

## Once Human 281

### Chapter 281

After seven or eight bashes, the Azure Dragon became entirely unrecognizable . Arthur enjoyed the new sight as he lifted the bronze platform one final time and used all of his strength to deal the final blow .

Unlike his previous attacks, a small amount of Natural Lightning was added to the bronze platform, increasing its attack power . With thin green lightning bolts twirling all around the platform, Arthur smashed down without showing any hesitation .

An explosive sound was heard on the contact, and with that blow, all that was left of the Divine Beast was a big blood mist that vanished right after due to the howling winds that dispersed it swiftly .

"20 seconds left . "

His copy's voice rang in his ears, telling him about the remaining time and at the same time urging him to finish this once and for all .

With the Azure Dragon turned into a blood mist, the Vermillion Bird disposed of by the kind thunder sword, all that was left was the annoying White Tiger, which actually managed to survive his previous blow, one way or another .

Arthur's current sense was extremely wide, even against the White Tiger, which specializes in speed, it is almost impossible to escape from him .

"Still, to think a mighty Divine Beast is fleeing like this, where's their pride . "

As he clicked his tongue, Arthur ripped the space and casually entered, appearing thousands of miles away, exactly in front of the White Tiger, which had blood leaking from its mouth and shattered claws . It seemed to be in a miserable state, from the looks of it, however, it can still fight and unleash powerful attacks and as for why it chose it to run, only it knows the real reason .

Without letting it the time to react to his sudden appearance, Arthur appeared behind it, grabbing the tiger by its tail, then he started spinning with incredible speed .

Both the man and the tiger left afterimages as they kept spinning while creating a sharp wind tornado around them . After spinning for two seconds, Arthur let go of the tail thus resulting in the tiger to be flung off far away like a meteor .

This wasn't the end as he ripped space again and reappeared directly in front of the flying tiger, which will bump into him in less than a second .

Arthur's fist emitted a green light as it punched the tiger's body, the beast howled from the pain when Arthur's fist bypassed its tough defenses and its hard fur, going through the skin and the bones .

A bloody hole bigger than the fist could be seen on the chest of the miserable tiger, its body convulsed as it floated mid-air, appearing about to fall into the abyss at any second .

"Alright, it's time for a farewell . "

Arthur backed off and stared coldly at the White Tiger, which no longer was beautiful looking or majestic . All its aloofness was gone now that death was closing in, it repeatedly spat weird looking acid on its bloody wounds, trying to heal itself .

Arthur raised his hand, which had countless small lightning snakes dancing around it . The green snakes flew above his hand and started merging with each other until a large lightning dragon appeared behind him .

The dragon had two red crystal-like eyes and a ferocious aura enveloping it . This dragon was pretty similar to Yamak, the one Arthur fought in the past, and thanks to the deceased lightning dragon, he gained its high Lightning resistance, including its powerful skills .

With a slight wave of Arthur's hand signaling his intentions, the lightning dragon behind him twirled in the air as it dived at the White Tiger, crashing into him violently and causing massive amounts of Natural Lightning to invade the Divine Beast's body, leaving it in a state of complete paralysis .

This, however, wasn't the end as Yamak's imitation used its massive and long body to envelop the tiger like a snake and tighten its body, trying to crush its opponent and turn it into a meat paste .

Arthur's eyes were closed as he paid no more attention the White Tiger, he was trying to figure out a solution while listening to the commands of his copy, trying to aid him(the copy) in imitating the chains from before and try to limit his physique, at least for a while for that will buy him a few more days .

A red pillar of light came flying from the East, its speed was so fast that even Arthur was incapable of dodging in time, albeit his current powerful physique .

By the time he reacted, the pillar of red light was already upon him . Before it could touch him, a blinding golden radiance came out from within his consciousness, conjuring into a formidable shield that blocked the mysterious light . As he looked at the red light, which was only three meters away from him, Arthur could feel a familiar violent aura from it, it contained unrestrained savagery that could make anyone suffocate just by being close it .

The instant he felt it, he remembered the time where he invaded a foreign world from the Human Emperor's castle, the world inhabited by evil and barbaric Race, a place where humans were used as objects, a statue worse than a slave!

"It's them! Bucama's race!"

Regarding this race, Arthur harbored nothing but hate and anger, he was disgusted with them and couldn't bring and thought of them as nothing but pure evil, something that should never exist .

He knew that they were hiding on the Eastern Continent but he never expected them to launch a sneak attack when he was fighting the Divine Beasts . From the info he had gotten from Jakob and Anastasia, these monsters were powerful but not the point that they can threaten an Immortal, much less a God .

For Curtis to personally make a move and protect him, that red pillar of light is surely something out of the ordinary, something that could seriously injure him if not kill him on the spot .

Curtis is no idiot, he is fully aware of Arthur's current physique and its heaven-defying prowess yet he still chose to act which only means that these monsters have incredibly strong leaders that remained

hidden to not attract attention, or that their magic is strong and could even allow a Spirit Realm to injure a God, but such an assumption is a bit far-fetched, or so thought Arthur .

"It's those abominations, the Cthulhu . "

"Cthulhu?"

"Yes, a very ancient race, older than even the Titans . Their spells that fatal to any Race, it's a bit similar to black magic but much stranger and bloodier . "

Arthur pondered for a few seconds as he waited for his copy to offer a possible solution . The shield conjured by Curtis was resisting the pillar of red light, however, that's not a permanent solution, he needs to act and doesn't want to ruin thing by unleashing multiple defensive skills that may or may not cause the red light to become stronger .

He felt a small suction power coming from that light, just being close to it drained his power, little by little, the amount was negligible but if he remained here for enough time, he'll turn into a skeleton for sure .

After ten or so seconds passed, the copy spoke again

"Actually, this isn't a bad thing, we could use it efficiently . It really came at the right time . "

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"We'll use it to our advantage . Although the savage aura is pretty troubling, the Dark Magic inside of you will easily consume it so no worries . "

Arthur didn't know what exactly his copy was talking about, nonetheless, he decided to go along with this plan . He nodded his head as his eyes focused on the red pillar of light .

"Now then, relax your body and let it invade you . I'll take care of the rest . "

Curtis could hear their conversation so upon the copy's signal, he withdrew his shield and re-entered Arthur's consciousness, guarding the chained soul .

When the red light covered him, Arthur felt that he's the one being possessed, it was a weird and uncomfortable feeling that he would rather not experience but he bore with it and dropped all his defenses, purposely letting his body become defenseless against this brutal light .

The instant the red light reached his Dantian, an ominous aura emanated from the calm black Talisman floating above the core . It released absurd amounts of red light from the whole body, no matter how the red light tried to resist or hide, it wasn't able to escape from the talisman's grasp .

Arthur's body was the talisman's territory, nothing could escape from it as long as it acts, with a strange weird dark light that shrouded him completely, the appearance of his body started experiencing change .

Red chains tattoos materialized from the tip of his limbs until they covered all his body, twirling around it like a venomous snake . This process happened in three seconds and by the time the Talisman calmed

down, the entirety of the pillar of red light was totally consumed by the talisman, resulting in a small red dot to appear at its center .

Upon a closer inspection, one could feel the presence of the brutal light lingering in that red dot, however, it was suppressed by the talisman with no way of retaliation .

"This is enough, for now . It should hold on for a week, that's way better than I expected . "

The copy breathed a sigh of relief as he gazed at the small chains tattoos around Arthur's body . The person in question inspected his body and frowned upon seeing the tattoos, he felt that his power significantly decreased but it was still stronger than before .

The end against the Divine Beast was finally over and he managed to buy a couple of days so it isn't a big loss for him despite causing the whole continent to become a land of absolute death .

Any person under the God Realm that is brave enough to venture in this land would certainly die . If not because of the poison then the radiation slowly wear him out and kill him .

This area was a bit safer since the tribulation managed to push the radiation and poison away but that won't last forever, after a while, it'll come back and linger here for a long, long time .

