

Once Human 261

Chapter 261

'Cough!'

The beak easily penetrated the black layer of defense created by the black-star strengthening technique . Blood gushed out unceasingly as the sharp beak of the Vermillion Bird got out from Arthur's chest, creating a gory hole that sealed Arthur's fate .

Apparently, the Vermillion Bird wasn't finished after injuring him this heavily, it tried to open its beak and rip him to shreds .

With blood leaking out of his mouth and a pale face, Arthur held the long chains that were hiding under his sleeves and wrapped them around the beak of the bird . He exerted all his strength as he pulled chains upward, trying to force the opening of the beak as it'll lead to his death .

While he was focusing on dealing with the beak, a black streak similar to a shooting star came from below . This was none other than Makaze which Arthur let go a short time ago . The blade was spinning with incredible speed as it was charging straight at the head of the Vermillion Bird .

Even with the chains around its beak, the Vermillion Bird was still trying to blast Arthur into pieces, it shook its head violently, trying to get rid of Arthur while at the same time trying to break the chains restraining its mouth .

'Let's see if you can open it with this . . . [Mother Of All]!'

[Mother Of All]: The user can produce Golden threats, unbreakable yet soft .

Cost: 10 Mental Power per second .

Innumerable thin threads appeared from Arthur's fingers, they softly floated around him then started wrapping around he beak . Even if one thread isn't enough to do the job, a hundred thousand may be able to hold the beak for a couple of seconds . Just like that, Mental Power was being used continuously to conjure the golden threads that transformed the Vermillion Bird's beak into a golden one, shining with a bright light .

Still shaking its head in an attempt to get rid of Arthur, the angry bird didn't notice Makaze which finally reached its head, aiming exactly at its eye, trying to blind its vision .

Although Makaze had a somewhat sentient conscience, it was far from being an intelligent Spirit thus it didn't know that the Divine Beast's eyes are protected by a transparent layer that is almost impossible to break through .

Once Arthur was sure that the beak won't open, he raised his hand toward the air and clenched his fist, it was a simple movement but it caused an ominous aura to appear out of nowhere, the air became turbulent and the space shattered on the spot .

In front of the Vermillion Bird, exactly directed at it, was a two hundred meters long Heavenly Arrow made from pure Dark Magic, it contained no hint of other attributes, it was a unique Heavenly Arrow specifically made to injure the Divine Beast .

Arthur took account of Lissandra's advice and decided to focus on defeating them using his Dark Magic, from the previous reaction of the Vermillion Bird some time ago, he deduced that it felt a bit fearful of the Dark Magic, it was even a bit reluctant to face it head-on .

Fortunately, this Vermillion Bird was real since it could hurt him, although he discovered that the hard way, it's reassuring to know that the Heavenly Arrow won't hit empty space just like his previous try, where he wasted three [Blood for Blood] and a decent amount of Mental Power .

Using his other free hand, which took the form of a claw, Arthur slashed down the air as his hand let out a large darknet made from Demonic Lightning .

The net was huge in size, even bigger than the Heavenly Arrow, the purpose of this net was only to shatter whatever illusion was cast on him . The net only traveled a few meters before it spread widely in the air and caused a sound similar to shattering glass to resound all over the area .

Instead of using Dark Mana or Nether Energy, Arthur used Mental Power to conjure this Demonic Lightning, he wasn't sure if a thick bolt of Demonic Lightning will work so he came out of this idea on the spot, fortunately, it worked marvelously lest he would have lost used three hundred Mental Power for nothing .

Gazing around him, Arthur saw the white tiger roaring angrily as it shook its body ferociously, countless small streaks of godly thunder could be seen twirling around his body . They resembled white snakes that tried to bite down every inch of its body .

Arthur saw no injury or blood leaking out of the golden claw that faced the sword from before, however, the claw no longer had the golden luster that emitted before which means his attack was effective, some way or another .

The Heavenly Arrow stood motionlessly in front of the Vermillion Bird, which grew alarmed and enraged, not only was its beak closed forcefully, a dark blade hit its eyes and despite suffering no damage from that hit and deflecting the blade easily, it still infuriated the proud Divine Beast .

Adding oil to the fire, the presence of the arrow that was pointed at it made the bird afraid as the Dark Magic being unleashed from the Heavenly Arrow is threatening to it .

[Heavenly Arrow] may not be the strongest attack in Arthur's arsenal, however, it is quite effective due to the speed of the arrow and the short period of time it takes to be cast . The only downside is that it can be immediately detected while it is being created, which is why Arthur always uses a Spatial Tunnel before executing this skill to hide the arrow and only show it when it's fully created and is ready to be thrown .

Waiting for the perfect angle for the arrow to hit, Arthur patiently waited as litters of blood fell down from the sky, dying the trees red, his face became as white as a sheet of paper, his complexions weren't looking good, the only thing keeping him conscious and alive is his godly recovery ability and his immense Health pool .

The fight started around thirty-two seconds ago, he lost 70% of his Health, used [Blood for Blood] six times, permanently lost 780 Mental Power and suffered a serious injury in the chest, leaving him on the verge death, only a small thread of life separating him from the dead souls .

He slightly damaged the white tiger, did nothing to the motionless black turtle, caused slight interior damage to the Azure Dragon, and was stabbed from the back by the Vermillion Bird, which resisted his strong attack with a wave of its wings . Indeed . . . if this isn't an impossible fight to win then I don't know what is . . .

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'Now!'

The golden opportunity Arthur was waiting for finally came, as the Vermillion Bird continued shaking its body, especially its head to injure Arthur, it fiercely waved its head high-up, leaving a small portion of its chest exposed .

Usually, it uses its wings to defend against any attack that was aimed at its body, which is why Arthur had to wait and suffer from a beak penetrating his back and chest, causing the [Bleeding] debuff to stack multiple times .

Like a shooting black star, the dark arrow flew straight at the bird's chest, causing black flames to land on the flaming body of the bird and result in a painful screech from the Divine Beast .

Arthur grasped this chance to forcefully move his body and push the beak to the back with all his force, he strangely wasn't able to use [Faster Than Death] in such situation which left him helpless, however, he managed to get rid of the bird's beak and he was finally free .

The large wound on his chest started recovering at a fast rate, nonetheless, the damage he had received won't be fully healed in just a few seconds .

Facing the Vermillion Bird, which waved its flaming wings and tried to deflect the dark arrow that has just struck it, Arthur raised his right hand to a direction .

The dark blade came flying from below with lightning speed, it heard the call of its master so it rushed at him and in just a split second, it was already held by him .

Fortunately, it wasn't damaged when it hit the Divine Beast's eyes, this ensured that'll be able to unleash its full potential, especially since [Thousand Waves] isn't done yet .

Even with his recent power-up, Arthur was skeptical to be able to unleash the full ten waves . Previously, against the old Sovereign, he was barely able to unleash less than half of the ten waves, much less half . With his current stats, he knew that he's capable of executing five waves with ease .

If he forces himself, six waves are possible too, however, if he were to execute the seventh, not only will it stress his mind and injure his muscles, it'll surely damage Makaze heavily .

The effect of [Eternium] lessened, the place where he was injured reverted back to its usual appearance, however, when Arthur held Makaze and was ready to execute the fourth wave, the intensity of the black and red flames increased and the aura was multiplied by at least threefold .

