the baby gained his sight although a little blurry at first, he didn't cry as much, it could be said that whenever he was with his mother, he would become docile and silent .

Curtis's mother was a beautiful lady, with blonde hair and deep blue eyes, as for his father, he was a man with short dark hair and a short beard, he looked like a man in his prime, full of vitality and energy, even early in the morning .



Arthur felt as if he wronged Lucy when the baby, Curtis would use his mother's breast to feed, although he didn't do it willingly, he still could feel it and that added to the guilt, maybe it would be better if he kept this part of his experiences to himself when he meets her else she gets angry .

The love the parents provided for Curtis is limitless, although they knew he had no talent whatsoever, they cared for him and weren't the least bit strict . Curtis grew in a warm family, filled with happiness and no mishap happened . Unknown to him, Arthur was slowly but surely merging with Curtis's body, it's as if he was the one living that life and not just spectating it .

After seven years have passed, Curtis grew from a small baby to a healthy boy, he had a blonde hair and blue eyes, just like his mother and he was extremely handsome albeit his young age .

His father, being a mage, couldn't teach him combat skills related to knights, so he hired a knight and had him teach his child . Curti didn't complain a single time, showing a resolute expression and training every day . Maybe it had to do with Arthur possessing him, his intelligence was higher than other noble kids, who would spend their time pranking maids or playing around . It is not that talented and hard working children didn't exist, but Curtis was a bit unique in a special kind of way, even his parents would secretly talk about him, they knew their child was different from others, whether it is his temperament or attitude, but they didn't bring this matter to him and still cared for him deeply .

By the time seven years have passed, Arthur's memories were in total chaos . Living a life of a Human and a beast is two different things, even for someone such as Arthur, his stats had no effect and after a certain amount of time has passed, his consciousness was slowly merging with Curtis's .

At this point of time, despite the fact that he knew he was still a spectator, something sparked inside of him, a longing and a bit of envy of Curtis, who had caring parents that Arthur never had before, a happy childhood that any orphan would yearn for every day and night .

He didn't know when it happened, but in his own way, Arthur started considering Alexa and Thordan like his own parents . Too much time has passed and unlike the experiences with the Bear and the Eagle, this life wasn't so unbearable, instead, it was filled with warmth and gentleness . Characteristics of Arthur merged with Curtis, just like some of Curtis's merged with Arthur . At the first few years, Arthur was shocked and had to admit that albeit being born without talent, this kid, Curtis, had an unbelievably serene Spirit, a calm attitude and the only time he ever cried was in the first few days he was born . This serenity was added to Arthur, making his mind calmer and more serene, no more was he angered by a simple thing, no more was he urgent in solving everything . Similar to Arthur, the chilling coldness that was always attached to Arthur, like a hidden pressure, was added to Curtis, although it was like Arthur's so obvious and overbearing, it still lingered in the young boy, who was of a few words but had an unextinguishable resolve .

Unknown to Arthur, or Curtis, inside the former's consciousness, another huge blob of light, a bit smaller than Arthur's was being dragged by the chains around Arthur's soul towards it, forcefully . The process was slow but Curtis's soul couldn't resist the power of the thick chains, which wrapped around it and dragged it near Arthur's soul in this vast starry sky . The rotating object, which was the ARK, had sent countless red beams directed at the chains, but none of them were even close to harm it or stop it, it's as if it had no effect . In just seven years, the distance between the two souls never ceased decreasing,

although the distance was still large, the chains were still persistent and in sometime in the future, the two souls would soon merge, becoming a single, strong entity .

Souls are a fragile thing, just like the heart and the brain, if they are damaged then the individual will die, however, there are many exceptions . Whether it's instantaneous recovering, forbidden resurrection skills or Soul Transfer the devils use . Souls could be devoured, they also could be controlled or injured, but merging? That is something not many would dare to do . If the opposing soul was stronger then its owner will control, likewise for the other one, even if the two souls have the same exact power and with the consent of the two owners, merging is still something illogical, and that is because of one thing, balance .

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Balance is what makes everything stable, there cannot be darkness without light, day without night, fire without water . If anything is suddenly wiped and its opposite is left alone, the balance would be broken and only chaos and destruction will happen, although these cases are extremely rare, almost impossible to happen, however, it's 'almost' and not 'never' . Each time the balance was broken, even by a little bit, then a catastrophe will befall on that place .

Curtis's temperament never ceased changing due to the slow fusion, or perhaps due to his soul being grabbed by the chains in Arthur's consciousness . It didn't affect his Vitality or Life Energy, however, he was unusually calm, too calm to the point of being a bit scary .

Years passed and by the time the young boy became twenty years old, a loud noise rang in Arthur and Curtis's ears, almost making them deaf . The latter had blood leaking out of his ears, as for Arthur, he could only bear with it . By now, Arthur basically thought of himself as Curtis, of course, he still remembered himself but he loved his new life, felt with warmth and love . As if he was struck by lightning, Curtis writhed in the ground due to the agonizing pain torturing him, the pain coming from his soul was unimaginable, it was so extreme that he couldn't even scream . ) Arthur didn't feel anything besides that loud noise, however, in his own way, he suffered too .

His vision blackened as he no longer saw through Curtis's eyes and in a split second, more than thirty years of memories flashed in his mind, forcefully snapping him out of the happy life he was spectating . He saw how he first met Lucy, the betrayal of his wife, how Lucy almost died to the 'judgment' and so on . As if a cold bucket of water was poured on him, Arthur not only snapped out of his long daze, he no longer was inside Curtis's body, instead, he was back on the desert with Taliya and the rest, however, the situation was vastly different to how he left it .

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The moment Arthur froze on the spot, Taliya and the rest were a bit startled and puzzled . After he froze for a split second, he waved his hand and instantly, a tall weird looking golem and a black book in their view . The Golem emanated a cold dark fog, with a height of a whopping five meters and a thickness of two meters, it was literally a moving fortress, a giant!

The book, which was small compared to the Golem, was ignored as all the eyes of the crowd landed on the Death Golem which abruptly turned to face the other way and stood there, motionless .

"W-what's that?"

The first to talk was the Demon Princess, who stood next to her aunt, with a mix of surprise and fear, she stared at the terrifyingly big golem, not knowing why it suddenly appeared . Obviously, she knew Arthur was the one who summoned it, however, the real question is why would he do that, and all of a sudden at that .

She diverted her attention to Arthur, only to notice that he is standing still, with a blank face and empty eyes, it's as if he was asleep .

Even Taliya, who knew Arthur's strength more than anyone present, didn't dare think that he just decided to fall asleep in such a place and time, it was too bizarre and he was not that kind of person .

She knew something wrong occurred, as for what it was, she couldn't ascertain on what it was .

'If he summoned that thing, then there must be something wrong!'

Arthur only summoned the Golem when he needed to catch the invaders when he was away from the cave, she never saw the golem fight, but just from its aura and size, it could not be underestimated .

Furthermore, there was that strange book, not everyone noticed its presences, but how could Taliya not see it? It was the book Arthur always kept on him since they came here .

Without hesitation, Taliya unsheathed her double blades and spoke in a serious tone

"Prepare to fight, defend the princess . "

She was directing her speech to Lucas, who didn't retort and silently nodded before he wrote a strange sign on his hand and by the next second, a water sword was created . The water sword was ordinary, only its color was leaning toward white rather than blue .

Vyncent, who was still trying to come up with a plan was surprised as well, however, unlike the crowd, which panicked, he was a bit happy and relieved . To begin with, he wasn't that far from Alina, he sneakily got closer and stopped around five meters behind her as it was the range of his skill if he wanted to take someone with him .