'It's time to see who's hiding rat . '

Arthur stared East, from where the red pillar of light came, his sense and map didn't give him any information which only means that the enemy is pretty far from here .

To be able to launch such a terrifying attack from such a distance, that race was definitely hiding a strong trump card, alas, they used it at an inappropriate time .

"Why would they target me, to begin with?"

The target was definitely him and their goal wasn't to kill him so this left Arthur rather confused about their true intentions .

"Hehehe, it's obviously to weaken you then capture you . You're the perfect puppet for them . "

"Puppet?"

"Yes, they can turn people into mindless puppets that they can control with ease, however, it is very rare to find a suitable puppet, one that is perfectly compatible with that brutal energy . "

Just as Arthur was going to head to East to pay a visit to the Cthulhu Race, a large white shadow appeared before him . With an overwhelming pressure and a bright golden light, it growled angrily and opened its wide mouth, spitting weird acid .

Surprised by the speed of this enemy and its sudden appearance, Arthur could only cross his arms in defense and conjure a sturdy Dark Barrier along with the deceased Druid's watery surface to reduce the incoming damage .

Fortunately, breaking the chains healed him from all his injuries and he recovered to his peak state, so he won't die easily, nonetheless, he can't afford to be hit .

Just as the weird acid was going to cover him, a red fog covered the area in an instant, it was followed by a foul stench of blood . A short silhouette emerged before Arthur, blocking the acid with but a hand .

This hand was withered and rotten, it had a creepy look and was made of ancient flesh that decayed too much to the point of becoming grey .

The rotten hand had an invisible whirlpool the size of a thumb that rotated slowly and absorbed all the acid, even the one which was far away was swallowed .

This short silhouette was none other than Swain, who elegantly stood before his master . He waved his rotten hand, unleashing the same kind of acid and throwing it at the large white Divine Beast which had red eyes indicating its enraged state .

"How is it possible for it to be alive?"

Arthur only received absolute silence from his copy, who was supposed to be acknowledgeable about this stuff .

Despite hearing no answer, he didn't sit idly and wait for the White Tiger to attack again . With Swain as a support, he used [Faster Than Death], appearing on the rear of the Divine Beast, and executed [Unparalleled Golden Palm] .

His palm emitted a golden radiance that matched the one emanating from his foe, the illusory big palm landed on the tiger's back, however, it wasn't able to push him back, much less send him flying like earlier .

Arthur didn't give up as he waved his other hand, throwing more than ten detonators at the tiger, which caused massive explosions to occur all around him, filling the area with smoke and turbulent winds . Swain made use of this chance to sneak under the tiger and use his rotten hand to absorb the golden radiance and the white energy close to the tiger, trying to throw it back at it when the time is ripe .

"It is no use, Arthur! We were fooled! There were two leaders from the very beginning, you must retreat for now!"

"Retreat? That's not an option!"

Arthur smirked as he teleported three times, getting away from the White Tiger, which used its tail to strike the area he was just at right now .

As he floated next to his servant and gazed at the White Tiger, which seemed to be stronger every passing second, Arthur possessed the body of the silver wolf and said

"It's four against one, the tides have turned so why should I retreat?"

The copy remained silent as he was confused about what's happening, but that confusion only lasted for a split second before he understood the meaning behind Arthur's words .

As he said that, a low yet deep growl resounded in his consciousness, blue thunder descended from above, shattering space and pushing away the incoming poison .

Next to Arthur appeared a wolf of similar size to the one he's possessing . This beast was made from blue thunder, it had two ferocious blood red eyes and a very long tail that had a tip which crackled with purple thunder, similar to the one seen in the tribulation .

"We must really thank the heavens, right?"

"Villainous Heavens were jealous and unsuccessful in their attempt . This one is only grateful to master ."

Astrith made a small bow toward Arthur, he was significantly bigger than his original size . The tribulations helped him end his evolution faster than predicted . Arthur was smart enough to let small amounts of lightning tribulation enter his body, he directed it to his consciousness, where Astrith was .

Arthur merely nodded and stared at his left, where a knight covered in golden armor and riding a big white steed appeared . The knight had handsome facial features and not even the helmet could cover that .

With a half-golden half-white shield on his back, a white sword in a golden sheath on his waist and last but not least, a three-meter-long yellow spear on his hands .

This spear belonged to the Earth Spirit, but with Curtis' 'persuasion', it was lent a second time, its might is terrifying and with a proper use, it could deal fatal damages .

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A golden knight, a thunder wolf, a blood and death user, and a parasite, stood next to each other facing the White Tiger, which roared loudly as it glared at them with a hostile gaze . It didn't seem to be fazed by them, in fact, its eyes showed disdain and arrogance as if they were not its match .

Its body was unscathed even after being hit by more than ten detonators, it is definitely stronger than before and as for how it became like this, no one knew but from his copy's words from earlier, Arthur had a few speculations .

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The Divine Beast didn't sit there and watch them as they prepared themselves, it flew fearlessly toward them, only leaving its fading afterimage .

Arthur, Astrith, and Curtis dispersed to three directions while Swain raised both his hands and prepared himself to receive the next hit head-on .

Both of his hands became rotten with death fog emanating from them, the golden radiance he absorbed earlier started acting up .

With an invisible set up in front of him, the red-haired youth shot a golden blast from his hand .

The blast clashed with some sharp white spikes that came out of the tiger, to be more precise, they were its fur . The spikes were incinerated almost immediately, unfortunately, their number was just too much so by the time the golden blast was over, there were over a hundred of them flying at Swain, who stood there, unfazed of what's coming .

Curtis, who backed away just a second ago, came charging again once the tiger made its appearance . It'll be a bit troublesome to hit when it is moving so he waited for it to show itself for a brief second .

Although it was starting to fade away again, Curtis managed to grasp the perfect moment as his steed ran on the air while he majestically swept the yellow-spear, unleashing an armored dragon from its tip .

The armored dragon was small in size, however, its aura was crushing as it bypassed the few white spikes flying in its way and clashed with the big tiger, hitting a small part of its Divine body .

On the side, Astrith had already spat several spheric lightning bolts that contained a meager amount of purple thunder inside of them . The spheres were faster than the armored dragon, the second the white tiger could be seen, Astrith was already done spitting them thus leaving the White Tiger no time to react as it was mainly focusing on the silver wolf, who is also Arthur .

It had suffered more than one time in Arthur's hands so it paid all of its attention him despite feeling a bit of threat coming from Astrith and Curtis .

Like a shadow, Arthur flew around the area once the White Tiger disappeared for the first time, he used numerous skills to lower his presence . Space Magic was rather useful as he used the space-bending skill to enter a separate dimension thus making the White Tiger lose sight of him .

Unfortunately, this didn't last long as the tiger's eyes emitted a red luster that allowed it to grasp his position yet again . Seeing the tiger glaring at him and feeling a suffocating pressure and a thick murderous intent focus on him, Arthur waved his hand and created countless small void mouths around the tiger .

The final touch was a humongous Dark Cube that trapped the tiger with the armored dragon, the lightning spheres and his void mouths, which will surely do a considerable damage to it .

Arthur used more than 30% of his Mental Power and Nether Energy to create this dark cube, no matter how powerful it became, it wouldn't shatter on the spot, not even its comrade, the turtle, could achieve such a feat .

A short silence followed all these occurrences, the dark cube stood motionless high in the air with no sound coming from within . No one could see what's happening inside so they could only stare at it with expectation .

Curtis held the spear horizontally and started chanting with a very low voice, Astrith didn't stay idly either, he opened his wide mouth and started channeling power . you could notice a very small purple thunderbolt materializing inside of his mouth, slowly but surely, it was expanding in size .

Arthur was fully prepared too, one after one, Heavenly Arrows started appearing above him . [Dark Rain] took a bit of time to fully activate but its damage is, without a doubt, devastating .

The only one standing there without doing anything was Swain, he seemed to be in a daze as he stared at the abyss down below .

