

Once Human 361

Chapter 361

The Green-Leaf World is the biggest and strongest Middle-Realm in the Cloud Sea Universe, apart from the wasteland on its East, the rest of the world is considered relatively safe . There are some danger zones but as long as one doesn't carelessly, they won't be assaulted all of a sudden .

There many strong factions in this world but the biggest one and the ruler of this world is, without a doubt, the imperial family . It is kind of strange since they're mortals but they have very strong protectors which force everyone else to obey them . They aren't domineering or that arrogant, in fact, the family is rarely seen in public . However, there is an exception, a person with the name of Isadore Marfront . The Crown Prince whose name is renown even in the Divine Planet . He's an undefeated tactician and a formidable war general . Despite his weak personal strength, his merits made everyone respect him . He is also considered one of the rising talents of the Green-Leaf World alongside Cold Sword, Shu Ru, the Flame Crown Prince, and the Sacred Priest .

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When the couple broke through the wall of Yang Fire, they retrieved a Spirit Boat and started traveling comfortably instead of hurrying . The environment was much more peaceful than the wasteland and the density of Nether Energy was much higher .

After traveling for a few days, they encountered their first town . It wasn't that big but it had an inn for passing cultivators and some shops that sold artifacts and weapons .

Arthur's goal was only to seek information about any special event that's happening in the near future . Big events are usually the gathering of young talents of the world and his intention was to meet Jian Si and ask her about the missing prince and princess . As for finding the material needed to fix Makaze, he didn't think it'll be in the Green-Leaf World as it's extremely rare and hard to come by .

He needs to retrieve it personally as no one would be willing to let go of such priceless materials . To fix the dark blade, Arthur was in need of two things which are; a place, and a material . The material is called Dark Yin Steel or another alternative is Star Iron but the latter is pretty much non-existent .

The Dark Yin Steel is found in places devoid of light and have a thick amount of Yin Energy . As for the place required for the healing of Makaze, it has to be an exceptional place where there's a suffocating amount of Darkness Energy . There is the alternative of finding a place filled with Dark Energy but such a place do not exist since Dark Magic was something created by Zodiac and not born from natural laws .

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As Arthur tossed two red Spirit Stones to a porcine-looking man who was greedily sizing him up, the ugly looking man happily smiled as he rubbed the stones while speaking:

"Way North, there's a dangerous zone called the Wicked Forest, apparently, it's haunted by ghosts and specters . Many who ventured inside never came back but there's a few who were lucky to find Star Iron! Argh! Lucky bastards!"

Arthur almost couldn't believe what he heard, he coldly looked at the man and said

"Are you sure of what you're saying?"

He held another Spirit Stones as he waited for the informer to speak more about the topic

"Yes yes! It happened six months b-but I don't know the name of the guy who found it . "

Arthur pondered for a bit before throwing the red Spirit Stones and leaving the room along with a hooded-Lucy . A bit after the couple left, another person who covered himself with a jet black cloak entered the room and spoke to the porcine man

"Did you say exactly what I told you to say?"

With a fearful expression, the fat man nodded his head continuously

"Y-yes yes, I'm sure he fell for it!"

The cloaked individual threw a Green Spirit Stone before swiftly leaving the room, he had no presence as if he was a complete ghost .

. . . .

"So, are we heading North?"

Lucy, who was leaning on Arthur's shoulder as the Spirit Boat flew with lightning speed, leaving a red trail behind it .

"I think so . I have to ascertain of the truthfulness of the matter of the Star Iron . "

"Do you want me to go to the Capital and see if there are any clues about the guy?"

Arthur firmly shook his head and added:

"No need, we're undefeatable if we're together . Separating will only lead to problems . "

In a luxurious and cozy room filled with books and the scent of old papers, there sat a tall figure wearing a black tuxedo . His face was blurry and the aura around him was chilling and would make anyone uncomfortable .

He was busy reading a book in silence when another person suddenly appeared just in front of the former . The new person didn't look human, he had a pair of two-inch horns bursting from his forehead that oozed a terrifying aura and two massive jet black wings . He was none other than Belos, the only loyal subordinate of 'X' .

"Master, it has been confirmed that the Nameless Knight had disappeared yet again, there's no trace of him . "

'X' put down the book and snorted while saying

"Hmpf! The bastard is finally gone? Good riddance!"

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With a bent knee and lowered head, Belos listened to the complaints of 'X' while thinking to himself 'You say that but you're scared shitless of him . . . not like it's not normal to feel scared of such a person . '

"How's the search for the orb?"

With a bitter expression, Belos shook his head . No matter how much Spirit Stones they spend hiring black merchant dealers to find Arthur's whereabouts, there were no signs of him . Then again, it's impossible to find him since his appearance is so much different from the one in his past life .

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"He's definitely in the System's Universe but I didn't think finding him would be so hard . I'll have to lure him . . . "

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In a place where there's nothing but an endless white space, much like the ARK . Contrary to what's inside Arthur, this place seemed lively as there were some flourishing roses and ordinary trees .

Two figures were facing each other, both had six wings on their backs, they were incredibly handsome and a soul-shaking gaze . They were, in fact, angels, and high-ranking ones at that .

"There has been a sighting of a World Tree in the X-TR 500 Universe . "

The other angel frowned and retorted

"This isn't the first time and it's probably just a bluff to get something from us . Which faction is the one who informed us this time?"

The first angel, who had long blonde hair, took out a purple crystal which immediately brightened and showed the other angel a clear picture of a tall woman, who was half snake, half human .

"Heavenly Snake Clan? What do they want from us?"

"That's the confusing thing . She asked for nothing in return and even told us which world we'll find the World Tree . I don't think she'll go through all the trouble to contact us just to lie . "

The second angel, who had short white hair, pondered for sometime before speaking

"Bring a small squadron and go check that place . If anything happens, activate your signal . "

The blonde angel nodded his head and left the place after performing a polite bow .

Not too long after that, a group of four minor angels and one leader, left Heaven, heading directly to Astria

Chapter 362

"Man has always puzzled over his origin, his genesis, a product of evolution? or work of God? If we could get all of our questions answered, would we be satisfied? Is fathoming the incomprehensible really worth it?"

Two silhouettes stood in the midst of absolute darkness, one wearing a black armor that blended with environment and the other sat next to the former, playing with his cards nonchalantly .

"Hell if I care, I've seen things none can imagine and thinking about such boring questions is the least of my troubles . "

The armored man let out a long sigh before looking at the strange man next to him whilst adding:

"I care not for what happened but you . . . haven't you ever considered going back and changing things? Change the course of time so that it wouldn't up like this . . . so you wouldn't end up here . . . waiting for incoming doom . "

Hearing him talk so seriously, the Joker stopped playing with his cards and replied

"Incoming doom? You've always been a dramatic person . "

After a short silence, the Nameless Knight spoke again

"Am I really?"

To this, the Joker merely remained silent as he stared into the distance with a melancholic gaze . An unknown amount of time passed before the Magician voiced his thoughts:

"Hey, do you think there's a Creator? Some sort of a God or so they claim? Someone or something that created everything in existence?"

The knight chuckled and shook his head while replying

" 'Follow the voice of God and he shall calm the waves' or so they preached . Such a thing does not exist and if it does then some will wonder about who or what created the former and it will never end, an endless cycle . They force their beliefs on others and themselves to create hope and rely on something to resist their troubles . An efficient illusion that temporarily works but until when? Things like fate or whatsoever only work on mortals . Our outcome is something only we can decide . "

The Joker kept looking into the darkness that enveloped them . . .

"You mean to say that this won't be 'the end'?"

"No, it won't . There's always an 'after' and 'before' . "

Time passed like flowing water yet the two figures sat there, motionless

Divine Planet, in an inner courtyard situated in the White Specter Clan . It was the same spot the Joker had a short tea session with the mysterious woman .

Currently, the same woman was talking with a tall and elderly man who respectfully stood before her, carefully listening to her orders . He was wearing an outfit similar to a butler yet strangely different . He looked old and was missing an eye thus leading him to wear an eye-patch .

"No matter the circumstances, I want you to bring her home . "

The old man bowed while replying

"Mistress, have no worries, I shall bring her home before your breakthrough . "

The woman nodded her head as she added

"I heard that Angelina is going with you?"

With an almost instantaneous answer, he responded:

"Yes, she wishes to venture to the dragon's lair that's about to open . "

The woman merely nodded then waved her hand dismissively to which the old man bowed again then quietly left .

Arthur and Lucy managed to reach the Wicket Forest after traveling for five days without any rest . Though they consumed many Spirit Stones to keep the Spirit Boat flying, they didn't mind at all since Zodiac's storage was filled with a mind-numbing amount of Spirit Stones, though it's not endless like the mountains of Gold .

