

## Once Human 641

### Chapter 641: 641

Unfortunately for Fariya, her seductive words didn't work on Arthur, who tightened the threads around the succubus' neck, making her cough and gasp for breath . Only after half a minute did he loosen the unbreakable threads, leaving the woman red-faced and barely able to remain conscious .

"J—jeez... why are you so violent?"

Even after all of that, Fariya maintained her non-aggressive attitude as her eyes seemed to shine when looking at the goblin, or more precisely, the parasite hiding within .

"Stop acting like that . You can fool everyone but me, after all, you're just a virgin . "

Once she heard the last word, the succubus twitched and her pupils contracted, but only momentarily as she regained her cool faster than ever . A charming smile was plastered on Fariya's peerless face, her pink tongue ran over her rosy lips before she spoke again:

"I never meant to fool you... I actually need and want your help . "

"..."

Arthur didn't speak and only watched at her with a piercing gaze . His silence allowed the succubus to explain her words more properly and state the reason of her non hostility toward a total stranger .

"You may have noticed that a succubus working for Heaven is not a common thing . " She sat up into a more comfortable position while stretching her slender white legs and calibrating her breathing .

"I'm not guarding this hellhole because I want to, it's merely to pay a debt... a debt that's already been paid . "

Her countenance turned a little serious as she mumbled a few incoherent curses before continuing: "I was supposed to guard the second level for forty years but double that amount passed yet they still wouldn't let me go . " She let out a long helpless sigh while unconsciously clenching her bound hand: "I only requested to leave once but the damned warden shamelessly refused . Knowing his sick personality, I just remained here, waiting for an opportunity . "

Her eyes locked onto Arthur, who said back: "And why are you telling me all of this? Did you think you'll gain my trust with this?"

"Not at all . You came here for a reason and, undoubtedly, you'll leave soon . Just... when you're planning your prison break, take me along . I can be of great help, I even know everything about this place . "

She pursed her lips while smiling again: "Actually, I was going to rely on the prisoners of the last floor but it's too risky as they're wildly uncontrollable . "

"I'm not helping you . "

Arthur rejected her almost immediately, causing Fariya to pout and sulk .

"Don't be so fast to reject . It doesn't take a genius to know that you're a parasite, though a bit special than the rest . You can use Buo's telekinesis so you can also use his Slavery Magic . I'm willing to become your slave until we leave, that way, I won't betray you or lie to you . "

Hearing this, Arthur was genuinely surprised as becoming a slave isn't as simple as on Astria . Buo Buo's slavery magic is strict and if the slave even thinks of betrayal, the master will immediately know . Moreover, it's permanent unless the master removes it personally so by becoming his slave, it'll doom her fate .

'To think she's willing to become my slave just to leave . '

"Master, she's really an intelligent woman . She's fully aware that becoming your slave is much better than staying here, even if you go back on your word and keep her as a slave forever . "

'Do you think she's worth the trouble?'

"Definitely . There's literally nothing to lose if she becomes your slave... well, Madam Lucy must not catch wind of this though . "

Arthur marched toward the bound succubus as his appearance returned to the original one, a tall middle-aged male human with grey and dark hair . His eye was pulsating with a blue light as it landed on the devilish figure of the succubus, who didn't hide her sexy curves or her soft and snow-white skin .

"You're willing to sell yourself just to leave?"

Fariya scoffed and retorted: "Sell myself? I'd do much worse just to get out . Once they don't need me anymore, the things they'll do to a Demon is far worse than you think . Becoming your slave isn't a bad outcome, in my point of view . "

She crawled closer to the motionless Arthur standing straight and right next to the bed . "So this is what you look like . Mmmh, I must say that my decision couldn't be more perfect . "

She winked at him but he didn't react at all and instead, raised his hand and made a small pulling motion with his index, causing Fariya to start groaning from the abrupt and agonizing pain . She felt an ominous energy lurking inside of her body and severely weakening her .

"Don't forget that, in addition to the slave mark you're going to get, this is still inside of you and it's more potent than Buo's slavery magic . "

Although still in pain, Fariya giggled and said back: "Yes... you can be inside of me as much as you want . "

Arthur coldly snorted and put his hand above her head before a grey floating rune emanated from his palm and slowly entered the succubus' head . It didn't cause her any pain but she could feel a heavy feeling in her consciousness and around her heart and brain . This uncomfortable feeling lasted only for a short few seconds a cool and refreshing feeling surged inside of the woman .

As she became his slave, she was automatically granted the system, and her stats dramatically increase, to the point that Fariya remained shocked for half a minute .

Arthur got most of his power thanks to his sky-high stats, which defies logic . Any person's stats shouldn't surpass the one billion mark, what makes them strong are their mastered techniques, powerful skills, pure and unique energy essence, or godly artifacts . In Arthur's case, he could content again Exalted Gods because his stats are so absurdly high that his body is able to demonstrate strength unlike any other .

Now that Fariya became his slave, she gained 5% of his stats, which is still a staggering amount .

After all that happened inside the tower and the several power-ups and possessions he did, the lowest main stats of Arthur was around 14Billion points and 5% of that is 700 million . For the succubus, it's like her body became twice or thrice faster, stronger, and more resistant . It's definitely a huge power-up which now allows her to fight 3rd stage Exalted Gods, possibly even those at the Transcendent Stage .

"Arthur MoonStar? I can't say I've ever heard of such a name . "

Feeling the restraints binding her body vanished, Fariya stretched her limbs and properly sat up . She was looking at the blue notifications windows floating in front of her eyes . It's the first time she's ever used the System so she was excited and curious .

Even without needing to check her stats, she easily could tell that she was stronger, making her happy . She abruptly stood up and was about to hug her new master only for her body freeze mid-air as an unstoppable telekinetic force was surrounding Arthur .

"Don't get close to me or touch me . That is my first order . "

Reluctance showed on the succubus' face but she still replied: "Yes, master . "

After a brief silence, the woman let out a gasp as she sensed something else connected to Arthur .

"M-master... what's that?"

She pointed at his chest but her words were obviously about the quad-spirit dormant inside Arthur's consciousness .

"A spirit . "

He gave a non-satisfactory short reply . However, before Fariya could talk again, a deep voice that seemed to belong to an old man echoed in her head:

"Succubus Fariya, welcome to the team . "

This only deepened her shock as she covered her mouth and creased her brows . She feeling four kinds of energies emanating from the spirit, making her questions this reality .

"As you can see, I am a quad-spirit and a loyal follower of my master . I hope we do get along . "

The only thing Fariya did was slowly nod her head before mumbling something to herself . Her seductive pose and manner of speech were completely gone as she was discovering one absurd thing after the other since she became a slave in such a short notice . Even the tinge of regret she was supposed to feel was non-existent as the power-up and the thought of finally leaving this place relieved her turbulent mind .

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"Fuck fuck did you feel that?!"

Midolf turned his stiff neck to the quiet Radolf and loudly spoke, causing his words to reverberated across the gloomy and partially empty floor .

"Pipe down . "

Sadly, the white-haired youngster, who was actually a mythical roc, was surprised by what he felt .

"Master is close! I can also feel another entity linked to him!"

He closed his eyes and concentrated for a few seconds before speaking with an ever louder tone: "My sweet fucking feathers! It's a damn succubus! We're fucking doomed!"

He nudged Radolf repeatedly, sounding kind distressed .

"Madam Lucy will pluck both of your heads and... and she'll feed me to the sharks!"

Facing the hysterical roc, Radolf shook his head and sighed .

"I doubt master will do anything that will betray the madam's love . He must have enslaved the succubus for a reason... different than the one in your mind . "

"What different! Why would you enslave a fucking succubus? To have her clean the damn house?! Forget it! I'm not leaving the prison . I'm staying here! I'm-"

His voice cut off by a feminine snort which made Midolf seal his lips and close his eyes .

"Will it kill you to speak more quietly? A lady is trying to sleep . "

Midolf didn't say anything as he pretended to be asleep while Radolf ever-so-slightly bowed his shackled head and apologetically said:

"Empress, please forgive his rude behavior . It won't happen again . "

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A while later, the bound Parasite Empress raised her head, staring at the dark ceiling while thinking of something .

"You can't be favoring a mere succubus over me... right?"

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"So what are you going to do here, Master~~?"

She stretched the last word and said with a seductive tone but Arthur ignored her and transformed back into Buo Buo .

Unlike Fariya, the chief guard of the third level is an annoying and close-minded angel and checks the prisoners on every floor each month . He also terribly dislikes, no, he abhors demons, including Fariya so

their relationship is straight-up hostile . In fact, from what the succubus said, she did clash with the angel a few times but Habs would interfere and separate them .

"If I step foot into his floors, he's bound to appear . Though he has made a few deals with Buo in the past . "

Arthur thought for a moment before saying: "If I kill him, his absence will quickly be noticed . Is there any way to bypass him?"

The person in question is called Erandil, an eight-winged angel, who can be described as a prick . He's a bit stronger than Fariya, but now that her stats increased after becoming Arthur's slave, she's certain she can handle him and even kill him but their fight will attract attention .

