

Shadow 1331

Chapter 1331 The Act of Forgiving

Those people who run away from the second floor is not even in Azief eyes.

From the very beginning, Azief could feel that there is an eye looking at him. And he could tell that the owner or the one in charge is looking at him.

At first he is not that mad, but when this establishment send six people with great bloodlust Azief knows that the tavern is trying to kill him and Katarina to establish prestige.

So, he would no longer be polite.

Azief waves his hands again and this time he waves it upward. The rules of the world seem to be dancing at his fingertip.

The Heavens roars above the island. On the sea, the waves suddenly went crazy. The wind blows wildly and storms appears.

The clouds gather above the tavern and then it gathers to cover the entire city.

It only took only a few second for all of these clouds to gather.

A powerful force seems to be condensed and lock this city

People on the street felt weird seeing that there is suddenly a storm on the sea and thunderbolt flashing about in the sky.

But they could not have imagined that this has something to do with the old man inside the Hanging head tavern raising his hand.

The Heavenly Will is used unconsciously by Azief. If he did it consciously, this entire city would be leveled down.

In the tavern, Azief waves his hand and a gentle wind suddenly blows into the tavern. It swirls around the end of his finger and then the wind spirals flew forward

The swirling wind spirals then merge with each other and when they merge, it turns into a small sphere of wind

It is like a small sphere of wind; its power seems to be only be useful in blowing leaves from the branches of a tree.

But, as the sphere of wind touch the ceiling of the second floor, a powerful blast tore off the ceiling, created a storm in the third floor that entirely wrecked it.

BOOOOOM! The explosion shakes the entire tavern foundation

It did not stop there as that storms then travelled upwards like an unstoppable storm.

Then it flew toward the fifth floor like a sword, wrecking everything on its path.

All of this happens in two second from the moment that sphere of wind crash on the ceiling of the second floor. It flew up right to the ninth floor and blew up the top floor.

In that attack, all kinds of protection formation were triggered. There was a golden shield projection but as the force of the wind collided with it, it was instantly destroyed.

There is even a rune that seem to protect the sixth floor. But even that rune was sliced apart by the erratic wind gale that erupted from the wind sphere.

A few dozen people flew down.

Then the entire tavern collapsed to the ground.

But it did not even have the time to fully collapse as Azief waves his hand again.

This time, there is the element off entropy and before the debris off the tavern about to crash onto the ground, it turns into ashes and dust and blown by the wind.

As for other people that was not able to escape, Katarina had frozen them in a block of ice.

Katarina block of ice is very special. It is both a prison and protection.

Azief knows all about it because he was once encased in a mountain of ice.

Azief did not forget that there is a bartender that tries to warn him in the beginning. Of course, like the other he was saved and is frozen inside that block of ice.

He then looks at the dozen people in front of him. Some of them is struggling to stand up and they all look at him with wary expression

Azief smiles and said

'So, which one of you is the owner of this tavern?'

A muscly man with a lion accented armor stepped forward.

'Your Excellency, which city you come from. Under whose order? Are you from one of the Pirate Lords? Or from the Crime Alliance? Why make it hard for us?'

Azief only smiles and said

'I said I wanted to buy information. I could forgive the other provocation but you send six ninja-looking people to try to kill me. That is a bit weird for a welcome don't you think?'

'Forgive us. We thought that you were one of our rivals, trying to undermine our business.

Azief shakes his head.

'That is your business not mine. That is your mistake not mine'

'All I know is that I want to buy information and was attacked. I told you I could buy the information but you were rash. As long as you did not try to kill me, I could still let it slide. I understand the concerns.... but trying to kill me.... now that is crossing some lines.'

'Forgive us, then. There must be some way for this to end amicably. It would be very beneficial if Your Excellency could give us some face.'

Hearing this Azief raises his eyebrows. And then he laughed.

When he laughed, his laugh began to spread. And there is a visible wave in the air that ripples because of his laugh

Like some kind of delayed sonic attack. Then slowly the nearby shops and stalls and building also began to shake and tremble. It was like the prelude to an earthquake.

His laugh created a powerful sonic attack and the one having to endure this brunt of attack is the dozen people in front of him.

All of them raise their defenses. Some brought out shining shield covered with runes. Some unsheathe their sword and tries to slice the sonic waves.

Some uses their palms strike to try to push the force away or to break it. All kinds of methods were employed and finally the sonic attack directed at them breaks.

All of this only took three second but in that there second, the distance between them and Azief widened by two kilometers and the entire street is leveled.

All of the shops crumbles.

Fortunately, there is no tall structure other than the Hanging head tavern nearby if not there might be an even larger destruction.

And Katarina who was standing beside Azief the whole time keep flicking water droplets from her fingers.

Each time she flicks with her finger, a small water droplet would arrive in front of a person and froze them into ice, protecting them from the collapse of their building or stall.

Katarina did this for Azief

She knows how Azief hated killing innocents.

That is why even when he was doing a wide area attack he always holds back. Azief look at the dozen people in front of him and with a smile he said

'Forgive you? If it's that easy, then why do we need the police?'

Azief takes a step, the space was affected as Azief uses his speed and he immediately arrived in front of that muscly person.

That person was shocked and quickly execute a palm strike. This palm strike created thunderous sound and electricity seems to swirls around his entire palm.

Azief saw it, smiles as he pushes that palm to the left. That electrical force, that lightning that swirls around that person palm immediately was dispelled.

'Lack foundation' Azief whispered and using that same finger, he taps the lion armor with his finger.

One tap of his finger and the armor crumbles into ashes. The muscly guy tries to attack again but Azief pointed his finger toward his chest and suddenly his chest is pierced.

There is defensive energy shield that covers the man entire body. But even that defensive energy crumbled completely the moment Azief pointed his finger

This is the suppression of realm.

The other eleven people was too late to react but when they already process what happens, one of their people had already been killed

Azief look down at that body and shakes his head

'Don't worry. He is not dead' Azief then look at those people and said

'Now, bring out all you can. The bigger the chaos, the better' Katarina who stands beside Azief pull his sleeve and said

'You're changing the plan?'

Azief nodded

'Explain' she said. Right now, they both are speaking with each other, ignoring the crowd, ignoring the high ranking member of the Hanging Head and ignoring the forces that would come to this area.

The destruction of an entire street is not something that could be hidden. And Azief did not appear to want to hide it.

But even though they are speaking and looking like they have their guard down, none of the people who is watching, none of the people who is on the side of the Hanging Head tries to attack that old man.

Why do they not move? Simple.

Fear.

They could not leave but they do not dare to attack either. So, they are stuck there, not knowing what to do

And while the people here hesitating on what to do, they still talk to each other like they are standing in a park, discussing the nice weather that they are having today.

Above them, dark clouds gather. On the sea walls, waves are wilding rampaging. Storms are heading toward the city.

Thunder and lightning creates an orchestra on the sky. But, the sight of them two, talking to each other somehow fit with this apocalyptic scene.

Azief look at Katarina and said

'We have no enemy here. I like to do things in a fast way. I was thinking of actually enjoying a few days here. But, since people have given me a reason to act, then I would just go through it all the way.'

Sighing he then said

'And I also need to know what had happened in the past few months. We need to go back. You, for your brother. And I...for my family'

Katarina understood what Azief is thinking about so she just nodded.

'Fine then. Let's have some fun then' then she laughs

Then they both look at the people in front of them. And all of these high ranking people of the Hanging Head tavern gulped.

The moment both Azief and Katarina look at them, it felt like they were being stared at by a predator.

Then Katarina said

'Call your backers. I want to see them' The moment she said it, the entire air of the streets turns cold.

Azief stands there, his hand behind his back and he smiles, standing there like an overlord overlooking the world.

>>

Chapter 1332 Choosing A Side I

At the same time Azief is confronting the top people of the Hanging Head tavern, inside the City Lord residence, there is a middle age man who is rubbing his temple and his expression is unpleasant.

On his right is his advisor and on his left is his Admiral. The one rubbing his temple is sitting on a chair resembling a throne.

He is the city lord Arthur Foster. It is from his name that the city is called Arturia. And he is having a headache right now

'Problems after problems' he muttered underneath his breath. Then he looks at the messenger and said while shaking his head

'Who attacked Hanging Head? Don't they know that Hanging head is not just some normal gathering information places?'

