

## Once Human 601

### Chapter 601: 601

"Are you alright?"

Lucy worriedly asked the smiling Arthur, who reassured her while glancing at the unconscious Noktox .

"Nothing too serious . "

She followed his gaze and looked at the beastmen, who should not wake up anytime soon .

"He's physically strong, huh . "

"Yes, a worthy opponent if we're using only melee attacks, otherwise I could have handled him way faster . "

The last unseen attack of Arthur wasn't a skill but a super-fast kick that hit Noktox's head . Using the skill [Griffin's Bloody Switch], Arthur converted everything into Agility, choosing to bet on unmatched speed rather than absolute strength . As he suspected, he was able to counter the enemy with his attack, which was aimed at a vulnerable part .

Furthermore, the beastmen focused most of his power in his fist so the rest of his body was less protected . He thought Arthur would try to clash with his fist but the latter launched an attack that struck its target before the Godly Punch could fully unleash itself .

The couple stopped next to the knocked out beastmen and retrieved his white flag, which wasn't carefully hidden . This time, Arthur kept the flag for himself, considering as the victory prize of that melee fight .

Arthur was about to check what happened between Forne and the black-haired woman only to see a figure flying from far away, crashing into the ground then rolling dozens of times . Upon a closer look, it turned out to be the Black Seat, who lacked his usual dominance and was covered in injuries .

He hastily got up and thoroughly searched inside his clothes but couldn't find his personal flag . Surprisingly, for the first few seconds, he didn't do anything and remained silent and even a bit dazed . Only when he realized his situation did he clench his fists and glared at a black silhouette standing four hundred meters away . Forne was about to rush at her but she vanished from his sight, making him stop in his tracks and looking around, only now noticing Lucy and Arthur's presence .

The Black Seat looked at Arthur for a few seconds, snorted and left the area, clearly unwilling to waste time dealing with the parasite . They weren't really enemies and as long as Arthur doesn't interfere later on, there is no reason for them to fight... only if the Red Tower forces them to in order to climb to a higher floor .

"What's up with him? Trying to seem threatening when he got his ass handed to him?"

"Don't mind him... he acts like that most of the time . "

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On the other end of the massive chest board, the black-haired woman, who just played with Forne for a little while, exited her stealth and looked around . Xyktia already acquired more than eight flags but it wasn't as exciting as she thought it would be because the targets are very dumb and unsuspecting .

This time, she happened to locate a suitable next target, an old man wearing a tattered grey robe . She saw him fight Sol'khin back on the 4th floor and was a bit interested and now that an opportunity has arisen, she wouldn't mind taking it .

She entered her stealth again and using an unmatched speed, appeared next to Zodiak . She stretched her hand, trying to swiftly steal the flag under his sleeves, however, just when she when her fingers were about to reach it, Xyktia abruptly retracted her hand and jumped to the back .

The woman looked surprised as she was forced out of her stealth and was even discovered by the old man, who acted as if he sensed nothing . Now that she could be seen, Zodiak turned around to face her, his black pupils looking at 'The Assassin' .

"What do we have here?"

He spoke with a light, easy-going tone, not worried about who his opponent is . From the look he was giving her, it was apparent that he's aware of her real identity .

"Were the rumors actually true?"

Xyktia didn't reply and, instead, charged at him again . Without a doubt, her speed was infinitely faster than Zodiak but thanks to his Dark Magic, she would get blasted then forced to back away . Unlike normal magic, Dark Magic corrupts the soul and body and the Lady of Darkness is already weakened to it would do her no good if she gets hit .

The woman spat a strange darkness from his mouth which she grasped with her hands then changed its form, it was a weird sight that even made Zodiak frown . In a matter of seconds, the darkness became a black tablecloth that was thrown over Zodiak's head, blocking the light and trapping him .

He tried to resist but was bound by large bony hands that sprung from the ground and immobilized his legs . In the end, the inky black cloth fell on the old man and remained like that for half a minute before dark blue Dark Magic descended from the colorless sky, ripping the cloth and consuming the undead bones .

Zodiak didn't look too well, his face was pale and blood was leaking out of his lips .

"Hahaha I expected no less from you . "

He didn't wait for her to attack again and hastily used 'Blur Ticket', an expensive item from the Luxury Store . It teleports the user to a random location of the floor and grants him immunity to all damage for a full minute, basically guaranteeing his safety .

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"She really is unlikable!"

The Joker cursed with a low voice that only Leiu, who was sitting beside him, could hear . Saly grew bored and was silently meditating in the corner, no longer bothering her teacher with questions nor demanding to participate in the tower competition .

"Mhm . "-Leiu

"What's that supposed to mean? 'Mhm'? Is that you agreeing to my statement or simply grunting?"

The youth glanced at the Magician with an uninterested look then resumed watching the large monitor displaying the events occurring on the 7th floor .

"Hey! Communicate with me! Is she still a lover or what?"

After spending half an hour pestering him, the Joker finally managed to force an answer from his brother .

"We're no longer together . "

"Then why the hell is she in my tower?"

"..."

"There you go again with that damned silence!"

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"It really was stinky in there . "

Timos stood atop a small mountain right next to the prison where Zaarae was held . He looked at the blinding canopy and sighed, disliking the eternal light ruling over this planet's sky .

Just as he about to leave, he heard the flapping of wings followed by a familiar and overwhelming presence . Without needing to confirm anything, he immediately knew who it was .

"What brings you here, Bilgart?"

"You're as carefree as ever, Timos . "

Hearing this, the man chuckled and added: "That's how I like to be . Never minding other people's business and just enjoying what's out there . "

"Is taking Arthur's daughter also considered 'not minding other people's business'?"

In response, the Black Devil turned to face the motionless crow .

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"That's called repaying a favor . He and his wife freed my soul and I paid them back by saving their daughter, then again, I don't need to tell you since you've already seen everything . "

After a brief silence, the crow, which was half black and half white, said: "Don't get too much involved . "

"Come on, Bilgart, you know me best... I dislike complicated scenarios . Now that I'm free, I just want to explore this different multiverse in peace . "

"What about Sol'khin?"

"What about him? Don't try to blame it on me, Watcher . We both know only Sol'dhin was my doing, as for Sol'khin... that's your mess, one that I accepted in your place . "

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The place didn't resemble anything, the ground and the sky were snow-white and the light seemed to be coming from all directions, illuminating this whole ethereal dimension .

Here, there was a middle-aged man surrounded by twelve small figures, each had a unique appearance but they all looked harmless due to their size . One had long tentacles and hidden eyes while another was a boy made from white stones that looked like metal, he was holding a round golden shield, waving it around playfully .

"There are a lot of attributes but none are easy to master . However, only a few are considered universal ones because they're the ones which made the world as it is . "

The man raised his hand, above which a red and shiny fire symbol appeared, it was followed by a blue water mark, an earthen yellow stone, and a green runestone symbolizing wind .

"Fire, Water, Earth, and Wind . The four main elements... now, anyone wants to try?"

All twelve maintained their silence, some not understanding his words and others were simply shy . After a short period of time, a timid girl that had a skin made of wood and hair made of green leaves stood up and walked up to the man . She pulled the shiny symbols toward herself and meticulously followed his detailed instructions .

For the man or the spectators, the concept of time didn't exist . Maybe a second passed or maybe a thousand years, no one knows .

"Marvelous! As the first one who succeeded, I shall name you Dmitra 'Mother Nature' . Do you like it?"

Once given a name, the girl became a woman and the aura around her became stronger, fascinating the rest . Dmitra smiled at the man and retreated to the back, letting the others try as well . They didn't know what gratefulness or happiness is but the more they listened to the man, the stronger and more sentient they became .

They also chose a different path than Dmitra, they wanted to be unique and distinguishable . An inordinate amount of time passed and, one by one, each of the twelve gained something new and refreshing . The last person was peculiar and the most fascinating because he was the first to talk .

He had two small horns protruding out of his forehead and a light blue skin, a large black cloth was covering the entirety of his body . He faced the man, pointed at a black thing behind him and said:

"What's that?"