Furthermore, Erandil has high awareness and his three floors are blinded with angels . The master and the slave spent some time talking and thinking of a plan and, finally, they found a plan which may work .

Half an hour later, Fariya appeared on the 7th floor while dragging a chained prisoner behind her . A smile was blossoming on her beautiful face as she winked at the angels, who, despite being majestic beings, weren't able to resist her charm, especially the males . They would get flustered and instinctively look away, in fact, they didn't even try to stop her as she seemed to be escorting someone .

Unfortunately, the chief guard showed himself less than a minute after her arrival . He was a tall angel with eight golden wings curled up behind his back, he had a long golden hair that rested on his shoulders and his face didn't suit his race . He was expressionless as he glared at Fariya then at the prisoner with an unusual appearance .

Hostility and killing intent emanated from his eyes as he looked at Arthur, who had the appearance of a Devil . The parasite managed to retrieve one of the devil corpses on the 49th floor of the Red Tower, however, he got no stats or skills, surprisingly . Nevertheless, his appearance was more enough to rile up Erandil's emotions .

"What's this?"

He sternly questioned the smiling succubus, who lightly pulled the chains, causing Arthur to stagger a few steps to the front .

"I'm escorting him to the fourth level, where he belongs . "

"Oh?" Erandil frowned as he marched toward the devil and examined him from head to toe before speaking: "I'll do it . Go back to your level!"

He was about to snatch the chains from Fariya only for her to pull her hand away and retorting: "The Warden personally instructed me to do it . If you have any objections, go to him . "

Not only was Erandil in bad terms with Fariya, but he also didn't get along with the Warden, who was a human . Erandil considered himself superior and righteous and didn't approve of many things Habs had done in the past . Sadly, when he tried objecting, he would only get beaten by Habs and punished by Heaven, who ordered him to always obey the Warden .

"..."

The blond-haired angel glared at the succubus, his eyes never drifting toward her revealed curves and seductive parts . He seemed immune to her charm as a domineering aura emanating from him, apparently, he wanted to use force but he was startled as the succubus released an energy that overwhelmed his pressure and caused him to take a step back .

"Stick to your duties, Erandil . "

Unlike how she interacted with others, Fariya hated the angel to the bones and wasn't interested in charming him, much less talking to him .

Arthur quietly watched their interactions without saying anything, though he was prepared to act in case things go awry . Erandil was focused on the succubus so he made a move, he was confident in dealing a fatal blow to the angel, however, that will only complicate his plans . Furthermore, there were a few angels not far from here and they would sound the alarm before he can reach them .

Angels were telepathically connected so a single thought from one of them would alert the rest and that would result in the prison going into complete lock down . Plus, the most fearful person, Habs, would come here within minutes .

Fariya repeatedly told him that the Warden is really a terrifying person . He's much stronger than all the chief guards and is a merciless person, but he wasn't downright evil and his goal was to reach Heaven and spread his fame . Actually, Habs originated from the Demon Realm, which part of the reason Heaven didn't invite him despite his astonishing accomplishments and godly powers .

At most, Arthur could fight equally with an Exalted God at the Transcendent Stage, maybe even kill him . If Habs is stronger than that then breaking out Midolf and Radolf would be impossible, especially if he's discovered now .

Half a minute of silence passed before Erandil stepped to the side, indicating that Fariya could pass . The succubus snorted and dragged the chained Arthur, not bothering to spare the angel another glance .

Unsurprisingly, Erandil followed up till the end of the 9th floor, his piercing gaze was glued onto Arthur until the latter disappeared from his view .

"I can't stand him . " Said Fariya while loosening her grip of the chains .

"I'm not surprised . "

"Ra'zi is the chief guard of the fourth level . Even if he feels my presence, he won't do anything . Unless there's an urgent matter, he'll never show himself, and as there are only a few prisoners here, he doesn't have to personally take care of them . "

The 10th, 11th, 12th floor have a few dozen prisoners, which were infamous criminals and had great cultivations or amassed a lot of stars . They are weakened now, of course, but they are still extremely dangerous so all of them are tightly chained and are allowed to move only once a month, and only for a few hours .

"I can only take you to the end of the 12th floor, the last lev-"

Fariya stopped talking and looked behind her . Arthur halted his steps and was looking at one particular small cell, which had one human in it . He had thin build, dirty skin, and orange shirt and pants, similar to

the one the prisoners on earth wear . What surprised Arthur was that this man was a mortal! He was sure of it and his eyes confirmed his suspicions . He had no cultivation, No lvi, or anything related to that .

The succubus knitted her brows and whispered: "That's Edward Ortberg, a serial killer . "

"A serial killer? What's he doing here?"

"He has a special soul so it wasn't able to put it in Hell so he ended up here, eternally being imprisoned . As he's a mortal, he's constantly starving but cannot die, that is the punishment declared by Heaven . "

"Why is he on the 12th floor though?"

The succubus' expression turned serious as she stated: "Master, he's more dangerous than he looks . He even led the previous chief guard of the fourth level to his death using only words! Compared to other evil races, which kill thousands of innocents, he only killed 48 humans but he's very intelligent and calculative . "

Just as she finished speaking, the serial killer, Edward, lazily raised his head and opened his sleepy eyes . He glanced at the succubus then at Arthur before returning to his uncomfortable sleep, his rumbling stomach could be heard from meters away!

'Appraisal!'

\*Edward Ortberg (Race: Human): Cultivation: none

Lv: None

Titles: Psychopath / Strategist / Sinner / The High-way Killer/ Chess master / Heaven's Mandate Soul Holder

Short info : A notorious killer who killed 48 humans between 1980 and 2004 . He turned himself three times and escaped the prison three times . In the end, Heaven sent angels to apprehend him and throw him into Hell but as a holder of the Heaven's mandate Soul, he couldn't be put in Hell so he was imprisoned in this prison .

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'Heaven's Mandate? Do you know anything about it?'

"Of course I do, master!" The Quad-Spirit seemed more surprised than we he saw Shen Shen's soul .

"The Heaven Mandate Soul is the purest and holiest of souls . It does not have any effect on one's Physique but it is able to absorb and harness Primordial Energy, furthermore, it can automatically convert any kind of energy into its purest form, allowing the user to get stronger ten or even twenty times faster than average people . It is known as a gift bestowed only by 'God' and, usually, its holders are known as 'Heroes' . Angels revere and respect those with the Heaven Mandate's soul and do their best to invite them to Heaven . "

Chapter 643

"Master, I know that he can be useful but he doesn't look like the type to be used as a tool . "

The Quad-Spirit knew what its master was thinking but it warned him as Edward, despite being a mortal, is dangerous .

Arthur pondered for some time before turning to face the half-sleeping serial killer . The loud noise of chains caused Ed to lift his head for a second time, his black pupils gazing back at the devil standing a distance away .

"Is this what they call a devil? A fearsome appearance indeed . "

As a human who lived most of his life on Earth, before it was subjected to the system and its magic, Edward wasn't that knowledgeable about those fantasy races and heard a couple of things in his long stay on the 12th floor . At first, he clearly glanced at Arthur but didn't say anything yet, this time, he took the initiative to talk .

"Be careful, master, he's very manipulative . "

Arthur inwardly snorted and walked closer to the cell .

💎💎 Almost all serial killer are talkative, they lack to brag and maintain control . They are intelligent, yes, but after passing a long time in absolute solitude, it's not surprising to see them talk to themselves or turn mad . '

It's not that Arthur never possessed a serial killer, it's just that this one, Edward Ortberg, was a peculiar one, to say the least . The look on his eyes wasn't of despair, no, it was something else entirely . They contained a mix of curiosity and amusement .

"Edward Ortberg, the High-way killer . " Uttered the parasite with a calm tone .

"That is me, and who might this devil be?"

Ed cracked a smile as he rubbed his cold palms to provide some warmth to himself . The chains restricted his movements but he was still able to properly stand up, albeit with a bit of difficulty .

Arthur ignored the question and asked: "Why would you turn yourself if you were going to escape the prison anyway?"

At first, Edward creased his brows then shrugged his shoulders and answered: "If I didn't turn myself, they would never have caught me . It's better to get caught then escape from between their fingers . Ah! The looks on their faces each time I left . They didn't even learn their lesson... they had put me in the same prison!"

'Well, he definitely seems talkative . '

"So, in essence, you turned yourself and escaped just to show them you're in control?"

"Yes, and to let the world know about my feats . "

"Feats? You consider murdering people as feats?"

Hearing this, Ed chuckled and retorted: "That's awfully hypocritical coming from a devil . I only took a few heads, nothing to brag about in front of someone like you . "



"Not all devils slaughter innocents . " Said Arthur while squinting his eyes .

"And not all humans are killers . They're conditioned to be . "

"Conditioned?"

