

Once Human 671

Chapter 671: 671

"In simple words, this Garden is a self-aware entity capable of thought and action . It's not precisely a living being but it's not an inanimate place either... it's a bit hard to explain in words but you get what I mean, right?"

Quhea led Arthur inside the Garden of Words while briefly explaining . In fact, this mystical place wasn't that big but its appearance was pretty unique, to say the least .

The small trees were totally made of folded yellow scrolls and the grass was thin white paper, as for the ground, it was snow-white and had countless words of hundreds, if not thousands of languages .

"The will of the two guardians at the entrance isn't the same as the Garden's will . Although they refused to let you enter, there may still be a chance for your questions to be answered, it's all up to destiny . "

The woman walked with Arthur for barely one minute before stopping in front of a circular area shrouded by a wall of clustered paper acting like walls .

"It's up ahead . " She said while breaking into a soft smile .

"Ask what you shall and wait . "

He nodded his head and marched forward, his eyes wandering from one corner to another . It only took him a couple of steps to enter this area, which quickly isolated itself and barred the only entrance . Arthur's steps halted as he gazed at a normal grey pillar on which there was a simple closed book made of brown leather . The man didn't approach and just stood there, as if he was waiting for a reaction .

"Arthur Bilgart . "

A feminine yet emotionless voice echoed inside his head, sobering up the absent-minded Arthur .

"In possession of a third of his once original soul . Zodiak Veilleur now has the rest of this soul right after sealing up Sol'khin, also another personification of the whole soul .

Race; Soul-Parasite . Age; 2 . 397,007 years . Currently lived 8 years, 6 months, and 29 days after his first reincarnation . "

Right after it finished stating a few things about Arthur, which slightly startled him, it paused for a short amount of time .

"Your entry to the Garden was unauthorized but I am aware that the nature of your question requires naught but the knowledge found here, therefore, you will be allowed three questions and no more . You may take time to think about your questions, there is no rush . "

The disembodied voice returned to its silence after saying its piece, leaving Arthur a bit confused and delighted that he was given a chance . One of the main reasons he came to this place is to find a solution about his Race and how to evolve and get rid of the side-effects of the soul parasite, which are not affecting the current him as he's a clone and his current 'soul' is just an imitation . A fake, to be blunt .

"How can I evolve in a way that negates the negative side-effects of being a soul-parasite? I want to know the fastest and best way . "

"Are you sure you want to ask that? You're free to know anything you want, no matter what it is . There is nothing I cannot answer . "

"Yes, please answer that question . "

Arthur patiently waited while the Garden processed the question and less than a time for a candle to burn, it answered .

"A soul-parasite can evolve into 22 other unique kinds of parasites, 15 of them have side-effects, another 3 grant a significant boost to stats but permanently change the appearance, and the remaining 5 are the only harmless but slightly weaker variations . To begin with, the reason you are losing the ability to feel emotions is that, a soul-parasite, in essence, is a soul race and souls aren't eligible to mortal emotions . It's not really a side-effect but a balancing issued by the soul itself . It is trying to calibrate you, the host, to a better condition that suits its environment and practicalities . Consequentially, a soul-parasite won't be able to feel anything but will be able to make more rational and better decisions which will highly improve his survivability but, as a former human, you regard emotions as a natural thing hence your inability to forsake them, which is totally understandable .

Anyway, there are two paths you can take to get rid of the 'side-effects' . As you asked, they're the best and fastest options, furthermore, they require no sacrifice or prior achievement, then again, only the original body can do it, which means that the current you can only pass on the details to 'yourself' .

"I am already aware of that . " Replied Arthur as he crossed his arms and listened .

"The first option is the Plague Parasite . Your real body will still remain that spiritual soul form but the side-effects will be reversed and no longer hinder your life . To become a plague parasite, you just need to kill ten-thousand living beings at once using any poison, then the option to evolve will be automatically unlocked . The second option is The Singularity Parasite, which is a bit harder to become but still doable if we take in account your current skills stats . To become a Singularity Parasite, you need to find a diminishing star and destroy it using solely Space Magic then, like the first option, the evolution will be unlocked too .

These two options are, as you requested, the best and fastest methods to evolve and get rid of the side-effects . "

"What's the best type of parasite to evolve into?" Arthur unconsciously blurted as he wondered about the remaining 20 parasites types he can become .

"Are you sure you want to ask that?"

As he heard that, Arthur shook his head . "My mistake, I'll change my questions . "

He forgot that he was eligible for only three questions and, fortunately, the Garden didn't immediately process what he asked as the second question .

The parasite thoroughly pondered before voicing the second question .

"I want to know all the methods to break out of my cycles . "

"I cannot answer that answer for there are innumerable methods . Please rephrase it or change it . "

Hearing this, Arthur frowned because, previously, his copy inside that mysterious world in the Red Tower, clearly told him that there only a few methods and not all are bound to succeed .

"Tell me the easiest and best methods to break out of my cycles . "

Arthur was unaware of this but, on the outside world, more than a month passed since he entered the Garden of Words . Radolf, Midolf, and Fariya waited for him and never left the spirit boat . They also built a friendly relationship with the master of the clan living in that small forest . Actually, it was only Midolf and Fariya who were accommodated, the red-haired youth preferred to stay aboard the floating boat .

Though the clan was by no means rich, they provided the succubus and the mythical beings with comfortable and luxurious rooms, the master didn't even hesitate to serve them the best food despite their poor living necessities . Part of this was thanks to what Midolf did half a month ago when a second-rate sect living in the Northern Lands came here and demanded payment for 'security purposes' or whatnot .

The sect sent weak individuals who were absolutely thrashed by Midolf, however, this only led to them sending even more so, in the end, the Roc changed back to his realm form and traveled North, coming back a few hours later .

Apparently, he decimated that clan and warned all the rest not to step into the forest between the Ramel Kingdom and the North .

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A month after Edward Ortberg's appearance in Green-Leaf, things started heating up in the Wasteland, more than anyone could have imagined . Many people, especially those roaming or living in that barren land, were surprised by the aggressive and alarming behavior of the newly established MoonStar sect .

The only thing that was publicly known is that the Vice-Sect master, Sonia, recruited a mortal who was put in charge of the army, which is only composed of a few tens of thousands of Undead . Before Aborak, the Lich King returned to his Realm, he left a few of Arthur's undead and took the rest with him, as agreed before the war against the White Specters .

With just a small and relatively weak army of undead under his command, the mortal did the unthinkable and before anyone could react, he marched South-West and took the wasteland by storm . His decisive thinking and flawless strategy allowed him to totally and one-sidedly win against the Naga Tribe, one of the three forces dominating this place . Many called his way of fighting as dirty and unorthodox but it was effective and definitive .

The only strong undead under his command were two bone-dragons, a squadron of earth and fire-using zombies, and a skeletal Lord . The Bone Dragons were no longer enhanced by Death Energy, neither were they controlled by a Death-Magic user so they could only contend against Divine Realm cultivators, nevertheless, Edward managed to beat the two Naga Leaders, who are both at the God Realms .

If this was it then the serial-killer wouldn't have been the talk of Green-Leaf . The crazy human didn't even rest as he took the Army East and attack the Pigolo Tribe next, showing no mercy or hesitation . Although the battle was much harder, he managed to emerge victorious after losing close to three thousands undead .

Even Sonia, who cautioned him to expand their territory without provoking nearby factions, were startled and couldn't stop him in time . Edward's leadership and conceited strategies are, without a doubt, fascinating, however, it would them no good to incur the wrath of the forces outside of the wasteland, which are much stronger than the Nagas or Pigolos .

Plus, if the Holy Dominion were to heart about this, they would stop at nothing to eradicate the newly built city and everyone living it . Arthur and Lucy became well-known in the Cloud Sea Universe, especially after the war in the Divine Planet and Lucy's abrupt arrival at Astrith's execution .

