

The Primordial Record

Chapter 1041: Vanishing Acts

The Shiik buried itself in the earth and Rowan agitated the energy of Ascension inside his cells, the blue Aura that dwelled deep in the depths of his cells surged and painted the entirety of his internal organs blue and his body launched into the skies like a spirit being, and he appeared fifty thousand feet in the air nearly instantaneously.

Still naked, but his long and thick red hair now merely reaching his knees moved around him like a shroud, concealing his figure as Rowan hung in the sky, and waited, even as he analyzed the warships getting closer to the continent.

Since this facility was close to the ocean, and the prevalence of the green smoke surrounding it, there was no way the incoming ships did not know this was the area of interest. The continent was large after all and the explosion had happened a while back, Rowan needed to ensure a swift and efficient hunt.

There were twenty-three warships in total heading towards him, a majority of them were like the Falcon Class Frigate that had just been destroyed, but two of the ships that stayed a little behind the fleet were massive, more than five times the size of the normal frigate and held an emblazoned silver ax on their hull, but they all still generally maintained the triangular shapes that Doom Star warships preferred.

Rowan now understood that these shapes were not a coincidence, Trithon, the essential components by which every ship was built had a propensity of taking a triangular shape when more than a few molecules of itself were placed side by side, and the entirety of the ship were mostly made from this metal. It was what made the ships both durable and easy to repair as Trithon could eat other materials to make copies of itself, not counting the fact that it consumed so little energy to operate as a functional airship.

From the signs on the two massive ships, the Silver Alliance were here, or at least part of their forces, Rowan had expected other players to reach here first before them, so either it was luck or the Alliance ran a tight ship.

Either way, it made no difference, their biggest chance to win against Rowan was when he was still a mortal, as an Enlightened Explorer, his powers had exploded to new heights, and he could utilize more of his methods to solve these conflicts.

He began moving towards the ships until he hovered over the ocean a few miles from land, and he stretched his hands to the side and closed his eyes, his fingers making tapping motions in the air as if he was playing an invisible chord.

Seemingly unaware of his presence the ships all zoomed past him, his existence could as well be invisible, and only a few Explorers who were born with unnaturally high perception could have sensed a bit of his presence, but they would have most likely not believed their senses. Rowan could feel the touch of those individuals with high perception wash over him but they could not stick, and he knew that those people were dead.

Except they were Ascendant Explorers with the power of Will, then touching the consciousness of Rowan with their own had corrupted their bodies, in any moment from now, they would wish they were dead. Sometimes, excellence was not a good thing.

The twenty-three ships that made it past him did not stay long in the air, as if a switch inside them had suddenly been shut down, they all began to crash to the earth.

The light of the three suns above cut across Rowan's hands and it was possible to see many fine tendrils that he had spread out like a web, and caught in the ends of this web were hundreds of tiny components in the ships that had just zoomed past him.

Rowan's parasitic tendrils when empowered with the Ascendant Aura turned out to be the best pairs of scalpels he would need while in this state.

He was not yet strong enough to tear all the ships from the air, but he could totally find the flaws in their design and pick out essential components that were related to mobility and communication. The former to ground the ship in this place, and the latter to stop any form of communication from leaving.

The ships were not seamless, and there were many ports Rowan could access with his microscopic fine tendrils, and although the ships had brushed past him at high speeds when Rowan focused all his consciousness nodes on a singular task, the world would slow to a crawl and he could pick out everything he needed from the ships nearly instantaneously.

With a flick of his fingers he destroyed everything he had pulled from these ships, and turning around he launched himself towards the ships below. Trithon was a material that could essentially self-heal, those ships would not be grounded forever.

Rowan felt a breath of excitement pulse in his chest, for in the moments when he grounded the ships and launched himself towards them, he had finalized the technique he would be using for his Ascension.

He was going to be the sun.

Rowan had come to understand that there were two forces guiding this world, and on the surface, they appeared to be simple, but he knew that they just took various forms to disguise their true nature; light and darkness, death and life, Ascendancy and

Calamity, Red Aura and Blue Aura... no matter the shape it took, there were always two principal forces and their nature was anathema to each other.

The three suns overhead were not suns, although he had no proof yet, Rowan's state of being was so profound, that he could detect 'life' and so much of its complexities, making him easily discern that the multiple suns overhead were Explorers, Ascendant Explorers.

These must be Explorers that had reached a rather high dimensional state, perhaps even equal to Elura or Old Man Seed. Doom Star was a world that should have been at least an eight- dimensional entity and had existed far before this Supreme Era, Rowan had not forgotten that fact, there were always layers beneath layers when it comes to a world like this one.

He had been effortlessly killed by that creature who should be part of the World's Will, and that being could easily be a seventh-dimensional being. These suns overhead were also creatures like that, although they were Ascendant.

As if his thought had acted as a Primer, the suns in the skies suddenly vanished. One moment they were there and the next they were gone, leaving the world in darkness.

What replaced them were another seven suns, but this one did not emit light, only darkness. Rowan felt a weight on his body that began to slowly drive him down to the earth. Then a shrill scream caught his attention.

The sound came from below, near where the twenty-three warships had crashed; it was in the location that he had battled Roael, the Blood Bound.

In the air surrounding the small battlefield, pale white mist began to rise, and it was from the mist that the shrill screaming sounds emerged.

Rowan focused on that position and traced the patterns of the mist, quickly realizing that it followed the pattern of attacks made by Roael. Every move he had made, every spell he had cast using the silver orbs, even the long trails of silver light left by the Halberd, bled mist, and from that mist, monsters emerged.

Chapter 1042: Evolution

Rowan was a few hundred feet to the ground before he stabilized his descent, but the energy of Ascendancy flowing in his body and outside of it had weakened, if before it was flowing through large pipes, now it was as if the passage of energy had been reduced to passing through a straw.

If with all his energy stores he was feeling this way, then it meant that any normal Explorers must be having a hundred times worse experience, making any lives with Aura would become a draining and problematic challenge. How were they expected to fight with such a crutch?

Underground he could feel the Shiik becoming agitated as energy flooded its being and its size began to expand, cracking the earth around it.

The Aura of Calamity that filled the earth had become ridiculous, Rowan knew in the past before he was killed, whether it was five hundred thousand years ago or a million years ago, he could not really tell, the Aura of Calamity had not have been this powerful, but something must have changed during this time period for this new state of existence was not normal in the least.