"Yes . You think I was born a killer? Please! That's what those religious people think! Like myself, each serial-killer has a tragic past and a trigger which made the urges surface . I doubt not that the devils, or other races, are the same as us, humans . Each human, at least once in their life, think of killing someone, either in a cruel or normal way . Anger and frustration are what lead to those thoughts, however, only a few act upon those 'desires' . "

The devil's eye emitted a blue light as it focused on Edward, who didn't seem impressed or afraid . Additional information was added to the appraisal but it was only related to the murders committed by him .

"Your desires . . Were they beheading then dissecting the people traveling on the highway . Did you enjoy it?"

Ed spread his hand as if Arthur was stating the obvious .

"Why would I do something I don't like? If I thought I would regret those actions, I wouldn't have continued, or turned myself, even . "

Fariya didn't know why Arthur was wasting his time speaking with the prisoner but she didn't interfere and quietly stood by her master's side .

"If you were so good at escaping prisons, why are you still here?"

"There's a limit to what a mortal can do . I can't say I haven't thought of escaping but this isn't earth, the laws there do not apply here . Humans are, more or less, equal in physical strength but here, there are supernatural beings and wit isn't enough to outsmart absolute strength . You seem to be optimistic about something which I may be interested in . "

Seeing his uncomfortable stare, Arthur turned around while saying: "Forget it . "

As the spirit say, Edward was too dangerous . He couldn't read him at all and even a brief exchange of words, he felt disadvantaged .

The killer didn't continue speaking either, he knelt on the floor and resumed his sleep right after Arthur and Fariya disappeared from his view .

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"Master, you have me, you don't need his help . He's only a mortal!"

Fariya abruptly objected, seemingly wronged . Her demonic long tail swayed left and right in front of Arthur as tried to grab Arthur's attention, which was elsewhere entirely .

'Is there anyway to get his soul if I possess him?'

"No, even a parasite cannot steal a person's soul . However, there is a clan under the Whisperer King, it's known as the Soul Stealer Clan . They're wraiths capable of robbing the souls of living beings and use them to get stronger . "

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In Habs' office, the Warden was napping on his chair but it wasn't long before the door was opened and a tall blond man entered . The warden sighed as he knew who it was without needing to look, after all, there's only one person who consistently comes here to complain, almost daily!

"Warden . "

Another sigh escaped Habs' lips as his eyes remained closed . "Erandil, what else do you want?"

"Why did you not task me to escort the devil?"

The Warden opened his eyes and looked at the angel, appearing confused .

"What devil?"

"The one that succubus was escorting to the fourth level!"

Erandil didn't hide his displeasure as he whined to his superior . In response, Habs frowned and looked at the new list of prisoners, checking if there was indeed a devil .

"You must be mistaking, there are no new devil prisoners . "

Erandil's expression twisted as he grit his teeth and after a few seconds, he spoke again: "That wench! What is she doing?"

The warden waved his hand dismissively and said: "Do not concern yourself with her and go back to your post . This is an order . "

Even if there was an error, it would be unwise to let Erandil handle it as it'll most likely end up in a fight . Habs would rather handle it in a much more peaceful manner, furthermore, it could be a mistake in the report .

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"Hey hey psssst! HEY!"

Midolf forcefully nudged the dormant red-haired youth . Radolf grumbled and glanced at the energetic roc, he was unhappy to be imprisoned with this vulgar person .

"What?"

The white-haired youth pointed at Zaaarae's cell and spoke with a low voice: "What's she doing?"

Radolf followed his inmate's gaze and saw a relatively tall woman stretch her limbs and check her new outfit . She was previously wearing a ragged cloth that barely covered her body but now she had an exquisite black dress which made her look even prettier . Her skin was as white as snow and her features were exceptional and mesmerizing . She was really a beauty, more than their master's wife .

She did nothing to hide her charming curves, inky black hair which reached her round bottom, or the well-developed chest which would make any man salivate .

The empress had casually undone the restrictive thick chains and changed into a beautiful dress which he retrieved from god knows where . A mesmerizing and excited smile was plastered on her face as she stretched her numb limbs and got rid of the dust accumulated in her 'room' .

As she felt the gazes of the two youngster fall on her, she said: "It's nigh time to depart . You two, ready yourselves . "

"What is this monster up to?" vulgarly mumbled Midolf as he pulled his gaze away and wriggled his body, trying to free himself but to no avail . Zaaarae made it look so easy but a mythical roc like himself could do nothing but remain in that kneeling and pathetic position .

"You really got a sharp tongue, boy . "

Midolf trembled and sealed his lips while avoiding her meaningful gaze . As for Radolf, he forced a smile and said:

"Empress, are you leaving?"

Zaaarae enthusiastically nodded her head and replied: "He's almost here, I can barely wait . My heart is about to burst . "

She put her hand on her rapidly beating heart and tried to calm down but the closer Arthur got, the redder her face became .

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A transparent figure of a tall woman was quietly watching the realistic and past events unfolding before her eyes .

Everything started from the beginning, when a small and young girl was madly running from her persistent armored pursuers . Her clothes were bloodied and her face was incredibly pale from the severe blood loss . Unfortunately, she was caught on several occasions and imprisoned more times than anyone could count .

Several years passed and the girl turned into a charming woman but the harsh environment affected her mentality . At some point she met a fine man and thought that the series of tragedies had finally ended but, alas, things only got worse and Katrina, the mother of that girl, witnessed everything, at last .

Her usually expressionless face was long gone as she saw how her daughter was betrayed, violated, and tortured for a long time . Time continued passing and Lucy became a slave and was bought by a robed figure, who turned out to be a skeleton . The Matriarch almost instantly recognized Arthur, who was much weaker than now .

The master of the White Specter Clan understood why her daughter had even forsaken her true family for that man, who risked everything for her just like she did for him . Katrina saw what happened in the Nemia Academy, how they almost died, and everything after that .

She even saw the devastating fight between Arthur and the Divine Beasts, which wrecked the Human Continent and turned into a bottomless dark abyss filled with ever-lasting flames .

"W-why didn't you just tell me?" With a shaky voice, Katrina whispered to herself as tears tricked down her face . She was aware that Lucy had a harsh past but she didn't know that it was this miserable . Everything before Arthur's arrival was but a long nightmare that no one would want their child to go through . It became much more understandable why Lucy acted like that and why Arthur stopped at nothing to get his wife back .

In addition to Lucy's past, Katrina now had a better grasp of Arthur's behavior and powers but she didn't intend to use it against him, not anymore, at least .

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Astria, MoonStar City, main Commercial District

A graceful figure with long silver hair was walking at the side of the street while looking at the several shops and stalls, neatly ordered on the side so it doesn't hinder the customers .

Many curious gazes fell on the woman but none went to talk to her as most were cultivators and they knew she was very strong just from the domineering aura emanating from her .

Currently, Katrina was touring the bustling MoonStar city and although it was lively and peaceful, it wasn't as grand as the massive cities found in the Divine Planet or High-Realms .

The woman raised her head and looked at the sky-piercing tower situated at the center of the city, it stood proudly, layered by dozens of protective formations and surrounded by high walls enveloped by wriggling poisonous vines and moss .

An enormous bone dragon laid dormant atop the High Tower, unaware that a pair of spectral eyes was probing it .

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"Master, this is as far as I can go . The fifth level can only be accessed by the chief guard, be careful of him . I'll be waiting for you here . "

Fariya sweetly smiled at the devil-like Arthur, she bowed her head and waved his goodbye . Before he entered the final floor, Arthur's body instantaneously shrunk, becoming a small brown rat that sniffed around before slowly and cautiously advancing forward . Out of all the chief guards, the one guarding the 13th floor is said to be very sensitive to his environment and there will be a high chance Arthur is discovered even if he relies on his usually undetectable stealth .

Even with Radolf and Midolf, it would still be difficult to jailbreak as all the remaining Chief guards will stop him until Habs and the reinforcements arrive . If he could at least leave the prison then even the Warden came, he'll still be able to escape easily, after all, his speed is rivaled only by a few immortal existences . If Arthur pours all of his power to flee then not even a peak Exalted God can stop him .

Additionally, he still has the grown Black Dragon body, which is very strong, though its cost is great too, which is why it's only meant for emergency situation . Timos previously told him that once he reaches

the peak of the Overgod Realm then absorbing the dragon's stats won't do him any harm and will significantly boost his stats .

Fortunately, the 13th floor is the smallest out of all of them and had no more than three prisoners, each put in a solitary cell . The minuscule rat used its small legs to walk toward the cells, stopping at their entrance to sniff around before advancing once it confirmed that no one was there .

Around ten minutes later, Arthur's eyes lit up as he found two young men bound by thick chains and kneeling on the floor . The range of his sense here severely restricted so relied on the rat's racial ability, which allowed him to sniff the mythical beings . He located them the moment he stepped onto the floor but he acted like that to not attract the attention of the chief guard .

Arthur was about to enter the cell of the two youths, who looked at him at the same time . Midolf was slightly excited while Radolf wryly smiled, they didn't say anything and merely watched the approaching rat .