'I just need to wait . '

He glanced at the blank-faced Arthur, he wasn't sure if it was a trick or not, so he had to be sure or else he would suffer greatly . He may not be able to defeat Arthur, perhaps die with only one blow, however, Vyncent had confidence in escaping alive using his [Earth Travel] .

It's an advanced Earth Attribute skill, extremely hard to obtain and more difficult to train . If mastered then the user would be able to merge with the Earth and travel long distances in a matter of seconds . It's akin to teleportation, but whilst one used the Spatial Attribute, the other used the Earth Attribute, Teleportation is instantaneous and cannot be disrupted if it is a quick one, of course . Unlike the Teleportation skill, [Earth Travel] can be disrupted if the user's concentration is cut or if he is injured mid-skill . It could be said that one was absolute and the other one depended on the terrain, user and so on .

Very soon, all the people who were able to fight circled the weaker ones, it was a simple formation but it allowed them to have a vision in all directions .

The Death Golem by itself took a large portion of the formation, it laid there, silent with the dark fog still being emanated from it .

.....

A fair distance from the group of prisoners, the same brown-robed figures were hiding behind several boulders clustered near each other . Previously, there were just a few people, however, now there were more than thirty brown-robed figures!

Moreover, the leader of the previous four was no more, he was behind another brown-robed figure with small red lines on its edges .

Just by looking at the previous leader, who was squatting behind him and the respectful attitude he was displaying, it was easy to guess that this Gargoyle with a unique robe has a high status .

"Sir, what do we do?"

Although he has to follow the order of his superiors . The grey-haired man gave the leader with the staff an unknown feeling as if he should never get involved with him, it just gave him the creeps and if he was in charge, he would have decided to retreat and search for another area to destroy .

Alas, it didn't well as they met with another group, far bigger in number and had a regiment commander with them . The staff-wielding Gargoyle was a rank lower, so in times of war, he had to obey his orders .

The front Gargoyle, who had a unique robe, tapped his finger on the boulder as he stared at the tall Death Golem and the motionless Arthur, after an unknown period of time, he stopped tapping his finger and resolutely said

"Charge toward the sides, I'll take care of that Golem . Uyo, you support me from behind . Kill everyone but the grey-haired man . "

In response to him, the thirty plus brown-robed Gargoyles nodded their heads and waited for his signal .

## Chapter 165

it didn't take long for the leader to raise his hand slowly as he was gazing at the big crowd of prisoners . The Death Golem was as silent as ever, however, what these Gargoyles couldn't see from their position is the presence of a strange, ominous dark book floating behind the Death Golem .

After thirty breaths, the leader signaled for his subordinates and ordered them to charge as he took the lead . His movements were swift as a white energy circulated under his feet . To be able to release Nether Energy from the Dantian and using it to support one's self, it could only be an Immortal at the very least!

There are many ways to differentiate between the Realms from Immortal above . Of course, the most efficient and precise way would always be Arthur's Godly Appraisal, that's a skill that can be activated with no cost and he just needs a target to use it on . The second way is by using one's own Sense, however, you can only sense the Realm of someone of the same Realm or lower than you .

There is also the last rare method, which is not always used and it is by seeing the color of the Nether Energy released from the target . For example, this leader used Nether Energy and supported the movement of his legs to move faster, the increase is not very high, however, it isn't meager either, but if compared to movement skills, it is far lacking . For Immortals, they would release White Energy, Blue for Divine beings and Purple for Gods and so on .

Perhaps the leader did that on purpose to scare off the enemies, or so thought some of his subordinates or the scared prisoners, who caught sight of this dashing hooded figure and the energy under his feet .

In reality, it's not that he was showing off but the Gargoyles are known to be melee fighters and even if they have techniques, they would be physical-oriented too, it is too difficult to find mages and that has to do with their Race, their natural constitution .

Furthermore, their tribe is declining year by year and the resources are becoming so sparse that even a Regiment Commander such as this one does not have a single efficient movement technique that could help him, that in itself shows their desperation and one of the reasons they decided to boldly attack the Pigolo tribe .

Followed by Uyo, the staff-wielding Desert Gargoyle, the two of them rushed toward the big Golem, planning to take care of him as fast as possible .

The rest of the Gargoyles, numbering thirty-one, circled around the crowd of prisoners and attacked from all sides . Fortunately, they were not as strong as Uyo or the leader, their average Lv was 400, even so, the prisoners had a few strong and capable fighters, so each fighter would have to deal with two or three Gargoyles at the same time .

The first clash was supposed to be between the Death Golem and the two fast Gargoyles, however, an unexpected thing happened . When Uyo and his superior Esdik stepped into the area ten meters away from the Golem, they both crashed into a barrier that was not visible previously . On a closer look, it strongly resembled Arthur Dark Barrier, with a transparent color which some dark in it and an infinite number of squares on it which created a spheric barrier enveloping the whole group prisoners and even a small area around them .

Due to not being strong enough to sense the Barrier, Esdik's body rebounded five meters, he literally hit a hard wall so he was in a stunned state for one second . Uyo was luckier, he was slower than Esdik so he managed to see the process and react in time . Using his long staff, he lifted it with both hands and struck the barrier to stop his fast momentum . The strike allowed him to bounce back and land safely after performing a big backflip .

The other Gargoyles, who were much slower than these two, didn't even to do the same thing as Uyo, they witnessed what happened and weren't dumb enough to charge recklessly at this invisible wall .

One of them cautiously walked near the Dark Barrier then used his spear only for it rebound and force its user to take two steps back .

"T-This is?"

Uyo looked at the other Gargoyles who started striking the barrier with their weapons, some of them even used their skills but to no avail, futile attempts that are only expending their Stamina and Energy reserve .

Esdik finally snapped out of his stunned state, he wasn't in a good anymore, although he managed to kill quite a lot of Pigolo officers, all of that pride disappeared when he crashed into a wall and brought this upon himself, it was too embarrassing for someone of his rank to suffer like that .

He needed to regain his face, however, he was not a fool either, for the enemy to have made such a barrier, they must be quite strong . Esdik's eyes landed on Arthur, who was still standing there but surprisingly, his eyes now closed and he was standing there without any movement whatsoever .

Taliya had already unsheathed her blades and guarded Alina along with Lucas . Vyncent was hiding a few meters away with a thoughtful look on his face . He disregarded the incoming danger and had his focus all rest on Arthur, whose back was facing him .

This barrier which caused this much trouble when the clash didn't even begin yet was laid by Arthur .

After countless fights with strong beasts and Gods, conjuring Dark Barriers around him had become like a second nature to Arthur . They didn't cost Nether Energy or Mana and from all his attributes, the Dark Barrier was the most effective, its defenses are really incredible .

The Dark Barrier was never put to a proper use due to Arthur always fighting people way stronger than him so such barriers would shatter almost immediately .

"Regiment Commander, what do we do? It seems that there is a strong barrier protecting them . "

With Uyo talking, all the other subordinates stopped their useless attacks and turned to look at Esdik, waiting for his orders .

The person in question was still silently standing there, when he hears Uyo talk to him, he diverted his attention to the strange looking barrier and yelled with a loud tone

"What else can we do? Strike it until it falls, I do not believe it can withhold our relentless attacks forever!"

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With that said, Esdik retrieved a Scimitar from his ring and viciously slashed at the Dark Barrier, creating sparkles of Nether Energy as the skill dissipated after landing on the strong barrier .

Esdik didn't flinch as he slashed multiple times whilst unleashing powerful skills . Uyo and the rest soon followed, they started fiercely smashing their weapons on the Dark Barrier, which didn't even have a crack on it despite all their combined attacks .

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" . . . It won't hold that long, we need to prepare ourselves!"