As they appeared at the borders of the Wicket Forest, exactly South of this dangerous zone . They found a remote yet lively town that had all sorts of courageous cultivators who wanted to try their luck in this place . Some would tread some distance and slay a few beasts before going back to sell the materials they acquired for they were quite pricy .

Arthur was uninterested in visiting the town thus he stored the Spirit Boat and decided to walk . Flying is possible but that'll make him an easy target . He isn't on Astria anymore and although he's extremely strong, he wasn't willing to recklessly charge in until he reached the destination, which still remains unknown .

Logically, if someone found Star Iron, it had to be in a dangerous place inside the forest . Arthur speculated the existence of a secret Realm or a powerful beast that's protecting some sort of a mine or a treasure .

"This place has a small amount of lingering Yin Energy . I can feel it emanating from the depths of the forest, it's probably a Yin Beast . "

Lucy stated while frowning . It could be a Yin Vein but that was too unlikely as Energy Veins usually provide pure Energy around specific places and would not leak outside . An Energy Vein is something that's born naturally when too much of a specific Energy is accumulated over-time though, in most times, they die before their birth due to exterior circumstances .

Any change in their environment whilst their birth will cause their death, the same applies to when they're alive though the effect weakens by a huge margin .

Without any more time, the couple entered the Wicket Forest with their guard up . A strengthened Dark Barrier enveloped both of them, moreover, both he and Lucy were in a completely other space . Using his Space Bending title, he created a small dimension that could fit both of them, it eliminated their presences and made them practically untraceable by even Sovereigns .

As they delved deeper into the forest, they encountered the first group of cultivators approximatively three kilometers away from the entrance of this eerie place .

Fog covered the sky and the weather was strangely cold, it didn't bother Arthur and Lucy but the weak cultivators would definitely uncomfortable, especially due to the Yin Energy which would affect them if their body unconsciously absorbed a considerable amount of it .

The group was composed of three males and one female . They were all Immortals with the strongest being 8th Grade . They wore the same outfit which indicated they belonged to the same sect or clan .

Their clothes were jet black and had a symbol of a large sword engraved on the top of a mountain . Arthur didn't recognize the symbol and wasn't planning on talking to them . He just casually used Appraisal on them only to find a rather pleasing surprise .

Nauphrinan(Race: Human/F):Realm; Immortal 5th Grade

Age : 38

Haberu(Race: Human/M):Realm: Immortal 5th Grade

Age : 42

Lutro(Race: Human/M):Realm : Immortal 2nd Grade

Age: 36

Veknur(Race: Half Human/Half Beast/M): Realm : Immortal 8th Grade

Age:47

Bloodline : Wind Eagle: 1 . 871% to awaken .

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Titles : Master Analyzer

Short Description : Inner Disciple of Mountain Ba Sword Sect . Attained perfection in the skill(Analyze) thus granted the title 'Master Analyzer' . He's born from a beast tribe South-East of the Green-Leaf World and was exiled due to breaking the rules .

Master Analyzer: A skill similar to 'Appraisal' but consumes Nether Energy or Mana .

Tip : Has a strong chance to enhance the effect of [Appraisal] if the user 'Arthur MoonStar' absorbs it .

Arthur looked at the results of the appraisal then contemplated what to do for a few seconds before he decided to possess Veknur . He'll do it swiftly without the alerting the victim, moreover, since the target was way weaker than him, it'll practically be impossible to be discovered .

Fortunately, the group of cultivators were fighting a weird purple python which was a Heavenly Beast, meaning it equaled a cultivator in the Heavenly Realm but that's just theoretical .

An Immortal Beast can demolish a group of Immortals if they're not careful . Furthermore, a Sovereign can have difficulties defeating a God Beast .

The group of four had flawless coordinations as they attacked from all directions, slowly tiring the python and injured it little by little .

Arthur, who was a distance away, suddenly vanished and appeared next to Veknur only to abruptly become a black whirlpool which entered the target .

This caused Veknur, who was in the middle of the attack, to feel momentarily disoriented thus giving the python to lash out at him with its extreme velocity .

Arthur no more than two seconds inside the foreign body before he left it and returned next to Lucy as if nothing happened .

As for Veknur, he could've sworn he saw a strange black thing fly away from his body but didn't focus much on it due to the dizziness he was feeling and the fresh wound he just suffered . . .

'Ting!'

*The skill [Appraisal] has a new function: Can display a hidden emotion the target is feeling . *

'Oh well, it's better than nothing . '

Arthur read the contents of the notifications before dismissing it and glancing at the struggling . Lucy suddenly used Telepathy to talk to him

"Shouldn't you be helping them . After all, they are part of your 'student's sect . "

Without having to look at her, Arthur could already feel a piercing glare directed at him . Lucy wasn't that pleased with his new student and though she didn't force him to forsake Jian Si, she wasn't particularly fond of the girl either despite never meeting her .

"A-anyway, we should head-on . "

After giving one final glance to Veknur and the rest, the couple departed from that area, heading deeper into the Wicket Forest . Thanks to Space Magic, none of the monsters bothered them or even noticed their existence which allowed them to tread this dangerous place unhindered .

Their speed was moderately fast compared to the other cultivators, which advanced step by step, afraid of monster ambushes . It was only after thirty-minutes did they enter the real death zone where every beast is at least a God Beast . There was a small plant that looked completely harmless but was actually a God Beast which excelled in poison and sneak-attacks .

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Though they could be useless, Arthur didn't bother fighting them for the future stats as he had more than enough corpses and he just needs to cultivate and reach the Sovereign Realm .

Perhaps he'll harvest some on the way back, as for now, he needs to find the origin of the Yin Energy and the location of the Star Iron, if the rumor is true, that is .

As they were bypassing these God-slaying monsters, Lucy was the first to notice a lone figure, which was slowly walking between the monsters without alerting them or igniting their rage .

The couple came to a sudden halt as two pair of eyes focused on this lone silhouette . With a beautiful white robe and skin as white as snow, she took soundless steps in this quiet place . She had a unique beauty and long black hair along with two pair of green pupils .

Though they were a safe distance from her, the girl suddenly turned her head in their direction only to see nothingness . She frowned and tilted her head in confusion . Her senses couldn't have been for naught so she activated her special cultivation technique only to see an equally beautiful woman who was around a hundred meters away from her .

Arthur had swiftly entered Lucy's body for multiple reasons . The main one was that Lucy and that girl would have an easier time talking to each other if he wasn't there . The presence of a man may make the girl uncomfortable or perhaps wary .

Though it's not like she wasn't wary or startled to suddenly see a woman not too far from her but at least Lucy didn't use Dark Magic so strangers wouldn't feel an ominous aura leaking out of her .

Despite having the Ethereal State, which drastically reduces the effect of Dark Magic, it couldn't completely extinguish it, especially after the birth of the Tri-Spirit .

Appraisal was activated the second he saw her and these were the results .

*Shu Ru (Race: Human/F) Realm; 2nd Grade God Realm .

Age : 20

Title : NONE

Short Description : Top disciple of the Mirage Era Hall as well as one of the three geniuses of the Green-Leaf World . Her natural talent is high but due to her special physique, she needs to cultivate in specific places .

Physique : Sacred Rune Physique (General Rank) (Sub-Branch of Rune Branch) .

Emotion : Shu Ru is cautious of Lucy MoonStar

Arthur was surprised to see her special physique but apart from that, she wasn't that strong . She must have noticed them thanks to her physique .

It was the second time he encountered a person who had a special physique . Arthur had long since wanted to acquire a special physique, however, unfortunately, possessing a target won't grant him its physique as it's something related to the body and not the techniques learned or stats acquired .

Though Claud did state that there are books or scrolls that would allow him to obtain physiques but finding such treasures is almost impossible as they are always hidden from the public .

Lucy's physique, for example, was a King-physique but it was possible to upgrade it though accumulated hard work or lucky encounters .

"Try to get friendly with her, mayhap she has some sort of a map or device . She didn't seem to be randomly exploring the place . "

Arthur's telepathic voice was heard by Lucy . She grumbled while retorting

'Ugh . . . why does it have to be me?'

As if he expected such a question, Arthur replied while grinning

"Well, wouldn't you reproach me if I talked to this girl? I sure as hell don't want to be ignored for days . "

Lucy inwardly snorted and approached Shu Ru, who also made her way to the former after trying to probe her but failing to see through her cultivation .

'I'm sure this is the first time I see her a foreign traveler, perhaps?'

Shu Ru thought to herself as she gazed at Lucy . She was sure that the woman before her was a Sovereign and with a beauty like hers, along with her Realm, she would have been hella popular in the Green-Leaf World but she's not, which meant that she's from somewhere else, or so speculated the curious Shu Ru .

For a moment Shu Ru's eyes flashed with a purple light and that led to her becoming absolutely shocked but that only lasted for a split second before she quickly regained her calm expression .