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Sonia banged her fist on the table, causing Robin, Rey, and Gutcha to twitch and take a step back . It's the first time they've seen the usually calm Sonia this enraged . Her face was flushed and she was trembling as she glared at the nonchalant man sitting opposite of her and munching the fruit as if he wasn't the origin of this whole mess .

"I told you to slowly expand!"

Edward shrugged his shoulders and coldly retorted,

"Am I not supposed to eat the foot presented in front of me? Think about all the loot and prizes I've brought back . There has even been people from both tribes who forsake their homes and joined my army! I think you should be thanking me!"

"What thanking! You bastard! You don't even know how much danger you've brought us!"

Sonia seemed about to pounce at the weak mortal at any time . Were it not for Robin, who lightly coughed and held the woman's shoulder, she would have already choked the man . He said many things to prove his identity and when he requested to be put in charge of the army, Sonia never thought he'll do something this absurd, after all, who would expect anything from a mortal?

Seeing him still maintaining that casualness, Sonia snorted and kicked him out of the room before sitting back on her chair . Rey and Gutcha left, leaving her alone with Robin, who massaged her shoulders while saying,

"The King will surely visit us soon . "

Sonia groaned and replied, "Ugh, I know, I will deal with him . We must block the news from leaving Green-Leaf... the situation is already bad in Astria and I don't think Arthur can handle both the angels and the Dominion at the same time . "

The vice-master paused for a couple of seconds before asking, "Is Taliya back yet?"

"No, not yet . You know her relationship with the King is deepening and that's something good for us . Even if things turn for the worse, we can count on her to provide help using the King's forces .

"Cycles are actually a fraction of a timeline that is repeating itself . It can be interpreted as a 'glitch' hence the existence of countless fixes . In your case, your life is revolving around two cycles, both relatively short but still impact the whole timeline due to your nature and origin . To better understand the methods I will provide you later, let's first go back to the beginning . You, named, at first, Arthur and given the last name of your creator, Bilgart . When you came into existence, your soul was whole but through a complicated series of events, it was split in two and one became Sol'khin after being influenced by The Black Devil's savage aura and his defected 'children' . Up to that point, your cycles have yet to begin and time was advancing smoothly, as it should be . The 'Glitch' I mentioned is the conjunction of two reincarnations happening to the same person, meaning that when Patrick Stone appeared on Earth and offered you another life, the cycle began . When you accepted his offer and ended your life, it disrupted the balance because even if you refused, you would still have been reincarnated .

Maybe you're unaware of this but Wolfram Sakimoto and Leiu had forced Fate to reincarnate your soul in Astria so there was no need for Patrick's interference . Basically, the first cycle was created when Fate's powers and the Patrick's Symmetric Wheel of Reincarnation clashed . However, even that is not enough to form a real 'Glitch', or a loop, some would call it . The catalyst was something many call it 'Luck' but it's really an unfortunate coincidence . Being reborn as Parasite instead of so many other options was the finisher, the thing which started and caused all the rest .

Now, let me jump to the second cycle, which is tied to the first one but wasn't born the same way, per se . The second cycle is because of Zodiac's large impact on the timeline, which caused a successive loop to contain the first one, it can be interpreted as a self-protection measure put by the world, the existence itself . Are you following me?"

"Yes, please continue . "

"Cycles are like holes inside a straight and flat ruler, for example . It can be patched up, filled up, replaced, and so on... The best way is to create another timeline but that is a very difficult yet effective and safe method .

Now, for your case, you can break out using many ways . I'm sure you have been told this by your other self but one of the method is for an outsider to break the cycles when it's the second one is beginning as, at that time, the link between the two is at its weakest . There is also death, by dying at not the right time and place, it can break the cycles but you'll cease to exist, of course .

I'm sure you know this is not the first time 'you' come here and the Garden of Words is not a place restricted by Time and Space so the repeating cycles do not affect it neither does it reset anything . You've come here many times before and the questions are, more or less, the same as the last time . It's the same for the answers I'm giving you . Also, let me tell you a bonus thing unrelated to your questions . The Arthur of the first cycles, albeit failing, still managed to achieve an unconceivable thing and made it so that a certain person is like me . "

"Like you? What do you mean?"

"I told you that I'm not bound by Time and Space so I retain the memories of all previous cycles and everything that precedes them . Understand what you will and if you can't come to a conclusion then forget what I said . "

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"Now, let me tell you about the 'easiest and best' methods as you requested . "

The voice cut down for a short time, leaving Arthur thinking about what was previously said, especially the last part .

"Excluding the unfeasible and difficult methods, there remains four doable ones . The first; Acquire the Pot of Blasphemy, it's an Advanced Zen Treasure owned by the System, it could be found in the Andromeda Galaxy, Star ZTTIB-1094, Northern Post, Artificial Construction, Room 451 . It allows the user to store their memories there for an infinite amount of time . Right before the second cycle ends, put your memories there and use the Wish Star to send it back to the 'you' which is beginning the first cycle and, like that, you'll be able to relive your life with all your memories intact . Then, when Patrick Jones appears, refuse his proposal . The reincarnation tool he used or will use, requires the user's approval so there will be no mishaps .

"The Second method; Beyond the Exalted Realm stage, there are two others, the Mysterious Realm, and the Mortality Transcendent Realm . The last known realm to cultivator can be considered unachievable as there has been no one in the last 187,000 years who reached it and in total, only 6 stepped into it . You can reach that stage before the end of the second cycle . I calculate that you need to possess 12,000 Overgods or 3,000 Exalted Gods to reach it, however, that number far exceeds the number of currently existing Overgods or Exalted Gods but there is an alternative . Possess every living being you can find, whether it's a mortal, a player, a cultivator, it doesn't matter as you'll still get stats . Technically speaking, the peak of cultivation or the apex of the physical body doesn't differ much, just that the former can a bit more things than the latter, but the two can help you break the cycles through sheer force . Time can be bent and broken through several means and one of them is absolute power .

If you follow this method, the alternative, I mean, you'll need to non-stop possess everything in your way for about two and a half years . It will have a big toll on your body but, with enough time, you'll learn to adapt to the overbearingness of uncontrollable power, just like Moriah did in the past .

"If I find cultivators that reached the Mysterious Realm, how many do I need to reach the Mortal Transcendent Realm?"

"No less than twenty but the problem remains the same, there are less than twenty living cultivators at the Mysterious Realm . Retrospectively, there have been fewer people that reached the Mysterious Realm than the Mortal Transcend Realm . It sounds illogical but amongst the aforementioned six, four of them reached the apex through exterior means such as unique heritages, powerful Zen Treasures, or inheritances from The Twelve, Dragons, and so on .

Point is, this method is the fastest and safest but it's mind-numbing and is highly reliant on 'Lucky' encounters, if they can be called so . For mortals, you'll need 497,517,488,158 of them to achieve that stage, or 192,000,482,766 Spirit Realm Cultivators, or 85,887,524,916 Heavenly Realm Cultivators, or 76,480,532,457 Deity Realm Cultivators, or 62,899,007,002 Immortal Realm Cultivators, or

58,500,600,200 Divine Realm cultivators, or 45,101,908,764 God Realm Cultivators, or 37,837,921,666 Sovereign Realm Cultivators, or 11,258,982,982,100 God Monarch Cultivators . "

"That much?"

"500 billion mortals is nothing compared to their overall number, it's barely 0 . 1% . Furthermore, you're not going to kill them, just possess them so, when choosing this method, I did consider your morals into account . "

"If it's about saving my life and my close ones, I don't mind killing innocents . "

"You may not mind but others will . 0 . 1% is an insignificant amount but a large portion may turn into future influencers which will turn the course of time . I am here only to answer questions and not to judge your actions or gauge your determination . Whatever happens on the outside has nothing to do with the Garden .