Taliya had good discerning eyes, although the Barrier didn't have any cracks, she noticed that each time the Regiment Commander attacked, it would shake violently, adding to that the non-stopping attacks of

the other thirty-two Gargoyles, the power behind all of that is not something they could withstand . For her and everybody else, it's already a miracle that the Barrier lasted that long .

In fact, if Arthur was conscious, if he wished for it, they would never be able to shatter it or crack it as he would reinforce it if it weakens, but with him in this state, he won't be able to influence it, it's good enough that he laid it around them before succumbing to his 'dreams' .

"W-we should surrender!"

One of the helpless prisoners, who were staying at the center, expecting to be protected, was frightened by the attacks of the Gargoyles, he couldn't help but utter those words with a trembling voice and shivering body . What's worse is that he's a young healthy Demon, just like Lucas, he could pick a weapon and protect his Princess but he just told them he cannot wield a weapon and would start crying whenever something bad happened .

It didn't even take a second for the rest of the cowards to join him and support what he said as they saw the savage looking at the hooded-figures, which were banging on the barrier as if they were Grim Reaper banging on the door of their home .

"Y-yes! They'll kill us all if we resist!"

"This is pointless, let's just surrender and go back to the prisoner, at least it's better than dying!"

As their emotions were surging up and fear took control of them, the shivering prisoners started protesting but that didn't last long . Lucas's short personal blade arrived near the young demon's neck, with a cold look, Lucas stared down at the terrified demon and said

"One more word from your mouth or any other person, I will not hesitate to kill you . You're going to die anyway, so I'll kill you all in advance so you cannot hinder us later . "

Alina wanted to step up and stop him at first but she was stopped by Taliya, who also thought Lucas was doing the right thing . From the looks of it, not everyone here deserves to be saved . Even if they go back to Astria, she wouldn't turn a blind eye, instead, she would certainly punish those who only thought about their survival and would sacrifice anything to live .

Of course, there were elderly and some children that are unable to fight, but what about the healthy demons like this young man? Even if his Lv is low, that didn't matter, one would pick a sword and swing it around randomly if necessary, all to protect their princess and fight as a group, not just surrender when the tiniest danger arrives .

" . . . Truly pathetic . "

The head maid only said a few words before turning to face the Gargoyles, however, her senses were on high alert as she noticed Vyncent was nearby and he was suspiciously keeping an extremely silent attitude but that didn't stop him from stealing a couple of worrying glances at Alina .

Taliya decided to keep her niece close to her while at the same time positioning herself near Arthur and the Death Golem, it could be said to be the safest place possible .

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'Damn, what kind of barrier is this?'

Uyo's attacking power is extremely high with a blunt weapon like his staff, he was known to have a high offensive power but despite that, his skills did nothing to the barrier, no crack, no reaction . Only Estik's pierces coupled with his techniques as an Immortal allowed him to make the Barrier shake violently .

Albeit reaching no success with his attacks, he didn't give up and swung his long staff continuously, he wasn't foolish enough to relentlessly release all his techniques and trump cards, because, after all, this was but the first hurdle .

More so, they weren't afraid of reinforcement coming because of two reasons, first, the Pigolo tribe's population is much much less than the Desert Gargoyles . Second, this invasion was planned to last at least two days, they needed to turn the Pigolo Tribe upside down . Eradicating it all is close to impossible as they have strong powerhouses residing in the central tower, but getting rid of the nearby villages, plundering goods and treasures and killing a few Major and Colonels should be possible with the advantage of numbers .

## Chapter 166

The situation was getting worse by the second . One's Stamina would become astronomically high if they broke through to the Spirit Realm, so if it is just slamming their weapons fiercely on a barrier with a minimal use of powerful skills, then they can continue doing this for a long time if not forever .

The Gargoyles didn't have forever of course, however, from the looks of it, the barrier wouldn't hold on for much longer either, at most, it'll hold for a few more minutes .

The atmosphere became tense as some prisoners were shivering and others were begging Taliya and the other warriors to lay down their weapons and surrender but to no avail .

Despite the cold and resolute look Taliya was showing, she was feeling desperate too and hoped that Arthur would wake up soon . She didn't have absolute confidence in protecting her niece from the Gargoyles and this Vyncent, who didn't stop staring at Alina since earlier and they were not just simple curious glances but ones full of malicious intent .

The 2m long Scimitar viciously struck the dark barrier as it shined with yellow light with every strike, slowly but surely, a small crack was forming where the sharp point of the scimitar stabbed . The crack further spread as Esdik increased the potency of his attacks .

The Dark Barrier should have been shattered a few minutes later, however, due to Esdik's powerful nonstopping attacks, it shattered earlier than predicted . The Regiment Commander expanded thirty percent of his Nether Energy and power to finally get rid of this obstacle .

Uyo, the staff-wielding Battalion Commander only relied on his superior Strength to strike with his long staff, he was clever and wouldn't use his Nether Energy when the fight hasn't started yet, especially when the strength of the enemies is still unknown .

In fact, the behavior of Esdik was rather irrational but that was due to being horribly humiliated in front of his subordinates, if he didn't get rid of the barrier, he would not have been able to retrieve the bit of face he had lost .



"Protect the princess!"

Taliya yelled at Lucas when the barrier was shattered, thirty brown-robed figures launched at them from all sides, fortunately, Taliya and Alina were between Arthur and the Golem, so it wasn't easy for the brown-robed to reach them unless they either got rid of the Golem or Lucas .

Surprisingly, Mary was also going to fight, she put the sick Sonia near Arthur and retrieved her axe without hesitation . She couldn't just watch the enemies injure Arthur or her best friend .

The unwanted clash occurred at last when Esdik stabbed his scimitar at the motionless Death Golem .

From his point of view, this weird Golem was strong so he didn't hold back at all, furthermore, he was enraged due to the Dark Barrier so that caused his attack to be more fearful .

A yellow aura twirled around the sharp curved edge of the scimitar which stabbed at the head of the tall Golem . The attack was swift and deadly, alas, Esdik was surprised to see a strange black book appear right in front of where his scimitar was going to hit .

A weird looking rotten hand came out of the book and literally stopped the outburst of his attack . His hand felt numb and his body lost its balance as he was in midair .

Before Esdik could retaliate, the motionless Golem used its large hand to punch the small figure of Esdik . The punch had a yellow light around it just like Esdik's attack .

The Regiment Commander, who never expected the Death Golem to be this fast, could only try to cross both of his hands in front of his chest to block but that was totally futile as his body was sent flying like a kite for a hundred meters before he rolled on the ground and somehow managed to stop himself from being pushed any further .

Never in his wildest dreams did he think that he would suffer from his own attack . He could feel that the Golem's attack was the exact same as his own, he could feel his own organs vibrate intensely, it's fortunate that he had a strong resistance to the Earth Attribute or else he would have been heavily injured .

Although he wasn't heavily damaged, his robe was severely damaged and that caused his face to be uncovered and shown to the public .

Meanwhile, Uyo wanted to grab that split second that his superior bought to strike the Golem in his legs to make him fall, but the same process occurred, the book blocked his incoming staff while pushing him back a few steps . Just as the Golem was going to punch again, Uyo's retreated several meters away from the Golem to avoid its punch but what was unexpected is the enemy's punch that quickly transformed into an open palm which emitted large amounts of black fog that reached Uyo instantaneously .

One had extreme defense and the other had attack absorption and phenomenal attack prowess, if combined then nothing can stop them .

Feeling his body became half as fast, Uyo was yet again startled, as he saw the Golem raise his other hand and strike the ground, his face paled and he quickly struck the ground with his staff to forcefully send his heavy body in the air .