If the three suns belonged to Ascendant Aura then the other seven suns were surely of Calamity, there was no longer balance between the two forces, and what Rowan wanted to discover was if such changes were a new development or if such events had happened before in the past.

If the two forces waxed and waned over the endless time they had been in existence, then this was something that could be controlled by the World's Will to an extent, but if the balance had never been broken, then this signified that the changes in the world must be monumental, and somehow Rowan found himself leaning towards this second option.

A part of himself was missing, and although he did not remember much, he still felt that his descent was not the worst thing that could have happened to this world,

'Because I did not come alone. I brought something here with me... I brought Time.'

What that meant or what it truly signified was not something Rowan felt he was able to handle at this time, thus it was imperative that he quickly grew stronger and assembled his consciousness because he was running out of time. The already chaotic world of Doom Star was at the edge because of his presence and if he was not stable enough to withstand what was to come, his convictions would not matter because he would be swept away like sands before a tornado.

The changes in the world were jarring, but Rowan's battle senses were tingling, he ignored the majority of his speculations and focused on what was in front of him. The future could wait, he needed to build his foundations in the present.

Looking up in the sky and then again at the earth where the flood of Calamity was emerging from the mist as if it was a passageway to another dimension, Rowan wryly chuckled,

"So it has reached such a point? This is why the Ascendants are losing. How can you fight off an enemy that is born from your strengths?"

Rowan was not aware, but the birth of the Shiik was a recent thing and was linked to these changes overtaking the world, for as the tides of power began to shift from the light to the darkness, new and more horrifying Calamities were being born on nearly a daily basis as even light itself was giving birth to darkness.

Even the mortals had noticed, these days, that it was not a strange thing for an open fire to cast shadows instead of light.

The Calamity that erupted from the mist was tiny, the size of cockroaches but even that foul insect looked better than the abominations that were rushing out of the mist, they numbered in the millions, and more were still emerging with every single second, and in a short while the beach was filled with seemingly innumerable tides of bodies.

These Calamities were like ravenous locusts and they moved towards the crashed ship, tiny metallic teeth clanking together as they consumed each other on their route to their targets. Before crossing halfway there were millions of newer Calamities being born, evolved from consuming their fellows, becoming bigger, stronger, and... stranger, as these Calamities' evolutionary pathways began to diverge, some grew wings, other scales, fur, shells, and a thousand other variations, some even taking the form of the elements itself, but they never stopped consuming each other, even when they had a clear target to feed their foul hunger. Their power levels exploded as well as their size, and although this delayed their progress toward the ships, it only escalated the dangers the Explorers were going to face, as the increased size and weight of these monsters had begun to shake the earth.

The mist however was beginning to fade, as whatever energy of Ascendancy was left imprinted on reality had run its course, but the damages had already been done, and Calamities covered the ground as far as the eyes could see.

In disabling the ships, Rowan had also taken down all their primary weapons, and as he had expected, the Explorers within began to rush out to handle this flood of Calamities bearing down on their ship, they could not fight using the weapons or gain a height advantage, they could only survive using their personal strength.

Even that should be a bleak prospect. It did not take much to determine that unless they found a way to prevent the birth of more calamities anytime they used their Ascendant powers then they were doomed.

With the seven Calamity suns overhead, it was expected that anytime they used their Ascendancy powers, Calamity would be born from their traces that would be left behind in reality.

There was little time before the battle was joined but the Explorers emerged from their ships in an orderly manner, the weakest of them were at the Heroic Rank, and before long Rowan was seeing dozens of Glorious Ranked Explorers among their positions, and in a short while there were three thousand Explorers outside the ships, and he finally counted ten Legend Rank Explorers, fifty-three Glorious Ranked Explorers, and thousands of Heroic ranked Explorers.

Standing in the air were two Deific Ranked Explorers who were watching the tides of Calamity nearing their position in a calm manner.

Intrigued about what was about to happen, Rowan sat in the air and watched, he needed the energy of Ascendancy inside the bodies of these Explorers, so there was no way he would be allowing the Calamities to devour these Explorers, but before then the confidence that these Explorers were displaying was still palpable, and he wanted to see the methods they intended to use in sorting out this problem.

He had scanned through the ships multiple times and unless there was an Ascendant who was skilled in the art of stealth, then there was no one left in the ships.

A silent order was passed through the ranks of Explorers and from their storage treasures, they began to pull out weapons.

Rowan smiled to himself self-deprecatingly, he had forgotten for a moment the importance of tools to a mortal. But he knew it would not be enough, the tides of Calamities were no longer endless, but among them, Glorious Ranking Calamities had grown to the tens of thousands and it would not be long before the first Legend appeared.

Chapter 1043: Kinetic Push

The two Deific Explorers were female, and unlike the rest of the Explorers below they were not wearing any armor, their clothes would be described by Rowan as a Ceremonial Robe, colored silver with black fittings, their green skin and long red hair glowed despite the darkness, and waves of Aura radiated from their bodies that seemed to make the darkness easier to bear for those below.

These were the two people he was most interested in, and every moment that he spent scanning through their Aura he was learning so much and tweaking the Ascendant Technique taking shape inside his body.

A Deific Explorer was a step away from Ascendancy and they controlled many Natal Treasures meaning they were filled with more of the World's Will, yet they were still weak enough that Rowan could read them like a book.

With their souls, he was sure he would be able to patch together a lot of the holes he had about the current state of this realm, which was good because, with the broken state of his consciousness, there was no way he could digest the soul of an Immortal Ascendant.

The weapons the Explorers brought out from their storage devices resembled staves, around four feet long with intricate Rune words etched onto both ends, there was not much difference between the staves a Heroic Explorer and the Legend Ranked Explorer held except for the Runic Words becoming more plentiful and complex.

A part of his consciousness node was already taking apart these Runes, using the foundation of the languages he already collected from the souls of the dead Explorers. Rowan's eyes which were a bit clouded in thought focused on the battle that had just commenced below.

There were no orders given, but the three thousand Explorers raised their staves and an invisible ball of force coalesced around the end of their staves and a part of the Runes etched on the staff vanished in a conflagration of scarlet fire.

Using Aura sight Rowan saw a surprising thing. The energy around the ends of the staves was not Aura but was pure kinetic forces, but it was not derived from Ascendant Aura but from Calamity's.