The parasite glanced at the adjacent cell only to see a mesmerizing beauty wearing a short dress and smiling while looking at him .

"You have come!"

Arthur knew she was talking to him as her eyes were so fixated on him that it made him feel a bit uncomfortable . The appraisal showed no results and the fact that she's locked here made him wary as he looked at her for three breaths before he continued heading for the twins .

Even after being ignored, Zaaarae didn't seem to mind at all as she walked to the edge of the cell and very 'casually' stretched her hand and bent the supposedly unbreakable black metallic bars . Her actions seemed normal but Arthur's body froze as he raised his little head to gaze at her for a second time . Even with his strength, it shouldn't be possible to bent the bars, they were embedded with a staggering amount of Energy, making them practically immovable .

The Parasite Empress ignored the dumbstruck mythical beings and stopped before the rat . Before Arthur could do anything, she shot a ray of light from her finger, causing the latter to return to his human appearance, startling him even more .

He unconsciously took a step back but wasn't about to say anything as the shock was too much for him to bear . A split second after he reverted to his real appearance, a feminine fragrance entered his nose and snapped him out of it . He stiffly turned his head and looked at the giggling woman who wrapped her arms around his and affectionately clung closer .

A couple of meters away, Midolf nudged his comrade and whispered with a resentful tone:

"See? I fucking told you!" He paused for a second as he looked at Zaaarae press her breasts against Arthur's arm .

"We're doomed! I'm not going back! Not going!"

He grabbed the chains and wrapped them tighter around his neck and waist then pretended to be unconscious . As for Radolf, his face a bit pale but he didn't jump into conclusion like the roc . Although

secretly, Lucy did indeed tell them to take care of Arthur and the past and not let woman get close to him . From the way she said it, it was apparent that they'll be punished if something like this happens .

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Knowing her ruthless behavior, it wouldn't be surprising to actually see her pluck Midolf's feathers and decorate the room with them! The twin-headed death lizard unconsciously gulped saliva and took a deep breath .

"Who are you!"

Arthur quickly came back to his senses and pushed Zaaarae away, he used a monstrous force but the woman wasn't affected . He did, fortunately, break himself from her grasp and distanced himself but Zaaarae pouted, pursed her lips and said: "You have to allow me to do this at least! I've missed you so much!"

She tried to hug him again but Arthur walked further away while using his Telekinesis to get rid of her but none of his skills worked, she seemed to be able to negate everything . The unfamiliar woman wasn't hostile but that doesn't mean he'll allow her to as she pleases .

"Master! That's the Parasite Empress!"

The Quad-spirit sounded surprised as it sounded surprised while warning its master . When he heard those words, Arthur's pupils constricted as they focused on the charming woman, who was no shorter than him .

"I don't know you! Don't come closer!"

Arthur raised his hand to stop him, which was actually more effective than his skills . Zaaarae stopped in her tracks and looked back at the middle-aged man, her eyes containing longing and affections . She really didn't seem to be faking it, or so Arthur thought .

'What the hell is happening?'

Cold sweat soaked his body as he thought of various scenarios but he couldn't figure out why one of the Twelve was acting like this . One second after the other passed but Arthur remained motionless, his eyes never leaving the woman's figure . What made him even more confused is that his body feel the slightest bit uncomfortable when she held his arm . He shook his head, purging the unnecessary thoughts before saying:

"What do you want?"

He glanced at the narrow corridor in- between the cells while stretching his sense, worrying that the Chief Guard noticed this 'disturbance' . Zaaarae noticed his every movement, she giggled and assuredly said:

"Don't worry, that old foggy won't do a thing! Even if he did, I'll protect you . "

She sounded genuine but Arthur could trust her at all . This was too abrupt and his thoughts were in total disarray .

"Anyway, don't get close to me or touch me . "

Thankfully, Radolf interfered and respectfully said: "Empress, our master is already married . "

Hearing this, Zaaarae frowned but didn't look angry . She just said: "What if he has a few woman? I don't mind . "

'What few women? Is she actually crazy? Damnit!'

For the first time, he was happy that Lucy wasn't here with him . If she saw Zaaarae hug him, a death-match would have already started between the two women .

Knowing that the other party is one of the twelve and someone who he couldn't offend, Arthur corrected his tone and politely said:

"Empress, I think you've mistaken me to someone else . I'm a married a faithful man . "

He didn't know why he was talking about this topic in such a gloomy place but if he doesn't make himself clear then Zaaarae would repeat the same actions .

As if she was wronged, the woman crossed her arms and retorted: "It doesn't matter to me! I just want to accompany you and have fun . "

She seductively winked at him while changing her pose to another one which revealed her thighs and her perfect curves .

A sigh escaped Arthur's lips as he shook his head, truly not knowing what to do .

'There is no way to get rid of her for now . What do you think? Should we use her?'

Although he, more or less, took a decision, Arthur wanted to hear his spirit's opinion .

"Master, she's very dangerous but I feel no ill intent from her . In fact, she is purposely sealing her aura to not hurt you . If she tags along, we can leave this place easily . "

'I hope you're right...' -Arthur

"..." After a minute or two, Arthur sighed again and told her: "You can come but touch me . "

Zaaarae vigorously nodded her head then went next to Arthur, her excited eyes never leaving him . She was more obedient than he had thought, making him question the reality of the current events . How can one of the Twelve act like this? Isn't it absurd? Illogical?

Chapter 645: 645

Arthur walked in front of the Midolf and Radolf and raised his hand . Tiny black threads made of Dark Magic wrapped around the chains and slowly corrupting them . In less than a minute, the chains were inky black, and when Radolf wriggled, they disintegrated . As for the white-haired youth, he was reluctant to move at all . He gave a hesitant look to Arthur, his lips opening and closing without saying anything .

"What's wrong with him?" Arthur was fully aware of the roc's weird personality so he asked Radolf, who's calmer and more reasonable .

"He- he's just too lazy to move . "

The red-haired youth lied to Arthur as he couldn't speak of the real problem when Zaarae is meters away . She seemed to only care about Arthur and it would do them no good to provoke her . Radolf violently nudged Midolf before getting up and politely bowing toward his master . The white-haired youth was a second too late but he still imitated the same actions, though his eyes kept looking at the ground .

"I know you haven't recovered yet but we need to leave now . "

Arthur waved his hand, motioning for them to follow him as he left the small cell . Zaarae walked just inches left of him, her body ever-so-slightly lagging behind, on purpose . She didn't speak anymore but her eyes showcased her emotions as they lingered on Arthur's back and face for minutes .

The 13th floor wasn't big so it took them a very short time to reach its entrance, however, there was a silhouette waiting for them . Arthur prepared himself as he coated his body with Dark Magic and prepared to attack at any given second . He wasn't in the range for appraisal but the pressure emanating from the figure was alarming enough .

Even Zaarae momentarily knitted her brows but her expression soon returned to normal . Arthur stopped ten meters away and stared at an old man with a bent back, long white hair, a face that was suffering from the vicissitudes of times, and a short wooden cane that helped him move around .

"Master, he's the Chief Guard of the fifth level," Radolf warned Arthur, who relied on appraisal, to get some useful information .

\*Kass Boler (Race: Half human/ Half God): Cultivation: none

Lv: none

Astral Force : ????

Titles : none

Skills : God Handle (Max Lv)

Short Info : none\*

'God Race? Isn't it extinct?'

"Yes, master, the god race is current extinct but there are small tribes which are the Gods' descendant, sort of . They only have a fraction of their ancestor's powers and are persecuted against by many races, mainly humans, elves, and demons . "

The old man, Kass Boler, turned his head toward Arthur, his old eyes looking at the tall middle-aged man wearing black leather pants and an unfamiliar armor which protected his top side . Arthur wasn't the type to rely on equipment but since the environment wasn't suitable for large hosts, he could only rely on this armor, which grants a decent boost to his defense and can block a couple of attacks from an Exalted God . It has other miscellaneous functions but they probably won't work inside the prison .



Kass glanced at Midolf, who was emitting a small white light that healed him and Radolf . He couldn't fully use his Life Energy but this amount was enough to slowly recover their bodies and allow them to fight in case an enemy appears .

"Arthur MoonStar?"

With an archaic hoarse voice, Kass used a polite tone to ask the parasite, who was startled by these words .

'Does he have Appraisal too? No, it shouldn't be possible . He doesn't even have the System!'

"..."

For a couple of breaths, Arthur didn't reply and only studied the Chief Guard, who appeared calm and non-hostile, but it can be a facade to trick him .

"You've got the wrong person . " Arthur calmly replied . However, right after saying that, the pressure from the old man increased and pressed down on him but it only lasted for a split second before a cool and refreshing aura enveloped him . This aura emanated from behind, precisely from Zaarae, who snorted and said:

"Old foggy, you better behave yourself! The only reason I haven't killed you yet is because you treated me well in the past!"

The aura emanating from the Empress easily suppressed Kass, who chuckled and apologetically bowed .