"Hello, Senior . "

The girl cupped her fists in greeting as she politely Lucy, who merely nodded her head as she found inexplicably annoying to talk to strangers despite the relaxing aura emanating from Shu Ru .

Though unwilling to talk, Lucy ended up having a short conversation with the young maiden . Meanwhile, Arthur, who was focusing on the girl was sucked into his consciousness only to find a strange occurrence there .

The usually calm Orb of the Fallen Overgods was reacting to something as it spun with incredible speed . It emitted a strong signal that made him feel a sense of urgency as if something was calling out for him .

"The book, it's actually the Book of Life!"

Claud's voice resonated inside Arthur's consciousness . As he heard those words, Arthur felt a bit confused, he remembered Shu Ru and said

"Is it in the girl's possession?"

"No, but it's definitely close . "

"Must be hidden in the forest then . "

Claud's illusory figure nodded its head before he disappeared, returning inside the ARK .

"Find it, it'll definitely bring you a lot of benefits . Katrina didn't have a strong fighting ability but she was a renowned Overgod thanks to her vast, almost limitless knowledge . "

Arthur gazed at the spinning orb for a few seconds before he left his consciousness, returning to Lucy's body and examining the situation outside .

The two females already began traveling together with Shu Ru leading the way . Apparently, Shu Ru also came looking for a special place . She didn't mention its name or its purpose but Arthur knew that it had to do with her physique . Nonetheless, her destination is surely where the book is .

The main branch of her physique is Light, then it's Rune then Sacred Rune . A place that can help her get stronger has to be some sort of a Holy spot and the Book of Life has a strong relation with Light thus the two parties shared the same destination .

Chapter 364

The deeper the duo advanced, the fewer monsters they encountered . Shu Ru had some sort of a technique that practically made her invisible to these God-Beasts and Lucy simply relied on the separate dimension Arthur created earlier .

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The two women didn't converse at all except for the short exchange when they met . The younger one would glance at Lucy a few times in curiosity but she ended keeping her thoughts to herself .

Arthur was assured as he felt the Orb giving stronger signals which meant they were getting closer to the Book of Life . At some point in their kind of awkward trip, they no longer sensed or saw any God Beast as if they were avoiding this place . Instead of the normal strong monsters, there appeared a new kind of monsters, a very grotesque and scary-looking white monsters . With distorted human faces and tall arms and legs, they resembled no human or beast, they were literally monstrosities .

These entities were called White Spawns and just like with a place full of Darkness Energy, they appeared due to the over-abundance of Light Energy in this area .

They weren't particularly strong compared to the God Beasts, however, they were numerous and their attacks literally suck the life of their targets .

More precisely, they suck whatever energy is residing inside their target thus depriving them of their strength and killing them in the process .

Unlike the God Beasts, these White Spaws noticed Shu Ru almost immediately but paid no heed to Lucy, obviously because she couldn't be seen nor sensed .

At first, the girl had to fight for herself and had no problem eliminating most of the White Spaws but the further they trod, the more variations of White Spawns appeared . Some only had eyes while others had just two legs and one largemouth .

Shu Ru didn't use all of her strength for obvious reasons and merely relied on her special physique, which was more than enough at the beginning but when the big heads started appearing left and right, she started getting small bruises .

Through Lucy, Arthur intervened to smoothen the trip and get rid of the White Spaws . The Tri-Spirit inside his consciousness was awakened and got to work almost immediately .

The nearby White Spaws, which were charging at Shu Ru, suddenly froze before attempting to flee only to be killed in a split second . An ominous and chilling wave of darkness covered the area around them; slaughtering the White Spawns and forcing the nearby ones to turn around and swiftly flee .

"Ha! Some say Light counters Darkness and Water extinguishes Fire but those are primitive claims . While some of it is indeed true, Light and Darkness are opposing Attributes but that doesn't mean a

Light-wielding individual will defeat a Darkness-wielding opponent, while, of course, they are equal in terms of prowess . Not every water can be vaporized and not every fire can be extinguished . "

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Claud declared in exasperation while staring at the fleeing White Spaws . From the expression on his face, it was clear he bore no good will to these unsightly creatures .

Back outside, Shu Ru, who witnessed the death of the White Spaws and the complete darkness that enveloped her and Lucy, remained motionless and speechless for a few seconds . No matter how much she pondered, she never thought Lucy could wield such a strong Darkness-Attribute . As she looked at jet black ground and trees, she blinked her eyes and tried activating her physique to resist some of the Darkness but she discovered that she became extremely weakened .

What Arthur released was merely Darkness and not Dark Magic . He didn't know if Shu Ru knew about Zodiak and his power but it's better to be safe than sorry . Although Darkness-users are rare, more often than not, being eccentric or have a cold or evil behavior .

Shu Ru began feeling a tinge of fear as she noticed the immeasurable disparity between her and Lucy . Though she had the means to eradicate them quite fast, that didn't mean she could do it as easily as Lucy .

Unfortunately, she didn't know the whole truth . Lucy never did a thing, it was Arthur's doing all along . With the darkness that blocked the light and scared the White Spaws, the two females continued their short journey .

An hour or so later, they arrived at what seemed to be their destination . Amidst the greenery of the place, there was some kind of a palace with tall white stars . Everything seemed out of place as if they were just put here randomly . There was an absence of White Spawns but just in front of the stairs, there was a peculiar White Spawn . It wasn't as ugly as the rest, in fact, it bore a resemblance to Angels with its pair of white wings .

It had a small shield on its right hand and a one-handed sword on its left . White armor and white skin, even its pupils were white . As the two women approached it, it abruptly awakened and directed its gaze toward them . From its initial kneeling position, it slowly got up and prepared itself for the upcoming fight .

*Innocence, Light Keeper . (Race: None): Little Sovereign

Age : ????

Emotion : None

Skills : Punish [IV] / Vision Wave / Light Surge

Short Description : An entity born from Light Energy . It has no emotions and its only reason to exist is to continuously suck energy from living beings . It is a rank above normal White Spawns .

As he read the details of Appraisal, Arthur was momentarily confused as it's not the thing that's emitting Yin Energy . For such an entity to exist is surprising as no one ever mentioned that a Sovereign was in

the Wicked Forest . Though the Green-Leaf World had no lack of Sovereigns, that doesn't mean they're found everywhere .

Nonetheless, dealing with Innocence wasn't going to be that much of a problem . Shu Ru may find difficulties defeating it but for Lucy, erasing it from existence is a simple task .

Shu Ru nervously stared at Innocence, her eyes glowed with purple light . She retrieved a relatively long bow from her storage and readied herself for battle .

As Innocence had a higher Realm than her, she couldn't pinpoint its exact Grade but she never that whatever was in front of her was definitely a Sovereign .

The Light Keeper wasn't going to wait for them to attack, it vertically raised its sword and swung down or so it should have been . Unfortunately for Innocence, just as it raised its hand, Lucy began her assault .

The area around them, which was composed of either greenery or stairs, was turned into ice in a split second . Before Shu Ru or the enemy could react, the battle has ended with just a raise of a hand .

Innocence turned into a frozen statue which began to crack only for the ice to harden thus negating the Light Keeper's pointless resistance .

With stats like hers, Sovereigns were nothing to Lucy . Simply using her Yin powers, which belonged to her Physique, was enough to deal with a Little Sovereign . She would only become serious if her opponent was something above the Sovereign Realm .

Lucy put down her raised hand and resumed walking toward the stairs without minding the shocker Shu Ru, who quickly followed her after snapping out of her daze .

Chapter 365

She could've sworn Lucy was a Sovereign but after witnessed what just happened, she started having doubts . Fortunately, Lucy didn't seem to be hostile to her or else she would have been killed without being able to use her trump card .

Innocence, which turned into a block of ice, shattered into countless pieces a few minutes after Lucy and Shu Ru left the area .

The two females took the long and wide white stairs and arrived all the way up without being ambushed or attacked by any White Spawns .

Lucy's Pure Yin Physique was madly absorbing the Yin Energy scattered around her, strengthening her body and slowly but surely, facilitating her breakthrough to the Sovereign Realm .

At the end of the stairs was nothing short of a marvelous sight . It truly made the two of them momentarily shocked by how breath-taking the palace before them was . Everything was either golden or white and despite the emptiness of the place, it didn't diminish its beauty . Whether it was the tall golden pillars, the white decorations or the sun rays coming from above, piercing the dark clouds and showing an unforgettable sight to both females and Arthur too .

The palace wasn't particularly big but it had a Holy presence probably due to the abundance of Light around . Claud even said that everything in this area was purely made from Light Energy . This phenomenon happens only when there's an abnormal amount of Light Energy locked in a specific place .

As Lucy and Shu Ru approached the palace . Arthur's heart started throbbing loudly as if it's yearning for something . This feeling was vastly different from the signals emitting from the Orb of the Fallen Overgods .

'It's here . . . I can feel it . It's calling me!'

