

Once Human 351

Chapter 351

Lucy turned to check on Arthur and when she made sure he was alright, she started walking toward Gutcha . Their primary goal is to save the pigolo then if possible, clear the Tomb . With Arthur thrown out, everything now depended on Lucy alone .

With each step taken toward the Pigolo and the center of the Heavenly Tomb which was very far away, the pressure pressing down on her became stronger .

Fortunately, her body has broken through the limiter just like Arthur so even without having access to her cultivation, she still had an unbreakable physique . It's actually an understatement to call her a moving mountain as a mere fist of her can shatter a whole mountain range and turn it into dust .

The 300m distance that initially separated Lucy from Gutcha was soon crossed . The pressure was indeed troubling but it's still no problem for Lucy to move even after taking more than a hundred steps .

She examined the bloody pigolo before squatting down and grabbing part of his clothes then dragging him all the way to the entrance where the pressure was minimal . The ugly Gutcha seemed to be unconscious but when he was brought to the start of the Tomb, his consciousness recovered and he managed to wake up .

With disbelieving eyes, he stared at Lucy then at Arthur who was a distance away from him .

"Thank you, miss . "

It was actually the first time he saw Lucy as he was sent away the moment they arrived on Earth . Although he never saw her, he still knows about her so he didn't forget to speak with respect and gratitude .

Since she could use neither Nether energy nor mana, she couldn't take out some Healing Potions so she urged him to leave the tomb so Arthur can take care of him .

The woman didn't need to talk to Arthur to convey to him what she's about to do . With Gutcha out of death's door, it's time for her to try and reach the end of the Tomb for it'll bring her great benefits .

Arthur softly smiled at her and nodded her head then turned his attention to Gutcha . He stuffed a Miraculous Healing Potion in his mouth then used some of the Healing Spells he had in his arsenal .

Luckily, the pressure coming from the Heavenly Tomb didn't have the intention to kill but to merely test the individuals and slow them down .

Gutcha was merely at the Immortal Realm so three hundred meters was the best he could do . In fact, it was actually a good result which many Immortals won't be able to achieve unless they used a treasure (which isn't possible since any exterior forces are banned inside this tomb) .

"You did good but you should have informed me first before going ahead recklessly . "

"Y-yeah . . . I just wished to obtain something from this Tomb . "

Hearing this, Arthur sighed and shook his head . While it's true there some Heavenly Tombs that reward people depending on how much they advanced toward the end, this one was clearly different .

As Lucy started advancing slowly and steadily, the pressure became much stronger and her speed decreased by more than half . Once the 500m mark was crossed, she could feel her breathing increase and her body sweating a bit .

. . .

In just two minutes, thanks to Arthur's skills and potions, Gutcha was healed from almost all the injuries he had, which were mostly bones fractures or broken ribs and bones .

As he was given a new pair of clothes to wear and given a few more potions just in case, Arthur patted the pigolo's shoulder and said

"Now that you're ready to move, I need to task you with something very important . "

The poor pigolo was startled as he was planning on taking a few days to relax and recuperate both mentally and physically . While it's true he healed all his injuries, he was still feeling exhausted .

"B-boss . . . can't you wait for a few days? I've been trapped here for a long time and I need some time off . "

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"No! This is urgent! Moreover, it'll bring you many benefits and I'll even pay you handsomely . "

When he heard about the awesome pay, Gutcha's hesitant attitude suffered a 180-degree change . He became excited and shamelessly rubbed his hands as he waited for Arthur to continue

"First off, this task may take a day, a year, or even a century but you must know, once you accept, you cannot give up mid-way . "

Gutcha thought Arthur was just being strict as always so he replied with a smile

"Yes yes of course . "

Unfortunately, Arthur wasn't going to assign him with such a task with such a half-assed attitude, he needs someone who is wholly dedicated to the task .

"Gutcha, listen to me carefully, my life depends on the task and if you think you cannot do it then say so right now and I'll find another person . "

As he heard his boss' serious tone, Gutcha scratched his head and bowed his head apologetically before saying

"My mistake, boss . Don't worry, I'm certain I can follow your orders to the letter . "

Arthur nodded his head and continued

"First, I'll grant you a special power, power that'll allow you to cultivate faster and become strong enough to protect yourself . ""

As he listened to Arthur, Gutcha was shocked to feel excruciating pain coming from his chest . When he looked down, he found Arthur's hand penetrating his heart and very quickly, he felt his body weakening and his vision becoming blurry .

"No matter what, you must stay awake . Embrace the power and think of it as a part of your body, only then, will you be able to reach heights none other pigolo could reach .

As Arthur retracted his hand, the pigolo's body burst in black flames . Gutcha's body staggered back a few steps but he fought the pain and held his heart as he embraced the darkness enveloping him .

For a very long time now, Arthur started considering Gutcha as a very suitable candidate for passing down Zodiac's hierarchy . The pigolo's body was just perfect to use Dark Magic and without enough time and hard work, he'll reach the God Realm and even beyond .

The pigolo was greedy for money but he was loyal and knew how to get the job done and that's essentially what Arthur needs .

"Arghhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh"

The height of the black flames increased and the area around the pigolo turned into complete darkness, sucking the light and even the air .

"You only lack dedication, Gutcha . If you want money and Spirit Stones then you'll get plenty if you're stronger than everyone else . "

Arthur sat down and stared at Gutcha, who was writhing in agony . After five minutes of hell passed, the black flames entered the pigolo's body and the darkness around him were sucked into his heart . His body fell on the floor as he panted heavily but despite the immense pain he felt, he had a wide and creepy grin plastered on his ugly face .

As Arthur checked him using Appraisal, he noticed that the pigolo advanced by two whole grades in more or less five minutes .

"I feel I could even defeat Divine Beings now . "

After recuperating for half a minute, the pigolo stood up and raised his hand while weird dark energy circulated around it . On his other hand, a long dark sword appeared, it had black flames on its edges and it could change forms depending on Gutcha's will .

"This is merely the appetizer . Once you master it, you'll gain even more power . "

Gutcha nodded his head and walked up to Arthur then surprisingly knelt .

"Boss, I'm really grateful for what you did . From now till my last breath, I'm your loyal servant . "

"Alright alright, no need for these useless ceremonies . From now on, memorize and do exactly as I say . "

The pigolo nodded his head seriously and opened his ears wide .

"I will send you back to Astria and there, in a cave under the High Tower, you'll find two boxes . Remember, they cannot be stored inside a storage ring so you'll have to carry them and in a way, they'll

be a form of training for you . Once you have retrieved the two boxes, you'll go to the Green Leaf world, your home and find a secret place no one knows about . Do you understand, I NEED you to find a place no one knows about, not even yourself so you'll have to discover it by searching everywhere . Also, it doesn't have to be on that specific world, it's just your starting point . "

Arthur paused for a second to see if he's still listening then continued:

"When you find such a place, I want you to hide the white box there then use a talisman I'm about to give you to erase your memories about that exact second and a month prior to that . "

As he said that, Arthur stretched his hand and gave Gutcha a jet black Talisman then resumed:

"Obviously, use that talisman after you have hidden the white box and widened the distance between yourself and the first secret place . Now, after doing that, I need you to find a second desolate place which no one knows about . You'll find such a place and hide the black box there but you'll remain in that place, guarding the box until it breaks on its OWN . No matter how much time it takes, you'll remain beside the black box guarding it and cultivating . "

Gutcha unconsciously gulped some saliva as he listened to Arthur . He was someone who likes to socialize and roam around so binding him in a place for god knows when is surely a big deal for him .

Fortunately, he had a small change of mind when he was bestowed a great power by Arthur and had the urge to reach the God Realm so this task is considered a big challenge for pigolo, a challenge he will overcome .

After repeating the task two more times and ascertaining that Gutcha memorized everything, Arthur handed him a storage ring that has a bunch of gold and spirit stones, potions, and a few techniques are compatible with the Dark Magic . With everything said and done, Arthur waved his hand and opened a Spatial Tunnel for Gutcha, who turned around for one last time and bowed to his boss before entering the tunnel with a resolute expression .