The third method; Do nothing . Just wait . It's a simple method that requires non-interference with the cycles . You're not the first to be stuck in one or more cycles and there is an explainable reason for their end or disappearance . Whether it's after ten or a thousand more cycles, there come at a time where the Space-Time Continuum will make a move and correct the re-occurring imbalance, it's just a matter of when . I give answers but I cannot predict the future so I cannot tell on which cycle it will happen . However, when it finally happens, everything will reset and you'll regain the memories of all of the cycles and will be set free .

The fourth method: Process through Imagination, also known as Physical Ideology or The P-I effect . It's a very rare ability that is not well-studied by the outside people due to its rarity . It allows the user to transform his thoughts or imagination into a physical manifestation . For example, Edward Ortberg, the man who appeared next to you not long ago, his scissors are able to cut Karma . As for you, you'll be able to create something that will break the cycles . Usually, every one or so million years, someone with incredible talent will be able to obtain it but your case is special . By possessing different monsters and living beings, you acquire a bit of their talent and, right now, you have more than enough to achieve 'Process through Imagination' . You just have to have the right mindset and the perfect conditions, such as a quiet place filled with rich Dark Matter or Primordial Energy, a worry-free mind, and absolutely zero distractions .

Those are the fourth methods but there is a fifth one, which is a bit harder . Secure enough Primordial Energy then blow it right after you crack a turbulent Spatial tear . I didn't speak of this method first because of the difficulty of acquiring Primordial Energy, nonetheless, its success rate is very high... 96 . 204%, to be exact . "

When the voice stopped talking, Arthur stood there dazed for some time before speaking .

"I didn't expect such a detailed explanation . Thanks . "

"There is no need to thank me . All questions asked here warrant detailed answers, no matter how vague or absurd they may be . You may ask your third question if you already thought about it . "

"I want to know where is Shen Shen and if she's safe or not . "

Arthur already achieved what he wanted and the only thing weighing on his mind is that cheerful and curious blue-haired girl who he got very close to and wanted to keep safe . She can be naive sometimes but she's also innocent and still hasn't seen the real world, which is why Arthur sacrificed this golden opportunity for her . Even though Zaarae also jumped into the pit, there's no guarantee that she found Shen Shen . It's better to be safe than sorry .

The Garden spent the same time as usual processing the question before giving him a brief description of the girl .

"Shen Shen, half-human, half-demon . 8 years old, blue-hair, 112cm in height, holder of the Origin Water, and the holder of the Eternal Blue Soul . Birth parents are Arthur MoonStar and Lucy MoonStar . "

At first, Arthur listened carefully but when he heard the last part, his pupils constricted and his body intensely trembled .

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"Birth parents? What are you talking about?"

"As I said, she is your biological daughter . "

"How is that possible? I don't have a d-"

He stopped mid-sentence as he remembered that Lucy was pregnant back on Riarravar, however, she told him that she lost the child as she ended up dying and reanimating back inside the second body he created for her .

'How was she born then?'

Arthur thought to himself but didn't ask the Garden, which may consider that question as the third one instead of the other one .

"Do you want to know the specifics about her birth? I can include it in the answer if you want . "

"Please do... and thank you . "

"No thanks are needed, again . When your wife, Lucy MoonStar, perished in the Parasite Realm, the Black Devil saved the unborn child and increased its growth, which is why your daughter looks older than she actually is . Furthermore, as she's half-demon, she was bound to physically grow fast regardless of The Black Devil's interference . She was taken by him and roamed the world until the day she met you, not long ago .

My answers are nothing but facts so do not doubt their authenticity . It may have come as a surprise to you but, as it's related to your third question, I deemed it necessary to tell you, especially after you further expressed your willingness to hear the whole truth . "

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The voice stopped talking, letting Arthur rest for some time and process what he just heard . He looked so shocked, his face incredibly pale and his body shaking intensely, clearly showcasing his turbulent emotions .

Arthur managed to calm himself down and raised his head, his eyes a bit teary .

"Please answer my question . "

The Garden didn't delay and told him what he wanted a second later .

"Shen Shen MoonStar was thrown into the pit by the Shapeshifter Alister Rosw . That pit acts like a portal which sends the person in one of two places, either the place they deeply want to go to or the place they inwardly or outwardly want to avoid forever . In your daughter's case, it was the latter, unfortunately . Sometimes, the place people end up is non-existent or non-accessible, such as a nightmare or even a separate timeline, it all depends on the individual and their personal thoughts, fears, and beliefs . In most cases, it's either Heaven or Hell, it can even be this place, the Garden of Words .

Shen Shen MoonStar is currently in another plane of existence, totally different from the multiverse you exist in . That place is called the Binary Dimension . I cannot determine if she's safe or not but I can tell you she's alive . "

"How can I go to that dimension?"

"I'm sorry but you've used all three questions . "

Arthur clenched his fists but didn't insist as he knew that he won't be answered .

"Perhaps if you manage to break out of your cycles, I can tell you . "

The man raised his head and looked at the book standing atop the short pillar, his expression complicated and unreadable . After a while, he bent his back and respectfully bowed before turning around and leaving this isolated place, which automatically opened and let him out .

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"Did you hear what you wanted to hear?" Asked Quhea as she saw the grim expression plastered on the parasite's face .

Arthur stiffly nodded his head and bid her farewell as his time is limited inside the Garden .

Just as he was about to step out, the disembodied voice rang inside his ears for the last time .

"Arthur MoonStar, I wish you the best . "

When he came back to his senses, Arthur was laying inside the dark cave, his body sweating buckets but, soon, a refreshingly cool sensation spread across his whole body, making him feel much more comfortable .

He changed into a new set of clothes and teleported back to the spirit boat, where Radolf was waiting for him .

The red-haired youth bowed to his master and said .

"Master, a few things happened in your absence . First..."

The Mythical being briefed him about Edward's situation then what Midolf did, to which Arthur just nodded without saying anything . After Radolf finished talking, his master retired to his room and told him to call Fariya and the roc as soon as possible .

The Parasite spent almost a day in his room, thinking about all the Garden had said . The method to break out of the cycles, how to evolve, how he granted someone the ability to remember all the past cycles, how Shen Shen is actually his daughter .

Now he understood why he felt a strange closeness to the little girl and why he got close to her so fast despite meeting her not long ago . The more he thought about the little girl, the more pained he became, especially now that the truth came out .

To think his daughter was next to him all along but he was oblivious and didn't protect her well enough . Arthur regretted it so much but, in the end, there was nothing he could do but grief and try to overcome the sadness, hoping that he'll be able to find her in the future .

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The very next day, Arthur departed from that area, heading directly to Astria, where he, the original Arthur, and the second clone were supposed to meet after four months of their separation .

He learned that he was inside that separate boundary for close to months, adding to that the time he spent in the prison and in the Ramel Kingdom, it adds up to three months, more or less .

He just needs to join back with the original Arthur and fuse back with him so that his memories become his and he evolves then breaks out of the cycles . He was sure that, just like him, the other two Arthur powered-up two and with Makaze back in his possession, he'll become much stronger, strong enough to become a true powerhouse even in a place like the Divine Planet or the Cloud Sea Universe as a whole .

At the same time, Arthur was coming back to Astria with Fariya and the two mythical beings, many things happened in the Cloud Sea Universe, most notably the complete annihilation of the White Specter Clan .

The Cloud Sea Sect initiated a very bold move and sent their best forces to the specter's ancestral land, stopping at nothing and ending up slaughtering the whole clan . With the Matriarch, Katrina, absent, their assault was easier than expected . Moreover, with the exception of one person, they took no prisoners .

The one they caught? None other than the Matriarch's daughter! Angelina . She was being used as a bait to finish the last person, who's Katrina . She's a really strong person and unless they kill her too, she'll cause them a real headache in the future, especially if she gets stronger .

