

Once Human 341

Chapter 341

Very quickly, night befell on the whole planet . The encroaching darkness and the terrifying chill brought with it made every human shiver in fear .

Even some of the higher beings like Taliya, Astrith, and Randuin were affected . People started panicking and officials and higher-ups started issuing orders to solve this disaster, however, no matter which technology or spell they used, the darkness dominated everything .

Everyone turned blind as they could see nothing but total darkness . Their spines shivered and the fragile ones fell unconscious . The center of this catastrophe was turning more and more dangerous .

Arthur was shouting loudly as he held his head with both of his hands and banged it on the ground . His emotions were rampaging and the chains inside his consciousness were getting more active than ever before .

In response to this, his dark blade, Makaze, was showing signs of awakening . It started emitting deep growls as it vibrated intensely inside its sheath .

Even without his consent, the blade got out of Zodiac's ring and floated vertically above its master .

All the sound was isolated and Arthur's rationality was slowly but surely fading away . He knew that if he were to erupt now, planet Earth would disappear from existence .

A single Rizaki that uses all of his power could obliterate it, so if he were to go on a rampage while throwing a bunch of powerful skills, no one could predict the outcome .

Arthur tried his best to calm himself but seeing how Claudia suddenly died and the unquenchable thirst for revenge and satisfaction has yet to be fulfilled, he couldn't help but become angrier .

If he can't get rid of it then he must contain it . Arthur started reciting the verses of the Dark Anguish Technique in hope of restraining the leaking power .

'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 . '

Surprisingly, this caused the darkness that covered the whole planet to start weakening and concentrating not on Arthur but on his blade, Makaze .

The mix of two energy divided itself, half of it melted into the blade and the other fused with Arthur . After merely five minutes, Arthur managed to get rid of the darkness and dark fog that spread in all corners of Earth .

However, his current state didn't look so good as his face was very pale and he was uncontrollably shaking .

Without any hesitation, he stood up and grabbed the floating Makaze . After examining it for a few seconds, he walked up to the worried Lucy and stretched his hand, handing the blade whilst saying

"There's no time . I need to change places otherwise everyone will surely perish . Remember, no matter what happens, don't let go of that blade . "

After he said that, his form disappeared as he entered an ominous-looking dark Spatial tunnel . He didn't even wait for her confirmation as he knew she could do the job .

The problem was that the second Arthur disappeared, the dark blade reacted violently . It vibrated intensely and tried to leave Lucy's hands and follow after Arthur .

Having absorbed half of the Pure Dark Mana and Death Energy that covered the Earth, the blade became stronger than ever despite being broken .

Lucy snorted and activated her special physique along with the cultivation technique thus causing half of the blade to turn into ice . This didn't last long as it shattered in a matter of seconds only to be frozen right after .

This process continued for a long while before the blade finally reacted fiercer than ever before . A big pillar of dark light descended from above and landed on Lucy and Makaze . The blade shook between her fingers and tried to break free from her iron grip .

Unfortunately, Lucy wasn't this easily defeated . Beautiful crystalline lotuses started appearing around them, pushing away the darkness and subduing the enraged blade .

Each second that passed, the blade becomes stronger and Lucy only wanted to hold it and not destroy it which is why she can't use powerful and destructive attacks . She just made use of her special physique to counter the Dark Mana and the Death Energy .

Three streaks of light flashed across the skies and landed next to Lucy . It was none other than the undead lizard, the lightning wolf and the demon, Taliya .

They didn't need to talk to understand what's going on . As they saw how Lucy was holding the blade which shook violently and was even forcing her to move, they unhesitantly joined hands .

Large waves of black flames covered the skies and instantly got rid of the pillar of dark light that has already corroded the whole area and turned it into a land of darkness where literally no light exists .

Astrith followed right after as blue lightning wrapped around Lucy's body, strengthening her physical body and giving her more strength to resist the blade . He also took a smaller form and bit down the other edge of the blade, trying to hold it down .

Taliya, the weakest one, couldn't directly hold the blade as it would kill her since she's too low-leveled, however, she didn't stay still .

She appeared behind Lucy and started providing her with large amounts of Mana . Although Lucy's Mana Pool was mind-blowingly big, any bit of Mana provided from exterior sources is always welcome, especially in this situation .

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Arthur, who took a special Spatial Tunnel, arrived almost instantaneously to Astria . He spent his last bit of rationality to contain the power and come here . At least Astria is way bigger than Earth and if he erupts in the middle of nowhere, like the area where the Human Continent was used to be, there will be no casualties .

The second he arrived on Astria, Arthur had lost all rationality and was only controlled by his accumulated anger and rage .

It was like a ticking bomb has gone off, the range of this darkness was truly terrifying . Even the strong barrier of the World Tree wasn't spared as the world turned into a mass of darkness .

This phenomenon even reached the forgotten continent which is not only quite far away from the rest, it's even protected by an illusion barrier that was useless against the dominating darkness .

Fortunately, this only lasted for a few seconds before a more domineering force washed away all the darkness as if it was some dirt . Moreover, this force even got rid of the nuclear after-effects and the poison caused by the Divine fight .

A distance away from Arthur, there was a floating figure which assessed him with an interested look and a smirk on his face .

The man in a weird white and red outfit played with a deck of cards and randomly picked three cards then gazed at them with an almost shining pair of eyes .

"HmMMM 7♦ Strength, 2♣ combat ability and King of Spades growth . Hahahahahahahaha, this is going to be so fun!"

As he was going to shift back his attention to Arthur, a fist came flying down at him with a monstrous strength accumulated in it . The sheer pressure cracked the space and caused the winds to rage violently .

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Unfortunately, the attack wasn't enough to even shake the Joker, who remained unfazed and motionless even when the fist landed on his body . In fact, Arthur, who was in an enraged state, was sent flying as if he was the one who got hit .

Although he wasn't injured, the Joker frowned and pondered about something as he gazed at Arthur, who swiftly stabilized his body and charged at him again .

This time, the fist seemed incomparably slow as it glowed with a green light . [Heavenly Mountain Fist] Empathizes slowness and monstrous strength . However, it only looked slow to weaker people . In reality, the fist was so fast that even Sovereigns wouldn't be able to react before being obliterated by it .

As it cracked the air and released an unimaginable pressure, the fist left waves of black flames behind it as it clashed with the Joker, who stretched his palm to counter-attack .

He used no skills or technique, merely his physical strength . Contrary to the silent yet enraged Arthur, the mysterious man was bursting with laughter as he excitedly resisted Arthur's fist .

The clash was enough to cause tremors all over Astria and alert all of its citizens . What's more worrying is the complete darkness that covered the whole world . In such darkness, only the World Tree and the Joker emitted enough light to illuminate a few their surroundings .

In this second clash, the result was the same as Arthur was sent flying like a kite . The bones of his fist were shattered and it became completely useless only to be instantly healed a second later .

"Hahahahaha I must say, it's been such a long time since someone was able to contend against my physical body!"

This time, Arthur didn't charge at his opponent . He remained in the darkness for a few seconds . The longer he remained passive the more pressure the Joker felt .

Bored from waiting and since he can't clash with Arthur if the latter remains fused with the darkness around him, the Joker clicked his tongue and waved his hand which was holding a simple looking card .

"10♥ Rain of Negation!"

Just as he muttered the name of his spell, the card glowed with an unusual light . Then, by the next moment, rain made of crystalline and shiny droplets fell down from above and purged all the darkness in the surrounding areas . The looming darkness couldn't even resist against those droplets .

