

Once Human 491

Chapter 491

Using the language of dragons is one thing and mastering is a completely another thing . Arthur may be able to use thanks to the System's support but there are limits and he only managed to learn a few words, and amongst them, only 'stop' is useful in this current situation .

Thankfully, it worked wonders and managed to stop Katrina from doing anything . She just stood there, stupefied and unable to even lift a finger .

As stared at her helpless state, Arthur, who was still covered in black flames, flashed a creepy grin and added:

"Though I cannot deny your resemblance to Lucy in terms of looks and behavior, at least she's not delusional like you . You can't expect to live a happy life with your so-called 'family' after everything you've done, there's no 'redemption' or 'forgiveness' . "

"Shut your mouth, parasite . "

"Mad, are we? You refuse to hear the bitter truth and blindly do whatever you feel is right regardless of others' feelings . "

The Matriarch gritted her and gave him a venomous glare as if she's about to eat devour him alive .

"What do you know?! I treasure my family and would stop at nothing to secure them a good life . "

In response, Arthur scoffed at her and slowly but surely started moving his body . The 'shackles' binding his body were weakening and very soon, he'll be freed . His two large wings wrapped around him and shone with different lights . One landed on Arthur, healing his body and increasing his recovery while the other circled around the woman then stuck into her skin .

A Few seconds later, Arthur's body started shaking then released a burst of energy, breaking him free, at last . However, before he could take the first step, Katrina's hand lunged toward him and grabbed his neck though a third her arm started showing signs of withering .

The light emanating from his black wing was withering magic, a rare attribute that is a sub-category of Death Magic . In a matter seconds, her hand started feeling numb as the blood circulation was halted and her bones started becoming soft, nevertheless, her grip around his neck remained tight .

"For the sake of your past relationship with my daughter, I was planning to only cripple you, however, I've changed your mind . Your kind has no place in this place, begone . "

Just as she said that, she was about to finish his life only for a yell to come from afar, attracting the attention of both Katrina and Arthur .

Upon turning her head, Katrina was shocked to see Thordan and her daughter, Lucy .

Her ex-husband was surrounded by multiple figures, each with a high cultivation, there was even the Overgod who captured Lucy .

This 'father' of her daughters was holding a needle to Lucy's throat while glaring at Katrina .

"Stop, Katrina!"

What the Matriarch didn't understand was why Thordan was stopping her from killing Arthur . As far as she knew, the two didn't know each other and were definitely not friends .

Though she may be strong, with the presence of the unusual Overgod standing behind Thordan, she didn't attempt any risky moves, fearing that it'll lead to her daughter's death .

In fact, even Arthur was flabbergasted when he saw this scene . He didn't know Lucy was abducted, and that it was her own father who did this heinous act .

Feeling the close proximity of its target and the rising anger of its partner, Makaze started vibrating intensely while releasing ghastly cries .

"I need him alive so you better hand him over right now!"

While pointing at Arthur, Thordan stated that then glanced at his needle, clearly threatening his wife, who was giving him a chilling glare, unlike anything he had ever seen .

Although he was afraid, he didn't back off for he knew she wouldn't try to save her daughter in this situation and the only thing she could do is comply .

While Katrina was trying to come up with a solution, Arthur already started instructing Midolf and Radolf to start acting and save Lucy no matter the cost .

It was apparent that Lucy was in no condition to fight, her face was paler than usual and she seemed to be absent-minded as her gaze was locked onto Arthur .

The more time passed, the more impatient Thordan grew . When half a minute passed and he saw the lack of response from his wife, he yelled again

"You better listen to me or else I'll end her life and I can guarantee you it'll be a painful death!"

The Matriarch was aware that Thordan was not a good father but she never expected him to stoop so low and threaten her to kill his daughter if she doesn't obey him . It was truly twisted and disgusting .

In the end, Katrina decided to comply and let go of Arthur . She let out a sigh and backed away while letting Arthur fly toward Thordan, who raised his other hand and warned him

"You better not try anything fishy, I only need to push it a little deeper and she'll die . "

Arthur nodded his head and deactivated all his active skills, returning to his original appearance . As she slowly made his way toward Lucy and Thordan, countless thoughts rampaged inside of his head .

A mutual exchange of glance between him and Lucy was enough to establish a simple plan . He knew what Thordan needed him for and he definitely won't remove the mark, in fact, he'll kill him . However, saving Lucy took full priority .

The only thing Arthur was wary of was the man behind Thordan, he was an Overgod but he seemed kind of different and very dangerous . The man seemed calm even in such a tense situation, he even smiled at Arthur while slightly bowing his head .

The distance between the two parties grew shorter and Katrina who was far away still hasn't given up . The moment Lucy is released, she'll make her move and dispose of both Arthur and Thordan .

After one full minute, Arthur arrived before the father and Lucy, he stabbed Makaze on the scorched ground then raised his hands while saying

"I'm here so how about you let her go?"

Thordan laughed and retorted

"When you properly do your job, I'll release her . "

He raised his hand, pulled his sleeve and revealed an ominous mark on top of his right hand .

"All I want you to do is remove this mark . "

Arthur frowned and said back:

"How can I trust your words? You either release her now or I won't do a thing . "

Thordan creased his brows and pondered for a moment before turning around and pushing Lucy toward the Overgod before saying

"Kill her if anything happens . "

The man nodded his head and put his head over her head and gazed at Arthur, who was pleased with this result . Nonetheless, he walked toward the fragile Thordan and raised his hand, acting as if he's really going to remove the mark .

Meanwhile, the people escorting Thordan all unsheathed their weapons and got close to Arthur, each of them pointing at his vital spots, ready to strike at any given second .

"Are you this afraid of me that resort to such extreme means? Hehehehe, I'm your 'son-in-law', how could I even think of hurting you?"

Arthur innocent smile and truthful words were but a comical act which Thordan didn't buy as he lashed out at the former:

"Stop babbling and remove the mark!"

Arthur's stretched hand suddenly shifted direction and gripped his victim's neck while the invisible Midolf wonderfully did his job and sent all the escorts flying away .

Still holding Thordan, Arthur glanced at the silent Overgod and said

"Release her or I'll kill him . "

In response, the Overgod unexpectedly shrugged his shoulders and replied:

"He's my employer and my job is to kill her if anything happens and not protect his life . "

Then, without any hesitation, the Overgod's hand released a dark light which struck Lucy's head, causing her to limply fall on the ground .

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"Noo!"

Arthur threw away Thordan's body and jumped at the man, who vanished almost instantaneously . Arthur didn't give chase but crouched next to Lucy and held her body, which was incredibly cold and lacking a constant pulse . Whatever the man just used on her, it was killing her life and Arthur was completely helpless .

His hand shone with a golden light as he activated his healing skills and used Life Energy but it was all pointless as it wasn't able to stop whatever was ending his wife's life .

A white-haired youth appeared beside Arthur and leaned his head closer, sniffing her for a few moments before muttering

"It's destroying her muscles and bones!"

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The plan was for Lucy to use her eye ability to temporarily freeze the Overgod then Arthur would teleport to save her . He never thought that the mysterious man would be so decisive, he didn't even care about Thordan's life .

'You're knowledgeable! Fix this!'

Arthur talked to Claud, who remained silent ever since the fight began .

'I can't just clap my hands and save her life! I need to diagnose her . '

After pausing for a slight second, Claud said

'Forfeit ownership of the ARK, quick!'

'I do! I forfeit ownership of the ARK!'

Just as he said that, the rotating cube inside Arthur's consciousness changed forms, becoming a weird grey triangle . It exited his consciousness and landed on Lucy's chest before slowly melting inside her body .

Claud knew how desperate Arthur was so he had to resort to such extreme measures . In fact, Arthur could barely think straight, however, he wasn't the only one who was panicking .

Katrina, who was at the back, was also shocked by the unfolding events . As she saw her daughter's limp body, she charged toward her but was blocked by Radolf and Midolf, who were determined to stop her .

"Move out of the way! I don't plan to fight!"

The two didn't reply, they just retrieved their weapons and took a fighting stance . They could sense Arthur's desperation and unstable emotions and it is their job to protect him until Lucy's life is saved .

"I SAID MOVE!"

Katrina's energy burst forth, pushing away the two mythical beings and rendering them unable to even get close to her . With lightning-speed, she headed toward Lucy only for a malevolent dark aura to clash with her, stopping her from advancing any further .

A violent energy was revolving around Arthur, boosting his stats and allowing him to face Katrina head-on . He didn't need to talk or explain his actions, he just stood there, Makaze in hand, while glaring at the Matriarch .

"I have the means to save her so stop blocking me . "

Time is pressing so pointlessly clashing with him will only cause her to lose her daughter, whom she got back after a very long search .

Unfortunately, Arthur wasn't going to comply as he had complete faith in Claud and knew that his copy will be able to get rid of whatever was killing her .