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Inside the Heavenly Tomb, Lucy managed to reach the 700m mark but the pressure became stronger than ever . She would take a step every five to ten seconds and she was already soaking with sweat . Her normally white face was red and exhaustion started wearing her off .

Arthur shifted his attention to his wife but found no trace of her . Actually, she disappeared from his view when she crossed the 500m mark . Normally, with his Dexterity, he could see people several kilometers away from him, like an eagle . However, the Heavenly Tomb blocked his vision thus leaving him a bit worried . Whilst it's true he has a blind trust and complete confidence in his wife's abilities, he cannot help but feel anxious about her safety, after all, she's inside a Heavenly Tomb and not an amusement park .

As Lucy crossed the 700 meters mark, the same voice from the beginning was heard again but only those inside were able to hear it .

"One step is a path, a thousand are a journey . No one saves us but ourselves . No one can and no one may . We ourselves must walk the path . "

As she was left pondering about the meaning of those words, a golden light appeared from the ground and entered her body, alleviating some of the physical stress she was feeling and clearing her mind . It was such a strange yet addictive feelings, its effects were only momentary yet despite that fact, it allowed Lucy to fight back the pressure which increased significantly .

With great difficulty, Lucy took fifty more steps before stopping . No matter how much she tried, she couldn't raise her legs and advance anymore . Her body started bending and she was on the verge of falling down .

It was at this time that the stubborn and resolute side of Lucy surfaced, she gritted her teeth, clenched her fists and shouted loudly as she forcefully controlled her body and made it take the next step .

'Step' 'Step' . . . 'Step'

The momentum was slow but she never ceased advancing despite the cracking of her bones or the blood leaking out of her lips . She knew that Arthur wouldn't give up yet so why would she? They are supposed to be together for all eternity so she must be strong as he is so they can protect each other and battle together against all odds .

Just like that, another one hundred meters were crossed and the voice rang inside her ears again, this time more clearly .

"Silence the angry man with love . Silence the ill-natured man with kindness . Silence the miser with generosity . Silence the liar with truth . "

Two hours passed after that, the struggle became more intense and Lucy's body was slowly breaking down yet in the midst of this suffering, her consciousness began reacting on its own, sending an unknown Energy to her body, giving it barely enough power to continue walking .

When the 900m mark was reached, the voice talked again, this time louder than ever and even shaking the whole tomb .

"Irrigators channel waters; fletchers straighten arrows; carpenters bend wood; the wise master themselves . "

This formless and colorless energy that started forming inside her consciousness then automatically sent to all parts of her body, became denser and circulated even faster . Lucy's fast pace quickened and soon enough, she'll reach the 1000m mark . From her current location, she can see a gigantic golden coffin inside a golden platform that had tall pillars surrounding it .

Unfortunately, things didn't go as expected as she abruptly stopped when she was merely ten steps away from the milestone .

Lucy seemed to have realized something when she was advancing and pondering over the lines said by the mysterious voice .

She knew she capable of reaching the 1000 mark but it just didn't feel right . . . as if it's a path she can take but shouldn't . A path not made for her but those wanting to spread their kindness and seek wisdom . As for her, her path isn't clear yet but it's full of obstacles . She has no interest in kindness or

wisdom, she just wants to live peacefully with her family and if she must do evil things then she wouldn't hesitate to do so . For her, family comes before anything .

As she was about to give up, the voice resonated across the tomb as if to stop her

"The root of suffering is attachment . "

Lucy remained unfazed and resolutely turned around, still planning to give up and leave the tomb . Neither she nor Arthur are meant to clear this tomb . It requires a person without sins, a person seeking to help others and wear the yellow robe, become a monk .

"See them, floundering in their sense of mine, like fish in the puddles of a dried-up stream — and, seeing this, live with no mine, not forming attachment for states of becoming . "

Despite the persistence of the voice, Lucy started going back to the entrance and very quickly returned to where Arthur was . Just as she was about to leave the place, a golden streak of light came flying from the end of the tomb and floated in front of Lucy . It circled around her then landed on her hand .

This object was a strange golden disc with nothing special about its appearance . The tomb returned to its usual silence once the disc was delivered . The disc wasn't something to entice her but a reward for managing to reach that far, a rather special reward .

At last, Lucy left the Heavenly Tomb and sat cross-legged, meditating and taking deep breaths as her Vitality stat quicked in and started healing her .

"Are you okay?"

Arthur sat next to her and checked her from head to toe before he handed her a Healing Potion . Lucy smiled softly and reassured him before taking out the golden disc she got from the Tomb

"We should let it go, it's not a place for us . "

Hearing this, Arthur glanced at the tomb for a split second before nodding his head in approval . He inspected the disc then used appraisal to see its function and properties

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*Buddha's Disc[Rank: Godly 2nd Grade] : Weakens a target by 5% and cast a pressure that slows down all nearby enemies by 15% .

The pressure damages 1% of the target's health every 30 seconds .

Cost : 200m Nether Energy/second

or 250 Mana/Second

or 1000 Mental Power/second*

With nothing to do here, the couple left the place and headed home, where they found Astrith, Taliya, Randuin, and Saly .

The girl was happy to see her dad so she immediately jumped in his arms and giggled as she recounted what happened in school .

As usual, they had dinner together but the atmosphere turned a bit tense when Arthur mentioned that he and Lucy must go on a trip and won't be home for a while .

Saly didn't want to separate from them and also that they won't go on a trip for a simple reason so she asked to join them but was flatly rejected by Arthur and especially Lucy .

"Saly, you must understand that this is a very dangerous trip and we won't be able to keep you out of danger if you come with us . "

The little girl furiously shook her head and retorted

"I have Astrith and Randuin by my side, no one is able to hurt me!"

When Arthur saw Saly's teary eyes and her red face, his expression softened and he couldn't say anything back, he just let out a helpless sigh . However, Lucy was very strict and even became angry when she saw Saly acting like this . In the end, the little girl darted out of the dining room with tear-soaked eyes .

Chapter 353

Later at night, when everyone either went to bed or to train . Arthur sat alone in his bedroom while checking all the new additions to his arsenal .

'Status Window . '

TITLE: MEAT GRINDER / SEEKER OF KNOWLEDGE / ONE WITH THE SWORD / ARK HOLDER / LIVE WITH HONOR, DIE WITH GLORY / BREAKER OF CHAINS / HOLDER OF THE DARK BLADE'S OATH / MAD DESTROYER/PSYCHOPATH/DAGON RIDER

Level: ??

Class: Dark ARK Parasite

Realm: 1st Grade God

-

Strength: 2 . 75B

Intelligence: 2 . 02B

Agility: 2 . 47B

Wisdom: 1 . 2B

Vitality: 2 . 89B

Dexterity: 2B

-

Health: 3 . 02B// Health Regen: 11m/s

Nether Energy: 1 . 6B // Nether Energy Regen: 845275/s

Mana: 2 . 0B // Mana Regen: 905784/s

Stamina: Infinite /Stamina Regen: ???

Creation: 584

Attack: 2 . 9B (+65% Damage)

Defense: 2 . 4B (+25% Damage Reduction)

Magic Defense: 1 . 5B

Soul Defense: 159,999

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

Mental Power: 11224

Elemental Resistances(+)

Fire: 100%

Darkness: 100%

Wind: 35%

Water: 75%

Earth: 75%

Light/holy: 30%

Shadow: 30(+20)%

Lightning: 100%

Ice: 30%

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

Possessions (472,012)

Races:

Humans (282,991)

Demons (84,997)

Beasts (+)(101,528)

Unique Beasts (2498)

Mythical beings (1)

Duo to creating those two boxes, Arthur lost a considerable amount of stats but the birth of the Tri-Spirit did raise the attack, defense, magic defense, and especially the Soul Defense, which was one of the hardest stat to increase .

He had two lifeless corpses of the Divine Beings that he didn't possess yet and there are also the two invaders who killed Claudia . IF he were to possess even one of the two Divine Beasts, his stats would sky-rocket but his copy has forbidden him from possessing anything until he reaches the Sovereign Realm .

