

Once Human 171

Chapter 171

What Vyncent crossed in a couple of minutes using his fastest speed and his secret technique was crossed in mere seconds by a few steps by Arthur .

Each step looked as if he was stepping on a hard ground, he would appear in an area and vanish in less than second . His speed was simply inconceivable .

'So this is the speed of a God . '

As he walked on air and chased after Vyncent, Arthur used exactly fifteen seconds, no more, no less, to locate Vyncent by his sense . However, he didn't attack immediately, instead, he followed closely behind as he wanted to know why Vyncent took Alina with him despite how dangerous it was .

Hiding from an Immortal was an easy thing for him so he just passed unnoticeable by Vyncent, who was a bit relieved after sensing no one chasing him .

With the unconscious Alina in his arms, Vyncent would melt into the earth with the girl and cross a large distance then come out for a few seconds to recuperate and at the same time gulp a few pills .

Even Arthur was a bit shocked as he witnessed Vyncent's speed . Even a mid-Grade Divine Realm or even a peak one may not be able to match his speed, such a technique is definitely out of the ordinary .

'Still, it's insufficient . '

Arthur's evolution is completely different from all the rest, this breakthrough brought a lot of new things to him aside from the rise in stats .

One of them was something similar to the Sense . Adding his Sixth Sense which evolved, a new feature was added to it which was a 'map' .

Just like a game map, it stretched as far as his Sixth Sense could and recorded every area he crossed . With such a thing, getting lost would be near impossible .

As he followed after Vyncent, Arthur stood a mile away from the young man and gazed at him with a calm look, devoid of anger or rage . His new state was something Curtis once had and was one of the main factors that helped him rise in ranks . Not only did it make him much calmer, his process of thinking was actually divided, a bit like multiple personalities but every one of them was ruled by the same . Normally, even Gods wouldn't be able to think of multiple things at the same time without suffering . The brain of a God is the same as a mortal's brain, it's extremely vulnerable and easily burdened .

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If he didn't gain this state, Arthur wouldn't have been able to think like this .

. . . .

As he stood there, Arthur's figure black robe fluttered for a bit before calming down . Undiscernable to the eye, Arthur threw a small black object which glued on Vyncent without the latter realizing it .

Upon a closer look, it was an electronic thing, similar to the small capsule used to find the locations of enemies in those Hollywood films . Using his augmented Creation attribute and the Lost Magic, Arthur created this capsule which gave him a more detailed location of Vyncent .

He wrapped it with his Nether Energy as to keep it unnoticed and as long as Vyncent's Nether Energy is weaker than his, he won't even be able to find it unless he stripped and checked every inch of his body and even in that case, it is still glued to his skin .

For ten more minutes Arthur followed Vyncent until the young man reached an ancient tower in a large mountain gorge . The tower was thirty feet tall and seemed to be deserted .

Seeing a yellow dot on the map, Arthur didn't even need to spread his sense to know that someone was in there . A yellow dot means that it's a neutral entity, neither an enemy nor an ally, red is enemy and green means it's an ally .

'Finally, the prey reached its den . '

Arthur chuckled and vanished from his position .

Vyncent came out of the ground, he spread his sense and once he detected no one but the figure sitting in front of him, he breathed a sigh of relief .

"Why so cautious, I already checked this place and its surroundings . "

Vyncent put the demon princess on the ground and looked at the young man in front of him with an expressionless face, his eyes contained a hint of anger but he didn't show it .

The white-robed youth in front of him didn't notice the look of Vyncent, he glanced at Alina and nodded continuously as he was very satisfied . He looked back at Vyncent and added

"I have to give it to you, you sneaked into their prison and got her out, it's really an amazing feat . Although these savages are weakling, there are still some annoying dogs amongst them . "

Vyncent's usually friendly smile was absent this time, he kept his expressionless face and spoke with a calm tone

"The task is done, let's go back to the sect . "

Hearing Vyncent, the youth waved his hand and laughed

"Hahaha! Are you so afraid that you want to go back now? We'll have to wait for an Elder Tian to retrieve us . Furthermore, I found another candidate in the Gargoyle Tribe and already sent the Dun brothers . We'll wait for them and then go meet with Elder Tian . "

Then, without minding Vyncent, the youth leaned on the bed and closed his eyes .

The two of them minded their own business as they sat in the dusty room . Vyncent sat cross-legged and seemed to be cultivating, as for the youth, from his breathing, it could be seen that he was sleeping .

The silence didn't last for long, a small rustle broke it and forced the sleeping youth's ears to twitch for a second . He calmly looked at the wall in front of him and spoke with a hint of coldness

"Who's there? You better show up or else you'll end up more miserable . "

Despite saying that, nothing occurred . He looked at the wall and spread his Sense but he found nothing . The youth glanced at Vyncent and said:

"You brought unwelcomed guests! How could you not notice them!"

Although it was just a noise, the youth was sure that it was not the wind or some rogue beast . However, unlike the youth, Vyncent was sure he was not followed and only thought of it as a hiding snake .

Vyncent shrugged his shoulders and retorted

"Why would I be followed? How about you?"

"Nonsense! I came here three days ago yet nothing happened but the moment you came, something happens!"

At this point, the youth was panicking a bit . His Realm was high and he wasn't able to notice the opponent, which only meant the enemy was stronger than him and good at hiding . If he were to be sneak-attacked, he would only die miserably .

In a fit of fear, the youth punched the wall in front of him shattering it and creating a huge hole, even the whole tower shook as it suffered a strong shock .

Seeing nothing but huge boulders belonging to the mountain, the youth calmed down but the panic didn't vanish yet .

"We need to leave this place immediately, we'll meet with Elder Tian and the Dun brothers will catch up . "

As he said that, he prepared to jump from the building but the rustling noise entered his ears again . The youth felt chills run down his spines and before he could speak again, an explosion rang from behind him and at the same time, he felt at the lower part of his body .

As he looked down, the youth saw a dark green vine as thick as a thigh penetrating him from his back and coming out of his chest . Blood leaked out of his mouth as he stared dumbfoundedly at the hole created by the vine, which already retracted from his chest .

Vyncent was as shocked as the youth, however, he didn't linger for an extra second, the moment he saw the vine strike the youth, he used his secret technique and melted in the earth along with Alina, who was just next to him, still unconscious .

Unfortunately, when he melted on the ground and was preparing to start fleeing again, a cool and calm voice rang in his ears and his body was forcefully ejected from the ground and rolled two times before he was able to stabilize it .

Vyncent's hands were involuntarily shaking as he immediately recognized that voice, it was rooted in his memory the moment Arthur appeared in the prison and was further deepened when he saw how strong were his Golem and the weird book but what's scarier is that red-haired youth .

Raising his head, Vyncent saw the black-robed man with long gray-hair and two deep gray eyes that looked at him calmly .

"Y, you how did you find me?"

When he was asking that, he heard rustling noise near him and subconsciously trembled, he then saw Alina's body being enveloped by a thick dark green vine then disappeared into the hole at the center of the tower .

"If I'm not wrong, you are not in a position to ask me, am I right?"

Clenching his trembling hands, Vyncent's mouth opened but he couldn't utter any word, he knew that begging for his life is useless . After spending a few seconds in fear and thinking of a solution, he sighed and spoke:

"Fine, I give up, what do you want from me?"

Arthur clapped his hands and comfortably sat on the hard bed, his eyes never left Vyncent .

"Now that is wise, it's unnecessary to cause pointless bloodshed "

He stopped there for a second as he glanced at the pool of blood near the youth, who had already died from the lethal poison of the vine .

" . . . of course, some people need to die but some can be spared if they are useful and first and foremost, honest . "

Nodding his head in approval to Arthur, Vyncent lifted his hands and replied with a somewhat forced laugh

"Hahahaha you are correct . If I may, what does Mr . Arthur want from me?"

Arthur sat on the bed with a pondering expression and a hand on his chin, after a few seconds passed, he lifted his hand and pointed a finger at Vyncent whilst saying

"First, eat this . "

As he said that, a strange fireball the size of a thumb appeared from his finger, it had a creepy looking eyes and some kind of crone merged on the top of its head, it slowly floated toward Vyncent, who stared it with complete fear .

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Unwillingly, Vyncent opened his mouth and let the strange orange flame enter his body . At first, he felt a weird feeling as he sensed it going down his throat but its presence instantly disappeared once it reached where his DanTian was .

"Good, a wise man knows when to give up . Since the simple stuff is done, let's discuss the main topic . "

As he finished speaking, Arthur waved his hand unceremoniously and took Vyncent's storage ring directly from his finger . Gazing at the violet storage ring whilst playing it with his hands, Arthur spoke again

"I may not be acknowledgeable about this godforsaken place, however, I know that Humans aren't supposed to be here which means "

Stopping there, a cold glint flashed across his eyes as he glanced at Vyncent but it soon disappeared in a flash, as if it never appeared . Vyncent, who was staring back at Arthur, noticed such a change and couldn't help but feel a cold shiver across his body . At this point in time, the young man was soaking with cold sweat as he sat in front of the black-robed Arthur and didn't even dare try any tricks or breath heavily .

Nether Energy was injected into the ring, he met a slight resistance at first but it was soon crushed by the overwhelming pressure coming from the invader .

Arthur browsed through the storage ring, which had the biggest space compared to all the others he had seen, except Zodiac's, of course .

There were a bunch of cultivation techniques, a couple of hundred Top Spirit Red Stones and even a dozen of Green Spirit Stones, which were a grade higher than the Red Spirit Stones . Although they are used as currency, some people use them to refine into pills which recover Nether Energy, however, their efficiency is not great so it could be considered as a loss . Unless someone was filthy rich, he would not refine them into pills .

In fact, how much Nether Energy a person recovers in a specific amount of time depends on the Cultivation Technique they are practicing along with their Realm, but what not all people knew is that the Wisdom stats also played a huge role in Mana or Nether Energy Recovery .