"These old bones were just curious . I happen to have a matter to discuss with him, that's all . "

A kind expression was plastered on the old man's face as he flashed an elderly smile while looking at Zaarae and Arthur . In fact, he didn't seem to care about the escapees standing behind .

"I don't care! He doesn't want to talk so how about you roll out!"

Zaarae finally showed her fierce attitude as her aura increased by several folds, to the point that Kass Boler was forced to take a few steps back and defend with his Astral Force(It's like Nether Energy or Mana) .

"Wait!" Arthur signaled for Zaarae to back down before adding: "What do you want?"

The old man was strange, he not only recognized him but was also acting polite towards him . It wasn't the attitude you'd expect from a Chief Guard .

The Parasite Empress sweetly smiled at Arthur and obediently stood next to him, her arms folded under her breasts and her eyes intensely glaring at Kass, warning him not to do anything foolish .

In response, the chief guard chuckled and said: "Please follow me . "

He slowly turned around and supported himself with the cane as he went upstairs . Arthur and the rest followed after him and in a few minutes, they reached a medium-sized dusty room filled with thousands of books . There was barely any space to move around due to the staggering number of the books and the indecipherable scrolls .

Seeing that Zaaarae casually entered, Arthur breathed a sigh of relief as he thought this may be a trap . He didn't know why but he felt that the Empress seemed trustworthy, at least he was sure that she will not hurt him .

"Please, sit . "

Kass courteously guided them to another open which had more space than the first one . Midolf and Radolf remained standing while Arthur sat on a wide red leather sofa which was very comfortable . Zaaarae also sat next to him, her shoulder rubbing against his but even when she received a warning glare from him, she pretended not to see .

The old man sat on one of the chairs and deeply looked at Arthur, trying to see through this artificial shell but, in the end, he gave up . If Zaaarae wasn't here, he'd be able to discover some of the parasite's secrets but the Empress was closely watching and was ready to take his life in case he tried anything tricky . While it's true she's been locked here for a long time, it was done willingly and she could have escaped but she decided to stay for no apparent reason . Now that she's leaving, not even Warden Habs can stop her, much less someone like him, whose feet are already in the hereafter .

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A young man who seemed to be in his twenties suddenly opened his eyes and sat with lightning speed . He looked down and saw that his upper body was naked, plus, there were strange but familiar black bandages around his waist . Leiu, who was in comatose for the past few days, instantly knew who bandaged him and he confirmed his guess when he looked around and saw the luxurious room filled with old antiques and priceless treasures . There was even a massive painting hanging on the biggest wall, it depicted an undead that was no smaller than a titan, its bones were spiky and it wielded a crimson club .

Seconds after he woke up, a graceful curvy figure entered the room, her black hair reached her ankles and her skin was a mix of blue and white .

This was none other than the Lady of Darkness, Xyktia 'Assassin', she brought Leiu here to treat him and get him away from all the fights occurring around the Red Tower .

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"You're awake!"

She softly smiled as she sat next to him and replaced the black bandages with newer ones . Leiu did nothing to stop her as his inky black pupils gazed at her then at his chest . He could feel that Sol'khin was no longer inside of him, which made him a bit restless .

"Don't worry, Sol'khin wasn't able to get the parasite . He did manage to escape though . "

"Inside of Zodiak, right?"

Hearing this, Xyktia was a bit startled . "How did you know?"

Leiu sighed and mumbled: "How can I not know?"

He wasn't in a hurry to leave as his body still hasn't fully recovered . Only after recuperating for one whole week did he leave Xyktia's castle, heading toward one specific and unforgettable place . As for the Lady of the Darkness, she didn't have much time left outside as the real she is still trapped, so after getting separated from the Nameless knight, both she and the castle vanished into nothingness .

Leiu reached his destination in three hours, his silhouette, which was wrapped in darkness, materialized right next to the Joker, who was sitting on a floating leather chair and humming a song .

"Is that him?"

The Joker glanced at the pale-faced youth before nodding his head and replying: "Yes, Zodiac died not long after you were taken . As you had previously said, he managed to imprison Sol'khin but not forever . "

He pointed at a minuscule crimson tear million of kilometers away: "You see that? It's slowly expanding . I reckon we have a few years, at best . "

"Whatever . "

The youth shrugged his shoulders and disappeared right after, leaving the Joker alone again .

Chapter 646: 646

Arthur looked at Kass, his eyes urging the latter to start speaking instead of sitting there with a shit-eating grin plastered on his old and wrinkled face .

"Arthur MoonStar, have you heard of the Fallen God Clan?"

"No . " The parasite gave an immediate reply, in fact, his expression did show that he wasn't even interested in that name . Time was tight and were it not for the old man's hospitable yet peculiar actions, he wouldn't have come all the way here . After all, it was best to talk with Kass rather than fighting him and alarming the rest of the chief guards .

While it's true that Zaaarae is extremely strong and can deal with the strong individuals, that doesn't mean that she can stop the alarm from sounding off . Actually, she doesn't seem to be the type to think before taking actions, at least that's how she seemed to Arthur . Sadly, he couldn't be more wrong as the Parasite Empress is said to be second only to Timos in terms of strategies and deceitfulness .

"It's an ancient clan created at the end of the 1st Era . Philos, the God of Sand, is its creator . He was exiled by the other Gods because he fell in love with a human and, in the end, he took her far away and created his own clan, away from the wars and skirmishes . His descendants, obviously, were only half-gods and many of them were defects and had incurable diseases . "

"It's to be expected . Gods are spiritual beings, so copulating with humans is not possible unless you use something special, which I assume he did . " Commented Zaaarae as she pondered for a moment before adding:

"I remember that the Golden Sheep was stolen from the God Race, was it Philos' doing?"

The old man's expression became melancholic as he slowly nodded his head, affirming the Empress' words . He sighed and continued explaining:

"The Golden Sheep allowed him to take a physical form and live with human, however, there were a lot of consequences . Furthermore, the God Race fiercely retaliated and Zerk, the God of Fury, dealt a fatal blow to Philos . Using the little bit of power her partner left, that human female took care of the God Fallen Clan and protected it for ten thousand years . "

"How'd she live for ten millenniums?" asked Arthur .

"Philos left her with a bit of his power, which granted her something close to immortality . If I remember correctly, she's the Sand Queen Karima, right?"-Zaarae

Kass nodded his head again . "Our queen was forced to relocate our clan and fend off against Zerk and his subordinates . She managed to do the unexpected by slaying the God of Fury... unfortunately, she perished not long after and was buried by her descendants . At that time, I was but one of the butlers but as time passed, the clan declined even more and the diseases got contagious and more fatal . "

As the elderly paused, Arthur couldn't help but ask: "Why are you telling me all of this? Are you expecting me to do something for you?"

The parasite didn't need an answer as the look Kass was giving him was more than enough . He shook his head and was about to get up only for the chief guard to say:

"I don't want you to protect our clan, just deliver something to them . In return, they'll allow you to possess Karima's body along with the other ancestors . I'm sure that for a unique parasite such as yourself, it can be very beneficial . "

Arthur didn't say a word but Zaarae smiled and stated: "The power to control the sand is indeed rare and spectacular . Additionally, Karima was a legendary fighter . If you possess her, you won't even need to fear the likes of Habs . "

Zaarae softly nudged the rooted and silent Arthur, her lips got closer to his ears as she whispered: "Accept his offer . I'll go with you so you won't need to worry about being back-stabbed . The old man is telling the truth but there's no guarantee that his clan will treat you as hospitably as he did . "

Arthur clearly heard the Empress' words but he gave her nor Kass any answer . He was contemplating the offer but was a bit reluctant as he needs to get to the Garden of Words first .

Approximatively a minute later, he sat back on the sofa and said: "Fine, tell me more . "

Kass' expression eased and his smile widened . He seemed to be more relaxed than a few seconds ago, he leaned against the chair, taking a more comfortable posture before resuming:

"My clan is beyond the Black Kraken Sea, in the Land of Golden Sand . "

Arthur was oblivious to the geography and realms of this universe but, fortunately, Zaarae was here to explain . She seemed to be aware of his ignorance and was quite passionate as she said:

"The Black Sea is actually a normal but vast sea South of the Heaven and Hell Universe . There are not as many galaxies and planets in this universe in comparison to the rest . It's divided in two parts, the Demon Realm and the Heaven Realm, as for the rest, it's scattered stars and planets inhabited but a few exiled sects and races . This planet is a bit special though, but I digress . The Black Kraken Sea is South of the Demon Realm and borders with the Gargoyle Country, the Minotaur Tribe, and the Land of the

Golden Sand . Basically, the desert can be reached only by crossing the sea, which is considered a danger zone . "

"Yes, it's the Kraken's territory and many other powerful sea monsters . "-Kass

"The Kraken?"

"Master, the Kraken is like us, one of the twelve Mythical Beings . It also wasn't subjected to multiple reincarnations . It has always lived in the Black Sea and notorious for its aggressive behavior . "

"What notorious? It's just a damn squid! If it dares to attacks then I'll skin it then eat it . Hmpf!"