Hearing the young voice, the man was shocked beyond belief and spent some time collecting his thoughts . The boy wasn't impatient and calmly waited for the man to answer, which he did .

"That's a shadow . "

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Not long after taking down Noktox, the Red Tower declared the end of this short event .

\*The required number of contestants have been met . You will shortly be teleported to the 8th floor; 'Hide and Seek' . "

Arthur and Lucy remained in a party, however, the moment they vanished from the 7th floor, everything was canceled, meaning they can't join hands for the next task, unfortunately .

Unlike last time, they weren't put in the Waiting Room but were directly teleported to the 8th floor, which was a world dominated by an eternal obscurity . It seemed ghastly and eerie with the night sky, the dense fog, and the rustling black bushes . Basically, it was a world out of a horror movie, at least that's what it looked to Arthur .

\*On this floor, the hundred contestants will be evenly split into two groups, Seekers and Hiders . Every Seeker will get a piece of paper with the name of his target, and he needs to find it within an hour . For fairness purposes, the Hiders will be given thirty minutes to hide, in the meantime, all the Seekers will not be able to move or see . To proceed to the 9th floor, you must either find your target within the allocated amount of time or never be found .

Any Seeker who finds the contestant Losha Alpenwatcher will proceed directly to the 10th floor and will be awarded 3,500,000 points . Good Luck . \*

Arthur felt a piece of paper in his hand so he looked at it . Only a few short words were written but were enough to explain his role . He was a seeker and his target was the Shaman that belonged to Maxine's team . With his vast arsenal of skills, Arthur shouldn't have any problem . There's the Space Bender title which makes him invisible, and that is without counting the Stealth skills obtained from countless thieves .

On the other hand, Lucy was a Hider so she immediately started looking for a secluded and unnoticeable spot . Maxine, 'X', G'am Tir, and Celes were all hiders whilst Forne, the Void Behemoth, Zodiak, Xyktia, and many others were tasked to seek their targets .

The tower didn't mention if fights were allowed or if the hiders can escape . Arthur didn't know if he just needs to find his target or physical contact is necessary, everything was so vague . It would be foolish to just consider it a normal hide and seek game as it's a floor inside the Red Tower and there's bound to be things that arise from out of nowhere .

Slowly but surely, thirty minutes quietly passed and, at last, Arthur was able to move and see his surroundings again . Due to the fog, the vision was severely limited and not even his special eyes were able to bypass it .

The first thing Arthur did was enter an isolated dimension with the help of Space Magic, then he transformed into a transparent and ugly creepy . Less than a minute after the countdown started, Arthur was already roaming this ghastly place and looking for the shaman .

He didn't know how big this place it but considering there are only a hundred contestants, it shouldn't be as big as the 7th floor, for example .

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"... Teacher, it's not a simple hide and seek game, right?"

The Joker laughed while nodding his head:

"Of course not! There's gotta be something unexpected and thrilling!"

Saly glanced at the monitor and asked: "What's the unexpected thing?"

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In response, he handed the little girl, which she inspected only for it to explode, sending small red fireworks in the air . As she didn't expect this, Saly fell on her butt, bewildered .

"Surprise surprise! Hahahaha why would I tell you? It's more fun when you don't know . "

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"Master, I sense several powerful presences nearby . They seem to be seekers . "

'Only a hundred remain so it's normal to see strong people . '

"There's a particular one who completed the Earthen Mastery, his energy is dangerously pure . "

'Completion?'

"Yes, his cultivation isn't high but his Earth Magic is definitely unbeatable . "

Just as the Quad-Spirit finished speaking, a man appeared from a nearby big bush . He glanced at Arthur's direction but didn't do anything and continued searching for his target . His face was easy to forget and apart from a transparent yellow energy spiraling around him, he looked normal, perhaps even weak .

He did notice Arthur even though the latter was invisible and using skills to hide himself but he didn't seem interested in a pointless fight and soon vanished from the parasite's sight .

That man wasn't the only strong person Arthur met in that ghastly place . There were two robots that seemed more advanced than the one he faced on the previous floor, a very well known puppet master and even an actual pirate captain . Each looked unique and wielded different weapons but the one thing they had in common is that they were very strong, as much as a peak Overgod if not more .

Apart from a few dark horses, the majority of the remaining contestants were clan master, sect leaders, or part of some organization and they didn't lack any wealth, their goal was only the top prizes, which cannot be found anywhere else in the multiverse .

Location his target, the shaman, isn't easy as it seems even for someone like Arthur . He was given no clue and although this place isn't particularly big, there are many places to hide and the dense fog made it close to impossible to see anything thirty to forty meters away .

Unlike the parasite, many Hiders were already caught and, surprisingly, Hach'ara found his target in less than a minute . The Red Tower would make a short announcement every time a Seeker found his or her target and proceeded to waiting room . Till now, exactly 7 were caught so 14 contestants are no longer

on this floor . Arthur searched every corner, he stretched his sense underground and even managed to find other hidens, who he didn't bother interacting with .

After twenty minutes, Arthur grasped the layout of the map and was now entering the only unexplored area . The ground was muddy and filled with tall inky black bushes that emitted a nauseating odor . Arthur didn't get too close, he floated several meters above ground and stretched his Sixth Sense while looking at his map, which was practically useless on this floor as if the tower was purposely limiting its functions .

"Master, there are totems a few centimeters underground . They act as detectors . "

"Then the Shaman is definitely here . "

"I cannot pinpoint his presence but there is more than one Hider in this area . "-Spirit

The invisible wraith circled around the area, taking some precautions in case the Shaman tried to leave . Arthur planted a two-layer formation to isolate his target and block his escape route . He still doesn't know if he just needs to find the Hider or physically touch him and although the Shaman isn't as strong as Maxine, for example, it's still not a reason to rush in recklessly .

Fifty or so meters from where Arthur was, the tattooed shaman was laying on the ground and holding a charm, ready to flee if things go awry . He planted five totems in strategic locations and they should be able to buy him enough time, however, that thought didn't last long .

The muddy ground slightly shook then his connection with the totems was cut off, the last thing he sensed was large vines which wrapped around his creations then turned them into dust . Without needing to ascertain anything, the Shaman jumped from the ground, barely able to dodge two vines that sprung from the ground . He held the charm and chanted a short verse, making his tattoos shine with a blue and conjuring some sort of a flying boat made of water .

Without looking back, he controlled the boat and headed to the opposite direction but the rustling came from everywhere . Dozens of long vines appeared around him, blocking his path and trying to immobilize him . The Shaman took a deep breath, chanted something again then spat a wave of flames that incinerated the vines .

A short distance away, there was another Hider who was disturbed by these events and was forced to reveal herself . She had long green-hair and wore a medium-sized armor, she was none other than Maxine, who knew that her companion was nearby but was too preoccupied about her situation .

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She couldn't jump in and help him since she didn't know who her Seeker was . If it's someone like Ber Von Xin then showing will only complicate things, she could only hope the Shaman would successfully escape .

After one last glance at her teammate, Max gritted her teeth and tiptoed, trying to leave the area without arousing any suspicion . Of course, Arthur did notice this female player, who was really bad at Stealth but he didn't pay her any attention . Had she intervened, the Quad-Spirit was more than ready to block her until Arthur caught his target .

When the vines were turned into ash, the water boat increased in speed, piercing through the fog and about to leave this small area only to smash into a white wall made of light . Half of the boat vanished and the shaman lost his balance, almost falling into the bosom of the countless never-ending vines .

He held his charm and was about to chant again but his body suddenly plummeted to the ground . In a split second, his body was covered by his vines and only his face was shown . Arthur was just about to go and touch him only for a deafening alarm to echo across the whole floor .

\*30 minutes have passed, from this point onwards, the roles will be reversed . The new Seekers can catch any Hider and they'll be teleported to the next floor . The new hidere need to remain hidden for half-an hour . \*

Arthur was flabbergasted, not knowing how to react .