With a distressed expression, Katrina kept glancing at Lucy, whose body started floating in the air before a strange-looking cocoon enveloped her . The cocoon was unlike anyone had ever seen, it was made of strange black metal engraved with countless changing numbers, basically, it resembled the technology used by the System .

A few more seconds passed before an inexplicable thing happened . The Matriarch, whose attention was on her daughter, was suddenly pushed back a hundred or so meters and when she looked at what caused this disturbance, she was shocked to see a large purple orb rotating above Arthur .

She has lived for a very long time and the savage and dangerous aura emanating from the orb cannot be faked . Katrina wasn't the only one who recognized the orb, the praying monks were also surprised but they were focused on praying so they didn't dare to comment .

On the other hand, the prying eyes watching the fight from afar finally showed their true colors and decided to jump in . They didn't expect Arthur to be in possession of such a priceless treasure and only wanted to 'aid' Katrina at the end of the fight to reap some benefits later on .

Who would have thought the infamous orb would appear here out of all places . Several lights flew across the red sky and appeared around Arthur, each and everyone had a threatening aura .

To make matters worse, these people brought with them small armies that well-equipped and nothing to scoff at . These armies joined the white specters and started fighting the skeletons .

Aborak, who just got done dealing with the annoying fishmen, was surprised as a thick and long chain fell from the sky and hit several thousand skeletons, obliterating them and even ripping the large zombies in half . The thick chain drilled into the ground and linked the earth with the slowly opening gate .

Including Katrina, three more people appeared around Arthur, gazing at the orb above him with greedy eyes .

"To think the Orb of the Fallen Overgods is here!"

A woman wearing tight dark blue clothes commented while crossing her arms and inspecting the rotating purple orb .

"It is to be expected for an abomination to possess such an evil thing . Today, it will be purified by the Dominion!"

A bald old man with a small white beard raised his cane and was about to attack only to be interrupted by the last 'guest' .

It was a man clad in white armor, he had long black hair and was holding a long silver sword . He was a famous figure in the Divine Planet as well as all of the Cloud Sea Universe .

He belonged to the Cloud Sea Sect and was called Marshall Albert, known for his chivalry and kind spirit .

"This item is confiscated by the Cloud Sea Sect, no one is allowed to interfere . "

Unlike the two others, his words seemed genuine and he didn't harbor any greed toward the orb .

Though shocked, Katrina didn't join them and decided to back away, heading toward the cocoon enveloping her daughter . As for Arthur, he warily stared at the new enemies, not daring to do any sudden moves .

All of them seemed to be as strong as Katrina and they were all focused on him, which left him in a dire and tricky situation, nevertheless, he is not going to give up .

In fact, Arthur very much wanted to chase after the man who attacked Lucy and finish him but he couldn't as the latter seemed to have vanished . Furthermore, the sudden reaction caused by the orb worsened the whole situation .

'X' just appeared in the stormy area around the Divine Planet, he suddenly glanced at one specific direction while saying

"It's finally time for our reunion, O'my dear Arthur!"

He was about to bypass the raging winds and enter the planet only for a lonely silhouette to block his way .

Upon seeing who it was, 'X' frowned and clicked his tongue, clearly unhappy to see whoever was in front of him .

"Look, we don't have any enmity between us and I'm not in the mood to fight you so let us part ways peacefully . "

The figure blocking 'X's way let out a sigh and retorted

"I'm afraid that is not possible . "

"Hmpf! Don't tell me you want the orb too?"-X

"Want it? No . Need it? Yes . "

The man facing 'X' was none other than the person always accompanying the Void Behemoth in the Underworld . He was a friend of Zodiak and was aware that the orb will act soon which is why he came here and patiently waited for X to come .

"Well, it just so happens that I need it so..."

'X' retrieved a short grey cane and prepared himself to fight the opponent before him .

The middle-aged man let out a chuckle and before the fight commenced, he uttered:

"Of course you need it, after all, it's the only existing artifact that is able to kill the Nameless Knight and knowing the feud between you two, it's not surprising seeing you so desperately trying to get it . "

Not only is the orb capable of killing the Nameless Knight, but it can also but used to enter the Garden of Words one time . So it isn't surprising to see top figures greedy about it .

For the longest time, 'X' had been hiding from Leiu for fear of being killed . He sought the orb, acquired it and even strengthened it, however, it needed to be charged by a mortal's soul but not any mortal . This was the reason he forsook it to Arthur while planning to retrieve it later on .

Unfortunately, he didn't expect things to turn out this way, nevertheless, he finally located Arthur and the orb is ready to be used . 'X' only needs to get his hands on it then go find the Nameless Knight to finish their feud and exact revenge .

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Stuck between a rock and a hard place, Arthur didn't know to proceed . He had trump cards that could save his life but it's a bit too soon to use them now, furthermore, all three enemies were focusing on him, rendering him unable to perform a sneak attack .

When the Marshall stated his reason for coming here, the other two were displeased but didn't object and maintained their silence . The man clad in armor started approaching Arthur, his face calm and his longsword hanging on his back .

He only felt a bit threatened by the energy released by the orb, as for Arthur, he wasn't considered a dangerous or worthwhile opponent . As the Marshall got closer to both Arthur and the rapidly rotating purple orb, a shooting black star came flying from afar and crashed into the Albert, causing him to be pushed back a few steps .

However, this wasn't the end as two other streaks of light followed right after, one clashing with the woman and the other with the old man from the Holy Dominion .

The Archcardinal was suddenly struck by countless thunderbolts, stunning him for a split second before the incoming blue light clashed with him and flung him a distance away .

As for the woman, she was more prepared than the old man as she swung down her whip in an attempt to block a small figure which tried to kick her away .

After a few seconds cleared, everything became much clearer, revealing the identity of the new incomers . To Arthur's big surprise, both Astrith and Saly were present, moreover, his daughter's appearance drastically changed and the aura around her was unlike anything he'd ever seen .

Her hair became much longer and snow white, her eyes blue as the sky, and face a bit mature than before . He was dumbstruck as he saw the little girl viciously kick the woman many times before backing away .

Though she wasn't able to injure her enemy, she was still able to grab her attention, buying him enough time to deal with the orb . Fortunately, he had his pain immunity active or else he would have felt an unimaginable pain as the rotating orb was affecting his body as well as his soul .

Due to being linked to his consciousness for a long time, the orb formed some kind of reliance and its reaction was somehow changing his body . Whether it's for the better or the worse, only time will tell .

"Saly?"

Arthur tried calling out for his daughter but he was interrupted by a black-haired man wielding two short swords . He was the one facing the Marshall and seemed to be much stronger than his two other companions, Astrith and Saly .

He was none other than Wrath, one of the seven deadly sins and the personal guard of Isadore Marfront, King of Green-Leaf . In addition to these three, there was a sizable army composed of many cultivators which followed the trio shortly after .

Leading this army was a familiar figure, a girl with long black hair and a red one-handed sword . Not long ago, she was appointed as the sect master of the Mountain Ba Sword Sect and after a bitter internal struggle, she finally decided to lend a hand and join forces with Isadore . Basically, she chose to bet on Arthur and hoped he'll prevail against the White Specter Clan .

"This is not the time for a happy reunion, hurry up and hide that damned orb!"

Wrath shouted at Arthur then turned to face the Marshall, who was momentarily startled by his new opponent's sudden appearance .

"Sin, are you going to defy the Cloud Sea Sect?"-Albert

Wrath shrugged his shoulders and retorted:

"What I do has nothing to do with you crazy people . Now, why don't we spice things up?"

The dark-haired man grinned and charged at the Marshall, brandishing his swords and going all out . In a matter of seconds, the two started fighting, exchanging hundreds of attacks .

The more Wrath fights, the stronger he gets, furthermore, he's an ancient entity who battled countless people and is definitely not someone to underestimate . His speed may be slower than Arthur's and his defense may be lower than Losha's, however, he's still one of the seven deadly sins and by no means he's a pushover .

A distance away from the two battling freaks, a large wolf covered in a dark blue fur was facing the old man from the Holy Dominion .

"An unusual lightning beast... interesting . "

Unfazed by Astrith's blue lightning and he's ferocious appearance, the Archcardinal chuckled and raised a short golden cane while chanting a spell .

Due to the urgency of the situation, neither Astrith nor Saly got to greet Arthur, they immediately started fighting their opponents, who are Exalted Gods . No matter how much they trained, the two of them weren't as strong as their enemies, however, their reckless and almost suicidal way of fighting allowed them to hold on for a decent amount of time .

The red sky was covered by a net of blue lightning and every few seconds, several red thunderbolts would rain from above, hitting the old man's Holy Barrier .

"My my, I'm not one to hurt little kids . "

The woman facing Saly seductively laughed while brandishing her long whip, she examined the little girl from head to toe before talking again

"I have to say, your aura is special and... delicious . "

She licked her lips and swung her whip at Saly, who crossed her arms to block . The moving whip emitted deafening sounds as it whistled in the air and hit Saly, sending her flying dozens of meters away .