Her execution was set a week after her capture and although many were against the ruthlessness of Cloud Sea, none dared to voice their thoughts out loud . Apparently, the reason behind the mass-slaughter was because, allegedly, The White Specter Clan was secretly working and assisting the parasites, which is something the inhabitants of the Divine Planet cannot tolerate, or so they said .

On the decisive day, Angelina, chained neck to toe, was put in a high pedestal, before the citizens of the Cloud Sea Empire . Moreover, the Emperor himself appeared and was the one proudly carrying the execution .

The silver-haired woman had an ugly scar on her face and her body was bloodied, her cultivation crippled and her face pale like that of a corpse's . The gracefulness and beauty she originally had were all gone, replaced by despair and sadness .

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"Is this really the end?"

Angelina looked down at the white ground, she was sitting opposite of Claud, who sighed as he saw her in this condition .

"Does it have to be?"

He sat next to her and held her hand, causing her to lift her head and stare back at him, a soft and a bit forced smile was on her face .

"Although I cannot stop the execution, it doesn't mean I can't save you . "

He tightly held her hand and made her stand up . He waved his free hand, changing the endless white space into a green plane and a clear blue sky .

"I can sometimes predict the future but it's always not mine, nevertheless, there will come a day when I'll be able to properly reincarnate you so..."

He smiled at her and continued, "Won't you stay with me here for a bit? I know of your reluctance and attachment to the outside world . How dearly you love your mother and sister but all things end, one way or another . "

An inordinate amount of time passed before Angelina slowly nodded her head .

"Alright then . You're unjustly killed so, as your husband, it's my duty to retaliate, right?"

The man burst out in laughter and suddenly brought her into his arms, hugging her tightly .

At the same time, in the outside world, the Emperor of Cloud Sea unsheathed his sword and unhesitantly stabbed Angelina's chest, killing her on the spot .

It was supposed to be a glorious moment but none of the citizens cheered . The place was eerily silent as the Emperor smirked and whipped his sword to get rid of the fresh blood on the edges .

When everyone thought this was the end, an almost inaudible ticking sound came out of the dead Angelina . The ticking got louder and louder until it reverberated across the whole capital city then the whole Divine Planet .

At first, the Emperor frowned and crouched down to inspect but very quickly, his expression worsened and he hastily jumped back but it was far too late to escape the incoming doom .

The ARK had activated its self-destruction mechanism, unleashing a devastating bomb, so strong that it annihilated the capital within seconds, killing everyone .

The barriers and the powerhouses which were quick enough to defend themselves could do nothing but stare at the red shock wave coming straight at them and disintegrating them into nothingness .

The bomb didn't destroy the whole planet, however, the famous capital of the Cloud Sea Empire, along with the Emperor and many more people from the Cloud Sea Sect were killed on that incident . Close to a hundred million people perished due to the sudden explosion, which, later on, was said to originate from inside of Angelina .

Many saw it as God's retaliation against the Emperor, who cruelly massacred the White Specters .

In addition to the citizens of the capital and the people from the Cloud Sea Empire and Sect, there were many other powerhouses visiting places which ended up dying too so many factions directed their wrath as Katrina and started hunting her down . As for Lucy, very few knew where she was or if she was even alive, plus, her bad relationship with her family and how all of that caused a bloody war .

A few hundred kilometers from the Capital of Cloud Sea, which turned into a charred black land with a constant grey fog, a toddler was traveling with his merchant father .

They were taking a break and the toddler was playing around in the grass only to stumble upon a circular black object, like a disk with many incomprehensible scribed on it .

"Father... father! I found something!"

He picked it up and waved it around, proud to have found something that looked exquisite and pricy .

Chapter 675: 675

Astria: The name of the last living Titan, which took the form of a world and was hidden in an abandoned area somewhere in the System Universe by none other than the Joker .

In this existing timeline (the present), there are two Astria . One was brought from the future using the elven time scroll obtained by Zodiak in the past and used by Yamak in the future (with the help of the Water Region Ruler, also known as Shen Shen) .

The future Astria is the one Arthur got reincarnated in and where most of the beginning of the story unfolds . The current Astra is also in the System Universe and was visited by the future Arthur, the Joker, Lolitta, and Yamak .

When the Divine Beasts struck almost all the worlds, stars, and planets in the Cloud Sea Universe and the System Universe, the two Astria were attacked and the present one had it easier than the future one, which Arthur protected . This explains why Arthur heard of the catastrophe back in the past .

Basically... Catastrophe hits Astria then ten thousand years pass and we're in the future, where there's the Eighteen Region . That Astria got sent back in time, which is why its people speak of the past catastrophe, which happened some time after Arthur's reincarnation . Also, most of the people of Astria are from the future and that includes, Jakob, Robin, Anastassia, Sonia, etc...

Lucy had special circumstances and was thrown to the future Astria (which exists in the present) due to an incident so she doesn't exist in the future .

Eighteen Regions, A peek ten thousand years later .

The eighteen regions were created a bit more than ten thousand years after Arthur's first reincarnation . Little is known about their locations and rulers .

Shen Shen rules the Water Region . Anastassia Rules the Death Region and is also still Death itself .

At the end of Volume 11, Arthur conjured two clones identical to him in stats and skills . While he went with Lucy to retrieve the Dark Blade, Makaze, one of the clones went to the Heaven and Hell Universe to break out Radolf and Midolf then reach the Garden of Words while the remaining clone, accompanied by Astrith, went back to Astria

The Adult Tree activated the oath and urgently called him back as the Angels were preparing to attack Astria in order to get the Tree and revive 'God' .

In Volume 12, Arthur's clone successfully reached the Garden of Words and asked three questions . He ended up learning that Shen Shen, the girl he met in his travels was actually his biological daughter, whom he had thought she died when the pregnant Lucy perished right after leaving Riarravar .

Zaarae unknowingly went back to her realm, where the war between the Parasites and the Cthulhu was getting bloody and much worse . Despite her desire to accompany the man she loves, the Empress was forced to stay in her territory and manage things before her kin is slaughtered .

The Black Devil, Timos, along with Vyncent, also jumped into a mysterious pit, the same one Zaarae used, and never returned .

Shen Shen, Arthur's daughter, early on, was kidnapped by the shapeshifter and thrown into the same pit . As per the Garden's words, the little girl ended up in a separate plane of existence called the Binary Dimension, a place inaccessible even by The Twelve .

Edward Ortberg, an infamous serial-killer of the 20th century, who was locked into the prison due to the angel's inability to throw him into hell because of his Heaven's Mandate soul, was jail broken by Angelina, Lucy's sister . Coincidentally or not, the Frog of Destiny appeared before him and altered his fate, bringing him next to Arthur only to appear for a second time and transport him to Astria, where he showcased his strategic skills and unrivaled intelligence .

The mortal man was appointed as the only commander of the MoonStar Sect army and led a small army of undead to defeat both the Naga and Pigolo Tribe . Although his feats were worthy of praise, his actions brought unwanted attention to the sect's newly established branch located in the wasteland of Green-Leaf (The strongest Middle-Realm in the Cloud Sea Universe .)

The White Specter Clan was assaulted and slaughtered by the Cloud Sea Sect . Angelina was the sole survivor, she was captured and publicly executed in front of the empire's citizens, however, right after her death, a lethal bomb razed the capital of the Divine Planet to the ground, killing millions in the process and ushering the beginning of a new era and, perhaps, a rise of a new ruler for the Cloud Sea Universe .

With the new information obtained from the Garden, Arthur's clone set out to Astria, where he agreed to meet with the original body four months after their separation, however, it is uncertain whether the original body already returned or is still retrieving Evil Wind .

Volume 13 : A Hand of Ice and A Heart of fire .

The next volume will focus on Arthur and Lucy's adventures in the Rose Sea, a dangerous region situated between the Cloud Sea Universe and the System Universe .

The Oath of the Dark Blade keeps calling its owner and it's originating from the deep sea, which was uniquely colored pink .