The usually calm Tri-Spirit was excitedly bouncing in his consciousness as if it couldn't wait anymore .

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Far away from where Lucy and Shu Ru were, there stood a silhouette shrouded in darkness . This person witnessed everything that happened, from beginning to end . When Lucy was close enough to the Palace, he took his eyes off her and sighed before mumbling something with inaudible voice . A few seconds later, he seemed to have noticed something which made him click his tongue and immediately vanish from sight .

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As Lucy and Shu Ru entered the white palace, they met face to face with yet another monstrosity . This one was bigger and uglier than its former . With four large legs that were chained to the floor, six arms and a humongous mouth . It lacked eyes and ears but it still turned to face the two guests .

As she stood close to this entity that didn't belong to any race, a disgusting abomination, Lucy frowned . The feeling from this monster was drastically different from Innocence .

This one seemed more savage and abnormally powerful . She still had the confidence to win but not as easily as before . Arthur, who was hiding in her body, was also shocked by the content displayed by Appraisal

*Forgiven Obscenity, Light Protector . (Race: None):Realm: None

Age : ????

Emotion : None

Skills : Punish VII / Retribution of Light / Holy Imbuement .

Short description : An entity born from Light energy and a small fraction of natural laws . Due to its nature, it cannot move freely and is forever locked inside the palace .

'Is it here to protect the book?'

Arthur asked the most knowledgeable person present, Claud Venis . He received a reply shortly after

"Forgiven Obscenity? While it's reasonable to see White Spawns or Innocence if the Book of Life is nearby, the presence of this particular one is rather intriguing . . . it defies my earlier speculations . "

'Is it possible that it's guarding something?'

After a short silence, Claud responded

"I'm surprised by your exact guess . Indeed, it's guarding something but I'm clueless as to what it is . "

Arthur smirked and thought to himself

'Well, I'm not . '

A distance behind Forgiven Obscenity, there was a small altar where a white book laid . It was open and it had a white cover, it emitted a colossal amount of Light Energy . The density of Light Energy made it hard for Shu Ru to breathe properly . The horror that stood before her was making her body shiver uncontrollably but she still managed to squeeze out a few words

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"S,senior, I'll be relying on you to take care of it . I think closing the book will get rid of it . "

Shu Ru seemed to know something as she explained to Lucy the purpose of the book . Apparently, having it open will indefinitely cause leakage of Light Energy from it but if it's closed then every White Spawn or entity that was born from Light Energy will return to the book, just like the Death Golem and Randuin .

Lucy remained silent as she stared at Shu Ru with an expressionless face . Shu Ru started feeling awkward as Lucy wasn't responding . Fortunately, it didn't last long as she(Shu Ru) finally heard her talk

"You said you're looking for a place, right?"

Expecting to hear to her instructions, Shu Ru remained unresponsive for a few seconds before replying to Lucy's question

"Y-yes . . . "

"And I don't suppose this is the one?"

"No, it should be under the palace . I'm certain of it but the energy from the Book is rendering me unable to pinpoint the exact location . "

"Alright, then sit back and wait for us to finish . "

Confused, Shu Ru muttered

" . . . us?"

As she stared at Lucy with both confusion and anxiety due to the monster, which started fiercely beating the flat ground, a thunderous sound resounded in the whole area, causing her to become momentarily deaf .

After focusing her attention, she saw Lucy and another man with a long grey-hair attacking the Light Protector . Lucy wielded a thin and white saber that emitted a chilling coldness, as for Arthur, he used his fists, which were enveloped by decaying grey energy .

Thanks to his Tri-Spirit, he could manipulate Death Energy without being backlashed . The two of them ganged up on the monsters and fiercely beat it into a bloody pulp . Though it tried to retaliate, the two of them were extremely fast and easily dodged its attacks .

Even when it tried using an area of effect skill, it was negated by Arthur's book, which absorbed the whole damage . Lucy made use of her Cultivation Technique, which allowed her to create lotuses that are used both for defense and attack .

One lotus was more than enough to block the enemy's attack . In merely a minute, the monster was rendered motionless as blood covered its whole body .

Shu Ru, who witnessed everything, was totally speechless . Even a genius such as herself couldn't follow them with her eyes . She literally only saw after images that vanished a split second later .

As the monster laid on the flat ground, dead . Arthur landed a few meters away from the Book of Life . He cautiously spread his sense but was unable to fend off the Light Energy lingering around the book . At first, he thought of using absolute power to get rid of the Light Energy or perhaps use Void Magic but such ideas were soon thrown away as Claud instructed him on what to do .

The book of the Damned appeared on his hand yet again, the creepy and ominous book floated in front of him and opened itself before a rotting and disgusting hand came out of ancient pages of the book .

Like a whirlpool, the hand started absorbing all the Light Energy around . The process was swift and in a matter of seconds, Arthur was able to get close to the Book of Life and safely close it thus ending it once and for all .

The only one who didn't know what was going on was Shu Ru . She brought a special treasure that would allow her to close the book yet never got to use it . Apart from leading Lucy here, she did nothing and planned to contribute so she can have a share of whatever they found here .

Unfortunately, apart from watching, she did nothing else which disappointed her . Nevertheless, she got to witness something totally abnormal, something that made her question logic itself .

A mere 1st Grade God was able to defeat something that even a High Sovereign would find difficulty facing . The strength he showed, the incredible speed, it all defied logic .

Chapter 366

*You obtained the Book of Eternity: Originating from Heaven and born from Heavenly Energy . Can be used to acquire the skill [Life Restoration] . *

The 5th seal of has been broken . The user can summon 'Midolf'

*If both Midolf and Radolf are fighting together, their stats are increased by 50% . *

*Book of Eternity has taken over the left side of Arthur MoonStar . *

*Book of the Damned has taken over the right side of Arthur MoonStar . *

*Light and Death Magic can now be used simultaneously . *

*Your proficiency in Light Magic has increased drastically .

+35% Resistance to Light Attribute . *

*The Skill [Ethereal State(Passive)] has been upgraded to [Angel of Death(Passive)(Active)]: If the skill is turned off, the passive will be applied to the user :

+10% Health Regen per second when outside of combat .

+10% Mana/Nether Energy Regen per second when outside of combat .

+5% to all stats .

+50 Creation

+2000 Mental Power

Through the skill [Necromancy] you can summon a larger variety of Undead .

List : [Skeleton Kings / High Wraiths / Death Specters / Greater Liches / Zombie Lords]

You can summon White Spawns using the Book of Eternity .

List : [White Spawns / Innocence]

Stronger Undead will be loyal to the user .

[Active effect] :

+9 . 99% damage done to Death or Light creatures .

+40% resistance to Light and Death Magic .

+10% Mana/Nether Energy regen every ten seconds in combat .

+10% attack and defense if the user is fighting someone in a higher Realm/Grade .

Any Undead summoned will have its stats doubled until the active duration of the skill is over .

Cost : Mana 20m/s or Nether Energy 10m/s or 50 Mental Power/s

Tip: The passive effect of the skill still applies to the user even when it's active . *

*The book of Eternity has affected the Enigma skill [Ancient Threads] .

[Ancient Threads] has been changed into [Light Operation] and [Righteous Death] .

[Light Operation]: Use special threads made of Light Energy to perform operations on yourself or other targets . Operations can fix broken Meridians, damaged Dantians or clean Acupoints . Attaching limbs or healing internal organs is also possible .

[Righteous Death] : Use Threads of Death to attack or defend . If a target is touched by the threads for more than five seconds, it'll suffer from the debuff [Decaying Death] for 1 minute

[Decaying Death]:-10% Movement / -12% defense / -30% Vitality .

The speed and durability of the Threads will depend on the user's stats . *

*The blessing of Katrina, The Overgod of Knowledge is now available : She was the sole being who was known for her extreme thirst for knowledge, known to have created the largest library the multiverse has ever seen, she even managed to decipher symbols from the Void Era, furthermore, she was one of the founders of 'The Council of Creators' CANNOT GAIN THE BLESSING UNTIL YOU BREAK THE SEALS:

SEAL 1 : LVL 750 : Gain the skill [Life State] ACQUIRED

SEAL 2 : UNLOCK Knowledge stat : Gain the skill [Saint Hands] ACQUIRED

SEAL 3 : ACHIEVE ??? Intelligence : Obtain the key to the 9 Earths and 8 Moons .

SEAL 4 : Use The Book of the Damned Acquired!

SEAL 5 : Use The Book of Eternity: Acquired!

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Arthur had long since acquired [Life State] and [Saint Hands] which are formidable skills but aren't that useful to him, especially the [Saint Hands] which is a high-level Healing skill which may save mortals from death but it'll do naught for a person wounded by a Sovereign .

As for [Life State], it grants immunity to all kinds of diseases . As Arthur absorbed the book of Life, also known as the book of Eternity, he received this long list of notifications . He spent a minute or so reading it before closing everything and testing his new powers .