The girl's arms became bloody but this was nothing compared to the agonizing beating she endured from her merciless teacher . She may be in possession of a few powerful skills but the Joker repeatedly told her that relying on them will only hinder her .

To win a fight or to kill the enemy, one must have fast reflexes and a calm mind capable of coming up with the best decisions no matter how desperate the situation was .

Though she was flung away, Saly flew at her enemy with lightning speed and punched the woman, causing cracks in the space around the two of them and emitting violent wind waves .

The woman raised her hand and easily grasped Saly's fist while smiling, clearly not feeling threatened . The strength of the Exalted God was far beyond what Saly could handle, nonetheless, the little girl did something that shocked her enemy .

Her fist still held by the enemy, Saly twisted her body then raised her lower half, kicking the woman's head . A cracking sound could be heard as her arm bent in a weird way and her bones broke yet she didn't even groan from the pain and focused all her strength in that kick .

The close combat her teacher taught her is the peak of any martial arts and it allowed her to use a momentary burst of strength to injure enemies far above her level, or so said the Joker .

Meanwhile, the battle between the undead and the white specter grew fiercer as many variables were introduced . Jian Si led the army provided by Isadore and valiantly clashed with the reinforcement brought by the Holy Dominion .

The Archcardinal only brought fifty or so Holy Knights but they were all Sovereigns and very well-equipped . Still, the girl dived straight into their ranks and crazily waved her sword around like a mad dog . Her murderous and violent sword essence slaughtered everything in her way, sparing nothing but the dead .

As for the undead, their numbers drastically decreased and their forces were slowly breaking as the awakened white specters were struggling all their might . What made matters worse was an orderly squad of soldiers brought by the Marshall, they used large-sized cannons that released a burst of Holy Magic which pulverized thousands of undead at once, even the Bone Dragons weren't spared and turned into nothingness .

Fortunately, the Divine Beasts were almost done with the elders, they managed to defeat every last one of their enemy except the head elder, who was very resilient .

What made him last long was an ancestral weapon provided by Katrina . It was a flute which could lock several targets in place and deplete them of all their energy . His constant use of the flute wore him out but he still persisted for a long time until Katrina finally appeared and lent a hand .

She instructed him to guard the cocoon enveloping Lucy while she took care of the raging Divine Beasts . The constant flow of energy provided by the formation set by Arthur allowed them to endlessly . As long as the formation stands, none of the Divine Beasts would suffer a lack of energy hence their reckless and continuous use of powerful abilities .

At this point in time, the whole place turned into a complete mess... the winds raged, thunderbolts rained from the sky and flames danced from West to North . This place no longer resembled the once-majestic and beautiful White Specter Clan, chaos reigned all over and the body never ceased increasing .

The strong fought the strong, the weak fought the weak and the nauseating stench of blood spread across the whole battlefield, sending shivers down the weak-willed ones .

Amidst this grisly war, the prayers were heard and the cries were answered, and soon, the gates of Oblivion will open . . .

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When Katrina and the elder exchanged places, the Divine Beasts started having a hard time . An awakened White Specter which reached the Exalted God Realm is on whole other level than the old men they were fighting a while ago .

Furthermore, the matriarch was determined to dispose of the four Divine and permanently weaken the undead army . Sadly, just as she was about to attack them, she caught the sense of a very familiar person . Upon stretching her sense a bit further, she was shocked to see a bound Angelina, who was covered by Dark Magic and only her face could be seen, barely .

A pigolo was standing behind her daughter and staring right back at the matriarch with a fearless expression . He was certain of safety as long as Angelina is next to him . After all, Katrina wouldn't dare risk her daughter's life .

While clenching her teeth and glaring at Gutcha then at the four Divine Beasts, she backed down but still kept an eye on the enormous beasts, keeping them in check and blocking their way .

The situation reached a stalemate as the Divine Beasts surrounded Katrina while she crossed her arms and maintained her passive stance .

"Matriarch, what are you doing? Finish those pests . "

The old Archcardinal shouted at Matriarch while blocking the endless blue thunderbolts descending at him .

"I can't, they have my daughter as a hostage . "

"Tsk"

The old man clicked his tongue and pointed his cane at the four beasts before chanting a quick spell . The red sky above the Divine Beasts quickly became covered in arrows made of golden lights . The arrows rained down on the four monsters, however, they only lasted for a short time before a storm made of Death Energy absorbed half of them .

A violent and invisible gale of wind shattered the other half, ending this dangerous and swift spell of the Archcardinal . After deflecting the old man's attack, Radolf joined Astrith and Midolf stuck close to Saly .

"I hate annoying brats like you!"

The woman fighting Saly was seething with anger as a bloody injury could be seen on her shoulder . Her opponent was already covered in blood but she showed no signs of exhaustion, in fact, she became fiercer the more she fought, frightening the woman .

The disadvantageous situation of Saly was gone the moment Midolf joined the battle . His supportive skills and deadly attacks were exactly what the little girl needed .

"Don't worry about avoiding her attacks, just kicks her motherfucking ass . "

Midolf whispered into Saly's ears while gluing himself into her back and readying himself . Saly nodded her head, wiped the blood leaking out her lips and lunged at the annoyed woman .

Another thorny whip appeared on the woman's free hand, allowing her to attack the incoming little figure with two lightning-fast whips . The crisp sound of the swinging whips and their speed were just too much for Saly .

She closed her eyes and raised her hand, intending to receive the blow head-on only for her body to be pushed by a gentle gust of wind, surprisingly allowing her to dodge the snake-like whip .

The girl's fist started glowing with a silvery light which then went all the way to her shoulder and covered all of her arms . Midolf, who was on her back, used his wind skills to push her faster toward the enemy, rendering the enemy unable to back away in time or retract her whips to block .

Nonetheless, the woman was still an Exalted God, she let go of the whips and flashed a bracelet at the incoming Saly . A pink color emanated from the bracelet and within a split second, a pink dome enveloped the woman and protected her from the enemy .

Saly's bright fist clashed with the pink dome, shattering it instantly and hitting the woman's abdomen . Though the power behind Saly's punch was monstrous, it was still unable to heavily injure a Celestial Body .

Nevertheless, the woman was pushed back a few steps and held her stomach while groaning in pain . As for Saly, she jumped back and held her fist, feeling a bit of pain . It felt like she hit a metal wall rather than someone's body .

The Orb of the Fallen Overgods' spinning speed never ceased increasing . It was rotating so fast that it became hard to see it, furthermore, a pillar of light was unleashed by the orb, piercing the bloody canopy and continuing all the way up, seemingly about to grab the high heavens .

Arthur, who was the center of this all, was still unable to move freely, however, something strange started to happen outside and inside of his consciousness .

The bright blob of light inside of his consciousness started pulsating with a purple light, clearly in synch with the strange orb . However, this wasn't everything, the stranger occurrence was the countless cries coming from within him .

They reverberated across the whole battlefield and alerted everyone . The cries were a mix of monsters and humans but one thing they had in common is that they were ear-deafening and filled with a suffocating aura .

After a few minutes passed, illusory images started appearing next to Arthur, each had a different form, size, and color . There were bears, wolves, fish, dragons, gargoyles, humans, etc...

As he witnessed this sight, Arthur was confused and very much wanted an explanation, which he isn't going to get, of course . The countless appearing forms around him were resonating with the big orb above him and granting him unimaginable power .

It was different from the increase in states or cultivation, this felt distinct and heavily relying on his soul . His physical prowess remained the same but he could feel his sense stretching farther than the whole battlefield, moreover, he could clearly pinpoint anyone's location and the state of their soul .

In a way, this was like an upgraded state of the past Ethereal state as it calmed his mind and relieved him of all his anxiousness . Very soon, a blinding light emitted from his chest before it transformed into a flashing silhouette .

Holding a golden sword in one hand and a white shield in the other, a blond-haired chivalrous knight stood before Arthur and faced all the other surprised enemies .

This was none other than Curtis, who heard his master's call and summoned himself to do his duty .

"A T-transcendent knight?"

The Archcardinal was flabbergasted when he saw Curtis and felt the Holy aura revolving around him . In comparison, his aura was like contaminated trash which could only disintegrate before the knight's brilliance .

"You can rest at ease, I will take care of them . "

Curtis bowed toward Arthur before he focused his gaze on the surprised old man, who even forgot the existence of Radolf and Astrith . The two beasts used this opportunity to strike the Archcardinal .

In addition to the blue tail Astrith had, two other tails suddenly appeared, one covered in purple lighting and the other in red thunder . The wolf howled loudly before he transformed into a bolt of multi-colored lightning which rose high-up and became part of the interconnected thunderbolts dominating the sky .

As for Radolf, his two creepy looking heads bit each other and strangely became one . The newly formed head, made of only blackened bones, opened its humongous mouth and unleashed a death storm .