'Fourth Wave, The Reaper's Call, Evocation of Death!'

A grey fog cloaked Arthur's figure, rendering the other party unable to locate his position . This was but the beginning, coupled with the core of this attack, several hundreds of short grey blades appeared all

around Arthur, they were all aimed at the Vermillion Bird, only waiting for their caster's will to stab the screeching Vermillion Bird .

The Heavenly Arrow weakened as the orange flames of the bird assaulted from all direction, it was even cut in half but it successfully managed to cut through the high defense of the target and even cause dark red blood to spill from the newly suffered wound of the bird .

Its cry indicated its pain but it also called for help from the others . The white tiger was still unable to move, the Azure Dragon wasn't in its peak condition but it could still aid the Vermillion Bird, the third wave did impeccable damage as it bought Arthur so he wasn't surprised when he saw the twirling figure of the dragon rushing at him .

Its two abyssal eyes stared through the grey fog, as if all his weaknesses were seen and he was completely naked in front of such terrifying eyes, Arthur could only avert his gazes and focus on controlling this death formation, which is what the fourth wave was essentially about .

As the swords were aimed at the raging bird, Arthur let go of Makaze which floated vertically in front of him, he stretched his hand and closed his eyes, as he focused his Mental Power

'[Blood for Blood]!'

Without hesitation, he used that skill two consecutive times and as he did that, two spinning grey tornados appeared above his palms . They were spinning in a weird manner and very slowly, with his command, the two tornados started increasing their size until they covered all the death formation, making the environment dense of active Death Energy that even obstructed the vision of the incoming Azure Dragon, its Mental Spells had no effect on Arthur right now .

As they say 'playing with fire is dangerous', so is playing with Death Energy . Since the second he obtained Lissandra's book of the damned, Arthur became able to launch a few death-related skill and even manipulate Death Energy but he wasn't very efficient in it, he was lacking compared to his servant, Swain, moreover, he doesn't have total control over it which is why he abstained from using such dangerous energy in battle as it could cause a backlash and kill him instead .

The only time he chose to seriously attack with it was against Rozak, the results of his attack back then were more than satisfactory, however, the expenditure was more than he could manage . Sure, with his pool of Mana and Nether Energy, he could fight with Death Energy for a while but it simply isn't worth it when he could use the same amount that he would use with Death Energy to execute similar powerful skills with a lower cost and high risk .

These spinning grey tornados, also known as [Death Storm], the reason it's called a storm and he's only able to create one tornado is because of his lack of skill and control over it, normally, it required a very high amount of intelligence to execute such skill, more precisely, it requires 999 . 999m intelligence, so to execute this skill, he had to use [Griffin's Bloody Switch] .

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Strangely enough, no matter how much he poured into the intelligence stats, it just wouldn't reach the one billion mark, he guessed that it's related to his low cultivation but he paid no heed for the time being .

With the Death Formation in place and the two spinning tornados around him, which he planned to use as a layer of defense, Arthur was sure that he'll be able to last for a while longer and deal considerable damage, whether to the incoming Azure Dragon, or the Vermillion Bird, which finally was able to get rid of the countless golden threads around its beak and extinguish the Heavenly Arrow .

Seeing the weirdly colored blood pouring from the wound of the bird, Arthur smirked and felt a bit relieved .

'As long as it bleeds, I can kill it, that's all I need to know . '

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Arthur wasn't going to wait for the injured Vermillion Bird to counter-attack him . From the increasing intensity of the flames around it, he could tell that it was extremely angry and on the verge of exploding from rage .

Although they were only copies of the originals, they still held the pride of the real source and were naturally arrogant, they had the power to back it up so being injured by someone like Arthur, a stranger that no one knew, obviously infuriated it .

Arthur waved his hand and pointed at the Divine Beast, causing the countless sword materialized from the Death Formation to fly straight at the Vermillion Bird, not even letting it the time to react before they were before it .

The speed of the swords was even faster than their user, excluding that it was a formation, just the fact that this whole attack was only a wave of one of his strongest skills indicated its fearsomeness .

The first waves of the [Thousand Waves] are most definitely strong and not be underestimated, however, the real potential of the skill shows up at the last five waves .

Arthur only reached the fourth one yet the death formation was able to obstruct the view of the beasts and render the dragon's eye ability useless against Arthur .

However, the cost of the formation was not something to be laughed at, every second that it remained active, it consumed more than three million Mana . Fortunately, Arthur had a high recovery and a big pool of Mana, so he can sustain it for half a minute or so .

He had to take in mind the cost of the fifth wave because it's rather unlikely to be able to defeat one of the Divine Beast with only this formation .

Surprisingly, when the countless death swords hit the Vermillion Bird, they easily managed to penetrate its body but they caused no damage, much less killing the bird .

Arthur expected such a thing, he grabbed the air using his left and as if he was pulling a rope . All the swords that penetrated the bird started releasing an ominous grey fog, Arthur's action caused them to also emit a faint red light that flew straight to his hand .

The red light could barely be seen but since there were countless swords, the lights transformed into a red hurricane that rushed to Arthur, causing a visible change to his appearance .

Originally, he was still in the state of [Eternium], but since his chest was heavily injured, it returned to its normal appearance but after the dense red light entered his palm, the horrific wound started healing at mind-numbing speed .

No more blood could be seen flowing out from his wound, moreover, his Health Pool was recovering at a rapid pace, at such a speed, it'll only take him a few seconds to fully recover .

Nothing was easy in this world, this was a fight and not a friendly spar, the moment the red light was absorbed by Arthur, an ear-deafening roar was heard from behind .

He knew that the White Tiger was stunned no more, the Azure Dragon was also preparing its next attack . It glared at him with its jet black eyes as it opened its mouth at him, ready to pulverize him .

At first, Arthur wasn't too worried since he already predicted the time the tiger will be freed, however, when he saw the Azure Dragon open its mouth, his expression changed and his face darkened for he knew the legendary Dragon Breath is about to be unleashed at him .

Honestly, Arthur didn't know much about 'Dragon Breath' but most records described it as one of the most powerful attacks a dragon could execute, not only was it destructive and powerful, basically, it's almost impossible to remain unscathed after suffering from a 'Dragon Breath', no matter where the target escaped, it's pretty hard to get away from it .

Without any hesitation, Arthur retrieved the death swords and muttered

"Death Formation; Second act, Banish Death!"

Hearing the incantation, the dense fog around the formation became thinner and the countless sword interconnected with each other, forming a sphere around Arthur, who gritted his teeth and took out the black shield from before, preparing to resist the dragon breath .

Feeling his body became incredibly heavy from the pressure coming from the front, Arthur knew that the death formation won't hold against the incoming attack, so he had no choice but to spit a bright golden drop of blood .

A Blood Essence is too precious, and Arthur knew the consequences of sacrificing one drop, however, he was left with no choice but to do that . He willed the Blood Essence to merge with the Death formation, which had an immediate effect on it, strengthening it by leaps and bounds . The interconnected death swords became much more numerous and on top of that, two enormous swords appeared just behind this weird sphere of swords . The swords were forming an 'X' sign as they were facing the Azure Dragon, apparently trying to block whatever was going to hit them .

Still not totally sure of his safety, Arthur sacrificed permanent Mental Power and conjured a small Dark Cube around himself, it was small in size but it had very high defense and it could be considered another layer of defense, although not as practical as the formation .