When the view returned to normal, the Joker was able to locate Arthur, who transformed into a dark figure with lengthy wings made from dark flames and a miniature dark red sun floating just above him .

The sun was emitting a terrifying heat that surprised the usually nonchalant Joker .

"Hooo . . . the flames of hell . . . is it?"

Before he could contemplate the miniature sun for a bit longer, Arthur vanished from his spot and appeared right in front of the Magician .

A powerful burst of Dark Magic exploded from his body, pushing the enemy a few steps but before his next attack could land, he was hit from the behind by a monstrous force .

Unlike last time, Arthur wasn't sent flying as his new version of [Eternium] boosted his defense to a high degree . As he was pushed a few dozen meters, another silhouette appeared before him and used a simple palm to blow him a distance away .

The Joker, who didn't move from his initial position, was holding another card that glowed with a red light before it disappeared

"2♥ Heart's Haze . "

This was none other than the card he used against the reaper . It has a simple function of creating two clones of himself and there was no drawback to using it . The clones had physical strength similar to his and were literally past versions of himself .

The two blows Arthur just suffered didn't cause him any injuries . He angrily glared at the three Jokers then raised his hands while unleashing an absurd amount of Dark Mana .

This led to the sky turning jet black from the countless number of Heavenly Arrows that appeared . Each has a pressure more suffocating than the other and unlike the time against the Divine Beasts, these Heavenly Arrows were a mix of pure Dark Magic and Death Energy .

Seeing the spectacle above him, The Joker's face showed a wide grin as his expression was devoid of worry or fear . His two clones appeared next to him and strangely intersected their fingers to make a triangle while pointing toward the cluster of arrows, which were rotating each other .

Slowly but surely, the huge cluster of dark arrows, which were two to three meters in length, formed a slowly rotating tornado that shattered space and sucked all the wind and air around them .

The tornado of arrows' target was none other than the Joker, who imitated his clones and excitedly shouted

"Let the show begin! Hahahahah"

As his words fell, with a speed faster than sound and due to the short distance separating the tornado from its target, it seemed as if it teleported right above the Joker .

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The Magician wasn't fazed as the simple motion he did with his finger created a two meters long triangle that blasted a ray of golden light which penetrated the tornado and dispersed all the arrows within a split second .

As he saw this result, the Joker sighed and gazed the golden ring he was wearing with a sad tone

"It's really a shame . . . it's flashy and powerful but not really my style . Oh well! At least I tried it . "

He nonchalantly shrugged his shoulders then turned to face Arthur, who was done preparing his next attack .

The miniature sun was pulsing with an ominous red light as if it was about to explode . Just when the Joker shifted back his attention to Arthur, the sun disappeared from existence and the heavens above were split in two as a large flaming lotus descended from above and burned even space itself .

The flaming lotus created space tears all around it but even those insanely dangerous tears weren't able to affect its pressure or heat .

Seeing yet another beautiful spectacle, the Joker's expression brightened again . A few dozen cards appeared in his hand and as the lotus was descending and was ready to roast him alive, he kept his calm and inspected his guards . He was stuck in a dilemma and wondering which card to choose . Finally,

when his strange clothes starting to show signs of burns, he covered his eyes and shuffled the cards before picking a card in random . He stealthily peeked at the chosen card then muttered

"It's a bit of an overkill but . . . luck has chosen this one . "

'9♦ Arrow of the Diamond Queen . '

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Once the Joker's magic was cast, another kind of pressure dominated the area and overwhelmed all the heat incoming from the large fire lotus .

It was but a few meters in length but it was made from a crystalline-like material that made it look extremely eye-catching . The arrow looked more like a piece of art than an attack that was meant to resist the humongous flaming lotus .

When the card vanished from the Joker's hands, the arrow flew at the incoming lotus and clashed with it . There's wasn't a loud explosive sound nor massive destructions . The diamond that the arrow was made of, spread to the lotus and got rid of all the flames and hit in just three seconds . All that was left was a big and beautiful crystalline lotus that shattered into million pieces when the sharp tip of the arrow softly hit its side .

Although didn't look that threatening, its effects were more monstrous than one might think . Even Arthur, who was floating some distance away, was affected by it and had half of his legs turned into diamond . Neither his strong physique nor his black flames were able to get rid of the diamond .

The enraged Arthur wasn't in his right mind and wasn't able to find an efficient solution to getting rid of the diamond so he kept furiously hitting it with all his might but to no avail, not even a crack appeared on those clear and sky-blue diamonds covering his legs .

Back on the Earth, the struggle against the Dark Blade worsened as Makaze was getting more and more restless and violent . Even Lucy started suffering from the blade's black flames and savage aura that was caused by Arthur's dark fog .

Taliya wasn't able to resist the growing pressure since she was still a Mortal . The head-maid fainted and was about to get injured if not for Randuin's intervention who wrapped his tail around her body and flew out of the area .

The situation was getting worse as Astrith's body started shaking and turning illusory . Lucy's face became paler every passing second and blood leaked out of her mouth .

The whole area was turned jet black, the dirt, trees, rivers, all turned dark but strangely didn't die but showed signs of an accelerated mutation . Even the insects and nearby animals were writhing in pain and undergoing some kind of a mysterious evolution that strengthened them but made them more savage .

A minute or so passed before Makaze suddenly flashed with a bright golden light which caused both Astrith and Lucy to be sent flying a few hundred meters away . Just as it was about to enter a strange

black Spatial tunnel, an aged appeared out of thin air and pressed down the broken blade into the ground thus creating a deep crater and causing the angry blade to issue an enraged growl as it shook violently, almost shaking off the aged hand off it .

"My my, to think I couldn't even notice you although you're his blade . "

A short figure with a bent back appeared some distance away from Makaze . He gazed at the broken dark blade with an astonished expression . One of his hands were lifted and pinching the air to subdue the blade .

" . . . Mmmh it's really strange . . . I've lived for a long time but I never heard of you . I saw all of the 9 Divine Swords and I even destroyed three of the nine Cursed swords . "

As he pondered about the origins of Makaze, Snory glanced to his side only see a bloodied Lucy . Blood covered her clothes but her body was in a perfect condition as her Vitality was beyond the limits of even Gods and a simple injury like this couldn't defeat her .

Moreover, all she did was stay on the defensive and try to hold down Makaze . Her goal was not to destroy it but to simply block it from transferring back to Arthur .

"Hehehe Miss Lucy, I have been delayed in my way here, please excuse me . "

Lucy merely nodded without saying any word . Her whole attention was on Makaze . Arthur made it clear to not let it reach him as it not only symbolized his partner in battle and a huge boost to his strength, it also absorbed all the previous darkness . So if the two were to fuse, Astria would be turned upside down and there's no telling who'll survive .

Unlike her slightly nervous expression, Snory was perfectly calm as he was easily holding down the dark blade without that big of an effort . Unfortunately, that didn't last long as the blade finally stopped shaking violently for a decent amount of time which led Sloth and Lucy to think that it's over at last .

However, more often than not, the reality was cruel and rejoicing early is never a good thing . Hundreds of not thousands of lights came flying from all direction . Each light was actually a sword that was strengthened a few times and was emitting an incomparable pressure . Very soon, the sky turned dark from all the swords that were flying above them .

They were of all kinds and types and were linked to each other as it facilitates control over them and makes them more powerful .