Uyo's fast reactions allowed to him barely dodge the full blunt attack but that didn't mean he avoided the aftereffect, the mere shockwave of the attack caused a strong wind tornado to smash onto the Gargoyle and cause several cuts to his body . Blood splattered on the ground as Uyo landed on it with an ugly expression, in this short exchange, the Golem and that book were able to easily take care of them, the Golem didn't even move a single step .

Even the angry Esdik began hesitating as he saw Uyo being pushed back and feeling the pain all over his body . This side of the battle was easily handled by the Golem book pair, however, things weren't going smoothly at all for the other part .

The thirty or so Gargoyles clashed with the few warriors . At first, it could be seen that the warriors that decided to fight were strong, but fighting three or four Gargoyles at the same time was extremely difficult and in a matter of second, five of the eight warriors were either stabbed to death or crushed into minced meat by the big hammer and sharp spears of the robbed-figures .

The prisoners shouted in fear and grouped next to each other, forming a big group of people which crouched on the ground and covered their head in fear .

Taliya didn't like their cowardly behavior, they were over fifty prisoners, excluding the elderly and children, if they ganged up on the enemies, they would be able to buy some time . Of course, she kept those thoughts to herself and stayed near Alina to protect her .

From the thirty Gargoyles, four were killed and twenty-six rampaged and killed without mercy .

The three remaining warriors, which had big builds and wielded illusory double-handed axes were hard to deal with . Each warrior dealt with five Gargoyles yet they were not at a disadvantage . at some point, their bodies began shining with red tattoos and a bloody aura emanated from them, their attack power nearly tripled and the pressure they were suffering from the enemies lessened by a huge margin .

Vyncent hid next to the prisoners, however, unlike previously, his face was filled with disbelief . Unlike Taliya and Lucas, who were focusing on the princess and the thirty Gargoyles, his senses were sharper and he was able to sense that the Regiment Commanded fighting the Golem was at least a 3rd Grade Immortal yet he was sent flying so easily .

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Not only that, the presence of the book which teleported between place at lightning speed made him a bit afraid and reluctant to engage in his plan .

The terrifying speed and the mysterious rotten hand, he saw how it stopped the stab of the scimitar to easily, at the moment of contact between the two, the burst of yellow light and the fast stab were stopped and pushed back, then the book teleported in front of the Golem, the rotten hand touched the Golem before it teleported yet again .

From the three things Arthur gained from the Book of the Damned, the Golem could be the one with the biggest defense, it even had multiple transformations if he provided it with the necessary Attributes . The Lizard was the most powerful one, as for the hand, it was the strangest and creepiest thing he had in his arsenal . It even had the power to absorb attack from Low-Grade Gods and store that attack, ready to be unleashed whenever he wished . For that purpose, Arthur stored in the book quite a few attacks in

case of emergency situations such as this one, which is exactly why he has the book under his robe and didn't put it in his storage when he came to this word .

As for the summoning of the Golem, he did it as a precaution . This pair cannot be beaten by an Immortal, even if it was a peak Grade Immortal . Even a Divine being would have a lot of trouble to break through the defense of the Death Golem, so if the hand is added, it would be close to a miracle to defeat them . Unless a God shows up, there is no way in hell Esdik and Uyo can bypass the Golem or defeat it .

## Chapter 167

It was but a small and short exchange between two parties, and albeit the fact that the other side was winning, more or less, Esdik's face showed an ugly expression along with a pale face due to his injuries .

Uyo was in much better condition, however, that didn't stop the fact that he was hesitant to attack again . The Death Golem had yet to move a single step, and the strange black book was floating next to the Death Golem .

"Sir, what should we do?"

Uyo had to ask again as he was not sure about the situation . Seeing Esdik's ugly expression and the bit of blood leaking out of his lips, he knew that the previous strike of the Golem was powerful . He suffered a fierce attack too, but his defense was rather good and he managed to react in time or else he would have been in worse case than Esdik .

The black fog's effect was still present, he tried to push away the dangerous black aura lingering inside his body but it was futile . His speed was halved and anyone could see the difference between the two parties .

"There's no need to sacrifice ourselves just to cause them trouble, you help the other side and I'll try to buy some time for some reinforcements to arrive . "

Esdik ordered Uyo then took out a yellow stick from his storage, he injected some Nether Energy into it and threw it in the air . Its effect was instantaneous as it flew two hundred meters in the air and emitted a blinding yellow light that covered the sky . This was a special signal that only needed to be used in emergency situations, only Regiment Commanders and above could have one .

Esdik's judgment was correct, he knew he couldn't handle the Death Golem so he called for his allies without hesitation . Now that he calmed down and thought things thoroughly, his previous anger diminished and he no longer was enraged, instead, he became calm as he patiently waited whilst Uyo darted toward the other side .

The Death Golem's orders were to protect the prisoners in general, but if it was not possible, then its priorities are Sonia and Mary, then Taliya and Alina .

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Although it was a Golem, its intelligence was not that low, seeing Uyo make a big turn and dash toward the prisoners, it reacted and moved toward the unconscious Sonia and Mary, who was wielding her axe

and defending her friend . Fortunately, only a single Desert Gargoyle managed to reach her, and since she was not as close to the Golem as Taliya was, it was inevitable that some enemies would attack her .

With every wave of her double-handed axe, Mary created many flame tornados that were directed at her enemy, who was stabbing her attack with his spear . Her Lv was only 297, compared to her enemy, who was Lv640 and was raised in a harsh environment, the difference in strength between the two of them was just too big .

With but a simple stab, her multiple flame tornados were dispersed easily, Mary didn't hesitate to enter the [Berserk State] and leaped at Gargoyle, who purposely swung his spear at the unconscious Sonia, who was laying behind Mary .

Coupled with a bestial roar, Mary leaped high in the air and didn't hesitate to activate her strongest skill [Unbreakable Flame Slash] .

A famous skill on Astria, used by the strongest Beastmen warriors, it is said that in the past, a legendary warrior from the wolf tribe used this skill to defeat a Wind Dragon .

The temperature rose by several degrees and a three-meter-long flaming arc flew toward the gargoyle, who was a bit startled by the potency of the attack . He forcefully stopped his stab mid-way and spun his body to face the sky, then he raised his spear to meet with the arc . The point of the bronze spear shone with a blue light that quickly transformed into a blue beam, which broke the flaming arc in two and headed for Mary's head .

In such a desperate situation, where she could not dodge as the beam was too fast, Mary could only close her beast .

'At least I managed to buy some time . . . I hope Arthur wakes up b-before he attacks Sonia!'

With that last thought, she firmly closed her eyes and waited for Death to come .

. . . . .

The pain she was expecting never came, only a second passed and she could feel her body falling from mid-air, her jump was quite high but what surprised her is that she isn't dead .

The first thing she saw when opening her eyes was a book, although a bit ancient looking, it was still a dark book, floating in front of her and coming out of this book, a hand with rotten skin, an unpleasant stench covered the air around it .

The hand grabbed the blue beam and easily absorbed it then it pointed its index toward the unprepared Gargoyle and shot off an exactly similar beam .

Suffering from the same attack as Esdik, the gargoyle was not able to react as the beam of light struck his forehead and sent him flying a few meters away before his body laid on the floor, lifeless .

To suffer from your own strongest attack, unprepared, no one could achieve that unless they have total immunity to that attack .

With one less enemy, the pressure lessened, the four-strong warriors became like raging bulls as they slaughtered twelve other gargoyles, no one of them died, however, they suffered multiple injuries and

their simple white clothes were now dyed red but you could notice that their tattoos became brighter the more blood they had on their body .

Swiftly, Uyo joined this side, being the superior one in terms of strength and Realm, it only took him a single swing of his long staff to smash the neck of one of the tall warriors and kill him .