The air was charged with so much Aura of Calamity that the staves were ripping it straight from the surroundings with no effort, and then channeling the Aura through the Runes to unleash it as bolts of pure force. It was a rather simple design, but it could channel an impressive amount of power, especially the staves held by the Glorious and Legend Ranked Explorers that were brimming with so much power the earth below their feet was cracking open.

A closer look by Rowan revealed that the staff had an interesting property, they were all made from bones, the most likely candidate being bones from Calamities. Rowan found nothing wrong with these arrangements, the weaker side was doing all they could to survive, even if they had to wield the powers of their enemies to do so.

The Explorers had arranged themselves in a fan-like formation, and when they released the first bolt of force, it rippled past their formation harmlessly, passing through the well-arranged spaces created for their impending actions. This was not a rag-tag bunch like the first to arrive on this continent, these Explorers were an army. A rather well-trained one, there was no panic or hesitation in any of their actions.

With a loud whistling sound the first wave of force slammed into the charging Calamities with a loud booming sound that could be heard for miles, and it blasted apart those at the front into little chunks. This wave continued to pierce through the formation for several dozen feet before the force behind it expired with a loud clap that pushed the charging horde back.

Crude, but incredibly effective. Rowan quietly rated the weapons.

The entire front of the Calamities had been decimated and the monsters that perished in the Heroic Ranks and above were in their thousands, one of Rowan's consciousness nodes supplied him the exact number, 9,873 Calamities above the mortal rank dead in that single salvo, 8,872 Heroic calamities, 992 Glorious Calamities, and 9 Legendary Ranked Calamities. For the tiny mortal Calamities, their dead numbered in the tens of thousands.

The incoming waves of Calamities were not slowed down by these setbacks, their shrieks of bloodlust only increased in intensity, no fear, only hunger, no awareness, only the lust to consume and sate themselves in the energy of death.

And so with the Calamities, the opposite was the case and they did not retreat only surged forward with more excitement, they pounced on the bodies of their fallen and consumed them with gusto, growing, evolving from the dead, and pushing forward only to be met by another wave of force launched by the Explorers that killed tens of thousands.

The bolts from the Legend Rank Explorers were especially devastating, they took longer to form but they chewed long trails of destruction through the horde, and although they had only fired once, their kills nearly equaled all the combined kills of the entire army.

The Deific Explorers did not make any move, seemingly content in watching the battle, it was not hard for Rowan to piece together that they were on the lookout for him. This event had all the hallmarks of a trap, and their ships were disabled by something or someone in the dark who was clearly more powerful than the mindless monstrosities below.

This pattern continued three more times, and amazingly enough, the Calamities did not overthrow these Explorers despite their number which should have been in the millions and there were signs that they were being pushed back, although Rowan knew that would not be the case for long, for already the number of higher ranked Calamities was increasing, and so was their ability to tank the damages from the force bolts.

Despite the terrible state they found themselves in, the Calamities were thriving, for death was their sustenance. Something would have to change or sooner rather than later, the Explorers would be overrun.

The staffs turned out to be disposable weapons after all and they had to be replaced after just three shots, the Runes etched on them burned out quickly leaving dry flaky bones that shattered to pieces when dropped to the ground and new staffs were retrieved to continue the slaughter.

For now, the tides were in favor of the Explorers, in seven well-timed force salvos, they had decimated hundreds of thousands, and if not for the Calamities coming from behind

that continually ate the mounds of flesh on the ground, the bodies of the dead would have formed a mountain. The explosions and sounds from this battle spread out and rippled the surfaces of the surrounding waters.

However, Rowan was surprised when there was no visible growth in the bodies of the Explorers after the mountain of death they had dealt, but a quick memory search informed him of this reason.

To gain the Aura of the Fallen and boost your growth to a higher rank, a part of your Aura must be entwined with the killing blow. In this instance, each of the Explorers had killed thousands by now, but none of the energy used came from their bodies, in fact, they were using the powers of Calamity against Calamity.

This was a shame, Rowan thought, he had wanted to fatten up these Explorers before he devoured them in order to push his ascension to a higher level much more quickly, but a thought occurred to Rowan on how he might solve this problem and he quickly began

experimentation.

Chapter 1044: Working Hard

No plan survives first contact with the enemy, Rowan could wait for more Explorers to come to this continent and hunt them down little by little, or he could use this opportunity before him now and create a more robust meal for him to devour at once.

He released a minor strand of Ascendant Aura, the smallest that he could create that could still maintain a sort of offensive potential above his fingers, and even that little activity of Aura caused a faint trail of mist to erupt around his fingers and the creation of nearly a hundred cockroach-like Calamities.

Crushing them all before the little critter even had time to open their eyes, Rowan ran some numbers and found that it was doable, if barely, he would just have to make sure that in the implementation of the plan, there was proper balance between the two forces below or else he might be left with no harvest at all, but he did well dancing on the edge of chaos.

The purpose of this test was twofold, to see if the Calamities that were born from this tiny amount of Aura could be easily crushed before they multiplied and second was to confirm the duration between the release of Ascendant Aura and the creation of Calamities.

The first test was a success and Rowan clocked the time between the release and the creation in the second test to be a twentieth of a second, that was very quick, but nothing he could not handle with the present state of his consciousness.

Running a rough final simulation in his mind, Rowan began agitating the flow of energy inside of his body, slowing down the creation of his technique a bit and channeling Aura into new paths he had just laid out.

The next round of force bolts was about to be unleashed and Rowan sent a hundred tendrils into the body of a hundred Heroic Ranked Explorers, he collected a trace of their Ascendant Aura, he had already deciphered the Runes around the staffs and knew how they operated, and so he intertwined the Aura of the hundred Explorers alongside his own to their staffs and he did all this at the instant the force bolts were about to be released keeping the factor of time in mind.

When the next round of fire happened, something spectacular occurred. The frost bolts ripped into the lines of the Calamities, and now it did not push further into their ranks like before due to the presence of multiple Legend Ranked Calamities that soaked up an impressive amount of damage, and many of them did not die, only seriously injured and pushed back, but it was a good thing that these injured Calamities were quickly devoured by the Calamities beside them or the lines of the Explorers would have long been overrun.

From the staffs of the hundred Explorers he chose the bolts, they fired flashed with blue light the moment it impacted against the ranks of the Calamities and the damage caused was higher than before, but this was not the end as an impressive wave of Calamity Aura like a tide erupted from the bodies of the slain Calamities and rushed towards the hundred dumbstruck Explorers.