Very soon, the dark cube started shaking heavily and this only got worse when the space around started shattering and repairing itself, the intensity of the shaking increased and very small cracks started appearing all over the enormous dark cube .

"Brace yourselves!"

Curtis shouted loudly the second the dark cube was completely destroyed, he tightly held the spear and stabbed forward, causing an illusory spear to cut down from above, directly flying to where the tiger is supposed to be .

A one meter long purple thunderbolt flew from Astrith's mouth toward the same target as Curtis' attack . The final one to act was Arthur, he unleashed [Dark Rain] yet again, sending a hundred Dark Heavenly Arrows to the location of the dark cube . No matter how fast the tiger is, it wouldn't be able to remain unscathed after all of this .

Amidst the rubble and the raging wind was a large white shadow standing there arrogantly . Looking a bit closer, you could see that it suffered some damage but nothing too serious, in fact, you could not see any drop of blood on its beautiful white fur .

It started at the incoming attacks and deemed the purple thunderbolt to be the most threatening, with ferocious slash using its golden claws, it cut the thunderbolt into pieces .

Since it decided to get rid of thunderbolt, resisting or dodging the other two attacks won't be a possibility, the time gap between each of these attack is even less than a split second .

The Heavenly Arrows rained down on the Divine Beast whereas the illusory spear attack hit its back, it surprisingly managed to penetrate its tough fur and cause some blood to gush out . The White Tiger released an angry roar but before it could get rid of the spear, the arrows covered it from head to toe, hitting every possible inch of its body to the point that its appearance could no longer be seen . Dark arrows with black flames were covering it, a bit like the chains were covering the Earth Spirit inside Arthur's consciousness .

Although the White Tiger was hit by most of the arrows, no agonizing wail was heard, instead, strange white flames abruptly appeared out of thin air, they purified the Dark Heavenly Arrows and shattered them, piece by piece until they all vanished into nothingness .

When the Divine Beast could be seen again, it was different as its fur had a few red spots caused by the arrows, it wasn't a deep wound like the one the spear inflicted but they were still better than nothing . The tiger looked haggard as the white flames burned above the wounds, accelerating its process of recovery .

The flames were able to help it heal but no matter how many flames burned around or above the bloody injury of the illusory spear, it just wouldn't heal, this enraged the White Tiger, which turned its head and glared wildly at Curtis, finally considering him a threat equal to Arthur .

"It's defense is even higher than the turtle . tsk tsk!"

Arthur clicked his tongue when he saw the tiger healing itself, even with all these Heavenly Arrows, it was still not enough to fatally injure it .

"No, its defense isn't higher than the turtle, it is just vibrating its body with incredible speed thus rendering most of the incoming attacks pass through it or hit a certain spot of its body where its defenses are the highest . It's very rare skill, I've only seen two people use it . "



The copy spoke with praise as he speculated the fight, he wasn't overly worried like earlier . With four against one, even if the tiger is this strong, there is still a high chance to succeed, with good coordination and perfect timing, anything is possible .

It was at this time that the silent Swain finally acted, his two red pupils were flashing with a bloody light while his aura increased drastically .

A red fog covered thousands of miles in a split second and suffocating killing intent could be felt by anyone within the fog .

With his two eyes fixated on the White Tiger, Swain said

"Thou art no divine, thou are a copy, by blood shall thee be purged, by death shall thee be punished!"

When the last word was said, a bloody arc more than three hundred meters in length locked in the White Tiger, which turned illusory as it retreated away, trying to get away from that arc .

Unfortunately, it underestimated the might and speed of this bloody arc, which caught up to it in a matter of seconds, it was like a guillotine descending from above, ready to cut its head .

The White Tiger was truly fearful this time, it stopped fleeing and faced the bloody arc, it became blurry as it was vibrating its whole body nonstop, trying to faze through the arc .

The copy scoffed when it saw this sight and commented:

"That ain't gonna work, fazing is only possible against an attack with a size smaller than your own . To direct such an attack on only one point of your body will only make it more dangerous . "

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The red arc, like an unstoppable and sharp blade, cut more than forth of the White Tiger's body, causing a mass of flesh and fountain of blood to fall below .

The tiger rotated its body so the arc hit it from behind thus severing its right leg and its tail once and for all . Its behind became mangled flesh and boiling blood that kept gushing out nonstop . In response to this horrifying wound, the tiger roared loudly as it showed a savage look .

It disregarded its injury and leapt at Swain, who now had a pale face and shivering body . It was apparent that his last strike required a significant amount of energy, it depleted him and rendered him unable to move for a short period of time .

Unfortunately for the tiger, it wasn't going an easy feat to bypass the other and directly hit the defenseless Swain, even with its incredible speed, it couldn't ignore them .

Curtis had put the spear on his back and unsheathed his sword and held his shield, he stood in front of Swain and raised his shield while chanting a short incantation .

The silver wolf's usually red eyes started pulsating with a bright blue light, this lead to the world becoming grey and the movements of his allies and foe alike became much slower, almost freezing mid-air .

He activated [Transcendence] and [Eternium] at the same time, generating Natural lightning around him and covering his body with it while also adding a mix of ancient flames and Dark Magic, boosting his Agility to its maximum .

He didn't use the Griffin's skill as he deemed it unnecessary for the time being, its cost isn't something to laugh at and losing more Mental Power(permanently) won't do him any good if he ever wants to overcome the imminent death that befell on him due to breaking his chains .

With a body covered by three separate attributes, each complimenting the other and transforming his appearance from a ferocious silver wolf to a green lightning wolf with two large wings on his back, one made from dark red flames and the other jet black with dark flames on its edge .

Arthur focused his vision on the White Tiger, which was the only one that was moving at a moderate speed even after he used the special ability of his eyes . He crouched his body and, like a cannon, charged at the tiger head-on, planning to crash into it and purposely send it flying toward Astrith, who was more than prepared to welcome it .

When he was only a few meters away from the Divine Beast, the time finally regained its normal speed, the tiger which was supposed to crush Curtis and finish Swain, was momentarily surprised as it felt Arthur's presence so close it .

So far, none of its enemies could hit it when it was moving, moreover, the angle Arthur aimed at was a blind spot . The tiger couldn't lower its speed at such a crucial time or else the others would bombard it with attacks again so, in retaliation, it used its fur to sent countless white spikes at Arthur, who ignored them and continued his powerful charge .

The white spikes were halted mid-air as they clashed with the strengthened Dark Barrier, although they weren't completely deflected, the split second that the Dark Barrier managed to buy for Arthur was more than enough for him to finally hit his target .

However, contrary to his expectations, the second he hit the White Tiger, the latter transformed into a puddle of weird acid that touched every part of his body .

His health didn't decrease but his speed suffered a great loss, it was as if he was carrying a mountain on his back . The powerful charge was for naught as the target used some kind of trick to evade it .

This was the first time the White Tiger such a technique so Arthur couldn't have predicted such an outcome, nevertheless, he didn't despair, he calmly assessed the situation and relied on his map and sense to locate where the true White Tiger was .

A big red spot could be seen on top of a green icon, which was none other than himself . This only meant that the tiger is either above him or below him, so while making good use of both of his wings, he started spinning his body, unleashing a torrent of Dark and flaming Waves all around him .

The Dark Waves covered the skies and the ancient flames spun around him, creating a flaming whirlpool with him at its center, its pressure was increasing every passing second yet even after some time passed, there was no sign of the White Tiger .

"It's above you!"

The copy's voice rang in Arthur's ears, in response to this warning, he accelerated his spinning and created more than twenty detonators above him . These creepy looking fireballs were clustered next to each other so that the explosion of one of them will cause the rest to follow thus multiplying their damage by a great deal .

Just after the detonators appeared, a golden light descended from above, followed by a thick murderous intent that was locked at Arthur .

"This bastard's target was me from the start . "

The silver wolf halted its spinning abruptly and spat a grey and ominous grey orb . Arthur didn't stop with just that orb, he conjured hundreds of small void mouths that lurked around the grey orb, eating everything in their path .