Sighing, he then said

'Who knows who backed them? Even I have to think twice in offending them. This is bringing problem to my city' he said helplessly.

His expression is really not good. He then looks at his advisor.

His advisor is someone who came from the Middle East, Muhammad Ahmad bin Kamaruzaman. People called him Advisor Ahmad.

And his Admiral came from Italy, running away from Italy during the Conquest of Jean, and nobody really knows his name but people called him Admiral Sam.

Ahmad finished reading the report and shook his head.

'None of the other forces in the city had made any suspicious moves. This is really an out townner'

Then Ahmad continue by saying

'This makes it hard for us to know this person affiliations. He also brings someone who is suspected to be his granddaughter. And it seems that this child also has powerful abilities. Her laws seem to be element related laws.

'I did read the report. This people seem to arrive today. They drink milk tea, walk around the paths of the cliff side road and go to the tavern'

It seems that from the moment Azief attacked the tavern, a comprehensive detail of what he has been g doing has already been reported to the highest authority of the city

If Azief did not do anything shocking, there is no need for such an investigation

But since he had done something, the surveillance system that the city had installed quickly create a profile of him

From the moment that he had attacked the tavern, someone had already informed the city officials and the city officials quickly send a profile of the attacker.

It takes only a few minutes for someone to quickly analyze Azief and Katarina behavior and then send a summary of their activity to Arthur.

From this it could be seen that the city is very organized.

Arthur rubs his forehead and then sighed as he leans his back onto his throne and then put down his neck on the comfy head rest

Even though it is called a throne, it is more of a chair that seems like a chair you would find in some executive office of a large CEO of a large company.

He created a very comfy chair because the job is very stressful.

'Do we need to send some soldiers to contain the scene?' Sam spoke and Arthur sighed. He finally sits back straight once again

He put his hand covering his mouth and close his eyes.

This is the one thing he did not want to do. If he mobilizes the soldiers, then this thing might become bigger than he intended

Arthur once again rubs his temple.

Ahmad then whisper something to his ears and Arthur nodded.

'Go, send the soldiers. But only contain the scene. Mobilize the formation to protect the city. Lock it down to that district. Evacuate any civilians that is in that district. Attack only if necessary but if there is no danger, do not provoke either one'

Sam nodded and was about to go out from the city lord residence when Arthur suddenly said

'Sam!'

'Hmm?'

'Contain the scene but do not interfere. Remember this

Sam raised his eyebrows and then narrowed his eyes

'Do not interfere?'

'We are in the dark right now. let's not get our city involved in some factional war.'

'You think this is Crime Alliance?'

'Might be. Might be not. Regardless, it is better not to offend. We already have many enemies. I like to reduce that' Sam nodded and then leave the room.

Ahmad then excuse the messenger with the wave of his hand and then Arthur got up from his seat.

He looks at Ahmad, sighed and then said

'Accompany me' Ahmad nodded and they both walk to the balcony.

The balcony is very beautiful with intricate carving and murals of dragons and other mystical creatures carved onto the walls of the balcony

The balcony had a carved stone fence to protect people from falling down. It has a n open air design to it but it had been modified many times.

Arthur actually copy the famous balcony of the Pandemonium Palace.

The throne room of 'that person' is high above the clouds.

It is like some place of divinity. But it is known by many in that throne room of His, there is a balcony where he would sometimes just stand there and look down.

Or maybe he looks in the horizons.

Nobody really knows since not many people in Pandemonium dares to look straight at the eye of 'that person'

Maybe he looks down at the people under his rule.

Or maybe he looks at the horizons. Or maybe, he looks up the sky and see beyond it.

Nobody knows what he sees or do in that balcony. Was he contemplating his thoughts or was he just simply emptying his thought, looking at nothing?

The thought of the strongest man in the world. When people see that Palace, stretching high up toward the Heavens, the people of Pandemonium felt safe.

To the people of Pandemonium, Death Monarch has always been the umbrella where they shelter from the outside world.

All over the world, people who wanted fame, wanted power, wanted peace, wanted war all came to that place.

Contradictory wishes, tangled desires, all of them is present in that most powerful city in the world.

Those who wanted fame would always have wanted to pit themselves against the forces of Pandemonium.

Those who wanted power would either enter one of the Three Armies or serve as one of the official of the most powerful regime in the world.

Those who no longer want to fight in wars and battles and wanted peace and tranquility, there is no more perfect place then to live in Pandemonium where there are no great power dares stretch their dark hands to.

And yet, those who wanted war also come to that place. Arthur admired Pandemonium. It was strict and yet loose. It was authoritarian yet democratic. It had all these contradictory feeling to it.

It is a chaotic order, if he were to describe it.

World Government is orderly, the Republic are disciplined, the League of Freedom is chaotic but Pandemonium is something else.

At times it appears like a theocracy with Death Monarch as its God.

At times, it looks like an absolute monarchy. Yet, at the same time, there is democratic process when Death Monarch is not present.

There are many consensuses between the great power that even if Death Monarch is not there, the government that he had created would still be there, functioning.

Yet, everyone is very sure that the moment Death Monarch is no longer, Pandemonium would crumble.

Because the reason why Pandemonium could stand and not break under its division is because in the middle of it, is Death Monarch.

And the scene of him, standing on the balcony of his majestic Palace, brings calms to the heart of the people of Pandemonium

And that was what he tried to do with his residence. As a symbol to his people.

Arthur once had the opportunity to go to that Palace.

It was there he saw the famous balcony. He remembers every inch of it. At that time, he was not the city lord and he was but a simple person in a delegation to Pandemonium.

It was during the regency of Loki. If it was at the time of Death Monarch, he would not even dare to step into that throne room.

The design of the balcony was one of a kind, symbolizing the strength of Pandemonium and its majesty.

In that balcony, how many earth shattering decision was decided there? When he stands there, it felt like he is standing on a piece of history and that awed him

Then the Multiversal Convergence happens. And he is no longer just a small man, trying to survive the tide of the era.

He rides the waves and the waves brought him here, to the most mysterious part of the Ten Seas, the Turbulent Sea.

He found an island. This island would then expand almost every day. But no matter how large it has become, it is still a land that is surrounded by water on all sides.

This island is however the size of a continent. That is how large an island these days. In the old days, with the size it now possesses, it would be considered a continent.

But considering that even the continent of Europe, if Asia expanded to such a size that it could fit all seven continents of the world in the past and more, there must be a new way to define island and continents.

It is also the same for the Seven Seas.

Chapter 1333 Choosing A Side II

The Seven Seas has been used to describe the world great water bodies for a long time.

In the ancient times, the Seven Seas are the Mediterranean Sea, the Adriatic Sea, The Black Sea, The Red Sea, the Arabian Sea, the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea.

Then before the Fall, it is the North Atlantic Ocean, the South Atlantic Ocean, the North Pacific Ocean, the South Pacific, the Arctic Ocean, the Southern and Indian Ocean

Then when the era of the Seven Great Powers began, the name of the Seven Seas also had changed.

There is the Pandemonium Sea which is basically the renaming of the South Pacific Ocean. There are also the other seas named after the Seven Great Power.

The World government called the sea under their control the Gaia Sea. Sometimes they would change the name

It is the same for the other world powers.

And then there is the Multiversal Convergence which once again redefined the established seven seas to the current Ten Seas.

The Sevens sea might have been used to describe the world water bodies but there actually even before the Multiversal Convergence, about fifty water formation that can be called a "sea"

It is only redefining it back.

The battle of the Multiversal Convergence had birthed a new world, a new world of new possibilities, a rebirth.

And that also applies to Arthur. He opens this city and when he created his city lord residence, there is a design in his mind.

The Centre Palace or more famously known as the Pandemonium Palace. He imitates many of the architecture of Pandemonium Palace

This balcony is one of them.

He had many things in his mind right now, and he could not help but feel that this seems to be destined.

There is a reason why his thought suddenly thinks about "that person"

He walks to the edge of the balcony and look at the thriving city in front of his eyes. He saw the large market with people scurrying around.

Every once in a while he would see people flying in the sky, leaving the city and sometimes he would see people landing from the sky to the ground

Some people uses super speed. Others use the teleportation hub. Most of them are designed like the old telephone booth.

It was kind of his input on the matter. He kind of like the retro vibe of it.