Although he killed him, he couldn't help but be astonished, being at the Deity Realm, he should be able to kill a Mortal with the flick of his finger, but his staff met some resistance when it hit that warrior . Furthermore, seeing their brother die, the three remaining ones became even angrier as they roared loudly and ignored the other gargoyles whilst charging at Uyo, who wasn't fazed by this and reacted calmly .

'Mortals but wielding the strength of Spirit Realm cultivators . . . . no . . . almost Heavenly Realm?'

He didn't need an Immortal Sense to gauge their strength, being near them, he could feel their strong bloody aura, even their killing intent reached an extreme intensity .

The three of them leaped at him at the same time, each from a direction, one aimed to grab his legs, the second punched at his chest and the last made a grabbing motion at his neck .

If it was someone at the Spirit Realm or even at the Heavenly Realm, they would have trouble dealing with their combined attacks . Their speed was unsuitable for Mortals and their sheer strength is not something that should be underestimated .

Uyo used his free hand to meet the incoming punch while swinging his staff at his back, without needing to look, as for the one who aimed for his legs, he didn't physically block him, instead, he used his Nether Energy to conjure an Earth Shield which surrounded all of his body .

Despite being only at the Deity Realm, his whole life was a non-stop train of battles, putting aside his great military achievement, his combat abilities are top notch and it wouldn't be long before he gets promoted again .

The Shield focused on his legs, despite that fact, the incoming punch and grab were unable to break through it and the two tall and muscular warriors were hit at the same time by Uyo .

The staff smashed into the warrior's chest, sending him flying high in the air, as for the other one, his hand, which was stopped by the shield, now met with Uyo's hand, which broke the big hand's bones, even the shoulder was dislocated, yet the warrior didn't even emit a cry of pain, he didn't even flinch, abandoning his right hand, he used his left to swipe at Uyo's head but it was totally futile, his leg couldn't even crack the shield .

Uyo didn't just watch, when he shattered the warrior's hand, he grabbed his staff again and smashed it at the last man, who wanted to grab his legs, the staff smashed into his back, shattering his spine and by the next second, the long staff struck his skull, killing him on the spot .

As Uyo was going to deal with the warrior who didn't give up and continued kicking his shield, his calm face had a drastic change as a book literally appeared in front of his face and the rotten hand stretched from it and touched his hood .

'Damn!'

The Battalion Commander ignored the warrior and hastily retreated from the stretching hand, however, it was too late as by the time he retreated back, the hand touched his head for a full second . He suffered no injuries whatsoever, but what made him despair and feel terrified is that thirty percent of his Nether Energy reserve disappeared .

'Fearsome! Too fearsome!'

As he cautiously backed away with both of his eyes fixated on the book, Uyo felt an instinctive fear as he couldn't even see or detect the book, it just popped in front of him from thin air .

'If this book and the Golem are THIS strong, then how about the one who summoned them . ' Uyo glanced at Arthur, who was still standing in the same position . He wanted to attack him first but he soon abandoned such foolish thoughts, even if he knew Arthur couldn't respond to his attacks, he just didn't dare to attack him as there may be traps or perhaps those two strange things would become offensive because he attacked their master .

## Chapter 168

Mary carefully pulled Sonia's body and put it near Alina and the maid . She held her axe and looked around her to make sure that no enemies are attacking her .

'This position is relatively safe . '

The female beastmen sighed and glanced at Arthur but he was still there, motionless . Taliya noticed Mary's actions but she didn't speak her thoughts, all her efforts are focused on protecting Alina along with Lucas, who was a bit further acting as a vanguard to push off anyone Gargoyle who tried to sneak attack them .

Esdik, albeit being injured, was still able to fight, he flew around the golem and landed near Uyo, who had a pale face as his hood was torn off earlier when the rotten hand touched him .

"Forget about the Golem and the book, reinforcements have come, we'll kill the rest then deal with that guy . "

Esdik was obviously talking about Arthur . The Gargoyle stared at the two surviving warriors, who were still raging and killing small fries that are circling them .

They were strengthening every time they killed someone but the superior number of the Gargoyles put them at a big disadvantage . Apart from the two warriors, there was another group of fifty prisoners who were approaching Arthur as they knew he was their only savior, however, they weren't spared either as someone of them each time the Gargoyles launched an attack . If it was not for the two raging warriors, who were focused by ninety percent of the enemies, this group of prisoners would have been obliterated long ago .

The Battalion Commander was reluctant to follow the orders of his superior, all of his senses were alerting him to retreat as he looked at the motionless Golem and the floating dark book .

Despite his hesitance, he still nodded his head to Esdik but all his body was soaking with cold sweat, he knew that the moment Arthur woke up or acted, none of them would survive . Secretly, he glanced to

the North, where his home was and sighed . His hands gripped the long staff and his focused shifted back to the Golem, he was waiting for the reinforcement Esdik was talking about .

....

Fortunately, he didn't need to wait for a long time, merely twenty seconds later, just when one of the two remaining raging warriors succumbed to his injuries and was stabbed to death by dozens of spears, another wave of gargoyles rushed from the back .

Leading this big group were four shadows which were way faster than the rest . Three of them had a robe similar to Esdik while the latter didn't cover her head . It was actually a female gargoyle, compared to the male gargoyles, she resembled more a female wood elf than a gargoyle .

Her cheeks had small stony scales and a long tail was swaying from her lower back . The female gargoyle arrived near Esdik in just a few seconds, a sword soaking with blood was held in her hand and there was a small slash injury on her shoulder where blood was leaking out and dyeing her green armor .

"Regiment Commander Esdik, we saw your signal, report what happened . "

Although she was talking to Esdik, her eyes locked on the Golem, who was towering and standing motionless near Arthur and the rest .

A look of relief flashed in Esdik's eyes, he performed a quick military salute and spoke with a respectful tone

"Reporting to General! We found unknown enemies and tried to finish them but their powers were beyond of ours . "

Despite the fact that he was relieved to see the General, a sense of shame submerged him, his face turned slightly red as he spoke . It didn't take a genius to see his condition, there was blood dyeing his robe, especially his abdomen and he was panting now and then .

...

General Rosie nodded her head and stared at the prisoners one by one, she didn't ask Esdik who the enemies are, as long as they are enemies, she will finish them . She spared each prisoner a glance but apart from Vyncent, she didn't focus on the rest . Her brows furrowed for a split second when she looked at Arthur but she then continued probing the rest . Excluding the fact that he was an Immortal, she was a bit surprised to see him in an unconscious state, the rest of the Immortals could only sense that Arthur was motionless with his eyes closed, but for someone with her power, she was able to sense that he was unconscious albeit his standing position .

It is quite a common thing that when you're unconscious, in most cases at least, your body functions will cease, that doesn't mean your heart will stop or you'll die, it just means you'll fall if you're walking as you would not be able to control your body whilst being unconscious .

Rosie didn't even inquire about who are the troublesome enemies, she remained silent for a couple of seconds before she lifted her sword and resolutely said

"Charge! Get rid of all of them!"

She was ordered one purpose and it was definitely not these guys that are going to stop her . The army that was following Rosie was not a mere hundred gargoyles, there were at the very least a thousand brown-robed gargoyle dashing at the prisoners and Arthur .

Being the fastest amongst them, Rosie darted not at Arthur or the Golem, but the silent Vyncent, who was hiding in the center of the prisoners . The young man's face paled as he saw the green-armored gargoyle charge at him . Without hesitation, he entered the Earth and disappeared from the crowd . It was but a mere second but the Immortal young man had crossed at least two hundred meters, his speed was even more outrageous than Rosie, who was also surprised by his speed .

Nonetheless, the surprise didn't stop her charge, she lifted her free hand and punched the ground . From the force of the punch, the ground shook and dirt flew in the air, this punch caused the fleeing Vyncent to be pulled out from the ground and stumble on it for a few times before he quickly stabilized his body and try to enter it again .