His current power is equivalent to a Monarch God, meaning that any Sovereign can be defeated by him . Moreover, having the Tri-Spirit is like having a powerful and hidden card that could sneak-attack his foes .

"Your physical power alone can defeat a God Monarch, so to make things in equilibrium, you cultivation much catch up to your physique . Obviously, reaching the God Monarch Realm would take a lot of time, so just focus on breaking through the Sovereign Realm for now . "

Claud Venis, his copy, explained the advantages of becoming a Sovereign . Not only would he have a bigger pool of Mental Power, the cultivation-based techniques such as the [Heavenly Mountain Fist], which relies 20% on Strength and 80% on one's cultivation and mastery, would demonstrate much more power .

While it isn't absolutely necessary to cultivate, its advantages make anyone willing to sacrifice a bit of time to meditate and absorb the energy of Heaven and Earth to reach enlightenment .

"So, have you thought of your next step yet?"

The copy broke the silence by asking the busy Arthur . In response, Arthur glanced at dark blade then sighed while saying

"Fixing Makaze takes full priority and then we'll try to look into Lucy's family . "

The copy scoffed and said sarcastically

"You think you'll find the materials needed to fix it that easily?"

Arthur retorted on the spot:

"I'm positive I'll find them . "

The copy didn't continue mocking him and remained silent . Just after this short exchange, Lucy entered the room and joined Arthur in the bed . She was talking to Saly and explaining to her the dangerous world outside .

Fortunately, the little girl stopped pouting and throwing a tantrum as Lucy promised her they will not be absent for more than six months .

"When will we depart?"

As she hugged him and enjoyed his warmth, she leaned her head on his chest and treasured this moment . Although their life was a bit peaceful for the past few days, when they leave Earth and Astria, they are bound to meet new enemies and even fight on a daily basis .

The place was different than it used to be, the buildings were decorated with precious jade and the roads were busier than ever . People were excited about the grand banquet that's about after the wedding ceremony .

This day was planned thoroughly and many precautions were taken so that no issue arises . Moreover, many important guests were going to attend today's wedding such as the Demon Lord and his royal family, Elven chiefs and for the first time since the sect's creation, the two sect leaders are going to show up personally .

The news had already spread to all corners of Astria and many were either excited to attend or sad because they could not .

The bride and groom have yet to show themselves but the atmosphere had already reached its peak with loud cheering from the crowd .

Most of the people present belonged to the MoonStar sect, whether it is elders, disciples or even guards but there also some normal travelers that came coincidentally were here today so they joined the fray to enjoy this unforgettable day .

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Inside the High Tower, Arthur was eating some delicious fruits with Jakob, who was very nervous and even sweating a bit . He was actually wearing a black tuxedo which suited him more than Arthur had expected . The previously young Jakob grew taller and became more muscular thus giving him a mature look, contrary to when he first met Lucy and Arthur .

"Come on, no need to be nervous, it's your wedding day . "

Arthur patted the man's shoulders while chuckling as he saw Jakob's anxious expression . The man couldn't even eat as his mind was focused on something else .

"Y-you know . . . maybe it's a bit early for marriage . . . let's schedule it for another t-time . "

Second thoughts began haunting the poor man as he fidgeted in his own seat . As he heard those words, Arthur burst out in laughter . . .

"It was your decision to propose and as far as I know, she accepted immediately so stop chickening out and be a man . You love each other and it's only right you two get married . "

Although, in the past, he never expected Jakob and Anastassia to end up together, Arthur was still very happy for them and found that despite their totally different backgrounds, they kind of suit each other when you see how they're both dedicated to cultivating and to each other .

The vice-leader of the MoonStar sect may not show it but she indeed loves this foolish-looking man, who managed to win her hearts after pursuing her for a few years .

"Didn't you feel nervous when you proposed to Miss Lucy?"

Feeling curious, Jakob tried asking Arthur, who's supposed to have already experienced such a feeling as he's married . Unfortunately, the circumstances for Arthur's marriage were totally different and they didn't even celebrate like this .

"We are indeed married but we didn't have a formal wedding like today although I am planning to make one someday . "

"Is that so?"

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Jakob felt a bit disappointed and intrigued by the reason why Arthur wouldn't celebrate now instead of later . As if his thoughts were heard, Arthur said:

"Yes, our weddings will be one of a kind . One that every living soul in the multiverse will hear about, that, I can guarantee . "

"Hahaha then don't forget to invite me! And I want a front seat too!"

Arthur smiled and shook his head as he saw Jakob's shamelessness but he still promised him that a front seat shall be specifically assigned to him and Anastassia .

Just as the atmosphere lightened a bit, Saly came running through the front door . She had a wide smile on her face as she jumped in Arthur's arms . The little girl was wearing a breath-taking black dress that made her look stunning . She's still young but her young charm couldn't be denied .

"Daddy! Aunty Anastassia looks so beautiful! You have to come and see her!"

Saly urged him to come with her but he shook his head and said

"I will see her later . First, come eat since you skipped your breakfast . "

The wagging tail of the little girl suddenly halted as she heard his words . She was too excited and busy helping Lucy and the other women in preparing the bride so she lied to Lucy about eating her morning meals .

"I, I'm not hungry yet . . . I'll eat later . "

She tried to swiftly leave the room but a gentle touch grabbed her from the back of her neck and by the next second, she found herself sitting on Arthur's lap yet again .

.....

The main event was happening in a newly built square in front of the High Tower . It was beautifully decorated and even the ground was made from White and Golden-coloured stones that illuminated the place . The sun had already set and the lights illuminating the city and the streets paled in comparison to the bright platform which made everyone far away gape with awe at such a sight .

Despite the huge crowds around the square, everything was neat and there were no commotions . Very soon, the people sat and all noise seemed to have vanished as the two main characters of today had appeared .

One was wearing a gorgeous long dress and a transparent veil that covered her face, her figure was graceful and the light from the platform, which focused only on her, made the scene look even more dazzling .

A small distance away from her, the darkness was replaced by a golden light which focused on Jakob, who erased the nervous look from his face and resolutely advanced toward his pride with full confidence .

The two soon joined hands as Arthur, Lucy, Saly, Sonia, and Mary appeared behind the two main characters . The crowd began cheering for the two, who were full of smiles as they politely bowed Arthur and co before waving their hands to the guests in greeting .

The ceremony was short but that only declared the start of this amazing night . Rings were exchanged and the transparent veil was lifted as Jakob unhesitantly kissed Anastassia, who welcomed him with open arms

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After a long night of joy and celebration, everyone left the area and either went home to sleep or went to a bar to drink some more . Jakob and Anastassia had already gone to their room, so did Lucy, Arthur, and Saly .

The couple had infinite Stamina so they weren't tired but the little girl was fast asleep . Surprisingly, Lucy also fell asleep after snuggling next to Arthur for some time .

Contrary to them, Arthur didn't go to sleep but went to the rooftop of the High Tower only to find it a woman with a dark red-hair staring at the starry sky, which was slowly but surely vanishing and being replaced by a far off light that came from the rising sun .

"Congratulations on finally becoming a woman! Hahahaha"

Arthur's words startled Anastassia, who fiercely turned around only to find him slyly grinning at her . The woman snorted and turned her head away to hide her slightly red face .

"Shouldn't you be with your husband?" Arthur added .

Still staring at the night sky, she retorted

"Shouldn't you be with your wife instead of bothering me here?"

"I should but I need you to do me a favor first . "

Anastassia furrowed her brows and shifted her attention to Arthur, who appeared next to her . He sighed as he gazed at the far horizon with an absent look for quite some time .

After snapping out of his daze, he retrieved an object from his storage and showed it to her . The object was a special pendant, its chains were jet black and its bail was a big purple crystal .

"What do you need me to do?"

Arthur handed her the necklace and then retrieved a creepy looking cane with a skull on its top then said

"I need you to guard these two things and "

He thoroughly explained what to do step by step . He didn't need to repeat what needs to be done like with Gutcha because he knew Anastassia is someone who never disappoints him .

" . . . Alright, consider it done but why do you need such a large quantity?"