He looks at all of this, seeing the lights, seeing the people, seeing the city breathing and alive and he sighed

'This is what I see. And this is what I feel. But, I wonder, when you look down on the world, what did you see? What do you feel? I truly wonder what you see' he mutters to himself.

The "you" in his word refers to only other person that have the same balcony as his. Death Monarch, the strongest person in the world.

He doesn't know what the strongest person in the world sees when he looks out from his balcony.

But Arthur knows what he looks at. He looks at his people and when the city is thriving, prosperous and full of people, he feels his heart is full, like he was living his dream life

That is all he ever wanted. It is quite unexpected coming from a man with such a colorful past as him.

He too was once a pirate. He was more than just a pirate. He also had ties with many of the criminal families that now headed the Red Table.

He knew all the Pirate Lords and he is acquainted with all the players of this sea. Arthur, before the Fall, before all of it, he dreams to become an architect.

Dreams are for fools, he once thought. The funny thing is he is not that good at it.

And his family circumstances were not good and so he ditched that and do anything that makes money

Life has brought him to different paths in life. He sighed thinking of all of this. His advisor who was standing beside him did not once interrupt his thoughts.

Even when he is speaking to himself. Ahmad pretend not to hear anything.

Arthur then look at his advisor and said

'It's him, isn't it?' he said with a bitter smile on his face.

Ahmad look at Arthur and then said

'I'm not sure'

But Arthur shakes his head.

'I'm pretty sure it is him' he said with a snort.

'A girl who could use element related powers. And coincidentally that power is ice. An old man that could easily defeat Gabe. Gabe might not be some powerful warrior in the ranking of the world, but he sure as hell not is that weak to be defeated like that. In all probability, that is a disguise'

Ahmad frowned and said

'It is too early to make a conclusion' then there is silence for a few second. Ahmad was thinking of something and then he narrowed his eyes looking at Arthur.

'Arthur.... did you... you didn't, did you?'

Arthur look back at Ahmad and raise his eyebrows.

'What?'

'Why didn't you tell Sam? All of this. I didn't notice it until just now. If Sam knew.... he would not have spoken like that. He doesn't know, right?' Ahmad look at Arthur like he couldn't believe it.

Arthur sighed as he looks at the clouds above.

He saw a few griffin flying around.

From the distance, it looks small.

He also saw the dark clouds that are gathering in the distance.

He smiles bitterly. There is only one man that he knew in this world that would invoke such a heavenly phenomenon.

Even though Arthur is not exactly the most powerful existence in the city, what he excels the most is the identifying of energy signature.

And this energy that he felt gathering above his city, is the Heavenly Will.

He looks at the sky and he could not help but scoffed.

Not out of anger, not out of frustration.

Just the feeling of being powerless. There is a force that seems to pressure his entire city, an invisible force.

And out of the many people in the world, there is only two beings that could mobilize the Heavenly Will

One of them is the Heavenly Will Avatar which is the Heavenly Will personified. Arthur knew some secrets of course.

He is after all also a Disk Formation leveler.

So, he understood very clearly about the connection of the Heavenly Will with the world.

He knew that the Heavenly Will, this force that they have named, has an avatar.

A solid personification of this capricious will that tries to maintain order according to its logic.

And the other one....is the only being that managed to subdue this Heavenly Will

Death Monarch!

Seeing the dark clouds, the slowly gathering storm in the distance, the roars of thunders and the illumination of the lightning, which one of this does not remind you of the theatrics of the strongest person in the world

He could only scoff and shows a bitter smile to the sky. Ahmad who was standing beside him is waiting for an answer.

He looks back at his front and then sighed.

'I want to test him' Ahmad frowned.

'You doubt his loyalty?' Arthur smiles but he did not answer. Any other day, Ahmad would leave it alone.

But not today.

'I need an explanation' Hearing this Arthur knew he could not just swipe this away so easily.

'Sam...is not like between you and me. He's.... hard to read. Even I don't know his true identity other than he used to serve under Jean army. Maybe, he is one of Jean famous generals. Maybe, he was just a foot soldier in the Europe campaign. Or maybe, all of it was a lie'

Ahmad shakes his head and said

'It never bothered you before'

Arthur laughs and then said

'It bother me now.' Ahmad close his eyes, trying to understand this person who he works for and also a friend and then as he contemplated the matter, he understood it.

'The Trickster?'

'That and many others. There is the Red Table. The Syndicate. Karasu. And who knows how much more. They are eyeing me, trying to find an opening. And Sam is one of the opening'

Ahmad then said

'I am also one of that opening.'

'You're different' Ahmad raised his eyebrows and Arthur then said

'We know each other. We fought against each other and then with each other. I know you and you know me. We have a history together. We have a bond, a comrade that fought side by side, back to back. But I don't have that with Sam. I trust him to do his job. But, I don't trust him enough with my life'

Ahmad frowned. He also knew the pressure that Arthur is facing

Arthur then changed the topic

'They have great presence in the other sea. But not here. Not in the Turbulent Sea'

To Ahmad, Arthur words is like a promise to himself. Arthur position in the sea is very precarious.

There was silence between them for a few moment

Ahmad close his eyes and shakes his head. There is a heavy silence that hangs over them. Then Ahmad said

'One wrong move and we could offend somebody that we could not afford to offend. If you are right, and this old man is really "him" then it is not good offending such a person'

Ahmad no longer pursues that matter and instead pointed out Arthur decision to send Sam to the tavern.

Arthur smiles and said

'I have countermeasures. It is a gamble really. If I lose, I might lose everything. But if I won.... if I won...' and he laughed

Ahmad is Arthur advisor.

He is the one that helps him keep his status as the city lords.

Arthur might have created the city, but Ahmad was the one that maintains it.

Even amidst the pressure of so many different faction bearing on this island, Ahmad had managed to secure Arthur position in the City Council.

But, this does not mean he knows all of Arthur plans. Arthur himself is no fool. Six months has honed him to be very astute in the matter of politics.

He is not that wide eyed idealist anymore.

But he is also not quite the cynics. There is a tempered optimism and a hint of skepticism, just the perfect amount

To have hope and dreams but not be too enchanted to these two things while realizing the reality. It is very hard to balance between the two.

'if you don't mind me asking, what countermeasure?' Arthur smiles and said nothing. Ahmad just nodded.

Arthur look back at Ahmad and smiles.

'It is not that I wanted to hide from you. It is just that if it does not go well, I am too ashamed of my scheme. If it does work, then at least I could brag in front of you. That I formulate a plan without your help'

Ahmad chuckles.

'If you could do that, then that would mean I would be useless; he said but Arthur shakes his head.

There is another silence and then there is the sound of thunder so resounding that it almost seems like it shakes the Heavens.

Arthur look at the skies above and he tensed his jaw.

Even Ahmad who wanted to wait for confirmation, had half a mind of believing Arthur claims that the old man is "that person"

Dark clouds gather above the skies of this island. The vast area was covered by this dark clouds and it felt pressuring.

Lightning strikes all over the clouds and each strikes created lights in the sky.

Ahmad ignored the thunders and the storms.

As long as it did not reach the City Lord residence he wouldn't care

And even it does, the internal weather system around the palace would be very much handy to change the weather.

He looks back at Arthur and ask

'And what about the Tavern Keeper?'

'I think he sent you a message' Arthur smiles and nodded

'He did'

Ahmad narrowed his eyes but Arthur did not immediately explain anything

Arthur look at the city in front of him, he smiles a bit and then said

'between the Hanging Head and the strongest person in the world...who do you think I would choose?' He smiles and then he laughs

Ahmad then understood that his lord has already made his decision and he just chuckles and then he looks at the same direction that Arthur is looking and he too also smiles.

>>

Chapter 1334 The Subconscious Mind

The street is silent.

The Tavern Keeper look at the old man and the young girl.

The tavern keeper is a middle age man wearing a shirt with an overcoat and a brown khaki.

He is tall, around six feet five. his hair is neatly combed. And he wears glasses but that glass had been destroyed during the blast

There are holes in his overcoat and signs of being scratched by glass. He is the Tavern Keeper.

He looks at that old man and takes a breath. Everything felt slow in his mind

This is him trying to calm himself down. Time did not slow down nor did he moves faster than time.