'What the hell is this?'

He was just a step away from succeeding only for this to happen . As he was lost in thought, a rapid figure came rushing at him, however, before she could strike the parasite, her body suddenly slowed down then was blasted by raging flames .

Maxine grunted and cut the flames in half before smiling at Arthur, who just snapped out of his daze .

"I never expected such a twist! Hehehehe"

Her laugh sounded evil rather than innocent, she got rid of the vines binding the shaman and signaled for him to corner Arthur .

"You do know that one single physical contact is enough, right?"

In response, Arthur stared back at the green-haired woman, his palm releasing Dark Magic .

The player charged at him again but even two steps, her body fell again, not because of the spirit's interference but a result of what Arthur said .

"Ok'od (Kneel) . "

He used Dragon Words, something that even Maxine cannot resist . Her knee touched the ground and her body was forced to stop moving, a visible expression of confusion plastering on her face .

The Shaman tried to do something but he couldn't resist Arthur's Dark Magic, which was like a tsunami, engulfing him within seconds . In the end, he was trapped in a world of darkness, unable to do anything but wait .

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While the contestants were climbing the Red Tower, things weren't as peaceful in the System's universe . In fact, there was one individual who caused a huge mess and forced the System to lock down the whole universe and tighten the security around the PE-50 Galaxy, where the majority of the forces and the main controlling unit is situated .

"Airship KX-09 down! All combat units requested in the AT zone . "



A human female was speaking through the microphone, passing the orders to players and alike . The invader appeared out of nowhere and killed everyone without any discrimination . The casualty toll was over a thousand in less than an hour and it's still growing every second .

Right after she passed another order, she leaned against her chair and let out a long sigh . She looked at her partner, who's also in charge of passing emergency orders .

"What the hell is happening?"

In response, the partner wiped the sweat off her forehead and replied:

"I don't know... he uses high leveled Blood Magic, maybe a vampire?"

"No... why would a vampire attack us?"

She was about to continue only for alarm to start going on and off again, causing her to slightly tremble .

"Invader has broken through to the Core Factory! Airship KX-08 Down! Antimatter barrier Num . 608 Down!"

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Core Factory, entrance

"We had to use our precious concentrated Dimensional stone for ONE person?"

A tall male player wearing light golden armor complained, not happy that he was urgently summoned .

Next to him were two women, both wearing robes and seemed to be mages . Unfortunately, they didn't get to say anything as a fast figure came running, stopping a couple of meters away .

It was none other than the invader, who looked no different than a human . He had long scarlet hair, snow-white skin, and two blood-red pupils .

The male player, who was very high-leveled, even stronger than Maxine, appraised the man but got confusing results .

"Hm?"

He frowned and read the notification again, ascertaining that he wasn't mistaking .

"Arthur Bilgart? Isn't that the parasite in the Red Tower?"

Like him, Melinda and Syra were startled and chose not to recklessly attack . They couldn't see the Level of their target and what made them even more surprising was his race

"Ascended Royal Vampire / Half-parasite?"

Eric, the male player was really shocked as such a race wasn't recorded in their system, the name was too strange . There exist Royal vampires but Ascended and half-parasite are totally new, especially the latter, which isn't logically possible . One cannot be half-parasite, even through evolution .

"Get out of the way . "

The vampire wore luxurious noble clothes that looked clean and unscathed despite his fights for the last hour or so . He didn't seem to be bothered by Eric and the other two as he started walking towards them, his eyes pulsating with a scarlet light .

"What are you?"

Eric took out his bow and pointed at the incoming enemy, ready to shoot, however, his body was suddenly hit by an unstoppable force, sending him crashing into the wall . He was knocked unconscious due to the powerful blow, as for the two female mages, they dropped their staffs and clutched their throats, unable to breathe due to a bloody fog emitting from Arthur .

The vampire didn't even glance at them as he entered the factory and started wrecking everything in the search of something specific .

That day, the System suffered unexpected losses, something that hasn't happened for thousands of years . More than thirty airships were destroyed and two colossal spaceships were broken beyond repair .

Eighteen core factories were annihilated, 241 players perished and 3,690 robots were ruined, all by the hands of a single individual .

The vampire seemed to have found what he came looking for so he swiftly left . The System was unable to track him down as he simply vanished into nothingness . Later on, it was discovered that he didn't even come from this world and that fact was proven by a few lingering Time Wraiths which were slowly being consumed by a poisonous blood .

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Red Tower, 8th floor

Before he left the area, Arthur used an offensive on Maxine, which should keep her busy for a fair amount of time . His appearance changed, the human became a white tiger which jumped in the air, magically disappearing into the air .

Inside the isolated dimension, the white tiger was like a bolt of lightning, distancing itself from any nearby presences .

Maxine, who was relieved that the dragon words effect finally wore off, was assaulted by sentient-like golden blades . There were sixteen of them and they all attacked at the same time, forcing her to retreat while swinging her sword, attempting to block .

While she fared well against the formation, she was still hit by three swords at the same time, flinging her dozens of meters away . This infuriated the player, who drunk a potion then unleashed a blinding sword which broke half of the formation . The remaining sword fused into one then descended upon Maxine, directly hitting her again and even causing her to cough some blood .

"Damned Parasite! Wait till I catch your ass!"

She wiped the blood off her lips then glared at the disappearing golden sword, wondering how many tricks Arthur actually has . What she saw as a simple formation was actually a complicated one that

required precious materials and preparation, however, Arthur already created many formations and stored them in his ring for later usage, such as this one, for example .

As for the Shaman, due to Arthur's Dark Magic, he was forced to use the Escape Ticket to bail out of the tower and save himself . In addition to allowing the user to leave the tower, the ticket also got rid of any debuff he or she received inside it .

Fortunately, after his encounter with Maxine, Arthur didn't run into any trouble and successfully completed the task . Including the hidden Losha, fifty one contestants passed to the 9th floor and the rest were disqualified .

Arthur looked at the people inside of the Waiting Room, some were familiar and others he knew nothing about . Forne and his group were all present, so was the woman with very long black hair, Zodiak, the guy who mastered Earthen Magic, and even the two advanced robots .

Noticing her husband sitting alone in a corner, Lucy went and sat next to him . As she saw his dazed face, she asked:

"Did something happen?"

Hearing her soft voice, he looked back at her and answered:

"Nothing... just wondering how things will proceed now that only the best remain . "

Unlike the previous floors, there probably won't be a mass disqualification due to the strength of these contestants . Each and every one of them mastered one field, if not more, and they were opponents that can match Arthur and make him go all out .

Whether it's Ber Von Xin, the strange woman who stole Forne's flag, or Zodiak, they were not to be underestimated and, except for Lucy, everyone is an enemy . They were still on the 9th floor and the top floor is the 50th, the hard challenges will begin very soon, at least that's what Arthur guessed .

He knows a fair bit of how The Joker does stuff and since he's the one who built the tower, it won't be surprising to see unbeatable floors . After all, you can't expect the competition to be a walk in the park when the rewards are miraculous things that can even make the Twelve greedy .

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"Code red! Code Red!"

Hundreds of angels stationed around the prison all headed toward the entrance to capture the unwelcome invader, who, surprisingly, didn't offer any resistance whatsoever .

Even Warden Habs was confused, nevertheless, he apprehended the individual and swiftly locked him in the deepest floor .

The new prisoner didn't talk and fully cooperated, letting himself be chained and his magic to be sealed . His expression remained calm and the only notable thing about him was his long azure robe and his nonchalant demeanor .

Not even an hour after his sudden appearance, he was thrown into the cell next to Zaarae and chained to the wall, leaving only his face unscathed . This was none other than the Archmage Emir, one of the three Calypso Parasites and a loyal follower of Parasite Empress .

"My liege . "

Though he tried to bow his head to the direction of Zaarae, he couldn't due to the thick chains binding almost all of his body .

"Emir, what brought you to this rat hole?"