Bonus Lore : After talking to The Garden, Arthur learned that 'X's real name is actually Patrick Jones .

The Cultivation Realms are : Mortal Realm =\u003e Spirit Realm =\u003e Heavenly Realm =\u003e Deity Realm =\u003e Immortal Realm =\u003e Divine Realm =\u003e God Realm =\u003e Sovereign Realm =\u003e God Monarch Realm =\u003e Overgod Realm =\u003e Exalted God Realm =\u003e Mysterious Realm =\u003e Transcendent Mortal Realm .

Players above Lv10,000 are as strong as Overgods . Players above Lv15,000 are equal to peak Exalted Gods . Players over Lv20,000 are stronger than Cultivators at the Mysterious Realm but weaker than those at the Transcendent Realm .

Star Practitioners, which are common in the Heaven and Hell Universe, use the power of stars to strengthen themselves, it is also called Astral Force .

When someone absorbs more than 100 purple stars, they can contend against Mysterious Realm Cultivators .

Due to his nature and ominously strange Dark Magic, Zodiak was never considered a human and has been listed as one of the mythical beings .

Shortly after the fall of the Ramel Kingdom and the obliteration of the royal castle, the mythical being, Sun Wukong, took charge of the place and stabilized it before taking control of it .

Chapter 676: 676

"Is it far?" Asked Lucy as she gazed at the pink-colored sea, which seemed harmless, contrary to the rumors they heard about it on the way here .

"It's definitely in this sea but I can't pinpoint the exact location . "

Makaze was constantly calling for him and the closer he got, the more intense the callings became .
They were standing at the edge of a steep cliff and looking at the calm sea .

This place was a boundary between two universes so there were no mortals here and as it's dangerous, not many merchants are willing to pass through it . Furthermore, you can fly above this sea so ships are rendered useless in this environment .

The two didn't linger there for too long, they took flight, heading forward, where the blade's signal was coming from .

Actually, both Arthur and Lucy knew very little about this place but they had enough confidence to defend themselves if danger arises along the way .

Despite it being called a boundary, the Rose Sea is unimaginably vast stretching for millions upon millions of kilometers . Moreover, there are many inhabited islands scattered all over, some ruled by tyrants or rare races and others are simply resting places .

"How about this?"

Lucy, who was sitting in front of Arthur aboard the flying Dark Cloud, grinned and flashed her new hair, which was colored pink, just like the sea below them .

"Hmm, it's beautiful but I prefer silver . "

"Is that so?" She pouted and after pondering for a few seconds, she changed into a more ambiguous pose before speaking again,

"Not even like this?"

She was wearing a long robe but the way she was sitting, her thighs were exposed, she even purposely unbuttoned the top, showing a bit of her snow-white skin to Arthur .

The man wryly smiled and turned his gaze away while replying,

"If you keep this up then there's no telling what will happen to you . "

"Ah! Please tell me . "

She leaned closer to him, her hot breath brushing against his neck, making his heart beat faster . Before he could do anything, the woman planted her lips on his neck and lightly bit down but, surprisingly, Arthur showed great restraint and only hugged her without delving into the 'uncharted territories' .

...

Four hours later, the Dark Cloud arrived at what seemed to be a small archipelago . There seemed to be a sizable amount of people present, players, and cultivators, though the latter were more numerous .

The couple jumped from the Dark Cloud and landed on the coast, one or two kilometers away from a medium-sized settlement .

The reason behind their stop is none other than Lucy, who needed a relatively safe place to absorb the rewards she received the Red Tower . She already started merging with the Ice Phoenix's drop but haven't fully finished the process .

Arthur's sense was able to cover the entirety of the island . None of the people present could threaten him as the strongest individual was an old man at the peak of the God Monarch Realm .

Although he considered all the rest as weaklings, they were still Sovereigns, Gods, and High-leveled players, nevertheless, they cannot threaten the parasite .

Everyone was split into groups and there was at least one God Monarch protecting them as the atmosphere around the Rose Sea can affect the passing travelers . It seemed to have a permanent effect on one's mind but a simple Dark Barrier was more than enough to negate that .

The duo didn't head to the town and, instead, swiftly built a decent and habitable place inside an abandoned cave .

Arthur decorated the place with luxurious and comfortable furniture and built a solid formation which amassed Mana for Lucy, who sat cross-legged on the bed and started meditating . It was a critical time for her and there must be no distractions .

Unfortunately, trouble always follows the parasite, who was woken up of his meditation the very next day of their arrival .

His form blurred then vanished, appearing a couple of hundred meters outside of the cave . It was a dry forest with a ground that lacked grass and trees that had no leafs or fruits .

The parasite, in his human appearance, gazed at three people barely fifty meters away . They couldn't even sense him as they were preoccupied with their own troubles or desires .

The group of three was composed of two males and one female . One of the males was a young man while the other was a middle-aged man who seemed to be in his late forties, though his real age is older, of course .

As for the woman, she could be considered a beauty, her body was voluptuous and she was wearing lots of gold jewelry in her neck, ankle, and wrists .

"You bitch!"

The youngster slapped the living daylight of the woman, causing her to fall on the ground, her cheek totally red . Arthur knew that she was stronger than the young man but she didn't retaliate, probably afraid of the other man, who was a God Monarch .

"You dare trick me?"

The youth showed no mercy, he mounted the woman and slapped her face again .

"So what if I slept with another man? It's not like I'm yours!"

"You're still talking?"

He slapped her a third time then ripped her clothes, apparently going to do the unspeakable as his eyes were burning with lust .

The middle-aged man was crossing his arms and calmly watching from the side .

The woman noticed what the youth intended to do and was about to struggle only to feel an inexplicable heaviness inside her body . Her cultivation was suppressed by the youth's guardian, who was at the God Monarch Realm .

"Don't think of resisting me! I'll play you then feed your corpse to the fish!"

Within a minute, the young man ripped all her clothes, exposing her bulging breasts and fair skin . He was so engrossed in his lust that, unlike his guardian, didn't notice the arrival of an unfamiliar black-clothed man .

The man, Bradaris, frowned and stared at the incoming Arthur . He couldn't gauge the other party's cultivation, making him feel slightly nervous, still, he softly smiled and politely said,

"Senior, please do not mind this . "

"I'm not going to mind this . Go do this somewhere else . "

Arthur pointed at the way opposite of the cave and coldly spoke to the God Monarch, who frowned but didn't retort .

Only when the parasite spoke did the youth sober up and turned his head . His genitals were already exposed and he was ready to begin .

"Save me! Please save me! Senior!"

The woman loudly shrieked, her face full of tears as she begged Arthur, who didn't even flinch . Involving himself in these minor problems will lead to nothing but more trouble . He appeared here because Lucy was in a half-enlightenment state and even a bit of sound, like the shouts of this woman, can disturb her and hinder her progress . Basically, it's better that she meditated in a totally quiet and peaceful place .

"Save me! I beg of you! PLEASE!"

"Shut up!"

The young man slapped her again, causing her lips to become bloody . She groaned and tried to open her mouth again but he blocked it .

"Didn't you hear me? Leave this place . "

"Right away, Senior . "

The middle-aged man was about to order the youth to contain himself only for the latter, who was lost in his desires, to loudly shout .

"Senior! I'm just going to finish real soon..."

Unfortunately, the youth wasn't able to finish his sentence . His head dropped to the ground and his limp and lifeless body fell on the startled woman .

"If you don't leave this second, you'll be next . "

Shocked to see his nephew die so suddenly, Bradaris was infuriated but he didn't dare do anything . He quickly collected his thoughts and left the area, not even minding the woman .

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After seeing the God Monarch leave, Arthur vanished, appearing in the cave again . As for the woman, she regained her cultivation and also swiftly escaped this place before more enemies arrive .

...