Zaarae didn't consider the Black Kraken as a dangerous entity, then again, she's one of the Twelve so there aren't many beings that are her equals . If we were to grade the Kraken and the Empress, the former is a grade under her . Mythical Beings are equal if not a little bit stronger than the original creations of the Twelve, like Emir, the Archmage, for example .

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Author's note: Since we're talking about Mythical Beings, why not tell you a bit more about them .

Bonus Lore: In total, there are 12 Mythical Beings, however, not all were born from the same source . Some spontaneously came into existence while others were born . The Fire Phoenix and Ice Phoenix, for example, were the creations of the natural laws of their respective attributes .

The Twelve Mythical Beings are: The Fire Phoenix(1), the Ice Phoenix(2), the Black Kraken(3), the twin-headed Death Lizard(4), the Insidious Roc(5), the Queen Arachne(6), The Rainbow Qirin(7), the Spectral Bone Ghost(8), The Monkey King(9), The one-eyed flamingo(10), The Frog of Destiny(11), The Headless Soldier (12) .

There is also a 13th mythical being, which is Zodiak, but as he appeared many years after the appearance of the rest, some still don't consider him as 'mythical' .

Obviously, the power of the twelve Mythical Beings varies as not all of them specialize in absolute strength . Some have heavenly powers which can even defy the natural laws, like the Frog of Destiny, which is rumored to be the most mystical and mysterious of all 12 . It has only been sighted a handful of times but those who are lucky and witness it, they are granted to change their very destiny, something that not even Bilgart, The Watcher, is able to do .

There is also the Headless Soldier, which a mythical being born after the war between the Twelve . Their accumulated and overpowered powers fused together and created the monstrosity known as the Headless Soldier, who still roams the land and kills everybody in sight . Far, far back in the past, in the 2nd or 3rd era, the soldier had single-handedly slaughtered four Gods and one Titan but since the corpses, no one was able to confirm this .

Amongst the twelve beings, Midolf and Radolf disappeared a long time ago only to appear with Arthur again . The two phoenixes always fought each other and ended perishing more than dozens of times but thanks to their Nirvana abilities, they always resurrect and become stronger .

Author's note: What I'm going to talk about now has nothing to do with reality and science, it's made up by me to better explain this story .

Multiverse and Omniverse: The first one is just what's considered the whole world of existence, which includes the three remaining universes and the destroyed Castra Obis, the hidden and secret Realms are no exception too . It's a term invented by 'God' and has been commonly used by the knowledgeable inhabitants ever since the Era of Beginning .

Omniverse, however, is a totally different concept . It's only related to time, and time alone... the omniverse is the combination of all the parallel timelines . When one travels to the past or future, they are still their own timelines and there is only a slight deviation in the space-time continuum . But, when one jumps from timeline X to timeline Y, it can cause serious consequences and possibly even the destruction or the merge of the two timelines . Not only that but also the omniverse will automatically try to regain balance by eliminating the source of the severe deviation, sometimes it can even end one timeline to save the latter, in case one is more important than its counterpart .

Chapter 647: 647

"And? You want me to deliver what exactly?"

Arthur looked straight at the smiling Kass, who raised his hand and moved his index and thumb, causing stand to rise from the ground and spin around like a tornado . This small sand tornado floated above the chief guard's palm for a few breaths before vanishing, leaving in its place a sandglass . Unlike a normal sandglass, this one had red stand inside of it and was decorated by exquisite yet minuscule golden cloths that were engraved with a foreign language .

Kass held the sandglass and said: "This is our Zen Family Treasure; The Tactical Reverse Sandglass . "

Arthur knitted his brow but didn't say anything . The term 'Zen Family Treasure' is foreign to him so he turned to Zaarae, who understood his thoughts with but a glance .

"Zen Treasures are supreme items that are created by one of the Twelve or people who reached the apex of strength . They can be used only by certain individuals who are in possession of the inventor's bloodline . Even us, parasites, cannot use them even after possess the said individuals . The bloodline is like a unique power granted to the leader of the inventor's clan, family, or whatever . They are not only rare but very powerful, at least enough to injure someone like me, though not all are offensive artifacts, some have supportive abilities . If I remember correctly, this sandglass was made by Philos and it's able to reverse time . It can reverse time but only a couple of seconds... still, it's pretty useful . "

Seeing Zaarae patiently explain the important aspects of the Zen Treasure, Kass Boler grinned and said: "It seems my explication wasn't needed . This is indeed our God's creation and it's time for it to return to its proper owner, my grandson and the current master of the Fallen God Clan . "

"I have to ask though... why don't you do it yourself?"

The old man chuckled and replied: "The chief guards of the fifth level and eternally bound to this prison . Even if I want to leave, I can't, which is why I need you to do this favor me . Of course, you'll be rewarded as promised . "

"What if your grandson refuses to let me possess Karima's body?"

Kass shook his head and took out a scroll he personally created .

"This and the sandglass are enough proof to get rid of any suspicion he may have . Moreover, I believe my grandson is not foolish enough to make enemies of you and the Empress . "

Arthur kept silence but Zaaarae wasn't that convinced . She seductively rested her chin on her hand while saying: "There's still the chance he resists us... or takes the Zen Treasure then turns against us . If that were to happen then you can say goodbye to your clan and your grandson, whom you seem to cherish so much . "

She said those words so casually and with absolute confidence, making Kass force a smile while nodding his head, unwilling to retort or say anything that may incense her .

While Arthur is somewhat manageable and isn't strong enough to annihilate his clan, Zaaarae is very different . Kass knew that she's a reasonable woman who doesn't act on impulse but that doesn't mean she'll forgive anyone who demeans her . Furthermore, she seems to hold a special attachment to Arthur, so she's most likely to side with him if anything bad happens .

The scroll and the sandglass floated to Arthur, who stored them in his normal storage ring . Zodiac's special black ring was in possession of the main Arthur so he had to resort to a normal high-grade spatial storage, which is more than enough to accommodate his needs .

"I'm sure you have better things to do than stay here so I'll escort you out . He waved his hand, making one of the wall shake then turn blurry until it vanished, showing a long and dark staircase leading upwards .

"This is a secret emergency exit which only the Warden and I are aware of . You can take it to safely arrive to the surface . "

Arthur didn't immediately take the staircase and, instead, said: "There a few more people that I would like to take . "

In response, Kass smiled back and replied: "Sure, tell me their names and which level they are on . "

"Three on the first level and the chief guard of the third level, who should be somewhere in the fourth level . "

At first, Kass wasn't surprised but when he heard Arthur's last words, he creased his brows .

"Fariya?"

"Yes, she's going with me . "

Kass didn't comply immediately, he pondered for a couple of breaths before agreeing, though a bit reluctantly . It seems it's going to cause him some problems but Arthur's didn't really care that much . It would be a waste to let a powerful slave like her stay here .

"Fariya? That succubus?"

Zaaarae frowned and didn't seem pleased by hearing this . She did smell a succubus' scent on Arthur but didn't pay it much heed as he left her alone before arriving to the fifth level . However, now he clearly wanted to take her with him, which didn't sell with the Empress .

Arthur glanced at the enchantress next to him and mockingly repeated her words: "What if have a few women, right?"

He chuckled and walked away only for her to stick close to him like super glue .

"No! Any other woman but definitely not a succubus!"

...

"Hey, Radolf... bro, let's just stay here, please!"

Midolf was practically begging to the red-haired youth as he dragged him to the side . The roc's eyes were pleading to his partner, not wanting to be involved in this matter any longer .

"W-what if she burst out in anger and snaps my neck! I've had enough of dying, I tell you!"

Radolf looked at his distressed friend and retorted: "Calm down . As long as Master goes back alone then it's fine . "

Unfortunately, Midolf wasn't the least bit comforted .

"What 'fine'?! I'm not going! That's it!" He was about to walk toward Arthur and voice out his thoughts only for Zaaarae to momentarily glance at him, making him shiver and shrink back next to Radolf .

"Y-you know what? I'll just let the Kraken eat me when we're at the Black Sea . " He seemed convinced of his new and ingenious plan . He repeatedly nodded his head and mumbled "Yea, that's for the best . I'll die and reincarnate after a long time . It's not a bad end now that I think about it . "

Hearing his partner's crazy talk, Radolf just clicked his tongue and said: "You sure you're the Insidious Roc?"

Chapter 648: 648

FLASHBACK

"Do you know the Bootstrap paradox?"

The man crossed his hands and asked Arthur, who was looking back at him .

"No, what is it?"

"On earth, it's just a theoretical paradox of time travel that occurs when something sent back in time becomes trapped in an infinite loop of cause and effect . The origin of whatever is stuck cannot be determined so it's said to be uncaused or self-created . This applies to Dark Magic, for example . As you know, Zodiak received the black seed from the old you, who went back in time, and you got it from the fake corpse . Even if you trace it back to the first cycle, it'll still remain indiscernible . "

"What are you trying to say exactly?" asked back the confused Arthur .