Zaarae didn't seem surprised to see her follower here, neither was she worried about his safety or wellbeing . She was uninterested and didn't even glance at him, her mind thinking about something else .

"We need you, my liege . "

"Need me? I don't feel like returning now . "

After a brief of silence in which Emir hesitated on whether to talk or not, he added: "My liege, the Watcher locked Sedos and is closely watching the Red Tower . "

"So?"

Seeing no reaction, Emir bit his lips, seemingly struggling to say something .

"...'God' was killed . "

Zaarae knew that the Archmage was never someone to joke about such matters so when she heard his words, her expression drastically changed . In fact, it's the first time she was this shocked about something .

"Dead? How and when?"

"The B-32 virus . "

"What?! That bug in the System? But it shouldn't be able to reach him . "

"It's not more dangerous than we initially thought . It's able to corrupt any System within its reach and the effects are irreversible . "

Emir paused for a split second before resuming: "It has already spread to our realm . We need you, my liege . "

This time, Zaarae didn't reject him like earlier but maintained a very long silence .

"I'll be out soon, my white knight is soon to arrive . "

"We will be waiting, my liege . "

Right after he said that, Emir's body became liquid water and easily left the prison, unnoticed by any of the angels .

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Heaven and Hell Universe, Heaven .

The most high-ranked angels and spirits were all gathered together, their expression differed but it was apparent that none was happy . The atmosphere was heavy and even the emotionless Spirit was very restless due to the recent events .

The news about 'God's death reached Heaven this very day and an emergency meeting was called by a being whose rank is second only to his creator . He was an angel with ten wings and has been alive since the Era of Beginning, he's the first of his race and a distinguished figure in the multiverse . His name is Alatraz, a strict angel who's very devoted to his creator and wants nothing but peace for all races, however, his methods are sometimes questionable and unethical .

"I'm sure you have all heard about what happened...'God' died at the hands of a Virus originating from the System . "

After hearing his verbal confirmation, the place became noisier and there was even some angels who started losing faith . The future of Heaven has become unpredictable now that its creator is gone, moreover, the death of one of the Twelve is a very serious matter that would turn everything upside down .

"A new ruler for Heaven must be appointed with haste!"

A transparent figure standing a distance away spoke with a deep and domineering voice . It was an old Life Spirit and a high-ranking entity so its words weren't brushed off by anyone, including the silent Alatraz .

While everyone kept giving their opinions, Alatraz had his eyes closed and didn't react to anything . After a while, his stare focused on a young-looking male angel who was so startled that he tripped and fell .

"Syon, you said that you found the World Tree?"

When the tree was mentioned, they all turned to look at the timid Syon, whose mouth and opened closed but no words were said, probably due to stress and embarrassment .

"Speak, did you find it?"

With Alatraz's insistence, Syon swallowed some saliva and hesitantly said:

"Y-yes!"

"Its condition?"

"It still hasn't experienced its full growth but it's not young either . "

"Why are we hearing about this now?"

An old human woman banged her fist on the table while lashing out at the scared Syon, who accepted the harsh berating without responding .

"Syon! Why have you not reported such an important matter to me?!"

An eight-winged angel frowned and yelled at his Syon, his subordinate . He was infuriated about the fact that Alatraz knew about this before him, the person who manages the external affairs .

"The World Tree is the only thing that can revive him . We must get it . "-Alatraz

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"He died?"

Timos, who was humming a second ago, suddenly stood up and looked at the night sky . The blue-haired girl looked at him and furrowed his brows, finding his constant mumbling rather strange .

"Who died?"

The man ignored her and raised her hand toward the sky, firing a pillar of red light into the sky, splitting it in two . Only after a while did he retract his hand, resulting in the pillar of light to vanish and the starry sky to return to its usual beautiful glimmer .

The Black Devil walked next to the sleeping Vyncent and slapped his head, startling the young man and making him look around in confusion .

"I need to be away for a short while, take care of the sassy brat . "

He didn't even wait for a response and just disappeared, leaving behind a pouting kid and a sleepy young man .

...

In less than a minute, Timos appeared in a dangerous area at the far end of the System's Universe . The place was infected with a dense amount of Void Magic which can even be lethal to him . Apart from massive meteors filling the endless black space, there was nothing here, making the brown-haired man confused for a second .

Several seconds passed and what he was waiting for finally appeared . Before he was able to react, Timos' body was hit by a scarlet liquid, flinging him hundreds of miles away .

He successfully stabilized his disoriented body while coughing a few times then raising his head, meeting the stare of a very familiar man .

"Are you crazy? Have you ever heard of something called balance?"

For the first time in a long time, the Black Devil was angry... not because of God's death but because of the consequences that are bound to happen now that a strange caused such a big mess .

The vampire wasn't fazed by the savage aura emanating from Timos, he glared at the devil and said:

"Get out of the way . "

"There was no need to kill him if the core is what you needed . "

"Don't be mistaken, I didn't kill him, the virus did . "

\*\*\*\*\*

Inside an obscure cave, there was a black slightly curved black blade stabbed onto the ground . The violent gales whistling inside the cave have died down a couple of hours ago and even the silent passing breezes were no longer present, everything seemed to have halted and all of this was the blade's own doing .

It stopped its completion process on purpose, it wanted to honor a comrade that had just died, after all, the will of Ventus Malum still lives in Makaze . This place, situated out of the reach of all but one person, was deadly quiet for three whole days, the darkness was eerier than usual and the air itself seemed to have been frozen...

\*\*\*\*\*

Angelina looked at the endless white space all around her, still not used to it, then shifted back her attention to the man nonchalantly playing with cards a couple of meters away .

"You called me multiple times saying that a prophecy has just begun... is that true?"

After her confrontation with the Watcher, Bilgart, Lucy's sister thought a lot about this strange matter and have come to accept it, slowly, little by little . She just returned to her clan's Ancestral land but Claud startled her by claiming that one of his prophecies started .

She asked around about any news of catastrophes or disasters but the Cloud Sea Universe was oddly peaceful . Unfortunately, she doesn't have the means to inquire about the other two universes but if something major really happened, it won't take long before it reaches her ears .

"Of course it's true, I would never lie to you . "

Angelina sat opposite the man and asked again:

"What's the prophecy? What will happen?"

In response, he grabbed a piece of paper and started writing, not bothered by the woman's intense stare .

"Misfortune hangs heavy on a head once held high . Such is a poor cover for when the heavens fall . "

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"What's that supposed to mean? Is that the prophecy?"

He shook his head while handing her the piece of paper .

'Three faces but one soul

Two hearts but one road

The heavens are lost and the insect has crossed'

Chapter 606: 606

Arthur and Lucy were peacefully conversing only to be interrupted by an unwelcome individual with an unseen face . He put his cane on the side and sat opposite of the parasite while saying:

"Since there is still time till the next event, I don't see why we don't solve our feud, if you want to call it that . "

'X' didn't speak with any hostility, in fact, he sounded calm as he faced the frowning Arthur, who was particularly fond of him . Though he heard no response from both of them, 'X' continued talking:

"I can understand why you dislike me but, considering all the evil in the world, my deed can't be considered as bad, don't you think?"

He put his hand under his blurry chin, sighed then added: "Yes, I did sort of trick you but I never intended to kill you . Actually, I didn't even force you to reincarnate, you willingly accepted my offer . I granted you a second chance and, in return, you fed the Orb for a period of time . "

"So you think I can forget about the fact that you played me?"

"Played? Hmm, I wouldn't call that . I lied to you and that's it . Furthermore, the trouble you gave me by disappearing is a good payback . " He pointed at the quiet Lucy and stated: "Look, thanks to me, you married this beautiful white specter and are living happily ever after . "

"..."-Arthur

The parasite glared at the mysterious man without uttering a word, though the blue light emanating from his pupils were not a good sign for 'X' .

"What do you want?"