Snory was slightly impressed before shaking his head with disappointment while saying

"Merely strengthened grass "

The show wasn't over as Makaze, which was supposed to be held down by Sloth, suddenly vanished and appeared in the middle of the flying cluster of swords .

All the swords were pointed at Snory, already considering him as an obstacle whereas Makaze unleashed a mind-numbing amount of black flames that covered the heaven and Earth .

Despite the calmness of Sloth, Lucy retrieved an exquisite looking silver revolver and loaded it with a purple bullet . If worse comes to worst, she'll have to forcefully stop Makaze even if it means injuring its soul .

Due to the warning of the strange woman, the Water Empress didn't dare to look at the statues anymore . She knew that the woman's previous statement wasn't a joke and these statues are really dangerous . They didn't emit any pressure but once someone stared at them, it's as these pieces of art become alive and are ready to devour anyone alive .

The two women walked for ten or so minutes before they reached a grandiose hall with jet black pillars and a strange altar in its center .

Although the hall was quite eye-catching as it had several large statues that were visibly different from the others at the very end of this place, there was a ten-meter long painting that covered the whole wall .

The Empress didn't dare stare for too long and merely did a quick glance before focusing on a simple wooden table where a woman sat .

This woman had long and silky black hair and skin as white as a sheet of paper . She looked like more like a zombie than a normal Human .

Very soon, only the Empress and the dark-haired woman remained in the hall . As for the other woman, she quickly excused herself after a short bow .

The dark-haired woman, who should be the current ruler of the Death Region, gestured for the Empress to sit on one of the empty chairs .

No pleasantries were exchanged and no words were spoken . The Empress did as told and sat opposite of the Region ruler . Very soon, the first to break this silence was none but the dark-haired woman, who studied the Empress with her eyes then said

"As far as I know, each ruler of a region is considered an Emperor or Empress and is given a title . I wonder what is yours?"

The response came merely a few seconds later .

"I apologize for the late introduction . I am the current ruler of the Water Region, the 13th Water Empress . My title is 'The Governor of the Ocean' . "

The dark-haired woman gazed at the Empress with an expressionless face for a long time before letting out a sigh and adding:

"Then do you know the title of the first ruler?"

The Empress shook her head and didn't say anything . The purpose of her visit wasn't to learn more about the first ruler of Water Region but to learn the identities of her ancestors and what exactly happened before the Hour of Creation .

"The first Water Empress was named Shiva, the Queen of Ice . Not only was she from before the Hour of Creation and even the Great War, she was also my dear sister . "

It was as if a bomb had dropped on the water Empress as she heard those words . She stared at the Region Ruler with a wide open mouth and eyes full of astonishment . . .

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As the inhabitants of Earth were terrified of the sudden Darkness that covered the whole planet for a short period of time, Makaze's move only added more fear to them, especially the strong Heroes, who were robbed of their swords .

Their weapons refused to obey them and simply flew out of their sheaths and disappeared far away .

The old man next to Lucy gazed at the countless swords with the dark blade in the center of a frown on his face . Although he was certain that such an attack can't harm him, it was still a rare thing to see a blade do this on its own .

To demonstrate such pressure and firepower without its partner and master, who is supposed to be the only one who can wield it to its maximum potential, is not something that could be seen every day .

Actually, it's the first time Sloth has seen a strange blade like this .

"You truly find the most fascinating things in the loneliest places . *sigh*"

The old man let out a long sigh as he saw the countless blades disappear as a malicious dark flame destroyed them and transformed into a mysterious speck of darkness that devoured all the light around it .

Very soon, all the swords were burned and fused into a fist-sized sphere that resembled a miniature black hole . This sphere, that was created from the accumulated essence of countless swords, rotated around dark blade until it turned into a sheath, however, due to the severe lack of this essence, the sheath was illusory and flickering as if it'll disappear in any given second .

Just as this happened, a notification popped before the old man

*The Dark Blade's Oath has taken effect . You have been marked by Makaze, evil wind .

You cannot remove the Dark Blade's Mark .

The dark blade will know your location wherever you are .

The dark blade will deal 10% more damage to you .

The Oath will not disappear until the marked individual is dead .

You will receive double the damage if you receive dark or lightning-related attacks from Makaze .

WARNING: The destruction of Makaze will not remove the mark .

WARNING: Due to the absence of Arthur MoonStar, the blade can only demonstrate 50% of its power . *

'Bloody hell!'

Sloth stood there, dumbstruck by what his eyes have just seen .

"A-an oath?"

Before the old man could comprehend why Makaze bound to an Oath and why does it actually exist, the threatening katana left its sheath and slashed down vertically toward Sloth .

Surprisingly, the environment wasn't affected nor space was broken, however, Sloth felt instinctive fear from that simple-looking slash that didn't even emit pressure or look domineering .

Despite it being such a fearsome attack, the target wasn't someone to be trifled with . He's the oldest of the Seven sins and probably the strongest .

Before this strike could hit him, time was literally stopped and the environment turned grey . Even Lucy was caught and was frozen .

The Dark blade was trapped too, however, only for a short time before lightning crackled around it and forcefully release it .

Unfortunately, the short time it was trapped was enough for a large hand to slap it down and make it roughly slam on the ground, even causing very small cracks to appear on it .

The time-stopping skill that was used by Sloth is completely different from the one the invaders used . This one was far more dangerous and it could even eradicate Sovereigns in a matter of seconds .

Despite it being strengthened by the Darkness Arthur unleashed, Makaze was still overwhelmed by Sloth's ability and was suppressed in a second .

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Before the old man could breathe a sigh of relief, the blade vanished yet again only to appear half-an-inch in front of the old man's chest . If not for his fast reactions, he would have been stabbed .

As sweat poured down his forehead, the blade was flung away again, however, this turned out to be its true purpose as a weird spatial tunnel appeared in front of the flying Makaze, sending the latter to Astria before Sloth's hand could reach it .

The old man looked at the dark tattoo that appeared on his right hand . It didn't hurt him but it was too eye-catching and he felt uncomfortable just by looking at it .

"An oath, huh? A frightening one at that . . . I guess the other sins won't be happy about it . "

Back on Astria, Arthur was still bound due to the weird crystalline and diamond-like thing that is immobilizing him .

From the Joker's perspective, Arthur's only choices are to give up or cut his lower body, which will decrease his fighting ability by more than half .

To his surprise, Arthur paused for a second before his body transformed into a small black whirlpool then vanished from his sight . More accurately, he possessed the body of a variant of rats and dashed toward the Joker .

He didn't make a straight charge but zigzagged in the air while leaving a dozen afterimages that indicated how fast he is .

"A rat? A face-eater? Nonono it cannot be, they aren't this strong . Then a shapeshifter? Also a no, the feeling is too real for it to be a simple imitation . "

The Joker's eyes glowed for a split second before he stretched his hand to grab the approaching rat .

Unfortunately, the rat disappeared and appeared right behind him . Its eyes flashed with a blue light and time was stopped .

In the initial position of the rat, there were three large detonators which exploded a distance from the Joker, creating a huge disturbance and cracking the space .

"Hmm let's see, time-manipulation, time freeze, elemental fusion . I can't think of a Race that is able to do all of that . "

The Joker used the back of his elbow to send the rat flying only for it to be a shadow clone which dispersed upon contact . Two more shadowy figures assaulted him from both sides, this time actually damaging him for real .