Unfortunately for him, Rosie's speed was not something that he expected, it's as if it tripled compared to her previous charge . Before he could melt in the earth again, she appeared behind him and grabbed him by the back of his neck then mercilessly smashed his body on the flat ground .

Without being able to resist, Vyncent's ribs were broken and blood oozed out his nose as he coughed blood nonstop . Rosie was just about the insert he sword on his back when Vyncent hurriedly waved his arms in desperation as he retrieved a certain object from his storage .

Rosie didn't care at first and thought of it as the last struggle, but once her eyes saw the medal that the young man took, a look of disbelief flashed in her eyes and the sword stopped a few inches away from his back .

No one knew what was happening but the witnesses could see that Rosie and Vyncent talked for a few seconds before she stepped back and rushed at the Golem .

She didn't kill Vyncent and shifted her killing intent toward Arthur . She found the Golem strange and wanted to get rid of the Immortals first then take care of it .

Being a remote area of the Pigolo Tribe, no soldiers or strong officials came here so the thousands of gargoyles rushed at the prisoners and slaughtered without restraint . Mary and Taliya were not in a good position either as the crowd were going to attack them in any second .

Even with the presence of the Golem and the dark book, the head maid felt anxious as she saw the horde of enemies charging at them .

The three foremost figures were the three Regiment Commanders, they had a power equal to Esdik and were Immortal too, what's more, is that the three of them seemed to ignore Alina and the weaklings and use their weapons to attack Arthur .

At such a desperate moment, a loud roar emitted from the motionless Golem . It was a chilling cold roar that terrified everyone, including Rosie, who was a few hundred meters away from it .

Although its orders were to protect Arthur's friends, by instinct it knew that the top priority was its mastery albeit the fact that he didn't order it to protect him . Seeing dangerous individuals aiming at its masters, it could no longer sit still and changed to the offensive .



The two black holes that were supposed to be its eyes shone with a bloody red light, which was followed by the book of the damned which opened by itself and emanated an extremely strong deadly aura .

The aura of death took the shape of a dense black liquid that flowed from the upside down book and instantaneously melted with the Golem's rock hard body .

It was but a second but a that was all that took for the Death Golem to shine with a bloody red light, a red fog that blocked the vision of what's inside it surrounded Alina, the golem and fifty meters around it, all that followed was a never-ending series of painful screams which came out of the mouth of the gargoyles . Rosie, who was rushing straight at the golem, felt a sense of fear and an inexplicable feeling stopping her from charging yet she didn't stop and instead increased her speed .

Her bloody sword increased from 1 . 5 meters to 3 meters in length and a brilliant green shield was conjured on her left hand .

## Chapter 169

Being internally injured, Esdik didn't charge along the three other Immortals, instead, he rushed at the raging warrior with a dozen soldiers behind him . Albeit being injured, he was still able to manifest strong power but he frowned as he got closer and closer to the warrior .

Although his aura didn't belong to an Immortal, he was still close to it, each second passed you could see figures flying away from him, sent away by his ruthless kicks and savage punches . The tall bronze-skinned warrior with a bloody tattoo roar loudly as he was dyed with the blood of his foes, his brothers perished and he had no thoughts of living, as long as he could kill a lot of enemies, he can feel relieved .

Despite the fact that he was startled by this raging man, Esdik didn't stop his charge, he was an Immortal and killing a Deity is a simple thing for him .

Unfortunately for the Regiment Commander, his charge was bound to never happen as he was startled yet again when a big bloody fog suddenly appeared out of thin air which then was followed by inhuman screams and painful wails, he could feel his body unconsciously shiver as he heard those screams . The gargoyle halted and looked at the big expanding fog, an uncontrollable fear submerged him and forced him to take several steps back .

In the midst of his surprise, Esdik felt a small pain to his lower left back, it appeared that the raging warrior was unaffected by the fog and screams as he kept getting rid of enemies and heavily punched Esdik, which caused the latter to stutter a few steps back and regain some of his senses .

For an Immortal, it is an absolute disgrace to be pushed by a mere Mortal, however, Esdik ignored the warrior and turned around left without even hesitating, the fog was expanding at an alarming speed, the hair on his body stood erect and all his senses kept telling him to run .

'What the hell is that thing!'

Spectating from afar, Uyo's hands tightly clenched his staff, with his mouth half open and contracted pupils, with nothing else to think about, he directly turned around and escaped from this place, not caring about orders whatsoever, for him, his life is much more important and the sheer killing intent he felt from that fog made him unable to run properly as his legs shivered .

The only person who didn't back off was Rosie, who courageously dived straight into the fog and used her sense to locate the source or more specifically, the thing which is causing the wails .

The fog was expanding at a fast pace, however, all of a sudden, Rosie found herself standing in the middle of a deserted land, with nothing but her, Mary, Taliya, Alina, Sonia, Lucas, four kids, three elderly demons, and Arthur . A hundred meters away from Arthur laid the injured body of the warrior, he still didn't die but he was already at Death's door .

Before she could process what the hell just happened, Rosie was dumbfounded as a figure landed ten meters in front of her . The general's eyes landed on the youth in front of her, he had a short blood red hair, snow white skin, and two closed eyes . He didn't emit any aura, even after probing him, Rosie couldn't guess his Realm which meant two things, either he's a God or a Mortal who never cultivated Nether Energy .

To Rosie's surprise, the youth was wearing a weird attire, or more accurately, it was unfit for a fight . It was a black suit, a bit similar to a tuxedo, the one which nobles would wear to a banquet .

The youth had both of his hands behind his back as he faced Rosie, his lips were curled up, showing a cold smile .

"Milady, I see thou art brave, but I humbly advise you not to cross this line . Thy fate only depends on thy actions . "

Much suiting to his appearance, the youth had a calm, unaggressive voice, however, it had a hint of arrogance, or you could call it superiority .

Snapping out of her daze, Rosie looked at where the slim hand of the youth pointed . All around Arthur, there was a red line which circled him, with a diameter of a hundred meters . The warrior was included in the circle but since he was one of the prisoners, he was spared, but apart from the people Arthur ordered the Golem and book to protect, none of the rest are allies, they all are enemies that have to be killed .

Rosie was clever and indeed powerful, after all, she was a divine being, however, she could not just walk away and let bygones be bygones . A lot of her people died and despite that the majority was still at the back, staring at the red-haired youth was awe and fear, waiting for her orders . If she just leaves now, not only will she be despised by her people, even a simple soldier will not show respect towards her and instead, she would be mocked .

The appropriate decision is to go back and not fight this dangerous young man, but Rosie was not going to follow this decision . With her sword in hand, Rosie wiped the blood off it and snorted as she retorted

"Hmpf! crossing line? What about the hundreds of soldiers you killed? Do you think I would just turn around and pretend as if nothing happened?"

With a small still plastered on his young face, the youth added

"Milady, thou are misunderstanding the situation . I simply followed what I was instructed; to protect . Thy people attacked so I was forced to defend, if I'm not wrong, it is called self-defense . "

Hearing his strange way of talking, along with the small he was showing, Rosie's anger increased by another level .

"Y-you . . . I do not believe you can stop me or my army! I'm also sure you cannot be a God! You're bluffing . "

Even she, herself, wasn't convinced by her own words, her lips were uttering nonsense yet she didn't stop

"Let me see how you'll stop me!"

"Hahaha, Milady sure has a funny humor . Me? A God? I am but a humble servant, I'm neither a God nor a living being, I live and die following my master's will, as for our enemies . . . "

With his eyes still closed, he advanced two steps and shrugged his shoulders carelessly

"Only death awaits them . Thou should treat carefully, Milady, as Death does not differentiate between age, gender or Race . "

By the time he finished speaking, Rosie already entered the circle and fiercely stabbed her sword at him with unprecedented speed .