Every passing second, the death storm became larger in size until it reached the lightning-covered sky . With the old man as its center, the death storm depleted the old man of his Holy Magic and created a path for Astrith to strike .

From within the net of lightning, An enormous wolf covered in red thunder descended and like a falling meteor, struck the Archcardinal, who appropriate retaliated despite being stuck in a tight spot .

He made use of the Holy Chapters and summoned several white silhouettes which surrounded him and blocked Astrith's way . Loud and deafening thunderclaps resounded across the whole area and when everything cleared, you could see a lonely figure standing amidst the charred ground and corrupted earth .

It was none other than a bloody old man who waved his cane around, quickly healing himself while spitting some blood . Unfortunately for him, Curtis appeared dozens of meters away and raised his sword above his head and swung down, showing no hesitation or mercy .

The old man, surprised by Curtis' antagonistic actions, tried to explain himself only to be cut down by Curtis' slash and being engulfed by a golden light .

After several seconds, there Archcardinal was no more and Curtis' figure became a bit illusory, after all, he expanded quite a bit of energy to kill an Exalted God .

Astrith and Radolf may have injured the old man but the latter could have healed himself and continued to fight . Curtis' decisive slash was what mattered most in the previous battle .

What was left now was the woman fighting Saly . As for Marshall Albert, he won't be able to escape from Wrath anytime soon . They drifted far away from the battlefield but the collateral damage caused by their violent fight could be felt even from this place .

Literally, it was a battle between two old and undying warriors and to expect to see a victor this early in this fight is but wishful thinking .

Although he managed to kill an Exalted God once, it is unlikely that Curtis will be able to do it a second time . After disposing of the Archcardinal, the Transcendent Knight shifted his attention to the woman fighting Saly .

Meanwhile, Arthur started rampage down below . He was like a raging beast, transforming into different creatures and wreaking havoc inside of enemy lines .

One second, he's a dragon spitting a sea of flames and the other he's a huge metal golem stomping on the specter and slaughtering his way through the countless opponents .

He was like a killing God, unstoppable and unbeatable . He was way stronger than the awakened specters or the Holy Knights so, for a while, he killed thousands of them until he was resisted by the Marshall's army . They were unafraid of the parasite as they brandished their bloody weapons and surrounded him, each one of them throwing powerful skills and tried to pin Arthur down .

Far away from the battlefield, Death caressed his beardless chin and muttered

"Is that the infamous Metamorphosis of Zaaarae? It's my first time seeing it . "

The Joker, who was also watching his brother's onslaught, nodded his head and said:

"It's not complete but it's indeed the Metamorphosis state . When a parasite can immediately take the form of a host he previously possessed, basically, literally becoming said host . It's one of the abilities that contributed to Zaaarae's rise in power . "

Death glanced at the Joker and asked:

"Though, I'm still curious about how your brother managed to get his hands on her powers . It happened before my ascension so I couldn't get a glimpse of it . "

Hearing this, Leiu snorted and retorted:

"Hmpf! It's better than you didn't see a thing . Your babbling mouth causes too much trouble already . Also, some things are better left forever in the dark . "

As if he remembered something, Death faced the Nameless Knight and asked:

"Speaking of the past, I'm curious about the feud between you and 'X' . Just what did he do to you to make you chase him all around the Multiverse?"

The old man ended up receiving a chilling glare from the pale-faced youth, who refused to answer and stretched his hand and grabbed Death by his neck .

The thin old man continuously coughed as he was being suffocated, however, a creepy grin was plastered on his face .

"What? You want to kill me? Go ahead and try . "

Anastassia tried to interfere only to be stopped by the Joker, who grabbed her shoulder and shook his head .

"Better stay put, little bird . "

Still smiling, Death glanced at the far away Arthur and added:

"I wonder what brother of yours will do if he has to choose between you and his dear wife... will he destroy that orb so that no one can kill you or will he use it to save himself and his wife?"

...

Unbeknownst to Leiu and co, Arthur, who was busy fighting, actually heard their conversation thanks to the boost in his sense provided by the rotating orb . Their conversation was cut short but its contents greatly shocked him and made stop moving for a few seconds, causing him to be bombarded by all kinds of deadly spells .

Unfortunately for his enemies, Arthur regained his senses soon after and transformed into a sharp which dived underground then shifted form again, becoming a large venomous plant which stretched its vines and bound numerous of his enemies . The vines pierced the armored soldiers and amputated their limbs, finishing more than third of them in one attack .

Outside of the Divine Planet, the battle between 'X' and the middle-aged man didn't last for long as the former made use of his Time abilities to emerge victorious . Despite his blurred face, his mocking laugh showed how pleased as he stared at the half-kneeling man before him .

'X' was totally unscathed by the man was in a terrible state, his legs trembling and his skin wrinkled due to a long passage of time .

'X' wasn't interested in his enemy and was about to enter the Divine Planet at last only for his whole left arm to be amputated without his realization .

He only reacted to this sudden act after a few seconds . Lots of blood gushed out of his shoulder yet he didn't seem to be bothered . He lifted his face and focused on a large winged beast which seemed unaffected by the violent storms in the surroundings .

Next to the winged figure was a grey-haired man staring back at 'X' . Although he looked slightly different, 'X' was able to recognize the man with just a glance, this made him burst in loud laughter, unable to hold back his excitement .

"What a pleasant reunion!"-X

Arthur nodded his head and said:

"Indeed, what better place for two 'friends' to meet after a long time . "

'X' inspected Arthur and immediately knew that he wasn't the same one leading the army . Not only did he not have the orb, but he was also much stronger and emanated a different aura .

"I'm quite in a hurry, you see, so... what brings you here? If it's not too urgent, I say we schedule our happy reunion for later . "

Arthur crossed his arms, focused his gaze on 'X's blurry face and spoke:

"As crooked as your actions were, I cannot deny that your intervention was timely and helpful to me . "

'X' clapped his hands and said back:

"So you know I meant you no harm! Then why do I sense a bit of hostility?"

"Quite simple, actually . I cannot let you have the orb, not now, not in the future . "

'X' spread his head innocently and replied:

"I don't get you, Arthur . Our paths happened to cross but that doesn't mean we have to be enemies . You live your life and I mine, there's no need for needless and pointless fights . "

As he listened to 'X', Arthur let out a sigh and asked:

"Then, just to confirm, let me ask you, what do you plan to do with the orb?"

"..."

All he got as a reply was total silence as 'X' stood there and gazed at Arthur .

Expecting not to hear an answer, Arthur added:

"You want to use the orb's power to kill the Nameless Knight, am I right?"

"Why do you care?"

"I just care . "

As if he couldn't wait any longer, 'X' tried to bypass Arthur and directly enter the Divine Planet . He began slowly turning illusory and just when he about to disappear, Yamak flapped his silver wings and disturbed the Space, negating 'X' ability and pushing him out of the hidden dimension he was going to use .

"Do you really want to do this?"-X

His tone became a bit irritated and his aura started manifesting . The blood gushing out of his shoulder froze mid-air and his amputated arm slowly went back to its original place . Put simply, X rewound time, easily recovering from the injury caused by the dragon .

Back on the battlefield, Arthur felt conflicted and didn't know what to do exactly . At this point in time, the orb was slowly merging with his soul, soon to become one with it . However, that doesn't mean it can't be taken away in the future . Someone well-versed in Souls can still separate the orb and use it for his own benefits, like 'X', for example .

From within the ground, he gazed at the spinning orb and thought for what seemed to be an eternity before he resolutely took his decision .

'Do it, Makaze!'

The dark blade heard its partner's call and immediately started acting . A black shadow sprung from the ground and released a loud roar, scaring off the nearby enemies and mentally dizzying them for a few seconds .

Evil Wind transformed into its real appearance, a lengthy blade fit for a giant . It was covered in black flames and its hilt had archaic runes engraved on it .

Once the Gale Devourer, the blade rose in the air and unleashed its flames in the sky, casting a dark shadow on this whole area and limiting everyone's vision . This abrupt and strange actions of the dark blade alerted everyone, including Leiu and the Joker .

The man wearing a weird white costume was shocked by Makaze's actions . He advanced one step and was about to stop the ominous blade only for his brother to stop him .

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"Leiu, why are you being like this?!"

"You cannot interfere . "

The youth's tone was serious as he held back Wolfram and shook his head . In response, the Joker clenched his fists and retorted

"Don't you fucking see what that blade is doing? It's going to shatter the orb!"

"It is his decision, you should respect it . " Leiu didn't mind the Joker's outburst . He kept a calm demeanor while locking gazes with the frustrated trickster .

"What do you mean, respect it? It's bloody connected to his soul, shattering it is fatal to him!" The Joker retrieved a card and was about to raise his hand only to be forcibly stopped .

The hand gripping his shoulder tightened, rendering him unable to take another step or activate his card .