Seeing the different foreign pills, a good looking saber, and a few materials, Arthur chuckled as this young man was quite rich, at least compared to the people in the Underworld .

What confused Arthur is that how a Medium-Realm like this one have Gods and Divine beings but a High-Realm like the Underworld have close to zero Gods as only the factions leader were so .

Just as he was going to finish his quick browsing, Arthur caught sight of a metal emblem, it emitted faint threads of Nether Energy . The emblem was a three-eyed eagle, it had some kind of royal aura, it's as if it was superior to all things . Disregarding the violet ring, Arthur took out the emblem and waved it at Vyncent, who paled once he saw the emblem .

"I see now that is much more interesting . "

It didn't take a genius to know from where Vyncent came from, Arthur was able to deduce it immediately once he saw the emblem . He kept the emblem in his storage and along with the youth's ring and added

"Now here comes the real question . How did you cross the wall? Don't forget that you have been given a second chance so don't ruin it . "

Vyncent's face turned green as he saw his ring and emblem got taken without being able to resist, however, he didn't dare raise an objection . He gripped his fists tightly and reluctantly replied after a moment of silence

"An elder from my sect would get us past the wall of fire . Unless you are a God Realm, you can't pass through . "

'God Realm, huh . . . '

Arthur current prowess could match up to a peak Grade God, like Delia . In fact, he had the confidence and power to deal with the three bosses of the Underworld alone if he were to face them again, with the drastic change that happened to him, his confidence was boosted by a bit .

"And how does this elder get you past the wall? Is there a teleportation array?"

"N, No he wraps our bodies with his Nether Energy to defend against the Yang fire or else we would explode . "

After he contemplated what was said for a bit, Arthur talked again

"Yang fire?"

"It's a fire condensed from a huge quantity of Yang Energy . Males have harder times passing through the wall as we have Yang residing in our bodies, as for females, even one at the Divine Realm can pass through the wall of Yang fire thanks to the strong Ying in their bodies . "

Vyncent spared no thought as he explained everything he knew, against such a terrifying existence like Arthur, he couldn't try his sly tricks . Even when talking with an Elder of his clan, he didn't feel such fear and pressure albeit the fact that Arthur wasn't going out of his way to use raw power to suffocate him with pressure . Just his calm voice and how he behaves uncautiously in front of him proves that he didn't even consider him as a threat .

'Gulp'

Unconsciously gulping some saliva, Vyncent thought back to when he tried to kidnap Alina and how, at first, he was ignorant enough to think he could deal with Arthur .

. . . .

As he thought about the Yang fire, Arthur wasn't sure if his immunity to fire will be helpful or not and even after checking the system, there is no option that specified which kinds of fires he was immune to . After letting out a sigh, Arthur got up from the bed and smiled friendly at Vyncent whilst saying

"Brother Vyncent is sure an honest boy, I hope that next time we cross paths, you would not do foolish things again oh and I will be taking your stuff as compensation . Till we meet again . "

Arthur's figure gradually became blurrier until it disappeared from the room, leaving only a stupefied Vyncent, who only managed to get up after a few minutes passed .

He felt a cold chill from that 'friendly' smile, he didn't even dare to talk back and only sat there . At first, he thought about asking for his emblem at least but he would only be slaughtered so he kept his mouth shut, which ended up being the right choice to do .

The young man looked at the lifeless corpse of the youth and the hideous hole in his chest before sucking a cold breath . That youth was a 2nd Grade Divine Realm yet he was killed so easily, if that vine was pointed at him, he would have died without knowing how .

As his eyes stared at the eyes of the youth, which were full of disbelief and unwillingness, Vyncent mumbled

"A miserable death indeed "

Without staying any extra second, Vyncent melted in the ground and disappeared from this room which reeked of a bloody stench .

. . . .

Arthur headed west with Alina with him, who is still in an unconscious state, and in a half an hour, he managed to get back to where the previous battle occurred .

"Astria could be considered a tip of an iceberg compared to this world . "

Just this huge desert alone is bigger than the Demon continent and the Western continent together . As he appeared on that battlefield, he saw the red-haired youth calmly staying at the same place he left him with Mary and the rest cautiously staying behind him .

There were a few new corpses scattered here and there which belonged to both factions but none of them were strong enough, the strongest was a peak Grade Immortal who was slaughtered like a pig .

Taliya and co were already up thanks to the potions he fed them, their effect on Mortals were miraculous and although their injuries were a bit serious, the bones healed at an astonishing pace . Only the Head Maid, Taliya, was still a bit injured and unable to move properly .

The silver-haired maid was panicking and seemed to be restricted by a thin red thread . No matter how much she struggled, she wasn't able to free herself .

"Welcome back, master . "

The youth bowed and briefly explained what happened whilst indicating that Taliya wanted to venture alone so he bound her . Then without lingering much longer, he vanished into a red fog white quickly dissipated with the passing wind .

As he looked at the remaining four, Arthur sighed and waved his hand, wrapping them around his Nether Energy before they disappeared from this huge area and headed toward their destination with an mind-numbing speed .

Taliya didn't even have the time to question Arthur before she found herself in a strange square surrounded by towering pillars . Her eyes then landed on the unconscious Alina, who floated beside her .

"It's for you to go home . "

Arthur stared at the surprised faces of the five while speaking with a calm voice . He didn't waste time as he activated the warp device which resulted in the strange runes engraved on the ground to shine with dim white light .

As they were about to be teleported, Taliya lifted her head and shifted her eyes to Arthur then said

"Wait! Take me with you . Since the Demon Princess is saved then you did your end of the deal . "

Then without waiting for him to reply, she turned her head to Lucas, who had his mouth wide-open, unable to believe the fast turn of events .

"Take care of the Demon Princess and take her back to the Royal Castle . "

Without further ado, she struggled and tried to go out of the big square but a pressure pressed on her which was followed by a calm voice

"That is unnecessary, the deal is done and I don't need a weakling following me, it'll only hinder me . "

Arthur knew that without being harsh, he wouldn't be able to stop her stubbornness, he could only use her weakness against her . Without minding Taliya, who looked at him with anger and unwillingness .

His eyes shifted to the silent Mary, the beastwoman was holding Sonia and gently stroking her head as she looked at her rosy cheeks which indicated that she was healing and was no longer poisoned .

"You are welcome to stay in my sect . You'll find Anastassia waiting for you . farewell . "

As his words ended, a bright flash followed and their figures soon disappeared from the huge square . Arthur couldn't help but sigh as he gazed at their disappearing figures, children and elderly died due to a war that didn't concern them and although they weren't related to him, he didn't wish for them to die in such a place, far from home .

Looking at the towering pillars and the dimming symbols, Arthur waves his hands, causing the pillars to shatter and fall down and the ground to shake . The square was crushed by a huge force and cracks appeared on the ground .

Very soon, what was supposed to be a special teleportation array was transformed into a huge put, as if a meteor crashed here .

Arthur wasn't a fool to let the Pigolo Tribe a chance to invade his home again . As for the matter of getting back to Astria, he would figure it out when he possesses a Spatial Master, before that, he wasn't planning on going back .

And for Taliya, the reason he didn't bring her with him was that this transformation that occurred inside of him forced him out of his desperation and loneliness, he no longer needed a companion and it was indeed true that having her with him will hinder him a lot as he would need to spare some of his focus to protect her .

Even Lissandra, who he planned on keeping next to him was sent back, this place was too dangerous and he doesn't have the luxury to protect Taliya, much less her .

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Since he had nothing to do there, Arthur didn't linger around any longer, his figure blurred and in with just a step, he was already a long distance away from that square, or what was left of it .

Along the road, he saw many bloody battles between the two factions and from the looks of it, the Pigolo Tribe started their retaliation as there was an astronomical number of these hideous looking creatures .

Obviously, he didn't meddle in their affairs as they had nothing to do with him or his plans, he already instructed Gutcha and gave him specific orders, as for himself, he planned to seclude himself for a while until the Pigolo Tribe manages to avoid this disaster and the atmosphere outside calms down .

With his abilities, finding a quiet, undisturbed place wasn't much of a challenge, using the Earth Attribute along with a skill similar to Vyncent's albeit a bit lacking, he merged with the ground and dived deep underground until he arrived into a closed cave approximately eight hundred meters from the surface .

This place had dense Nether Energy and it was a perfect place to cultivate . as his body got out of the roof, Arthur sat cross-legged in the center of the cave and closed his eyes . He was eager to check the system logs and see the benefits of his breakthrough, however, he wasn't that impatient . First, he revolved his Dark-Anguish Technique and circulated the Nether Energy in his body which led to black flames appearing around his body . Along with his Dark-Anguish Technique, he also activated the Dark-Star Strengthening Technique which allowed him to create a very powerful defensive layer below his skin .

In the blink of an eye, half an hour passed and Arthur finally opened his eyes again . Hearing the crackling noises of the damnable chains, he sighed and showed a pained laugh

"Although I managed to break through, they are still here fortunately, their restrictive power decreased by a huge margin . "

He tried breaking the chains but no matter how much strength he exercised, it was futile and only a pointless struggle . After trying a few more times and reaching no conclusion, he gave up and shifted his attention to the system .

As he saw the long list of system logs, Arthur licked his lips and started browsing through them .

Your soul has successfully devoured curtis' soul: +1000 Maximum Mental Power .

You have obtained a new title: [Live with Honor, Die with Glory]: +10% Maximum Health . When your Health is under 30%, your damage is doubled against a specific target of your choosing .

Can be activated once every five hours .

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(If the target is not dead within five hours, the effect still lasts even after another target has been chosen .)

Your stats have increased, please check your Status Window for more details .

You have unlocked a new state: +9,999,999 Wisdom .

Ethereal State(Passive Lv2)(Activated): Soothes the heart, calms the mind and allows a more rational thinking . (Cannot be affected by Time/Void/Nether/Dark Matter) .

+500,000 to Vitality, Strength, Intelligence, Agility, Dexterity, and Wisdom .

+5% Damage .

+5% Reduced Magical and Physical Damage .