The rich wave of Aura soaked into their bodies and of the hundred Heroic ranked Explorers, one of them began to glow as his energy surged towards a higher rank, and the rest had their energy storehouse filled considerably.

It was a testament to their experience and fortitude that the Explorers did not scatter at this unexpected phenomenon, they knew that something was wrong, but they had to deal with the Calamities that were growing in strength and charging towards them.

They would leave the investigation to their higher-ups, but the main suspect in this issue was their staff, perhaps a malfunction allowed it to draw the powers of its wielders.

Rowan nodded in satisfaction at this experiment, his Aura inside that bolt targeted every tiny Calamity as soon as they were born, ensuring that the scale of the disaster did not grow despite his intervention.

With a quiet grunt, he released tendrils that would touch every single Heroic Explorer and their next salvo caused another impressive wave of damage, and then when the

tide of Red Aura surged from the shattered bodies and engulfed the entire line of Explorers even the two Deific Explorers above were shaken.

Multiple lights bloomed among their ranks and tens of Heroic Explorers began to advance. Although reaching the Glorious Rank in this state would not give them impressive powers at this point until they selected their Natal Treasures, Rowan did not care for them to become more powerful, he just needed their energy to rise higher.

It was a bit stressful to create such an intricate web on the entire lines of Explorers while keeping everything nearly invisible, but he was determined to raise these Explorers until they were as fat as possible.

There was a growing excitement among the ranks of the Explorers even if they still maintained their discipline. They all knew that the rise of the Calamity Suns should be the best time to advance their powers, but no one was crazy enough to release the energy of Ascension to gain the benefits of claiming many weaker Calamities and harvesting their Aura, something was different about this place.

The next round of bolts killed more Calamities and when the new wave of Aura flooded their position, the truth of what was happening could not be denied and even the two Deific Explorers above began to scrutinize their surroundings with more focus.

What happened next was a slaughter of epic proportions, for as more Heroic Ranked Explorers reached the Glorious Ranks they could use higher level staffs, and push back the Calamities further, and this divide only grew when the first Glorious Ranked Explorer reached Legend.

For a while, it was as if the beach was filled with red fog that was shaken by the force bolts rippling through the haze. The screams of the Calamities were beginning to have hints of frustration for they were being butchered so quickly that they were unable to consume their dead.

Rowan cursed, if the Explorers were a bit smarter they would wait for the Calamities to grow before killing them, but their excitement could no longer be held back, even the Deific Explorers above seemed at the edge of leaving their posts.

The Explorers were filled with happiness, their stoic expressions broken, while Rowan in the air was beginning to sweat as he processed more and more Aura while ensuring all of them were perfectly made in the midst of battle.

This was not helped by the disorganized mode of shooting as the Explorers began to fire at the earliest opportunity they had, and Rowan had to account for all the chaos, even the Shiik below ground was screaming in outrage at the battle happening overhead without it.

'Damn it, this better be worth it.' Rowan growled and pushed more tendrils into the growing Explorers below. He looked at the edge of the battlefield where the crashed ships had begun to stir, it would seem their healing was almost completed.

In the horizon Rowan frowned when he noticed certain shapes coming closer, more visitors were arriving.

Chapter 1045: Eruption

There were still over a hundred thousand Calamities left, but with the addition of new Explorers into the picture that would be arriving shortly, Rowan knew that he could no longer be patient to harvest the crops until they were fully ripened, what was here was enough to make him a Heroic Ranked Explorer, and then everything would change.

There were now more than eighty Legend-Ranked Explorers below, and the Glorious Ranked Explorers were now in the thousands, every Heroic Ranked Explorer was also near the peak of their ranks.

It was impossible to hide the celebratory mood below, while the cost of this battle had been high, because to kill all these unexpected Calamities on the continent, they had sacrificed nearly a decade's worth of Force Staffs allocation, but the production of nearly eighty Legend Rank Explorers in a single stroke was insane, and it was well worth the cost, perhaps if they could clear out the rest of the Calamities they would be able to produce a couple more powerhouses, and then they would begin exploring the mysteries of this place, Rowan could easily read their thought from their body languages.

It was a shame that he would not allow them to remain in their delusion for long, but that was the nature of the game, the strong ate the weak, and he had responsibilities waiting ahead, and he could not face them while weak.

'I may have been sleeping for a million years, I have been killed twice, my children slaughtered in unknown numbers, my bloodline desecrated... I have rested long enough. This war shall not end until Doom Star is no more, and if Primordials stand against me, they shall pay!'

The technique Rowan had been pursuing was finally completed. Inside his body, the blue glow in his cells vanished and above the seven Suns of Calamity seemed to shiver, his body no longer any Ascendant Aura plummeted from the air and slammed into the ground, drawing the attention of the Explorers, especially the Deific Ranked Explorers who vanished and appeared close to his position, moving with impressive speeds even without the aid of Aura. Rowan's body unconsciously shook as he went pale, he had no single energy of Ascendancy left in his body and appeared like a mortal, he slowly

dragged himself away from the crater his body had caused and stood up before the sight of men and monsters.

He appeared powerless in every way, a young boy with hair like a shroud, beautiful like a dream, and filled with endless mysteries like a nightmare, even the roars of the Calamities in the distance ceased, and for a moment, all was silent as if the world had held its breath in expectation. With his appearance, Rowan knew the time of preparation was over, and whatever was going to be happening next would be unrelenting, and he would no longer have the time to plan in peace.

One of the Deific Ranked Explorers floated down until she was hovering a few feet away from Rowan, her ceremonial robes brushing the ground,

"Are you the one responsible for this?"

She gestured towards the Explorers behind, and Rowan looked at her carefully, although she had green skin and red hair, there was a stark resemblance between her and Diane, his once mortal maid.

Rowan smiled and stepped forward, bringing his hand to touch her cheeks. Such an action from a mortal against a Deific Ranked Explorer was madness, and even if she had seen his moves coming from a million miles away, she could not move because she had been enraptured by his presence.

Looking at her in the eyes, Rowan slowly spoke, "I am, now I collect," bringing his hand above her heart, "You should know inside of yourself who I am."

She was silent for a while, and then a sort of realization entered her expression and Rowan watched in fascination as she backed away and bowed down before saying, "Our lives are yours, Ascendant!"