"I cannot tolerate any of your recklessness right now, stay put!"

The Joker glared back at his brother but ended up putting the card away .

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Marshall Albert was the first to notice Makaze's behavior and was able to guess the blade's intentions . He brandished his longsword and clashed with Wrath, pushing him back a few steps before saying

"The Cloud Sea Sect will make sure your 'King' will be given a deserving punishment . "

In response, the sin spat on the ground and retorted

"Hah! I'd like to see you try!"

In reality, the Marshall truly wanted to acquire the orb and bring it back to his sect, however, he was unlucky enough to meet a tough opponent who wouldn't budge . Furthermore, the longer he fought Wrath, the more disadvantageous the situation became .

The Marshall was the strongest person on the battlefield but he never expected to be stopped by one of the seven sins . If he knew beforehand that Isadore will side with Arthur, he would've brought another Marshall .

Now, the orb is about to be shattered and all hopes of acquiring it will be lost not only to the Marshall but also to the woman battling Saly .

Seeing more enemies gang up on her, the woman finally went all out . She transformed into an enormous pink-ish snake covered in lengthy scales .

In fact, she resembled a wingless dragon more than a snake but her loud hissing and sharp and tall fangs protruding out of her mouth were distinct features of a snake . Despite her large body, she was as fast as lightning, attacking all three opponents at once .

Saly was supported by Midolf, who used his abilities to protect the little girl . As for Curtis, he raised his shield and took the hit head-on, causing him to be sent flying to the back .

The snake hit all three and dived straight at the Makaze, trying to stop it . Unfortunately, her path was stopped by two equally large beasts . Several thunderbolts landed on her but they did close to no damage, same thing for Radolf's eternal black flames, which tried to burn the snake's scales but failed .

Makaze's sharp tip was pointed at the large orb, it stopped a distance away from the ancient artifact and strangely stopped emitting its loud growls . After a few seconds passed, countless kinds of swords and sabers appeared around the Dark Blade, all pointing at the orb .

When enough blades appeared, they all flew at the orb and stabbed it, Makaze hitting the very center and causing a small crack . Through the minuscule hole, a dense amount of savage energy leaked and shattered most of the blades stabbing the orb .

In less than 5 seconds, only Makaze remained, unaffected by the savage energy which tried to push it away .

...

Under the battlefield, Arthur was writhing in pain, he felt as if his soul was pierced and being pulled out of his body . The pain was unlike anything he had ever felt and it was slowly destroying both his body and consciousness .

Numerous notifications errors popped in front of him, warning him of the consequences of his actions . The orb was tightly linked to his soul and shattering it by no means a beneficial thing .

However, Arthur wasn't going to kill himself just to destroy this artifact, he had a plan in mind . With the ARK gone, his last evolution was automatically canceled, causing him to become weakened and this was like a golden opportunity for him . If he can also get rid of the orb and immediately evolve, he can restore his body and heal his weakened and partially complete soul .

While struggling and gripping his chest, Arthur raised his hand with great difficulty and tapped on the roof beneath his head . This simple movement activated the Elemental Wheel and moved the motionless arrow .

The dark arrow started spinning like crazy until all the colors became jet black, completely changing the function of the formation . The wheel, which was initially under the undead, left its place and started floating in the air while releasing a malevolent darkness .

This was supposed to act as a restraint for Katrina but Arthur was forced to use on the orb . The incredibly large black wheel became smaller in size until it matched the rotating orb, then it enveloped it like a dome .

The black dome covered both Makaze and the orb, sealing both of them for a short amount of time .

Arthur leaned against a wall and vomited some blood before opening his lips and mumbling with an inaudible voice

"Consume and devour, destroy and empower... the power to uplift the downtrodden, by the Dark Oath, I order you to feed!"

"I can feel it! It's him! Gluttony!"

Wrath excitedly laughed while looking at the black dome above the battlefield . He could feel the nostalgic and familiar feeling of one of his past comrades, the fallen gluttony .

It is not literally him but it's his innate ability, the power to devour everything and anything .

...

While it is true that the Orb of the Fallen Overgods was very beneficial to him, he still couldn't keep it hidden with the risk of it being stolen and used against his brother . His actions may have been reckless but if it's for the sake of his brother then it's definitely worth it .

Lucy was still stuck inside the cocoon and there was no response from Claud, however, he had no doubt that his copy will successfully pull Lucy from death's grasp .

As the situation was reaching its climax and the orb was going to be devoured by the awakened Makaze, the silent Katrina made a sudden move .

She abruptly stretched her hand, bypassing all the hurdles in the way and getting hold of Arthur . Before the Divine Beasts could move, a large white hand was already holding Arthur .

The Matriarch paid no attention to the surrounding beasts and directly glared at Gutcha, who was taking Angelina hostage . Though his boss was captured and could be killed by the Matriarch, Gutcha showed no fear or hesitation .

Arthur clearly and repeatedly told him to prioritize Lucy and when Saly appeared, he also told him to do anything in his power to get her out of here if things went downhill .

As he was held by Katrina, Arthur coughed some blood and chuckled, not worried about his life .

"*cough* it seems you don't value your *cough* daughter's life . Gutcha, kill her . "

Though he was far away from Arthur, he still heard him so, without any hesitation, Gutcha stretched his hand, which was covered in Dark Magic, and attacked the semi-consciousness Angelina .

"No!"

Katrina didn't think Arthur would actually kill her and this decisively too . With a speed that even surprised Gutcha, she flew straight at him but she wasn't faster than his hand .

The pigolo was about to stab her heart with his hand and end it once and for all only to meet some kind of resistance . This resistance wasn't done by the Matriarch but something else .

Before he could react, Gutcha was flung away by the anxious Katrina, crashing into the undead . Her strike was enough to break most of his bones and render him unable to fight, in fact, he was on the brink of death .

Worried about her daughter's life, Katrina held Angelina's body and inspected chest only to find a strange cube protruding out of her heart . The cube was visible for a slight second before it entered her body .

The Matriarch recognized the cube and knew it was the same one which created a cocoon around Lucy, so she instinctively turned her head toward where Lucy was supposed to be only to see naught but air .

By the next second, the hand holding down Arthur disappeared as a chilling coldness spread to all corners of the battlefield, freezing both undead and specters .

Lucy knelt on the ground while holding Arthur's body . Not only was she in top form, but she was also wearing a black metal armor from head to toe . The only way to recognize her was the long silver hair coming out of the metallic helmet .

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Although he could barely move and had difficulties breathing, Arthur raised his head and gazed at the far away Angelina . He stretched his boosted sense and tried talking to his copy .

'Claud! What's the meaning of this?!'

There is no way Lucy would have instructed him to save her sister . He knew that she didn't love this family of hers and wouldn't forfeit the ARK just so it could save her big sister . The only explanation is that Claud on his own and purposely interfered, saving Angelina at the very last second .

He knew Arthur and his Dark Magic so he surely knew of a way to negate Gutcha's attack and secure her life . Unfortunately, Arthur received no answer so he didn't press any further and focused his attention on the black dome .

Seeing Lucy's anxious gaze, he let out a chuckle and said:

"Don't worry about me, go help Saly . "

After hesitating for a split second, Lucy nodded her head and glanced at the large snake flying at the trapped orb, intending to get its hands on it . Even after Saly, Midolf, Astrith, and Curtis joined hands, they still were unable to stop the raging snake, which seemed determined to obtain the ancient artifact .

Emperor G'am Tir, the ruler of the once-prosperous Buria Empire was the one who created the orb of the fallen Overgods . Just after the Void Era, feeling the imminent thread of the arrogant Gods, the weaker races joined hands and eliminated those higher beings, causing them to go extinct .

G'am Tir's influence spread far and wide and he was one of the leaders of the past alliance . Using the remnants of the fallen Gods, he created a powerful artifact that contributed to the rise of his empire . Sadly, the emperor was killed by Zodiak, who, back then, was the Black Seat of Death . No one knew who hired the black seat and the price they had to pay but almost everyone was thankful for the emperor's death and the end of his tyranny .

Right after the fall of the empire, the whereabouts of the orb was unknown but that didn't stop people from searching for it and obtain unimaginable power and fortune . The legends state that without the orb, G'am Tir wouldn't have been able to reach such amazing heights which is why many people are obsessed with the orb .

The flying pink snake stopped in its tracks as it was attacked by an incoming petite figure . Though its scales were tough and resistant, they were still affected by Lucy's Yin power, which spread across the whole area . Sadly, the snake vibrated its body and got rid of the ice in an instant, nonetheless, Lucy didn't give up as she unsheathed her thin white saber and charged at the monstrous creature .

Her speed was unparalleled and the metal armor covering her body drastically boosted her physical capabilities . Seven ice lotuses floated around Lucy's head as she brandished her saber and relentlessly attacked the enraged snake, which used its enormous body to retaliate .