"I want a reconciliation . "

"Not gonna happen . "

"Then a truce . We're not mortal enemies and even if the tower pits us against each other, there's no need to kill . Considering our personal goals, I'm sure we'll fight, however, I don't plan to die for my cause . "

"As long as you don't get in my way, I, too, don't want to kill . "

Arthur clarified himself while withdrawing his cold glare, finding it pointless to behave angrily in here . What 'X' said is true, kind of... and Arthur wants to protect his brother, moreover, knowing the former's attitude, he's likely saying the truth . He only cares about his benefits and, from the looks of it, Leiu was never his goal .

Nevertheless, he won't let his guard down and if an opportunity arises, he'll definitely kick 'X' and his group out of the tower . They want to get rid of the evil inside his brother but, if necessary, they'll kill his family and that's not something Arthur can tolerate .

'X' happily clapped his hand then swiftly left, not adding a single word . He seemed a bit relieved as he started humming while playing with his odd cane .

\*To all contestants, the next event will begin in 1 minutes, please ready yourselves . \*

\*Each ten floors, there will be a short elimination round to reduce the number of contestants . \*



\*For the next floor, contestants can form a party and cooperate to complete the task . Fighting is not prohibited and if you kick out a contestant, you will lose a third of your points and if you kill, you'll lose half . \*

As usual, Arthur partied with Lucy while Forne invited his companions . Excluding those two groups, there were a few others who formed an alliance and there were some who preferred venturing alone, such as Zodiak and Xyktia, for example .

One minute quickly passed and all fifty-one contestants were teleported to the 9th floor, which looked like a large circular arena . There were no spectators as the place was half-destroyed and very ancient, the earth had dark red sand and the walls were made from orange cubic stones that were engraved with small defensive formations .

\*Welcome to the 9th floor; King's Fury . You will be given 15 minutes to defeat the Ogre, 30 minutes to defeat the gladiator, and one hour to kill Zurak, the incompetent King . The contestants who deal the most damage will be rewarded more points . The three lowest damage dealers will be disqualified . \*

\*The Ogre will be released in 15 seconds . \*

Right after the Red Tower finished speaking, the ground started shaking then a large hole appeared . Loud mechanical noises echoed across the arena followed by a big metal cage being lifted to the surface . Imprisoned inside was a monster over 10 meters in height, he had a skin similar to the sand and six eyes . He wasn't holding any weapon but the pressure he was emanating was truly frightening .

'Appraisal.'

\*Red Sand Ogre (Race: Half-Ogre/Half-Titan): Realm: none

Lv: 15,000

Health: 150,000,000,000

**Skills:** ???? ???? ????

Info: Mismatch .

Titles: none\*

"I don't understand . Does it want us to defeat it? Isn't it a bit of an overkill?"

Hach'ara wasn't threatened by the ogre, he sized down the latter before curiously looking . He wasn't the only one confused by the given task, after all, they were amongst the strongest people in the multiverse yet they want them gang up on an ogre .

"Arthur, it's not that simple . "

Lucy focused on the trapped ogre while whispering to her husband .

In response, Arthur activated [Transmutation] boosting his stats, he also prepared a Rizaki and hid it inside a spatial dimension, ready to be used anytime he wants .

Fifteen seconds crept by and the ogre was finally released from his prison . The cage broke down and the monster's rage exploded, shaking the whole arena and forcing all those around him to retreat .

However, this was but the beginning as the red sand under their feet started moving and dozens of spikes sprung from the ground, hitting all fifty-one contestants .

Considering their Lv or cultivation, they managed to block the spikes using barriers or other defensive techniques . Lucy countered the sand using Yin Power, which froze them, as for Arthur, he just used his speed to easily evade it .

The spikes were only meant for distraction as the ogre's six eyes shot out red beams that rebounded and multiplied every time they hit an obstacle . In a few seconds, there were countless beams flying all around, there were even some who hit some of the contestants .

This area of effect was stopped a bit later when the Sword God acted . He jumped in the air and waved his around, which was coated with his Sword Essence . Just like a real sword, his hand unleashed thousands of white particles that got rid of all the flying beams . Another figure joined the battle, he charged at the ogre and struck with his fist, a simple but surprisingly devastating attack .

He was the guy who mastered Earth Magic, he was wearing golden gauntlets that suited his magic and boosted his power . His strike managed to push away the ogre and make it roar in angrily whilst trying to stabilize its body .

Not wanting to lose out to the others, the rest unleashed their attacks simultaneously . Zodiac used Dark Magic to bind the ogre while Losha slashed with her sword, Maxine threw a bomb, etc . .

The air was filled with numerous differently colored skills, techniques, and curses, all aimed at the ogre, which didn't go down even after receiving all of that at the same time .

After one full minute of absolute destruction, the ogre was pushed into a miserable state . It lost its right leg and four of its eyes were gone, nonetheless, it still stood up and controlled the sand to retaliate .

All the sand under their feet rose to the air and was about to cling onto the ogre only for a thick bolt of white thunder to descend from above, stunning the monster . Lucy followed by shooting a deafening bullet from her revolver, aiming exactly at the ogre's forehead .

Fortunately, it successfully hit its target and knocked it on the ground but it was still not enough to kill it . It was at this time that thousands upon thousands of flying insects clustered around it the ogre, eating its flesh .

They were abnormally fast and in five seconds, there were only bones left . The ogre perished under Hach'ara deadly summons . The insects seemed pleased after a good and delicious meal so they went back under their master's robe, while the person in question was taking deep breaths .

It did take him a bit of energy to summon them but it was more than enough to turn the ogre into nothing but dry bones .

Right after the monster was killed, there was a loud explosion followed by something descending from the sky . A golden light fell at the center of the arena and, upon a closer look, it seemed to be an

armored knight . His head was lowered, looking at the ground while his hands were resting on his greatsword, which was stabbed onto the ground .

\*The Knight will awaken in 30 seconds . \*

Chapter 607: 607

\*Knight of The Hyde Empire(Race: Human): Realm: None

Lv: 25,000

Health : 475,000,000,000

Title: Arena Champion

Skills: Hyde Sword Mastery (LvMax)

Short Info: Mismatch

Just like his predecessor, the knight was eventually defeated but the fight wasn't as smooth as the first one . One of the contestants got seriously injured and had to leave the competition of his own volition . If they had to fight the knight alone, it's rather unlikely than all would be able to defeat him albeit their great strength .

The second opponent truly showed how monstrous the enemies in the Red Tower are . It's actually a blessing that they're allowed to gang up on him, nevertheless, it took them a painstaking 24 minutes, six more minutes and they would have lost .

"I think we overdid with the rules of this floor . "

The Joker wasn't pleased after watching the fight between the knight and the contestants . It's just too unfair and really not fun to spectate, at least from his point of view . He glanced at the silence youth and complained again:

"Do you even know how time it took me to bring him here? I had to defeat the fucker fifty times to get his summoning crystal!"

"Language!"-Leiu

The Magician clicked his tongue and glanced at Saly, who pretended not to hear the curse words and just watched the final fight .

"Let's tweak the rules of the 19th floor . "

"Not going to happen . "

Hearing such a strong and immediate rejection, the Joker sat closer to his brother and lightly nudged him, trying to look pitiful but it was nothing but a downright shameless and pointless action .

"Please please!"

"We are going to wait years for them to climb to the top . The higher floors are hard as it is so increasing the difficulty of the lower ones will slow down their advancement .

...

\*The Incompetent King, Zurak, will appear in one minute . \*

Maxine glanced at the contestants before whispering to her only remaining teammate, a female priest who wasn't very high-leveled and lacks strong offensive skills .

"Stay behind me and use the Escape Ticket if things get rough . "

Unlike the other two enemies, the king was in a league of his own as even before his appearance, his aura dominated the whole arena . The sun seemed to have come down, floating above the arena and emitting a blinding light and a suffocating heat . Not even Lucy's Yin Power was able to block its debuff effects, which lowered the cultivation and stats of everyone, without exceptions .

Arthur coated his body with Dark Magic using the Dark-Star Strengthening technique, he also created a Dark Barrier and a Spatial Dimension, isolating himself and Lucy .