It is just his perception is being so fast that everything appears slow. It is his way to try to calm himself down

In this state, there is many thoughts in his mind and contemplation that rises up from thoughts he had suppresses.

And his mind wanders and in this wandering, he needs to find back his focus.

'I'm a Tavern Keeper'

This title is not merely a simple title.

Hanging Head is a famous tavern.

Not because of their drinks.

Not because of their fine food.

It is because even before the Multiversal Convergence, the Hanging Head has been one of the information gathering intelligence hub for criminals

The criminal world after the Fall had evolved greatly. In the past, conglomerate and criminal enterprises runs the world.

Organized crime had their lives protected by politician who is inside their pocket. Politics and the crime world intersect very closely with each other.

But then the Fall happens. You would think with all of that chaos, with all of that darkness, that criminal elements would shine and it would be a golden age of crime.

But, it was the opposite.

What the Fall brought to the criminal world was a world of deities, of exceptional men and women who could bring down the Heavens and render the world apart.

Laws like Karma, Equivalent Exchange, magic and mystical elements is not something that the criminal world was ready to accept.

But like they always did, they adapt

in the beginning, there was a sign of resurgence. The crime family managed to survive the tide and become even more prosperous.

In the beginning, as there is light, there is darkness. It is only because the darkness is so black, that the light shines so brightly.

When people thought that the world would be overrun by monsters and zombies, great powerful men and women rose.

There is Death Monarch, the Earthshaker Raymond, the Illusionist Archmage Hikigaya, the Thunder Monarch Oreki, Will the Speedster, Katarina the Ice Queen, Hirate the Mind Monarch, Sofia, Sina, the Trickster, all of these names rose together.

In their regions where they operate, their name resounded and before long these names echo all over the world

The Battle between Lord Shadow and the World Government is still talked about till this day. The battle between the heavens and Death Monarch, the Earthshaker amazing feat of moving mountains, the battles between Oreki and Hikigaya, all of these stories turns into part of the tapestry of history at the turning point of humanity

Many people thought of them as the light, the pillar that keep humanity together.

Regardless of the evil and even cruel things that they have done in the past, it must be acknowledged that these great men and women had maintain order and make sure that humanity continue to survive.

But amidst this blinding light, many people forgot that for such bright light to shines the world, there must be darkness for this light to illuminate.

That darkness is the darkness is every human's hearts.

Some people did not want to revisit the fact that in the beginning, there is also many atrocities and evil that was done by people that have survived to this day.

Some people thought the world was ending and so they unleash their bestial desire upon other people.

There were killers, rapist, thieves, robber, torturer, all manners of evil and depraved act were committed in the first few hours of the Fall

There were warlords that eats people. There were warlords that rapes people. And then there were warlords that just likes to kill.

The world was dog eat dog.

Only this time it is not in some figurative sense.

And even in this darkness, this cruelty, the crime family brought order to this madness, for even madness need some order to function.

These beast, these monsters could only be tamed by a bigger and more terrifying beast.

And for a time, that owner of the leash of these monsters were the criminal organization that have survived and adapt.

There was order. There is one in the light and there is one in the dark. And for a period of time, this two side of the same coin did not meet each other and did not enroach upon each other domains

But, then comes Death Monarch. At that time, nobody thought that a person, a lonely man could overwhelm the world by himself

All the crime lords had been accustomed of killing their enemies.

If one could not be killed one on one, then send a dozen. If a dozen could not work, send more people and give more guns.

If guns are not enough, throw some grenade at it.

killing has never been easier

Buy a gun, shot the gun and the deed is done. Killing a person is easy. And even killing a few dozen people is easy.

This is the power of the crime families all over the world. Of course, these crime families did not just wily nily killing people like some kind of deranged psychopathic killer.

The way criminal organization work and how they maintain control has always been with fear and benefit, with carrot and stick,

There was never a person that the cartel or the crime families could not extort, could not threaten and could not kill.

But how could you kill someone that is basically like a God?

In the beginning, before he is called Death Monarch, "that person" styled himself as Lord Shadow.

It is funny in the beginning how he called himself Lord Shadow. Some storytellers even tell a story where Earthshaker Raymond was laughing when it was revealed someone styled himself by the name of Lord Shadow.

But, then it is not so funny anymore.

Lord Shadow is a man who became a legend. And there is weight to that name.

There is not one or two people that mastered the ability to use shadow but none of them dares to use the name Lord Shadow to call themselves for that would seem like a disrespect to him

Even after he had no longer use that name, there was nobody that had the courage to take that title

When 'that person' changed his title to Death Monarch, no one felt that it was inappropriate. Instead, many people felt that it is more fitting than his old title of Lord Shadow

Death Monarch had many abilities but when he fights he rarely uses any shadow related abilities. From those who walk that same path of using shadows, their defining feature had always been stealthy and darkness.

None of them would be as flamboyant as Death Monarch who fights like an undefeatable overlord in the battlefield.

But, of course, nobody dares pointed this out to Him.

This is a man that courted destruction and survive everything from the Fall, to the schemes of the World Government, to an alien invasion and then to an immortal alien being and even survive the attack from the Heavens.

Those who dares fought him would always be stomped under his feet.

This is a man that rules over the death and life of the people of the world.

With his hand he could cover up the Heaven and the Earth and with one order from his mouth he could set the world on fire.

There was nothing that could stop him. And every one knows the passion he had for killing people of the organized crime is very hot.

Death Monarch.

When he took that title, the whole world follows him like he is some kind of a trendsetter.

People began making a ranking of sorts.

Those who sat on the highest throne in the world like Jean also called himself Time Monarch. So, people began giving themselves a title.

For example, someone who have learned and proficient in the element of fire and have some reputation in the world would style himself as Fire Lord.

If he somehow styled himself as Fire Monarch, then he must at least have the same kind of reputation or strength like that of Death Monarch or Time Monarch, the two top of the world power ranking

If no, styling yourself in such title would bring calamity.

The tavern Keeper once heard that there was someone who called himself the Emperor of the Sea.

A Disk Formation leveler that was passing that place heard that there was someone that called himself the Emperor of the Sea

Even "that person" did not style himself as Emperor but there is someone who pull up their own basket so that Disk Formation leveler wanted to see what kind of person this is that dare to styled himself like that.

That person who claims himself the Emperor of the Sea would then be killed by that Disk Formation leveler.

The Tavern Keeper does not know why his mind suddenly tangent off to Death Monarch. He was thinking about his title but then his mind wander off.

But he also knows something.

That this is his subconscious mind telling him something.

'What is it that you are trying to tell me?' he thought to himself

>>

Chapter 1335 Realization

His subconscious mind is trying to tell him something and he is trying to decipher his own thoughts so that he could listen

Right now, even the floating dust is slow in his eyes.

But while everything seems to be slowing down around him, did not mean he could move as fast as his mind

Time still moves like normal it is just that his perception become so fast at this moment that everything seems slow down like he is in a slow motion video

In this state of enhanced perception, he is trying to understand the identity of this old man and that young girl

It is impossible for such a person to remain unknown. With such strength and such demeanor, it doesn't seem like the old man is a reclusive expert.

So, he must be someone.

Sooner or later, that old man and that young girl is something that he has to face. He looks at that old man and that young girl

This time he really looks at them. before, his mind is cluttered but now suddenly, things suddenly become so clear.

He is the Tavern Keeper, he reminded himself. It is not merely a title people called him. It is a title that is given to him by the organization.

The Tavern Keeper is the eyes and ears of the organization. But his organization does not only have one eye nor that it only has one ears.

Hanging Head is present in all Ten Seas. They would take root in the most prosperous city of pirates in the ten seas.

So, they are only ten of such tavern in the seas of the world. If a new sea is discovered, then a Hanging Head tavern would be established there.

On the sea, regarding the power and forces of pirates, the information of this forces and factions, Hanging Head is in charge of it.

On land, it would be another organization.

And he is the Tavern Keeper of the Turbulent Sea in the city of Arturia.

His name is Robert. Robert Redford. He keeps reminding himself that so that he would not forget.

It is easy to get lost in your own thoughts when he activated this state of pure concentration.

Time is running out for him.

he could feel that his mind is once again trying to go off tangent, trying to go to someplace else in his mind. he tries to focus and then it clicks

Suddenly everything seems to make sense and he had already solved the mystery that has been eluding him since he saw that old man

Everything clicks and then time moves like normal again for him. the dust that seems slow before suddenly rushes by him

He activated a bit of his energy to make sure that the gust of dust did not enter his eyes.