Their exchange was brief and ended up with no favorable results for the two parties . Just as Lucy was about to attack again, several whip-like vines sprung from the snake's scales and bound Lucy .

The snake opened its mouth and unleashed a powerful blast that cracked the space around it and pushed away Saly and co, who were trying to free Lucy and support her .

Left alone to block this blast, Lucy made use of seven beautiful lotuses, which fully bloomed and formed a crystalline shield which protected her front .

The snake's blast was destructive and almost unstoppable, it crashed onto the shield like a tsunami and shattered it within a few seconds . Its next target was Lucy, who was sent flying until she heavily crashed onto the ground .

One would expect her to be dead or seriously injured, however, she rose from the shattered earth and charged at the snake .

High up in the red sky, several flaming boulders descended upon the pink snake . Despite its large size, the snake paled in comparison to the incoming boulders, which hammered down on the angry beast, pushing it on the ground and engulfing it in golden flames .

Lucy followed with another powerful attack, she raised both her hands and condensed a miniature golden sun which appeared above the still immobilized snake . Before the enemy could retaliate, the golden sun exploded, ravaging everything in its way .

The explosion spared none in its way, turning both specters and undead into nothing but ash . The golden flames danced in the sky and illuminated the area with its radiant splendor .

It took one glance to recognize these ancient and powerful flames belonging to the Golden Crow . Lucy wasn't done yet, she beckoned for Radolf and Midolf, who answered her call and appeared behind her .

"Supply me with energy . "

The two nodded their heads and raised their hand, injecting their unique energy in Lucy, who madly absorbed everything .

In response, the metal armor covering her body changed shape and separated itself from Lucy . It no longer resembled an army as it slowly changed form and transformed into a large jet black cannon .

Lucy gripped the cannon with both her hands and poured all her Mana and energy into it, causing it to lit up with a blinding radiance .

The flashing light was the sign that the cannon was ready to be used, however, Lucy patiently waited for the snake to show itself .

As expected, from within the sea of golden flames down below, a hissing pink snake showed its head and glared at Lucy .

Before it could fight back, Lucy took aim and activated the cannon, resulting in a thick red laser beam to be unleashed by the black cannon . The beam went straight at the pink snake and hit its head, nailing it in the ground then melting many of its scales, causing the beast to shake violently and roar in pain and anger .

The ground heavily shook and the golden flames surrounding it made the situation worse for the wounded snake . The laser beam continued for ten full seconds before it disappeared along with the cannon .

A small, almost unnoticeable black cube appeared before Lucy, it slowly spun in the air, trying to locate its main core .

After several seconds passed by, the black cube flew at Angelina and yet again transformed into a metal armor, protecting her from any harm .

It was at this point in time, when everything was in total chaos, that the black dome started cracking . Arthur, who was leaning on a broken boulder, clutched his chest and rolled on the ground, unable to handle the agonizing pain .

'Ting'

Your race has devolved into Void Parasite, please wait until the system finishes calculating all the open possibilities...

Arthur was hanging on his last thread while waiting for the system to provide him with the evolution choices . His body is slowly breaking and half of his soul was eaten by Makaze . If left alone, he'll surely die .

Second after second passed and when the one minute mark was reached, the pleasant sound of the system notification rang in his ears .

*Calculation complete... please choose one of the following possibilities :

Spirit Parasite

Dark Void Parasite

Soul Parasite*

Without any hesitation, Arthur chose the last option and waited for the results . He didn't have time to read the description of each option and the last one seemed the most helpful one in this current situation .

Inside his consciousness, his dim soul suddenly shone with a bright light, illuminating the whole starry night sky and recovering to its previous state almost instantaneously .

Arthur felt a bit numb as the pain disappeared all of a sudden, his buzzing mind remained unclear for a few seconds as he struggled to process what the system was telling him .

*As a soul parasite, your real body is your soul, unless your soul is extinguished, you cannot die . *

*Please choose a host to possess within 5 minutes . *

..

*Please choose a host to possess within 5 minutes . *

..

*Please choose a host to possess within 5 minutes . *

Arthur glanced around him and found out that he had left his body and was floating in the air . Lucy was holding his body while checking his pulse . The soul bound was still present but it didn't point to his body, which frightened her .

After pondering for a few moments, he tried entering his previous body and by the next second, he was able to feel his limbs and feel the passing hot breeze .

Chapter 498

From start to finish, it felt unrealistic, almost like a dream . Everything was a bit blurry and out of place, even his feelings seemed to have momentarily vanished . The sensation of his usually beating heart and the flow of energy through his Meridians was almost non-existent . Fortunately, he still maintained his sharp senses but it was a bit uncomfortable for Arthur, who evolved into a new type parasite, a creature with a soul and no body .

Possessing his body was an instantaneous action yet it felt like an eternity for Arthur, who was still processing everything that's happening . The good thing is that he avoided a calamity and even strengthened Makaze, which finally broke through from the dark sphere and flew toward its owner and partner .

It didn't experience any changes regarding its appearance, however, Arthur could feel its excitement and eagerness to unleash its new devoured power . Both the dark blade and the parasite evolved, boosting their powers into another level and increasing their probability of winning this power .

His wife, Lucy, was confused as the soul bind between her husband and she was unstable for a second but when she saw him abruptly wake up, she broke into a smile, relieved that he's alright and full of vigor . Just as she was about to hug him, Arthur grabbed her wrist and used [Faster Than Death], teleporting both of them 150m to the East, barely dodging an incoming object .

The object was a very long and thick chain that descended from above, it was the third one and despite the couple's strong defenses, Arthur still felt extreme danger from them . He didn't know what exactly the monks are doing and he very much wanted to stop them but there is an abundance of enemies and he has to take care of them one by one, beginning from Katrina and that devilish pink snake .

The Matriarch crouched next to her unconscious and inspected the metal armor . She tried getting rid of it but no kind of energy seemed to affect it, not even the specter's special flames . In the end, she raised her head and stared at the couple, her eyes filled with anger and sadness .

She did expect things to become worse but Angelina shouldn't have been involved in this gruesome war . In fact, when she saw Gutcha holding her daughter hostage, not only did she become flabbergasted, she acted upon her raging emotions and worsened the situation .

The bloody battle between the undead and the enemy forces was reaching its climax as Aborak started attacking with all the skeletons, trying to end this war as fast as possible . The Lich King was pretty sensitive to all kinds of energy, especially those harmful to him, so, when he took a glance at the terrifying gate above the monks, he grew uneasy and a bit afraid .

Whatever was locked inside, it was more dangerous than anything he had ever seen, even the legendary Void Behemoth wouldn't have such a savage and suffocating aura .

Just as Arthur was about to attack the still living snake, a small figure came flying at him .

"Daddy! Mommy!"

An injured yet happy Saly flew toward them with the thought of fighting alongside of them and finally greeting them . Unfortunately, she didn't get to cross half the distance separating them before a ringing sound reverberated across the area followed by golden specks of lights which surrounded the girl .

Seeing this, Arthur and Lucy frowned, they didn't waste any second and started acting . With Makaze in his hand, he shot out like a star toward the source of the golden specks of light, as for Lucy, she headed toward her daughter .

The golden specks actually seemed harmless but that didn't let the couple drop their guard . In fact, Arthur raised his free hand and pulled the space and causing his daughter's body to be pulled to the left, away from the specks .

Just after that, he held Makaze with both hands and executed a newly acquired attack . By devouring an ancient and powerful artifact, not only did Evil Wind obtain new skills, it was also able to demonstrate one of the proprieties of the Orb of the fallen Overgods .

[Beyond Worlds] is a spiritual sword attack that is not meant to attack but to defend targets . If used at the right time, it'll lock the target in several layers of artificial worlds, rendering them invincible for a couple of seconds and boosting their defense by a whopping 150% .

A purple sword essence was by makaze, it rapidly spiraled in the air and hit the unsuspecting Saly, who still didn't know what's happening . Before the little girl was able to react, she found her surrounded by multi-colored layers, blocking her sight of the outside and protecting her from all exterior dangers .

Lucy followed right after, as she flew toward her daughter, her seven lotuses were a step faster than her, surrounding the white-furred girl and blooming instantaneously, forming an illusory crystalline mountain to envelop the small figure .

...

"Hmpf! Why does he always have to be so reckless and suicidal?"

The Joker crossed his arms and harrumphed, displeased by Arthur's previous actions .

Seeing his brother's behavior, Leiu shrugged his shoulders and explained

"No matter how intelligent and powerful someone is, in the midst of battle, he can't always come up with the perfect and safest choices . From our perspective, his actions may have been out of place but don't forget with just spectators while he's the one fighting and risking his life so it's natural for his mind to be preoccupied with many things . "

From the side, Death rubbed his chin and stated:

"I have to say, a Soul parasite is really an outrageous race . He's practically immune to all physicals attacks..."