Despite his low proficiency in Void Magic, Arthur managed to control the void mouths so they would ignore the dark waves and flames around them lest they devour everything and open a path for the White Tiger .

With the rampaging dark waves, flooding ancient flames, eating void mouths and the grey orb at the center, even a Divine Beast cannot resist all at the same time, that's while excluding the existence of the detonators, which are the last wall of defense for Arthur .

The White Tiger shadow rushed at Arthur, it didn't even glance at the incoming attacks as if they didn't exist . When the Waves were about to cover it whole, something astonishing happened, like it was in a separate dimension, the White Tiger passed through the enormous dark waves and the flames without receiving any kind of damage .

Then came the grey orb and the void mouths, which like their predecessors, could do nothing as the Divine Beast passed through them .

This came as a great shock to Arthur, even the copy was startled for a split second before he realized what's happening .

"It's not fading through! It's actually a lasting afterimage, it's not the real one!"

Unfortunately, the copy realized this way too late as, by the time he spoke, a White Tiger had already appeared behind the silver wolf, slashing Arthur with its elongated golden claws .

The back of the silver wolf received a bloody scar more than two meters in length, the Natural Lightning covering Arthur was forcefully repelled as he regained his normal appearance with a deep injury that even showed his bones .

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The force behind the attack Arthur just received was strong yet unusually strange, the moment [Transcendence], he felt an irresistible pushing power that expelled him out of the silver wolf's body .

The wolf's body fell into the abyss while Arthur's real body was flung off a couple hundred meters before he managed to stabilize himself .

Blood dripped from his new wounds, even with the help of the Dark-Star strengthening technique and his godly recovery, the injury didn't seem to be healing at all . His Health Bar didn't increase which only meant that this wound isn't like any other .

"It's a high-level curse coupled with Primordial Energy . "

The copy's tone was grave as he explained to Arthur what's happening to him . As he heard only silence from Arthur, the copy proceeded to explain in detail:

"The curse isn't the problem, with the necessary potion along with a strong enough Demonic Lightning, it's easily removable . The Primordial Energy, however, is a totally different matter . As the name suggests, it is an ancient kind of Energy only used by certain entities, usually old ones though . Those archaic elemental spirits or venerable races could wield it but even those are few and far between . Furthermore, this Primordial Energy is a level higher than Nether Energy so to suppress it or recover from a wound caused by it, you either need to go to a place where Primordial Energy is abundant OR ask a High Priest from the Holy Dominion to heal it . An adult water dragon should be able to do the job too but I really doubt he'll help you, in fact, you have more chance of convincing a High Priest more than a dragon . \*Sigh\* anyways, try to not clash with it, it not only can teleport but it is capable of wielding Primordial Energy albeit being a weaker version since this beast is but a copy . "

Arthur clicked his tongue as he glared at the White Tiger, which just turned illusory as it rushed at him . Without any hesitation, he turned around and flew toward Curtis, he had a plan in mind but for it to work, he needed help from Curtis and Astrith .

As he got close to Curtis, he signaled the knight and the lightning wolf while he stood at the back .

Curtis didn't glance at Arthur as he knew what to do, the blue wolf also joined the fray as he sent countless lightning bolts at the shadowy figure of the tiger, unfortunately, none of them hit its target for it was too fast .

Wielding his shield and one-handed sword, Curtis rode his white steed as it ran on the air with incredible speed, it even left a trail of golden light .

A bright golden radiance emitted from Curtis, it was like he was the sun, illuminating everything around him . The radiance was so intense to the point that even the White Tiger had to halt his charge and even back some distance, not wanting to get close to Curtis, who chasing it like a mad dog .

And like this, a cat and mouse chase began where Curtis desperately followed the White Tiger, which made efficient use of its speed to circle around the knight and try to find a blind spot to attack from .

It also paid a great deal of attention to Arthur but couldn't attack it as Curtis would rush toward his ally the moment the Divine Beast showed signs of sneak-attacking, there was also Astrith, who was protecting the motionless Arthur .

The two kinds of flames burning each side of Arthur became much more intense, black flames with ominous fog around them stretched to the area behind him, transforming the whole environment into a jet darkness where no living beings could see inside of it, much similar to Dark Rizaki .

On the opposite side of this dark world was hell itself, the sky and abyss were engulfed into a mass of dark red flames that burned the wind itself thus creating a sight even in hell one wouldn't be able to witness .

[Eternium] was activated to its full potential, it substantially raised his firepower and stats, without a doubt, it's his best supporting and enhancement skill, too bad it's cost is quite high so he can't use it forever lest he'll drop below the Spirit Realm in a few hours at best .

When he was ready and the world was split into two colors, Curtis acted at last followed right after by Astrith and Swain, who recovered a bit of strength .

One from each direction, Astrith spat three purple thunderbolts he prepared, Curtis slashed with his sword and raised his skill to the sky, sending a white blast that cut the clouds in half and descended like a tribulations, aiming straight at the White Tiger, which started vibrating its body and readied itself to avoid the combined attack of its foes .

Consecutive small red arcs were sent from Swain's rotten hands as he made his way to the White Tiger, his attacks were faster than the other two so they managed to reach their target before the rest . Unfortunately, the Divine Beast easily fazed through the blood arcs in a way that none of them managed to hit it, next came the three purple thunderbolts, which fused together and became a five-meter-long snake that opened its mouth, ready to bite down at the ferocious looking beast .

As it just fazed through more than ten red arcs, the Tiger couldn't keep doing that forever for it wasn't possible, so it was forced to clash with the purple snake head-on, which is an unfavorable clash knowing that this type of purple thunder is extremely fatal to Divine beasts like itself .

Unlike any of Arthur or his allies' expectations, the tiger neither teleported nor fazed through the snake, it didn't even use its brute strength or sharp claws to defend . It actually astonished the four of them as orange flames appeared out of nowhere and washed down at the purple snake, which had insignificant in size compared to this humongous flame waves .

Not only did the flames belong to the Vermillion Bird, but their power was also a level higher, the purple thunder snake couldn't withstand the heat as it was burned after a few seconds, returning into nothingness shortly after .

Before any of the four could react to the sudden attack of the White Tiger, Astrith and Swain's bodies were pulled toward each other with a gravitational power that they simply couldn't resist to the unexpected timing and the intensity of this force .

In a split second, the two of them had already crashed into each other, however, this was but the beginning as the White Tiger opened its mouth and started spitting weird illusory flames coupled with a violent energy that shook space and disturbed the wind .

Fortunately, Swain was quick to react as he made use of his absorption ability to minimize the damage, nonetheless, the dragon breath was too strong and too much for the red-haired youth to completely absorb it whole .

The fusion between the book and the Death Golem was disrupted, resulting in the two of them to transform into two red lights that flew toward Arthur, hiding inside his consciousness .

Astrith was no better than Swain, he enveloped himself with a weird armor made of normal yellow lightning, this layer of defense lasted for quite a while but the wolf simply unlucky as the Dragon Breath lasted for twenty full seconds before Curtis, who retreated to a safe distance, managed to stop this absurd attack by throwing multiple white chains at the White Tiger .

The chains were even thicker than his white steed, each one wrapped around one of the White Tiger's limbs, firmly trapping it in the air .

These chains were special, even with the fazing ability of the Divine Beast, passing through them isn't doable as they weren't made from Energy but something else entirely .

Although he was worried about Swain and Astrith's states, Arthur had no time to think about why the tiger could use its comrades' abilities nor how it did that .

With Curtis' signal, Arthur's aura increased drastically as a dark talisman appeared from his Dantian and floated above him . Countless black strings came out of the Talisman and attached themselves to Arthur, feeding him immense amounts of Energy, but even that is barely enough to unleash his next and final attack .

As looked at the White Tiger, Arthur retrieved Makaze from his storage and let out a long sigh as he noticed the cracks appearing all over the dark blade .