Arthur's pupils shrank once he noticed a strange, hazy red energy that started condensing inside the dragon's mouth, it emitted overwhelming pressure that affected him even when the distance between them is still this big .

He knew that this was merely the beginning so he braced himself, circulated the Dark-Star strengthening technique which resulted in more dark flames coming from one side of his body, he could feel immense power surging in him but he still wasn't confident in dealing with the opponent's attack .

He raised the big shield with both his hands and readied himself as he saw strange colored fire appearing from the dragon's large mouth . The flames were illusory and couldn't be seen by the naked eyes, it was only thanks to his special eyes that he managed to see that, however, he didn't have time to ponder on what kind of flames are they or if they could harm him, he could only hope for the best and try to survive this .

Even the White Tiger didn't attack him as it knew how the dragon breath works and attacking the enemy will only hinder their way to the victory, it floated a safe distance away from Arthur, gazing at his back with a chilling glare as if it wanted to tear him into thousands of pieces .

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The gloomy sky that was affected by Arthur's Dark Magic and the presence of the four Divine Beast became much darker with a shade of red looming over it, as if a terrifying beast was gazing at Arthur from above .

Clenching his teeth and preparing from the impact, Arthur witnessed a humongous wave of illusory fire come out from Azure Dragon's gaping mouth, the wave became bigger by the second, each meter it crossed, it increased by more than three times its previous size .

Its speed was so fast that it was practically unavoidable, Arthur's vision was only filled with incoming flames, that covered all his view, rendering him incapable of trying to find a weak spot to dive through .

The forest below was incinerated, leaving nothing but black ash that slowly fell into the ground, mountains, valleys and rivers disappeared, the effect of the dragon breath far surpassed even Arthur's unique skill, Rizaki .

Thousands of miles were turned into a living hell, all the hiding beast in that radius were instantly killed, the nearby towns and cities were pulverized, leaving nothing but a dead black zone, devoid of any of its previous luster and life .

Arthur was in no better position either, fortunately, the Death Formation was able to hold for a few seconds, blocking some of the flames and the violent energy brought with it, however, despite the presence of the formation, the defensive skills and the shield, Arthur was still injured as his skin burned, the skill [Eternium] was forcefully disrupted him, giving him his original appearance .

He looked haggard with disheveled hair, a completely burned shoulder that had endless blood gushing out of it, the wound on his chest that was supposed to be recovering was hit by the flames and caused him to cough a large mouthful of blood as he resisted the urge to let go of the big dark shield .

The two crossed sword emitted a large amount of grey fog trying to resist the violent energy along with the illusory flames but after a few seconds, cracks started appearing all over the two gigantic swords .

Arthur continuously conjured Dark Barrier, although they get destroyed almost immediately, it's still useful and better than doing nothing . Where he was right now was the safest place for the time being, if he gets out of the Death Formation or tried doing some reckless, it'll only lead to his expected death .

The good thing was, he can't feel any pain from the injuries he's suffering over time, which is a huge advantage since the wounds he's sustaining right now are definitely nothing to laugh at .

Even someone who has a high resistance toward pain may fall unconscious or lose focus, after all, it's not a simple cut but a high-degree burn on his shoulder, a gaping hole in his chest and cracking bones that seemed to be affected by the violent energy that rushed at him along with the damned dragon flames .

'Oh no!'

Arthur caught a glimpse of the two swords which just happened to shatter, unable to hold the flames and violent energy any longer, the countless other swords forming a sphere around Arthur were instantaneously destroyed as they were just too weak to be able to resist the dragon breath .

Just like that, the Death Formation was obliterated before he could unleash its full potential, followed by the dark cube with only held on for two seconds before following the same fate as the formation .

Like a cannon, Arthur body was flung away from the sky, it was sent flying like a kite until it heavily crashed into the burning ground, which was only a mass of black ash and desolate earth .

A huge crater was formed due to the strong impact, right at its center was Arthur, whose body was engraved on the Earth with blood leaking out from all pore of his body . His face was incredibly pale as the illusory flames assaulted him, managing to completely incinerate his left which lose his left arm . The flames also injured his chest but he managed to react in time and put all his focus on channeling the dark-star strengthening technique hence protecting himself from the internal damage that the flames could cause .

Even the unbreakable chains that presumably no one but him could break were showing signs of destruction .

They felt a bit weaker and they were blazing hot as they were clearly affected by the dragon breath . What's more terrifying is the violent energy that could not be seen by even his new eyes, it had an effect similar to the Natural Lightning but it was way deadlier .

It twisted his organs and shook his muscles, making his body feel numb and irresponsible thus limiting his movements . Looking at his Health bar, Arthur let out a rough chuckle which caused more blood to leak out of his mouth . Only 8% of his Health is left, which basically meant he's already on the verge of death .

Not only was he a step away from dying, his health was decreasing rather than recovering! The violent energy was doing damage over time, moreover, the dragon breath was still not done . Since half a minute ago, the Azure Dragon was still breathing out the violent energy and the illusory flames . The other three beasts were at the back, gazing at the miserable Arthur, who was lying on the floor bloodied and in a very bad state .

From the look on their faces, they no longer deemed Arthur as a worthy opponent, from their point of view, he was already finished after receiving the dragon breath head-on, it simply isn't possible to remain unscathed even if it's some sort of a sacred deity receiving this blow, which is why they never thought that Arthur could possibly fight them after this .

The Azure Dragon noticed that Arthur was going to die soon, it glared at Arthur and closed its mouth, putting an end to its dragon breath, or so thought Arthur .

Not even a second passed before the Azure Dragon opened its mouth and spat a red ball of light half its size . The ball of red light brought with it a suffocating pressure as it headed towards Arthur, planning to flatten him and turn him into complete nothingness, not even leaving him a way out . The Divine Beasts may be arrogant and proud but they never underestimate their enemies, whether it's an ant or a strong sage, they always finish the job properly even if their foe is already going to die whether they interfered or not .

Seeing the incoming doom, Arthur tried to move or even teleport but he couldn't, the violent energy ruptured his body, making him similar to a cripple, if not for his godly recovery then his heart would have been burnt already .

He knew that he'll definitely die if this were to hit him, so he prepared himself to use [Death Binding], he'll be able to survive for the next ten seconds but he didn't know if this ball of red light had a lasting effect like the previous dragon breath or not .

Just as Arthur was going to activate [Death Binding], a streak of dark light flew from above, blocking the ball's way and clashing with it head-on, causing the space to shatter and the air to become incredibly turbulent .

Arthur was dumbfounded as he stared at Makaze, which acted on its own for the first time, he never commanded it to move as he simply couldn't, who would have thought that this dark blade could operate separately, moreover, it was even able to clash with the ball of red light and not be flung off immediately!!

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Like a shooting star, the dark blade intercepted the ball of strange light spat by Azure Dragon, even without the orders of its master, the blade made a move of its own .

Arthur had long since known that his blade and partner, Makaze, is sentient, although it cannot communicate with him using words, he can sort of understand what it wants through their bond .

The blade had a strong affinity toward the darkness-attribute, moreover, it seemed to be unaffected by the consuming effect of the Dark Magic, in fact, it is strengthened by it and always wants to be covered by it .

Furthermore, he had fed it countless blade, he let Makaze devour swords of all shapes, be they high ranked or low-ranked . It's been a while since the dark blade had abstained from devouring any swords for no apparent reason, Arthur urged it many times but the katana was unwilling as if it was feeling full, which is a strange phenomenon since it never happened in the past .