+2,500 Maximum Mental Power .

Water-based attacks deal 150% more damage .

You received 30% reduced damage from any water-based attack . ?Immunity against the debuffs: Fear, petrification .

Due to devouring another soul, you gained a new stats: Soul Defense: The higher the value, the stronger your defense is against soul attacks .

Due to devouring another soul, your Soul Defense value increased: +5,000

You obtained a new skill(Passive): [Peak Sword Mastery]

. . . .

Since the user 'Arthur' already has [Peak Sword Mastery], the two skills will be merged, please hold . . .

Merging successful!

You have obtained a new skill(Passive): [Heavenly Sword Mastery]: Whilst using any kind of sword, you gain +40% increase in damage and +20% increase in speed .

Able to condense Sword Energy

Can use the skill : [Heavenly Slash]

[Heavenly Slash]: Using any kind of sword, the user would create an overwhelming slash that could cut mountains and split seas .

Cost: 50m Nether Energy

Cooldown: None

You have successfully broken through to the Divine Realm 1st Grade .

You have successfully broken through to the Divine Realm 2nd Grade .

Your stats have increased, please check your status window for more details .

Your 'DanTian' increased in size: +50m Maximum Nether Energy / +150m Maximum Mana .

Your Meridians have been cleansed: +19,999 Nether Energy Recovery/ +19,999 Mana Recovery .

Several Functions of the ARK have been unlocked .

Congratulations! Your body has gotten rid of 90% of impurities: +10m Strength / +10m Vitality / +10m Agility / +10m Dexterity .

An overall maintenance has been launched, please hold

Maintenance finished: 2 minutes, 48 seconds .

Details (-):

80% of skills have been modified, please click on (+) for more details . (Please keep in mind that all previous ones can still be used too .)

Evolution of the system, more diverse functions . (+)

Appraisal can now see the target's name, Realm/Level, age, Race, buffs, debuffs .

Status Window has more details for the user to explore .

A map has been added to detect neutral, friendly and enemy presences around the user .

A new detailed window has been added to show the number of possessions the user did .

Bug fixes . . .

TITLE: MEAT GRINDER / SEEKER OF KNOWLEDGE / ONE WITH THE SWORD / ARK HOLDER / LIVE WITH HONOR, DIE WITH GLORY

Level: ???

Class: Dark ARK Parasite

Realm: Divine Realm 2n Grade

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Strength: 354 . 4M

Intelligence: 322 . 6M

Agility: 301M

Wisdom: 289 . 7M

Vitality: 315 . 9M

Dexterity: 302 . 1M

-

Health: 378 . 4M // Health Regen: 145781/s

Nether Energy: 384 . 2M // Nether Energy Regen: 138877/s

Mana: 418M // Mana Regen: 224814/s

Stamina: Infinite /Stamina Regen: ???

Creation: 192

Attack: 397 . 4M (+65% Damage)

Defense: 388M (+25% Damage Reduction)

Magic Defense: 87 . 8M

Soul Defense: 5,000

Enigma abilities : Telekinesis / Ancient Threads / Sixth sense / ARK(Activated)

Mental Power: 5499

Elemental Resistances(+)

Darkness: 100%

Wind: 35%

Water: 75%

Earth: 75%

Light/holy: 5%

Shadow: 30%

Lightning: 100%

Ice: 30%

Death Count: 1 (2 more to obtain 'Unbound')

Possessions (471,981)

Races:

Humans (282,971)

Demons (84,997)

Beasts (+)(101,514)

Unique Beasts (2498)

Mythical beings (1)

Seeing the long list of notifications and the increase in stats, Arthur let out a hearty laugh, just by gazing at the stats alone, his confidence was boosted again . His stats doubled and facing a Peak God is certainly achievable, even killing one is not a far-fetched thought .

For the next hour and a half, Arthur checked all the details about the skills and techniques and picked a few that pleased him . He had chosen three martial art skills, one movement technique, and three sword-based skills .

The martial art skills are:

[Raging Bronze Platform](Mastery: Spirit) (3rd Grade Mystic Rank)

[Heavenly Mountain Fist] (Mastery: Mystic)(1st Grade Heavenly Rank)

[Unparalleled Golden Palm](Mastery: Heavenly)(3rd Grade Heavenly Rank)

The movement technique was something he was already familiar with, it's an evolution of petal steps . He unconsciously used it earlier, each step would allow him to cross distance and all that was left was his afterimage .

[Petal Leap](Mastery: Mystic)(2nd Grade Spirit Rank)

Although its Rank was not high and he had a few other good movement techniques, he still chose this one as he felt it was quite compatible with him, moreover, it suited his tastes .

Last but not least were the sword-based skills:

[Heavenly Slash]

[Golden Lone Sheath]: Unsheathe and sheath your sword at an incredible speed, creating a devastating sword attack .

Cost: 100,000 Mana / 25,000 Nether Energy

Cooldown: none

[Thousand Waves]: Unleash a sword attack that is the combination of thousand sword strike .

Cost: 1m Mana/500,000 Nether Energy .

Cooldown: 20 Hours .

With the help of the ARK godly time manipulating ability, which allowed him to spend a long time inside of it without a second passing outside, he was confident in raising his mastery of these skills . What's more, the presence of Makaze, his beloved katana, those attacks would become more monstrous and if the enemy is a God, he would not come out unscathed after receiving such formidable attacks .

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Once he finished thoroughly checking the logs, Arthur passed the rest of the day meditating and absorbing as much Nether Energy as he could .

From time to time, he could feel slight tremors despite being so deep underground . The only plausible explanation is that the Gods residing in the Pigolo Tribe headquarters finally decided to show themselves and started their full-on retaliation to drive out the invaders .

Arthur paid them no heed as he concentrated on cultivating . His body was like a gigantic black whirlpool as Nether Energy was devoured and entered his body as if it was a bottomless hole .

As they passed by his Meridians, the Nether Energy transformed into a big formless blob of energy which entered into his DanTian and was refined at an insane pace . The black talisman floating around his DanTian would emit a strange black light, accelerating the refining process and facilitating the process .

In only a mere night, Arthur's Mental Power increased by three hundred and if he were to cultivate for a few more days, he would easily breakthrough to the next Grade . Others would take months to breakthrough and some geniuses would take weeks at least, but Arthur was a monster and the accumulated talent he absorbed from all those corpses finally showed its usefulness .

Actually, it would be a strange thing if his cultivating speed is not fast, his stats were already so high, so naturally, his Realm should suit the stats and that is only achievable if that was done as fast as possible . Furthermore, Arthur was more or less sure that once he broke through to the God Realm and became a fully-fledged God, the restricting chains will finally be gone as he had absolute confidence to break them .

.....

As the curtain of night has fallen and the sun rose, Arthur opened his eyes at last and breathed some white steam . He could feel that things calmed down and there were no more tremors so he decided to go outside after a few more hours .

'But before that, I should check the new functions of the ARK'

'Dra'lim'

By the next second, Arthur found himself in the familiar white space . At first, it was a bit mind-numbing to stare at endless white space with no limits, but after a few more times, he got used to it .

A few meters away from him, a cubic object slowly rotated a few feet above the white ground, it had a mysterious feeling to it and there were new ancient runes engraved on its sides .

Welcome to the ARK

As usual, the robotic voice rang in his ears, it made him feel as if he was in a sci-fi movie or some sort of a game .

However, before Arthur could ask about the new functions, a bright golden light flashed in front of him before his 'copy' appeared in front of him with a bright smile plastered on his face .

Contrary to the actual Arthur, his copy had black eyes and dark hair, somewhat shorter than his actual grey hair .

"We meet again, my friend!"

The "copy" then stretched his hand wanting to shake hands with Arthur but the latter was still disgusted by his copy and despite all what happened, he was still a bit unwilling to communicate with him . Furthermore, he knew it was just a spirit, some sort of a message left behind by the creator or the previous owner of the ARK, however, what confused him is why does the spirit resemble him so much, heck! It's not even resemblance anymore, it's a flat-out doppelganger if you exclude the minor color change in hair and eyes .

Arthur folded his hands and calmly stared at the awkward behavior of the spirit, waiting for the "copy" to deliver the messages that needed to be heard .

"Ahhh! No need to be so distant! We're bros, aren't we? Anyways . . . I see that it hasn't been long since you saw me . . . hmmm let me check . "

As he said that, the "copy" waved his hands and started tapping on a transparent screen in front of his face . After a couple of seconds, he nodded with a wide grin on his face and resumed speaking

"I see I see . . . that's formidable indeed! Did you know, from the six things I expected you to become, you became the choice which had the lowest probability! Even less than 1%! If that is not being lucky, then it only means you favored by the heavens but that will be contradicting since you're defying them . . . hahaha"

The "copy" stopped for a bit to catch a breath as he contemplated the screen in front of him, after scrolling down a few more times, he looked back at Arthur and added:

"Actually, I expected you to become either a special Elemental Spirit or a frost titan but my expectations were exceeded! That can only be good news! A parasite . . . that's way better!"

As he heard his "copy", Arthur wasn't the least bit shocked, he already expected that his Race will be found out, this spirit or "copy" knew a lot of things and to hide his Race from him would be extremely hard, after all, he managed to find out his Race in a few seconds .

"You have to know that a Parasite can not only possess but do other heaven-defying things too, you use your Race in a simple way but you'll eventually learn . . . now that's not what I came here to talk about, but since I discovered a good news, I'll add another function for you! My generosity has no limits, so you better be grateful!"

Saying that, the "copy" focused on the screen in front of him then, he used his left hand to grab the cubic object floating near him before pressing on it in a very weird manner .

The copy only stopped after ten minutes, his figure became a bit blurry and a golden light started enveloping it . After one final glance at the ARK, it looked at Arthur and said

"Since my time is up, I'll let the ARK explain the new functions! Enjoy and we'll probably meet soon, if you don't die, of course!"