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A person who became a Divine being, which is but a step from Godhood, should never be underestimated, especially if it's a famous General like Rosie . With the sharp edge of her sword stabbing at the young man, a formless red tentacle stretched out from the sword, quickly encircling the youth's waist while the sword was stabbing at his throat, aiming for a fatal strike .

Rosie was at the peak of 8th Grade of the Divine Realm, so she could be considered a peak Divine Realm, however, even with such insane speed, precision and prowess, she was rendered speechless as she saw the red tentacles get absorbed in some kind of transparent whirlpool which rotated in the youth's right hand . The tentacle didn't even last a second before it vanished, as it was instantly absorbed by that strange whirlpool . What followed was even worse for the female General .

The youth, who still hasn't opened his eyes, magically disappeared from her field of vision and before she could locate him, she felt pain in her back .

By the next second, her figure was stumbling thirty meters from her original position, Rosie couldn't even react before she felt pain a second time, this time it was at the right part of her waist . She was flung another fifty or so meters before she laid on the ground coughing several mouthfuls of blood . The agonizing pain never stopped, she could feel that several of her bones were shattered and her spine was barely holding, if it was also shattered, she wouldn't even be able to retaliate anymore .

. . . . .

Standing four hundred meters away from the battlefield, Vyncent stared at the red-haired youth with a mix of fear and astonishment, his calculated plans he thought of were thrown to the trash bin as he saw the General, who was a Divine being, get trashed so badly like that .

It cannot even be called a fight, it was a one-sided beatdown .

"Milady, thou have been warned, it is a pity but you must die . "

With a tone devoid of emotion whatsoever, the red-haired youth slowly walked toward Rosie, who was struggling to get using her hands .

With the usage of her sword, Rosie somehow managed to barely stand up, but with the pain dominating her and her sorry state due to the powerful strikes of his, she couldn't properly stand and hold her sword .

Actually, if not for her green armor, she was certain that the last two strikes would have seriously injured her .

'He can't be a God! That's impossible! Yet he is so . . . . '

A foolish yet a bit reasonable thought crossed Rosie's mind, she secretly glanced at the motionless Arthur and thought of a possibility . Her focus shifted back to the incoming youth, with a hint of ridicule, she mocked

"You . . . you're a puppet . "

The red brows of the youth furrowed for a second before his face became deadpan again, he let out a small chuckle and shrugged his shoulders and raised his hands a bit as if feigning innocence .

"If that is what you want to think of me, then sure, I am a puppet, hehehe~~~"

Puppets, commonly used by puppet masters, those masters are not strong individually, however, if they deployed their puppets, which had strong abilities and unique powers, they would be able to overwhelm most of the enemies . Furthermore, puppet masters excel at fighting a big number of enemies and are relatively bad against a fast opponent as their death means the deaths of their puppets .

Rosie thought that Arthur was a puppet master, as that was the only explanation she could think of right now . The red-haired youth's strength, his aggressive attitude when someone attack Arthur, all of that led to this conclusion . It's a pity that she's mistaking but there is one to tell her that .

Resolutely, Rosie stabbed her bloody sword on the ground, which penetrated it easily, the red-haired youth was alarmed and appeared in front of the General to finish her off, however, unfortunately for him, Rosie's ability was way faster than he predicted . He wasn't injured, neither was Arthur, but Lucas, Taliya, Alina and the other two were wrapped by a thick tentacle each . The tentacle wrapped around their waist and from their white faces, anyone could guess that these tentacles were suffocating them .

Surprisingly, the tentacles ignored the five remaining prisoners which were a distance away from Arthur and focused on the people who were surrounding him . It was a wise and lucky guess, which may, or may not turn things upside down .

Although she was still hurting, Rosie showed a triumphant smile as she saw the red-haired youth stop his strike and look at her with a strong murderous intent, she could even feel her body uncontrollably shiver for a few seconds albeit the fact that he wasn't staring at her and had his eyes closed .

"Oh? Why aren't you attacking? If my hearing isn't wrong, I'm pretty sure you just said that I will die yet I'm still alive and well . "

Rosie taunted the red-haired youth as she tightened the grip of the tentacles and caused the bound people to groan from pain, only the unconscious Sonia didn't utter any sound . But for low-leveled people, especially Alina and Lucas, such a strong grip on their waist will cut them in half pretty soon if they continued tightening, it was just a matter of seconds .

The youth backed away five steps and replied with a calm yet a cold tone

"Milady, thou art underestimating me, even if you kill them, you will still die by my hands but now that I'm bound by my master's orders, I would not kill you, however, I can assure you that what you're doing will only lead to your downfall along whichever faction you come from . My master is not someone you want to mess with . "

Having a special connection with Arthur, the youth knew perfectly well what his master was capable of, if he were to become extremely enraged, there will be no end to his slaughter unless a miracle happens and Lucy appears, but the probability of that happening is close to zero .

. . . .

Rosie showed an oblivious attitude as she walked toward the hostages without being stopped or blocked by the youth, he didn't even move a single inch since the last five steps . He wasn't even facing her anymore as he stood there, but that uneasy and bloody aura he was emanating never disappeared, it gave Rosie, who was a famous and strong General who fought in countless battles, endless creeps .

"I'll be taking them and retreating, if you were as much as move a single step, I'll cut them in half immediately . "

There was no room for negotiation, Rosie focused her control over the tentacles and made them slowly move out of the circle as she focused her Sense on the red-haired youth .

She wasn't a fool and wouldn't insist on killing Arthur anymore, her mission was accomplished as she managed to kill four colonels of the Pigolo Tribe along with killing thousands of soldiers, she wanted to add another Immortal to the list but didn't expect things to go this badly .

She would lose some face and reputation, but that's nothing compared to her life, after all, everyone has but one life . She knew that she wasn't the youth's match, she was injured twice and despite not suffering heavy damages that would become permanent injuries, she was still injured by whatever she was hit with earlier .

Heck! She couldn't even see how he hit her or from where, all she could feel is the unending pain .

It only took Rosie twenty seconds to get out of the circle along with the hostages . The second she got out, Vyncent suddenly appeared next to her with an excited and hopeful face . He whispered something to her and after a few seconds of pondering, she nodded and released the grip of the pale Alina, who could barely breathe properly .

Vyncent caught the girl in his arms and slightly bowed to the General then he melted in the ground with the Demon Princess in his hands .

"Y-you . . . \*pant\* . . . what di . . . d you d . d-doo to A . . . \*pant\* \*pant\* . . . "

Taliya couldn't even speak, her face was devoid of any color, it's as if she was already a corpse . The others were in no better condition either, it was even worse than the head maid since they didn't struggle fiercely like her, their body condition was relatively better but they were still on the verge of death .

"Milady, that was unwise . . . too unwise, you'll regret this . "

Still not moving from his location, the red-haired spoke with a cold and chilling tone, not like the previous one . His main priority is Arthur, then Sonia and Mary, Alina happened to be his last priority so he didn't go save her as it would lead to the death of the others .

He may have let Vyncent take Alina, but if it were Mary or Sonia, he would have been forced to act as it was his orders . However, without Vyncent noticing, a small red stone suddenly appeared on his lower right calf, as if it was glued to his clothes . The young man didn't notice this strange stone, which actually served as a GPS which will locate him wherever he went .