Cocking his head to the side, he examined this Explorer before him, at first, Rowan thought his identity had been mistaken for an Ascendant Explorer, although his body still carried all the traits of a mortal, there was no mistaking his ethereal features, and bearing that was impossible for a mortal to fake, but he knew that this went beyond that reason, looking inside himself once more at the potential that was brimming within and about to burst out, he understood that this was Domination, of a sort that he had not encountered often, because he did not share relation with most.

This explorer was reacting to his Ascendant technique.

Even before he created this technique, it was already rippling with so much potential to rival the suns above, and the Deific Rank Explorers that were so close to the true nature of this world could easily sense that potential, and if there was one thing he knew about Explorers, it was that they were sacrificial.

Yet Rowan knew this was just potential, it was up to him to manifest it into reality.

The other Deific Ranked Explorer descended and an unspoken word passed between them, and she also bowed, the thousands of Explorers behind did not need to understand what was happening, they saw the actions of their leaders and they followed it.

'Interesting...!' Rowan paused and then he smiled internally as he walked past the two Deific Explorers, he held up his hand towards the thousands of kneeling Explorers, all the while as he had been manipulating his tendrils to collect the Aura of the Explorers he had also been depositing a sizable number of them inside the organs of the Explorers, and he could trigger them with a thought.

Behind him he could barely hear the whispers of silver blades being drawn and swung towards his neck and chest by the two Deific Ranked Explorers, but Rowan did not pause his actions, beginning to activate the tendrils inside the body of the Explorers even as the blades were nearly reaching his body.

Time seemed to slow down, but this was simply the perception granted to the strong, and Rowan spoke, "You strike against your god?"

"You are not our god, you only wear his skin!!!" The furious cry from the Deific Explorer was filled with so much wrath and pain that a small part of Rowan cataloged this feeling but he did

not stop.

The move from the Deific Explorer was like a bomb explosion, they called so much energy of Ascendancy that the mist that erupted from their blades shot out for hundreds of feet, and a sound like a billion locusts flying emerged from the mist, but with the speeds of their movements even the Calamities had not yet erupted from the mist.

The moment Rowan ordered the tendrils inside the bodies of the three thousand Explorers, the two blades of the Deific Explorers reached his skin. A diamond-like scale appeared on his neck and back to block the blades, but they hardly slowed the weapons for a brief moment before they were sliced apart and the blades began to enter his body.

Ahead the heads of three thousand Explorers exploded, and a flood of blue Ascendant Aura that caused an even bigger eruption of mist that extended for miles erupted from the river of blue that was heading towards Rowan with blinding speed.

Chapter 1046: Golden Sun

Rowan was in the eye of the storm, the only still presence in a world about to be consumed by madness, and as the blue wave of Ascendant Aura rushed at him, the two blades jabbed by the Deific Explorers behind him easily cut through his mortal flesh and burst out of his front, emerging from his neck and chest, and they began to saw sideways, as the Deific Explorers attempted to cut Rowan into three parts.

He did not flinch despite his mortal body being placed in peril, this was simply a shell for his consciousness, his hand remained outstretched and the Ascendant Aura heading towards him seemed to form the shape of a hand, one that was made from blue light, and their fingertips touched.

The slumbering technique inside his body erupted as Rowan roared the first of his True Name in his heart, "Trrshikrh!" — [Pronounced: Rhee - Khill]

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The first purpose of Rowan upgrading this body was to get a strong enough mental space to summon his shattered consciousness, even if he wanted to be an Ascendant Sun, he had not forgotten his purpose for coming to this realm. It was to finalize his nine Supreme Circles and begin walking the paths of a higher dimensional entity.

Summoning his shattered consciousness was an incredibly risky affair, and in any other situation, such a thing would draw too much attention from the World's Will, but what had been happening under the gaze of the Calamity Suns was an opportunity that he could not give up on.

If a minor summoning of Ascendant Aura from a Legend had created so much Calamity that it took an entire army with sophisticated weapons to put down, how much more would the full power unleashed by two Deific Ranked Explorers all willing to kill him?

That was just the icing on the cake, the flood of Ascendant Aura that had emerged from killing all three thousand Explorers with his own hand creating a stream of Purified Ascendant Aura that would cause such great changes it would be hard to imagine, and still that was just the second level of the planned chaos.

Rowan's Ascendant Technique, the one he aimed to use to become one of the suns in the sky was such a profound application of the power of Ascendancy, that on its activation, even Rowan did not fully grasp how much changes it would bring to the world covered under the light of Calamity.

If everything that had happened before was like igniting a small match in the dark, then what he would summon with the activation of this technique would be a raging forest fire.

In that case, this was the perfect opportunity to summon the first portions of his body. Only underneath this chaos can he begin brushing off the dust of oblivion that had covered him for so long.

After nearly a million years of slumber, Rowan, known as Plane Walker, Chaos Breaker, Reality Butcher, Creator, Primordial, Living Dimension, Destroyer, and the First Born, began his true assault against Doom Star.

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On one of the ships an Explorer saw the moment Rowan touched the Ascendant Aura and seemingly became light before it vanished, it barely lasted for a second, but the damage had already been done.

The light resembled a sun that appeared on the ground only to be covered immediately by darkness as an unearthly amount of mist erupted from that position with a loud shriek that exploded the ears of Explorers inside their ships miles away.

The mist shot out for hundreds of miles covering the approaching ships and extending far past behind them.... No one here could have ever imagined that the entire continent was now covered in Mist!

Even if an Ascendant decides to use a powerful technique, perhaps it would only generate mists for a hundred miles, but Rowan's Ascendant technique was anything short of simple, already touching the fundamental concepts governing the rules of this world, it was expected that every move he made with such a thing would draw more than enough attention.

The approaching ships that were seven times the amount that had previously arrived on the continent, numbering in their hundreds were beginning to stall in midair because reality itself had transformed into madness, as Calamities of untold numbers appeared all over the continent and beyond from the earth up to the skies.

The skies were shattered by red lightning and sheer madness as blood like an ocean erupted around the entire continent as a slaughterhouse of epic proportions was unveiled without any warning. The ship's defenses would not last long against this tide of monsters, and the only reason it existed past a second was that it was made from metal, and was treated as a background prop by the monsters, but that was only going to last for so long before higher leveled Calamities were created that could easily pierce through the veils of the ships.

With the wide range of the mist and the monsters that appeared out of it, several other fleets heading toward this continent were also caught under the unexpected deluge of monsters.

Beneath all this chaos, a silent force, slow and terrible, was rising.