"One must be ten steps ahead of the enemy . "

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Arthur turned around and left, leaving Anastassia alone . After the long talk with her, he returned next to his wife and daughter and peacefully fell asleep only to wake up a few hours later .

Like always, they had breakfast with Sonia, Mary, Robin, and Rey, who was brought back to Astria . The sly boy had an explosive increase in power as Arthur granted him access to Dark Magic but the portion was less than Gutcha's since the kid was human thus having a more fragile body than a pigolo .

Rey was also given a staff that was accumulating dust inside Arthur's storage . He forgot from whom he got it but it boosted damage done through Blood Magic and had a decent Mana Regen effect . It was suitable for Rey, who became able to defeat Saly on his own .

Although it seemed unfair to Saly who trained and cultivated daily to be surpassed by Rey, who was granted power directly . Arthur still believed that his daughter's way of gaining power is way better . Furthermore, Dark Magic didn't suit her and it has a negative effect on one's behavior, especially on a kid .

Rey was an exception since he was willing from the very start and gaining power is only means to an end for him . The kid became too attached to Robin and only wanted to protect her .

"So I heard you're planning to open the Nemia Academy again?"

As they were eating breakfast, Arthur curiously asked Sonia, who was momentarily startled by his question before calmly answering .

"Yes, there is an abundance of disciples who are not proficient at harnessing Qi and are more suitable to be mages so it would be better to educate them properly as to maximize their potential and increase our military power . "

"Good good!"

Arthur nodded his head continuously in approval . Despite the unfortunate events that happened in the past Nemia Academy, it was still a useful experience and building it again in here would bring many benefits .

"Saly, how about it? Want to enroll?"

The little girl who was busy stuffing food in her mouth shook her head fiercely in denial, clearly not wanting to go to any school for a while . Neither Arthur nor Lucy tried to force her to go since they'll be gone and she'll be alone and the last thing they want is forcing her to do something she doesn't like when they are absent . It's better for her to whatever she likes until they come back .

Moreover, she's going to stay in Astria as it is safer and because Saly said she wants to go exploring this world . With the wolf and lizard on her side, there is a very low probability that she'll be in danger or she gets hurt .

Speaking of Arthur's servants, the red-haired youth, Swain, was still in recovery . Arthur couldn't even use the Book of the Damned or the Death Golem separately . The blow from the White Tiger was clearly too much and even a period of five years wasn't enough to completely heal Swain . Nonetheless, he's still alive so with enough time, he'll surely come back .

The fusion was never complete with only the book and the golem, it needs three entities which are Randuin, the book and the Death Golem and only then would the true potential of the book be revealed .

A week passed since the wedding and it's finally the day for the couple's departure . Everyone was present to bid them goodbye . The only missing person was Lissandra, who, apparently, left the sect a few days before the marriage occurred . Arthur didn't pay it too much thought since the woman got what she deserved and is now but a mortal . Whatever she decides to do is her own choice .

Currently, the little was trying not to cry as she tightly hugged her mother . After spending more than a minute embracing her mother, she jumped to her father and did the same .

"You promised to come back in less than six months . . . don't forget that!"

She reminded Arthur as he patted her fluffy ears and gave her a warm hug . The farewell was kept brief as it's not their last meeting . Very soon, Arthur opened a tunnel that led to the Green-Leaf world and with one last glance at his daughter and the others, he and his wife departed

Ten days after the couple left Astria . Gutcha, who was silently cultivating inside the secluded cave under the High Tower finally woke up from his long meditation . He stretched his body and looked at the two large boxes with amazement . He didn't know what materials they are made from but they were surely expensive and precious as they were smooth but very resistant to any kinds of energy .

With a helpless sigh, he bent and put the two boxes on his back resulting in a painful groan coming from his mouth . They were inexplicably heavy despite their size and with them on his back, he could barely walk .

Although it was a hard challenge, he gritted his teeth and left the cave in silence . Thirty minutes later, he stood at the rooftop of the High Tower and put down the two boxes to take a few breaths of fresh air . He recuperated for five minutes then put the two boxes on his back again and used the device given by Arthur to go to the Green Leaf world .

The trip was short and in merely a few minutes, Gutcha found himself standing in the middle of an empty and desolate desert .

It was night-time so the weather was chilly and with the addition of the two boxes on his back, it only made his condition worse .

The pigolo persevered and clutched the ropes that were binding the boxes to his back . With slow yet steady steps, he advanced forward until his figure vanished, leaving nothing but his footsteps which were soon covered by the ever-so moving sand . . .

Chapter 355

At last, Arthur and Lucy appeared in the Green-Leaf World via a spatial tunnel . The place they appeared at was none than the city ruled by the Kang Clan . It was still bustling with people and didn't seem to be affected too much by the catastrophe that occurred five years ago .

Arthur and Lucy didn't bother changing their appearances as it'll be futile against strong enemies, as for minor obstacles . . . they shall be eradicated immediately .

As it is their first day, the couple didn't do anything special and merely toured the city and waited for night to fall so they can visit Kang Amidel .

Their tour bore fruits as Arthur managed to hear some news by eavesdropping or paying a few spirit stones to some informative beggars .

The hottest news were obviously about the young talents of the Green-Leaf world . They were focused mainly on three people, Jian Si also knows as Cold Sword, the Flame Crown Prince, and Shu Ru from the Mirage Era Hall . Those three managed to ascend to Godhood with first being the prince and the second was Jian Si .

The problematic kid who became his student, although he didn't help her much, he still gave her important notes that would be beneficial to any sword cultivator . However, it would be best to avoid her since Lucy is with him lest a fight breaks down .

'Does he think he's being secretive?'

Lucy used telepathy to talk to Arthur, who merely smiled and remained silent . Both of them had Dexterity that surpassed one billion points so if someone is tailing them then they're bound to discover him unless he or she is an entity that attained perfection in sneaking .

Time slowly passed and when the sun started to set, Arthur and Lucy happened to be strolling in the main road of the city where there's an abundance of vendors and shops .

As he was checking the displayed materials checking if there's something that could be useful to Makaze, Arthur's body instinctively trembled as if it recognized something .

This shocked him as it's the first time this happened to him . He suddenly turned around and appraised everyone around him but found nothing strange . Time seemed to stop as his eye shifted from one person to another and at one point, it started pulsating with a blue light . No one escaped from [The All Seeing Eyes], no matter the disguise or the skill used, it shall be nullified by the power of his eye .

Finally, the source of distress was finally spotted . It was a tall woman with a bland face, the appraisal showed that she's at the Spirit Realm but his skill showed him otherwise .

The feeling he's getting from her is familiar, too familiar, in fact . His memories finally intersected with the presence of this woman and they showed him the first time and last time he met her .

It was in the Ma Clan, she appeared out of thin air and tried to kill him using some malicious and agonizing chains . If not for Zodiac's intervention, he would have been killed .

'Heh, it's indeed a small world . '

Arthur's gaze never left the woman, who seemed to disappear amidst the crowd but could still be seen through his eye . His body was replaced by an identical shadow clone which accompanied Lucy, who pretended that everything is okay as she knew he'll handle the situation, plus, her sense is locked into him and she's ready to join in if something goes wrong .

Using his high Mastery of Space Magic, Arthur followed the woman without being noticed . He kept a safe distance from her and followed her every move . She was a Fusion Sovereign and wasn't actually human but something totally different . Unknown energy was being released from her body but it was such a minimal quantity that it was barely noticeable . It had a pink color and was intoxicating, like perfume .

Minute after minute passed yet all the woman did was zigzag around the alleys without interacting with any person . Arthur even thought he was discovered but gave up on that idea soon after as the woman finally entered a famous inn .

She swiftly entered her room and sat cross-legged, clearly starting to meditate . Arthur, who actually was in the same as her right now, silently stared at her without taking any action .

Although it's better to just watch her actions and see what her purpose is, he is not someone to let his enemies live a second longer . Last time, she came to Astria and almost killed him so he concluded that leaving her act freely is dangerous .

She's an enemy that could be handled but that shouldn't mean she should be temporarily spared . As the saying goes 'a cornered rat will bite the cat' .