The two attacks that contained enough brute force to decimate a mountain, were merely the appetizer as a small and creepy looking mouths attacked from below and a Heavenly Arrow that appeared out of thin air, came flying down at the Joker .

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The Joker stomped his foot and immediately dispersed the annoying Void mouths and ignored the Heavenly Arrow which pierced his shoulders but wasn't able to injure him . The arrow vanished soon after as it wasn't able to use its fast momentum to wound Arthur's enemy .

Just as Arthur retreated a few hundred meters, a dark streak flew across the sky and headed toward him with incredible speed . Makaze, which just appeared on Astria, charged toward its partner while leaving waves of black flames in its path .

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As for the Joker, he folded his arms and inspected Arthur's body yet again after taking one a special black card .

'O♥ Masquerade!'

The Joker's eyes shone with a bright golden light as they landed on the small rat which emitted a thick black fog .

"Hmm lemme see . . . a Dual-spi . . . no . . . it's a Tri-Spirit . . . a soul of Transcendent Holy Knight . . . a pathetic orb . . . and an interesting cube . Hahahaha each of these things will make anybody greedy . The spirit will surely bring a tribulation . . . argh this is so annoying, I'll have to interfere . "

Due to his attention focusing on Arthur, only when the sword was held by its proper owner did the Joker shift his focus to the curved dark blade which was vibrating despite it being sheathed .

The moment his eyes landed on the blade, he furrowed his brows and mumbled

"Evil wind . . . that means you're . . . "

He gazed at Arthur, who regained his appearance . He no longer was jet black and his original appearance could be seen . With long grey hair and a scar on his face . All the dark fog and darkness around him disappeared, in fact, he looked pretty calm as he stroked the dark blade .

"Arthur MoonStar . So you're actually from this world . Fate, that bitch really knows how to handle things . "

Just as he cursed fate, a white bolt of lightning descended from above and struck his head . Although it burned his funny hat and caused slight bleeding, such an injury was healed in just a second . It may look like a simple lightning bolt but it could even kill a God Monarch .

"Bitch! Do you think hitting me with your petty shit will do something? I dare you to come here and fight me!"

Just as he yelled on top of his lungs, only the silence was his answer . Annoyed, the Joker clicked his tongue and shouted again

"Ha! I knew you're one cowardly bitch! I'll roast you alive if you dare show before me! Now fuck off somewhere else and stop bothering me . "

He was the one who addressed her first yet he told her to stop bothering him . It was a funny sight but the other end couldn't do anything about him . Just like that, the Joker waited for a few seconds before he looked back at Arthur, who closed his eyes .

Three bright triangles appeared before him, each with a color . The biggest one was Dark, the second biggest was a grey one and the smallest was yellowish .

Each emitted an abnormal amount of either Nether Magic, Dark Mana or Death Energy . Slowly but surely, the triangles were approaching each other and a strange square .

Once the fusion was successful, ominous looking black chains appeared out of nowhere and wrapped themselves around the square .

As he watched this scene, the Joker looked at the skies and noticed dark clouds clustering above them . He rolled his eyes in irritation and took out a card

'9♣ Celestial Opposition'

The card was becoming bigger and bigger until it was more than 100 meters in length . Even the black chains retracted themselves and decreased the fog they were releasing, it was a clear sign of fear .

Once it reached the necessary size, the card shone with a blinding light, causing the square to shake from fear and even pushing Arthur more than a kilometer away from the Joker .

The clustering clouds tried resisting as small red lightning bolts hit the card but to no avail, the light extinguished everything and in merely one minute, the there sky became clear, devoid of any cloud .

In doing this, the Joker helped Arthur avoid another celestial tribulation . He didn't do it out of kindness but due to personal reasons .

"Now that I got rid of the annoying sparks, shall we do one . last . exchange?"

This time, Arthur wasn't enraged or angry like before . He was unusually calm and upon hearing the Joker, he looked at him with eyes devoid of emotions and softly nodded his head .

The Joker clapped his hands in excitement and exclaimed

"Excellent! I would like to witness the full potential of [Thousand Waves] but I guess you aren't able to unleash its full potential so I'll be content as long as it's a strong attack . "

Arthur didn't respond and merely bent his back and held Makaze . One hand was on the sheath and the other on the dark blade's handle . The square above him entered his body and the fog disappeared completely . Although Makaze was broken, thanks to the Oath and Arthur's darkness, it enabled it to display a formidable amount of power .

"Amazing, I sense no energy around you . An attack made from pure Sword Essence . . bring it on!"

With a slowly beating heart and a very calm mind, Arthur concentrated on the Joker and said

"Two souls but one heart, two wills but one goal . By the eternal oath binding us, I command you to kill our enemy!"

As he spoke those words, a dark and ominous mark appeared on the Joker's hand, which surprised the latter .

However, this wasn't the end as by the time the mark appeared, Arthur already attacked .

Makaze and its illusory sheath shone with a blazing golden light for a split second before it disappeared . This was none other than the [Golden Lone Sheath], one of three ultimate sword skills Arthur currently have .

The attack was simple as it's only unsheathing and sheathing one's sword in a lightspeed manner but it'll result in an incredibly fast attack that locks on its target and kills it .

"I respect your swordsmanship and your dedication to be able to summon such an oath which is why I'll become serious just this one time . "

Although Arthur already attacked and it would reach the Joker almost immediately, the latter wasn't panicking . With movements that seemed extremely slow yet transcended the concept of time, he retrieved his deck of cards and said

"Shuffle, Spread, Draw! Random Card Roulette!"

Without looking at the drawn card, he held it in his hand and said

"Third move of the Trickster series; Light from Darkness, Gold from Sand!"

A light as bright as Arthur's skill appeared in the sky and stretched to all corners of Astria before it suddenly retracted and became a ray of light that met the golden sword slash .

When the two attacks clashed, space shattered like glass and a gigantic wind tornado enveloped the area, even causing the other continents to suffer a bit of damage .

For a moment, it seemed as if the golden slash was going to cut the white ray of light in two but that was merely an illusion as the ray of light enveloped the golden slash and slowly weakened it .

Both parties were pushed a distance away from the clash and just when Arthur's golden slash was going to disperse, another blue and freezing light joined the fray and caused a huge disturbance as it spread to all directions, freezing the air itself and even the shattered space couldn't handle the coldness .

This was similar to the ultimate skill of the Ice attribute; [Absolute Zero], however, the range was much bigger and the coldness was increased by a few more levels .

This coldness was concentrated in a rotating blue bullet that had three circles around it . Instead of disintegrating the golden slash in its way, it actually helped and in a harmonious manner, the golden Sword Essence and the Yin Power joined hands in eliminating the white ray of light .

Unfortunately, even with two against one, the ray of light emerged victorious and with a speed faster than sound, hit Arthur and sent him flying across the sky with blood pouring from all holes of his body .

Very quickly, a white light followed right behind Arthur to support him and heal his injuries .

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A few days passed with the big incident that occurred in Astria . All the inhabitants were terrified and only calmed down after sensing danger no more . Fortunately, the fight was in a desolate place else there would have been many casualties .

Both parties that caused so much destruction were currently inside the High Tower of the MoonStar sect . The Joker was boringly playing with his cards with his chin resting on one hand and Arthur was still unconscious after the dangerous blow he received from his enemy .

The good thing is that his condition stabilized and no more dark fog was emitting from his body . His injuries fully healed and all he needed was to sleep so that his recovers some rationality .