While his left hands glowed with some kind of a Holy and white light, his right hand unleashed ominous grey fog that made the air turbulent and caused the nearby ground to wither .

"Excuse me, who might you be?"

Shu Ru, who managed to calm her fastly beating heart, walked toward him while throwing that question . To be honest, she had long since she suspected the presence of an additional being with Lucy thanks to her technique but she never imagined it to be an actual person .

Her secret technique allows her to see the souls of nearby living beings and when she directed it toward Lucy, she saw two colors, indicating that there are two souls in one body . She speculated the presence of some kind of a soul weapon or a pet but never a human .

There are several colors of the soul and they tell her what kind of person her target is . Lucy's soul was the color of Ice and was freezing cold though it was enveloped by an illusory dark energy that made it difficult for Shu Ru to look closer .

As for the second soul she noticed, it nothing short of a bottomless abyss . Black as ink and horrifying to look at .

The reason she never expected it to be a person is because she never thought a person could have such a heart-shaking soul .

Now that she had a closer look at Arthur, she still couldn't believe the truth despite being in front of her . With fear, wariness, and a tinge of curiosity, she inspected this tall man .

He had grey hair, a scarred-eye, and a blood-red pupil . She couldn't help but get the chills as if something inside of him was staring at her, ready to devour her whole .

Nonetheless, she mustered her courage and asked him . Her voice seemed to grab his attention as he turned to look at her . After inspecting her from head to toe as if she was being judged, he emotionlessly replied

"Pardon my late introduction . I am called Arthur . "

He did a low bow in greeting as he introduced himself . In response, Shu Ru also bowed back but found no suitable response so silence dominated the atmosphere for some time before Lucy spoke

"So, how do we proceed?"

Obviously, her question was directed to Shu Ru, who's supposed to know how to reach their destination . She already tried smashing the ground but it was inexplicably hard . Heck! It didn't even have scratches .

The only thing that affected it was Arthur's Death Energy which caused it to wither but it would return to normal in a matter of seconds .

Shu Ru wanted to know ask a few more questions but gave up and took out an item from her storage . It was actually a round silver mirror . In its back, there were some purple feathers which seemed to be some kind of decoration .

"This artifact is supposed to force open a path that leads us down below . But be careful as there is most likely a powerful Yin Beast hiding there . "

'So there really was Yin Beast'

Shu Ru tightly held the mirror and pointed it toward the ground while chanting with a low voice

"Iclil ofrofojius, enisa, isyujiel, okrekasse, nivi, upeshe, hadi!!"

A burst of energy similar to a laser was shot from the mirror . It was so powerful to the point of causing the whole palace to shake violently . The unbreakable white ground showed signs of cracking .

The girl's face was turning red as she poured all her energy into the artifact . As she saw that it managed to crack the surface, she continued with her incantation .

"Cleen shrite, alyeyorn, mefius, flopri, aclishri, yutar!!"

Just as the last word was said, the mirror began emitting steam as the 'laser' being shot out changed from white to red . The radius of this burst of energy became bigger as a hole, large enough to fit three humans, was created due to the might of the Artifact . There was nothing but darkness laying beyond this hole . Cold air emanated from below and the density of Yin Energy was far superior inside than outside .

Seeing this sight reminded Arthur of Judgment, the weapon that almost killed him and Lucy back when they were in the Nemia Academy .

When he has free time, he decided to create a weapon that had a similar concept to this mirror . Like Rinotsu, this mirror seemed to be able to trap a huge amount of Energy in it there suddenly letting out thus creating unimaginably devastation .

Though controlling trapped Nether Energy is way harder than controlling trapped Elemental Energy . For example, Arthur could unleash a Dark Rinotsu or a Dark Rizaki, however, he can't create a Rizaki with only Nether Energy for he's not capable of controlling the suppressed Energy, it would quickly run out of control and even severely injure him .

Even when the mirror stopped firing its 'laser', the hole in the ground was still present . Shu Ru panted heavily as she put away the Artifact . She seemed to have consumed a large amount of her energy thus rendering her temporarily weak .

As she stared at this whole which had nothing but darkness beyond it, the young girl said

"Seniors, before we enter, please allow me to say what's on my mind . "

Chapter 367

"My purpose for coming to this place is to train and tame the Yin Beast . All I want is the beast and some space to meditate, everything else is yours . "

She had a serious expression as she stated her goal and looked at them to try and read their expression . Unfortunately, both Arthur and Lucy usually had deadpan faces so there wasn't much to see or read from such an expressionless couple .

"Mhmm I was planning on taming the beast too but if that's what you want then I don't mind giving it up for the rest of the stuff in there . "

Arthur shrugged his shoulders nonchalantly . While it is true that he planned to subdue the Yin Beast, it isn't his main goal for coming here . The Book of Life had been acquired and all that remained is the second piece, the sweetest piece, or so he thought . The power-up granted by the Book wasn't significant, in fact, it seemed the effect of [Angel of Death] was worse than [Ethereal State] but the Undead buff was what made him delighted .

[Light Operation] could be extremely useful in certain situations . With it and the potion, he didn't fear any kind of injury . As long as or Lucy don't die on the spot, with his skills and their Vitality Stat, they could recover in a very short time, contrary to other people, who may even take a year or six months to heal a curse or a severe blow . That is if they do not make use of some kind of miraculous medicine .

Hearing his answer, Shu Ru let out a sigh of relief . She concluded that the purpose of this strange couple wasn't the beast, which made things easier for both of them . Though the Book of Eternity was enticing, she had no need for it and didn't mind letting them have it, though it's not like she had a choice . After all, she didn't help in getting rid of the monster from earlier and it's not like she could've been useful since she's weak compared to them .

Very soon, the trio jumped into the bottomless hole and were quickly surrounded by darkness . For Shu Ru, her vision was limited but neither Lucy nor Arthur had difficulties seeing their surroundings . In fact, Arthur's prowess is increased in such an environment .

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The bottom of the hole was soon reached, the place they were at was a wide cave that stretched for five or six hundred meters . The cave was limited due to the surface, the wide white stairs and the palace, they were some kind of seal that imprisoned everything within the cave, even the abundant Yin Energy, which was so dense that a portion of it leaked to the outside .

As Arthur was inspecting his map to locate the Yin Beast, another series of notification popped in front of him, startling him momentarily .

You obtained a new title : [One Stalked by the Reaper]

*Your location is known by the Grim Reaper .

WARNING : Death is coming to reap, it is advised to flee . *

As he read the following words, Arthur unconsciously cursed

"Damnit, he's coming again!"

Shu Ru misunderstood him and thought he was talking about the Yin Beast . However, Lucy, who was able to see his notifications thanks to the title [Unseen Bond], knew that he was talking about the Reaper .

The Yin Beast, who was silently watching them from a distance, suddenly sensed something and swiftly retreated to the end of the cave . Even Shu Ru, who was cautiously looking around suddenly felt a chill that almost made her fell on her knees .

This inexplicable feeling is Death, anyone weak-willed will fall unconscious . Lucy's gaze sharpened as she immediately retrieved Lonely Moon and loaded it with a 4th Grade Bullet, one of her strongest .

Arthur also readied himself as [Angel of Death] was activated thus materializing a pair of wings . The left side had a wing similar to a bat while the right one was a feathery white wing that was identical to an angel . In addition to this skill, he also activated [Eternium] resulting in another pair of wings to appear, they were jet black and enveloped by dark flames .

Soon, Arthur turned into a figure with two pair of wings as black flames covered him and protected him from harm .

He glanced at Shu Ru and said

"This is going to get really dangerous . "

This was a sign for her to retreat but she just looked at him with awe-filled eyes . His sudden transformation and boost in aura and prowess left her totally gobble-smacked .

....

A few kilometers away from the palace, where Arthur and co were, there was a disturbance in space as a crack abruptly appeared . This crack remained for merely a few seconds before disappearing . It only served one purpose and it's to allow something to enter this world, in a way, it was a gate that separated the Realm of the living from the Realm of the dead .

A dark silhouette floated in the air, with a worn-out black robe, a body made only of skeletons and a terrifying long scythe .

The Grim Reaper looked around a few times before focusing its gaze at one specific direction .

Its speed seemed to be slower than a turtle yet it with the half step it took, it reached the area above the palace .

"Finally, we meet again, Arthur Bilgart . "

As it was about to head toward Arthur, a figure appeared in its way, blocking it from advancing any further . Though the reaper was shocked by the sudden appearance of this person, it paid him no heed and attempted to bypass him .

Unfortunately, by the next second, it found itself flying in the air as this person was grabbing its forehead and lengthening the distance between them and Arthur's group .

Despite its immunity to physical attacks, it was easily dragged this far from its target . Confused and angry about the interference of this person, it said

"Mortal, are you sure you want to interfere with Death's matters?"