Chapter 677: 677

"Are you sure it's here? I don't sense anyone . "

A broad-shouldered man with long black hair asked Bradaris, his young brother, as he surveyed the place . The only thing here was his son's corpse, which decomposed within a day due to the unique environment of the Rose Sea .

The place was as quiet as ever with no signs of Arthur . The two brothers advanced a bit more only for a catastrophe to befall on them . When Bradaris explained what happened to his older brother, who's also the dead young man's father, he just said that he couldn't gauge the man's cultivation .

The father guessed that Arthur must be a peak God Monarch who's also forming his Celestial body, after all, real Overgods are hard to come by, especially in remote places such as this small island .

The ground below the two suddenly turned jet black and thick chains sprung from it, wrapping around them and sucking them below within seconds . The two couldn't even cry before they perished .

Arthur stood a few meters away, his sense covering the whole island, trying to see if they had more allies but it didn't seem to be the case, which made him a bit relieved that no more people will come .

Sadly, the very same day, late at night, the woman from yesterday appeared near the cave again but, this time, she was accompanied by a girl and two men, one of them being an overgod, unexpectedly .

The woman was dressed more appropriately than yesterday and looked much better .

"Alda, if this man is as strong as you claimed then we could use his help . "

The Overgod, a short man with brown hair and a thick beard, spoke to the woman, who stood before the group and looked at the darkness surrounding them .

"Sen-"

The woman took a deep breath and was about to shout at the top of her lungs but she was immediately cut-off .

A suffocating pressure enveloped everyone, including the Overgod . A large silhouette made its appearance, causing all of them to turn pale, especially the short man .

The beast had a beautiful white hair and golden lines on its body, its mouth big enough to devour three to four of them whole . Its height was over three meters and its Divine aura could clearly be felt by the terrified and unwelcome visitors .

The monstrosity standing before them caused them to be rooted, unable to even flee . The Overgod was the only one who acted, he retrieved a one-handed hammer from his storage ring and jumped at the White Tiger but after merely two steps, he was immobilized .

His legs were caught between dozens of black vines and even when he tried getting rid of them, even more came out . In just a few seconds, the Overgod was unarmed and wrapped into the vines from head to toe .

"I clearly told you to leave yet you boldly came back . Don't expect to leave this place alive . "

"Senior! Please have mercy!"

The woman started begging again, his eyes teary and incredibly pale . The others didn't even let out a sound as they shook in their boots, heads down, unable to look at the horrifying Divine Beast, which appeared out of nowhere .

If they initially knew a powerful beast inhabited this forest, no one would dare to trespass, not even Overgods . The woman hoped to get Arthur's help and get rid of her enemies but her decision will apparently cost her life and the others' .

"Mfmhg"

The man wrapped in vines tried to talk but all he let out were pitiful and incomprehensible groans . Slowly but surely, the vines were tightening around his body and breaking his bones . He tried to resist by erupting his energy and maximizing the efficiency of his technique but nothing worked .

He didn't know that the moment the vines made contact with his skin, Dark Magic invaded his body, infiltrated his Meridians, and started weakening him . His mental was also crumbling little by little .

The second Arthur was about to finish them off, he heard a familiar voice from behind .

"It's fine, just let them go . "

A graceful figure wearing a beautiful scarlet dress walked from behind the white tiger . She had long silver hair, her eyes, one crimson and the other sky-blue, making her look more mesmerizing, especially in the darkness of the night, she was like an otherworldly fairy .

Her sudden appearance captivated the woman and her group, which was mostly made of young people, with the exception of the Overgod, of course .

Delighted that Lucy managed to finish meditating and seemed to have gotten much stronger, Arthur didn't finish off the strangers and turned his whole attention to his wife .

The white tiger distorted before changing into a man wearing black leather clothes . A faint but noticeable cold aura was emanating from Lucy, proof that she fully merged with the ice phoenix' blood . Furthermore, through his special eye, Arthur could see a golden fire burning inside of the White Specter . This fire's aura wasn't as intense as her Yin, nevertheless, it still belonged to the Golden Crow .

"Why are you here?"

Although she told Arthur to spare him, Lucy never looked positively at the women sticking close to her husband, it's partially due to her over-protective nature and the way she easily and quickly gets jealous .

"S-senior!"

The woman bowed toward Lucy, somehow managing to control her fear and shock . The white tiger literally changed back into a human before her eyes, plus, the silver-haired woman looked no weaker than the man beside her .

"I, it's nothing! Please excuse our intrusion!"

The woman bowed again and began to retreat . The Overgods was also free of the vines, he deeply looked at Arthur then at Lucy before returning next to his group . He was an esteemed Overgods but lacked any kind of arrogance for he knew the difference between this mysterious couple and himself .

The others didn't know it but the way his body reacted... he was sure that the woman was an Exalted God, and a powerful one at that! Chills ran down his spines as he barely contained his emotions .

If they could get these two to help them, all their problems will be easily solved, however, it's never easy to gain the favor of such strong individuals, especially after you start at the wrong foot .

Chapter 678: 678

Lucy was floating two meters above the pink-colored sea, her eyes lingering on the spot Arthur dove in three minutes ago . Another sixty seconds crept by before Arthur appeared next to her, drenched in water and a bit pale-faced .

He quickly dried himself before clicking his tongue and saying,

"After all, it's not possible . I tried both Dark Magic and the Hell flames but they had no effect on the water . I can't see even see properly . "

He shook his head then looked at an island several kilometers away from them . It has been four days since their encounter with the Bradaris and the woman's group . They continued advancing and getting closer to Makaze but they reached a point where they have to go under the pink sea, which, apparently, wasn't feasible without the help of a common fish known as the 'Retour-poisson' .

It's a massive fish able to travel freely inside this dangerous region and can coat itself and the passengers on it so they can explore what's below these calm yet dangerous waters . It's considered as a domestic beast and many managed to train it and hire it for travelers for an exorbitant sum .

Arthur had previously thought that his incredible defense and his large arsenal of skills would allow him to swim freely . However, it wasn't the case, unfortunately . Even after he transformed into a shark, fish, or even a whale, he would still lose Health at an alarming rate and his Mental Power would decrease exponentially .

Forced to imitate the other travelers, the couple landed on a relatively large island that had a bustling city in its center . The island was called 'The Whale's mouth' and it's, apparently, ruled by a famous organization known especially in the System Universe .

This organization is separate from the system and its advanced spaceships and robots, nonetheless, it has a big amount of players working for it, there are even cultivators willing to do some odd jobs for some special treasures or access to certain forbidden places, either in the Rose Sea or other danger zones .

This organization, also known as the Bull's Eye Enterprise has stationed two overseers in the Whale's mouth, though they were mainly in charge of selling or renting the Retour Poisson to travelers or selling rare metals and ores . It's not a strategical place as there weren't many merchants but, surprisingly, there are a lot of rich people that pass by this place and, more often than not, they tend to hire the Retour Poisson .

Arthur and Lucy headed directly towards a fifteen story-tall building that belonged to the Bull's Eye Enterprise . The building was luxuriously decorated and its interior was no less extravagant with a red carpet covering the whole floor and well-clothed clerks standing at the entrance and welcoming the guests, or so they were called .

"Welcome, guests . "

A young girl with short red hair bowed toward the parasite and the white specter, a sweet smile plastered on her innocent face .

"We'd like to-"

Arthur couldn't even finish his sentence as Lucy cut him off and said,

"We want to buy a Retour Poisson . "

It has to be known that the price for renting the fish is way less than actually buying it . Only the filthy rich people would want to waste so much money on something they'll use once or twice in their whole lives .

Though the girl was momentarily surprised, she quickly collected herself and respectfully told them to follow her . She led them to a wide underground room that resembled an aquarium and, from there, a bespectacled man replaced her .

He behaved politely as he guided the couple around and showed them multiple types of Retour Poisson, all trapped in an aquarium . In fact, some of the larger ones couldn't fit here so he brought a catalog and explained everything to the couple .