Accompanying him was none other than Lucy, who didn't call Saly as to not make her worried . She never left his side during the last couple of days and carefully inspected his body every few hours .

Quite surprisingly, Lucy noticed that Arthur's condition was directly linked to the dark blade, who was in a corner . The illusory sheath of the blade was slowly yet surely transforming from a spiritual one to a fully materialistic object .

The process was slow but it seemed that the completion of the sheath had to do with Arthur's mental state, which was showing healing .

His consciousness was still a vast starry sky but there were no signs of those malevolent chains or the Earth Spirit which was trapped inside .

Instead, there was an additional thing next to the Orb and the Ark . It was a really strange circle composed of three colors, each emitting some kind of pure energy and the three were coexisting and even complimenting each other .

This was the Tri-Spirit that was created due to the outburst of Arthur's darkness and the Dark-Anguish Technique which accelerated the process by a few hundred times .

The Earth Spirit was wise enough to grasp this opportunity to fuse with the Death Energy and the Dark Mana . He could have escaped but such a golden opportunity made it more powerful despite being linked to Arthur for an eternity .

As Lucy was softly caressing her husband's face, the door of the room was abruptly opened and a tall silhouette walked inside .

With a funny looking purple clothes and star-shaped tattoos under his eye, the Joker gazed around until his eye landed on Makaze .

Ignoring the displeased Lucy, who was coldly glaring at him, he stopped in front of Makaze and squatted down while carefully inspecting the broken blade, which was mostly hidden by the forming sheath .

"A story of love and betrayal, joy and tragedy, life and death . An evil man, who dearly loved a woman, sacrificed every bit of his power to create nine Divine swords to protect her and nine Cursed swords to destroy her enemies . The woman didn't love him back and even insulted him but the man wasn't hurt and merely disappeared . Only a few people know where he went . . . the dark and ancient place that has nothing but constant hurricanes and complete darkness . He died there, alone and the strong energy in that place coupled with his special heart had fused together and transformed into a sword . "

Lucy listened to him silently, she didn't know why he was telling her this story but it was apparent that it's Makaze's origins . However, the reason he's telling her something only a handful of people knew shall remain unknown for now .

The Joker grasped the handle of Makaze but the second his hand touched it, black flames enveloped it and started devouring vitality . The man didn't seem to mind and after gazing at it for a few seconds, he let it go and turned to look at Lucy with a smirk

"From the look of your face, I don't seem you remember me that much?"

While it is true she saw him in her past, Lucy only knows that he's a dangerous entity and is known throughout the Universes .

"Did we meet in the past?"-Lucy

The Joker casually sat on a nearby chair then said

"We did indeed, you were but a small girl when I first saw you, Miss Eva . "

As she heard this news, Lucy was momentarily startled before replying

"Eva? Is that my real name?"

"That is what your parents named you . "

As such an opportunity appeared, Lucy wasn't going to waste it . Normally, she doesn't talk much in front of strangers but now, she set aside her usual silent attitude and added:

"Who are my real parents? Where are they?"

"Oh my! Are you that eager to meet them?"

Hearing this, Lucy scoffed and said with a mocking tone

"Meet them? I just want to show them what I managed to do without their help . "

As he heard that, the Joker burst out in laughter and said excitedly

"Hahahaha now that's a good answer! I really want to be there when that happens . I don't know your circumstances but it seems your opinion and attitude about this matter is suitable for my taste . "

After saying that, he took out the same card that he used against Arthur and then carefully inspected Lucy .

Twenty seconds of silence passed before the Joker started laughing even louder

"HAHAHAHA truly, truly a suitable pair you two are! Yin physique, a soul bind, and an unmatched talent! Life really never ceases to amaze me!"

Lucy, wanting to know the truth, insisted by asking him again

"So . . . are you going to tell me?"

He shrugged while responding

"I don't care either way so why not tell you but on two conditions . "

Hearing nothing but silence as an answer, he continued

"First, you two are invited to my Red Spade Tower as competitors . Second, I want the chest of coins inside your partner's ring . "

Confused, Lucy thought about what the Joker said for a few seconds before asking

"What chest exactly?"

With a grin plastered on his face, he happily answered

"The one that surely was next to that old man's corpse when he died . It's just a chest with a bunch of colorful coins in it . "

She pondered about the condition for quite sometime before nodding thus showing him she's accepting both conditions . Although neither she nor Arthur knew what the coins do, they do not need it now and Arthur would do anything to allow her to know about her past .

As for participating in that competition, it's in the future so it's no problem .

"Alright, deal accepted! Then let me tell you who your family is "

Chapter 347

As Lucy was focused on the Joker, three different cards appeared on the latter's hand . One was half white half black, the second was milky white and last had countless numbers on it .

"The multiverse is composed of these three but if you add all the secret Realms and hidden words, then you'll be talking about the omniverse . What I'm going to tell you right now is only related to the Cloud Sea Universe . A place for cultivators and those seeking power through cultivating mainly Nether Energy and Qi . They rank their powers using a simplistic system where the higher one's realm, the more powerful he or she is .

Obviously, such a vast and almost limitless place is bound to have one entity ruling it . In this case, more than one person is responsible for the ruling . These pretentious people who acquired a bit of strength live in the biggest planet in that Universe, the Divine Planet .

This planet is divided into many parts and each zone is led by a sect, a clan or even a single person . Simply put, your family is one of the clans ruling the Divine Planet and the Cloud Sea Universe as a whole . It's called the White Specter Clan and it's ranked 5th in the Divine Ranking ladder . Of course, there are other factions that are definitely more powerful than the ones ruling the Divine Planet but they are usually secretive and don't interfere in the matters concerning the Cloud Sea Universe . "

'Ting!'

*The user: Lucy MoonStar is aware of her identity thus some changes will be implemented on the Status Window . *

*The user: Lucy MoonStar's real name is Eva . Would you like to change your name Lucy MoonStar => Eva . *

Seeing those notifications pop up, Lucy frowned and flatly rejected the system's proposal .

No matter what her real name is, she considered 'Lucy' as her real name and won't ever change it .

Lucy took some time to process what she heard then asked another question

"Does that mean my parents are there . . . in the Divine Planet . "

"Indeed they are . I'm not acquainted with your father but your mother is an old friend of mine . She resembles you very much, even in terms of behavior and character . I first saw you when you were but a one-year-old baby and only for a brief moment . "

". . . . "

Lucy turned her head and stared at Arthur for a long time before saying

"How do we compare to 'that' clan in terms of power?"

Contrary to his usual fast reply, the Joker took time to reply . He let out a long sigh after gazing at her for a few seconds then replied:

"I know what you want to do, however, with your current strength, you won't be able to do it, even with him on your side . "

"Then how strong should we be?"

The Joker expected such a question so he gave her the desired answer almost immediately

"10 years . I expect that in ten years, you'll become stronger than anyone in the Divine Planet and at that time, you can do what you please . "

Before Lucy could anything else, the Joker added:

"I told you what you need to know . Now, can you leave for some time? I have something to talk about with your husband . "

Startled, Lucy turned to Arthur but found out that he's still deep asleep . With a questioning expression, she looked at the Joker, who had a serious expression as he expected her to leave the two men alone .

Dissatisfied and displeased, she quietly left the room . Although she didn't get all her questions answered, at least she knows a big deal about her origins now more than ever .