Arthur's eyes flashed with a cold light as he suddenly raised his hand, which was the moment the woman's fate was doomed . Just like what she did to him, countless chains suddenly sprang from the ground and wrapped around her body before she could even open her eyes or react .

In a split second, she found herself wrapped by jet black chains with only her head still intact . Through his eyes, Arthur could see that the pink energy released from her body became denser but it couldn't destroy the resistant chains as they were something the Tri-Spirit made .

Basically, he controlled the chains which the Tri-Spirit made . Vice-versa, the spirit can control things that he creates but on the condition that they are either Earth, Dark, or death-related .

The woman, who was shocked and dumbstruck by the sudden turn of events, looked around the room but saw nothing but empty air . She was still confused by what just happened . She initially thought she had been discovered by Kang Amidel but that was rather unlikely .

Even if she discovered, the city governor wouldn't resort to chaining her like this as he knew her origins and he knew how to act .

Arthur decided not to show himself, he waved his hand, teleporting himself and the woman out of the city .

.....

In a long and secluded alley, Lucy stood at its center while maintaining a long silence before coldly saying

"I really hate being tailed, you either show yourself or I'll personally come to you . "

Her tone was indifferent like always but it contained a hint of anger . She was met with no answer even after warning him so when she finally was about to act, a gentle and soothing voice resonated across the alley .

"No need to be so aggressive, Miss Lucy . You and Sir Arthur are my treasured guests . "

In response to his words, Lucy scoffed and retorted

"So you usually tail your 'treasured guests'?"

Chapter 356

As he felt only hostility emitting from her eyes, Amidel sighed and showed himself at last . He looked no different than last time, with a refined and kind looking expression, scholarly clothes and a small beard . He politely bowed to Lucy while smiling, he didn't feel like a Sovereign but like a mortal .

Even Lucy wasn't able to sense his Realm despite her superior stats, this only confirmed what Arthur told her . The person standing before her is not real and is merely part of the whole city, which is basically a complex and high-leveled formation . Of course, there exists a person named Kang Amidel, it's just that his real body is hidden in a secretive place .

"Would you join me in a tea session until your husband gets rid of the snake?"

His tone was devoid of any anger despite her unpolite attitude toward him . He had long since investigated the couple and knew more than most about Astria, however, he didn't dare go there personally for many reasons, mainly the retaliation of Arthur and Lucy if they discovered him .

Through their actions, Amidel clearly knew that they didn't wish for visitors to come to Astria, especially those kinds of visitors who create unnecessary trouble .

.....

A few kilometers away from Amidel's city, Arthur landed on a mountain top along with the captured woman . As he had another look at her, he noticed that her appearance changed into a bewitching young woman . She grew taller and had purple scales on the back of her neck, she even grew a long tail .

Even transforming into her real form wasn't sufficient to get rid of those black chains binding her body . They were crazily resistant and tough to break, in fact, she could barely breathe as they were tightening around her slim neck .

Ranka Hnach (Race: Heavenly Snake): Realm: Fusion Sovereign

Age : 79

Info : Daughter of the Grand Elder of the Heavenly Snake Clan . She is considered one of the three rising talents of the clan and is usually away from her home, following the orders of ***** .

'Heavenly Snake Clan?'

Arthur remembered Zodiak mentioning this particular clan in one of his notes . The old man wasn't particularly fond of this clan, he even had a small feud with them which was resolved when he was powerful enough to face them .

Apparently, the Heavenly Snake Clan is situated in ILH MEG, a planet ruled by the fairies . Furthermore, this planet is considered a High-Realm and is one of the strongest, excluding the Divine Planet .

After going through his memories to check all the information he had on the Heavenly Snake Clan . Arthur focused his attention back to Ranka, the snake woman, and coldly said

"So, why would someone of your status bother to come all the way just to kill me? I'm really confused, why don't you enlighten me!"

As he said that, he weakened the grip of the chains thus letting her compose her breathing and speak out a few words .

However, the woman didn't recognize him as she glared at him hatefully while not understanding the meaning of his words .

"What? Did you forget about me already? How disappointing . "

Arthur shook his head in disappointment then squatted down in front of her and stretched his hand, which vanished and was replaced by jet black darkness which frightened the woman .

He was covered wholly by malevolent black flames which made the woman finally guess his identity . As Arthur was ready to use [Dark Extraction] and forcefully read some of her memories, the snake woman finally gave up her pointless struggled and said

"W-wait wait! Please let me explain myself!"

At the last second, just when his hand was but an inch away from her head, it halted and was withdrawn . Seeing this, she breathed a sigh of relief as she managed to avoid turning into a vegetable . From the way he easily subdued her, she knew he was way stronger than her . Moreover, he was overly cautious so using a dimensional stone to escape isn't doable . She could only stall for time and try to make him spare her .

Arthur's sole eye started shining with blue light but this wasn't the end, he used [Griffin's Bloody Switch] to sacrifice a bit of Wisdom and add it into dexterity . His extraordinary hearing was magnified by another fold and that is while excluding the numerous hearing-related skills that were activated .

His ears were focused on her constantly beating heart while his eyes followed the flow of her internal and external energy . Any sudden fluctuation of either of them will prove that she's either lying or hiding something .

"I hate useless talks, tell me why did you try to kill me . "

The first thing that he noticed was her accelerating heart rate but her flow of energy remained stable . She didn't take too much time to reply

"You had something I needed . "

The last word she said caused a slight disruption in her flow of energy . Although her heart was accelerating due to fear or just to trick him, she couldn't trick his eyes .

Unhesitantly, Arthur manipulated the black chains which ruthlessly wrapped around her arm and tore it off causing huge amounts of blood to gush out . The woman groaned painfully but didn't scream from the unimaginable agony . She indeed has a strong will but it's not like Arthur cared .

"That will be the last time . One more lie and I shall steal your memories . "

[Dark Extraction] is really useful in this situation but the cost was too much . Not only would it make him dizzy for a while, but it also consumes Mental Power and weakens him for a considerable amount of time which is not worth it .

Before she spoke again, she coughed a bit of blood then resumed talking

"My master is searching for a specific cane which is in your possession . "

Arthur was momentarily confused before he thought of Sol'khin's cane, which he was never able to appraise or use ever since he got it .

"Why does he need it?"

"I don't know . "

This time, she truly wasn't lying so Arthur didn't do anything but he was still curious about the identity of her master .

"Who is your master?"

The snake woman shut her mouth tight and refused to reply to this question . Seeing this, Arthur didn't bother asking again and grabbed her head and initiated [Dark Extraction] . He just couldn't let this matter slide and facing an enemy he doesn't know about is extremely disadvantageous and dangerous .

Just as the skill was about to take effect, a blinding white light suddenly emitted from the woman's forehead, forcing the darkness around his hand to vanish and even going after Arthur .

Fortunately, another power, which resided in his consciousness, showed up and faced this strange white light . It was none other than a miniature Curtis, who grabbed the white light and simply flung it the way it came from . Once this matter was dealt with, he swiftly went back to Arthur's consciousness .

The momentary white light which came out of the woman's forehead was able to not only negate [Dark Extraction], it even destroyed the black chains around the woman .

This gave her enough time to retrieve her precious dimensional stone and crush it . As she did that, an irresistible spatial suction started enveloping her, however, at the same time, a horrifying aura shrouded the area and made her fragile body tremble uncontrollably .

The last thing she saw before she teleported was a broken jet black blade which was slashed at her . Luckily, she escaped before it hit her but she soon discovered that fleeing from Arthur wasn't that easy, even with dimensional stone .

A burning black mark appeared on her right hand and an illusory black slash mark was engraved on her chest . It did no physical damage but it seriously damaged her soul and weakened her by more than 40% .

The dimensional stone would teleport someone to a random place, it could even take the user to another universe . As she looked around her, the woman sighed as she sensed no danger .

The urgency of going back to her master and reporting to her master was bugging her, however, she was barely able to walk properly due to the damage done by the chains and Makaze .

Chapter 357

After dealing with the snake woman, Arthur traced back Lucy and teleported next to her . She wasn't where he left her but inside Amidel's castle . More precisely, she was sitting on the same table he sat at five years ago when he threatened the city lord .