From start to finish, Arthur didn't utter any word, he just stood there, arms folded and spectated . Now that the "copy" is gone, he was a bit eager to see the functions . Since the current functions of the ARK were already so good and miraculous, he had huge expectations for the new ones too .

"Display the useable functions . "

*List:

Phase Training .

Rest .

Materialize(+)

● Martial Arts .

● Magic .

*

The first two functions are nothing new to Arthur but to the third one is completely new, moreover, it's a bit intriguing .

"Explain the Materialize function . "

*Materialize allows the user 'Arthur' to train and perfect the Martial Arts or Magical skills he possesses . Unlike Phase Training, the time will not stop, instead, it'll be faster, one day spent in the Materialize function is equal to two days outside . *

'Double the time?'

Since it allows the user to perfect his skills, it's certainly useful but if one loses himself and trains for a week, then two weeks will pass outside, It's both good and bad at the same time . Someone like Arthur, who is very tight on time, can't spend months of days perfecting skills, at most, he'll spend a day .

"What if I spend an hour in the Materialize function?"

*Once the user enters the function, he can only go out after a day has passed . *

It's a very alluring function especially for the old hermits who would pass years or decades in seclusion, such a miraculous environment which helps them grow immensely stronger is even rarer than a phoenix's feather .

"What about the new phases?"

*Currently, the user 'Arthur' can access to the Beginner's Phase and the Trainer's Phase . *

"Then let me enter the Trainer's Phase for the time being . "

*Are you sure you want to begin the Trainer's Phase? Once you enter, you cannot stop . *

"Yes . "

*Countdown beginning:10 . . 9 . . 8 . . 7 . . .

*

. . .

*Please pick your weapon . *

*List:

One-handed axe:1000 Attack .

. . . .

*

"No need for a weapon, proceed . "

*Please pick an armor . *

'Oh?'

Once he heard that, Arthur was a bit taken aback, in the Beginner's Phase, it never allowed him to pick an armor, he just wore Zodiak's robe, so seeing the list of armors, he was a bit delighted .

Since his stats are reduced and the opponent is decently strong, even if it's a low-grade armor, it'll benefit him greatly .

As he browsed through the long list of armors, Arthur picked a green leather armor which added a few points of defense but added a bonus of 5% in speed .

With an armor and bare fists, Arthur waited for his companion 'whitey' to show up .

*Are you ready . *

"Yes . "

With that said, a weird clicking noise rang in his ears before 'whitey' appeared at last, however, contrary to last time, he had an armor and a long black bow in his hands .

Without waiting for Arthur, the bow was pulled and a sharp metal arrow was thrown at his face .

Swiftly crouching and avoiding the arrow by a hair's breadth then he applied force on his left foot and pressed on the ground before his figure turned a bit blurry and in just a single step, the distance between him and 'whitey' was crossed .

Since it's the Trainer's Phase, he can now use Movement technique along with his Martial Arts, so he didn't hesitate as he quickly did some strange seals in the air and by the time he appeared in front of 'whitey', a five-meter-long bronze platform appeared above him .

Arthur followed by a punch towards the enemy's chest which caused 'whitey' to retreat back a few steps, however, unfortunately for it, the punch was merely a feint as Arthur waved his right hand down, throwing the bronze platform at whitey, who wasn't able to get away in time .

What followed was brutal as poor 'whitey' was literally crushed by the platform which came down from above, it crushed it on the ground until it died with no ways of resistance .

Standing a few meters away from the bronze platform, Arthur smiled and waited for the next phase to begin

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'ha . . '

Arthur took a large breath as he wiped the sweat from his forehead . Laying in front of him is a gigantic white corpse with no face, it held two blades, one in each hand and currently, its legs were crushed to a pulp .

*Congratulations! You passed the third phase . *

*Congratulations! You finished the Trainer's Phase . *

*Performance:

Physical Score: 86/100

Skills Score: 95/100

Magic Score: 25/100

Battle Score: 88/100

Weapon Score: 0/10

Time Spent: 481 minutes 55 seconds . 'Low'

Overall score: 60 'good' .

Rewards: +100 Mental Power, +10,000 to all stats .

"What? Why are the rewards like this?"

Arthur was momentarily dumbfounded as he saw such low rewards . Even the rewards he got from the Beginner's phase after the first clear were not this bad . In fact, they were extremely generous .

He tried asking again but the ARK didn't reply, so he could only sigh and try the Beginner's Phase to see if all the rewards have been nerfed or it's only this phase .

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. . . .

*Congratulations! You passed the third phase . *

. . . .

. . .

Rewards: +10, +100 to all stats .

' Seriously? How can this be counted as a new function . . . it's clearly nerfing the rewards . '

Although he was angry, a formless serene aura took hold of him and suppressed the rising anger . All he could do was sigh and leave the ARK as there was nothing to do here .

Despite not getting generous rewards, he was still able to practice his new Martial Arts and get better them which is why he got a 0 on the weapon score . He only relied on his fists and kicks and managed to defeat the opponents .

However, what's surprising is the second and last phases were incredibly hard to beat . At the second phase, he had to dodge nonstop from the bombardment of whitey, who used magic skills .

As for the last boss, it was a battle of endurance which ended up with him winning with his bronze platform, which he used to flatten the boss and crush its legs .

...

Once Arthur left the ARK, he retrieved the corpse of the youth who was with Vyncent and possessed him . He didn't take his corpse at first as he wanted to see what will Vyncent do to him but when he saw him just leave after glancing at the lifeless body, he unceremoniously took it .

In fact, he was only eager to obtain the same skill Vyncent used which allowed him to melt into the earth and travel at a speed which a person in his Realm could never achieve .

Unfortunately, except a stats addition and a few techniques which are not useful to Arthur, there was nothing that caught his attention . The technique he was waiting for didn't appear . To be fair, Using Petal Leap, he could outdo Vyncent easily but if he were to use it, his speed would probably be faster than when he's using Petal Leap .

To be more precise, Petal Leap is suited for battle . However, Vyncent's technique is for traveling or fleeing, if it's combined with lightning forth, Arthur was sure that even with a Spirit Boat, no one can catch him, at least if it's not a Unique Spirit Boat like his .

The Spirit Boat he bought with Lucy was in her storage ring, so he was left with nothing but that was also fine as he would no openly use it . He preferred to be hidden and avoid any troubles, especially in such a chaotic world .

"I guess it's finally done . "

Arthur flicked his hand, retrieving the colonel's body and possessing it on the spot . He checked his clothes and made a few deliberate cuts here and there to make it seem as if he was in countless battles . He also added some dust and dirt to make it seem even more realistic then he vanished from that underground cave and appeared on the surface, where it reeked of blood and was quite crowded as soldiers were running around with spears in hands .

Very soon, soldiers recognized him despite his haggard state, they bowed and resumed doing their jobs, it's seemed things didn't completely calm down but the enemies were repelled .

Arthur nodded back at them and returned to his residence since his position was quite high in the tribe, he didn't need to do simple jobs like them . His choice of prey was good as he picked a rather high-positioned individual .

In merely ten minutes, Arthur was already inside Hakim's luxurious residence . Just as he was about to go to his office and meditate before sending someone to fetch Gutcha, the main door of his residence

was slammed open and a burly hideous Pigolo barged in . He had a happy expression as he saw Hakim unscathed body . He walked toward Arthur and patted his shoulders whilst saying

"Big brother Hakim! Hahaha I knew that those damnable reptiles cannot get to you! They were going to declare you as missing but I insisted they wait for one more day . "

Abel (Race: Pigolo): Realm: Peak Stage Deity

Age: 37

Arthur showed a friendly smile, albeit a little ugly due to the hideous appearances of the Race .

"Colonel Abel, it's nice to see you safe too . So what brings you here?"

Hearing Colonel Hakim talk, Abel laughed even loudly before he patted Arthur's shoulders yet again and said

"Hahahaha what 'Colonel Abel', were you so worried about me that you became respectful? Hahahaha call me 'Abel' like always, else I feel awkward . "

"Alright Abel, what brings you here? I just got back and I need to rest for a bit . "

Hearing this, Abel backed away two steps and thoroughly checked Hakim's body, once he was certain that there were no injuries, he sighed and said in a serious tone:

"We have been summoned to the headquarters . This time, the reptiles were very sneaky and launched a full-on offensive . From what I've heard, we lost about thirty percent of our military power, if not for the tribe chief who became enraged and began a full-on slaughter, killing every reptile in the way, they would not have backed away . "

'Thirty percent, huh? Those Gargoyles sure are vicious . '

Since they have been summoned, Arthur couldn't reject due to possessing the body of a colonel, so he followed Abel and headed to the headquarters of the Pigolo Tribe .

It took them more than an hour to reach the headquarters as Abel stopped many times to give orders to several captains and sort problems . He was an able leader and it seemed that he had a very good reputation amongst the soldiers .

Even with the help of various passive skills and so on, Arthur was never a man of many words, neither was he born to be a military leader . It's true he founded the MoonStar sect with Lucy, but at the end of the day, it was Anastassia who took care of it .

The only reason he decided to found a sect with Lucy is to have a home to return to and to possess a strong power as to not be looked down but others in Astria . Whether it's them or their children or grandchildren, they wanted them to live a better life than them, in a safe place and a peaceful era, devoid of meaningless wars for territories which can be shared without resorting to bloodshed .

.....

Before Arthur and Abel laid a thousand feet palace, it had a majestic feeling and was made from a material very similar to red jade . It was luxurious and breathtaking . Even Arthur was flabbergasted at the sight as it was the first time he saw such a magnificent awe-inspiring palace .

"Hahaha everytime I see it, I cannot help but be shocked too, it is said that this was built below a volcano which is why the material became blood red, just like lava . "

With reverence and amazement in his eyes, Abel gazed at the palace in front of him as he talked about it to Hakim . In fact, this kind of situation would happen every time he comes with Hakim, it has become a constant routine so the deceased Hakim had long since started ignoring Abel in such moments .

The duo soon entered the majestic palace and met with a Pigolo which surprisingly had a white beard . It was the first bearded Pigolo Arthur had ever seen, and he couldn't help but think it was a too unfitting to have a beard with such a hideous face .