"Retrospectively, the older variants of Retour Poissons are more expensive but are more durable and can dive up to 2,000 kilometers deep . "

"What's the best one you've got?"

The man sighed and shook his head, "Unfortunately, the best Retour Poisson was rented just an hour ago . If you want, I can give you their contact information and you can negotiate . Also, we have another Retour Poisson which is slightly worse but can still the job . Its price is 56 million Gold or 1 . 2 million Low Red Spirit Stones or 95,000 High Red Spirit Stones . "

Unlike the Cloud Sea Universe, Gold is very relevant in the System Universe as the operating System itself offers its players many things that can only be bought with Gold . It may be a common thing in

other places but gold is still gold and none can deny the things it is capable to buy . Furthermore, there is another currency used in the System Universe and it's called S-Chips . They are, quite literally, thumb-sized chips that can slightly enhance stats either permanently or for a specific duration of time . They are very hard to come by and are usually installed in the robots procured by the System .

"How deep can the available fish dive?" asked Arthur

"1,700 kilometers . "

Before deciding, he turned toward Lucy, who remained as expressionless as ever . After pondering for a few breaths, Arthur spoke again,

"I reckon that's enough . We'll buy it . "

"Right away, sir . "

The man retrieved a small stack of documents from his storage and briefly explained the buying procedures before getting Arthur to sign . The gold was transferred from Arthur to the man right after that and, from what the clerk said, the Retour Poisson will be brought back soon, they just have to wait for a little bit .

56 million gold is truly a big amount but for Arthur, who has an infinite amount thanks to Zodiak, it's still an insignificant amount . Furthermore, he can use the Gold Attribute, which is an extremely rare Magic, which he had gotten from only one of all the hosts he possessed ever since his reincarnation, this can prove how hard it is come by a person who's able to convert Nether Energy or Mana into Gold .

Excluding the Gold Magic, Arthur can also use Zodiak's ability to create gold from nothingness . It relies on Dark Mana and is more efficient than Gold Magic, however, he won't need to use it anytime soon as the mountains of gold coins in his storage amounts to a mind-numbingly absurd amount .

As the couple was patiently waiting for the clerk to come back with the Retour Poisson, another group of people was led inside this underground aquarium by the same girl as before .

Arthur and Lucy were chatting with each other, paying no heed to anyone else, but it wasn't the case for the unexpected newcomers . The one leading them was a short man and a woman, both familiar to the parasite .

They were the very same people Arthur was about to kill several days ago . Upon seeing the black-haired man and the silver-haired specter, the short Overgod's expression drastically changed and his body froze, startling the female clerk, who thought she unknowingly said something wrong .

The woman, called Alda, also stood rooted in her place, her two eyes locked on the chatting couple . For a few seconds, she forgot to breathe, and only when her young companion lightly nudged her did she snap out of it and avert her gaze .

Whatever happened that day was still deeply engraved in her memories and the dread she felt still lingers, urging her to leave this place at once .

In the end, both the Overgod and Alda managed to hold themselves back and follow the female clerk, who introduced the Retour Poissons .

...

"What a coincidence, huh . "

Arthur mumbled with a low tone as he glanced at Alda, the Overgod, and the rest . Lucy also swept a quick glance at them but wasn't interested, she even seemed to have forgotten who they were, showing how little she cared about that night's events .

"I thought you'd want to make a few friends in case you need them in the future . "

Said Lucy while caressing her marriage ring, which was a new and unintentional habit of hers .

"I would indeed like to make a couple of friends but not just anyone... preferably males too . "

"What do you mean?"

Her eyes flashed with a cold light which soon disappeared . Arthur coughed and explained,

"I mean... I want to make new friends but only males . Women are out of the question . "

"Good . As long as you know that . "

She smiled and nodded her head, not noticing Arthur's weird grimace . Of course, Lucy wouldn't really forbid him from making new friends, even if they were female but he knew she would feel uncomfortable . She feels threatened by any female that gets close to her husband and if someone besides her touched him, all hell would break loose, that's for sure .

In fact, Arthur considered her possessive nature of hers as a good thing, because just like in his case, he also would not like to see Lucy act very friendly with another man . Maybe it has to do with their tragic pasts and how they were betrayed, how they consider each other the only good thing in their lives and wouldn't want it to be stolen by another person .

Chapter 679

"Out of the question . "

Arthur replied coldly to Alda, who slowly approached him after talking with the female clerk for a couple of minutes . He was able to clearly hear their conversation and easily guessed the woman's motive .

"Senior..."

Words got stuck in her woman as she saw Arthur and Lucy get up and walk toward the bespectacled clerk who just came back with a storage ring containing the live Retour Poisson they just bought .

The parasite received the ring and put the fish in his before leaving the underground room along with his wife . Alda and the short Overgod followed them while keeping their distance but just the second the couple left the building, they literally vanished, rendering the other group unable to trace them .

"Alda, what do we do?"

A young girl with short red hair nudged the distressed woman and asked with a low voice .

"We need to dive deep so an average fish won't do the job . Although it's dangerous, we must try to join with those seniors, no matter the cost . "

She cast a glare at the Overgod, who shrunk his neck and lowered his head .

"Which means that you must forget your status and act accordingly, understood?"

Alda was much weaker than the short man but he accepted her words and didn't object at all, not after meeting Arthur head-on and experiencing his magic, which still lurks inside his body to this very moment . Unless the parasite personally and willingly removed the Dark Magic, it'll remain inside his body forever, eating his energy and affecting his moral .

"B-but... they could kill us!"

Another youngling, a boy who looked no older than 15, also joined the conversation, appearing as afraid as the rest .

"We'll be killed either way, at least dying while trying is better!"

Alda clenched her fists and continued walking and looking around, trying to locate Arthur and Lucy, who were already on the coast and ready to depart .

...

"Arthur! What's wrong?"

Lucy supported Arthur, who was about to fall while holding his chest . His face was as pale as a sheet of paper and strangely convulsing . It happened so abruptly which startled her .

"It's Makaze!"

He spat some blood and was gently laid on the ground by Lucy . She slowly poured a High-grade healing potion in his mouth, her expression very different from the usual cold and emotionless one .

"What happened to Makaze?"

"I can feel it..."

Black flames were covering his body then disappearing in a systematic matter .

"Someone is trying to take it... they're trying to break into the cave!"

"Who are they?"

"I don't know but they're strong!"

Arthur coughed one final mouthful of blood before falling unconscious, black flames totally enveloped him, causing even Lucy to back away . They re-did the Soul Bind, however, those black flames originate from Evil Wind and it seemed to be both enraged and desperate as it repeatedly called to its partner .

The very next day, early morning, Lucy was still standing three to four meters away from the still-unconscious Arthur . A small group of people landed a distance away and eyed the two before letting

out a decent-sized scaled fish into the waters . It was docile as it waited for the passengers to board its back .

Unfortunately for them, Lucy immediately noticed their arrival and appeared right next to their leader . The woman named Alda took a step back as she saw the silver-haired woman . She also saw the seniors from afar but decided not to meddle but it seems trouble came knocking at her door .

The fish Lucy and Arthur bought was in the latter's storage, which was currently inaccessible . Lucy wanted to reach the location where Makaze is being held so she could stop the assailants and help Arthur reunite with his partner .

"Senior . "

Alda bowed toward Lucy and didn't raise her back, waiting for Lucy to respond with anything .

"Let us come with you . "

It's quite ironic, after all, the situation was the opposite just yesterday but here she is, requesting to go with them . Of course, Lucy could forcefully take it but she decided against it .

The Overgod and the rest kept their mouths shut, as for Alda, she thought for a few breaths before politely replying .

"With pleasure, senior . "

She motioned Lucy to the fish with her hand and then glanced at Arthur, who was still laying there, clearly unconscious .