Makaze clashed with the big ball of light, unleashing an absurd amount of dark flames as it vibrated intensely, not letting the ball of light advance even an inch . A buzzing sound started emanated from the blade as it made its way through the ball, penetrating it with a little bit of effort, it dived all the way to the back of the ball of light until the Azure Dragon became useless as the violent energy dispersed in all direction, no longer targeting Arthur in specific .

Arthur stared at the floating blade with a complicated expression, Makaze had been with him since the very beginning, never leaving his side and always aiding him in every desperate situation, although not like now, but its help is undeniable, it boosted his power by a lot .

Its origins were mysterious but he didn't care about that, an unbreakable connection has already been formed between him and this strange dark blade so he could feel its anger without looking at it .

The ball of light that was just resisted is no mere attack, along with executing four waves, the blade was in no better shape than Arthur, especially after forcefully fending off the last attack of the Azure Dragon, yet here it is, contrary to its master, floating alone in the air, facing the four Divine Beast .

It was a comical yet strange sight to behold, four legendary beasts glaring at a minuscule blade, the Azure Dragon was unhappy as twisted its body and headed straight at the blade with lightning speed, wanting to break it once and for all .

Arthur panicked as he saw this, he struggled to stand up and stabilized his body, Makaze bought him precious seconds that allowed him to recover for a bit but once the dragon breath ended, the lurking white tiger no longer suppressed itself, with a speed faster than its dragon companion, it appeared near Arthur, ready to tear him into pieces .

Unlike its previous normal attacks, it didn't just slash with its claws as after receiving the full-blunt attack of the thunder sword, it knew that this human was more troublesome than expected .

Facing the incoming white tiger, which opened its mouth and spat strange white acid, Arthur used [Faster Than Death] to teleport a distance away only to see the tiger waiting for him with a ferocious look . The strange white acid was unavoidable at this point so Arthur unhesitatingly used [Golden Nova], the powerful skill that belongs to the Holy Arts . Although there is a strong chance that it'll attack the user, it is indeed a powerful defensive skill that can certainly block the attack of the white tiger .

He is in a very desperate situation, the dragon breath thoroughly tired him and brought him yet a step closer to the doors of the death, if not for Makaze then he would have used [Death Binding], which is the last resort for Arthur, moreover, it only lasts a few seconds, even if he used, he wouldn't have survived the continuous attacks coming from all the other parties .

As the Sixth Chapter of the Holy Arts was unleashed, contrary to Arthur's expectation, it wasn't a bright humanoid figure with a tall height and a golden aura around it, quite the contrary, in fact, this silhouette was surrounded by a dark fog, a sinister aura was emanated from within a fog as dark shadow jumped out from this darkness, fearlessly meeting the white tiger head-on .

The dark shadow emitted a cold maniacal laugh, similar to madman's as it violently punched the white tiger, not caring one bit about the white acid which landed on it and turned into steam in a split second as if it was purified by the looming dark fog .

Arthur was startled for a moment but he didn't focus too much on the details, he never tested this skill because he was a bit skeptical but he was forced to execute it due to the dire situation, now that he looked at the dark shadow, he was certain that it was affected by his Dark Magic in some way or another .

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A distance away from Arthur and the white tiger, the dark blade Makaze vibrated intensely as its sharp tip was pointed at the twirling Azure Dragon, which was heading straight at it . Its two deep and abyss-like eyes were glaring at Makaze, attempting to break it using merely its soul attacks but the blade was soulless to begin with, so such attacks were useless .

Sensing what's about to come, Makaze emitted a chilling cry as a thick pillar of dark light rose from the blade all the way to the gloomy sky, dispersing the clustered clouds above .

The pillar of light was accompanied by an ominous and uneasy aura that stopped the Azure Dragon from its tracks, even the quiet turtle floating in the back seemed to take notice of this pillar .

Just as it sensed extreme danger and wanted to alarm the Azure Dragon, it was, unfortunately, a step too late as countless dark lights appeared from within the thick pillar and headed right at the dragon, stabbing it from all directions .

The speed of these dark lights was faster than even the white tiger, they could barely be seen as they flew with mind-numbing speed and stabbed the dragon from all directions resulting in an angry yet painful wail from the unprepared dragon .

Upon closer look, these countless lights were actually swords, they were in all shapes and sizes, each had a unique aura emanating from it, some were rusty while others were golden swords embedded with precious gems, some were even broken, however, even those managed to stab the dragon, causing blood to gush out and more painful and agonizing cries to be heard .

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The attack of Makaze was not a simple form of resistance, the damage it had just dealt the dragon could be seen from the divine beast's reaction . It violently shook its body and roared, trying to shake off the swords stabbing its body but to no avail, they were glued to it, causing large amounts of blood to gush out, furthermore, it was hurt by Arthur's fire attack which did considerable internal damage, adding to its pain . Amongst the four Divine Beasts, it is by far the one which is the most injured, currently, that is .

Arthur saw this scene but had no time to enjoy the thrilling view of the suffering Azure Dragon, he directed his attention to the Vermillion Bird, which recovered quite a bit in such a short amount of time .

Apart from the black turtle, the Vermillion Bird had the highest recovery, although it wasn't a phoenix as it couldn't reach Nirvana, Arthur was sure it has a technique similar to it, allowing it to rise from its ashes and be reborn .

Obviously, such a process is hard to do and it brings many benefits accompanied by harsh costs so the Divine Beast wouldn't resort to such means unless it was in a dire situation with no other choices but to activate its trump card .

This was only Arthur's speculation, the bird may not have such a technique as it is only a copy but it isn't Arthur's way to underestimate his enemies, not after almost getting killed by that venomous woman back at the Ma Clan .

The crazy shadow he just summoned will probably hold the white tiger for a few seconds, so he focused on the Vermillion Bird, which was staring at him with vicious glare, it was totally angry and no more held back .

Waving its long flaming wings, it dived straight at Arthur while spitting twenty meters long fireballs accompanied by humongous waves of fire that covered the whole sky .

Arthur didn't back or teleport away, a cold and resolute glint flashed through his eyes, he waved his remaining hand conjuring a wave of Dark Magic the same size as the incoming wave of flames which looked exactly like a falling tsunami .

This, however, was but the beginning as thousands upon thousands of three-meter-long Dark Spears, they were positioned all around Arthur, prepared to face the fireballs of the Vermillion Bird .

Arthur wasn't done yet, he charged at the enemy followed by his spears and the tsunami of Dark Magic . One side was blazing with an orange fire that emanated intense heat while the other was filled with countless spears and an ominous aura that affected the surrounding, especially the already scorched earth that started withering at a rapid pace .

Clenching his hand into a fist, Arthur prepared himself to punch the incoming bird, which like it wanted to tear him into a million piece even at the expense of its own life .

'[Blood for Blood]! [Griffin's Bloody Switch]!'

Arthur sacrificed a large amount of Wisdom into Strength, holding nothing back in his next attack . A small green luster emanated from his clenched fist, it was barely noticeable at first but when the clash was only a split second away, the green light intensified as his fist became brilliant with green light, stretching one meter around his fist .

The Divine Beast wasn't going to use its beak this time but its lower feet, which were razor-sharp claws that are deadlier than even its beak .