Surprisingly, the atmosphere wasn't awkward or silent as Emily and Kithel were also present . The little girl grew to become a pretty young lady and the big brother looked more composed and mature than before .

The Kang family rarely had visitors so with the arrival of Lucy, Emily became super excited and tried multiple times to inquire about the visitor's origins and adventures outside

Unfortunately, she was facing a tight-lipped Lucy who silently drank her tea and waited for Arthur to come . As for Kithel, he was interested in Lucy but not in a romantic way . He couldn't sense the depth of her power and so the young man became eager for a little spar .

Amidel tried several times to signal his son to remain silent and not say anything unnecessary, alas, the fighting spirit of acted on its own and forced him to say these words

"Miss Lucy, I heard about your achievements and I would like to exchange some pointers with you . "

Sadly for him, Lucy completely ignored what he said and stared at her cup of tea with an absent-minded expression . This caused the lively Kithel to feel awkward and a bit dejected to be treated like air . He wasn't stupid and he knew that she's stronger than him, nonetheless, he was a person who gets through real-life experiences and sparring with her is bound to help him break through to the next grade .

Seeing her uninterested look, Amidel found her more difficult to handle than Arthur . He displayed a friendly smile and said

"I have always been fascinated and intrigued by Astria, your homeworld . "

As she heard his words, Lucy scornfully retorted

"Fascinated, you say?"

"Yes, especially when the catastrophe befell on us . "

He paused for a second before resuming

"I wonder who is the one who summoned the Celestial Tribulation?"

His smile grew wider as he intensely gazed at her, trying to read her face but to avail . Her indifference and expressionless face allowed him to see nothing and only try to make guesses .

"When Arthur comes, ask him whatever you like . "

Lucy finally decided to stop bothering with Amidel . Although Arthur didn't specifically warn her from this city lord, he still told her to remain cautious as his identity remains unknown and he's not just a simple city lord .

No sane Sovereign would intentionally live in this wasteland where the density of Nether Energy is thin . It literally is the worst place for Sovereigns to be as they need huge and pure quantities of Nether Energy, something this desolate wasteland cannot provide .

..

Fortunately, Arthur arrived a few minutes later . He appeared right next to Lucy and comfortably sat on the chair after exchanging simple greetings with the three others in the form of a simple nod .

"I presume 'that matter has been taken care of?"

Amidel shifted his attention to Arthur and said those words while still showing a rather friendly yet annoying smile .

"Though she escaped, she will die soon . "

"Hmm, I'm rather curious about your relationship with one of the Heavenly Snake Clan . "

Kang Amidel read no change in Arthur's expression which showed that the latter already know about the woman's origin .

"For you to force 'her' to talk, your methods must be quite painful . "

Arthur shrugged and replied

"I don't need to force her . . . just like I can't force you but do know, Kang Amidel, I only have friend or enemies, nothing in between . "

The Sovereign heartily laughed while adding:

"Then I suppose I'm your friend since I'm still alive?"

"For now . But if I find anyone out of place in Astria then know that I'll be coming for you . "

"Hahahaha that won't happen . "

Very soon, the food was served and the delicacies were eaten by both parties . In the midst of their meal-time, Emily who fears Arthur due to an unknown reason, mustered her courage and asked him:

"Sir Arthur, where is Swain?"

"He's recuperating back on Astria . "

When she heard that, the usually lively Emily became a bit sad since Swain was her only real friend and she expected to see him when she saw Arthur and Lucy .

After a few minutes of absolute silence, Arthur asked the only thing he wanted to know from Amidel

"I heard your fight against the Divine Beasts went smoothly, how are the spoils?"

Amidel was confused on why would Arthur ask such a random thing but he still answered honestly

"According to the rules set before the fight . I would keep the leader's body and the three others would be split between the factions that contributed . "

"They allowed you to keep a whole body?"

These factions would be too greedy to let Amidel keep the leader of the four Divine Beasts .

'It's confusing, why would they back down and let a mere city lord from the wasteland to get the biggest prize . . . '

His suspicions about Amidel grew and intensified but he still kept them to himself and asked again

"Which of the factions helped?"

"Two Elders from the Mirage Era Hall, one Elder from the Five Phoenix Kingdom and three Teachers from the Holy Academy . "

"And which one of the four was the leader?"

As Amidel noticed the overly interested Arthur, he thought of slipping lies but quickly decided against as mayhap he was being tested, though such probability was extremely low .

"The Vermillion Bird . "

When he heard that, Arthur smiled and tapped the table with his finger as he pondered for more than a minute before saying

"Are you willing to sell me the corpse? You can take the important materials I just need an intact body . Furthermore, I'll pay handsomely, whether in Spirit Stones or other treasures . "

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The city lord and even his two children were startled by Arthur's sudden request . Even though it's just a copy of the real thing, the corpse of the Vermillion Bird is priceless . Moreover, it's actually the leader of the ones who attacked the Green-Leaf world, which made the request even more absurd .

At first, Amidel thought it was merely a test or a joke but upon seeing Arthur's totally serious expression, he erased the smile from his face .

"Sir Arthur, I don't know what you can offer but I don't think it'll help me more than the Vermillion Bird . "

Amidel had big plans for the lifeless body of the bird and selling it will cause many future troubles for his family .

. .

Claud, who was watching this from within the ARK, snapped at Arthur

"Are you dumb? I repeatedly warned you to forget any thoughts of possessing anyone or anything yet you're trying to buy a dead Vermillion Bird? You have no use for such thing and no one would be willing to sell such a Divine treasure . Just its feathers are worth countless Spirit Stones, that's if you don't count the claws, beak, firetail, etc . . . "

Arthur ignored his copy and focused his attention on Amidel while adding

"Are you sure? I'm sure I can offer you something that might interest you . "

With that, Lucy and Arthur got up and left the remaining just after the latter said those last words:

"I'll be leaving in two days, think carefully about your decision . "

The married couple disappeared from the castle, leaving two surprised youngsters and a confused father . Even if he insisted, Arthur was sure that Amidel would be hellbent on refusing but if he gave him some time, he may think of an absurd request in exchange for the bird .

The corpse was absolutely necessary and giving up on it this early isn't even a choice for Arthur . He had thorough plans for the bird and white tiger in his storage and as for the Azure Dragon, it isn't strong enough so that's what he'll use as a bargaining chip with Amidel .

Small reminder .

Powers in the Green-Leaf World (Middle Realm) .

Mountain Ba Sword Sect : Jian Si is the top disciple there . Jian Si= Cold Sword, the girl who became Arthur's student .

Holy Academy .

Five Phoenix Kingdom : Elo Huo (The guy who entered the tomb and had his arm torn off by Arthur[Who possessed the girl who always clinged to the kid]) / Elo Huo is the cousin of the Flame Crown Prince (One of the top talents of the green leaf world) .

Mirage Era Hall : Shu Ru (One of the top talents of the green leaf world)

Water Cloud Sect : Kai Min (the guy who was killed by Swain a while after he entered the tomb . His body is in Arthur's possession .)

Chapter 358

Two days quietly passed, Arthur and Lucy did nothing special and merely enjoyed their time in a famous inn . They would visit artifact shops mayhap they find something that could be useful in restoring Makaze to its original form .

The evening of the second day, Arthur and Lucy were sitting next to each other while inspecting a large chest that laid before them .

When he stumbled upon Zodiac's tomb, he found three peculiar chests next to the coffin . Two of them had these gold coins with various colors but they had one thing in common and it's the dragon symbol carved on them .

The third chest was full of colorful crystals that emitted soothing energy but even after appraising them, Arthur couldn't determine their purpose .

"Why was he particularly interested in these?"

Arthur took a handful of these coins and looked at them closely but he wasn't able to see how they would benefit someone like the Joker . With no real and knowledgeable person to ask, Arthur turned to Claud, the copy which resembled him in appearance .

Surprisingly, Claud actually answered this time .