When there were only Arthur and the Joker alone in the room . The mysterious entity, who always wore a strange-looking outfit, walked up to the sleeping parasite and stared at him for more than a minute without saying anything

" . . . 'Sometimes, even when you're stronger than anyone else, you'll still learn something new from a weakest of beings and be fooled by the stupidest people' . . . isn't that what you always used to tell me when we first met?"

The Joker didn't add anything else and merely waited for a few minutes until Arthur started showing signs of waking up . The dark blade on the corner was reaching its final state of evolution as the jet black sheath was almost complete .

"Welcome back to reality . "

A few minutes before Arthur woke up, just when his consciousness left the deep sleep it was trapped in, he was immediately transported inside that endless white space .

Facing him was none other than his copy, who was relaxed as he drank some coffee .

"I'm amazed at how lucky you are . From all the people you could meet when you're berserk, you met one of the few people who can subdue you with ease . "

Arthur was confused as he only remembers Claudia being killed then his vision turned into complete darkness . Seeing his confusion, the copy resumed talking

"Zodiak's Dark Magic mainly relies on negative emotions as a catalyst to empower the user . The Dark-Anguish Technique is definitely a malevolent cultivation technique that could hurt the host if he's not careful, then again, you're the second one in history who's used it correctly .

The thing is, thanks to your special Race, even such a strong technique wouldn't have affected you . The problem lied with your past life and the torture you suffered . 'X' chose you for multiple reasons and one of them is because you had amassed a large quantity of negative energy, which automatically stored itself inside your consciousness and wasn't accessible by you . Since you were imprisoned and abused, all that negativity couldn't be unleashed thus it intensified . The Orb of the Fallen Overgods need a host which can match its properties and as it is a treasure that was created from the flesh and emotions of countless Gods and Overgods that died in the war, it was full of hate and anger of those beings .

This process of stored negative energy can happen to anyone who suffered similar things to yourself but the real issue was the Orb which slightly fused this energy with your consciousness and when you trained using the Dark-Anguish technique, it multiplied this energy and made it more intense thus leading to it manifesting a consciousness on its own .

That's usually how Spirits are born but generally, they are created from a natural and pure energy of a certain object or place, not a person .

As Sloth had told you, that stored energy was fighting back and wanted to get out of your consciousness . When you were taking revenge on your ex-wife, this helped you unleash some of that energy thus containing the darkness within you . However, when she suddenly died, you were shocked and unconsciously locked away your darkness again, which grew to a terrifying degree . It's like you had a tiger which was imprisoned in a cage then you told it that you'll set it free soon but when it was about to experience freedom, you changed your mind and locked it again .

I honestly thought another personality of yourself would be born and it'll wreak havoc on its own but when I saw the Death Energy accumulated due to your first death, the fight against the reaper, and the Book of the Damned, I rejected the idea of a newborn malevolent copy of yourself .

If the Joker wasn't present, either your initial personality would have been overwritten by the Darkness and a new one would have been created or it would have separated itself from you and roamed away while killing everything and destroying every mountain on its way .

Fortunately, the fight allowed it to unleash more than 90% of the contained emotions and negative energy thus it facilitated the creation of the Spirit .

It's a Tri-Spirit, the first one in history . Earth, Death, and Darkness, an entity that is very powerful and strengthens your fighting power by more than 30% . It has a consciousness on its own but it's mostly controlled by the old Earth Spirit, which is also a good thing . There are lots of other things left unexplained but that's for now as it's not necessary to explain everything .

You should check your Status Window then go talk to the Joker . "

As he talked for a long time, the copy took a sip from his coffee then glanced at Arthur only to find him still staring at him with a strange gaze .

After a long silence, Arthur said

"Claud Venis, the Prophecy Holder . "

Once he uttered those words, the copy was shocked as his pupils constricted and his breath halted for a few seconds .

Chapter 348

The copy calmed down within a few seconds, he stared back at Arthur and said emotionlessly

"So you found out . "

Arthur shrugged nonchalantly and added:

"It's wasn't that hard to guess your identity . I have been having strange dreams for a period . . . I saw myself and Lucy but it was all blurry, what's more is that despite our exact appearances, we're totally different people . I also do not believe I'm your reincarnation whatsoever . What I don't understand, however, is what you want from me . "

Arthur received only silence for an answer . After glaring at him for some time, the copy sighed and said

"You're right, we're separate entities but that doesn't mean that you have nothing to do with the whole matter . I won't add a single word about this matter until you reach a place called the Garden of Words . "

With both parties not uttering any more words, Arthur swiftly left the ARK without even looking at his Status Window .

Once he opened his eyes, he found a strange-looking man gazing at him with a funny smirk on his face .

"Welcome back to reality . "

Arthur took a few seconds to adjust his vision and check if his body is still injured . Fortunately, he seemed to be in his peak condition .

"I assume you're the one they call the Joker . "

"Indeed I am, Arthur MoonStar . "

Hearing his over-friendly tone, Arthur frowned and displeasingly said

"You speak as if we're acquaintances . "

"Oh but we are! Even more than acquaintances but that's not why I'm here . "

Arthur merely gazed at this man, expecting a reason for his unwelcome visit . In response, the Joker took out two red envelopes with a golden stamp on them and put them next to Arthur .

"I've already made a deal with your wife . I expect you two to come when my competition begins . "

'A deal?'

Arthur wasn't aware of what happened but he trusted Lucy's so he didn't waste time asking about this deal as she would tell him later .

"Now then, onto the serious things . "

The Joker took out a deck of cards and stretched to Arthur with their back facing the latter .

"Pick any card you like . "

Seeing him do such a thing, Arthur remained unresponsive for half a minute before he picked a card after a bit of pondering .

The card turned to be a special card, the Joker card .

The Joker's grin widened as he spoke again

"You spent 3 seconds pondering about what card to choose but ultimately, you never had a choice . "

He flipped all his card and surprisingly, they were all Joker cards . The Joker covered the fifty or so card for a split second only for them to turn into a normal deck of cards .

"It's called the illusion of choice . Spending time to think about useless things is often the demise of the most powerful people . Sometimes, it's better to not think but act on the spot but of course, that's just my opinion . "

"What do you actually want?"

Arthur never liked beating around the bush so he directly asked the other party .

"Me? Nothing . I just want to tell you two things . "

He pointed at the dark blade in the corner of the room whilst saying

"That blade will bring calamities to you but that's not my business . I will only interfere if you ever encounter one of the Seven Deadly Sins . If that happens, crush that card in your hand and I shall be summoned next to you . "

"Why the Seven Deadly Sins?"

"It doesn't matter! It's only a one-time thing to pay back what you did for me in the past and if an encounter with them can be avoided then do so . "

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The Joker finally stood up from his seat walked to the door . Just as he was about to leave, he muttered a few words with a low tone

"Remember, your enemies are not the ones within but the ones outside and we 'three' shall be the ones to end it, once and for all . "

With that last sentence said, the Joker left the room, at last, leaving a confused Arthur who doesn't know what the hell is going on .

Merely a few seconds after being left alone, Lucy's figure appeared next to Arthur . She looked at him tenderly and checked his body to see if something was done to him .

The only odd thing she found were the two red envelopes next to her husband .

.....

The couple spent two or so hours talking about the deal with the Joker and what happened when Arthur went out of control .

" . . . So she died?"

Arthur spoke with a bitter tone . He couldn't take revenge against the vicious ex-wife . However, the next sentence of Lucy startled him

"The Joker told me that although she died, we can surely bring her back from Hell but on the condition, we arrive at that place first . "

He shook his head and said

"Let's leave at that . She didn't suffer enough but at least she died . We got more important things to do . "

"En!"