"The two cycles you're stuck in are not necessarily uniquely connected but they are always successive, which makes it almost impossible to escape when you're jumping from the first cycle to the second one, however, this 'transfer' process is relatively slow and can be affected by outside forces . "



The man with the same appearance as the parasite took a deep breath and continued: "You, and your two brothers are stuck but it's not the case for Lucy or Saly . With enough momentum and the perfect timing, they can break you out of this illusory shell . "

"And?"-Arthur

"You have to understand that the cycles are not a material thing, they exist within the timeline . It's not like a mountain which can be destroyed, they exist everywhere and are crucial to the continuation of this particular timeline but since you're their main cause, the existential balance within them won't interfere if Lucy, for example, tries to disturb their systematic flow . "

"How can Lucy break them?"

"First, let me tell you that this has never been tried for reasons you'll know in a second . To make it work, after the second cycle ends, Lucy needs to travel exactly when you're going to be reincarnated as Zodiak and cut' the timeline . "

"Cut the timeline?"

"Separate it in two, basically . Zodiak will exist within the second, which will have a different future generated to it by time itself, while you'll be saved and free and live in the original one . I can't say it'll work but the probability is high . "

"What about Lucy?"

"Balance must be restored . Time wraiths will suck her vitality but only the future her will disappear . "

"That's not what I heard . When time wraiths get you, they'll erase your trace from your origin timeline . "

The man seemed to be aware that Arthur knew about this hidden truth . He let out a sigh and retracted his gaze, his folded arms stretched toward the hot teacup, rocking it back and forth before taking a small sip .

\*\*\*\*\*

"Who are they?"

Zaarae curiously looked at Esco, Vyncent, and Shen Shen . Her eyes stopped on the blue-haired for a couple of seconds, she seemed to be aware of all the secrets within the young kid but, apart from a smile, she didn't say anything . The next one that caught her attention was a woman wearing very revealing clothes, her demonic tail swaying left and right as she sweetly smiled and went next to Arthur .

Sadly, before she could reach her new master, Zaarae blocked by standing between her and Arthur .

"What?"

Fariya creased her brow and looked at the Empress up and down . She quickly figured out that Zaarae and Arthur were kind of teaming up so she wasn't afraid of being attacked, nevertheless, the feelings of inferiority were deeply engraved in her bones, after all, the woman facing her is an otherworldly terrifying existence .

"You're his slave but don't stand too close!"


The Empress warned Fariya with a serious tone . Surprisingly, the Empress' hair slightly changed color as some strands of her became purple, somehow, it seemed related to her mood .

In response, the succubus snorted and took a step back, unwilling to talk back to the woman before her .

As for Arthur, he couldn't be bothered to interfere in their pointless dispute . He wasn't to get together with either of them and it would be better for all sides if nobody touched him .

"Let us go . "

Kass beckoned for them to follow him as he entered the narrow staircase . Arthur walked right behind him, followed Zaarae, the mythical beings, Fariya, Vyncent, Shen Shen, and Esco, who was overjoyed now that he's leaving this dark hole . He didn't think Arthur would bring him along but he kind of underestimated his worth as from Arthur's point of view, this red-haired muscular man knew a thing or two about the vicinities of this planet and could prove useful to the MoonStar Sect in the future .

The path to the surface was long but the group took only ten minutes and were finally met with a thick metallic door which was opened with a flick of the old man's hand . This secret exit led them outside of the prison, precisely in the forest where Arthur and co were discovered' .

"I hope you safely deliver the treasure . "

These were the last words Kass said before hurriedly closing the door and disappearing . Midolf and Radolf were silently standing side by side and eyeing Vyncent and Shen Shen, while Zaarae stretched her limbs and took a deep and fresh breath of air .

"Who's she?"

Zaarae looked at the strangely quiet Shen Shen and asked Arthur, who was making sure that he was able to use his skills again .

"A girl I picked up . "

"She's definitely intriguing . I fancy her . "

Zaarae walked to Shen Shen, who wasn't as rebelling as she was with Arthur . The short girl raised her head and stared back at Zaarae, her aura increasing as if she wanted to seem strong .

Unfortunately, Zaarae wasn't affected as she leaned closer to Shen Shen and rubbed her head while saying:

"Little girl, what's your name?"

Shen Shen tried to escape the Empress' hand but found that she could not . While clenching her little hands, she reluctantly said:

"Shen Shen . "

"Shen Shen? That's a cute name!"

Vyncent and Esco were unaware of Zaaarae's identity but it doesn't take a genius to know how powerful she is . After all, just by looking at how she casually interacted with Arthur made them understand that she's his equal, if not his superior .

"From now on, your duty is to guard those three until we're out of here . "

Arthur the mythical beings, who respectfully bowed and went to stand at the sides of Vyncent, Shen Shen, and Esco .

"Master, where are we going?"

Fariya winked at Arthur and softly asked . She glanced at the busy Zaaarae before standing closer to Arthur, trying to rub her shoulder against him and ignite desires . The moment the two bodies were about to touch, the succubus felt a chill which made her momentarily tremble and instinctively distance herself . Arthur's face didn't change as he opened his mouth and replied:

"The Land of Golden Sand . "

"Hm? Then we'll have to cross the Black Sea . "

"Yes, is there a problem?"-Arthur

"No no, as long as I'm with master then I don't mind anything!"

Fariya covered her mouth and giggled, seemingly very happy .

Out of the blue, a hoarse voice originated from the side . Esco, who felt uncomfortable and totally out of place, didn't disappoint Arthur as he said:

"S-sir, I've actually been to the Land of Golden Sand . "

"You have? I thought it's not easy to cross the Black Sea . "

"Sir, there are safe routes taken by goblin merchants and imp pirates . The Black Sea is separated into three levels of danger, and although the fastest by going in a straight line, you can reach the other side even if you take a long detour, which is a much safer option . "

Hearing this, Arthur smirked and commented: "You do have your uses, after all . "

Esco embarrassingly rubbed the back of his head while bowing .

"Sir, I'm just speaking about what I know . "

"And that is exactly, what I needed from you . " Arthur waved his hand, summoning an exact copy of the dark cloud . It functions like a Spirit Boat but it's not as fast, though it is protected by a sturdy Dark Barrier .

He jumped on it, followed by all the rest . Zaaarae seemed to be busy talking with Shen Shen, who opened up to the kind Empress and started asking about many things she was curious about .

Chapter 649: 649

The moderately wide imitation Dark Cloud slowly rose into the air and was about to piece through the planet's atmosphere only for three domineering presence to rush from below . The one leading was a middle-aged man wearing simple black clothes, he had hawk-like eyes and seemed to be stronger than the other two .

Arthur recognized one of them, which led him to easily guessing the identity of the person in the middle, who was undoubtedly human .

In the end, they were discovered by Warden Habs was step too late as the prisoners had already escaped and were about to leave the planet . Esco and Vyncent were nervous, Shen Shen curiously looked at the Warden and the two behind him while Zaarae only frowned but didn't say anything . As for the mythical beings, they dutifully stood side by side and were prepared to engage in battle if necessary .

"Halt!"

Unsurprisingly, the first to talk and stop Arthur was the self-righteous Erandil, who unleashed his angelic aura in an attempt to forcefully stop the escapees . His eyes wandered around then locked onto Fariya, who was expressionlessly standing next to Arthur, unbothered by anything .

"Master, would you let me the honor, please?"

Since the moment she met him, Fariya hated the angel's guts and always wanted to teach him a lesson . Now that she got stronger thanks to the boost granted by Arthur, she was confident enough in her abilities, furthermore, Arthur wouldn't stand still in case things went awry, or so though the succubus .

Arthur glanced between the angel and the succubus before subtly nodding his head in acceptance . The moment she received her approval, Fariya disappeared, her figure leaving a beautiful purple energy in her path .

She attacked so suddenly and swiftly, her hands rapidly swung down a black whip, which instantly struck the unsuspecting Erandil . The poor angel was sent flying below, his thick white armor now had an ugly dent . In fact, the force behind her blow reached his internal organs and caused him to spit a bit of blood .

Seeing Fariya's assault, neither Habs nor the man on his left acted . One was looking at Zaarae while the other was examining Arthur with an interested look .

Habs' unfamiliar companion had vertical pupils and golden eyes, like a snake, his ears were a bit long like an elf's and his body was inexplicably thin . This was the chief guard of the fourth level and a member of the Ratika Race, an odd person named Carpentine .

"I didn't expect that amongst that famous Arthur MoonStar is amongst the new prisoners . Forgive my late introduction . "

Habs chuckled as he spoke to Arthur, appearing quite relaxed and unbothered by the fact that a few prisoners escaped, including the Parasite Empress .

"To think that the Warden knows of my name . I'm flattered . "

"How can I not? You and your army of undead are the talk of everyone in the multiverse for the period . Now that I had a good look at you, I can say with certainty that the rumors were not wrong . Actually, your power wasn't given enough credit . "

Arthur looked at the Warden, who was smiling at him without a care in the world . He tried appraising him but it didn't work at all, just like with Zaarae, however, he could feel the difference in their strengths . The man was no ordinary human, he was beyond the Exalted God Realm, an entity that should not be trifled with . Even with Zaarae present, the parasite still felt a bit of invisible pressure .