The Dark Spears ped through the air, disturbing the space around them and causing a loud whistling sound, they penetrated the twenty meter long fireballs but couldn't totally disperse them . Fortunately, the number of spears far surpassed the fireballs so when ten Dark Spears was unable to resist the fireballs, fifty could barely do the job, as far a hundred, they would obliterate the fireball immediately .

The clash was intense as winds howled, enormous tidal waves of energy from the outburst stretched to all sides, destroying the ravaged land even more to the point of causing a huge split on the earth, stretching for thousands of miles .

As the first was going to hit the two incoming claws, which were flashing with a blood-red light, Arthur mustered all his strength and punched out when the green light intensity reached its climax .

'[Heavenly Mountain Fist]!'

This fist-technique was a 1st Grade Heavenly Rank, although it isn't the strongest in his arsenal, after numerous trials and research, he managed to find the most suitable one for him . From all the people he possessed, the number of fist-technique he has was in the thousands yet only this one had a high compatibility with him .

Its origin isn't very clear but Arthur read that its creator managed to destroy an incredibly large mount with only the pure might of his fist and nothing else . If it's trained into perfection, it won't be impossible to shatter skies and split oceans .

'BOOM!'

The weak space around the claws and his fist shattered when the two clashed, resulting into a small tear in space that was different than usual, it didn't have the usual low-scale devouring ability, instead, it emitted countless needle-like energies that stabbed everywhere around it .

Fortunately, the space tear was merely two inches long and disappeared after a split second but even Arthur, who has a high mastery in Space Magic felt dread from that small tear, it was largely similar to the energy he felt when the world of Bucama was about to be destroyed .

This caused him to become apprehensive as there was a chance Astria could be destroyed . This special space tear was extremely tiny so it can't destroy this world but what if a larger clash occurred then there's no telling what the consequences would be .

The ground started shaking as the crack on it started opening like a devil opening its mouth and revealing a bottomless abyss with no ending to it, it was at this moment that the Human Continent, from East to West, split into two big lands and separated by humongous crack in the earth which started swallowing falling tree, rivers, seas and mountains, some miserable beasts were unlucky to fall too .

A strange sight could be seen as the sky was divided by an orange color and a wave of darkness that seemed as if it came out from the abyss down below . The orange flames of the bird were burning the Dark Magic while the other was consuming its foe resulting in a short stalemate .

The two waves seemed to be pushed away by the turbulent energy around the Vermillion Bird and Arthur, a small fist was currently resisting the heated claws of the bird which flapped its wings and tried to envelop Arthur, however, to its surprise, it felt a pressuring force from his fist and couldn't handle it causing its body to be sent flying away from Arthur .

Three of its claws were totally broken as it flew like a kite until it managed to stop itself, however, it was apparent that having its claws broken was not something small .

No blood came out from where its claws have been, instead, a liquid similar to a magma started flowing out, panicked and angry, the Vermillion Bird screeched and protected itself with its wings covering its chest and head as it spat strange flames at its claws, trying to heal the injury .

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Just as Arthur injured the Vermillion Bird, he heard a hysterical wail not far away from him, before he could turn to see what happened, he sensed great danger as a white streak similar to a white lightning came rushing at him . Before he could react, his body was already sent flying high-up in the sky, leaving only a fountain of blood as a trail .

The White Tiger felt great anger and humiliation as it was pushed a few time by the dark shadow Arthur summoned, the tattoos on its body shined with a golden light, increasing its strength and speed .

Arthur's flying body was hit yet another time as the tiger wanted to release its anger on him . He looked pitiful as his body was hit multiple times without being able to retaliate, he could not even react as his Health decreased continuously and the injuries on his bodies multiplied .

The rampage of the White Tiger was only stopped when the dark blade Makaze came down from above, similar to a fallen dark star, it intercepted the sharp golden claws of the White Tiger and buying enough time for Arthur to stabilize his body and fly straight towards his weapon, holding Makaze tightly .

The Vermillion Bird couldn't attack as it hastily healed its claws, the Azure Dragon was silently floating at a safe distance, creepingly glaring at Arthur .

Before he could resist the White Tiger, which relentlessly attacked and tried to pulverize him, his mind was attacked by a mysterious attack which brought with him unimaginable pain . As if countless needles stabbed his brain, rendering him unable to move, actually, he would have fallen unconscious if not for his strong willpower and the dark Talisman residing above his Dantian, which emitted ominous black light that travelled to his consciousness, easing the pain by a bit but not enough to allow him to fight .

The pain immunity skill allows him to not feel any kind of pain but this strange attack of the Azure Dragon was surprisingly effective as it made Arthur feel agonizing pain .

The intensity of the pain was similar to when his body was being created, any normal person wouldn't be able to stay awake when faced with such agony .

Fortunately, Makaze was able to act by itself and spin vertically, creating an illusory black whirlpool that defended against the White Tiger . Although it only managed to block three slashes from the golden claws, it nevertheless it bought Arthur enough time to take control of his body and retreat hastily as his body transformed into green lightning, boosting his speed even further .

His clothes were soaked with blood, every corner of it was dyed with red, the stench was unbearable and the bleeding never ceased which caused Arthur's body to become a bit sluggish . He only managed to evacuate from that location thanks to his Lightning Magic as he transformed into a yellow streak of lightning that retreated a few hundred miles .

Surprisingly, the White Tiger didn't continue its attacks but flew next to the enormous black turtle, the Azure Dragon and the Vermillion Bird also floated next to it, making Arthur feel extremely uneasy .

The black turtle never acted since the beginning, the only time it attacked was when it created that realistic illusion but apart from that, it passively remained at its original position .

Although he was confused and eery, Arthur still breathed a sigh of relief as he retrieved Healing Potion from his storage and gulped them unhesitantly, he even threw a couple of pills into his mouth, disregarding the small side-effects they may bring later-on .

These pills didn't boost his strength, they merely increased the efficiency of his Mental Power recovery as well as Nether Energy, they were very expensive but Zodiak still possessed a decent amount so Arthur didn't hold back in using them .

He glanced at the flaming dark blade and noticed a small crack on its edges, it was almost unnoticeable but having been with the blade for a long time, he could feel it was weakened and on the verge of

breaking, it goes without saying that unleashing the next wave is impossible, even using it to block more attacks would lead to its destruction, which is something he didn't wish for .

As he ignored the desperate calling of the blade that still wanted to fight, Arthur stored the blade in his ring and cautiously gazed at the four Divine Beast .

The more time they remained motionless the better it is for him, he was heavily injured and each second is precious . The ugly wounds all over his bodies started healing and the blood stopped gushing out after merely ten seconds .

With his eyes locked onto the beast, Arthur was able to see a green energy was emitted from the black turtle, the energy enveloped the three Divine Beast until it covered them whole .

Under the astonished stare of Arthur, the bloodied Azure Dragon, the claws of the Vermillion Bird and the slightly burnt body of the White Tiger instantly healed, it didn't even take two seconds before the three of them returned to normal, brimming with vitality as if they never have been injured in the first place .

With eyes filled with total disbelief and a pale face, he couldn't believe such a thing was possible . If he had known, he wouldn't let them return next to the turtle, even if it's just hindering one from being healed it's still better than having them all recover in the blink of an eye .