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Scattered around Doom Star, on innumerable continents, in the depths of the boundless ocean, inside the body of men and monsters, tiny spots of gold, microscopic in scale erupted, and they began to arise in the air a few thousand miles away from the ground.

Before long a golden sun arose that shook the minds of countless individuals who beheld it, and the heavens above turned dark with fury, red and black lightning arose to shatter the golden sun to pieces.

Lightning bolts rained upon the golden sun with such fury the sound could be heard halfway across the entire Doom Star, and the golden sun was shattered into pieces, but it remade itself not long after, but once again it was shattered.

After this time it did not return.

Chapter 1047: Heroic Explorer

Rowan was in a unique situation, his technique for Ascendancy was being fueled by the Aura pouring into him at a feverish pace, while he was performing a hundred other tasks at the same time, he was near a tipping point and he needed more of his consciousness power or he was going to fail.

The two Explorers behind him were no longer focused on him; instead, they were battling with the Calamities that saw them as a choice buffet. Although the majority of the Calamities were still at the mortal level, their numbers meant the Explorers had no chance to survive as whatever move they made drained them of energy against what could be considered an infinite number of abominations.

Rowan would have been in the same position with them if not for the fact that the Shiik had erupted from below the ground and swallowed him up. With its impressive armor and size, the Shiik could easily wade through the chaos, and with its mouth opened wide, it began swallowing tonnes of flesh and blood, Rowan was going to need all the vitality to survive what was to come.

Although he would be collecting parts of his consciousness into this body, he would still be hiding its presence, and to carry a weight like this inside a mortal body, that body had to be severely powerful, even if it was perfectly compatible with his consciousness.

Directing the Shiik away from the battling Explorers who were doomed, Rowan told it not to stray too far so he could take advantage of them once they were properly weakened, he needed the time to awaken to become a Heroic Explorer. Then the two Deific Explorers would become among the first he would be hunting for the Glorious Rank upgrades.

Settling down into the stomach of the Shiik, a part of him began to process the vitality arising from the vast amount of smaller calamities the beast was consuming, merging them to his cells according to prearranged settings he had laid down, he would need a body powerful enough to hold the nameless Ascendant technique he created and hold his incoming consciousness.

Rowan had witnessed countless evolutions of the Calamities as they grew from mortal up to the Legend Rank and he had pulled enough data to begin forging the pathway to the Shiik to the Glorious Rank, but first, he needed to upgrade his body and spirit to the Heroic Rank before he began upgrading the Shiik, but there was no reason he could not start the process also. He was already creating the pathway to a higher rank in the Heroic center of the Shiik situated in its stomach. It was the rune that resembled a withered hand. At this moment the hand had three fingers, and Rowan was on the way to creating a fourth.

There was a large pool of Ascendant Aura in his stomach at this moment frying his mortal flesh to ash, but he kept healing it instantly with the flood of vitality entering his body, Rowan had been holding it back for the right moment, waiting for his cells to grow strong enough to handle the surge of Ascendant energy, and when he deemed himself ready.

It was easy to determine that because his body began to easily hold the massive Ascendant Aura without his flesh turning to ash, and Rowan began channeling the Aura directly into the Heroic Center he had created in his heart, disregarding the rest of his body. If he used the same method to consume Aura when he became an Enlightened Explorer and allowed it to enter every cell in his body, then he would need a hundred times more Aura than he had to work with.

He could slowly fill up the rest of his body with Ascendant Aura after his ascension was over.

A normal Explorer would only gain a Heroic Center after they reached that stage, but that was because they had no hope of understanding such a high-level concept, even an Ascendant would find it difficult to understand the nature of a World's Will, but Rowan was in a unique position to do something like this.

His Heroic center rapidly filled up with Ascension Aura and his heart turned blue like a Sapphire. This could not just be seen with Aura's sight, his heart had truly transformed from flesh and blood to a crystal that could process Ascendant Aura to a degree that could be seen as ridiculous.

Rowan's body seemed to ripple as a surge of energy erupted throughout his cells, transforming it in a manner that aligned with the nature of his heart. He arched his back as blue Ascendant energy erupted out of his body from his eyes and mouth, this was no longer just Aura, but a power derived from Aura that could make fundamental changes to reality.

Rowan stood up and walked out of the Shiik, to behold the madness that reality had just transformed into. For a mortal this scene would be impossible to describe, to see billions upon billions of creatures that filled both the heavens and the earth, fighting, dying, and consuming each other in an orgy of violence that could rival that of the Great Abyss itself.

Multiple explosions of power erupted from the masses as countless Calamities evolved, creating a sound like multiple earthquakes that remained ever ongoing without ceasing.

He floated until he stood in the red hair of the Shiik, the powerful creature despite its size and armor was beginning to suffer damage, in the short time that Rowan had taken to Ascend to the Heroic level, multiple Legend State Calamities had been born, and just brushing against their Aura would lead to injuries. The Shiik had been able to survive for this long only because of its impressive regeneration capability.

In the distance, Rowan could see the two Deific Explorers weaving around the battlefield, mountains of corpses below them, but despite the Aura they were gaining from the slaughter, it was all useless because they had no time to process it.

Becoming an Ascendant did not only depend on Aura alone, but many other factors, and perhaps if they could survive this onslaught, they would be filled with so much Aura they could begin the attempt to become an Ascendant.

However, this was a futile dream, for their injuries were already horrifying.

Chapter 1048: Queen Of Monsters

A Deific Ranked Explorer could kill hundreds of Legend Ranks with no issues, but there was not just a hundred Legend here, or even a thousand, even millions were just scratching the surface.

Rowan cocked his head to the side as he noticed that the Heroic Center for the Shiik had been upgraded and there was nothing stopping the creature from ascending to the Glorious Rank and even higher, it could reach the Legend Rank in a single go.

Crouching, he touched a strand of hair on the Shiik, "Grow, my child. All these are yours to feast on, remember my promises to you child, the suns above shall be yours to feast on."

The battered Shiik who was nearly suppressed to the ground by the weight of bodies that covered the entire horizon, went silent, before digging its massive legs into the ground and it shrieked.

Except for Rowan, everything around the Shiik was blasted for hundreds of feet, and in that small vacuum it had to grow, the body of the was covered by red lightning and it transformed into a large fleshy sack that began to bubble and expand drastically.

Unlike the normal times when the Shiik would have to consume the flesh of Calmities to grow, there was so much Aura of Calmity in the air, that its growth had only been stopped by its potential.