Lucy waved her hand, enveloping Arthur in a silvery-blue aura which raised him above ground then slowly put him on the Retour Poisson's back .

With the exception of Lucy, everyone else avoided Arthur due to the black flames covering him from head to toe . They were curious about his condition but none voiced their thoughts or even got closer to Lucy, who sat next to her husband and ignored the rest .

Very soon, the fish dived underwater and conjured a semi-transparent spheric barrier which blocked the Rose Sea's aura as well as the water from getting in .

In just a few minutes, the environment around the fish became inky black and the barrier around the fish was slowly but surely dimming . Alda took out a creaky small lantern and raised it in the air before injecting it with a bit of Nether Energy .

The lantern was like a flashlight, illuminating the way ahead of the fish and making the rest feel a bit more secure now that they saw where they were going .

Unlike Arthur, Lucy had no way of pinpointing Makaze's exact location even if she got closer to she had to rely on her instincts . It doesn't matter if Alda's group had the same destination as her, she'll do anything to reach Timos' world, which was hidden somewhere in the Rose Sea .

That paradise where she and Arthur trained back in Riarravar, it's a separate world which must have a two-way portal . She wasn't experienced in Space Magic but her Realm was high enough for her to sense it and even use it .

An hour after their departure, the fish's speed was slower than a turtle but that's to be expected as it's not a rare one and the water's pressure was increasing the deeper they went .

Four hours after the Retour Poisson entered the pink-colored waters, something so massive that it blocked the sun rays appeared above the Rose Sea .

Its sudden appearance alerted almost all the travelers and forced most of them to leave . It was one of the special combat Spaceships belonging to the system . It was hundreds of kilometers long and its size cast a big shadow over the shiny and calm sea .

"Report; C-Spaceship N-228 reached the specified coordinates . Beginning the search for the target; Arthur MoonStar in 1999 minutes and 48 seconds . "

A robotic voice was transmitted from the spaceship to the commanding System far away from there .

After a couple of seconds, the spaceship received an answer .

"Approval of the search . Must capture the target, Arthur MoonStar, alive and bring him to the X-TR500 planet . Reinforcements are on standby . "

"Requesting approval of the use of the 'device' . "

"Approved . The 'device' is only to be used in emergency situations . "

Chapter 680: 680

"Umm, Senior, where are you heading to?"

Alda hesitantly approached the quiet Lucy and asked after mustering her courage for more than an hour . It has been six hours since the Retour Poisson started diving deep into the Rose Sea and, a few minutes ago, they reached the 1,000-kilometer mark .

It will soon start getting dangerous and the sea monsters are very active here and empowered by the Rose Sea, making them a threat even to the Overgod .

Actually, despite their bad encounters, Alda felt relieved that someone as strong as Lucy was accompanying them . If things turn for the worse and a sea king appears, she was sure that the silver-haired woman will take care of it .

"Don't mind us . "

Lucy spat those three words before proceeding to ignore Alda and gaze at Arthur . The black flames were sometimes subduing and other times rising three to four meters above, even breaking through the fish's translucent barrier but, fortunately, not affecting it .

"Alda!"

Karol, one of Alda's companion and, apparently, the youngest out of all the group, loudly shrieked as she pointed at the front of the Retour Poisson . A large black silhouette made its abrupt appearance, its size was twice of the diving fish and it was heading straight at them .

Without any delay, the Overgod grasped his one-handed hammer and left the barrier . He appeared in front of the gigantic monster within seconds . His weapon glowed with a blue light as it slowly struck the monster, which became more visible now that it got closer .

It slightly resembled a star fish but its skin was sticky brown and it even had a hideous face that would cause anyone to have nightmares . The Overgod showed no fear as he struck with his hammer, dealing a strong blow which pushed the monster and dyed the waters with black blood .

Sadly, the Overgod can't stay outside of the barrier for long so he was forced to retreat after that one blow, nevertheless, that starfish-like monster didn't return and just watched them from a distance before disappearing .

...

"H-hey Alda..."

Peter, a youth in her group, softly nudged her sleeve to grab her attention . As she turned to face him, the young man hesitantly said,

"I think I know who she is . "

Alda knew that Peter was talking about Lucy so she carefully listened to him .

"I've seen a recording of the war between the White Specters and the Undead... she's Eva, or Lucy . If my guess is true then that man is the parasite Arthur MoonStar . "

The moment she heard that, Alda had a realization, after all, Arthur and Lucy are quite famous in the Cloud Sea Universe . The Undead army which marched on the Divine Planet is still remembered by both its inhabitants and the other realms and planets .

'That explains how he transformed into the White Tiger . '

Alda called for the Overgod and asked him with a very low voice .

"Weren't Lucy and Arthur MoonStar banished to Riarravar?"

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"That's old news . It wasn't long go that the white specter raided the capital and saved that Lightning wolf . There also has been sighting of them in the Red Tower . Why are you asking about the-"

The Overgod blocked his mouth and glanced at Lucy, also coming to a revelation .

"It's a good thing we didn't befriend them... they have a lot of enemies!"

Hearing this, Alda was still convinced that being on the couple's good side is better than maintaining a passive approach like right now, however, Lucy left no room for talking and was wholly focused on the unconscious parasite .

A few more hours passed and each time a monster had appeared, it was swiftly taken care of by the Overgod but, as the pressure of the water drastically increased, the Retour Poisson's speed was way too slow .

It has been 14 hours since their departure and they only dove 1,250 kilometers, which is a good place to search for lost artifacts and treasures . Furthermore, a Sea King finally made its appearance, causing the big fish to freeze and start shaking like leaf .

Even the barrier was going on and off, alarming the passengers . The Overgod tried to attack the Sea King but his attack literally bounced off the creature's skin .

"Senior, please help . "

Alda walked toward Lucy, bowed body ninety degrees, and patiently waited to Lucy to reply . Auspiciously, the silver-haired woman didn't disappoint .

Her figure blurred and vanished from aboard the Retour Poisson, appearing dozens of meters in front of the Sea King .

The monstrosity looked like a shark with big and small green circles covering its whole body . Its size was comparable to the Divine Beasts and its aura was domineering, to say the least .

The White Specter stood before the Sea King, nine crystalline ice lotuses spun around her, temporarily blocking the Rose Sea's mental effect and the water's pressure .

Lucy didn't try to show off or waste time, her figure flashed with blue light before two of the lotuses slowly bloomed and in a few breaths time, the sharp was turned into a block of ice, which was swiftly stored in her ring .

This one-sided battle made Alda and the rest gawk, their pupils constricted and mouths half-open . They only sobered up when the Retour Poisson regained its senses and continued diving at a slow pace .

This astonishing happened two more times, no different than the first one . Lucy would appear before the Sea King and freeze using the crystalline lotuses . It appeared so natural and worry-free, which even made Peter and Karol start to admire the White Specter .

On the other side, The Overgod was certain that Lucy was at least at the Exalted God Realm . He couldn't even see her dash at the Sea King, it seemed more like a teleportation .

Ten minutes after Lucy disposed of the third Sea King, an unstoppable current came from above and pulled the Retour Poisson with it . While Lucy frowned, Alda and the rest were overjoyed as if they were expecting it, or rather, hoping for it to appear .

"What's going on?"

Hearing the woman's chilling voice, Alda's body twitched for a second before she replied .

"Senior, this is a rare current which leads to a secret Realm hidden called the Vow of the Rose Sea . It's our destination..."

She hesitated for a moment before continuing, "Actually, Senior, we're looking for an artifact that fell in that Realm in the past . "

'The Vow of the Rose Sea?'

Lucy had never heard of that secret Realm and it didn't seem like Timos' world but, as she doesn't know where the Dark Blade is, it's safe to assume that it's hidden in a dangerous place .

Moreover, the black flames covering Arthur were getting more intense right when the current arrived so she didn't object Alda's decision to let the Retour Poisson get pulled away to an unknown place .