Arthur never anticipated that the turtle could do such a thing, the damage he inflicted on them is not something that could be recovered from easily, especially the fire that internally injured the Azure Dragon and the countless swords that stabbed its body .

'T-this is ridiculous!'

Sensing the suffocating aura of the four beasts as they glared at him, Arthur was certain that it wasn't just an illusion but reality! The turtle not only could use high-ranked illusion but could instantaneously heal its comrades, adding to that its unpenetrable defense, how could he beat them if they'll be able to recover like that?!

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Seeing no way out and thinking about the situation he was in, there's no way he could inflict the same wounds with his current state, his blade was weakened and showing signs of breaking, he was heavily injured, externally and internally .

He expended more than half of his Mental Power, 60% of his Nether Energy and already dropped two grades . A ruthless and savage glint flashed through his eyes, he took a deep breath and retrieved an exquisite looking box from his storage .

The box wasn't big but it was apparent that it was forged used high-grade materials, there was a talisman on top of it that had the role of some sort of a lock .

He waved his hand, cutting the talisman in two and opened the box, revealing what's inside it .

'I have no other choice but to use this . . . ah! Sorry, Lucy, I planned to gift it to you but I guess I have to use it first . '

Chapter 268

Laying inside the exquisite box was a silver object which was crafted meticulously by Arthur . It is by far the best weapon he ever crafted, at least compared to the ones he handed to Anastassia and the rest .

It was a medium-sized silver revolver, it looked no different than normal ones on Earth except the materials it was made from . The silver material was actually a special crafting material found in cold and hidden places . It is called Silk Moon Silver and it is very resistant to all types of elements, including the special ones .

Unfortunately, Arthur only found a small chunk barely enough to craft this revolver . After numerous attempts using other materials, various tests conducted after the completed test objects, he was able to create this masterpiece, which resulted in earning three skill points .

When he created the Heavenly Arrow, he was only able to gain one skill point yet this revolver gave him three so this shows how unique this weapon is . When he was drawing the blueprints of this revolver, Arthur remembered the secret weapon of the academy, 'Judgment', it has terrifying destructive power, he tried applying it on the revolver while also trying to make it shot instantaneously instead of taking some time like the magical cannon that belonged to Sonia .

Furthermore, he tweaked a little bit so it could become highly compatible with his wife, Lucy . Coupled with the Silk Moon Silver, he also inscribed two small formations . They were supportive formations, nonetheless, their efficiency could not be denied .

The first was called [Ice Breath], it boosted the damage done by the bullets shot by the revolver and increases the affinity of the user to the Ice attribute .

He couldn't wield Yin Power like Lucy so he used Ice instead since he had the [High-Mastery] for this attribute . The second one was [Fire Breath], it has the same effect as the first one and normally, these two formations would oppose each other, however, Lucy managed to do the impossible and was able to fuse these two together although not to the perfection stage, so adding these two formations to the power of the revolver, Arthur was sure that it'll become a monstrous weapon in her hands .

She would definitely be able to unleash its full power, as for him, he can barely use fifty percent of its true power, unfortunately .

The revolver was only the beginning, next to it laid several bullets with varied shape and colors . There were red bullets, black bullets, and even blue bullets . Each matched to an attribute and to craft these bullets, it required Arthur four whole months inside the ARK .

They were not just simple bullets, what's inside them is much more complicated than what the naked eye could see . Just like he built the revolver to be similar to Judgment, the bullets were the same, they resembled the skill [Rizaki], each containing a compressed kind of attribute .

Even shooting one with his own hand would result in devastating destruction so if he were to use the revolver, which was built to match these bullets and boost their power then the outcome would be unimaginable .

Arthur restrained himself from using such a trump card first because he wanted Lucy to use it first as it was hers, to begin with . Secondly was due to the cost of using such a weapon .

This revolver, also named 'Lonely Moon', was built in a way that only Lucy could use it, no one but her is able to use it, even the creator himself, Arthur, is not an exception . He has Makaze and Lucy doesn't have any trump cards so this revolver was going to act as a life-saving object, it is also a gift from a husband to his wife .

The only reason he can use it right now is thanks to his high-sky stats, however, even with such cheat stats, he's bound to suffer a big backlash . The rebound is almost fatal and the materials aren't compatible with his powers, the only things allowing him to use it is the small fire formation .

Arthur didn't waste time staring at the revolver, he picked it up and hastily put a red bullet inside then focused his attention on the four Divine Beast, which seemed about to attack at any given second .

Using his eyes, Arthur was able to see a formless energy whirlpool appear above the beasts, moreover, the scales on the turtle's back began shaking and then a few them shot out from straight at him with lightning speed .

He unhesitantly raised his remaining hand which was holding Lonely Moon and surprisingly aimed at the sky and fired . As he pushed the trigger, a loud sound rang in his ears which was followed by three small red circles appearing in front of the tip of the revolver . The three red circle with spinning slowly with the one closest to the weapon being the smallest and the furthest being the biggest .

'BANG!'

Veins popped from his already devastated hand, his arm trembled and blood gushed out unceasingly, his body was even sent flying back for a hundred meters before he was able to stabilize it .

The bullets he crafted were different in power and attribute . For example, the one he shot was a 3rd-grade bullet which is why three circles appeared .

In total, Arthur crafted sixteen bullets, two of them were 5th-grade, three were 4th-grade, eight 3rd-grade and three 2nd-grade . The higher the grade, the more powerful the bullet .

Obviously, the more powerful the bullet, the higher the requirements, as he is right now, Arthur cannot even use a 4th-grade bullet, much less a 5th-grade .

However, although he only used a 3rd-grade, he was certain that it'll injure the four Divine Beast, no matter how tough their defense is . After all, this revolver is his greatest masterpiece, a weapon meant to erase Gods and slay Sovereigns!

The scales didn't even get time to get close to Arthur before an explosion that was far louder than Rizaki or the Dragon Breath resounded on all the Human Continent .

All the living beings on Astria heard this ear-deafening explosion which was accompanied by a sea of red flames that covered the whole sky, scattering all the clouds and falling down on the Divine Beasts .

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In a calm and beautiful courtyard where there's a small river and blooming beautiful flowers, Arthur sat on the grass with a smile on his face as he stared at Lucy, who was squatting in a corner of the courtyard devoid of the colorful flowers all around .

The corner was a bit gloomy and despite the absence of the flowers and roses which decorated this place, that corner had a certain charm in it as there was a beautiful red rose that was growing alone there .

Lucy stroked the rose as she hummed with a happy tone, her face didn't have the usual indifference and coldness and instead, she had a breathtaking smile as she admired this rose .

"You seem to like this rose very much . "

The silver-haired woman turned her head to look at him and nodded while saying

"En! This rose is my favorite out of all of them . It's called 'The Chrysler Imperial Rose', it grows in remote places where there is very little life, it is fascinating how it grows alone where there is no one to accompany it yet ends up this breath-taking . To still stand up when it's alone and bloom beautifully like this . . . "

She became absent-minded as she gently stroked the red rose, she seemed to be mesmerized by the roses . Arthur already knows about her love for flowers so he always tries his best to decorate their home with every flower she loves using the Nature Magic .

"If you want, I can grow more for you . "

Hearing him, Lucy shook her head and walked up to him, she snuggled in his arms and embraced him tightly while saying

"It's sad for it to grow alone like this, cast out . . . but I think that's what makes it special, what makes it stand out from everything else . "

Arthur didn't reply, he hugged her back and remained silent, enjoying this peaceful moment with her . . .