In front of him, there is that little girl looking at him, her eyes are as cold as the winter wind.

And there is that old man, standing there, straight like a tree his hand behind his back, his face shows no fear but instead carved a terrifying smile.

Like a God that look down upon mortals. Before, it did not look that imposing.

But now, knowing what he knows now, he felt that he was really small in front of that old man

The little girl words rings in the air

'Call your backers. I want to see them' it echoes, a declaration of war. Most people would never have been as brave or as domineering as these two people.

Robert could never understand why something so simple could devolve into such a calamity.

But when his mind understood some things, he immediately understood why.

'Hey. What you are waiting for? Call your backers. Or are you fine with us messing with the tavern?' Katarina said and the old man chuckles a bit

Robert pales in his face and he restrained himself from showing fear.

But even then, he could not help but be pale in his face

Before, he might still have some confidence to fight against these two people.

Even though the other island is not that close if the organization really takes this seriously, they could send a few Battlestar to quickly tides over the turbulent energy that is present all over the Turbulent Sea.

But now, he does not want anyone to come.

Because he knew the ending of anyone who would come to this island and clashed with these two people

Because Robert finally understood who he was dealing with.

This is what his subconscious mind trying to tell him. this is why his subconscious mind keep veering off to Death Monarch.

He now understands why the old man so easily could defeat Gave.

why he could easily destroy the tavern with one stomp of his feet.

Why all the protection formation that could even withstand the bombardment off fifty Disk Formation leveler seems so fragile under the attack of this old man.

There is only reason and that reason was that the old man is a Divine Comprehension leveler.

That is the only way to explain this one sided battle

And it is known that on Earth, there is only three Divine Comprehension leveler.

There is Jean the Time Monarch and then there is the Illusionist Archmage Hikigaya.

Jean is in the Republic, trying to make sure it would tear itself apart. And he is also busy all over the world, doing God knows what

Hikigaya would not go out of Japan as he had built himself a formation that surround that entire island nation.

Then that leaves only one person. The person that have been absent for six months. A man whose return is dreaded.

Death Monarch Azief!

Yes, Robert believe right now, the one in front of him, standing there like there was nothing in this world that could move him, is the one and only Death Monarch.

'If this old man is really Death Monarch, then I should just surrender' he thought to himself. His organization might be powerful.

But fighting Death Monarch?

That is basically dragging Pandemonium into battle.

And no matter how arrogant his leader is, even his leader would probably serve his head on a platter if it could appease the number one power in the world.

'Surrender' he thought to himself.

As long as he surrenders, there is still chance for survival.

From what he could tell, Death Monarch only wanted an information. He could give every information that he has to Death Monarch.

It is not too late. No one gets killed and there is no deep resentment. This is the perfect moment to surrender.

Robert take a step forward and wanted to say something to Death Monarch when whooshing sound fills the sky.

This whooshing should tear apart the wind and created multiple blast of sonic booms that it even drowned out the sound of the thunder up there in the sky.

Robert looks up and he frowned. There is a large group of people that have appeared. The space around them distorted and swaying.

This is sign that these people have been flying in the sky with great speed to reach this area. Robert could guess why they have come.

They are rendering aid to him but he did not feel happy at all right now

Instead, he had the feeling that things are getting worse. Robert was not the only one looking at the sky.

The nearby people that is on the other streets had also been coming to this leveled down streets and look at the commotion.

But now before they could even understand what caused the commotion, there is people coming from the sky

'That's the people of the City Lord!' someone shouted. They could easily recognize these group of people to be the soldiers of the city lord.

They all wear white armor and their boots and their entire armor looks like they stepped out of some fantasy story. There is greaves and metal boots.

But of course, all of the armor is not normal armor that is crafted with iron.

Instead it is crafted with Verilion

It is not easy to outfitted an entire squad with such iron.

Verilion is strong, durable, and malleable. It could also channel energy and could act as a circuit or conduit for energy.

And because of that it is very expensive. But the City Lord managed to outfit an entire squad with an armor made from Verilion.

'The soldier of the city lord!' some shouted. And everyone knows that things are becoming even bigger. All the people in the city had also realized that something has gone wrong.

There are dark clouds covering the entire city and thunder and lightning. There are also storms that are coming to the port.

And to those who are in Disk Formation, they all slowly could feel a powerful pressure descending on the entire city.

>>

In the Turbulent Sea, certain acts like using Divine Sense is severely limited.

Added with the formation embedded on the bedrocks of the city it forms an interference against people's Divine Sense.

So, not many people could guess the source of this pressure.

But to those who are on the Hanging Head District, they all could see that the source of this pressure, the reason why the sky seems to be crazy is because of the old man.

The clouds above his head are the thickest and produce the largest concentration of pressure that it creates ripples in the air.

There are some people that quickly run away from the district knowing that it might be a site of a great battle.

If the City Lord has even dispatched the city soldiers, then a battle is inevitable. Robert becomes even more nervous and anxious seeing that the soldiers slowly descend down from the sky.

'Why is Arthur suddenly sending his soldiers right now?' Robert was the one that asked for assistance.

This is true but right now he really regretted his decision earlier.

This is simply his own fault. He wanted to deescalate the situation not escalate it. They landed on the ground and someone walked to the front.

'Sam' Robert mutters.

'It is the Admiral' someone said from the crowd.

Sam looks at the old man and the little girl beside that old man and he said

'Let us talk' Azief raises his eyebrows and there is a smile on his face. Robert was a bit relieved. He thought that Sam would do something rash.

'Before that, let us dismiss some of the pressure' Sam suddenly said and he brought out something like a small remote out from his sleeve.

Then he pushed the button on that remote. At the same time, the entire city seems to rumble.

'What is happening?' some of the people shouted.

The city of Arturia is very large.

While it appears sparse outside of the inner city wall, that is only because there is too much space. And because of that some people thought that the city Arturia is only in the inner city wall

It is actually very vast and large and right now this city is trembling.

The nearby mountain shakes, the hills split apart. It was like the entire land beneath the city is moving.

The people who did not know what happened in the Hanging Head probably would not connect the current events that is happening to someone pushing a button

On the nearby shore, the water seems to be drained suddenly and there is a pulsating spirals that suddenly appears near the shore.

It sucks the water into the spiral. There were some people who were still playing there even though it is already night

'Watch out!' they yelled at each other. Some flies to the other and help pull them from the spirals they fly to the shore

It was then that all the people inside the city boundaries could hear a droning sound.

This droning sound echoes all over the city like the city is a cave trapping the sound.

Everyone was shocked at this. Even Azief who were far away from the shore could hear the droning sound.

He raised his eyebrows, feeling interested.

He did not think that Arturia had such a defense mechanism embedded in the city

Azief did not care whether there is something or not. Unless that something is strong enough to kill a Divine Comprehension leveler, he did not worry at all.

At the same time that Azief and Sam is facing each other, those who are close to the shore was shocked when they saw something emerged from the sea bed.

First it looks like a pillar and as it emerges it creates large waves that strikes the shore and bring about a thrashing sea upon the people who were setting up stall on the beach.

A powerful fluctuation of energy erupted, creating a small ripple of shockwave that blasted all the water even further away.

The people on the shore all either punch the block of water coming toward the shore, create walls of Elements, and many other methods to prevent it from pushing them away.

'What is that?' it is night and it hard to see the around the darkness on the beach

But for anyone who were at least Energy Disperse Stage, their eyesight could easily see in the dark if they wanted to.

And what they saw was a gigantic muzzle pointed toward the city

It was a large cannon and the droning sound comes from the cannon hole.

The whirring sound become even more clear and it seems that it is recharging.

All over the heaven and Earth, the lightning and the thunders were drowned out by the sound of that droning.

The thunder that was striking the clouds when it suddenly strikes down toward that cannon but instead of being deflected or exploded, the thunder seems to enhance the cannon.

The cannon moves and its direction is the gathering storms in the nearby point.

The moment that cannon pointed its muzzle toward the storm the cannon shines and the runic designs on it glows like the sun.

And the storms were sucked into the cannon hole.

And then almost immediately, this titanic cannon once again moves its muzzle toward the city, pointing toward the Hanging Head tavern

Specifically pointing toward Azief.