"You two finally came, the meeting is about to start so let's hurry up . "

The old Pigolo didn't wait for them and walked in front . He was their direct superior and had the rank of a 'Commander . '

Kieran (Race: Pigolo): Realm: 4th Grade Immortal .

Age: 52

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A few minutes after following Kieran, they met up with another group led by an elderly man which had the same attire as old Kieran . A colonel was a pretty high position compared to mere soldiers but there were a few ranks higher than that, just like these elderly people . Moreover, it doesn't seem to be easy to reach them as all people who reached that rank were elders, more or less .

Arthur saw four people with the same red robe as Kieran and three of them were elders with the last being a middle-aged Pigolo .

It's pretty hard to guess their age but thanks to his Appraisal, discovering their age was a piece of cake . There was even an old Pigolo who lived for more than a century .

Approximately twenty minutes later, after crossing a few turns and heavily guarded rooms, they finally arrived at a grandiose hall . Twelve pillars stood erect from each side of the hall till the end of it and an extremely large table was at the center of the hall .

There were thirty-six seats around the table and more than half were already taken . From their attire, Arthur was able to guess that they were of a Rank higher than his, even higher than Kieran's as they wore a grey robe with a red hideous face similar to theirs engraved at the back of it .

'Appraisal' was activated and Arthur discovered that all the seated people were all in the Divine Realm . Abel, Arthur and eight other Colonels followed Kieran as they were under his command . The old Pigolo walked to a specific direction and stood behind another elderly Pigolo which had taken one of the thirty-six seats .

Elbel(Race: Pigolo): 3rd Grade Divine Realm .

Age: 84

'Not too strong, still an amazing military power . '

Although he was confident in beating any person who didn't ascend to Godhood, he was still amazed by the numerous Divine beings and Immortals this tribe had . This was a desolate land cast out from the rest of the world due to the wall of yang fire, so to build such a grandiose palace, have a humongous army, that's clearly shocking .

This lacks in comparison to the Underworld, where Immortals can be seen everywhere in cities, they are still a power that should not be underestimated .

Arthur was sure that the tribe chief has to be a God and there is the possibility of the presence of more than a God in this tribe . He was not sure that he can escape from so many experts . One Divine Realm cannot hurt him but thirty-six of them along with hundreds of Immortals, adding to that a God, that's not something he can cope with .

. . . .

Except for a few friendly talks, no one dared to talk loudly as the atmosphere was a bit tense and when half an hour passed, all seats were taken except three big red seats at the center of the table .

From the information he got thanks to the Appraisal, Arthur was able to understand the composition of ranks more thoroughly .

One General had five Army Commander under him .

One Army Commander had Ten Colonels under him .

One Colonel had 25 Majors under him .

One Major had 10 Captains under him .

And since there were thirty-six Generals, then there were three hundred and sixty Immortals, if we don't include hidden experts or trump cards that the tribe surely have .

. . . .

At last, footsteps rang in the ears of all present people in the hall, which was followed by an invisible pressure that made the atmosphere tenser . Three silhouettes appeared from the end of the Hall . Calm footsteps, overwhelming presence and godly aura, there were no doubts that the newcomers were Gods .

Despite having the complete confidence in dealing with a Peak Grade God, Arthur still felt a slight pressure . It happened each time he met with a God, this kind of pressure cannot be shaken off with just a raise of stats, it's the aura of superiority, whilst he is still technically a mortal, he has a long lifespan thanks to ascending to the Divine Realm, but it's not endless and one day or another, if he doesn't become a God, he will definitely die of old age . However, a God never dies of old age unless there are special circumstances .

"Hehehe, I apologize for my lateness . My bones are getting old and I have been forced to move a lot these couple of days . "

From the shadows covering most of the hall, an old aged Pigolo accompanied by two other elderly Pigolo strode from afar, heading towards the table .

'Appraisal'

Ti Eru (Race: Pigolo): 4th Grade God Realm .

Age: 501

Ti Buo (Race: Pigolo): 3rd Grade God Realm .

Age: 480

Ti Fuer (Race: Pigolo): 3rd Grade God Realm .

Age: 481

The two figures behind the chief tribe were at the 3rd Grade and the leader himself was a 4rd Grade God, that was not as strong as the Lich King and Kilian but they were still Gods and should not be looked down upon .

The leading silhouette, which wore a golden robe and had a long white beard unmatching with his amazingly hideous face, unceremoniously sat on the central seats followed by the remaining two .

The three of them were like three huge boulders pressuring the present Generals and Commanders, none dared to keep chatting and remained silent as they were a bit reluctant and afraid to receive the full-on anger of the chief tribe .

Arthur kept his Divine Sense in check and retracted his Sixth Sense, not daring to draw too much attention to himself . He didn't even look at them straightly, but unlike the rest, he was not the least bit afraid . He just didn't want to get found out or bring unnecessary troubles upon himself .

His mission in this tribe is partially complete, he just needs to find a Spatial Master . He is going to wait for Gutcha to find some information for him and if in a week's time, nothing is found, he'll try crossing the wall of yang fire and venture outside to seek spatial masters . He just needs to possess one and gain the necessary skills to create a long enough spatial tunnel leading to Earth's frequency . It's not going to be easy but he has to try it, even if there is only one percent chance of Lucy being there .

"Now let's get on with bullshittery and cast away your shameless embarrassed attitudes! THIRTY PERCENT! I'm sure you know what that number means!"

The calm and easy-going attitude changed drastically when Ti Eru sat, he even spat some saliva which landed on the Commander's faces not far away from him yet none dared to protect or get angry .

One burly Pigolo with a humongous height of 2 . 5 meters hesitated a bit before he spoke

"T-Tribe chief, we were caught u-unprepare "

'BANG!'

Ti Eru interrupted him as he banged his fist on the table, shaking it whole and scaring the burly Pigolo witless . He gazed at the General venomously and retorted

"Unprepared my ass!! There are no such rules that they have to wait for us to prepare! For god's sake, we're enemies and you're not even prepared when they launch such a tiny sneak attack and send only their trash troops? I did not build this tribe to be bullied like an injured dog!"

Hearing the bombardment of the chief tribe, the burly Pigolo could only drop down his head and not dare to look back at Ti Eru for fear of being humiliated further .

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'BANG!'

The more he talked, the angrier he became, Ti Eru's fist caused cracks to appear on the table . His face flushed and his body started shaking for sometime before he finally calmed down .

Although he suppressed his anger, Arthur could feel an extremely cold chill emanating from him .

"I'm not someone easy to bully! Our tribe will declare war at once with these dirty reptiles! So what if they have a one-star array master, we won't back down!"

Followed by his declaration, the generals kind of regained their courage and started encouraging him and shouting in excitement . Very soon, the tense atmosphere but nobody dared to say reckless words, they just cheered for while before calming down .

"Ti Buo, you lead five Generals along with all their troops and pulverize those cockroach holes they dug a few years ago . Ti Fuer, you lead twenty Generals and pressure them . "

"As for me, I'll go to their headquarters with the rest and demand compensations! Hmpf! I don't believe that they would try to sneak attack us with nothing up their sleeves . There must be something that happened! Hmpf! Damnable reptiles!"

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After spending the next two hours talking about the details of the plans and the losses suffered from the sudden attack, the tribe chief dispersed the large crowd of Generals . Arthur was under Kieran, who was under a General . Kieran's superior was also an old pigolo who was chosen by the tribe chief to go with him to the headquarters of the Desert Gargoyles . Obviously, all his strong subordinates will follow him too .

All in all, eleven generals, fifty-five commanders, five hundred and fifty colonels will go with the tribe chief . The lowest rank that was allowed to go were Colonels, so Arthur was a bit lucky . He had a strong interest in joining them as his goal in coming here was still finding a Spatial Master . Moreover, he was not concerned with not being picked, with the level of power of colonels, it wouldn't be hard to kill and possess another one .

The only threat to him in this place are the three Gods, he had confidence dealing with them separately but if they combined forces, it will get tricky as every God had unique attacks and powerful trump cards, he can't be careless and waste time, due to some pointless fights against them .

For now, or probably until he goes back to Earth, Arthur decided to never show his appearance, he would always be possessing something, if not Hakim then a plant, if not a plant then a beast, whatever it was, he would possess it and secure himself a second life .

This was not Astria, which is exactly why he can't be careless, he can't go around provoking anyone who annoys him . He spared Vyncent partially due to that . It's true that he killed that white-clothed youth but that was because he was sure that he wouldn't be as obedient as Vyncent .

No matter if he was affected by the soul-devouring or not, if his personality changed or not, he had one simple rule that he and Lucy would always follow and that is to eliminate any potential danger, never let any enemy live, no matter how insignificant he or she is .

Gutcha and Vyncent already followed his fireball, no matter where they are, if he willed it, he can instantly kill them and no one, not even a God or someone in a Higher-Realm could take it out .

The second the detonator senses an opposition from the host, it would explode and all that will be left would be meat remains and a ground littered with the blood of whoever was foolish to resist .

.....

After having finished the meeting, Arthur spoke a few words with the excited Abel then returned to Hakim's residence . It's been a short time since he broke through and albeit his high Wisdom stats and amazing recovering power, he already stabilized his cultivation and even increased his Mental Power, he still wanted to meditate a bit more .

The change he experienced was just too big, especially of new skills he obtained . In fact, they were not completely new, just evolved versions of old ones, ones that he didn't use or didn't find a lot useful . What's a pity about most of these skills is that most of them cannot be used on Humanoid bodies, like those passive skills, to activate them, he needs a different kind of body .

As he meditated and revolved the Dark-Anguish Technique to revolve the Nether Energy and stimulate his Meridians to absorb this energy, his cultivation was steadily increasing .

Actually, when Arthur had gotten this cultivation technique, he felt a bit hesitant . Although Zodiak insisted that he should practice this one, he didn't find it particularly miraculous, at least it could be considered quite lacking compared to Lucy's .