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This type of red bullet was meant for that moment, back when everything peaceful and the days were calm without any danger .

He coughed up a large mouthful of blood then stared at where the Divine Beasts only to see nothing . He knew they were injured but it'll be far-fetched to think they're already dead even after this attack .

He raised his head to look at the bright sky, where an enormous blooming red rose made up of flames could be seen .

He could only see a tip of it as its size was simply too big for him to see it all . The sun rays couldn't penetrate through the blooming rose which covered half of the continent .

The Human Continent was no more as the fire scorched every corner of it, incinerating cities, villages, and mountains, leaving not a single being alive, it has already become a black burnt land where no man could live on .

**

A Blooming rose, was it needed

Finishing those who shall be beaten

Chapter 269

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The damage done by the 3rd-grade bullet was beyond what Arthur's Rizaki could do, even if he unleashed his strongest Rizaki, which was one made from pure Void Magic, it still wouldn't be able to devour the whole continent .

The red rose was still burning high up in the sky, raising the temperature of this whole small world by several degrees, beings that watched from afar were staring at the gigantic burning rose from afar, with awe and fear .

East of Astria, a transparent green barrier materialized itself around the World Tree, protecting a third of the Itas continent . The heat from the rose was reaching the thick forest and even the trees close to the shore was melting as they couldn't withstand the high temperature .

"Such dangerous flames . . . what a terrifying monster indeed . . . much like that crazy old man . "

The spirit of the World Tree mumbled to itself as it witnessed the rising rose, covering the sky far away and changing the weather of the world .

Even though Astria wasn't big compared to the Green-Leaf world, it isn't easy to cast a skill capable of totally changing the weather and incinerating a whole continent .

The Northern Continent suffered the least as it was a bit farther from the Human Continent, however, some of the snow mountains on its South melted, revealing a beautiful greenery that was hidden by the snow that existed for thousands of years .

At the MoonStar sect, right at the top of the roof of the tall tower, there was a lonely slim figure watching the burning red rose with a helpless smile hanging on her face, after a while, she let out a long sigh and bitterly said

"It's no use, Arthur . . . even such an attack won't work against them, winning alone is impossible . . . why can't you understand the meaning of my words . "

Lissandra became absent-minded as her eyes were locked on the rose that dispersed after a dozen seconds . . .

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When he decided to fight, Arthur planned to defeat the four Divine Beast while trying to keep the central continent undamaged, however, that idea was immediately cast away when he experienced their prowess . It just wasn't doable to kill them without damaging this big piece of land so he decided to give up on this one to save the other three, as long as the inhabitants live and there is a safe place to live in, then it's still worth it .

Currently, he was coughing large mouthful of blood as veins popped from his arms, his body shook intensely from the powerful rebound of the revolver .

He stared at the burning rose then shifted his attention below, where the Four Divine Beasts were flung to . Unfortunately, the burning rose didn't remain for a long time, barely fifteen seconds before it dispersed in the air, leaving a sea of red flames below, it sunk deep into the bottomless abyss, causing heat to emit from there .

From within the sea of flames, Arthur could see three floating figures, one was a large black shadow that had some of its scales burned or broken, blood leaked out unceasingly as it pushed the flames away and flew high above whilst a formless green energy enveloped it, protecting it from the fire .

The energy aided the other two, guiding them through the fire and helping them recover bit by bit . Accompanying the black turtle were the Vermillion Bird, which had one of its wings missing and right next to it was the Azure Dragon, which literally had half of its body burned down, showing a grotesque and gory sight .

Arthur couldn't feel the presence of the White Tiger nor could he see its position in his map which only meant one thing, his attack managed to successfully eliminate one of the four, making him feel delighted and showing a bit of hope in this suicidal path .

Although he was relieved that the tiger died, he also felt helpless as he couldn't fire another 3rd-grade bullet, it'll break his body and it'll take a lot of time before he recovers . His body was already on the verge of breaking and if not for his high recovery, he would have fallen hundreds of times .

Since he was overworking himself so his lost arm wasn't fully grown, only half of it appeared, this applied for his serious internal injuries too which is why blood leaked out of his mouth every few seconds .

With Makaze gone, he could no longer execute powerful swords skills, he coldly stared at the enraged Divine Beasts, which weren't pleased with the loss of their comrade .

The black turtle only had a few of its scales burned or destroyed and apart from that, it didn't look in a bad state, however, the Azure Dragon was basically dead with half of its body burnt . The Vermillion Bird had a very high resistance to all kinds of flames so Arthur's previous attack didn't cause serious damage, fortunately, it was able to destroy one of its wings, causing it to wail painfully as it flapped its lonely wing and spat big fireballs at Arthur, who skillfully dodged them using his agility coupled with [Transcendence] .

Before he performs the next step, Arthur wanted to kill the Azure Dragon as it was incapable of moving, much less resisting so without any hesitation, he dived straight at it, ready to execute .

'[Blood for Blood]! [Heavenly Arrow]! [Blood for Blood]! [Heavenly Arrow]!'

Instantly, two lengthy arrows appeared at his sides, they were made from pure Dark Magic . The two arrows flew straight at the motionless dragon with a speed faster than his, they were both aimed at its head, wanting to pulverize it .

This time, the black turtle didn't stay passive, it growled with a deep sound and opened its mouth, showing its sharp dark teeth and disgusting slithery tongue .

At that second, Arthur felt his body become heavier and his vision becomes extremely blurry, his figure fell from the air as if the ground was pulling him towards it with strong, almost irresistible force .

'Dammit! Gravity Magic!'

Gravity Magic belonged to Earth Magic but it was very, very rare to acquire and even him, who possessed hundreds of thousands of bodies, wasn't able to obtain him, which showed how unique it is .

It is said that it's very powerful and if mastered properly then even Gods had to kneel without able to retaliate .

'What the hell is this turtle, it can do everything!'

Although he was pushed down, the two Heavenly Arrows he sent weren't affected by the gravity force and continued their way toward the helpless dragon, which cried angrily as it glared at the sea of flames below with rage and terror, it completely ignored the incoming arrows as if they weren't a threat, to begin with .

Two half-broken scales appeared in front of the Azure Dragon; blocking the arrows' way . The scales and two arrows clashed with each other, causing the former to shake violently but in the end, the arrows were stopped despite their high penetrative force .

Although they were resisted, dark magic invaded the two half-broken scales and started weakening them bit by bit so the black turtle was forced to retaliate immediately, it controller another two scales which flew at the arrows and cut them in pieces in the blink of an eye, leaving Arthur momentarily startled as he didn't know the scales were so powerful to the extent of being able to destroy these arrows .

Even the Vermillion Bird in its peak form can't get rid of them this easily, this led Arthur to become much more cautious and attentive of this silent turtle .

'This tortoise is definitely the strongest but why is it so passive?'

As he was resisting the gravity magic, Arthur clenched his teeth and focused at the area just below the Azure dragon while mumbling

"Die for me!"

'[Blood for Blood]![Rizaki]!'

Did the Divine Foresee,

That the end is near, or would it be?

Chapter 270

As the sky, which was covered by the flames of the red rose, transformed into a darkness that enveloped what remained of the Human Continent, Arthur took out the half-broken shield from earlier and poured large amounts of Dark Mana into his Dark Barrier, making it thicker and stronger .