At the end of its words, its tone totally changed as it noticed something strange with this individual . The reaper was pushed a few meters away and as it glared at him, he chuckled and removed his hood whilst saying

"I heard that Grim Reapers, just like Death, can't die . I wonder if it's true?"

.....

A few minutes passed since the warning but no reaper has come to attack him . At first, he thought that the arrival of the reaper won't be immediate but rejected such an idea . If it were so then the system wouldn't have warned him like that .

Around seven minutes later, Arthur was greeted with another notification

*The Grim Reaper has been successfully resisted . *

This made Arthur furrow his brows as confusion overwhelmed him . He didn't comprehend what just happened .

'Who resisted the Reaper? Why? Where and When?'

"It seems there's someone secretly protecting you . "

Claud spoke to Arthur, the Prophecy Holder didn't seem anxious even when the reaper was coming .

"Do you think I could've defeated it?"

Claud took a few moments before giving his reply

"Defeating the reaper? I don't think that's possible but resisting it is totally possible . You only have to fight it until it is forced to leave, after all, it can only stay in the Realm of living for a limited amount of time . "

Arthur let out a sigh of relief and deactivated his skills . It would be a lie to say he wasn't feeling nervous . A reaper isn't something that can be easily defeated . It is a follower of Death and it's immune to all physical attacks . He was able to survive last time only thanks to the help of the World Tree .

After making sure the threat had disappeared, Arthur glanced at Shu Ru only to find her slightly shaking . Her face was pale and she genuinely seemed to be scared . Though she was one of the top talents of the Green-Leaf world, his transformation still affected her .

He was so focused on the reaper that he forgot about her . Dark Magic is something affects the will of people and weakens them both physically and mentally . Although it wasn't directed at her, the area of effect of [Eternium] still caused her to feel fearful .

She was pampered since she was young and to be overwhelmed by a large amount of Dark Magic did traumatize her body, which began shaking on its own .

Arthur knew that trying to ease her up wouldn't end up good since she's still scared so he let Lucy do the job . Unlike the other female, Lucy was totally used to Dark Magic and thanks to their bond, it didn't negatively affect her .

She walked up to the frail girl and shook her body, wanting Shu Ru to straighten her thoughts and get rid of this fear .

Lucy didn't use all of her strength but the amount used caused Shu Ru to become dizzy . Only after some time did Lucy stop, leaving the poor Shu Ru standing with the support of a nearby wall .

The girl actually vomited from both the fear and dizziness but at least that made her mind calm and her thoughts clear . As she turned her head and saw the couple looking at her, she felt so embarrassed that her face turned red . She wished she would find a hole to crawl into from the shame of being seen vomiting, moreover, from fear .

Chapter 368

After Shu Ru stabilized her mind and body, she rejoined the couple in examining the place . Thanks to his map, Arthur was able to locate the hiding Yin Beast . It stealthily gazed at them from the other end of the cave, where what seeks is .

Though it was stronger than Shu Ru, the Yin Beast was still weaker than Arthur and Lucy . It had the strength of a High Sovereign and was able to wield an ominous power .

Before Arthur initiated its attack, it sensed the danger coming from the invaders so it chose to engage first . The ground underneath the trio suddenly turned dark and started pulling their bodies downwards .

This acted merely as a mean to slow down its enemies . The beast was the main attacking power, using its lengthy claws, it ferociously slashed at the most dangerous one, Lucy .

It considered Lucy the most threatening one since she could use Yin Powers thus she can easily resist its attacks . Unfortunately, its attack didn't land on Lucy as the lower half of its body suddenly was frozen . Moreover, dark and durable threads wrapped themselves around its paws .

Though Arthur and Lucy's retaliation was immediate, the Yin Beast wasn't that easily defeated . With monstrous strength, it shook off the ice that was immobilizing but wasn't able to get rid of the Death Threads that bound it to Arthur .

Arthur grabbed the threads and swung them down, heavily smashing the Yin Beast into the ground and causing it to groan from the pain . Lucy followed right after as the ground under Yin Beast turned into Lava thus burning its skin and causing blood to gush out . Dizzy from Arthur's merciless swing and Lucy's lava, the Yin Beast was unable to get up in time as the effect of the Death Thread was activated and that's without including the Tri-Spirit, which made use of this opportunity to imprison it using thick black chains that wrapped around its whole body .

The fight merely took twenty-one seconds and neither Arthur nor Lucy suffered any kind of damage . In fact, even when the ground turned dark and attempted to swallow them, it still didn't cause any damage since the ground was surprisingly made from Dark Magic .

The beast's proficiency in Dark Magic wasn't low but it didn't reach Arthur's thus the latter was easily able to negate his enemy's assault . In fact, he's immune to Dark Magic and Lucy wouldn't be slowed down by such an attack . Only Shu Ru would be totally helpless in such a situation .

Speaking of the girl, she retreated far away the second the ground changed, which was a very wise decision . The girl smiled helplessly as she saw how the Yin Beast was so easily subdued . The flawless cooperation of the couple and their overwhelming strength really made her envious .

"There, we've caught it for you . Though taming it falls on you . "

Arthur signaled for Shu Ru to take care of the beast while he and Lucy headed to the end of the cave, where the Yin Beast was initially hiding .

Just as he predicted, there was something unusual about that area . Ominous energy lingered around it and the place was jet black, the ground, the roof and even the broken objects scattered on the ground .

"So this is what the Book of Life was sealing!"

Once he laid his eyes on the thing floating in the air, Claud exclaimed loudly .

With incomprehensible symbols on it, it floated in the air without being disturbed by the Yin Power in the surroundings . This was none other than a jet black talisman, very similar to the ones Zodiac used . This small object that released an absurd amount of Dark Magic was a portion of Zodiac's powers . The reason Arthur's heart was throbbing was due to the existence of this talisman .

"And I was wondering why you chose to fight the reaper instead of fleeing . hahahahaha"

Claud heartily laughed as he finally understood why Arthur wanted to go all-in against the reaper instead of simply fleeing . Like Claud, the Tri-Spirit was also bouncing happily inside his consciousness . Though Arthur was the main holder of Dark Magic, it still receives a small portion which strengthens it .

Arthur reached for the Talisman, which reacted to the Dark Magic emitting from him and slowly floated toward him . His hand held the black talisman which dispersed and left behind countless black specks of light that entered his body .

Almost immediately, a row of blue windows appeared before his eyes .

You've acquired another portion of Zodiac's powers

Dark Magic will deal 20% more damage

.

*New skill acquired [Assault of Darkness][Active] : Use Dark Magic to trap your target(s) in a world of darkness, depriving them of sight for ten seconds and rendering them vulnerable to Magical attacks . *

*New skill acquired [Talisman Mastery] : The user is now able to create Elemental Talismans .

Elemental Talismans can be used to attack or defend .

Dark Talismans will deal 50% more damage .

Death Talismans will heal the user for 40% of the damage done .

Light Talismans will grant the user decaying bonus movement speed . *

*Makaze, Evil Wind is reacting to the Dark Magic absorbed : 45 . 87% until completion *

*Your Intelligence and Wisdom stat increased drastically . Check your Status Window for more details . *

A large amount of knowledge was poured into Arthur's brain which made him slightly dizzy for a few seconds . This trip was fruitful, to say the least . The damage increase for Dark Magic will surely be helpful in the future .

The sheathed dark blade suddenly started vibrating intensely in excitement .

"Now then, where the Star Iron?"

Arthur surveyed his surroundings but saw nothing but broken furniture . There was no iron whatsoever . Though he was disappointed, he still didn't give up yet . There may be some secret room hidden somewhere .

Arthur glanced at Shu Ru, who was supposed to be busy taming the Yin Beast only to find her patting the crouching beast, which obediently let her do as she pleases .

He wasn't paying attention thus he didn't know how she managed to tame him but it's not like he cared . As long as she got what she wanted then it's fine .

The young girl had a soft smile on her face as she stared at the beast affectionately . Having such a strong companion by her side will ensure her safety even in High-Realms, after all, the Yin Beast could compete against a High Sovereign .

Lucy sat in a comfortable spot and started her meditation . Her Pure Yin Physique was madly absorbing the large amounts of scattered Yin Energy .

Her body shined with a silver color, illuminating the dark cave and creating a beautiful scene . She was like a vacuum, swallowing everything . The wall separating her from the Sovereign Realm was being crushed easily as her cultivation rose drastically .

She was more compatible with Mana rather Nether Energy despite the latter being more powerful . However, the Green-Leaf World didn't have abundant Mana thus it's hard for her to cultivate .

Nonetheless, the little Mana scattered in the Wicked Forest started madly heading toward her . The evening sky was covered with blue specks of Mana that illuminated the usually gloomy forest .

These blue specks joined together and became a big wave that came crushing at the palace, bypassing any material thing in its way and entering Lucy's body .