"Use Engulfing flames!"

Right after Arthur said that, he transformed into a large Vermilion Bird covered in flames and flew toward the blinding sun . Lucy jumped on the divine beast's large head and prepared her golden flames

\*Requesting permission to fuse [Engulfing Sun]+[Quiet Flames]

Cost: 4500 Mental Power

Coldown: None

Y/N\*

The couple accepted the fusion, causing a sea of golden and orange flames to spread across the whole sky, dying the canopy with a mixed beautiful glow . Arthur used the White Tiger's golden barrier, blocking 80% of any damage they'll receive, then flew straight at the sun .

The countdown was almost finished and the king is going to show himself . The 'sun' was ballooning and, most likely, Zurak is going to appear from there which is why Arthur wanted to strike first .

Just as a hand appeared from within the sun, the bird opened its mouth and spat a shiny golden ball of fire that, by no means, was less bright than the 'sun' . The ball of fire was golden and has orange flames engulfing it, and just its appearance made the whole floor violently shake .

It struck the blinding sun and exploded, destroying a large part of the arena and dying the gold with a orange and golden light, surprising many of the spectators . Unfortunately, Zurak, who managed to successfully get out of the sun, grasped what seemed to be a spear and spun in the air, sweeping with his spear .

Both Arthur and Lucy were flung away, heavily crashing on the ground while their fusion skill, called [Star Nova], was extinguished by the king's retaliation . However, he also sustained damage as his armor had many burn signs and the hand holding the lance was profusely bleeding .

Thanks to the barrier Arthur prepared beforehand, the blow didn't injure them and only pushed them away, moreover, they were not the only enemies of Zurak .

The Incompetent King landed in the arena and swept his gaze across everyone, his eyes holding nothing but contempt .

"Ruinatation is come!"

Zurak shouted with a clear and loud voice before jumping forward while waving his land around, aiming at both of his sides, from which Losha, and the Void Behemoth were attacking . His actions were simplistic but extremely, perhaps even absurdly, strong and devastating . His lance blasted the large purple Void beast and the reincarnator, sending them flying far away, though this was but the beginning as Hach'ara insects died before even reaching their target and Zodiac Dark Magic barely managed to reach Zurak before it vanished .

Fortunately, it did have an effect as a small part of it managed to invade the king's body and slow down his moment for a few seconds . 'X' used his Time and Space Magic to freeze Zurak's hand then break it by shattering the space, which is a very difficult thing to do inside the Red Tower as it's more stabilized than the outside world .

In fact, 'X' is perhaps the only one who can properly break space and use it as a mean to attack, all the other contestants are not that well-versed in Space Magic to achieve such a feat . Even Arthur's high mastery isn't enough, which shows how tough and stable the space inside the tower actually is .

As the king's hand was rendered useless, an elf archer fired an lightning-fast green arrow at Zurak's knee, forcing him to kneel . The king roared and forced himself to stand up then tightly grabbed the lance with his remaining hand and used it as support to jump in the air then bang his weapon on the ground, shattering the red earth and blasting more than 10 contestants who got close to him in order to attack .

At this point, dozens of small, unnoticeable sparks appeared around Zurak, they lasted for a second before they exploded . Surprisingly, this time, the king was thrown to the back with blood covering his whole body .

Destruction magic engulfed him and cracked his lance and broke his armor . Arthur followed and Lucy didn't sit still either, the parasite became an Azure Dragon and cast [Dragon Breath], forcing all the nearby contestants to back off to not get hit .

The illusory red flame was like tsunami, it crashed right into the king, scorching his body and making him cough one mouthful of blood the other . The White Specter threw a minuscule, thumb-sized, white flame which reached Zurak after five seconds .

Although it was slow, when it entered the king's body, he started shrieking and flailing his body like a crazy person . Part of his body became frozen while the other literally melted, nevertheless, he managed to somehow resist and stand up again .

"Ruinatation!" Shouted Zurak as he threw his lance in the air then stabbing his chest . The sight was gory as he pulled his still beating heart then crushed it, the blow turned golden then covered him, instantly healing his injuries . This wasn't the end as his land came back down, bringing with it countless light lances that covered the sky .

Arthur returned to his humanoid form, teleported behind Lucy and grabbed her closer to him before retrieving two formations from his storage and putting them around him . A multi-colored barrier coupled with a brown shield appeared before the couple, shielding them from the descending lances .

Losha activated her Diamond Physique, easily blocking all the damage while 'X' kept breaking the space hence diverting the projectiles' directions . Each person used something to protect themselves but not all were lucky or tough enough .

The priest accompanying Maxine used the Escape Ticket, decreasing the number of contestants yet again .

Chapter 608: 608

"What's the deal with Zurak? From where did you bring him?"

Wolfram stared at the king, who was over 3 meters tall and looked different than any Race he had seen . Unlike the previous two enemies, the Incompetent King is someone Leiu personally brought and put on the 9th floor, assuring his brother that it's the right opponent for the contestants .

"Is he some kind of acquaintance? He's dead though so it's not possible..."

"Teacher, what do you mean he's dead?"

Saly, who didn't comprehend his words, asked her not-so-king teacher . After all, Zurak was currently fighting Arthur and the rest and he clearly looked very alive .

"Well, most enemies inside the towers and... well, copied fragments . "

The white-haired beastmen wagged her tail while furrowing her brows, still not understanding .

The Trickster rubbed her fluffy white ears while explaining: "Copied fragments are generated copies of past individuals or things . Their attitude and strength is maintained but not all memories remain, it's basically related to luck . Sometimes they keep everything and sometimes they're like empty shells meant for fighting . Non-playable-characters... something like those things?"

"Then are there enemies that kept their memories?"

"Yeah... dear old Pride and venomous Lust are locked in here . "

Surprised, Saly glanced at Leiu before asking, with a much lower voice: "B-but, aren't they already dead?"

"They're 'supposedly' dead but your uncle is a vengeful person . Death is the easy-way out for his enemies, hahahaha"

\*\*\*\*\*

Whatever Zurak did, it made him recover within seconds and continue to wreak havoc amongst the contestants . He's entered an enraged state and started sweeping left and right, blasting anyone who got close, basically forcing all the melee-fighters to stay back .

It fell to the long-ranged ones to finish the king, who was targeting anyone who got close . Having a vast arsenal of skills, Arthur stood at a safe distance with Lucy and bombarded Zodiak with all kinds of skills . Detonators had no effect but Dark Magic would slow down the target's movements, rendering him vulnerable to other spells . As for Lucy, she made great use of her nine ice lotuses, which were sharper than a sword and deadlier than a bomb . Like annoying flies, they flew around Zurak, slowly covering him in ice while also dealing a decent amount of damage .

The fight continued for another twenty minutes and when the king was about to heal himself again, Arthur unleashed the stored Dark Rizaki . The amount the spatial dimension vanished, the whole floor was covered in an ominous darkness, alarming every one but Lucy and Zodiak .

"Get away!"

Boltz, the guy who mastered the Earth Magic, invoked his unbreakable earth armor and retreated to the edge of arena . Most people readied themselves and defended against what's about to come because they knew how troublesome Dark Magic is . The only one who wasn't worried was Zodiak, who chuckled and retrieved a talisman, throwing it in the air .

Slowly but surely, the darkness started gradually disappearing or rather, focusing on a small point in front of the frozen Zurak . Before he let out Rizaki, Arthur made sure to lock down the king using his Eye's time-stopping ability, which costs a lot but has a very good effect and a decent duration .

By the time Rizaki explodes, the king won't be able to escape nor heal himself . In just a few seconds, the dark magic was sucked into a small ball of darkness which vibrated for a brief moment then exploded . The devastation it brought was nothing to scoff at, the red earth beneath their feet turned jet black, the blinding canopy was replaced by a looming darkness, and the target itself was devoured by Dark Magic, leaving only his upper body and his two arms intact .

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"The hell! No need to sink us all with him!"