Azief could see all of this with his Divine Sense. And Katarina could also see it. But both of them instead of showing any noticeable fear of stress only smiles.

'I like your approach' Azief as he looks back at that man leading the armored soldiers. Then he added

'It is a lot like mine'

Robert on the other hand is now panicked. If the City Lord soldiers fought with Death Monarch and Katarina, then the fate of this city would probably be doomed.

Robert wanted to run and quickly tell Sam that this old man is actually Death Monarch and nothing good would come in provoking him

Before he could even come to the Admiral suddenly a portal opened up not far away from the Hanging Head tavern

Azief look toward that portal and coming out of that portal is another group of people.

These people did not wear armor like the earlier group but instead, wear all kinds of clothes. Some look elegant, some look shabby. Others wear an iron suit like some kind of an iron man.

But all of them have fluctuations of energy that is pressuring the space and time around them.

'Disk Formation levelers all of them. Didn't think there would be so many Disk Formation leveler now in the world' he mutters to himself

They all lined up in horizontal lines. And they are slowly encircling him and Katarina.

Someone step up forward. He wears a golden robe with gray hair and golden beard. He is a middle age man with large bushy beard and stout body.

'Hey, old man. This city has its own rules. Compensation is in order' Robert slap his own forehead. Even the Merchant Association want a piece?

'Idiot' he thought.

That man who was speaking to Death Monarch is one of his collaborators, Enrico one of the heads of the Merchant Associations that was sent to the Turbulent Sea.

Robert was about to persuade Enrico to bring back his thug to his Merchant Quarters but even before he could go up to this second group, more portals opened up

'Shit! Fuck!'

By now Robert could not help but curses in his mind. Hanging Head business is tied with many other businesses.

It is then not surprising to see those who were affected come here.

'This is really not a good time to help us' He thought to himself.

There is people coming out of these portals each one unleashed their energy and the entire space around the Hanging Head district is distorted.

The wind that blows did not know where to go as it was crushed by the overbearing pressure from the people coming out from these portals.

It even affected the sky above as the clouds opens up even pressuring the thunder and lightning to be overwhelmed by the accumulation of so many powerful energy gathering in one place.

The air felt suffocating

When the many factions heard that the Hanging Head was attacked they were not quite concerned.

They did not mind for the Hanging Head to be a bit weaker. The fight between interest in this city is quite intense.

While they do not actively seek other faction destruction, they did not actively help others since they are all competing against each other.

But when they heard that the entire tavern was destroyed, that all of the higher ups of the Hanging Head tavern was forced out from the Ninth Floor, then they knew things was getting serious.

They did not mind having Hanging Head a bit roughed up but being destroyed?

That would bring the full might of so many interested parties in the sea to bear down on this city.

There is the Ten Warlords of the Sea. And if Hanging Head is destroyed, then one of these warlords would probably come here.

There are many rumors of the Hanging Head connection with one of the Ten Warlords of the Sea.

Chapter 1337 Factions of the City

But that is not the only thing that have made them move.

It was also the fact that the person who was attacking the tavern is an outsider.

The factions here might have great rivalry with each other, but they also know to guard their interest.

There is a reason why these factions did not destroy the other factions but only stopped at rivalry. They do not want a war with each other and the other one is to monopolize this island city.

If Hanging Head is destroyed or even any other factions that have stabilized here were to be destroyed, then all of their efforts would go down the drain and outside influence would come in.

They already created a stable ecosystem here to feed each other and benefit each other. How could they let an outsider change these things?

So, all of the factions and forces all over the city had now come to defend the Hanging head tavern and threw out the invaders.

They were shocked of course to find that the invaders are only two people. But that did not mean they would let down their guard.

Instead they felt even warier. Two people managed to mess up the Hanging Head. That alone speaks of the two people's ability.

Azief of course could not have thought that his simple act of domineering could bring such an effect.

He truly is a magnet for trouble.

Azief was not afraid even when he is surrounded by all of these people ready to pounce on him.

Instead, he felt more excited. It is a pity that he knows he could not fight to his heart's content.

Fighting them with his full power would be like an adult fighting a child.

Katarina came closer to him and said

'How should we deal with them?'

Azief thought for a while, took a swift glance at the people around and he said

'Let's not kill them. It is enough to knock them out. Or in your case, freeze them' Katarina frowned but she nodded.

More portals opened up as Azief and Katarina were talking.

By now, there is already ten portals all over the entire district. Each portal seems to belong to some faction and forces in the city.

There was that portal that belonged to the stout old man. Some of the portals are situated on the ground. Some of them are on the sky.

Some people are floating on the sky and some of them on the ground.

They all came from different organization and they all look at that old man and the young girl. They all encircle Katarina and Azief.

The accumulation of such powerful energy all at the same place changes the colors of the sky.

Some people practice negative power causing the sky to turn dark red.

Some practice the Way of Heaven, the path that conforms to the Heavenly Will and one part of the sky is resplendent with golden color.

The clouds above the Hanging Head district had all dissipated because none of them could withstand the pressure of these people.

The ground cracks and depressed a few feet down. Any stalls and building in the Hanging Head district that did not have high quality protection formation are all cracking like there is a shockwave slamming into them.

The sound of the wooden stalls and building cracking and crumbling echoes all over the area.

Even the people in the distance could feel it and anyone who is not at least Seed Forming could not even approach that area without feeling the weight of a mountain on top of their head.

Sam who were the first on the scene feel awkward right now. He looks around and he could not help but clench his fist.

'All of the ten faction's leaders in the city is here' he mutters to himself.

He was the first one that was here and he was just about to talk with the old man.

Arthur tells him to not interfere but he had his own plans. He wanted to recruit this old man to the employ of the city.

Of course, he did not do this for himself. Regardless of what Arthur thought of him, he really wanted to stay here in this island far away from the mainland, far away from the Seven Great Powers sphere of influence.

He does not really like that the influence of the City Lord being eroded by the many factions in the city.

So, his plan is quite simple. He would first show some strength so that he could talk to the old man as equal and then dangle the carrot.

He knows people like the old man respect strength.

If he did not show any strength, the old man would not respect him and that is why he summoned the City Cannon.

Some cities put their cannons on their walls.

And of course these cannon is not normal cannon.

On the Lotus Order Palace, their cannon could even theoretically bombard the Moon. It is powerful enough that it could probably wipe out an entire continent.

And the Cannon of this city while its power is not as exaggerated as the Lotus Order Cannon, it also have its own uniqueness.

It is this cannon that enable Arthur and the City Lord residence to still remains in this city even after all of these forces settles inside it.

He had shown the power of the city so he then would offer great benefits to the old man, recruiting him into the City Lord Residence.

But now, all of these people is coming out of the woodwork and that is changing his plan. And they do not send their envoys or their right hand man. They directly came to the district.

One of the people descend on the ground and landed a few feet away from him.

This man is muscly wearing an armor that have the face of a dragon carved onto the chest. He had bright blonde hair, a chiseled face, and there is a valiant air around him

His entire attire is like something out of a fantasy novel.

An armor made from dragon bones. There is only one person in the city that have what it takes to wear this kind of armor.

He looks at him and then said with a cold tone

'Sam. This is our problem. There is no need for the City Lord people to take action'

There is silence but it is only for a moment

Sam restrain his anger and said.

'This man had created a large destruction all over the district. He must be brought to the City Lord to explain his action. It is not the place for you to meddle'

The man then patted Sam shoulder and Sam could feel a powerful pressure pushing him down but he remains standing there.

His feet however depressed down to the ground and the ground itself suffer spatial pressure as the ground began to crack under the pressure.

All of that just from a pat. Sam knows that their level is the same. They are both Disk Formation levelers. But there are differences between them and that is the man that was patting his shoulder also walks the path of body refinement.

He could probably rip out a mountain from the Earth, like someone pulling out a stake from the ground.

Sam looks at that man with his eyes shooting glares

'Eudorus, do not go over the lines'

'The Mercenary Association would take it from here' Sam gritted his teeth and slap Eudorus hand from his shoulders.

Then Eudorus look toward Azief with a confident smile on his face.

'Old man, I am Eudorus Menou from the Mercenary Association. Surrender and we will be lenient'

'I am Enrico from the Merchant Association. Surrender and we will be lenient'

'I am Drake from the Adventurer Guild. Surrender!'