The black-haired woman standing behind her teacher stared at Arthur and asked

"Isn't it bad for him? In the long term, I mean . "

Death nodded his head and replied:

"Yes, though it may be a powerful race, perhaps even the most powerful of all... its drawbacks are obvious and harmful to the person . If he doesn't evolve again, there are only two paths ahead of him and neither is a good one . "

Anxious and worried about her friend's safety, Anastassia asked:

"What are the two paths?"

This time, it wasn't Death who answered by the still annoyed Joker .

"Either he follows Moriah's steps and absorbs more power than he could handle or he becomes deprived of all emotions and sensations . "

The Trickster turned toward his quiet brother and said:

"Is it even possible to evolve to a higher race now that he's a parasite?"

In response, Leiu only gave a vague answer: "Depends on the circumstances . "

"NO NO NO NO!"

While holding his bloody chest and spitting some blood, 'X' yelled hysterically as he sensed the disappearance of the orb, which was devoured by Makaze . He glared at the figure before him and said:

"Damn you! You've ruined everything!"

Arthur, who was in a poorer state than his opponent, grinned and said back:

"Do you really think you can kill 'him' with only the orb? You have to be more creative, 'friend' . "

'X's blurry face started distorting and some facial features started appearing, however, it was still difficult to see his real appearance . The space around him started shattering and time was once again reversed, bringing his injured back to its unscathed state . The man raised his cane and held it with both of his hands then pulled its lower part, revealing a thin blade engraved with countless undecipherable runic symbols .

His attention was focused on the far away Makaze, wanting to acquire it and pull the orb from within it .

"It's not over yet, Arthur . "

Then, without waiting for a response, 'X' slashed his palm and spat some incomprehensible words . A few seconds flew by and his figure started vanishing, apparently being transported to another place .

Arthur was barely able to move properly so he didn't bother chasing after him . He glanced at the equally wounded Space Dragon and said

"It's all up to you now . "

With its deep voice, Yamak responded:

"Fear not, caretaker . "

The silver dragon transformed into a silver streak, which flew at the Divine Planet, precisely in the direction of the occurring war .

Having finished his job, Arthur floated toward the mysterious man who fought 'X' earlier, slightly bowed his head and said with a respectful tone:

"Senior G'am Tir, it's a pleasure to meet you . "

The man was surprised upon hearing that, he creased his brows and assessed Arthur before letting out a sigh .

"Just call me Tiran, that name has long been forgotten . "

Chapter 499

The golden specks of light kept surrounding Saly and after a few seconds, a pillar of light descended from the red sky, striking the crystalline mountain and trying to hit the protected Saly .

Arthur headed directly toward the perpetrator, who was one of the senior monks . As their prayer almost ended, there was one room for one of them to join the battle and try to smoothen the situation . The bald monk held a long wooden staff decorated with what seemed to be golden and silver bells . He was standing a distance away from the other monks and staring at the grey-haired man coming his way .

He didn't seem worried about the incoming threat, he closed his eyes, held the staff diagonally across his chest and recited

"Amitabha Amitabha! Grant me the strength to purify evil and banish abominations!"

His short prayer was heard and his call was answered as a blinding radiance shone from his staff . He tightly held his weapon and clashed with Arthur, who was holding an enlarged Dark Blade .

A turbulent wave of energy was created from their explosive clash but it was only for a brief moment as Arthur was sent flying far away . Despite his monstrous brute strength and high Agility, he didn't even last two seconds against the monk . Nevertheless, the hit wasn't able to defeat him, much less kill him .

His immunity to Physical damage was shown at this moment as he stabilized his body mid-air and lunged himself at the monk . His arm was bent in a strange way but it was instantly healed as if the previous clash never happened . Moreover, there was a golden energy that entered his body, however, it was pushed away but the abundant Dark Magic dominating every part of his body .

It seemed that not even the unique Buddhist energy was able to counter the Dark Magic . With Makaze in hand, Arthur slashed a few times at the monk, sending creepy flying black skulls at the bald old man . The flying skulls were letting out chilling sounds as their mouths opened and closed repeatedly and black fog surrounded them .

In addition, Arthur unleashed a flurry of attacks, including dozens of detonators, Void Mouths, and Vermilion fire, filling the sky with all kinds of flames and explosions . His skills had a large area of effect so even the army beneath him suffered greatly as many of the Marshall's army suffered from the raging sea of flames .

On the other side of the battlefield, Curtis, Radolf, Midolf, and Astrith were still facing off against the pink snake . After suffering the devastating blow of the cannon and Lucy's golden flames, the beast was severely injured, nonetheless, it was still raging all around the place and causing unimaginable havoc .

Tens of thousands of undead were squashed underneath the monster's body and its strange pink scales . Right after the orb was swallowed by Makaze, the pink snake had a qualitative and drastic change, its body became smaller until the woman from before could be seen . Her expression was ugly to behold and her two eyes were shining with pink light .

Under the gazes of her enemies, she underwent another transformation, this one much more dangerous than the last . Instead of becoming another variation of a snake, she grew a tail and some of her body became covered in pink scales . She kind of resembled Claudia's dragonic form and the only difference was the unusually long tail, the missing wings and the wild and ear-splitting hissing she letting out .

"Although I wasn't able to get the orb, there are still things to gain from this war . "

She hissed dangerously at the several figures blocking her way . Her gaze wasn't focused on them but on the Saly, who couldn't be seen as she was surrounded by Arthur's sword skill and Lucy's crystalline mountain . If she were to devour the little girl, she would definitely become much stronger .

Heavenly snakes have the unique ability to devour auras and strengthen themselves and this woman was no exception . Previously, she found Saly's aura delicious but she was much more interested in the orb, which could bring her many benefits . Now that the artifact is gone, her attention shifted to the little girl, who's hiding a delicious aura inside of her .

Unfortunately, before she could get a taste of the little girl, she has to get rid of the enemies blocking her path . They're resilient and quite annoying . . . unless she kills them, they won't let her pass and will keep pestering her over and over .

Like a shooting star, the woman charged at the four of them, her hands spread wide and her tail splitting into multiple long whips, each targeting an enemy . In retaliation, Curtis took the front and used enlarged his shield in an attempt to resist the shield while the lightning wolf howled loudly and used his web of blue lightning to trap the incoming snake woman .

Radolf and Midolf were in a worse state than their fight companions due to suffering many injuries . Although Midolf can use his Life energy to heal his energies, they still don't have an infinite amount of energy and can't fight forever, nevertheless, they made the best of what they have . The two stood behind Curtis, held hands and started chanting a weird chant .

Though her size may have become smaller, the woman was like a meteor, hitting her the knight's shield with an explosive force, splitting in half and almost causing Curtis to vanish . Using his last bit of strength, the Transcendent knight discarded the broken shield and raised his sword to the sky and swung down at the woman in front of him .

The sword hit the woman's body and momentarily stopped her, however, she opened her mouth and let out a purple miasma, breaking the sword and getting rid of the blond youth once and for all .

Thankfully, the time Curtis managed to buy allowed Astrith to control his massive web of lightning and envelop the woman, rendering her unable to advance any further or attack the chanting mythical beings .

Like a mad dog, the woman continuously banged on the web of lightning, trying to destroy it but to no avail, her attempts were unsuccessful . The wolf floated in front of the snake woman and opened its mouth, spitting several red lightning orbs which entered the net and hit the woman, paralyzing her for a couple of seconds .

Although he managed to stun the woman, she was still able to counter-attack despite being trapped . She used her bare hands to open a small hole in the net then followed with her tail, which was like a python, slithering toward Astrith, stabbing his chest and coming out of his back .

No blood came out of the wolf but its painful groaning was a clear indicating that he was heavily injured . Astrith tried to shake off the whip penetrating his chest but it was like a tight leash, allowing him to nothing but wriggle in pain .

It was at this time that Midolf and Radolf finished their chant, their two figures become transparent then they started merging together . Due to the red and white fog surrounded the two youths, it wasn't possible to see the result of their merging but you could still see a large silhouette from within the dense fog .

A few seconds flew by and the fog finally dispersed, revealing what hid within . It had a large body covered in jet black fur, three heads with the one at the middle being covered in white fur . It had differently colored pupils and there was a symbol engraved on the beast's head .

This creature was very similar to the Cerberus guarding the gates of Hell but the aura around it was vastly different . The middle head emanated a soothing aura, full of life, while the other two heads were emitting an aura of decay and death .

The beast roared to the heavens and jumped at the woman, even the web of lightning didn't obstruct its way as it ripped it using its fangs then attacked the visibly shaken woman . Her countenance became more serious as she gave up on heading toward Saly and decided to eliminate this imminent threat .

Even the praying monks and the one facing Arthur were surprised when this creature appeared . The Matriarch gazed at the large beast which constricted pupils and half-open mouth .

Ancient legends and myths mentioned a creature born from Death and Life . Due to its ferocious nature and corrupt origins, the Gods and Demons of the past actually joined hands and tried to banish it only to fail so they locked it up for a very long time .