It was severely weakened from the previous fight, it needed to recover by devouring more blades and letting rest while it fully and properly digested them .

Alas, the time was tight and he needed his partner for this last attack, without him, it won't be possible . Makaze had long since it wanted to fight, and it would never deny Arthur's request, after all, he was its master as well as its partner .

As he gently caressed the blade, especially the edges which had thin cracks on them, Arthur thought to himself

'We either live together or die together, ain't that right, partner?'

In response, the blade vibrated intensely to show its intentions . The final showdown was about to begin, Arthur gazed at the Divine Beast with somewhat calm eyes and a relaxed mind, his heartbeats became slower and the various sounds incoming from all directions disappeared, he only heard silence as he muttered with a low voice

"Fifth Wave, A Rainbow after the Rain, A Song after the Pain; Supernova!"

## Chapter 286

Considering Arthur the main threat and sensing the great danger coming from him as his dark blade vibrated and the man's aura increased, the Divine Beast wriggled its body fiercely, trying to get rid of the white chains holding it down .

The chains started shaking intensely as the White Tiger struggled and did its best to shake off Curtis' shackles . It was apparent that it knew that Arthur's next attack is his final one and it could kill it if it didn't retaliate in a proper manner, not with this chains immobilizing it thus rendering it an open target, completely defenseless .

Makaze started showing signs of breaking as a seven-colored light covered it whole, the light then surrounded Arthur . It was unknown whether the dark blade would handle the pressure from the fifth wave but Arthur decided to trust his partner and unleash this skill .

The first four waves of [Thousand Waves] are, without a doubt, very powerful, however, started from the fifth one, their might and potential jump to another level . The cost and the Realm requirements are what is bothering Arthur, to even dream of successfully executing the tenth wave, he needs to be at a Realm even beyond Sovereign .

Even with his godly physique from earlier, it is still unknown if he could successively execute all ten waves . Arguably, he could unleash the tenth one but even if it's possible, he has to discharge its predecessors, in order, too .

The reason [Thousand Waves] is this absurdly strong is thanks to ordering and improving of sword skills the System automatically did when he ascended to the Divine Realm . It is the pinnacle of sword skills to the point that even his copy was full of praises for it .

The fifth wave, Supernova, is as the name suggests, an explosion of the star but instead of a star, it's the blade itself . It's an unstoppable burst of rainbow-colored sword Energy .

Arthur held the sword with both hands and slowly raised, preparing to slash at the White Tiger, which was a considerable distance away from him .

Panicked and afraid, the White Tiger couldn't sit idly and watch death come right at it . Its eyes pulsed with a red light as its body became larger and a golden mantra appeared on its body .

The white chains were being pulled forcefully, Curtis was slowly yet surely being dragged to the beast . He struggled and applied more strength but he couldn't fight against the monstrous strength the tiger was showing .

"Yo-"

Curtis was just going to urge Arthur to hurry but by the time he glanced at the latter, an enormous white shadow passed by him, completely ignoring his existence and heading straight for its main foe, who finally swung down his sword .

The sky split in two and the burning flames below were cut down from the sheer power of the dark blade . The clouds and space itself were cut down instantly when Arthur slashed down and executed the final wave .

A rainbow blast of razor-sharp Sword Energy burst out of Makaze, cutting down everything in its way . Though the length of this blast was merely several meters, nothing in comparison to its target, there's no denying that it was terrifying .

The White Tiger, which almost reached Arthur, roared loudly and emitted an intense golden light that transformed into its mantra .

The strange rune was twice the size of the tiger as it blocked the seven-colored energy, it stood motionless in the air, exuding a light brighter than the sun and a celestial aura akin to the heavens .

As for the Divine Beast, it hid behind the mantra and turned vibrated parts of its body to protect its vitals, just in precaution .

Surprisingly, half of Arthur's blast passed through the mantra without meeting any resistance, however, when the other half was going to pass, it froze in mid-air, clearly being restricted by the tiger's rune .

"It is a seal, and a strong one at that . "

The copy notified Arthur as it witnessed what's happening, the latter wasn't showing any worried expression, he tightened his grip on the dark blade and swung down again, releasing an even greater blast that clashed with the rune and broke it instantly, causing it to disperse into countless golden sparks .

The two didn't merge as expected, the first one, which was a bit weaker than the second, hit the tiger in its chest, easily bypassing its tough fur and sturdy defenses and stabbed its heart along with a third of its body .

The Divine Beast turned crazy once its heart was injured, the sword energy was invading all of its body and destroying every bit of it, leaving nothing but blood in its path .

It no longer cared about its life as it opened its bloody mouth and spat a spike similar to the one formed from its fur, however, this one was different as it was made from a white light and was half the size of the original .

The speed of the tiger's attack was rather unexpected, it's as if it existed in a different space, it wasn't affected by the second blast which was a split second away from the first one .

The moment the spike made of white light was spat by the tiger, Arthur's blast reached its target . It beheaded the Divine Beast like it was nothing and even continued for thousands of miles before it dispersed . The body of the White Tiger fell into the flaming abyss and disappeared from the area within seconds .

Arthur's focus was pointed at the dead beast but on the strange white spike which reached him before even the tiger was beheaded . Though the spike was lengthy, it wasn't overly large, still, it was enough to cut him in two pieces or burst his head .

The speed of the attack wasn't like anything Arthur has ever seen, by the time he sensed the danger and decided to react, it was already in front of him .

From the looks of it, the tiger died before it was even beheaded, it literally sacrificed itself to unleash such an attack, this attack was like an assurance for itself, knowing that it'll Arthur down with it when it dies .

In that split seconds, before it hit his head and kills him, countless thoughts were rampaging inside Arthur's head .

'Should I teleport away? Create a Dark Barrier? Block it with my arms? No, it's too late for that . '

No matter the solution he thought of, it was too late to execute it, he was left with nothing and he was a split second away from meeting his maker .



From inside his consciousness, his copy's voice rang in his ears, instructing him and telling him what to do . In such a desperate position, he was left with no choice but to unconsciously followed what the copy said .

"Use your skill points, one in your eyes and one in the Death Seal, quickly!"

Immediately, Arthur followed his words by actions, ordering the system to upgrade his skills . The moment he did that, he sensed an intense coming from his eyes as if they were being pulled out from their sockets .

Time resumed and the white spike was going to penetrate his skull and turn his head into splattered brain matters yet at the last possible second, his eyes, which were causing him unbearable agony, flashed with an extremely bright blue light that illuminated the whole continent .

The white spike which was about to kill him, was frozen with only a few centimeters separating it from him . He could see the sharp edge it, his eyes were concentrated on it, forcefully freezing time and allowing him to gain a moment of clarity .

"What are you dazing there for! Use the Death Seals!"

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His body followed the orders, his hands sprang forth as they turned illusory from the continuous fast movements and like that, one Death Seal after another, double the size of the original, appeared around the white spike .

The glued themselves on the white light and diminished some of it while causing the spike to become smaller in size with every Death Seal landing on it .

After releasing ten Seals, Arthur was dumbfounded to see that his Nether Energy was completely depleted, his mind was also feeling dizzy and unstable .

He didn't know what happened to the death seal skill when he upgraded it but one thing is for sure, the cost became insanely absurd .

He used the fifth wave but he still had some energy to spare, to empty the pool so quickly, it can only mean that either his eyes or death seals are consuming large amounts of Nether Energy continuously and it's not just a one-time cost .

After half a minute passed, Arthur only managed to add another seal, thus reaching the number of eleven seals . They enveloped the white spike and caused it to became a fourth of its original size but they weren't able to change its direction or lock it away .

Time resumed after a whole minute passed, Arthur found himself exhausted both physically and mentally, which surprised him as it's the first time he feels physical fatigue thanks to his Infinite Stamina .

This confused him but he didn't dwell on it for it wasn't time for that, unlike last time, he could move his body and get away from the spike .

"It's not slowing time but freezing it, you cannot move if time is frozen, the laws of time still apply to you ."