He unleashed a Dark Rizaki since Dark Magic was quite effective against those beasts, moreover, the Azure Dragon was already a thread away from death with half of his body pulverized thanks to flames, so there's no way he'd survive this Rizaki, especially when its center is this close to him .

He slowly backed away as focused on the Black Turtle, which started acting the moment the darkness covered their vision . An intense green energy emanated from its scales and surrounded it and the Vermillion Bird, which, fortunately, was close to it .

As for the dragon, the turtle couldn't pinpoint its location and could do nothing but try to resist what's about to happen without acting recklessly .

For an attack to be able to block their view and entrap them like this, it was by no means a simple and weak one . They had special eyes and incredible senses yet they felt helpless when this world of darkness descended .

Seeing the lonely figure of the Azure Dragon as it spat a large ball of blue energy which transformed into a barrier around it, giving it a bit of relief .

The center of Rizaki couldn't be seen by the entrapped dragon, which had no idea that the center of the explosion was merely a few meters under its body, no matter how strong his barrier was, it can't resist a Rizaki from Arthur, especially after his intelligence stats increased to this degree .

Dark energy slowly and sneakily invaded the Divine Beasts body, no matter what they did, they couldn't resist it or push it away . Even the black turtle seemed disturbed by this fact, it only reacted to this by strengthening the green barrier around itself and its comrade .

The Dark Magic that entered them was different from the material one, this acted as a poison, eating away the victim's vitality and slowly consuming them . It has no effect on the Divine Beasts but it's still a good way to divert their attention and scare them a bit .

The cold silence that accompanied this world didn't remain for long, in a split second, the darkness was compressed into a single dot under the Azure Dragon and before it could act, an ear-deafening explosion occurred .

Arthur, who retreated a couple of kilometers away was still pushed away by the turbulent winds but apart from that, he wasn't injured as he fully prepared himself and successfully resisted the impact .

Just like the red flaming rose, Rizaki did a fair job in obliterating the upper part of the Human Continent . As they were battling above the crack that went from the East to the West of the continent, it is no longer a continent but two pieces of land separated by a bottomless abyss filled with eternal fire .

Volcanos have started appearing all over the lower piece of the land, as for the upper piece, it started sinking as the sea covered the mountains and forests, swallowing everything in its way . Rizaki made matters worse as the explosion was so fierce that it pushed the two piece of lands away from each other, widening the abyss below and forcefully pushing the upper piece of land into the sea, letting it sink deep into the sea, never to be seen again .

The small flames tornados that were the remains of the red rose were scattered due to the violent winds and the raging sound waves which traveled long distances before they finally dispersed .

The three Divine Beasts, which were very close to the center of Rizaki, suffered the most . The space around them shattered and recovered again and again and the Azure Dragon, which was heavily injured from the get-go, was turned into nothingness before it could defend itself .

Its barrier was instantly shattered and it was erased from existence the moment the explosion happened . As for the turtle, it was extremely tenacious as its scales vibrated and release an energy which had a mix of green and yellow energy .

The reinforced green barrier around the two Divine Beasts started becoming smaller in size until it barely covered the Vermillion Bird and the black turtle .

The Barrier turned yellow in color and a strange mantra was engraved on each of its sides, one was a green mantra and the other was a yellow one . This wasn't the end as the Vermillion Bird screeched loudly and spat a small fireball which crashed into the top of the barrier, transforming into a red mantra that was a bit smaller than the other two .

The barrier had a mix of three colors, which were harmonious and compatible with each other, every one of them strengthened the other, rendering this barrier almost unbreakable .

When the explosion occurred, the barrier was just finished yet despite that, the black turtle didn't expect such a violent impact . The small barrier around them started showing multiple cracks as it was pushed away from their initial position . They couldn't even stay still due to the pushing force from Rizaki, the cracks started deepening and appearing all over the barrier and the red mantra showed signs of vanishing as it started turning illusory .

This continued for a dozen seconds and before long, the barrier lacked its previous luster as it was filled with countless cracks as if a simple push from the wind would break it .

The world was no longer filled with darkness, only violent wind tornados and shattered space that recovered itself with a fast pace could be seen in this area . The sky had a humongous grey cloud that slowly spun around the Human Continent, or what remained of it, at least .

Inside this grey cloud, Arthur panted heavily as blood leaked from his mouth, he was currently facing the two Divine Beasts which gazed at him with apparent rage and anger . They were still hiding inside that cracked barrier, despite receiving the full impact from Rizaki, it still survived and maintained itself .

From the looks of it, it was repairing itself at a decent speed and if given enough time then it'll surely go back to its original state . This was something Arthur didn't wish for .

With the Azure Dragon gone, he only had two opponents left and although he was not in an advantageous position, he could still fight a bit more as his Nether Energy pool and his Mana pool weren't empty .

Surprisingly, the turtle and the bird didn't attack him, they remained inside the barrier, thinking that his attack wasn't done yet . This bought him enough time to unleash his next attack, which may take some time .

Arthur put the shield on his back and raised his hand to the sky and closed his eyes, concentrating his Mental Power and injecting his Dark Mana into one particular skill .

'[Heavenly Arrow]!'

One of his signature skills, a deadly arrow that could be conjured from one of a few possible attributes . Its might is incredible and its speed is unmatched even by the White Tiger, presumably the fastest Divine creature .

One Heavenly Arrow may not be able to injure the black turtle and only deal slight damage to the Vermillion Bird but how about five Heavenly Arrows? Or ten of them?

Other speaks of quality over quantity but that's not always the case . What if he could mass produce Heavenly Arrows without using [Blood for Blood] . With all his focus and Mental Power put on this skill, along with an absurd amount of Dark Mana, he imagined a skill similar to Lucy's devastating meteor shower but this one had countless dark Heavenly Arrows .

A mind-numbing number that could finish these two pests once and for all . Obviously, to produce a thousand Heavenly Arrows is not possible but he didn't wish for a number that high, even a hundred, in this case, could do the job .

Slowly but surely, Heavenly Arrows made of pure Dark Magic started appearing above Arthur, they were high-up in the sky, pointing downwards, exactly at the yellow barrier of the turtle .

One turned into five, five into ten and so on, in twenty seconds, this gloomy area which was surrounded by the humongous spinning grey cloud, was covered with Heavenly Arrows that were burning with dark flames .

Each with a length over thirty meters, emitting a suffocating pressure and an ominous aura . They had a weak link between them, one which boosted their penetrative power and speed . When the imagined skill was successfully finished, Arthur's face became even paler, he spat a weird looking black blood and started shaking nonstop .

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Congratulations! You have created a new skill(active): [Dark Rain] .

For creating a skill without relying on any exterior help: 1 skill point

Congratulations! You gained a new title: 'Mad Destroyer'

Arthur ignored the notifications and focused his remaining Mental Power to control the skill . Deafening whistling sounds were heard as a hundred Dark Heavenly Arrows fell from the sky, aiming at the yellow barrier .

The arrows had double the speed of a normal Heavenly Arrow, moreover, they left a trail of dark flames that burned the air around them and slowly crept their way to their targets as if they were alive .

Just as they were going to touch the barrier and penetrate it, a bright golden mantra appeared on the side of the barrier, repairing those cracks and strengthening it to an unimaginable degree . This was accompanied by a loud tiger growl that left Arthur astonished .