The ball of flesh exploded in size pushing back the surrounding Calamities, and like a mountain rising from the earth, it grew until it was a mile high. Then its growth ceased, occasionally there would be a flash of red lightning inside the ball of flesh, outlining the shape of a massive monster with too many limbs.

The ball of flesh rumbled and a massive spear burning with red flames erupted from within it and stretched across the earth, and everything that it passed was devastated.

The earth was cracked and the skies shattered. A wave of flames that chewed through everything like an acid swept across the leg, and the earth exploded again and again as the flames were so volatile, that it ate through every matter it came across.

Anyone who had witnessed the battle in the past against the Ouroboros Serpents and the Ascendant Explorers would recognize something in these red flames, although it was much diminished and could not equal the original. These flames had the properties of Null Charges, whose roots were related to oblivion.

The spear that had been going straight across the battlefield began to fall, and it impacted the ground causing an earthquake and an eruption like a volcano.

From the ball of flesh, more spears kept erupting that impacted against the earth, causing greater devastation that could be seen for miles, smoke and fire erupted from the position like a super volcano, and the heat fried every Calamity around for tens of miles.

The so-called spears were not spears but limbs, all thirty of them and each half a mile long. The flesh sack exploded and the Shiik arose from it, and she kept rising, her armored body with red runes burning with a harsh red flame was like a rising comet, and when she stood to her full size, her head touched the clouds, and the halo of fire that surrounded continued extending until a mile around her were empty of any living thing.

Rowan appeared on the head of the Shiik, and the monster features that resembled a woman had not changed much, but there was now an armored half-mask around her head that covered the top part of her head to include her eyes, leaving her nose and mouth bare.

His discerning eyes looked around and he noticed two figures on the edge of death near the domain of the Shiik, the flames had consumed them until there were barely anything but bones, and as Rowan watched they collapsed into ashes and twin flood of blue Ascendant energy raced towards him, any mist that erupted from their passing were burnt into ash before they could even spit out monsters.

The domain of the Shiik at the Legendary rank was further strengthened by the Calmity Suns overhead feeding every Calamity creature with an overabundance of Aura. The Ascendant Aura sank into Rowan's body and he sighed as it began to feed all his transformed cells, but it was barely enough to cover up two percent of everything he would need in order to complete his Heroic Ranked body.

It was a good thing then that he had various prey not too far from him and the perfect vehicle to reach them. There was a growing tension in his heart for he knew that the part of his summoned consciousness would destroy this fragile body unless he took it to a higher rank. His black eyes shone with a blue glow as he searched for the energy of Ascendancy, and he soon found the closest barely a hundred miles away, of the hundreds of ships, nearly half had been destroyed, gritting his teeth against the waste, Rowan gave a mental command, and the Shiik vibrated in place for a second before bringing its massive limbs into motion.

Each of its massive limbs that stretched for half a mile began to move, tearing the earth apart and destroying everything in its path. This was a true Calamity creature, not the tiny annoyances burning to ash from its Aura alone.

Like the queen of monster that the Shiik was transforming to become, it left a trail of destruction in its wake, and in a stunning move that defied its size and weight, when it reached the ocean after just two steps, the Shiik did not sink into its depths, instead, it walked on water as if it was solid ground.

Each of its limbs weighed nearly half a million tonnes, and her armored body like a mountain range weighed ten times more, yet she strode across the ocean as if it was dry land.

In less than a minute, Rowan reached the first fleet of ships.

Chapter 1049: Crafting Natal Treasure (1)

The presence of the Shiik could not be hidden. Like a walking volcano or turned everything around it to ash, and numbers were useless against it. Under the darkness of the Calamity Suns, the Shiik had a virtually unlimited amount of Aura, and it could use its Calamity Aura without pause.

Its Calamity Aura extended around it for miles, and only the most hardy of Legend Calamities could withstand the heat for a short while before a passing limb holding a hundred times more heat would brush past them, reducing those to ash.

Even the Calamities that were made from the elements did not survive long underneath these flames, because their origin came from a much higher source. The trails of devastation it left were like a permanent stain on reality long after it had passed.

In the creation of the Shiik, Rowan had not cared to add limiters to its destructive abilities and instead chose for it to proliferate. This fitted the nature of Calamity as a force that could not be controlled, and he just pushed the dial to the max and then some more.

At higher levels the presence of the Shiik alone would begin to poison reality, rooting out every trace of light and life, to leave darkness and emptiness, only then would the beast fall into an endless slumber.

A few miles away from the fleet of ships, the Aura of the Shiik was already causing devastating consequences on board the ships.

The heat radiating from the Shiik began to heat the armor of the warships, scarlet, and when its Aura reached the ships it destroyed all the calamities surrounding them, freeing the ships to move once more, but their new freedom did not last. The weaker and smaller ships simply exploded under the direct glow of the Calamity Aura.

Seven massive limbs whipped across the air, slicing through dozens of ships, each of them the size of the ships that carried the two Deific Ranked Explorers, and turning them into balls of flames and molten metal. The limbs reversed their course, destroying more ships on the way back, as a massive flood of Ascendant Aura surged from the ongoing destruction of the fleet into the body of Rowan standing on the head of the Shiik.

Even before this assault had ended, the Shiik had already raised another ten limbs high, and brought them down like flaming lances from the heavens, and it plunged it into the center of the fleet, before a wave of red flames erupted from the limbs that utterly destroyed every single ship here. There were a few screams inside the destroyed ships as the Deific Explorers inside lasted for a few moments before transforming to ash.

Rowan accepted the flood of Ascendant Aura into his body, channeling them all to his transforming cells until they were all filled to the brim, the brain in his skull began to transform, readying him for the Glorious Rank and his first Natal weapon. He grew several more inches, and he now appeared like a youth of sixteen years of age.

Scanning the horizon he nudged the Shiik to the next target. The feeling of his summoning was growing more prevalent, and Rowan could only focus on the laid-out

plans, he was still inside the expected margin of error and nothing unforeseen had happened as of yet.

The Shiik traveled another two hundred miles and devastated a new fleet, the beast luxuriating in the devastation that it could cause with a single motion of its limbs. Its cries of excitement lingered in a world of madness where it reigned as queen.

These new streams of Ascendant energy finally pushed Rowan over the edge and he began pushing for the Glorious Rank, the next crucial part of his plans.