"Honestly, I don't know what they are but I'm sure they have something to do with the Void Era . In any way, it has nothing to do with you so don't dig in too deep . Somethings are better left hidden from the world . "

As he used the ARK to speak, Lucy was able to hear him and probably for the first time since their last meeting, she asked Claud a question

"Then what can you tell us about the Joker? Why was he not aggressive as you had previously proclaimed?"

Claud remained silent for a minute or so before replying

"He is . . . a very strange entity, neither human nor devil . I don't know how but he killed countless of the God Race in the past thus he was named the Godslayer . He has many titles such as the Playful Magician, The Evil Trickster, however, what people do not know is that he is the one and only survivor of the 4th Universe, known as the Omega Universe . "

"Fourth Universe?!"

This sudden reveal shocked the couple . They have limited knowledge about the specifics of the outside world but almost everyone, who's not a mortal, knows that there are only three universes since the beginning of time .

"Why yes, a fourth one did exist a long time ago . Possibly hundreds of millions ago . "

"What happened to it?"

Intrigued, Arthur asked his copy only to receive an immediate answer

"Destroyed, turned into nothingness while all its inhabitants died with its fall . I don't know how all the records about it were erased but whoever did that, they sure don't want such a tragedy to be exposed .
"

"How was it destroyed?"

"Most people say it's due to the supernova of the biggest star in the Omega Universe . There are theories about the appearance of a black hole but I say these are all lies . No black hole nor supernova could cause a Universe to be destroyed, after all, the natural laws of a universe cannot easily be broken .
"

"Alright, tell us more about the Joker, all you've been talking about is his origin . "

Arthur changed the topic since it seemed Claud wasn't so informed about the Omega Universe' destruction .

"All I know about him is either, seen, heard, or read from old journals . But what surprised me is that knew you so either he met you in the future or the past which means there's a big chance you'll time travel . . . tsk tsk!"

Claud started clicking his tongue annoyance

"It's getting very complicated . I cannot see a reason for you to time travel but then again, if he time-traveled then time wraiths would be chasing after, however, he didn't seem too anxious so it's not him who traveled through time . "

Arthur remained silent and didn't too much about the whole matter . If he resorted to time travel then it must have been a serious matter . For him to risk imminent death then it's either something is going to his family which would force him to go back to the past to fix things .

'I must take more precautions! No mistakes can be made!'

Arthur was fully aware that everything is going to crumble once 'it' starts . Very soon, the Holy Dominion will locate him, 'X' would get out of seclusion once the Nameless Knight disappears again . There's also the matter with Lucy's family and Makaze . Everything will pile up together and crash into him like a wave which is why he should prepare for everything and be ten steps ahead of everyone .

Think of a plan for everything that's going to happen, figure out the best solution and the correct path to tread .

Two women sat facing each other, one had with a sky-blue hair and noble aura while the other had an expressionless face and eyes that resembled a bottomless abyss .

"Conflict, there's also conflict of interests . Right and wrong are not what separate us and our enemies . It's our different standpoints, our perspectives that separate us . Both sides blame one another . There's no good or bad side . Just two sides holding different views . If so, then why would people resort to killing and fighting? Because they need more power than they already have, more money, more fame, more glory . . . there is no end and there never will be . "

The Water Empress quietly listened to the Region Ruler . She didn't know what the Death Lord was talking about but she still kept her silence and carefully listened .

"Many thought with the creation of the eighteen regions and the High Rules, there will not be any infighting amongst what remained but they were merely idiotic and hopeless fools . The Hour of Creation was never the end but the beginning of a new era, a prosperous era . You came knocking on my door to know about the past but first, do you know why the Great War occurred? Why did everyone unite to destroy the evildoer? Who won and who lost?"

The Empress took sometime before answering

"It is said that, before the eighteen regions were created, the world used to be much bigger . An evil lord appeared and slaughtered countless people thus everyone united and fought him until they prevailed . "

"Then, if they won, why were the eighteen regions created and where's the old world?"

"The records talked about how the world was beyond repair after the disastrous fight so they used their last bit of power to create the eighteen regions then died after leaving a few legacies . "

Hearing this, the dark-haired woman scoffed and said:

"That's nonsense . There indeed was a Great War but it was not between those parties . It was an almost ever-lasting fight that spread to all corners of the world, massacring everyone . If only you knew the number of souls I harvested back then a terrible tragedy it was, a sad story it was "

Chapter 359

When the two-days limit was about to end, Amidel finally invited Arthur to his residence yet again . The man seemed more relaxed than last time but his face was paler than usual .

As the two parties sat facing each other, this time with the absence of the two children, Kang Amidel poured some tea for the couple before he initiated the conversation .

"Unfortunately, the higher-ups were strongly against the idea of selling the Vermillion Bird's corpse . . . however, I'm still hesitant and would like to hear your offer before giving you my final answer . "

'Higher-ups?'

Arthur just confirmed his suspicions upon hearing that word . He had long since doubted Amidel's origin to the nature of the city and the grand formation under it . The Kang family is sure tied to one of the strong clans in the Higher-Realms . At first, Arthur tried searching for a Kang clan in the higher-realms but there were no good informants so he scheduled it for later .

Arthur nodded his head to Amidel then signaled for the latter to follow him as he teleported to a wide open area behind the castle . Intrigued but what's the price Arthur is willing to pay, he focused his attention on the grey-haired man and waited .

With a wave of hand, Arthur retrieved the Azure Dragon's lifeless body, which was healed completely since last time . When he killed it, it turned into minced meat but after great effort, he, more or less, remodeled to its original form .

As he witnessed the large body of the blue dragon laying before him, Amidel's pupils constricted as he stood there, startled . In just a few seconds, he regained his calm, after all, it made sense for Arthur to have a corpse of the Divine Beasts .

The city lord was already aware that the Divine Beasts' attack on Astria was unsuccessful and that Arthur was the one who prevailed . Then again, if he defeated them all then he should have all four bodies, why would he need the Vermillion Bird's corpse .

'Is it because it's the leader? Then the Vermillion Bird who attacked Astria surely isn't the leader amongst them, it must be one of the other three . '

"I presume it's not the leader? It's still not worth it . "

Arthur laughed and retorted

"Of course it's not, which is why I'll add something else . I can one ten million Red Spirit Stones or one million Green Spirit Stones, or I can craft a treasure for you . "

Although Arthur was willing to give Amidel a large amount of Spirit Stones, the city lord wasn't interested in such things as he wasn't lacking but the third option was strange, to say the least .

Amongst all the information he had gotten on Arthur, not one of them mentioned he was good at crafting treasures . Such a job is very rare and sought by many factions .

Heavenly Blacksmiths or Artifact crafters, also known as, Astrals, are very sparse and they're usually in seclusion, spending their time trying to forge or craft a treasure that would bring down a celestial tribulation .

"What makes you think you can craft something that would interest me?"

Arthur shrugged at this question and glanced at Lucy, who took out the silver revolver .

"This is one of my finest creations, why don't you test its might?"

Amidel curiously stared at the gun, which is an unfamiliar weapon in the Cloud Sea Universe .

Kang signaled he's ready and waited for Lucy to attack using Silent Moon . To not cause too much destruction, Lucy put a 1st-grade bullet . It was a green bullet with a small circle around its tip, this indicated it was a bullet which has the Wind Attribute . It's basically one of the weakest bullets Lucy currently has but since using a stronger version would be an overkill, she just went with this one .

Pure Mana went circulated in Lucy's body then swiftly went through her hand and entered the grey revolver, causing it to shine brightly and just a split second before the trigger was pulled, a small green circle appeared in front of the tip of the gun .

Like the sound the thunderclap, the bullet appeared before Amidel in a split second as if it teleported . The man was calm and prepared, he raised his hand and a transparent barrier was raised around him, blocking the bullet from entering .

Unfortunately, the bullet wasn't so easy to block despite being 1st grade, after all, it is strengthened by Lucy's stats and the gun which made it very deadly .

A massive tornado rotated with the bullet as its center . The height of this tornado surpassed one hundred meters as it crashed into Amidel's barrier, cracking it and shattering it with a few seconds . Wind is known as the fastest one the Attributes and the deadliest as it can't be seen . The tornado was nothing compared to the invisible and sharp wind blades that descended on Amidel, sending him flying to the end of the square and literally turning him into a bloody mess .