With such a shallow explanation, Arthur could only resign and prepare himself as he cast a Dark Barrier protecting his body .

The spike made of white light crashed into the mix of watery surface and Dark Barrier and wasn't able to bypass them like the sword energy, although they were durable defense layers, against such an attack, the barrier and druid's skill weren't able to last for long .

Barely a second, enough for Arthur to use [Faster Than Death] and retreat 150 meters away . Unfortunately, to dodge such an attack wasn't as easy as this, after all, it was the Divine Beast's last struggle .

Like the tiger's trick earlier, the spike followed Arthur with a teleport too . It appeared in front of him and twirled as it made its way toward his head, ready to finish him .

Unable to freeze time again, Arthur could only bend his body in an unusual manner, breaking his spine and several other bones . Luckily, he didn't feel pain but he could still feel his body grumbling and about to fall . Despite his last-second evasion, a small light that accompanied the white spike still managed to hit his face, slashing it and causing a bloody wound to appear on it .

His left eye was injured too as a deep bloody cut that went from his chin to his eye appeared . With a tired mind and body, Arthur could only let his body fall below, traveling through the flames and even hitting the ocean that was way below the surface .

Curtis had already returned guarding his soul and the blue wolf and the blood servant were exhausted and injured to they quietly slumbered inside his consciousness .

Hundreds of miles under the abyss and even the sea below it, Arthur laid on the sand with a bloody back and a scarred face . He fell unconscious at last after this long and tiring fight . The threat of the Divine Beasts was gone and he could finally rest, even for a second .

A long silence passed before a Dark light fell from above, cutting down the sea in two and engraving itself on the sand near Arthur . Upon a closer look, it was none other than Makaze, the dark blade, which broke after the fifth wave . Half of it was gone in the process and it looked nothing like before, with a broken edge and a weak, almost nonexistent aura, it joined its master and partner in this deep abyss, away from the rest of the world .

## Chapter 287

A few hours after the fight ended, absolute silence governed all corners of Astria . People were holding their breath and hoping for the best, there were no more earthquakes or bright lights coming from the Human Continent's direction so some of them started celebrating earlier than the rest, thinking that the threat is gone for good .

It was only after the shrouded sky became clear and the sun rays illuminated their cities and homes did the inhabitants of Astria cheer in joy and relief .

The only place that didn't celebrate was the MoonStar sect, Arthur's whereabouts were unknown and the poisonous fog and the radiation covering the area where the Human Continent was, couldn't be avoided or resisted . One of the undead dragons tried to enter it but unfortunately ended up turning into black ash within a few seconds .

After witnessing this, Anastassia didn't send any scouts to try and scavenge that area, it has already been marked as a forbidden ground by everyone, entering it means death .

Even the bright sun that hangs on the sky couldn't extinguish the poison or illuminate this area, it was cloaked by thick dark clouds and a fog that blocked anyone's view, even a God would have difficulties surviving more than a day in there .

A day passed yet Arthur didn't come back, which made Anastassia and Jakob worry, thinking that he may have perished .

The Alien Race that invaded the Eastern Continent remained in hiding, not showing themselves even after the catastrophe passed . The World Tree didn't act against them and remained as peaceful and silent as ever, not showing any reaction to what happened .

On the dusk of the second day after the catastrophe, an enormous grey dome enveloped the Human Continent, or what little land remained of it . The dome didn't let any of the fog get out and trapped every living being inside, some people tried to forcefully break in but ended up going home after reaching no favorable results .

The appearance of the dome was but the beginning, on the dusk of the third day, heavy rain poured in all corners of the world, bringing with it a gloomy feeling as it was way different from normal rain . What dropped from the sky weren't merely droplets of water but grey ash, it didn't cause plagues or diseases but it still made people feel uncomfortable and a bit fearful .

Fortunately, the grey ash fell for merely an hour before it stopped, nonetheless, it still surprised everyone as it's the first time such a thing occurred .

As days peacefully passed, stories about the catastrophe started going around, reaching the ears of every Race, whether it was a kid or an elder, they surely heard it from their relatives or friends .

The story wasn't particularly detailed, neither didn't contain the whole truth but the people were, nevertheless, amazed and grateful for whoever managed to eliminate the beasts and save Astria .

Mercenaries would often talk about the fight and the man who killed the Divine, children stories were invented and tales were told about the catastrophe . Unlike the previous one, which was ten thousand years ago, there were almost no casualties since prior evacuation was done, and just like there were joyful people, there were those about losing their homes, fortunes, and lands .

The Western Continent is heaven compared to the central continent, with the bottomless abyss with purple fire eternally burning in it, or the poisonous fog, the invisible radiation that could kill a God within a day, the center of Astria is no more a place for the living, even Gods can't trespass .

.....

After five days passed, a poem very popular amongst the bards was written, the source was unknown but it became famous in all three continents . Whether it was Demons, elves, beastmen, or Humans, they all enjoyed the song and would hire bards to sing them in the banquets and weddings .

No one would know it yet but this poem will be forever engraved in history, it'll be passed along for thousands of years, the generations of the future would not forget what happened, they cannot, not after what occurred that day, not with the obliteration of a whole continent .

Enchanted by the Incoming doom,  
flowers that could no longer bloom  
Skies cloaked by brume  
Ash colored rain wetting the dome  
Devoid of souls yet so lively, a place of life yet so deadly  
With the rising sun, did they come  
causing destruction, had they done  
A blooming rose, was it needed  
Finishing those who shall be beaten  
A phoenix screech, was it heard  
A tiger roar, was it feared  
A dragon cry, was it endured  
A tortoise shout, was it scared?  
Mournful cries and blissful smiles, did they come  
When the falling chains were undone  
What did the man has become?  
Did the divine foresee  
That the end is near, or would it be?

Hearing the poem being sung by an elven bard in the central square of the MoonStar sect, Anastassia sighed helplessly as she turned around and headed for the tower . She couldn't celebrate in joy like those young disciples or mercenaries, after all, there's no meaning to it if the savior is gone as well .

While she tightly held Arthur's ring, Anastassia whistled loudly, calling for the main bone dragon . She jumped on its back and commanded it to head East, she still hasn't given up her search for him . Apart from Lissandra who's always holed up in the tower and an acting elder that managed the sect's affairs, all important and powerful characters were searching the area around the grey dome, trying to find Arthur .

Even the Demons offered their help after they came to know of what happened, Taliya and several experienced royal guards joined the expedition, using special potions to allow them to breathe underwater and started searching every inch of the ocean surrounding the whole dome .

....

Deep into the flaming abyss, in a place where even the most dangerous aquatic beasts couldn't delve into, a place where the pressure is literally bone-crushing, Arthur laid motionlessly on the sand, with a furrowed brows and blood around him .

The wounds caused by the White Tiger didn't recover due to the Chaos Energy, moreover, the red tattoos that he created to seal his physical body, started showing signs of withdrawal .

On the sixth day, a gigantic whirlpool appeared on the surface of the ocean, however, since that surface is still situated deep into the abyss, in an area no one can reach, it was noticed by no mortals or Gods .

On that fateful day, with an excruciating pain assaulting his mind, Arthur was jolted awake from his deep slumber . He didn't panic nor did he attempt any sudden movements, he circulated his Dark Mana and activated the Dark-Anguish technique, trying to appease the pain and slow the process of the chains' withdrawal .

After a few hours, things calmed down a bit and he managed to buy some time for a small breather . As he inspected his surroundings, his eyes landed on Makaze, which was stuck on the ground, just like their first encounter .

Unfortunately, the dark blade no longer had its suffocating and ominous aura around it nor could he sense any signs of life from it, it's as if it was back to being a normal, simple blade .

## Chapter 288

"I'm sorry but you don't deserve to wield such a blade, at least not yet . "

The copy wasn't pleased on how things turned out, with Arthur's body in an unstable state, the bloody injuries he suffered and Makaze breaking after it overworked itself and unleashed the fifth wave .