Hach'ara lashed out at Arthur while spitting blood on the ground and making his insects eat the Dark Magic inside his body .

"As flashy as ever . "

Forne commented while glancing at the immobile Zurak, who looked dead . His aura was still present, which confused a lot of the contestants . There was one particular person who was surprised by the overpowered Rizaki that Arthur just cast .

She looked at Arthur, who reminded her of Zaarae, the Parasite Empress .

"A strong skill but takes too much time, what a shame..." She let out a sigh and looked at the sky, from which a meteor-like thing was falling towards them . Whatever it was, it slowed down before reaching the ground and struck the motionless Zurak, who didn't react at all . Upon a closer look, it was a white and golden spear that looked different . It had three spiky tips, each in the form of a dragon and each with a unique color: Red, gold, and black .

"Ugh, is he still not dead?"

Celes has had enough of this tiring fight and wasn't particularly fond of prolonged battles like this one . Moreso in this case, where she can't get close to the opponent to be able to affect him with her Death Physique .

"Not quite . "- 'X'

"You don't say . . "-Celes

Zurak, who should not be able to move due to losing his waist and two legs, suddenly grasped the spear and wildly roared . A golden light covered and healed his body yet again, recovering him to his peak state .

Before anyone could do anything, three transparent dragons flew from the left, right, and front of the king . They weren't that big but each carried a pure type of energy .

The red one left a trail of red fire while the golden dragon spat dozens of light lances, however, the black dragon was odd as it dove onto the blackened ground . Whatever it tried to do, it was unsuccessful as a second after it vanished into the ground, you could hear its miserable cries while it's being consumed by the dense Dark Magic still lingering underground .

The Void Behemoth jumped to intercept the golden dragon, it faced it head-on and even got struck but wasn't injured . Its body let out a purple burst of Void Magic that devoured the head of the golden dragon, extinguishing it . The only remaining dragon was pulverized by Losha's diamond fist, who continued all the way to Zurak .

The king was way taller than the reincarnator, moreover, he was prepared to counter-attack . He stabbed his spear at Losha, clashing it with her unbreakable and unstoppable fist . At first, there was a brief stalemate before she was pushed back, a small trace of blood leaking out of her hand though Zurak didn't fare well either as he was hit by multiple attacks while he was busy dealing with the reincarnator .

Chapter 609

FLASHBACK

The shimmering firmament was as breath-taking as ever, the moon hung high up in the sky, adding more beauty to the starry night sky . The couple was sitting on the only bench in the courtyard and enjoying this quiet and peaceful time . Lucy was lost in thought as she caressed the ring Arthur gifted to her earlier, it was the proof of their relationship and eternal keepsake . Though they didn't have a grand marriage or a celebration, they were now officially married .

Everything has been chaotic after what happened in the magic academy but now they can rest for some time in the Ma Clan .

"Do you like it?"

Arthur nervously asked, not sure if a normal ring is enough . Sure, there were many expensive rings in his storage but he chose this one due to its simplicity, he also added small carvings on it without changing too much of its original appearance .

"En! Very much!"



"I'm relieved, hahaha"

Seeing his laugh so heartily, Lucy couldn't help but plant a kiss on his lips, to show her appreciation and affection . They were uninterrupted so they didn't hold back from doing such things, however, they didn't go far and nothing obscene was done as they wanted to keep appropriate tonight despite it being their wedding night, which, in many cases, is when the newlyweds sleep together .

"Arthur..."

She stared at him with an expression very different from her usual cold one . He could see a new shine in her eyes, one that portrayed her boundless happiness, which made him not regret his earlier actions . At first, he hesitated and didn't know if he should propose or not but it turned out to be well, fortunately .

"Hm?"

"Now that Saly is with us... how about we create a sect?"

He didn't give an immediate answer as he was thoroughly thinking about her proposition, which didn't seem that bad, in fact . They can't stay in the Ma Clan forever so creating a sect would provide shelter to their daughter and expand their power, moreover, it'll be like a home for them... a new and fresh beginning .

"Yeah, let's . "

"Really?"

Lucy's eyes slightly shook as she didn't think he'll agree so fast . In response, he caressed her head and replied:

"Yes, I think a sect would suit us . "

"Then let us think of a name!"

Like a little girl, she sounded very excited, which melted his heart and made him chuckle .

"Any suggestions?"

She looked around, thinking about something before saying: "We'll name it after things we like . "

"I like you so it should have Lucy in its name . "

"No no, I didn't mean people but things you like . "

"Hahaha alright alright . "

He lifted his head and stared at the gleaming stars, making him momentarily entranced: "I like stars... they're like a beacon of hope . "

She followed his gaze and looked at the shiny stars filling the dark sky .

"I like the Moon... its light is different from the sun's . I find it soothing . "

After a while, Arthur clapped his hands and added: "Then shall we name MoonStar?"

"MoonStar? Then... MoonStar sect . En! I like it!"

\*\*\*\*\*

"Don't do it!"

Arthur pulled back Lucy, who wanted to attack the king using her evolved Revolver, which can turn into a powerful sniper rifle . He wasn't the only one to notice the oddity happening within their ranks .

The two robots originating from the system fused together, becoming some sort of a large cannon .

\*Initiating countdown...

5

4

. . \*

A robotic voice came from within the cannon, alerting all those around it . Arthur took Lucy to a safe spot and watched the unfolding events . Maxine wasn't pleased with the robots' attack too, she cursed at the unresponsive machine then withdrew from the area .

Five seconds quickly passed and the cannon finished readying itself . It shot a black projectile that wasn't that fast but it devoured everything in its way . The way it ate things was drastically different than Void Magic, it was also affecting its surroundings, canceling any type of energy nearby . Arthur's Dark Barrier remained but any other skill was deactivated due to lack of Nether Energy, which acts as fuel .

Zurak waved his spear around, trying to chop the projectile in two, however, his spear wasn't spared by the Dark Matter, which ate it in a split second . The target tried to jump back but the projectile exploded, emitting a light that blinded all the contestants . This was quickly followed by a piercing sound that made Arthur and Lucy bleed from their ears and stagger, trying to maintain their balance .

Everything cleared after half a minute, the king was no longer here and most of the participants weren't in a good state due to the spreading Dark Matter . Arthur enveloped himself and Lucy in Dark Magic, making them unreachable while the other contestants flew in the air to avoid it but it wouldn't take long before it reaches them .

Fortunately, the Red Tower informed them of their victory and teleported them to the waiting room shortly after .

As it had previously mentioned, the three lowest damage dealers were disqualified . One of them was the priest accompanying Maxine while the other two were two old cultivators that belonged to the same sect .

Whatever that cannon was, it allowed the two robots to steal the top spots for damage done, granting them a buttload of points . Arthur was the 6th damage dealer and Lucy was 8th, as for the third, it was Forne, followed by Zodiak then the elf archer .

After they got to rest for ten minutes, the Red Tower teleported them to the 10th floor, which wasn't a game or 'task' like the rest but more of a test to further decrease the number of contestants to the required amount . The 11th floor needs only 42 contestants so 4 need to be kicked out .

The test wasn't complicated or innovative, they just had to attack a large cubic boulder and whoever gets the lowest points will be disqualified . It was simple and straight-forward, furthermore, all kinds of attacks are allowed, as long as they hit the target, of course .

Chapter 610: 610

The test on the 10th floor proceeded smoothly and didn't take much time . Each contestant was given three minutes and in a bit over an hour, everyone was done . The result of each hit was shown on the target, which was the large cubic stone .

The highest points one can get is 99 points but none managed to score more than 40 points . The top score was the Sword God, who slashed with his score and got 40 . 9 points, followed by Forne then Hach'ara . Arthur didn't use Rizaki or any other destructive skills, he unleashed the blue lightning dragon, an offensive and strong technique . He made sure to convert his Strength stat into Intelligence to boost the damage and managed to score 32 . 6 points, ranking him 5th .