He was only a Sovereign and Lucy could even defeat a God Monarch, the difference is just too big . Amidel turned into a bloody mess and seemed to have died as his body was cut into many pieces, however, when things finally calmed down, his corpse vanished and he appeared again, unscathed .

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A wide smirk was displayed on the city lord's face, he appeared to be very satisfied .

"Alright, if you can create a treasure that is equal to that one, I'll gladly accept your offer . "

Personally, he didn't need a strong artifact but his daughter, Emily, was in need of one . Whether it's to protect herself or to defeat enemies which are above her in grades .

If Arthur could craft a weapon suitable for his daughter, he wouldn't mind losing the Vermillion Bird's corpse as he would get the Azure Dragon .

"Good, what do you want me to craft?"

Amidel waved his hand and said

"You can consult Emily for that . I'll excuse myself, for now, I have a matter to attend to . Oh, and the body will be delivered to you tomorrow . "

With that, Kang Amidel vanished from the couple's sight .

.....

Later that night, in a well-furnished room under the castle, Amidel was sitting in his office underground, deeply lost in thought . After an unknown amount of time passed, he snapped out of his daze and pulled out his long sleeve which covered his right hand and stared at the very small, almost unnoticeable scars which covered both of his hands .

"Whatever she shot at me, it was made out of pure Wind Energy . . . and the scars . . . I can sense pure Mana too *sigh*, it'll take days to remove it from my body . "

.....

Very soon after the short exchange between Lucy and Amidel . Arthur located Emily and, along with his wife, went to meet her . The young girl was quietly meditating in a silent courtyard which had a dense amount of Nether Energy .

Emily noticed the presence of the two strangers almost immediately . Upon seeing her intruding, she frowned and said

"What are you doing here?"

"Your father sent us . We've made a deal and I promised him I'll craft a weapon or artifact for you . "

The girl remained silent for a few seconds before retorting

"I don't need any treasure, go away . "

Whenever he's around, she'll always feel uncomfortable . Moreover, it's not like she's in an urgent need of a weapon .

"Not possible, you have to tell me what you want or I'll just create something randomly . It's your choice . "

Emily chose to ignore him as closed her eyes and resumed her meditation . Arthur wasn't pushy either, he activated [The All Seeing Eyes] and appraisal and in just a few seconds, he learned more than enough about her to be able to craft a suitable weapon that would fit her perfectly .

Chapter 360

As the two women sat facing each other, the Death Region ruler stared at the Water Empress and added:

"Keep what you know to yourself . The Great War is something even I am forbidden to talk about . "

The dark-haired woman got out as if she was done talking but when she was about to leave, the Empress nervously shouted

"I need to know what happened! I need to!"

The region ruler turned her head to glance at the tall blue-haired woman and retorted

"For what reason? Satisfaction or to quench curiosity? It's pointless to know and it's all for the better that everyone knows nothing about the past . . . it isn't something worth knowing or experiencing . "

The woman ignored the distressed look of the Empress and quietly left the room, leaving the Water Empress alone .

The lonesome Empress clenched her fists and left the palace with the guidance of the woman who received her at the entrance a while ago .

....

Inside the palace, in a shabby looking bedroom that had nothing special about it, there sat the dark-haired woman, who's also the death region ruler . She stared at the wall with an absent-minded look for a very long time until her subordinate entered the room and said

"Mistress, another guest has arrived . "

This snapped the ruler out of her daze, she looked at her somewhat uncomfortable subordinate in confusion and said:

"A guest? How did he find this place? Jack only guides one person per century . "

With a flustered expression and fidgeting body, the young-looking woman replied

"W-well . . . it's actually the k-knight . "

The Death Empress didn't seem too surprised when she heard that . She nodded her head and got up, following her subordinate to meet this unexpected guest .

Very soon, they found themselves in the same room the conversation with the Water Empress had taken place . However, this time, in the seat where the previous Empress was seating, there rested a dark figure .

From head to toe, he wore a dark armor which had a few white marks on it, probably due to the countless battles he fought . He had a young-looking face and a very pale skin, almost as if he's a corpse . Two jet-black pupils and long hair that was as black as ink . The man's movements were relaxed and flexible despite the full-armor set he was hearing . The only thing missing was the helmet, which was put on the table .

The most-eye catching this was his two-meter long dark sword which seemed ordinary if you exclude its unusual size . The sword neither emitted Sword Essence nor any kind of energy as if it was crafted by a normal blacksmith .

As the two pair of eyes met each other, the two parties merely gazed into each other's eyes . There was nothing but silence until the woman sat facing the woman and sipped some of the tea prepared by the unexpected guest .

Only when she fully savored the heavenly flavor of the tea did she finally talk

"I guess I should welcome you but I'm curious about one thing . . . from when are you?"

The man hadn't any change in expression . It only took a few seconds for him to reply with a bone-chilling voice

"Just a bit before the dead rises . "

The woman was momentarily startled before asking again

"And why would the Nameless Knight himself go to the trouble of traveling to the future to visit me?"

"I will bring you to the past with me . Your help is much needed . "

A frown appeared on her face as she retorted

"You of all people should know that playing with time is something even Death doesn't dare to do yet you come seeking me when you already know what my answer will be . "

The man didn't seem bothered by her aggressive tone as he calmly replied

"Time is a construct, it matters not if it's the past, the present, or the future, everything is linked . Now, you are Death, which means that you already traveled with me to the past . "

The woman glared at him angrily but couldn't retort . She maintained her silence for a long time before speaking again

"Unlike you, I cannot escape from the wraiths unharmed . "

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"Pay such things no heed, they are merely abominations which linger until the non-existing end of time . "

The region ruler sighed helplessly and raised her one finger while voicing her thoughts

"I will come on one condition . Tell me why I need to travel to the past . "

Hearing this, the Nameless Knight got up from his seat after emptying his cup and responded:

"The rising Dead will alarm Death . . . the previous Death and you shall be the one to stop 'him' . "

"What!?"

The woman's expression became twisted as she snapped at him

"You're asking me to face my master?"

"You've faced him in the past and you will do it again in the near future . Let us go . "

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The man put the helmet on his head and readied himself before signaling the region ruler that it's time to go leave this place . He heard the sound of her gritting teeth as a malicious aura revolved around her but by the next second, he was holding her by the back of her neck while she is unconscious .

At the corner of the room, the usually calm subordinate stared at what's happening with a shaking body . She tried to force herself and stop him from taking her Mistress but her body didn't obey her .

Before leaving, the knight turned to look at the subordinate while assuring her :

"Don't worry, she'll come back sooner than you think . "

A week after Arthur completed his deal with Amidel, the couple left the city and headed toward the Wall of fire, which separated the wasteland from the rest of the Green-Leaf World . For the time being, their destination still remains unknown but that won't be for long .

Arthur was planning to meet some old 'acquaintances' and see what they're doing . There is also the matter with the Human Emperor's children, who disappeared and are still missing . There is a strong chance they were abducted and so he'll try to locate them . He already ordered Jian Si to look for them, if they are in the Green-Leaf World then she must have found them .

Thanks to their extremely high Agility stat, crossing the distance between the wall of fire and Amidel's city didn't take long, merely two days .

They could have used a Spirit Boat but gave up on that as it'll merely them down by a great amount . When the two of them came face to face with this 'wall', the couple stared at this thing which pierced the skies with its dizzying height . It was literally a thick wall made from orange-looking flames that emitted a dangerous heat .

Even Arthur could feel the heat despite having a 100% Resistance to the fire attribute . The reason was quickly explained by Claud

"Your immunity only included normal fire and the flames of Hell . This fire, however, is called Yang Fire and it can burn you or even kill you if you're unprepared . Though a simple Dark Barrier is more than enough to let you pass . I think even your defense stat would allow you to pass smoothly but you'll lose some Health . "

The two didn't linger there for too long, a spheric Dark Barrier enveloped them as they broke through the wall and surfaced from the other side after approximatively three hours .