His brain began to light up, transforming into a gem-like state similar to his heart. A normal Explorer would never get such changes in their physique, but Rowan was holding tens of thousands more Ascendant Aura than any Explorer in the same rank, a normal body would pale against such powers he was wielding, but such transformation was designed to still stick to the rules of this world but still bending it towards his favor.

If the world favored only mountains, and no valleys then that was fine, Rowan would be creating only mountains, but the rules never stated there had to be a height limit to the mountain. Nothing was stopping Rowan from creating a mountain that would become bigger than the world itself. He was still following the rules!

Entering his mental space, the difference was like night and day. When previously it was barren and barely larger than a hall, now his mental space had transformed into a valley filled with mountains made from blue gems that extended as far as the eyes could see.

Around a hundred miles in total, this mental space would equal that of an Ascendant, but Rowan knew it was not enough for what he wanted, it was just a foundation for what he truly needed. Calling a part of his consciousness without this plan in mind would be nothing but a reckless disaster, but if he could push through with this scheme, he might just succeed.

What made Explorers unique was the ability of their mental space to merge with their Ascendant Aura in order to create their first Natal Treasure at the Glorious Rank, and so an Explorer had no mental space from the Glorious Rank forward, but Natal Treasures.

These Natal Treasures can be anything, from tools, armor, and weapons, ... anything at all that could be possibly created, and usually, Natal Treasures were created in line with the techniques practiced by the Explorers. A technique charged with the elements would produce a Natal Treasure that could wield said element.

Rowan was going to be using this opportunity to create a Natal Treasure that would do one thing only—which is to contain his consciousness and hide it from the World's Will.

For a mental space to carry a fragment of his consciousness, it would have to be many times more powerful than any Explorer would be capable of, but a Natal Treasure was different because it was crafted with the aid of the World's Will.

Chapter 1050: Crafting Natal Treasure (final)

Rowan made sure his forging plans were perfect, rechecking them again and again even when he knew everything was up to standards. It was not because he was nervous, he was only looking out for unexpected events, one could never be careful enough.

His mental space would not be able to hold the portion of his consciousness but a Natal Treasure should be able to do so, and what was impressive about Natal Treasures was that you could gain multiple Natal Treasures at higher ranks, but you could only have one mental space, this granted Explorers a great advantage over most creatures in Reality outside Doom

Star.

At the Glorious Rank, he would only be getting one Natal Treasure, and at the Legend Rank, he would be getting three Natal Treasure, although Rowan had a separate plan in mind.

Leaving his mental space, Rowan directed the Shiik towards the rest of the fleet trapped around the sea of calamities, while he closed his eyes and focused on creating his first Natal Treasure.

Normally this process should be done after becoming a Glorious Ascendant, but he had all the capabilities to start now, and what he was creating was both delicate and complex while still under a crushing time constraint.

His cells were filled with Ascendant Energy and his Mental Space was primed, and due to the fact that he had been the one to forge his mental space with his own hands, Rowan's access to it was not limited to just seeing the insides, but outside the mental space itself, to the myriad of lights that resembled shooting stars that made up the material of a Mental Space.

To forge his Mental Space, Rowan had first manipulated these lights to create its nascent structure, now he was going to take this manipulation one step further and begin integrating the Ascendant Aura with his mental space from the outside.

This was necessary because his consciousness was so heavy it needed all the restraints he was able to create for it. The work was relatively easy for him, he had planned the structure of his Natal Treasure long before now, and as the Shiik roamed

around the continent destroying multiple fleets of warships, Rowan placed the Ascendant energy in good use and continued the forging of his Natal Treasure.

There was no Ascendant Explorer around, and Rowan suspected that any move an Ascendant made under the light of the Calamity suns would lead to a new and more dangerous outcome. With the greatest Explorers around being at the Deific Rank, the Shiik reigned unopposed.

Reaching the acceptable standards he had made for processing the Natal Treasure, he began allowing the Ascendant Aura to touch his mental space and watched the changes it made. At first, the Aura wanted to change the structure of the Mental Space into a new pattern, but when it recognized that the patterns had already been created and although the patterns it could find were vastly exaggerated but still fit in the rules of this plane, the Ascendant Aura began to infuse alongside the patterns Rowan had made.

Outside his body, a faint blue glow began to arise, and his figure that was sitting down cross-legged was slowly raised into the air, carried by a cushion of Ascendant Aura, before long, the faint blue glow surrounded him and his figure was lost inside an orb of solid blue light that resembled a blue sun carried on the head of the Shiik.

The massive Calamity did not stop its rampage across the continent, and with every Ascendant Aura it gathered, all was funneled to the blue orb. This continued for hours until the Shiik finally stopped, returning to the facility in which it was born and there it rested its massive bulk like a mountain, against the Teleportation hub.

It no longer bothered fighting, the highest grade of Calamity that was born from the mist only reached the Legend Rank, and its Aura was enough to decimate all of them. Whether it was a flaw or a design, the Calamities born under the light of the Calamity Suns could not reach the Deific Rank.

With no higher-ranked Calamity to challenge, Rowan had no pool of resources to simulate the next evolution of the Shiik, and so the beast rested and waited for what was to come. It did not have to wait for too long.

The blue orb resting overhead began to release a subtle hum, and it suddenly expanded and expanded again until it was more than a hundred feet in diameter. With a dull whoosh, the orb retracted, transforming into a stunning blue robe that covered the new body of Rowan.

No longer in the body of a youth but a fully grown man, Rowan opened his eyes, and he was also no longer just a Glorious Ranked Explorer he had shot directly into the Legend Rank reaching a level that would take other decades and centuries in mere hours. He did not acquire three Natal Treasures but had chosen to strengthen his first and what would be his only Natal Treasure.

This was a hidden option in the creation of Natal Treasures, but even if it was widespread, few would choose to take this path, because it could easily lead to the destruction of the Natal Treasure, crippling the Explorer for life.

No longer naked, Rowan touched his robes, this form of his Natal Treasure was one of the states it could take, and then he looked within himself, noticing that his mental space had vanished, his internals had also changed, his bones turning into a blue gemlike state, like his heart and brain, with the blood flowing in his body now glowing with a blue light.

Feeling his spirit shake, Rowan knew that the culmination of his plans was about to begin and he opened his eyes to receive his consciousness.

Around him was peaceful, covered by the Calamity Aura of the Shiik, no monster could come near him for miles, he sighed, releasing a tense breath as he waited for the descent.

It came as suddenly as a storm, one moment there was nothing around him, and the next he was surrounded by a universe made from gold.