No one knew how it escaped or where it went but one thing for sure, it was an existence that should not exist . A being that controls both Life and Death will break the Natural Laws and disturb the flow of energy hence the cruel actions done by the people of the past .

This 'monster' was called many names but the most common one was ' The Angel of Death ' .

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Against the ferocious creature, the woman crossed her arms, trying to block its blow . Despite her current strengthened form, she was unable to fully block the blow and ended up being pushed quite the distance . She clicked her tongue and glared at this creature, which she recognized almost immediately, just like anybody else .

"Nine shadows cast . Nine fates foretold . Yet at the end of the road lies death, and death alone!"

A ghastly voice came out of the creature's mouth, sending chills down everyone's spines . Just when the last word echoes throughout the whole battlefield, a white transparent skull appeared above the woman's head, acting like some kind of permanent marker .

The moment the skull made its appearance, the snake woman let out a painful groan and held her rapidly beating heart . She let out a wild hiss and tried to get rid of the skull but to no avail, her hands passed through the strange thing as if it didn't exist .

Before she could grasp the role of the transparent skull, the 'angel' lunged at the woman, trying to rip her apart with its claws . At the same time, the white head at the middle and spat a silvery leaf which latched itself on the skull .

"Nine lives lost . Nine fates foretold, at the end of the road lies life, and life alone!"

The silver leaf stuck onto the skull's forehead and emitted an ominous brilliance which was a mix of two opposite energies . The snake woman, who was about to block the creature again was abruptly frozen mid-action, helpless and defenseless .

So, just like that, the sharp claws of the 'angel' dug deep into the woman's toughened skin, ripping it apart and breaking many bones in the process . Her figure was sent flying until it crashed in the ground, leaving a fountain of blood in its pain .

The ground shattered and dust accumulated yet even after some time passed, there was no sign of movement from the heavenly snake . Nevertheless, the angel remained cautious as it gazed at the huge crater caused by the crash .

"Vile being, your existence is like a plague . "-Monk

The bald monk fended off against Arthur's relentless attacks using his strange-looking wooden staff . Though Arthur's attacks were incredibly powerful, he was still not a match for the monk who solely relied on his prayers to negate the Dark Magic and resist all types of skills .

The two clashed hundreds of times but it didn't appear that a victor will arise any time soon . Furthermore, the monk wasn't fighting to win but to buy time, after all, their plan was to banish the parasite and not kill it .

Just a distance away from Arthur and the monk, there stood a worried Lucy, who tightly hugged Saly and inspected her body . She handed several healing potions to the little girl while repeatedly asking her if she's alright .

"Mom, don't worry, I'm fine . "

Saly smiled at the anxious Lucy and hugged her back, very happy to finally reunite with her mother . After making sure her daughter wasn't fatally injured, she asked again

"Why did you come here?"

In response, Saly pouted and replied

"Obviously to help you and daddy! I can't let you fight alone . "

Lucy shook her head while adding:

"This is not a safe place, you should leave and we'll meet later, alright?"

Unexpectedly, Saly wasn't obedient this time . She showed her refusal by shaking off her mother's arms and activating Fenrir's aura which healed her minor injuries and restored much of her used energy .

It wasn't the time to question her daughter about the changes that occurred to her so Lucy patted the little girl's fluffy head, softly smiled .

"Listen to mommy, ok-"

She stopped mid-sentence, pushed Saly then kicked the ground . From within the scorched earth appeared a woman covered in pink scales, her two pupils were glued onto Saly, wanting to devour her .

Contrary to her earlier condition, the snake woman appeared heavily injured and the skull coupled with the silver leaf were still present, floating above her head .

Lucy activated her Yin Physique and made use of the seven lotuses to attack the nearby woman . The area abruptly turned into a snowy field with countless snowflakes slowly falling into the frozen ground .

The silver-haired woman grabbed her thin saber and slashed down at the heavenly snake, causing the latter to retaliate by using the long thorny whip .

Saber and whip clashed, splitting the air and pushing the two parties away from each other . Lucy didn't pause for a second as she discarded the saber, retrieved the silver revolver and held with both of her hands then shooting at the enemy continuously .

She poured an outrageous amount of Mana into each bullet, intending to get rid of the snake woman . Sadly, the bullets only managed to graze the enemy, however, they bought Lucy a few seconds, which were crucial in this situation .

From afar, an ear-splitting roar could be heard and by the next second, a large figure landed on the snake woman, whose face paled and her body slightly trembled . Violent winds flattened the snake woman on the ground while the vicious beast followed with its claws, penetrating the woman's chest and nailing her there .

The two black heads glared at the target and spat two tiny death storm which spun around the enemy and sucked the life out of her . Within a few seconds, the woman's skin became wrinkled and her pink and vibrant scales showed signs of decay .

When the 'angel' was about to deal the last blow, something came out from above and wrapped itself around the creature's body, pulling it into the air .

This 'thing' resembled a tentacle, it had a brownish color and was twice thicker than the angel of death . Upon a closer look, this tentacle came out of the red gate above the senior monks and once 'it' made its appearance, the three old men were shocked .

"To think he's so close to the gate!"

The oldest of the monks wasn't pleased but he still kept holding the golden rope and urged his partner to quicken the process .

The angel of death struggled to free itself but the tentacle was just too strong, absurdly strong, in fact . Apparently, its goal wasn't to kill it but to pull it to the other side, however, before it managed to drag it, it was hit by a powerful slash made of pure Dark Magic .

The whole place turned momentarily dark before Makaze unleashed the first wave of [Thousand Waves] . Unfortunately, it was only able to stop the tentacle for a split second, it didn't even injure it, much less cut it .

"Lucy, help me stop it!"

Arthur called it for his wife then held the Dark Blade with both hands, executing the second wave and third wave successively . A storm of flames enveloped the tentacle while a Godly sword made out of white thunder descended from above, hitting the red gate and causing it to shake for a moment .

Lucy heard his call so she flew high up in the sky and summoned her Godspirit . A humongous beautiful lotus appeared next to the tentacle, it started blooming and freezing everything around it . Even the black tentacle wasn't spared, its movements were stopped for a brief moment before all the ice broke into countless pieces and this dangerous thing continued its dragging process, fully intending to get a hold of the angel of death .

As things were worsening, one of the chains wrapped around the gate fell from the sky and wrapped around the tentacle, also trying to stop it completely and pull it back to its Oblivion, the world on the other side of the enormous gate .

Sadly, not even the chain nor the couple were able to stop the persistent tentacle, which was almost able to pull the angel into the other side .

Arthur gritted his teeth and prepared to unleash the fourth wave while at the same time activating a Dark Rizaki, which turned the whole place into the world of Darkness, surprisingly stopping the tentacle's movement .

Unexpectedly, the world of darkness lasted for a second before it was negated by an even stronger power, a blinding illuminating which sprung from below and jumped at the tentacle, ripping some of it off and causing it to wriggle in pain .

The source of this blinding light turned out to be a large wolf, unlike Astrith, this one was too eye-catching and the moment it made its appearance, it grabbed the attention of everyone . Its size was simply incomparable, dominating the whole sky and its aura was archaic and suffocating, even to the likes of the monk .

This wolf had two sky-blue eyes and was covered in white fur, no one could deny its majestic appearance or its soul-shaking appearance . Since ancient times, it only had one name, Fenrir, the being that could devour suns and moons, the wolf that would stop Ragnarok .

"The smartass motherfucker is actually close to the gate . How fucking bold!"

The Joker cursed loudly when the tentacle appeared, he cracked his knuckles and tapped his foot on the ground, barely able to contain himself from attacking .

Even Leiu wasn't pleased to see the strange tentacle, a frown appeared on his usually expressionless face . An ominous darkness spread from his legs and covered the area around him, clearly indicating that he was in a very bad mood .

"He hasn't recognized Arthur, fortunately . "

Death glanced at the two brothers and pondered about something . Obviously, he also knew who was behind the red gate but decided not to comment, choosing to merely spectate .

A few thousand kilometers away from the battlefield, X was flying with a fast speed toward Makaze's location . He halted for a split second when he saw the tentacle but he steeled his heart and was determined to obtain the orb .

Unfortunately, he was blocked yet again as a silver streak fell down from above and crashed into him, shattering the space . Before he could recover, the space kept shattering, disrupting the space-time continuum and rendering X unable to see the assailant .

Just when he got a glimpse of the assailant, a silver whirlpool appeared and sucked both the attacker and the annoyed 'X' .

"Yo-"

Before he got to talk or retaliate, 'X' and a silver dragon were absorbed by the whirlpool and transported into an isolated dimension, far away from the Divine Planet . Yamak had to sacrifice most of his powers to teleport both himself and 'X', however, it was a necessary risk to be taken .

No one would know but the battle that occurred between the lightning dragon and 'X' in that isolated world lasted for a very long time and the consequences were much more than both of them could handle .