Zaarae walked in front of Arthur and arrogantly said, "Are you done with your bullshittery? We are in a bit of a hurry . "

Habs continued smiling while politely replying, "Empress, you know that I can't let you go just like that . " He pointed his finger to the sky and continued, "The 'top' would blame and that would be... tiring . "

He chuckled as he remembered the annoying rulers of the heavens, who always looked down on him despite their inferiority in strength and their apparent lack of wisdom and intelligence .

"And? Am I supposed to care about you? If you don't want to get smacked then roll out!"

She waved her hand, causing both Carpentine and Habs to be pushed hundreds of meters away . The two couldn't even resist as an unstoppable gale seemed to control their bodies and sent them flying like a pair of feathers .

While Habs managed to stabilize himself within a second, Carpentine wasn't as lucky . His body was flung ten miles away and he had to fly back next to the Warden while wryly smiling . He knew too well of the Empress' capabilities and that she can finish him and Habs in an instant but she won't because it can bring trouble not to her but to her people, who are busy fighting another enemy . Yes, she's very powerful but she's not the same unrivaled being of the past, there are things she can't accomplish with her current strength, which is why Habs dared to show himself here .

...

Dozens of miles away, Fariya was fiercely fighting Erandil, who spread his wings which shone with a golden light, quickly healing his injuries . No matter how much he fought back, he found himself at a serious disadvantage, the succubus' whip would attack him from all sides and break his armor with each strike . He didn't know how Fariya got this strong but the difference in power was more than he could handle .

"I'll beat some sense into your stupid mind!"

Fariya was delighted as she underestimated the recent power-up, her increase in stats allowed her to easily cope with Erandil and consistently gain the upper hand . Her figure danced in the air as she evaded the angel's flashy sword attacks, her whip beautifully spinning around her body before zigzagging in the air and striking the enemy .

The whip directly hit the angel's face, causing a red mark to appear on his cheek... he even lost two teeth and though he tried to retaliate, a large pink snake leapt at him . The snake was triple his size and within a second, it wrapped its body around his and suffocating him . He tightly held his sword and attempt to slash the beast but it was futile, his armor shattered and many of his bones were broken .

A few seconds passed and the snake vanished but the whip remained, it was wrapped around Erandil's neck .

Fariya appeared in front of the angel, she winked at him and raised her free hand . The whip loosened for a split second, causing the angel to gasp for some air and consequentially inhaling some of the purple energy leaking out of the succubus .

In less than a minute, the angel's face flushed and his body started shaking . Even after Fariya retracted her whip, he remained unresponsive as his wings repeatedly covered him in golden light but it wasn't able to expulse Fariya's charm magic . In a way, her magic was similar to Dark Magic, once it enters a victim's body, it becomes something else and cannot be negated using normal means .

Erandil's face became redder as he felt blood rushing into his head then a strong feeling of arousal overcame him...

Chapter 650: 650

What made Erandil's situation worse is Fariya, who was standing only a meter away . Her clothes, which only covered a small part of her breasts and genitals, made her look seductive, enough for him to be sexually excited . It is not only shameful but demeaning for an angel him to become like this, what's more, he couldn't control the arousal and barely held himself back from jumping at her .

He grit his teeth and resisted the feeling but the purple energy unleashed by Fariya became stronger and almost robbed him of his rational thinking .

"Under that fake majestic shell, you're still a man... an animal in heat . "

Fariya mocked the angel while chuckling, seemingly not afraid that he'll do anything to her . Once her Charm starts affecting her enemies, it's basically game over . Especially if they're men, even if they're cold-blooded and don't care about women, they're still men and abandon themselves to their bestial desires . In fact, a succubus' worst enemy is those who cut off their genitals, in that way, the charm won't have any serious effect .

Some angels who have a deeply-rooted hate for succubus would get rid of their manhood . Like humans, angels are not exempt from sexual intercourse, plus, female angels can get pregnant but the probability is very low, just like their archenemies, the demons .

Not once or twice did Fariya see Erandil torture other criminal succubus and his method were cruel . He won't always do the torturing but he showed no mercy even after the victims spilled all the information they knew . Some were violated, mutilated, beheaded, and the list goes on and on . This only fueled her hatred for this angel, who considers himself above all other races and thinks his methods righteous and for peace and prosperity of Heaven .

Erandil stood defenseless and helpless in front of Fariya, who used her whip to strip him of his armors . She glanced at the throbbing 'thing' under his abdomen before taking out a common recording crystal . She forced him into various positions and recorded everything then, she took out a thick circular wooden stick and unhesitatingly stuck it in his ass, causing him to let out an ear-piercing cry that was different than a woman's scream .

"Oh? Is this pleasurable enough for you?"

As she heard his moans and groans, Fariya grinned and continued

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"Empress, please don't misunderstand my intentions . Even if you leave, I'm helpless to do anything but the others must return with me . "

Seeing his disgusting fake smile, Zaarae clicked her tongue and retorted, "I'm not going to repeat this again . Roll . Out!"

She waved her hand, this time using a bit more power but unlike earlier, Carpentine intervened and emitted a peculiar light from his eyes . By the next second, the Empress found herself trapped in a strange world filled with nothing but thousands upon thousands of hissing snakes of all colors and sizes .

The Empress harrumphed and stomped her feet, causing this world to shatter like glass and immediately return her to reality . Carpentine's intervention did block her attack but his unique power, which can even imprison Habs for several minutes, was broken so easily and instantaneously by Zaarae, and with just a casual stomp!

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The chief guard's face became ugly as he looked at Zaarae, who paid no attention .

Arthur, who kept a short silence, shifted his attention to Carpentine, his eyes like that of a hunter which found its prey . He heard quite interesting things about this serpent man from Fariya, his ability was one of a kind and very useful, to say the least .

The parasite turned his head toward Zaarae and was about to speak his thoughts only for her to telepathically say:

"Want me to hold him down for you?"

Her being here and warding off Habs is more than enough for Arthur, who shook his head and said:

"I can manage him . Just don't hold off the Warden . "

The Empress nodded her head and pointed at Habs with her index, causing his smile to vanish . He crossed his arms, on which silver scales started growing at a rapid rate . He knew that she was going to try something so he spared no thought and immediately defended himself .

What he expected didn't happen as a red beam shot from Zaarae's finger . It reached the target in a breath and transformed into a spheric cage made of thin and pulsating blood vessels .

"Empress, are you really going to interfere?"

His tone was more serious than before as he took out a straight short sword with a white hilt . His aura increased but wasn't able to leak from the cage made of blood vessels, the Warden's thick sword essence focused on his sword as he raised his hand and slashed .

Unfortunately, the moment his short-sword made contact with the cage, nothing happened, it seemed to absorb the sword essence like a bottomless hole . Habs frowned and looked at Zaarae, his expression twisting .

The target of his glare no longer bothered with him, her eyes glowed with excitement as she looked at Arthur, who attacked Carpentine, fully intending to get his stats .

Neither Midolf nor Radolf interfered as they also trusted their master's abilities . Additionally, Zaaarae will save him if anything dangerous happens .

Even Shen Shen was watching the parasite, her eyes glued onto his figure as he transformed into a yellow bolt of lightning which shot straight at the serpent man .

Since Habs got imprisoned, Carpentine expected to be attacked, his two hands sneaked from within his long sleeves and turned into two brown serpents, ready to meet with the incoming Arthur .

They stretched their head and bit down at the lightning bolt but hit nothing but air . Like a ghost, Arthur appeared behind Carpentine and rotated his body, striking with his leg, which was covered in black flames .

When his feet touched Carpentine's abdomen, he felt as if he touched rubbed as he bounced back . By the next seconds, dozens of black snakes which were inches long appeared all around him but before they touch him, he unleashed dark red flames from his hands, turning the small and venomous creatures in cinder .

Carpentine had enough time to swiftly turn around and raise his left hand, which turned into a snake . The brown snake's mouth opened and from that tiny hole, a two-edged blade made its appearance . It was so fast that Arthur was unable to block but didn't manage to injure him as it was first blocked by the Dark Barrier, which slowed it down .

Even after it hit Arthur's neck, it was only able to graze it, causing a bit of blood to leak out, though even that minuscule wound healed instantly .

Carpentine's eyes shook as he witnessed his sight . Seeing lightning coming off Arthur's hand, the serpent man retreated and activated his unique ability .

As Zaaarae's forcefully broke it previously, he could only activate it after recuperating for a short time .

In the blink of an eye, Arthur found himself in that mysterious world filled with innumerable snakes . Their hissing was loud and disturbing, they seemed to sense the enemy as they jumped together but some were faster than others .

Arthur moved his hand and unleashed green lightning from all sides . The deafening natural lightning pulverized the snakes, turning the whole place bloody as the scarlet liquid fell poured from above like rain .