If Arthur's cultivation speed could be considered like a genius's, then Lucy was similar to a monster's . Previously, when they were in secluded training, she was alarmingly fast at absorbing Nether Energy and increasing her Grade . It was just too fast, whilst people take months, or weeks for geniuses to advance a Grade, she would take days or perhaps even a day, it was just too mind-numbing .

Her talent was unparalleled even compared to Arthur, who should be unmatched, so this made him think of her origins, adding her special physique, it just made things a bit more mysterious . For her to just originate from Astria, that was a bit hard to believe but then again, what was she doing on Astria if she wasn't from there?

Opening his eyes and gently caressing the ring on his finger, Arthur's eyes turned absent-minded as Lucy's figure flashed before him .

"Time passes but we'll forever be bonded . . . isn't that what you said, Lucy?"

Unknowingly, Arthur spent one full hour in this state, reminiscing about his memories with Lucy . Even though merging with Curtis's soul did help him, it still couldn't completely extinguish his ever-lasting longing for his wife and daughter .

.

The plans ordered by Ti Eru were scheduled to begin three days from now, and with him being a Colonel, Arthur didn't need to do anything . Besides Abel who would come once a day to chat with him and talk about his excitement to kill gargoyles, there were no uninvited guests .

Even Gutcha seemed to have disappeared, he was not dead but he didn't come to visit Arthur . There was no way he was dead or else Arthur would have felt his detonator vanish, he was not brave enough to dare to run away .

The poor captain was actually spending all his resources and connections to locate a Spatial Master, no matter how unimportant the information was, he would try to get it .

In the tribe's hall, where all the high-officials gathered, Ti Eru and the two elders were discussing something . Facing them was a Pigolo with a horrifying scar on his face and a missing arm . Surprisingly, he exuded an aura similar to the three so he was a God with no doubts . No one besides those three knew the existence of this one .

Actually, those three were brothers and this scarred Pigolo was their fourth brother . He remained hidden since his birth and was nurtured by their father to be a well-trained assassin which took care of all the shady stuff related to their tribe . His loyalty to the tribe was never questioned and amongst the four, he was slightly stronger than Ti Eru, being a peak 4th Grade God Realm .

"Did you discover anything, Ti An . "

Ti Eru and the other two faced the scarred Pigolo with an uneasy expression . Although Ti Eru declared that he was not afraid of the Desert Gargoyles, in all truthfulness, they were only slightly stronger and can't eliminate them without suffering any losses . Furthermore, to completely eradicate all the enemy's roots, the price would be extremely heavy and in by no means would it be beneficial to them .

He said that in a fit of anger but he would still not give up on his plans . Maybe eradicating the gargoyles is not entirely possible, however, causing them some losses is a doable thing . The top experts of the Desert Gargoyles must have to know that they'll visit in three days and all their forces would be stationed in their headquarters, so the other two groups lead by Ti Buo and Ti Fuer have a strong possibility to complete their tasks .

If they could destroy the holes, which are the main source of income of the Gargoyles, then Ti Eru would be satisfied . Those 'holes' were actually wells . Being a Race proficient in Earth techniques and a terrain surrounded by rocky mountains, the Desert Gargoyles were able to establish such a big force due to these wells, which link up to a deep underground mine . A mine which provided a large amount of Red Spirit Stone and Green Spirit Stones, there was even a modest amount of Earth Essence Stones .

Those Earth Essence Stones are condensed from the accumulation of thick Earth Energy Attribute . They can be used to forge strong artifacts or create the 'Earth Bead' which can be sold at a high price to outside forces .

"The situation isn't very clear, however, from I have gathered, they found an old Earth Spirit and were able to make a deal with it . "

Although his tone was calm, there was a hint of anxiousness in his voice .

Followed by what he said, three gasps and astonished cries came out of their mouths . Their eyes were full of surprise from what they heard .

"E-Earth Spirit? Ti An, are you sure about this information?"

Nodding his head seriously, Ti An replied

"Absolutely sure, my source is reliable . The Desert Gargoyles managed to form a contract with an ancient Earth Spirit, however, it doesn't appear to have its full potential . The information about its status is very limited . "

Although its potential was not fully awakened, it still brought fear and worry to them as a spirit, no matter of which attribute, is not something they could find . Heck! Even in High-Realms, spirits are very rare and strong existences, just like dragons . The shock was too strong and no one talked for some time before Ti Eru forcefully calmed his mind and said

"What is the reaction of the Naga Valley?"

"Nothing, besides fortifying their security, they are just watching from the side . Since they saw the Desert Gargoyles attack us suddenly, they must think they are next, but their unusual is worrying . "

Ti An was never the talkative kind yet he said so much which proves how anxious he was . Their position was very fragile as an Earth Spirit is not something they can face .

"Brother, how about we ask the Naga Valley for a cooperation to take down the Desert Gargoyles . " proposed Ti Buo .

With the addition of the spirit, the power balance between the three factions is now broken, so if the Pigolo Tribe and the Naga Valley unite, there is a strong chance to eliminate the Gargoyles .

Ti Eru just snorted and said with an annoyed tone

"Hmmpf, those crafty snakes are very careful, they would not fight against an Earth Spirit, even if we cooperated . We should carry on the plans and cause them big losses . Hmpf! Even at the cost of my people, I won't back down after what they did!"

The other three nodded in affirmation with their eyes burning with rage . Having launched a full-scale attack on them from out of nowhere was a huge blow to them, Ti Eru was not someone who would back down .

"Ti An, you stay in the ancestral Hall this time and guard it . "

The scarred Pigolo nodded his head and swiftly left the hall, his figure transformed into a black shadow which soon vanished from the huge hall .

Ti Eru discussed a few more matters with the two before each busied himself with preparations, leaving only the chief tribe, sitting around the big table all alone .

"The calm is finally broken but . . . an Earth Spirit? This is too fishy, such a thing cannot pass unnoticed by those from outside yet they did not react either . . . this is too strange . "

. . .

All that occurred was unknown to Arthur, who remained in the colonel's residence, unwilling to go outside to waste time ordering orders that weren't his, to begin with .

Within the blink of an eye, three days passed and the scheduled plans were going to be executed on this very day . Possessing Hakim's body and wearing a spirit Ranked armor that Hakim had in his storage ring, Arthur stood beside Abel and eight other Colonels behind Kieran .

There was a large group of officials standing in front of Ti Eru with eleven generals at the front, wearing mighty armors and emanating an overwhelming pressure .

"I only have one thing to state, don't cause trouble or talk unless talked to! We're going there to demand an explanation and mainly to probe the situation, not to experience a life and death battle . "

After having warned them, and sternly gazing at the prideful Generals, Ti Eru turned around and waved his hand, retrieving a gigantic boat .

The boat was similar to the ones Vikings used back in the day on Earth, it was four hundred meters long and fifty meters wide . A large emblem was engraved at its bottom along with a fluttering red flag erected from the center of the big Spirit Boat .

Chapter 178

The distance between the two factions was quite big, even with a Spirit Boat, and a good one at that, it would still take quite some time . Although the chief tribe, Ti Eru, could travel at a speed faster than the Spirit Boat if he tried, it would still consume Nether Energy and it isn't as practical as using a Spirit Boat .

Separating the Pigolo Tribe and the Desert Gargoyles was a long mountain range with the name of 'Yellow Streak Mountain Range' . This vast mountain range actually divided the barbarian land into two parts and took a large part of the South-West of this desolated land, outcast from the rest of this world .

Even people like Ti Eru didn't dare venture deep into the mountains where strong creature lurked such as The Flame Devouring Worm which can rival Gods . Fortunately, the Northern part of the mountain range was safer and they could safely and easily travel East to the territory of the gargoyles without having to fight dangerous beasts .

The excited atmosphere lessened as some of the colonels and generals chatted but most of them sat cross-legged and meditated, preparing their spirit for the upcoming fight, if there was going to be one, that is .

. . .

The speed of the Spirit Boat was fairly decent as it was fueled by Spirit Red Stones and in three days, they managed to cross the mountain range . Arthur was still in awe of how big this world is . With his speed alone, he can cross all of Astria yet it took them three full days to cross this mountain range . It made him think of how tiny Earth and Astria were, and how vast the universe and the outside world is . He even heard that this huge desert was but an outcast land and the wall of yang fire was like prison bars, blocking the inhabitant of the barbarian land to explore the outside world . It required a skilled God to be able to cross such intense yang fire, one either needed to be skilled in Spatial Attribute or Fire Attribute or have a special artifact allowing him to resist the yang fire . Of course, if it was a female, the process would be much, much easier, more so if she was someone like Lucy, with a Yin body, she could pass through even whilst being at the Immortal Realm . However, special physiques like those are extremely rare and they have grades too, Arthur didn't know which grade Lucy's body was as they couldn't measure it in the Underworld and didn't even want to, but he was sure that it couldn't be low .

The humidity seemed to have increased and the hot weather became even hotter . Obviously, for such strong experts present on the boat, it didn't affect them, much less Arthur, who had Fire Resistance .

Looking at the incomparably vast deserted land with hills made from dry sand, Arthur sighed and silently shook his head . He had to praise these gargoyles as this environment was worse than the Pigolo's .

"We have arrived . "

Ti Eru stood up at last and gazed at the front, his determined and cold gaze penetrated through the vast land and long distance all the way to the wall situated at a far distance from the Spirit Boat, which halted mid-air .

"Still no response, hmpf! It seems they are not going to resist . "

Flicking his hand angrily, a cold glint flashed in Ti Eru's eyes as he guided the Spirit Boat . A red streak of light flew into the skies bringing with it an overwhelming pressure of all the strong individuals boarding it .

Very soon, the land was not as deserted as it used to be, holes filled the ground . Countless holes which had humongous sizes, there were also a few habitable huts . It resembled a deserted ancient village, devoid of any life but everyone on the ship knew that countless gargoyles were lurking in those holes, gazing at them cautiously .