Lucy agreed and leaned on his shoulder, smiling brightly as everything ended well and nothing horrible happened .

"I need to seclude myself for a few days . I need you to go get Gutcha . "

Obviously, Lucy agreed and her short trip was postponed tomorrow . The couple spent the rest of night snuggling and doing what lovers do, any details shall be omitted!

.....

The next day, all the others were relieved to see Arthur healthy but didn't get to spend much time with him or Lucy . He secluded himself into a cave underground where no one can disturb him and Lucy was sent to Earth via a Spatial Tunnel he created .

Since she isn't proficient in Space Magic, Arthur created a special device with the help of Claud, his copy, to facilitate the trip to and from Earth .

The reason he needed to seclude himself still remains unknown, even to Lucy, but it surely had something to do with the notifications' log he read the night he woke up .

.....

East of Astria, precisely on the Itas Continent . In the middle of a thick forest a fair distance away from the World Tree, the Joker stood there silently with his eyes closed and a serious expression .

The small area around him was littered with blood, the stench was too nauseating and the ground was dyed red . The corpses belonged to ugly and scary looking monsters, each had more than two arms and they had distorted expression as they surely died a very miserable death .

"Sons of bitches really know how to hide . "

He spat on the ground angrily then squatted down, grabbing a blue crystal that belonged to one of these monsters .

"Tch! Summoning crystals! I guess I have to make a detour . "

He waved his hand, crushing all the crystals in the surroundings then took out a card a special grey card from his deck and used his hand to pulverize it thus activating the spell contained within

'Ghost Rat Trail : Activated'

The Joker's form blurred then vanished within a few seconds, disappearing from Astria .

Chapter 349

A few days after Arthur started his seclusion, the Joker appeared in a breath-taking courtyard with no soul in it . It was calm and refreshing, moreover, the energy in that area was so pure and thick which made it the perfect cultivating ground for any person .

This place was situated in the Divine Planet, possibly the most planet in the Cloud Sea Universe .

Just as he landed on the ground, a cold and irritated voice rang in his ears

"You always barge in whenever you like, at least have some decency!"

The voice seemed to reprimand him but the Joker shrugged his shoulders and excitedly said

"You won't believe what I saw and who I encountered!"

Unfortunately, this seemed to be the normal routine for the hidden person as she sighed and replied

"That's what you always say when you come here . I'm in a critical period and I need some time alone to breakthrough . "

Despite being flatly kicked out by the mysterious lady, the Joker laughed out loud and added:

"Are you sure you don't want to know?"

This time, he was met with no answer as if she started ignoring him but after a few seconds passed, that didn't seem to be the case .

" . . . You have the smell of an unfamiliar white specter . "

The strange man grinned evilly and stated

"My my, didn't you say you want some time alone? I guess I'll have to go since 'someone' is busy breaking through . "

He acted as if he was going to leave and just when his figure started turning blurry, dangerous white flames enveloped him thus negating his teleportation . Though these flames have a strange color, their power is by no means weak . In fact, any other person would disintegrate into nothingness if they were hit by this white fire .

"Speak . "

A tall woman appeared some distance away from him . With long silver hair and sky-blue pupils, she resembled a human but by no means was she one . Her beauty was impeccable and her demeanor was

usually cold and indifferent but this time, she was curious after noticing the smell of a white specter that didn't belong to her clan .

"Hahahaha you think by looking scary you're going to force me to talk? Don't forget who taught you how to fight . "

Seeing act like this after igniting her curiosity, the woman snorted and turned around . It's either he's tricking her as it's part of his nature or he's not willing to divulge the truth .

"Come on! Don't be such a brat . Come here, let's have some of your special tea while I spit the beans . "

Although she was a bit unwilling, she clicked her tongue and went to sit next to him while taking a teapot out of nowhere .

'Tsk! Does he know how expensive the leaves are?'

The two spent around ten minutes enjoying the tea, none of them spoke as silence was the best atmosphere for such a tea .

"So . . . what do you want to know?"

"Weren't you the one who wanted to tell me what you saw and who you met?"

The Joker acted as if he forgot what he said and nodded his head continuously

"Ah! Yes yes, that's right! Many things happened, amazing things I might say but I'll only tell you one thing . "

". . . "

The woman glared at him coldly but said nothing, expecting him to continue . He glanced at her and chuckled as he saw her reaction .

"I did indeed meet a white specter . A woman, to be precise . She has talent greater than yours and has inherited your hair . "

Just as he muttered those words, an expression of disbelief appeared on the woman's face . She quickly became angry and yelled

"You . . . if this is one of your tricks then I'll . . . "

"What? Do you think I'm lying? Aren't you the one who smelled her in the first place?"

The woman took a few seconds to calm her heart then added:

"What's her name?"

"Lucy . "

"What about her last name?"

"That, I cannot say . "

'Slap'

Just as he refused to answer her, he received a loud slap on his face but he didn't seem affected and just stabilized his body before gazing back at the frustrated woman whose feelings were in total disarray

"You know how much I looked for her yet now you're refusing to let me find her! Why!?"

"Simple, she doesn't want to meet you . Furthermore, what would you do now that she's married and even has a kid?"

His words were like bombs that fell on her, each surprising her more than the last .

" . . . w-what?"

"You heard it right . She doesn't need you and she's happy with her life . You, interfering with her life would ruin everything, especially since you'll definitely not like her husband, who has no special background . "

The more he talked, the angrier the woman became . She didn't show it on her face, who almost remained emotionless after the initial disbelief, but her slightly shaking body was the proof of her rage .

"You're going to tell me where sh-"

Before she could finish, the Joker flicked her forehead thus knocking her unconscious .

"I am sorry but I cannot do that and it's your fault for losing her so why should I lend a hand?"

When she returned to Earth, Lucy went to check on Saly and played with her for the rest of the day and when the little girl obediently went to sleep . She and Astrith started looking for Gutcha, who wasn't that easy to find . Even Delia was forced to help them but even after spending the whole night searching everywhere on Earth, the trio found no signs of the Pigolo .

This worried Lucy as she knew Arthur specifically needed Gutcha for a very important task but the issue laid in the pigolo's disappearance .

With his abilities, he cannot leave Earth alone, moreover, there is nothing around the planet except dark matter and countless rubbles so it's pointless to head there .

After spending two whole days searching, the trio gave up and decided to let Arthur do it since he has much more efficient tracking skills .

Delia went back to seclusion and Astrith returned to Saly's side . As for Lucy, she used the device her husband gave her to return to Astria .

She found out that he's still inside the cave and even locked all entrances so she waited for him . In the meantime, she got to spend time with Mary, Sonia, and Anastassia, who is busier than ever, preparing for her wedding .

Jackob was bursting with happiness as he went around boasting about his marriage and his wife, who was described(by him) as beautiful, strong, etc . . .

Lucy noticed that Arthur wasn't cultivating but doing something else . Moreover, thanks to her soul bind, she gained 80% of his stats but in the last few days, she lost more than 20% of her overall stats without knowing why but it certainly had to do with Arthur .

Finally, after spending five days inside that cave, Arthur appeared though he looked mentally tired and physically exhausted . Lucy was the first one to welcome him, just in front of the cave and what she saw inside really made her puzzled .

There were two large and rectangular boxes, one was jet black and the other was pure white . They didn't emit any energy and the material they were made of remains unknown .