The silver light emanating from her body along with the countless blue specks created a breath-taking scene . Even the busy Shu Ru was forced to stare at this sight with a half-open mouth .

From a surprise to another, she hadn't been with this couple for more than a day yet she witnessed things that made completely speechless . She thought she was a genius but compared to Lucy, who broke the barrier toward the Sovereign Realm this fast, she was mediocre . . . and that's while being modest .

And just like that, Lucy became a Sovereign but her cultivation never stopped increasing . At last, she stopped when she reached the Peak of Little Sovereign and that's only all the Mana was absorbed, leaving nothing left .

Arthur, who was on the side, appraised everything in the cave, from the walls to the ground and finally found the reason for the abundance of Yin Energy .

The Yin Beast couldn't have been born from nothingness . As per Claud's speculations, there was indeed something that partially the cause of the white palace above them .

*Dark Yin Vein (Rank: Heavenly)

Age: 9,847

*Short description: A Yin Vein that was corrupted by the Dark Magic . It releases both Darkness and Yin Energy and is lethal to people with abundant Yang Energy or Light Magic users .

Tip: The user gains 100% Nether Energy regen as long as he's within 100 meters of the Vein . *

'After all, was the rumor about the Star Iron false?'

Arthur lamented inwardly as he sighed .

"Most likely, though a Yin Vein is rare, Star Iron is rarer . "

Claud wasn't optimistic about the whole matter but he didn't stop Arthur from venturing in the Wicked Forest for it wasn't that dangerous for either Lucy or Arthur .

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 / UNSEEN BOND / ONE STALKED BY THE REAPER

Level: ??

Class: Dark ARK Parasite

Realm: 2nd Grade God

-

Strength: 2 . 891B

Intelligence: 3 . 54B

Agility: 2 . 66B

Wisdom: 2 . 5B

Vitality: 3B

Dexterity: 2 . 19B

-

Health: 3 . 32B// Health Regen: 11 . 9m/s

Nether Energy: 2 . 74B // Nether Energy Regen: 5 . 4m/s(+100%)

Mana: 3 . 6B // Mana Regen: 8m/s

Stamina: Infinite /Stamina Regen: ???

Creation: 634

Attack: 3 . 25B (+35% damage [Dark Flame Ring]) (+20% if Dark Magic is used) (+40% if Makaze is used)(+5% [Warrior's Cry][LvMax](Passive)][+2% from Breaker of Chains Title]

Defense: 2 . 99B (+25% Damage Reduction) (+5% [Solid [LvMax](passive)] (+10% [Golem's Wall(LvMax)(Passive)])

Magic Defense: 1 . 59B

Enigma abilities : Telekinesis / [Light Operation/ Righteous Death] / Sixth sense / ARK(Activated)

-

Mental Power: 12871

Elemental Resistances(+)

Fire: 100%

Darkness: 100%

Wind: 35%

Water: 75%

Earth: 75%

Light/holy: 65%

Shadow: 30(+20)%

Lightning: 100%

Ice: 30%

Death : 10%

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)

Chapter 369

The two females started meditating since this was a favorable place for their physique . As for Arthur, he sat next to Lucy and started experimenting with his Talisman Mastery .

The first thing he learned is that Talismans can't be stored in a storage ring as the unstable space would cause its destruction . It takes him, more or less, a second to create an Elemental Talisman . The Dark Talismans are the easiest and fastest to create while the Void Talisman cannot even be created . It would disintegrate half-way through its creation and no matter how much he tried, he couldn't complete it .

Though, if he hid them under Zodiak's robe, which he usually wears, he can use them later in combat . He couldn't test them in the cave so he entered the ARK and did countless tests to check the usefulness of the Talismans .

This new skill didn't disappoint him, Arthur even had a bright smile as he gazed at the charred ground of the ARK . The weakest Talismans are the ones the Wind, Earth, and Water Talismans . They are powerful enough to injure Gods thanks to his stats but they aren't very efficient . The Fire Talisman is decent, it doesn't have the explosive power of the detonator but it has the same firepower of the high-level skills .

The Death Talisman is literally a cheat, it inflicts a huge chunk of damage and grants him Health . If he lands a considerable number on them then he'll probably get all his Health back if he was missing any, that is .

Space Talisman is actually a defensive Talisman . Its only purpose is to strengthen barriers and when put on a Dark Barrier, it strengthens it by 50% . Unfortunately, it cannot be stacked .

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Shadow Talisman can momentarily immobilize a target by controlling its shadow . Though the duration is short, it can still be considered a good mean for sneak-attacking .

Lightning and Light Talisman deal damage over time to the target so Arthur didn't focus too much on them . However, if he uses a Lightning Talisman on himself, he'll gain 10% movement speed, and if he uses a Light Talisman, his attack speed is increased by 15% . These effects gave these two Elemental Talismans more of a supportive role than an offensive role .

Last but not least was the Dark Talisman, it deals much more damage than normal Dark Magic attacks . Its prowess is almost equal to the Heavenly Arrow and it takes much less time to create .

For now, Arthur created four Dark Talisman, three Death Talisman, one Space Talisman and two of each of the Supportive Talismans . Since they were basically papers with some incomprehensible runes, they weren't that hard to hide under the long black robe .

Days passed in the blink of an eye . Neither Lucy nor Shu Ru quit their meditative state . The Yin Vein was especially useful for Shu Ru, whose Physique is a sub-branch of the Yin Physique, much like Lucy, though the latter's is more powerful .

The Sacred Rune Physique isn't like other Physiques, it doesn't strengthen the body or grants it strong powers, instead, it allows the person to conjure runes known as Sacred Runes .

If it were the Rune Physique then its holder will be able to conjure all kinds of Runes, unfortunately, Shu Ru's Physique is the lowest one but it's not like she was complaining .

The Sacred Runes will allow her to climb to the top of the ladder and even compete against those from young talents from High-Realms . Runes, in fact, are words and only a few people can comprehend them . much like dragons, Rune-users use words to overwhelm their opponents but it's not direct like the way of the Dragons .

In the past few days, Arthur used [Light Operation] to try and heal his injured eye but to no avail, the lingering Primordial Energy wasn't so easily removed . He couldn't even control it and trying to force it out of his body will only make it turbulent .

With Randiun still accompanying Saly, Arthur couldn't complete the fusion and summon Radolf, the ultimate creature that could be summoned from the Book of the Damned . Swain was still recuperating too as he suffered an attack that contained Primordial Energy and it's more lethal to him than Arthur .

Contrary to Radolf, Midolf, the ultimate summon of the book of Eternity was ready for its master's call . It didn't consume any kind of energy to call upon this legendary creature and he didn't need to control it manually .

With a body made from soft white feathers and two lengthy wings, a snow-white beak, and two golden pupils . Midolf resembled a bird but not those normal and weak birds . This creature was none other than a roc, one of the ancient beasts .

*Midolf (Race: Roc): Realm : High Sovereign

Age : 341,517

Emotion : Anger

Short Description : A creature created by the Book of Eternity . Though it is the Nemesis of Radolf, the two creatures share a strong bond .

Tip: Midolf and Radolf will receive a huge boost in Strength if they are fighting together .

With a melodious voice that was ruined to the vulgar words used, Midolf angrily said

"Where the fuck is that little pretentious bastard!?"

It continuously looked around but found no sign of its target . Its sudden outburst and loud tone alerted both Lucy and Shu Ru . The girl remained in her cross-legged position but Lucy got up and appeared next to Arthur as she thought the roc to be a threat .

Though the creature was a High Sovereign, she felt threatened by it, unlike with the Yin Beast .

After ascertaining the absence of Radolf, Midolf turned to look at Arthur and yelled

"Tell me where is that goddamned lizard . "

Seeing such a foul mouth and aggressive attitude, Arthur frowned and chose not to answer . He certainly didn't summon this bird to cause a scene and be yelled at .

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Moreover, trying to reason with it seemed to be a total pain in the ass . With the help of the book, Arthur summoned it back and getting rid of its loud blabbering .

"Huh, a rebellious roc, no surprise . "

Claud commented after Midolf disappeared . Arthur wanted to ask his copy for the meaning behind his words only to receive a detailed answer before he uttered any single word

"Rocs are legendary beasts that existed before the Void Era . When they fully mature, they have bodies bigger than any other living creatures and despite not being the strongest, they were feared by many . Some even said that they were the creator of Wind Laws but there was no evidence to prove such claims . "

'Radolf is supposed to be a lizard, is it a legendary beast too?'

"Honestly, I don't know . I never heard of powerful lizards before Void Era . "

As the two of them sat there for a very long time, the Joker yawned whilst complaining

"Arghh this is booooooring . . . "

The Nameless Knight, who had his eyes closed, opened them and glanced at the person sitting beside him . With his chilly voice, he answered:

"Go read a book or something, it's still early for the action to begin . "

As if he was insulted, the Joker retorted

"ME? Read a book? You've gone nuts!"