In the span of a few minutes, the red Spirit Boat crossed a large distance and stopped in front of a large tower made of literal mud . It is unknown how it is still standing but it was a fact that it laid before their very eyes .

Ti Eru, who had already left the deck of the boat, was floating before that turret and facing him were two gargoyles . Bronze skin and long ears similar to elves . Both of them were yellow-armors and had long staffs behind their back . Contrary to what the Appraisal showed, the two gargoyles looked extremely long and were fairly handsome .

Tarathiel (Race: Desert Gargoyle): 4th Grade God Realm

Age: 197

Ehrendil (Race: Desert Gargoyle): 3rd Grade God Realm .

Age: 473

Tarathiel, in this barbarian land, his name was spread wide and far . Being the youngest faction leader, he was a genius born since he was young and reached Godhood at the age of 150 which is considered a remarkable achievement . It is said that he was nurtured outside this land and was sent to a prosperous sect outside . With efficient training, good teachers and enough resources, it is no wonder he was able to achieve this .

Not only did he achieve Godhood at an early age, he even advanced three grades in less than fifty years . As for Ehrendil, it was his big brother and his right hand, he was not as talented as Tarathiel, however, he was still a God and should not be underestimated .

Despite being older than the Desert Gargoyle's leader, Ti Eru didn't dare to be rash or erupt in anger in the middle of the territory, even with the huge force he brought behind, they wouldn't match .

He only brought this much force to show off and not be easily oppressed .

"I've expected elder Ti to come, please follow me . "

With a respectful bow, Tarathiel turned around and headed for the mud tower along with Ehrendil . Ti Eru paused for a second, his pupils sharpened but he still followed after he beckoned to his people to enter too . Tarathiel may be young but by no means was he stupid . Although he knew that the enemy wouldn't try to trap him, he still didn't fully trust him so he decided to bring his Generals with him, after all, better safe than sorry .

For Tarathiel to dare attack him with such a big force, he would also dare to trick him or use some underhanded means . After all, in a war, all that matters is victory and any means can be used .

. . . .

Upon closer look, Arthur was taken aback when he entered the mud tower . Contrary to his expectations, the interior of the tower was too grand! Too overbearing and luxurious!

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Towering sculpture made of gold, a medicine garden with a cool weather extremely suited for growing plants . There was even a room that was full of cauldrons, surely meant for pill-making cultivators .

The blue windows never ceased appearing in front of him, behind that bleak and hideous face of Hakim, shock filled Arthur as he discovered many new things . What interested him a lot was that garden full of plants, some were rare and the whole greenery area emitted a strong, enchanting fragrance, very pleasant to smell .

In a few short minutes, they crossed a few rooms and arrived at a wide room which had a ten-meter wide hole . Furthermore, at the end of the room was a three-meter-long throne with a silhouette sitting on it . Upon a closer look, Arthur saw an armored knight made from pure earth sitting on the big throne . The pressure coming from it was pretty obvious, it was even more overwhelming than Delia or any other God Arthur had ever met .

Feeling the pressure, Arthur wasn't stupid to dare probe the knight, he activated his appraise skill but was shocked to see that there was an 'error' showing in front of him . He tried a few more times but to no avail, he couldn't appraise the knight but he knew that it wasn't just a statue meant for show .

Ti Eru's eyes also narrowed but he didn't to probe it either, he knew about this Earth Spirit beforehand and this knight was obviously it . His guess was further confirmed when he saw Tarathiel walk to the knight and bend on one knee, showing his respect and reverence .

As silent dominated the big room, which was big enough to fill all the people Ti Eru brought with some space remaining, Arthur felt a strange fluctuation, almost unnoticeable but he was still able to feel it as if his body instinctively reacted to it .

His eyes shifted from the big earth knight to an empty place in the corner of the room . He was disappointed upon seeing nothing but after a few more seconds, his body felt the same sensation again . It was like a vibration, slightly familiar and in a way, it seemed to resonate with him .

Appraise didn't show anything and there were no dots on the map, which confused him even more . A few more seconds passed and the sensation was felt again, however, this time it was in another place . Feeling this vibration, Arthur's mind shook as he seemed to realize what was happening .

'Spatial fluctuation! It's actually a disordered Spatial Energy!'

Shocked, Arthur waited a bit more and felt it again, which confirmed his previous guess . Having the Void Magic, which was had Spatial Magic as sub-attribute, and experiencing the destruction of a small world, which had Spatial tears and countless disorderly spatial energies, Arthur's instinct couldn't be wrong .

Excited, Arthur kept feeling this fluctuation and tried to track it but unfortunately, it wasn't very easy as he sensed it randomly and couldn't guess who was emanating such strong Spatial fluctuations .

His only guess was that it was this earth knight, but if it were the case, the situation would be a bit tricky . He knew how much stronger he got, but the sense of danger he felt from this unmoving statue was unprecedented . He only felt such helplessness when he was facing 'X' in that dark torture room .

...

Five full minutes passed before Tarathiel stood up and with an elated expression, he looked back at Ti Eru and said

"I wonder why would Elder Ti is gracing us with your presence today . "

"Bullshit! Tarathiel, don't try to play tricks on me! You think you can attack my tribe and get away with it whilst trying to play innocent?"

Ti Eru's couldn't contain his anger, he shouted at the handsome gargoyle and didn't seem to mind the Earth Spirit . Although he felt fearful towards it, it didn't mean he would back down . He lived for too long and his pride was on the line, in front of his people, he couldn't be cowardly . It's true that he could play it calm, however, that was never his style and it was not someone half his age that was going to bully him by slaughtering a large number of his kin .

In fact, Pigolo was usually despised by the Naga and Gargoyles for the sole purpose of their appearance . It is said that they resemble the devils and many accused them of doing 'evil', so they are pretty unfamous which led to decline over the years . In the past, the Pigolo Tribe was the strongest in the barbarian land but with the passing of years and with humans invading the land, their reign deteriorated .

Spreading his hand innocently and showing an honest face, Tarathiel retorted:

"Elder Ti, you are being unreasonable . We did nothing to be faulted for . "

Ti Eru's expression turned even uglier, he seemed to be on the verge of explosion from rage . If not for one of the generals at the back who advanced and grabbed him to calm him down, he would've leaped at Tarathiel and that will only lead to a disaster .

Inhaling large breath with a distorted face, Ti Eru roared

"Tarathiel! You better give us fair compensation or else you better not think of leaving this place in one piece!"

Chapter 179

The weather was cold, snowflakes were falling, making the ground filled with white snow, as much as it made the road prettier, it also made it much colder . People were wearing fur coats, protecting them from the freezing cold .

Amidst the busy road, where people were going back to their homes to enjoy the warmth from their fireplace, there stood a short boy with no shoes . His feet were red from the coldness and his body was involuntarily shivering, he rubbed his hands together to warm himself whilst cursing with a low voice

"Filthy beings, disregarding eyes, indifferent attitudes yet so different when faced with fear, true colors can't help but show themselves . Just what are we "

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As he pondered about this, he unconsciously followed the road back to his home with a shivering body that wasn't coated or protected from the weather . This city was quite a remote one in the empire and it wasn't bustling like the capital yet there were still merchants, rich nobles . Different city but the same kinds of people, same kind of system and same kind of lives, it's only the faces that are different .

With resentment to those enjoying their lives whilst feeding off the essence of the miserable, the bald-headed boy who never ceased rubbing his hands against each other made his way home with a very slow yet steady pace .

He didn't seem to mind that he wore so little and although a bit reluctantly, he still returned to the hut in the slums and opened the half-broken door which had many holes where the cold wind passed through .

In this very small hut, the bald-headed boy faced a drunk man, he was swaying in front of the kid and when he caught sight of the small figure in front of the door, he slowly walked to him and didn't hold back as he delivered a vicious punch on the kid's stomach .

As if expecting such treatment, the boy didn't scream, he just let out a low groan before he listened to the rambling of the drunk man along with the hitting .

After a few minutes, the man seemed to be tired, he stopped kicking the kid and grabbed a cup and wanted to drink it only to be disappointed that it was empty .

His vision shifted back to the kid, who was going to enter a small corner of the hut which seemed to be a very small room .

"You dirty waste! Go bring me alcohol, I want alcohol!"

Not pausing or even listening to the man, the bald-headed boy walked to the small room and put down the small curtain to block the view then he proceeded to ignore the man, who kept screaming for a while before he stopped . A few seconds later, the door of the hut was pushed open and the man left, clearly not minding the freezing cold weather as if alcohol was more important .

Sitting on a mat with an expressionless face . He inspected the few blue spots on his body before he put down his dirty shirt and stared at the cracked wall with a deadpan face .

"Hah! A father? A family? None of that matters, humans are versatile beings, bound by emotions, easily influenced, and so fragile . The so-called nobles also have red blood, same as us yet they are regarded as higher-beings, such absurd logic, such idiotic policies, such idiotic public!"

He sighed and used a sharp object to slash a small line on the wall which had countless other lines .

" . . . They speak of hope but I only see darkness, they speak of faith but I only see desperation, should I also abide by their rules? . . . what are humans after all "

"Huff . . . huff"

Standing in the small hut, which had an almost broken door and most of the little furniture present was now in a complete mess . The cold ground was now dyed with red blood, flowing and expanding to all its corners .

In the middle of such a small place stood a bald-headed boy, panting heavily as he held a sharp metal object in his hand, it had blood dripping from it but surprisingly, the boy was not shaking from fright or regretting his actions .

In front of him, laid a lifeless corpse of a middle-aged man, his eyes were full of anger and disbelief, showing how unwilling to die he felt when facing death .

He had a hideous slash-wound in his throat, it was precise and deadly, just one slash and no other bruise marks or slashes in his body . Blood kept gushing out from that wound, like a fountain, a completely disgusting and gory sight .

With cold eyes, emotionless and devoid of pity or regret, the boy stared at the dead body of his deceased father . He stood there unmoving, for a full minute before he looked down at his hand, and mumbled with a low voice

"Good people should live whilst bad people should die they said, but what if bad people pretend to be good and vice-versa? Ha! what a world, what a world indeed!"