Then the other people that have come also announce their affiliation.

The demands are mostly the same, asking Azief to surrender.

Azief on the other hand ignores all of these people and instead is talking with Katarina, seemingly not caring that there were more people that is coming out from that portal.

Most of the people that is coming out from the portals now are Seed Forming leveler.

Many people who were looking at this battle using things like the All Seeing Telescope from the distance could see that those Seed Forming leveler are the soldiers of these forces.

The City Lord prohibits any individuals or groups from having any private force of military.

And this law is regulated very strictly. But, the people knows that the City Lord could not really force his hands on certain factions in the city.

Because to enforce that law onto these people is to provoke the bigger existence that backs all of these groups that have settled inside the city.

Outside of the Seven Great Powers, Seed Forming is the top level power. This is because Disk Forming levelers are usually the top members of any organizations

And they are not that free to move since the Act for Metahuman was enacted jointly by all the Seven Great Powers.

Any moves of Disk Formation levelers could change the world as each one of them is basically a nuclear weapon.

The damage that they could do to the world is very significant and as such they are supervised very strictly.

Other than when Earth is under crisis, most Disk Formation levelers would rarely fight or interfere in any matters of the world unless certain conditions are met like the matters of the Burundi Incident.

It is a battle between two Disk Formation leveler

And this battle had created a catastrophe that included tens of thousands of people dying in a few collateral damage between these two combatant

Those two did not even know that they killed all of those people in the heat of their battle. Since then the regulation of Disk Formation leveler become even stricter.

Even most of the leaders of the Seven Great Powers are on the Disk Formation level. It is actually already unusual that there is so many Disk Formation leveler in this city

Reportedly there is only a few thousand Disk Formation levelers since Death Monarch first become Disk Formation levelers.

It might seem a lot but when you compare that to the human population, a thousand people is very small group of people.

Many of them seclude themselves in many places in the world.

Most of them don't want to waddle in the murky water that is the Seven Great Powers and the battle between these great powers.

Some just wanted to live freely and some believe that this is the path of getting stronger.

While some others are hired or recruited by the Seven Great Powers as generals.

Hence, for some forces in the world, Seed Forming leveler is top existence since there is too little Disk Forming leveler compared to Seed Forming.

>>

Chapter 1338 The Sudden Battle

They keep streaming out from the portals

All of the portals seems to be connected to the headquarters of these organizations and factions and they are bringing reinforcement to the Hanging Head.

The moment these people come out from the portals some of them flew to the sky, pointing their weapons toward Azief and Katarina.

Their body unleashed great power that causes the space around them to spiral

Azief then look at these people around him.

By now they have fully encircled him and Katarina.

Some of them floats in the sky and some of them are on the ground. Some of them are in the distance, writing characters toward the space in front of them, no doubt creating formation or an array of entrapment.

Some uses hand seals to mobilize the energy of Heaven and Earth.

Azief chuckles and said to himself

'They are really going all out on me. I don't know if I should be flattered or offended'

Azief then turns to Katarina and said

'Remember don't kill them. Karma is no joke. And from what I have seen, not every one of them are truly evil. Of course, there are some' he said with a cruel smile on his face.

The thunder in the sky roars and the lightning illuminated the dark night.

'Your Excellency' Sam shouted from the distance.

'If you come with me to the City Lord residence, I would make sure that these people retreat' Sam suddenly declares.

The ten factions that have gathered all around the area all went silent. The ten leaders that have gathered all look at Sam but their eyes are unkind.

And while they did not say anything, it is clear they are not happy with Sam words.

Azief also sees all this and with one glance he could tell that these people all have conflicting point of interest.

Azief did not have to know all the details to speculate on certain things. Politics and scheme is something that he used to experience before as Azul.

He forgotten some things but he still remembers a lot.

And there is also the fact that he is also the ruler of Pandemonium. How could he not be unfamiliar with such conflict between people?

Azief also could tell that this Italian looking man was not really intending to attack him but simply to threaten him and then dangle him the benefits.

If he is not wrong, this person intention is probably to recruit him. But that would be really a funny story

Azief look at that Italian-looking person and then ask

'Give me your name'

'People called me Sam. I am the Admiral for the City'

'Sam. Italian?'

He nodded.

'I appreciate the offer but I have to decline' Then he looks toward that muzzle that was sticking out from the sea and waves his hand.

And then in the sky, there is a titanic golden palm that appears and even before anyone could react that golden palm slam itself to the cannon and a large explosion occurs in the part of that sea.

The shockwave created ripples of blast that chain together. The shores of the beach exploded sending a mass amount of sand to flew toward the clouds.

The cliff side road exploded. Everyone was shocked.

Azief then turns and look at Sam and he said with the most pleasant voice he could muster, with a smile on his face

'Sam, while I like the way you approach the matter, I do not like to be threatened' Katarina only chuckles.

All of the ten leaders of the factions that have come to render aid frowned.

Robert was about to scream to everyone the identity of Azief when suddenly the blast from the shockwave finally arrived to this area.

'Create barriers!' The Seed Forming levelers all uses their skill to create powerful energy barrier.

But the sound of the shockwave fills the entire area. And Robert is suffocated because of the dust and the blast that is pushing him backwards.

Some powerful people would simply cut the shockwave blast or slam it with their fist.

Some would divert it. But Robert was not that proficient in doing things like that. So, he was pushed backward and slid down on the ground.

Azief smiles and before the dust could settle one of the ten leaders shouted

'Attack now!'

The moment someone shouted like that, all of the ten people did not hesitate to attack. One of them spread their hands and demon-like creatures appears all over the sky.

'A Summoner' Someone shouted among the crowd. Even though most of the crowd had run away., some of the brave warrior still stay here to watch the fight.

Katarina flew into the sky while shouting

'I'll handle the sky'

Azief laughs

'She wants the best action' he thought to himself. In the sky, there is around seventy-two monsters. All of them seems to be animals

There is monkey, rhinos, griffin, serpents, wyvern to name a few.

Azief took a glance and he could tell that even though it seems like real monsters there is something missing about these monsters

'Their soul is bound' he thought to himself. Azief did not have time to analyze that Summoner abilities as one of the people from the Mercenary Association dashes towards him

There is demonic aura that rises from his body that pierces the dark clouds above the area. Azief was quite surprised to see this

'The Path of the Demon' Azief could recognize it in a heartbeat since he used to walk in the path of Demon while he became Azul. So, he could not be more familiar with this path

'Old man, take this' That person punches towards him and the space around his fist contorted the space

Above the sky, a head appears.

This head possesses the same face with the man that Azief is facing. Only this face is Demonic with red aura swirling all over this disembodied head.

And on the forehead of this Demonic Head is seven horns.

'Shit. This Ulfric, does he want to destroy this city'

One of the ten faction leaders could see that the Demon Head is Ulfric head, the leader of the Mercenary Association in this city.

There is Eudorus and there is Ulfric. The Mercenary Association actually has three leaders. Today, two of them had come out.

The one shouting is none other than the Arrayist Guild leader.

All around the battlefield there are soldiers creating battle formations. Some of them are like a spear that is being wielded ready to be unleashed.

While some other soldiers are creating formation to contain the destruction of these combatant.

The shout of Attack now had made some people unprepared and attack in a haste.

The defense line had not been created.

While many people are attacking the old man and the young girl Sam flew to the sky with his soldiers.

'Lay down the formation of containment' the soldiers all then pointed their weapons toward the ground below.

Powerful energy seems to shot out from their spears, swords ds and blade.

But these energies did not strike the ground nor did it attack the people below. Instead it floated just a few inches below the tip of their weapons.

These energies condensed into a small orb floating in the air and then these orbs, like it was being pressured by some force flattened itself

But it is still floating in the air. And when it flattened it created a flat floating surface in the sky and everyone orb also did the same thing and it links up with each other.

The people below the soldiers looks up and some of them with more knowledge said

'The Net of Heaven'

One could see that there is a golden net in the sky that cascade down, isolating this district from the other places

Space and Time around the net seems to be curved.

It was like space itself is bending around this net. Time was also affected

Many people could not afford to care what Sam is doing right now.

His soldiers had laid a formation to contain the damage of the battle only toward the Hanging Head District. Sam on the other hand flew toward the sky, intending to slash that Demon Head before it could create a madness fueled frenzy all over the city.