As he gazed at the dark blade that was missing its half and looking miserable, Arthur let out a long sigh and remained silent, unable to retort as he had no right justifications for his actions .

"Now, about your body . I think I found a suitable solution, it may take some time to properly put it into action but theoretically, it's doable and beneficial to you . "

Arthur didn't expect his copy to find a solution already, from his tone back when he's fighting, it was apparent that overcoming this hurdle is impossible, how come a solution was found .

"Theoretically?"

"Indeed, I've never tried it on anyone, so I wouldn't know . Less words and more actions, follow my instructions and do not resist, also, disable the pain immunity, it's doing you more harm than good .

First, destroy your Dantian . "

Arthur thought he heard wrong at first and only when his copy urged him two more times did he come back to his senses . Gritting his teeth, he reversed the circulation of his Nether Energy which led to heavy damages to his Meridians and his Dantian becoming very chaotic . After a few more seconds, he started spitting a large mouthful of blood as the dark talisman that was floating above his Dantian vanished and an agony that almost made him crazy assault him .

Arthur started yelling loudly but since he was in the water, no sound could be heard, he was alone this dark place with no one to aid him but himself .

With his cultivation entirely gone, a lot of his skills became unusable but none disappeared, the red tattoos withdrew and vanished in a matter of seconds, all that was left was Arthur, yelling and holding his head as his body convulsed and rolled on the sand .

"The first step for success is suffering, endless pain is not always a bad thing . You must know what true hell really is and experience the consequences YOU caused . The torture you suffered unjustly before is nothing compared to what's about to come .

Arthur Bilgart, or should I say, Arthur MoonStar, you do not value your life, you prioritize your goals over your life, sometimes a wise decision but usually a reckless mistake that could be forgiven if it was done once, but if it's purposely repeated then one can only blame his own undoing . Arthur, once bitten, twice shy, before you save your wife or your friends, learn how to save yourself first or else THEY will meet the same fate as your partner . You have what others yearn for yet you do not use it efficiently, your Race is one of a kind, your acquired talent is far above any living this in this multiverse yet here you are wasting it, in my eyes, you're nothing but trash . Here you are always focusing on possessing any strong enemy you manage to defeat, it's nothing but pathetic! Sure, you've done the impossible and killed the four Divine Beast but at what cost? Think carefully about how you are, what you've done and how you should proceed, there is no third chance for you, Arthur . "

After saying that, the copy no longer paid attention to Arthur, he remained inside the ARK and kept his silence, totally ignoring the suffering Arthur, who could only whimper quietly as he lost even the will to fight against the pain or should loudly .

After a few days passed, Arthur no longer emitted any noise, he would roll on the sand and shake intensely the whole day, the pain had no ending and even after hours passed, it didn't diminish the least bit . Destroying his cultivation only made it worse as he could no longer control Nether Energy to decrease the agony .

No matter how many times he tried to activate a few skills to aid him in this never-ending torture, a needle-like pain that was even more terrifying than the one he was feeling would invade his mind causing him to fall unconscious and wake up a second after, this cycle would repeat for a few more times before it subdues .

Slowly yet surely, ten days passed, the wounds on his face and back no longer gushed massive amounts of blood, but they were still ugly to behold . Arthur no longer held his head and rolled on the ground, he would let his body shake on its own and convulse on the sand as he sat there, motionless and soundless .

A month passed, the convulsing stopped at last but the pain never ceased even for a split second . More than one time, Arthur thought of dying as it's many times better than experiencing this anguish . He understood the meaning behind his copy's words but his mind just couldn't handle the pain anymore, it almost became blank, devoid of thoughts, just like a soulless puppet .

If not for remembering his Wife and daughter that gave him a bit of willpower to resist, he would have become something that is no longer human, nothing but an empty shell on the bottom of the ocean .

The [Pain Immunity] could have helped a lot but ever since he disabled it, Arthur wasn't able to reactivate it again, probably due to the ARK's functions that his copy made proper use of it to stop him from relying on that skill .

After half a year passed, Arthur managed to move his hands albeit just a bit, like raising them a few centimeters or moving his fingers . The pain was still present but he no longer was immobilized .

Six more months passed and by this time, Arthur managed to overcome some of the pain and sit cross-legged . His body would shake every few seconds but he still managed to remain in that position without grabbing his head or rolling around from the needle-like pain that was hitting every inch of his body .

When sixteen months passed since the catastrophe, the copy finally talked after his long silence .

"It is time to proceed at last . Repeat this verse in your mind nonstop, until I'm satisfied, you must not stop or else I would let your rot here for a few more years .

Stars, hide your fires; Let not light see my black and deep desires . "

It cannot be seen, cannot be felt,

Cannot be heard, cannot be smelt,

It lies behind stars and under hills,

And empty holes it fills,

It comes first and follows after,

Ends life, kills laughter . "

Arthur was in no position to think straight and repeat such a verse when his mind was hurting and his thinking was in total disarray . Nonetheless, he didn't dare ignore his copy, trying his best to repeat this verse .

It took him two months to fully repeat it without making any mistake, fortunately, the copy would repeat this verse every ten days thus helping him remember the missing parts and correct himself .

When the two-year mark was reached, Arthur was able to sit cross-legged without being bothered by the pain and repeat the verse that was given to him without any mistake . At first, he wasn't able to understand the meaning of the verse or its purpose but after repeating it countless times, he remembered that it was related to Zodiak, if his memory served him right, it was a note the old man wrote and it was said that it helped him strengthen himself and further stabilize his control over Dark Magic .

After three more months passed, black flames started enveloping Arthur without him noticing their presence . He had his eyes closed and was too focused on repeating the verse .

"Dark-Anguish technique, it really is an unparalleled technique . Zodiac was really one of a kind . "

As he witnessed the change happening inside of Arthur's body, his copy sighed in amazement . Not only was the pain assaulting Arthur helping him strengthen his willpower, but it was also boosting the effects of the Dark-Anguish technique and with Arthur repeating the verse and unconsciously guiding Dark Mana in his body, this caused him to start building a solid foundation through accumulated pressure and pain .

## Chapter 289

The passing of time went unnoticed for one absent-minded, thirty months passed since the death of the Divine Beasts . Arthur's whole body was having a bath in the black flames . there was no blood on his back or face, the injuries recovered a bit and weren't hurting anymore but you still could still two hideous scars on his skin, one on his back and the other on his face .

He didn't recover his left eye, which was hit by some of the white spikes, it's an unfortunate loss, nevertheless, Arthur didn't dwell too much on it as he has already too much on his plate .

Once three years passed since the beginning of this hell, Arthur finally opened his eyes only to see a sea of black flames . He was no longer deep into the ocean but was sitting on black sand and what laid before him was complete nothingness accompanied by black flames that burned everywhere around him .

For the first time in three years, he managed to move properly without feeling any agony that prevented easy movements . The pain was still present but he grew numb of it and wasn't affected by it .

He first gazed at his surroundings before walked near Makaze and picking it up, right after doing that, he returned to sitting cross-legged with Makaze on his lap .

The blade returned to its sheath and bathed in the black flames, which weren't harming it and instead, healing it bit by bit, however, the process was extremely slow and it was doing nothing but recovering some of the blade's lost vitality .

"Do you know why the chains appeared in the first place? Actually, it's pretty simple . For any living being, no matter the race, the limit of their stats is 999Million and not everyone manages to reach that . The last chance for any person to increase their stats is in the Divine Realm, once they reach Sovereignty, their power increases the longer they cultivate and gain Mental Power, which can boost one's technique by a lot . Average people's stats when they reach the Sovereign Realm is 500-600m . If it's a genius, then 700-750m and if it's a prodigy that appears once in ten thousand years, then his or her maximum would be 800m, any more is impossible, their bodies won't handle it .