Then, without any slight hesitation, he crouched down and dragged the lifeless corpse out of the hut . With unwavering expression, he literally cut the corpse in pieces and sneakily throw them into a large garbage dump a bit away from the hut . Since the weather was freezing cold, the small and pieces won't be found out anytime soon .

As he went back to the hut, he did a quick clean up and picked what was important to him, which was the sharp metal object he used to kill that man along with a rectangular paper with a red symbol on it .

After one final look at the small hut, which could barely be considered a place to live in, he threw the lighten-up match inside and left without taking a second look . In the freezing cold of the winter, in a normal night, a small hut was burning for two hours before the flames subdued and all that was left was black ashes .

Tonight was colder than usual, the city was empty as it was pretty late . The usually bustling road was now devoid of any person, however, at a certain point of time, a boy, with ragged clothes and bare feet, slowly walked down that road and left the city . Not even the guards were on duty, so his actions went unnoticed, as if he never existed as if he was but a meager existence, not meant to be known or pitied . .

...

Chapter 180

Followed by Ti Eru's roar was his strong Godly pressure, although he was facing two gods, he didn't back down and tried to intimidate them . Anyone can tell that his previous words were not just for his show, knowing his character, such bold words were not just boasting .

In response to the tribe chief, Tarathiel remained completely calm . As the pressure of Ti Eru rushed at him and his brother, they didn't back down and the two unleashed a similar pressure, forcing Ti Eru's to be slightly suppressed . For two gods to only be able to slightly suppress Ti Eru's pressure, that in itself shows how strong the old pigolo was .

Even facing the two of them in a fight, despite Tarathiel being a genius, he may not be at a big disadvantage . He lived longer than them and cultivated for centuries and held the position of tribe chief before Tarathiel was even born .

Two Gods at the same grade may not necessarily be matched, one can outdo the other easily if the comprehension of their skills is higher . The treasures and artifacts played a role in the fights too .

Not long before Ti Eru roared, countless footsteps were heard which came out from the only dark hole in the room . Seconds after, rows of desert gargoyles were armors popped out of the hole, each one stronger than the other . Together, they emanated strong pressure and a domineering presence . With two large groups opposing each other, the atmosphere became tense and the two opposite parties were glaring at each other with unfriendly and sneering gazes .

Surprisingly, amongst the crowd of desert gargoyles, the green-armored general Rosie, who lost her arm to Arthur was also present . Furthermore, two human twins, with burly figures and bald heads were also here . Without a doubt, they were the people sent by the white-clothed young man who was with Vyncent, they were here to bring the candidates or whatever that youth was referring to .

In any case, Arthur was totally oblivious to them, not caring about them or even sparing them a single glance . Whatever their purpose was, it didn't have anything to do with him, he only killed that young man because he was in the way and as long as they don't cause him trouble, he won't openly attack . He wasn't even interested in the dispute between the two factions, his mind was concentrated on the Spatial fluctuations .

The more he felt them, the more confident he was that it was due to the motionless earth knight . It was a good and bad news, he found something that had to do with Spatial attribute, but the bad news is that he can't possess it . Even if he were to fight it right now, which he wouldn't, he won't come out victorious with Tarathiel and his brother present as they won't sit idle .

As his thoughts were beginning to spin, a cool sensation surged through his body and stretched to all his limbs, it entered his consciousness and calmed down the excitement he was feeling .

"It seems I must act . "

Although he didn't have full confidence in possessing the Earth Spirit, he still was sure of his abilities in escaping safely . If it was about confusing and slowing enemies, no one was better than him . Almost non-costly teleportation, free access to strong ancient flames and penetrating Dark Magic . Worst comes to worst, he would imprison himself in the dark cube, its defenses are not something a god could break, especially when his stats increased more recently .

The atmosphere was still as tense as ever and Ti Eru was still silently glaring at Tarathiel with a deadlock expression and full of killing intent, not intending to hide it . From any person's point of view, the fight was going to break at any given second, however, the truth was totally different . Ti Eru was trying to oppress, or rather, scare Tarathiel but he wasn't going to be rash and start a fight in a very disadvantageous environment, his purpose coming here was to scare them, warn them, and grab their attention to his two brothers could deal heavy blows to the gargoyles' territory .

No one has noticed that a bit above the army of pigolo, a terrifyingly powerful arrow appeared . Being more than twenty meters wide, two meters thick and emanating an alarming devouring power . It was purple and had black flames on its edges .

The Heavenly Arrow was now divided into four version, with the fourth one being the combination of the first three .

[Void Arrow], [Flame Lightning Arrow], and [Dark Arrow], each had a unique attribute or two as its core and the fusion of the four attributes would result in a heaven-shaking arrow .

Although this [Void Arrow] that Arthur conjured emanated a very strong suction power, no one was able to notice it, not even the three gods .

Spatial Passage was activated, it shrouded the arrow in an empty space which cannot be sensed and the moment Arthur willed it, the passage can disappear and the Void Arrow can be unleashed . Actually, in such circumstances, he was sure that if he was able to successfully sneak attack any present God with the arrow, nothing would be left from the God as he will be completely devoured .

His target was not the gods but the earth-knight . He just needs to injure it then forcefully possess it . Although it'll cost permanent Mental Power, it won't be too bad as the stats and benefits from the

earth-knight would be generous . But this was all based on his guess that the spatial fluctuations were due to the knight .

to possess this knight, he had to resort to [Possess, possess and possess], but such a skill, since it evolved, the cost of using it is pretty big . If he were to forcefully control the body of a God Realm, his stats would drop by 50m and he would lose 250 Mental Power, moreover, he would only be able to possess a living God for half a minute .

For a parasite, such as Arthur, there were three kinds of possessing . possessing dead bodies and controlling their bodies, possessing living beings but staying dormant in their body but this can only be done if the other party doesn't detect the parasite or is of a lower Realm, last but not least is the third possessing, which relies of the skill Arthur forcefully created at the cost of Mental Power and stats .

The conjuring of the Void Arrow took only a few seconds, next thing Arthur did was drift a bit of his consciousness into his storage, locking into ten flash grenades, preparing to throw them the second he acted .

Fortunately, the room was not overly large and a single teleportation would enable him to appear near the knight, what will be left was to possess it . He could still try to kill it but that was far too unreasonable . Just the mere pressure coming out of it was alarming, to think of killing it in a very short time is not plausible .

As he was about to act, Arthur's heartbeats were calm and constant, he didn't feel any sense panic or urgency, just abnormally calm .

Only a dozen of second passed since the desert gargoyles appeared but it was more than enough for Arthur to fully prepare . Without any slight hesitation, his main body left Hakim's body and instantly sunk into the ground, melting with it .

'thud!'

A falling sound was heard as the lifeless body of the colonel Hakim fell on the ground, grabbing the attention of everybody . The first reaction everybody had, including Ti Eru, was shock, complete shock!

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For someone to drop dead from out of nowhere, it was suspicious but all those suspicions were directed at the gargoyles which appeared not long ago .

They didn't to physically check to be able to sense that Hakim was dead . The first one to react was Abel, who flung into an immense rage and disobeyed the chief tribe's orders as his body charged at the gargoyles .

Rage and anger flashing in their eyes, the rest didn't stop him but joined him, taking out their weapons and unleashing their suppressed aura .

The sudden death of Hakim was like a huge catalyst, Ti Eru also didn't blame or stop Abel, he took out a three feet long red sword with sharp thorns on it and struck at Tarathiel without restraint .

As the battle began, at last, Arthur, who was silently watching from underground, deactivated his Spatial passage, unleashing the ready Void Arrow .

Like an unstoppable storm, a cold wind twirled inside the room, making everybody shiver and by the time they lifted their head to look at the source of this chillness . They saw a purple streak undistinguishable by the naked eye, it flew at the earth-knight and before Tarathiel or Ehrendil could react, it had already struck the abdomen of big earth knight .

"No!"

The calm Tarathiel shrieked as he ferociously swung his staff, pushing back Ti Eru and hurried towards the knight, however, he was stopped by Ti Eru, who was very persistent as he arrived behind him and slashed with his sword, creating a bloody red arc which could split rivers and shatter mountains . It was obvious that the chief tribe didn't hold back at all!

Ehrendil rushed at the earth-knight to protect it too but his speed was just too slow, by the time the two of them sensed the arrow, it had already struck the knight and the strange suction power started doing its job, eating the ancient earth, dust and even the air around it .

It was like a bottomless pit, a devouring black hole as it ate away the earth-knight . Even Arthur was momentarily startled, he expected a strong resistance from the earth-knight and not such result .

In any case, both cases fitted his plans . Flicking his hand, ten flash grenades flew from the earth and spread around the two parties .

The second they appeared, a bright white flash caused by the multiplied the effect of the grenades blinded all the eyes of the present people . Whether it was a gargoyle or a pigolo, they either closed their eyes or raised their sleeves to block from the blinding light .

Using this opportunity, Arthur sprung from the earth and instantly transformed into a black whirlpool near the earth knight which was being eaten .

The black whirlpool didn't even last a split second as it entered the earth knight's body and merged with it, no one noticed such a fast movement as they were terrified by the sudden terrifying events that unfolded . First, it was that cold purple streak then this blinding light .

Exactly ten seconds later, the blinding light disappeared, leaving astonished expressions hanging on all their faces . Even Ti Eru and Tarathiel were equally shocked . They glanced at each other but they shock deepened when they saw the confusion in each other's faces .

Seeing this, they both knew that there was a third party present, and it wasn't weak either . What made Tarathiel's panic deepen, was that even he was able to detect this third party . It was extremely good at hiding its traces and conceal its presence, such a force made him involuntarily tremble for a split second . He knew that news of their Earth Spirit spread to the outside but he didn't expect 'them' to react so fast and send an expert to exterminate the spirit .

'It seems they don't want us to hold such strong power . '