After a short silence, the Nameless Knight said

"Then how about I tell you a short story?"

Hearing this, the Joker's expression brightened as he laid back and readied himself . After letting a long sigh, the Nameless Knight began recounting the story

"It's a story from long ago, before there was magic or cultivation . When the humans only relied on Science, when they sought evolution and ignored Gods . There was a mortal, a man, different than others . Unlike his fellow humans, he was born with a special power that caused him to be cast out . The power he had would make anyone jealous, even in this current era . To see the future and what it holds for us, to see what's to come and prepare for it . Most called him 'The Prophecy Holder' yet none believed him . They chose to suffer from the doom that befell on them rather than believe his plea . They chose to use their 'Science' to face one disaster after another "

'Tell me, where is your maker? Call him! Call down his wrath upon me! You cannot . . . for he does not exist!'

Somewhere in the Northern Continent of Astria . Saly, who ventured in one of the dangerous zones of the demon continent, stumbled upon a strange stone that had these words engraved on it . Astrith, who was beside her, remained silent as he didn't find anything dangerous about the stone, however, Saly was in a daze as she stared at the stone .

Chapter 370

'Isn't this a place with abundant Yin Energy, why is there no sign of Dark Yin Steel?'

Arthur gazed at the broken Makaze and asked his copy . Most records state that the Dark Yin Steel, albeit rare, is usually found near a Yin Vein . However, no steel was found in this gloomy cave .

"You can't expect Steel to be born from nothingness . Except for a few heavenly Metals that are created from natural laws, all other kinds, no matter how rare, are a transformation from a normal Steel or Iron to a special one . "

Claud paused for a second before resuming

"If you put Steel near the Vein and wait, it'll eventually turn into a Dark Yin Steel . Though the waiting time is extremely long, even if you initially put something like Black Steel . "

'So you mean to say it's a hopeless situation?'

Arthur grumbled as he heard Claud's words . Though Makeze acquired a unique sheath that helped it grow in power, that didn't recover its lost parts . Furthermore, using it against a powerful opponent will surely damage it and render it a blade beyond repair .

"There is a lot of solutions . Either find Star Iron or Dark Yin Steel, you can also seek an expert blacksmith but it's unknown if he or she will repair it as it's not easy . There is also the problem of a suitable place for the dark blade to fully recover after fixing it . This is a decent place but . . . it's a bit lacking if I say so myself . "

Arthur remained silent as he unsheathed Makaze and held it in his hands . The blade wasn't in its peak form and despite recovering a bit after he absorbed Zodiac's powers, it quickly returned to being weakened due to the Primordial Energy lingering inside . The main reason it broke was due to suffering a lot of attacks from the Divine Beasts and due to the skill [Thousand Waves] .

The 5th wave wasn't something either Arthur nor Makaze could unleash yet they did which resulted in such tragic consequences . Even now, after he had gained so much stats and become much stronger, unleashing the 5th wave with Makaze like this is not possible .

Arthur closed his eyes and immersed himself in the darkness that quickly enveloped the blade and its owner . Like a tornado, the darkness, which blocked light and even Energy, started rotating around them and rising until it reached the ceiling of the cave .

Just looking at this spinning whirlpool made Shu Ru incredibly uncomfortable, even her breathing quickened, not from fear but from suffocation .

The Yin Energy seemed to have disappeared with the appearance of this whirlpool . Fortunately, this didn't last long and served as small nourishment for Makaze, which emitted a loud growl which reverberated in the cave .

The girl no longer felt surprise, she's grown numb of all of this . She's seen so many mind-blowing things that she no longer cares . She even wondered if she'll be surprised by any achievements other people will do after seeing Arthur and Lucy in action .

Her attention shifted to the blade, which was jet black and was missing its lower half . A black fog emanated from its hilt which slightly obstructed the vision around it .

"Senior . "

As Arthur sheathed Makaze and was about to get up, Shu Ru called out to him . He turned his head and looked at her, who seemed to have gotten rid of her timid attitude, and tilted his head in confusion .

She never talked to him since the first day they arrived in the cave so her sudden call was strange . Feeling his unintentional cold gaze caused Shu Ru to stutter in her words

"I,I know a good blacksmith who can fix your sword . "

Her tone contained confidence as if she knew that Makaze would definitely be fixed . However, Arthur wasn't so optimistic, he stared at her for a few seconds before replying

"Thank you for your concern but I don't think any blacksmith can fix my weapon . "

Although her intentions were good, Arthur still refused her offer for one good reason . Claud said that a blacksmith that can fix Makaze has to be an expert in his field . These Blacksmiths are usually in High-Realms, especially in those large worlds or planets . So it's pointless to waste time with a blacksmith in a middle-Realm .

Despite his flat refusal, Shu Ru insisted:

"I'm sure he can fix your blade . As long as you pay the right price, he'll fix Godly Artifacts . "

(Reminder: Items Ranks : Spirit=> Mystic=> Heavenly=> Godly=> Mysterious .)

'Just like cultivators, Blacksmiths have ranks . Bronze Blacksmiths are the most common, they all have cultivation above God Realm and can repair or craft Spirit and Mystic Ranked Items . Silver Blacksmiths are rare, they are Sovereigns and are able to forge Heavenly Items and if they're lucky, Godly Items . Gold Blacksmiths are few very sparse and I doubt more than twenty exist in all of the Cloud Sea Universe . Whether it's Godly or Mysterious Items, they can craft or repair them, oh and they usually have strong cultivation, meaning a God Monarch or above . The last rank is Diamond Blacksmiths but I don't think they exist anymore .

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This ranking also applies to Alchemists or Poison-Masters or Puppeteer but those three are very rare, especially Puppeteers . '

Conveniently, Claud explained everything to Arthur . Upon pondering about Shu Ru's words, it's easy to deduce that the blacksmith she's talking about is either a Gold Blacksmith or a Silver Blacksmith who's about to break through and rank up, that is if she's not lying .

'I strongly advise to locate a sect or clan of blacksmiths and raid it . The corpses of their ancestors will surely increase your blacksmithing skills and allow you to craft items that transcend logic . '

By the way, Arthur's rank is considered a bronze Blacksmith but he can craft Heavenly Items thanks to accumulated passives and his special flames which are stronger than the one used by normal blacksmiths .

It is known by all that the stronger the flame the easier it is to melt unique metals . The flame control of the crafter is important too and as someone who excels in using fire, Arthur's control is flawless .

"Alright, let me think about it . "

Arthur didn't want to make a rash decision . They still have time and Lucy was still cultivating . Though he cultivation stopped at the peak of Little Sovereign, she started showing signs of breaking through . The next step for her is Fusion Sovereign where she needs to absorb the essence of her God Spirit .

Compared to her, Arthur was still a 2nd Grade God, despite the large difference between them, he wasn't particularly depressed . He just needs a place devoid of light and has a large amount of Darkness Energy and it'll allow him to jump over Grades in just a few days .

He can absorb Nether Energy but just like Lucy's case, where Mana is more compatible with her, natural Darkness Energy will facilitate the task of breaking through to the Sovereign Realm .

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It has been ten days since the trio arrived inside the cave . Aside from a bit of meditation, Arthur did nothing special . Lucy, however, never quit her meditation, she cultivated nonstop and on the tenth day, she was on the verge of becoming a Fusion Sovereign but stopped herself . Shu Ru's physique and her physique have sucked this place dry and despite the presence of the vein, it'll take some time before the cave will accumulate Yin Energy .

Shu Ru managed to advance by two whole grades but that's to be expected since this place is very suitable to her . Outside, she can cultivate but her progress is unimaginably slow .

Neither Arthur nor Lucy will return to this place so it was a shame to leave the vein . Nevertheless, they left it unharmed as they had no place to keep it . Uprooting it will kill it if they don't have a suitable place to put it, like a fertile ground with rich Yin Energy .

The three finally saw the light of day after they left the perimeters of the Wicked Forest . It's hard to believe that the forest has a unique weather to it where the dark clouds blocked the sun rays and just when they stepped out of this thick forest, a whole new sky greeted them .

Arthur glanced at Shu Ru and questioned:

"So, the capital?"

"Yes, it should take us a week to arrive . "

Arthur remained silent for a long period of time thus making Shu Ru confused and kind of awkward as she didn't know what to say . He paid her no heed as his attention was focused on Lucy, who was silently standing next to him .

Though absent-minded, his hand softly caressed her head . He was thinking about countless things and only snapped out of it when Lucy asked

"What's wrong?"

In response, Arthur smiled back at her and said

"Nothing, we've got to hurry, we can't let Saly wait for too long . "

Hearing her daughter's name, Lucy nodded in agreement while enjoying the warm touch of his hand . If she knew what's going on in his head, she would have understood the true meaning of his words .

Unfortunately, this time, Arthur didn't tell her of his plans . . .