Of course, there are cases where people managed to reach 999m, like titans for example, but reaching a number higher than that isn't possible, you see . . . there's a limiter at 999 that does not let anyone reach the one billion mark . You, being a parasite, do not have a limiter which is why the chains were created to act as a temporary limiter . By possessing many powerful corpses, you reached that limit pretty quickly, however, you ate more than you could chew . You drastically increased your stats before



your body could get used to such a strong power, if you did not do that then the temporary limiter wouldn't have been created .

I warned you not to break the chains because doing so will cause your body to crumble since it'll not be able to withstand so much power, it may be able to do so for a short period of time but once it reached a certain threshold, it will break .

To counter that, ascending to Godhood then to Sovereignty would have helped you sustain your physical breakdown by supplying your flesh, bone, and muscles by large amounts of Mental Power that'll allow them to resist the sudden rise in power, unfortunately, you didn't heed my advice .

Anyways, now that we got that out of the way, time to begin with the real stuff . I want you to never stop repeating that verse, not even when I tell you to do something else . Seeing your overpowered skills with a sword yet your lack of mutual understanding between you and your sword which resulted in the latter being split into two halves . I need you to experience what true swordsmanship is, know what wielding a sword really is, understand your partner, understand your blade, know its feelings just like it knows yours . A sword is used to kill and not to show off, when unsheathed then it means the death for your foe . When unsheathed then it means the end of the battle, if you can't understand such things by yourself, then I'll have to forcefully engrave them into your mind . "

Arthur, who was too engrossed in repeating the verse, couldn't focus too much on what his copy was talking about . He heard the words but his mind was thinking about something else . The pain no longer bothered him, he can move freely but can't fight or do any sudden movements that require efforts .

Like a tidal wave, flashes of clear memories assaulted Arthur's mind, causing it to blank for a split second before it continued repeating that verse . These memories were different from the ones from the past, where he would experience the whole life of animals or people, these were brief yet so real, they contained countless emotions and suffering .

Experiencing their lives and slowly accompanying them in their adventure is like reading a book and trying to understand it, however, these flashes were like pouring all the information of that book in your mind and expecting you to sort them out and figure out what's necessary and needed and what needs to be discarded or put aside .

This task, accepting the flashes of memories and sorting them out lasted for one month without even a slight rest for the tired Arthur . After obtaining millions of memories belonging to swordsmen of all kinds and shapes, of all races and elements, Arthur's spirit became exhausted yet it had a bit of excitement that was born from within all those piled up memories, that were as clear as jade .

Arthur came to understand the way of the sword by the hard way, battles and training memories were engraved on his mind, never to be forgotten . Though they didn't belong to him, they still felt familiar after he experienced thousands of them, though he didn't move a muscle in a month with both hands resting on his broken blade, he felt as if he had been swinging a blade for millennia .

The black flames that enveloped him had long since transformed into a curved blade exactly similar to Makaze . The sea of black flames became a sea of long dark blades that were either stuck on the ground or floating in the air, there were millions of these blades all around him and the blade in his hand was the center of everything .

"That's right, feel the will of your blade, sense its existence and resonate with it . You're it and it is you, it's no longer a connection but an eternal bond, one that shall never be broken, and one that shall never be forgotten . Remember all those memories, what they did, how much they treasured their life-long partner, they didn't treat them as disposable objects, so follow their path and become what you must, one that has the heart of the sword and the will of the blade . The next time you unsheath your blade, the opponent will die, that is your oath, Arthur, the Dark Blade's Oath!"

## Chapter 290

The oath has been sealed, the connection was broken and a firm, unbreakable bond was created between the broken dark blade and its partner . All the blades, which were made from black flames, around Arthur started vibrating then, all at once, flew straight at Makaze . The millions of swords disappeared in a second, leaving behind a deep growl that resonated in the whole area, shaking the sand and cracking the earth .

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Though Makaze was still broken, from the way it was vibrating right now, it was apparent that it regained some of its vitality, no longer being a normal blade that can be defeated by any low-grade artifact .

As he stared at his sword with a somewhat absent-minded gaze, Arthur mumbled

"Once the blade leaves its sheath, blood shall be spilled, no room for mercy, no room for redemption, by my will you shall kill, by your will I shall fight . "

When the last word left his mouth, a thick pillar made of ominous black light rose in the air, splitting the flames, clouds and even the sky in two halves .

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"This event marked the birth of the Dark Blade's oath and the rebirth of Makaze, one is the eyes and the other is the sharp edges . "

In an unknown place, where there's nothing but a peaceful hill and a large tree full of vitality, sat a slim long-haired young man with a black bandana covering his eyes . Although he covered his eyes and his hair was long enough to hide some of his facial features, even getting a glimpse at his face would make anyone assume that this youth was handsome .

The youth wore a ragged cloak and tight black clothes, white bandages were wrapped around his skin and not an inch of it(skin) could be seen .

Before this relaxed and nonchalant youth stood a tall blue-haired woman, she had an expressionless face and a beauty that not every girl could have . She wasn't as beautiful as a fairy but she had a certain charm that no one could deny, what stood up the most was her demeanor, she seemed indifferent to everything and anyone who knows her can do nothing but bow his head in fear and respect .

Yet this infamous empress was patiently standing there and listening to the youth, contrary to her usual behavior, she didn't act high and mighty or show any sign of arrogance because, in front of this youth, she's nothing but a young child that still didn't learn how to walk .

"Then what happened?"

Hearing her talk for the second time since she arrived, the youth smirked and replied

"What, you say? Well, that's a story for another time . "

The woman was clearly displeased as she expected another answer but despite what she was inwardly thinking, she performed a polite bow then disappeared from that hill .

As he leaned on that tree and enjoyed the breath-taking scenery, where there's nothing but stretched green planes and a peaceful atmosphere, he let out a long sigh and went back to his real form .

Within that quiet hill, with the exception of the lonely tree, there appeared a dark blade that was stuck in the ground, just a few centimeters away from the tree .

Wind whistled for a few seconds as it passed the hill and when it was gone, the sword vanished, returning to its deep and long slumber, never to wake up in the next thousand years . . . .

. . . .

In some area called the Water Region, the blue-haired woman appeared in a majestic palace . It would be an understatement to call it a palace, it was so grand and large to the point that it could house thousands of people .

She didn't bother greeting the elders or the training disciples . She appeared in a luxurious room with dense Water and Ice energy in it, the room was several layers underground and was a secret hideout no one but her and few others know about .

Just when the tall woman appeared in that room, another shadow followed right after . Upon a closer look, it was a short girl dressed in a white robe, she was a bit chubby and had a baby face but underestimating her will only cause the fool who did so to die without realizing how he perished .

"How did things go?"

As she asked the little girl, the blue-haired woman seemed in deep thought, she wasn't even looking at the girl as if her mind was troubled by something else .

"The search finally bore fruit . From what I deciphered, most of the pieces of information in the ancient record are ninety percent false but there are some small similarities between them, they all point toward one location . "

When she heard the rather good news, the empress finally shifted her attention to the girl, she furrowed her brows as she didn't expect to find anything worth investigating . Almost all the records from the past were erased, even someone with her power and influence only managed to find a couple of dusty old books thanks to her connections or by venturing in extremely dangerous areas where she almost died more than one time .

"Where?"

The little girl shook her head in disappointment and replied

"It's a nameless place, pinpointing its exact location would need more time and it's certainly located outside of the Eighteen Regions, even beyond the Blood Sea . "

"I don't care, just find me its location . "

The tall woman ignored the strange look the little girl was giving her . After hesitating for a bit, the shorty added:

"B-but going beyond the Blood Sea would be violating the 'High Rules', knowing their attitude toward lawless people, they'll certainly act against you within a day at most . "

Still showing total indifference to what her subordinate said, the tall woman retorted

"Hmpf! Isn't the Fire Region sending multiple groups and seizing our lands? That's already a violation of the third rule, they will be busy dealing with them rather than us, I'll have plenty of time . "

The subordinate nodded her head and vanished into thin air, leaving only the tall woman in the luxurious room .