The first thing Arthur did was give a big hug to Lucy and go with her to their bedroom so he can sleep for a bit as he exhausted all his Mental Power and even lost a portion of his stats, however, the results were more than satisfactory and his goal was achieved .

The only thing left to do is to send Gutcha away and he'll feel relieved .

Chapter 350

Once Arthur left the cave, he came to learn of the issue regarding Gutcha . After a good night sleep and talking a bit with Lucy, they departed for Earth .

The trip was swift and in a short time, they found themselves in their house . Arthur immediately sat cross-legged and meditated for six straight hours to recuperate Mental Power and return to his peak state .

What he created inside the cave consumed much more than expected but it was worth it, moreover, he only needed less than a day to recover thanks to his Vitality, which broke through one billion points some time ago .

Lucy told him that Gutcha wasn't disguised as a human or else he would have been found by her . Whilst it's true he's proficient at trickery and deceiving people, he cannot escape the eyes of a half-Sovereign who has the power of a God Monarch .

In their group, Arthur is, without a doubt, the best tracker thanks to the countless skills he has and his over-the-top Dexterity .

Very quickly, his sense spread in all corners of the Earth, leaving nothing covered from his consciousness .

Every breathing human and animal could be detected by Arthur, however, none were Gutcha . Arthur expected this to not work or else Lucy wouldn't have needed his help so, for the first time since its birth, the Tri-Spirit, was awakened and given its first task .

When it materialized itself in the real world, it resembled a very small grey sphere that emitted thick dark fog and had a small yellow luster in its center .

"Ah! It really feels good to be alive again . "

The voice belonged to none other than the Earth Spirit, which was entrapped inside Arthur's consciousness . It grasped a good opportunity and successfully fused with the forming Spirit in the moment of crisis . It was a big gamble but with great risk comes great reward .

"It's not time to feel joyful yet, help me find someone . "

The reason he summoned the Tri-Spirit is because it has the Earth Attribute, which could help him search every inch of this planet without having to turn it upside down .

"As you wish . "

Although it wasn't friendly with Arthur, to begin with . He is now its master and even if it's unwilling the other two parts will force it to obey him .

In the past, Arthur injected Gutcha with a Detonator which was later removed but some of the Dark Magic that resided in the Detonator had spread in the pigolo's body but since the quantity is very minimal, it didn't cause any damage .

Normally, this would have helped him locate the target almost immediately but the latter seemed to be in a place that either obstructed his sense or isn't on Earth at all .

The Tri-Spirit was both an entity that is separated from Arthur and one that's eternally linked to him, just like Makaze . It has a mind of its own but it obeys Arthur and it is also his eyes and ears .

It's like having a second pair of eyes, ears, and hands . Once it received his command, the sphere changed dramatically, all the greyness and dark fog vanished and were replaced by a bright yellow-ish ball that was spinning so fast it turned blurry . It suddenly crashed into the ground, fusing with it and after that, everyone on Earth could feel a slight, almost nonexistent earth shake .

Through the Spirit, Arthur could see a vast and majestic place that was half destroyed . The pillars were made from a unique white jade and the floor was crystalline . In the entrance of this place, there laid Gutcha with blood around him .

His body looked a bit deformed and his face was pale, in fact, he looked more like a corpse than a living person .

"It's actually a Heavenly Tomb . No wonder . . . no wonder Earth has lots of strange legends and stories about ancient Gods . I'm really curious to see whose tomb it is . "

The copy's voice rang inside Arthur's ears, surprising him since the former maintained an unusual silence these days so he thought he gave up on helping him .

'What's a Heavenly Tomb?'

This time, it wasn't the copy that answered but the Earth Spirit, which was now part of the Tri-Spirit .

'A Heavenly Tomb is a literally a tomb made by one of the God Race when they are about to die . '

'There is a God Race?'

Claud answered this question without missing any details

"The God Race or also known as the Heavenly Race, is an ancient race that went extinct a very long time ago . They are literal Gods and one of the two existing Races that can create other Races . "

Even more confused, Arthur added:

"Aren't the people who reached the God Realm also called Gods?"

"Yes, they can be regarded as Gods . With enough talent and good control over the elements, they can do things Gods do, such as creating planets, however, creating new Races or even living beings isn't something they can do . In fact, almost all the Races were created by the God Race . It's kinda funny when the ones you created turn against you and murder every one of your species but I guess they kind of deserved it too . "

The copy paused for a second before resuming

"Basically, the ancient God Race didn't need to cultivate or anything, they were born adults and had immense power . Each had a special kind of power and each created one or two Races . As for the modern Gods, they are merely someone who reached the God Realm . From the perspective of mortals, these people can be seen as Gods but in reality, they aren't real Gods but merely people who reached a certain Realm that made them look kind of Holy or strong . "

Although he understood what was said, Arthur still didn't know why would a Heavenly Tomb be present here, on Earth .

"It's not really that complicated . Many Gods liked to disguise themselves as mortals or just rule over a single world or planet . Coincidentally, Earth had many 'visitors' such as Buddha and the 12 minor Gods that named themselves the 12 Olympians . There may be others that I don't know too . "

Once all the explanation was done, Arthur teleported to the entrance of the Heavenly Tomb with Lucy . They were both extremely cautious as per the copy's words, it isn't easy to enter a Heavenly Tomb and harvest the treasures inside without having to pay a big price .

Even in the multiverse, Heavenly Tombs were rarer than living unicorns and are regarded highly . No power, no matter strong it is, dares to claim the right of a Heavenly Tomb since that means angering the whole world .

...

Currently, Arthur and Lucy didn't take a step forward and merely inspected the grand entrance while trying to find anything hiding or out of place .

It's true that Gutcha was a distance away and was dying but they couldn't tread on carelessly, Arthur had learned that lesson the hard way .

As he looked around, Arthur's pupil changed color and flashed with a sky-blue light that was beautiful to look at . [The All Seeing Eyes] was activated, allowing him to see what's protecting this Tomb and how it actually works .

Auto-Appraisal activated duo to syncro with the skill [The All Seeing Eyes]

*Barrier [Golden Hat](Rank : ????)

Cannot break using physical damage - Magical damage - Qi Technique - Cultivations techniques . *

"It's actual Bud-"

Both the copy and the Earth Spirit shouted at the same time when the notification was displayed in front of Arthur, however, they were temporarily banished in another realm almost instantaneously and the couple was sucked inside the Heavenly Tomb against their will .

Just as they appeared inside, a physical pressure pressed down on their bodies, however, it was pretty so it was neither painful nor overwhelming .

"Teach this triple truth to all: A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity . "

An archaic voice rang inside the tomb, shaking the couple's hearts and even numbing their will for a few seconds . The voice carried no power behind it still affected them greatly .

Arthur couldn't access his consciousness nor the Spirit or the ARK . He couldn't even circulate his Nether Energy or Mental Power . Lucy was in a similar state, she could only move her body .

The two took some time to process what they heard but they couldn't comprehend the meaning behind saying those words just after they entered the Heavenly Tomb .

Gutcha was a distance away from them, still groaning as blood soaked the crystalline floor under him .

Not even half a minute passed before the voice resonated across the area, however, this time, it seemed to be directly speaking to Arthur .

"Harborer of evil and malice, you have no place in this humane place, be gone . "

Just as those words descended, Arthur found himself standing in the entrance yet again . He tried stepping in forcefully but was pushed back a few meters .