The lowest 4 dealt, respectively, 17 . 9, 17 . 5, 17, and 16 . 2, which wasn't much compared to the top ones but their attacks seemed strong enough to injure an Exalted God . Unfortunately, they were disqualified, bringing down the number of contestants to 42 .

Pretty much all those in the Red Tower know a thing or two about their opponents and kind of grasped how each one fought . Arthur showed many of his forms but he still has a few hidden ones that came in handy later on . Zodiak too, didn't showcase the true might of the ominous Dark Magic, making some of the contestants skeptical about his identity, however, the past rumors about Zodiak were dreaded as many were proven true but the current Zodiak wasn't as strong as they had initially thought .

After finishing the test, they were given a short rest before the tower teleported them to the 11th floor . Things were somewhat chaotic with several fights here and there but nothing major happened, neither on the 11th or the ones after it . Arthur and Lucy stayed together when they could and always helped each other, facilitating the task and increasing their overall safety .

Unlike the lower floors, from 11 and above, it took much more time to complete the events, which kept getting harder and sometimes ridiculous . You could be fighting an ancient boss then find yourself playing a board game, it was that absurd . The Red Tower wasn't built just to gauge your power but to force you to do many tasks you're not used to, like Hide and Seek, for example .

Anyway, Five days later, all 42 contestants managed to reach the 18th floor and were pitted against each other . The party function wasn't disabled so, as usual, Arthur and Lucy were close to each other and roaming the floor together . The place was called 'The Last Symphony' and the task was to find the pieces of the whole Symphony, which are randomly hidden around the floor . The couple weren't enough to find even one piece but they did locate a person who did .

"A bit to the left . "

Arthur was laying next to Lucy and telling her of the location of Xyktia, who was standing far away while in invisibility . As Arthur had to pour all his Intelligence and Wisdom into Dexterity, he noticed her from a long distance and, from the looks of it, the Lady of Darkness noticed nothing .

He didn't have any strong skill that could reach her before she reacts so he asked Lucy to do it using her sniper rifle . Its burst damage and long-range are very useful in this situation but, unlike him, she could not sense or see the black-haired woman so she had to listen to her husband and try to guess the target's accurate position .

A silver rifle was positioned on the ground, pointing at Xyktia's direction . Lucy's eyes were near the scope as she listened to Arthur and slightly shifted the weapon to the left .

"A bit more to the left... yes, this is perfect!"

He had a humanoid body but his eyes were of an eagle, tripling the view distance and giving him a clear image of Xyktia, whose stealth ability didn't work on Arthur thanks to his special eyes .

"As soon as you shoot, I'll go and retrieve the symphony piece . "

Lucy nodded her head and started injecting Mana into the weapon, ready to shoot at the unseen target . Ten or so seconds later, a dense and suffocating Mana burst from the rifle, which had a specially crafted silencer, and a rapid bullet was shot at Xyktia .

The Lady of Darkness didn't expect to be attacked, she didn't even sense the presence of any nearby enemies . Alas, her reaction was a second slower than the bullet, which hit her shoulder and flung her dozens of meters away . When she was about to fall on the ground, a lightning bolt struck her body but dealt no damage and, instead, robbed her of the symphony piece, which resembled a scroll .

Although Arthur successfully stole the item, he wasn't able to escape in time and was struck by a monstrous force that made his body plummet into the ground . He was flabbergasted to see a third of his health disappear with just that one strike . Xyktia attacked him again but a golden barrier negated most of her damage, nevertheless, Arthur still lost another ten percent of his health .

He was enveloped by a white and golden light, healing all of his injuries and restoring the lost Health . He wanted to retaliate but an arrow made of white bones hit his two legs and immobilized him, he didn't know how but the Dark Barrier and his high defense weren't able to block the projectiles .

Xyktia harrumphed and pressed her hand on her shoulder, pulling the bullet from inside her body and healing herself . She was about to thrash Arthur but another bullet came from far away and hit her abdomen, pushing her a couple of steps to the back . When she regained her senses, Arthur was nowhere to be seen, the only thing left was a large hole that could fit a whole elephant .

"Tsk! This is why I hate parasites!"

After that short encounter, Arthur and Lucy found another piece of the symphony and then went into hiding, preferring not to waste time wandering around in fear of being attacked someone who hasn't found a piece yet . They completed the task and all they had to do was wait for night to fall .

...

Four days later, 39 contestants managed to reach the 22nd floor, one was eliminated on the 18th floor and two disqualified on the 20th floor after dealing the lowest damage at the same power test . Arthur acquired more than 10 million points while Lucy had a staggering 134 million but that's only because Arthur helped her obtain more when it's possible . He didn't need anything from the Luxury Shop but Lucy was interested in that Blue Phoenix Blood, which can greatly enhance her Yin Power and boost her constitution .

Sadly, Arthur wasn't able to perform the soul bound inside the tower so he had to wait until they get out . Lucy is strong enough to handle strong opponents but if her stats increased even more, she'll be stronger than him, which is something he wished for, of course .

He wasn't the jealous type who doesn't want others to surpass him, especially if those others are his wife .

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"Let go of me!"

Celes angrily shrieked as she tried to free her hand from Arthur's grasp . They were after the same item so she had to fight him to obtain it but the result was something she didn't expect . Basically, she was beaten so easily because her Physique was countered by Arthur's skills . Her Decaying magic had no effect on the parasite, who had the book of the damned and can use Life Energy, which can reverse any decaying or withering effect .

He was physically stronger and his lightning magic, which is her bane, was strong enough to stun her for enough time for him to subdue her .

"Arthur, just let her go . " Lucy sighed as she witnessed the angry and embarrassed Celes, whose hand was held by Arthur while her body was kneeling on the ground due to the increase gravity . She was completely overpowered, making the Grey Seat lose a lot of face .

"Well, if you say so . "

He casually let go of Celes' hand but the moment he did so, she jumped at him, throwing punches left and right . She didn't use any strength and didn't seem hostile, the woman was just venting her frustration on the nonchalant man .

She didn't get to vent all her anger as Arthur teleported away, leaving her hyperventilating, her bulging chest going up and down .

"I could've kicked you out but I didn't . You owe me one . "

Arthur left after saying that, as for Lucy, she threw one last glance at Celes before following her husband .

"I owe you nothing!"

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"Teacher, how much will I score if I took that test?"

Saly pointed at the cubic stone and asked her teacher, eager to try it herself . The Magician looked at the girl's wagging tail then said:

"In your Fenrir form, I reckon you'll get 15 points or so . "

The moment he said that, Saly's ears went down and her tail froze, showcasing her disappointment .

"... Only 15 points?"

"That's considered a lot . Enough to kill an Overgod . "

"Then how much can you score?"

Hearing that, he pointed at himself and laughed:

"Me? Hahaha, 99 points, obviously . "

"He's lying, he can't score 99 points . I would say 80 or 81 points . "-Leiu

The youth joined their conversation, correcting his brother's absurd statement .

"Uncle, how about you?"

"Last time I tried it, I scored 89 . 7 points . I doubt it has changed since then . "

"And what's the highest score?"

The Joker thought for a moment before responding: "I think Moriah achieved the highest score... 95 . 8 points . "

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"Radolf and Midolf, ahhhh really nostalgic names!"

Zaarae gazed at the silent identical youth while speaking . She didn't seem that dangerous but her nonchalant act despite her miserable situation really seemed odd, even to peculiar people like the two mythical beings .

"Is that boy still going around sending his divine beasts every ten or so thousand years?"

"Our master has changed . "

"Ah is that so? What a relief . At least you're intelligent enough to get away from that crazy boy . I was never fond of him anyway . "

"Watch your mouth! Witch!"

Midolf couldn't hold himself back and ended up cursing at Zaarae, who furrowed her brows when hearing that . After a short silence, she broke into a loud laughter .

"Pahahaha you still talk to vulgarly! What a strange bird . "

"Wench! I'm not a bird but a roc!"

"You have wings and feathers, that qualifies you as a bird in my dictionary . Now then, let's talk about more fun stuff..."