The red-haired youth turned his head to look at his master and thought to himself

'It should be soon, really soon . '

## Chapter 170

In just a couple of seconds, Vyncent had crossed a large distance yet he never stopped using his secret technique albeit the fact that it consumes a big amount of Nether Energy . He would stop for a couple of seconds to restore for a bit and swallow a pill then continue fleeing . Alina couldn't struggle as she was knocked unconscious and after a couple of minutes passed and sensing that no one chased him, Vyncent breathed a sigh of relief .

. . . .

Back at the large area where the slaughter occurred, the red-haired youth stood near Arthur whilst facing Rosie, who ignored him and talked with her subordinates . The tentacles were still wrapping around the hostages but all of them fell unconscious due to the pain with the exception of the head maid, who had a strong willpower and managed to barely hold herself from fainting . The pain was excruciating yet all her thoughts were centered around her niece, who has just kidnapped again and to top it off, it was under eyes, she was completely helpless against such strong enemies .

'If only he would wake up . . . . '

Knowing that she would follow the rest and fall unconscious in the upcoming seconds, Taliya couldn't help but stare at Arthur, wishing that he would wake up already and do something, he was her only hope for retrieving Alina .

For the head maid, today was probably the worst of her life yet as if the heavens were listening to her wishes, the motionless Arthur who had his eyes closed finally had finally woken up . The very second Arthur regained consciousness, a series of notifications popped in front of him yet he disregarded them all and spread his senses .

He did nothing but open his eyes yet the aura around him had a drastic change, it was too abrupt and that was followed by an overwhelming pressure that forced Rosie to stop talking midway and stare at him with surprise .

She was just planning to take the hostages and retreat but from the looks of it, it was too late . Despite the instinctive fear she felt from him, she wasn't overly anxious as she had many hostages and she could kill them the moment he tried something .

The first one to react was the red-haired youth, he did a 90-degree bow with his hand on his chest and said with a respectful tone:

"Master, congratulations on your breakthrough . "

The reason the Golem and the book transformed into this youth from the first place was due to Arthur's sudden breakthrough, it actually stimulated both of them and resulted in this .

Living through Curtis's whole life and experiencing countless things, Arthur's soul had undergone an unimaginable change and that pushed him to automatically breakthrough into the Divine Realm .

Not only was his stats increased, his Sense, skills, and Mental Power were also affected . Compared to the cold aura Arthur had around him in the past, the current one was completely different in every sense .

The cold aura had disappeared with not an ounce of it remaining and what replaced it what an unusual serenity around him, an extremely calm expression hang on Arthur's face . He was deeply surprised by his breakthrough and the innumerable changes, yet nothing was shown on his face . Furthermore, he was able to understand a bit of the situation without needing an explanation, just by using his Divine Sense for a second and seeing the hostages, and the gargoyles, he was able to guess what occurred, more or less .

Since he had no time to check the notification log and the status window, he scheduled that for later when things calmed down, but even without seeing numbers, he could feel himself become several times stronger . His Divine Sense could stretch for a whopping thirty miles and his Sixth Sense, which had a meager range, now have a range of two miles in all directions . This, in itself, proves how much strength he had become .

However, this was but the tip of the iceberg, the most drastic change he had was his temperament . Now that his soul fused with Curtis's, albeit forcefully, he no longer felt the urgent need to solve every problem, find Lucy or feel the loneliness that affected his sense of judgment .

Of course, he still longed for his only love, and still wanted to find her as soon as possible, however, his thinking became more subtle and the nonending sense of urgency had disappeared . He felt inexplicable calmness, the same the knight, Curtis, had .

If it were before, if he saw Sonia and the rest injured like this, he would have gotten angry and attacked from the getgo yet now, he did naught .

Carefully, he analyzed the situation, sensed the surroundings and appraised everyone in his view . Then he locked his stare on Rosie, who was equally staring back at him with a wavering expression . Without needing an appraisal, anyone could guess she's their boss and the perpetrator, she was also injured but

as she was a Divine Realm, no Immortal could defeat her and unless a Divine Realm faced her, no one can stop her from leaving .

Knowing this, Arthur glanced at the bowing youth next to him and nodded at him without speaking a word .

The red-haired youth didn't talk back either and just stood behind Arthur with his eyes still closed .

Feeling lighter than air and somewhat refreshed, Arthur took a step towards Rosie, who was about three hundred meters away from him and in just that single step, he appeared twenty meters away from the female gargoyle .

Rosie, who was thinking of a plan on how to get away, was momentarily dumbfounded . She knew that Arthur broke through but not even her, a peak Grade Divine Realm was able to see how he appeared in front of her . His speed was just inconceivable .

It was at this moment that she knew that Arthur was really the red-haired youth's master and albeit his Realm, he was by no means inferior and perhaps even stronger than that strange youth .

With such a speed, Rosie knew that she would not be able to escape from him and even if he wanted to, he would have rescued his teammates without her realizing .

The General started panicking and subconsciously tightened the grip on the tentacles . Due to her anxiousness and fear, she tightened the grip on her sword which in itself tightened the grip of the tentacles . Alas, the tentacles were already tightly gripping the hostages, any more force and they would literally be squashed to death .

By this time, it was too late to retract her actions, she could only look helplessly as those hostages were going to die . However, different from her expectations, once she glanced at where the hostages were, she saw nothing, there was not even a sign of the tentacles .

Without even knowing why or how Rosie spat two mouthfuls of blood and the red light emanating from her sword dimmed a lot and became almost nonexistent .

"You are quite ruthless . "

A voice entered Rosie's ears, it was a calm tone, devoid of coldness or anger . She knew it came from Arthur, but she didn't know why she felt that it wasn't hostile at all .

"I'm in a good mood, so I'll allow you to go if you cut off your left arm . "

The voice contained no hostility but the words were still shocking . Rosie could only glare angrily at the grey-haired man a couple of meters in front of her . She didn't know how he got rid of the tentacles but all the hostages were laying on the ground behind him and he didn't even lift a hand .

Rosie couldn't rebuke his words, she knew the odds were against her and even if she wasn't injured, she wasn't the red-haired youth's match, matchless his master .

After a couple of seconds, Rosie resolutely used her sword and cut off her arm . A small groan came out of her mouth but it was only for a second . She quickly gulped two pills and stopped the blood from leaking out then she crouched to take her arm but found that it was gone .



"Your actions have consequences . I do not know why you attacked this tribe nor do I care, all I know is that you attacked my people and punishment is needed . "

It should be a miracle that Arthur let her live but with the addition of Curtis's memories and soul, he changed a bit and cherished lives . It's true that not all people should live but he wasn't going to kill everyone or else he would make enemies everywhere . If he were to kill a General, the force behind him would never sit still and sooner or later, they would retaliate, if not against him then it's against his friends .

The female General gritted her teeth and swallowed the shame and anger she was feeling . She couldn't curse at him or attack, after one last glare, she turned around and left with her subordinates, who were equally terrified by this grey-haired man, who easily overwhelmed their superior .

"Now then, I should catch the fleeing rabbit, you guard them . "

Without needing a response, Arthur disappeared from that area . Arthur didn't even need to use skills or tricks to free the hostages, it was easily done using raw strength . When he took that step, he already free'd them and used Telekinesis to force them to swallow a Healing Potion . It was just that Rosie didn't notice that as she was too focused on Arthur .

His speed was so unfathomable that even Arthur thought that it was too absurd . Previously, using his lightning form, he could cross at least fifteen kilometers each second but that was nothing compared to his current speed .

Of course, now that he is in a world with a higher Nether Energy density, his speed would decrease compared the one on Astria but thanks to the boost and breakthrough, there was no decrease anymore but a large increase .

Thanks to the mark the youth left, he knew which direction Vyncent fled to, so using a new movement skill he acquired, Arthur took a step at a time and each one crossed an extremely large distance, it's as if he was chasing a nonmoving target as Vyncent speed was too slow compared to Arthur's .