He knew that Ulfric practice a certain skill that gave him Demonic Aura. Still, it did not mean Ulfric himself is evil.

Demonic powers are just one of the many abilities that have appeared since the Fall. No one had any reservation because of that.

But Ulfric abilities have some downsides.

And that is if his Demonic powers are unleashed, it could create a clouds of demonic thoughts, collecting resentments and negative emotion which in turns affect the people below it.

In other words, it could induce craziness, madness and even bloodlust. On the ground, Azief simply sidestep to the left to avoid the fist.

However, the fist attack is not some normal fist.

BOOOOM!

A powerful force blast off an entire building the moment Azief evade that attack. That blast also sweeps across the ice statue on the ground.

But none of the blast manage to even crack any one of the statue.

Azief evade that attack but then someone else appears

>>

Chapter 1339 Time Stop

This person has six arms and three heads and each hands wielded different weapons.

He swings with one of his hand and fire gust appears heading toward Azief. This fire is so blazing hot that it melted the nearby bronze statue.

But the heat did not affect the ice statues that Katarina encased those people

He waves another and ice spear charges toward him, freezing everything in its trail

He has six weapons that he wielded.

A sword blazing with fire. A spear swirling with floating icicles. A Vajra spewing lightning. A metal fan that seems to changes the course of the wind.

A small dagger that is swirling with spiraling water. And there is a blade that seems to distort the space around it.

That person swings all six of his weapons toward Azief and each of the Laws that is embedded in each of the six weapons flew toward Azief.

Even before the attack had arrived, the entire district area is now levelled down. As for the normal people, they were already sucked to the sky by the net that has been formed by the soldiers of the city

Someone turns into a gigantic monster, resembling a bear and rushes toward Azief. On the sky, the battle is also very fierce. Seventy-two monsters fight against Katarina.

It was like one army facing a lone soldier.

Katarina slew those monsters easily. One slice and it sweeps the sky, rolls the clouds and split the Heavens above.

The entire night sky was cut and one could see the space above, seeing the stars and the night sky that one could only see if they flew out of the Earth atmosphere.

But the monster did not stop coming. Fires, lightning, water, the Earth, the elements of the world bombarded Katarina.

The sword cuts these elements, and the people that is far away could only see the colorful fireworks that started in the sky.

The shockwave dissipates the clouds and pressure the Earth. Sound of booming echoes in the entire city that it shakes the air and created blast sound all over, knocking down buildings

The battle that started in the Hanging head district created shakes all over the entire city. Large building sways and some cracks under the pressure before crumbling down.

Even those building with protection runes embedded into it could not withstand such constant bombardment of energy

People are running away from the site of the battle, some are flying away from the city and some rushed toward the teleportation ports to quickly leave the island.

Screams fills the area.

But, all of the people here in this cities are all hardened people. They might scream and panic for a while but they quickly take a hold of themselves and quickly find a way to survive

Everything is chaotic from the ground to the skies

The Heavens opened up and one could see that snows falls everywhere. On the sky, one could see a horde of monsters and animals is fighting against a little girl.

These monsters and beast that came out from the void seems endless.

But one does not feel for the little girl instead they feel for the Summoner.

There were seventy-two monsters. In two seconds, the girl had killed around a few dozens already with one swipe of her sword.

The sword is made from ice. When she swings it horizontally, a powerful freezing force burst out and freeze his monsters and his monster would then be cut off from him.

But if the Summoner is that weak, how could Katarina would be entangled by him? The Seventy-Two monsters were killed but then appeared again.

And more and more beast appeared that is seems to cover the skies. Some were attacked by the thunderbolts that strayed down.

But, more would take its place. The battle between Katarina and the Summoner continues

On the ground, Azief had six arms men with three heads and a demonic person attacking him.

There are also others that are waiting for an opportunity blasted some energy blast toward him.

There is dust flying everywhere. People screaming. Robert who was in the distance is screaming to stop.

He even tries to see telepathic communication but in such a chaotic situation with the energy all roils up.

The magic field disturbed and all kinds of interference from the battle, his telepathic communication was cut off

'Stop. Stop! He's Death Monarch! Stop!!!' he yelled amidst the explosion, the flames, and the shockwave that blasted off every second.

Only a few second had passes since the battle began but in that few second, the impact of the battle had already enveloped the entire city.

Some of the initial blast was not contained and leaked to the outside affecting the nearby district.

Some changes into a gigantic beast trying to intimidate and increasing the width of attack. Magical weapon is brought out.

Beast and monsters came out, and Azief look at all of this with indifference.

'So, this is the level. It is not quite enough' And he looks to his left and right and sighed

'And, it has gotten bigger than I expected' he mutters

'I am not playing if it this big' Azief could hear the screams in the distance and could see the chaos.

The turbulent energy around this city still make what he sees is a bit blurry but he could get the gist of it.

He did intend to test and punish the people of Hanging Head a bit. But, he did not intend to blow it out. And he could see that Katarina is struggling.

It is not that the Summoner is too strong. If even one of Katarina attack could reach the Summoner, she would have won.

But the thing is, this Summoner methods of attacking and defending is something that Katarina is weak against

The Summoner always stay a few hundred feet away from her.

Even though Katarina sword strike could reach thousands of kilometers away that kind of attack does not work against this Summoner

Not only he has tens of thousands of beast surrounding him that act as his shield, he also has a little glowing shield floating around him. It is an artifact

Azief himself is a bit impressed that there is this kind of Disk Formation leveler in this part of the world.

Because he could recognize that the Shield that is floating in front of that Summoner is actually a Disk. A Disk that is brought out but instead of it being the shape of a Disk it is in the shape of shield.

Azief found it hard to determine what kind of Laws that the Summoner practice but he could guess that it had something to do with defense.

Katarina attack power is domineering but this Summoner is maintaining defense and maneuvering his move in the sky with ease

Given time, Katarina could defeat this person. If Katarina were to kill however, the method is quite simple.

Azief knows a few method of Katarina that could easily kill the Summoner

But Katarina did not want to kill because Azief told her not to kill

And that makes it harder. Katarina way of attacking has always been to neutralize the enemy. And the best way of neutralizing the enemy has always been killing them.

She is not accustomed in trying to fight not to kill. So, Azief sighed.

He pointed his fingers to the sky. All the while, all kinds of energy all kinds of attack is heading toward him

But in his eyes, all of this attack is clear and slow to him.

Too slow.

It is the same feeling he felt like when he is travelling with Will. The feeling that everything slowed down to a standstill.

The dust, the shockwave, the space distortion, all of this factor did not hinder his eyes from seeing all the attack that is coming toward him

He could even see the hidden attack, like an assassin that is hiding in the form of an energy blast, ready to come out and slash his head.

Some hide a double chain blast attack in their energy blast. Some throws their weapons with the laws revolving on the tip or edges of their weapons.

This kind of attack is not an attack meant to make him surrender

It is basically an attack wanting him to die.

If one replaced Azief with any other Disk Formation in this world, with such concentrated attack, not even the body would be left.

But unfortunately today they have unknowingly kick a very hard plate. The moment Azief point his finger to the sky, time stopped.

Of course, only Azief is not affected by this time stopping.

In the minds and perception of these people, time probably move as normal.

Because when time stopped, you actually could not really know if time had stopped since you live in that moment. Azief control over the rules of time has always been below Jean.

But.... being below Jean in the mastery of control of Time is already formidable enough. Because if it's about Time, then Jean is number one

After all, Time is not a Law that Azief specializes in.

>>

Chapter 1340 Being Noticed

Usually when Azief uses the Law of Time, if there is someone else that also practices the same Law, they could at least sense it and notice it.

And the more powerful one could break it.

It was like when he and Jean fought using Time Laws.

The way they control time is different because of the different interpretation of time that they both had hold.

But right now, no one noticed that time is not moving, the particles seems to be hold at its place without moving, an invisible force holding them right where they are, forcing them not to change.

The reason is simple.

Azief is a Divine Comprehension leveler, a realm where he could freely use the Laws.

Disk Formation might be able to use the Laws but it had limitation. The Disk is the engine. If the engine broke, the machine would not work.

But the engine for the Divine Comprehension leveler is the energy all around them. The source of this world itself. So, how could that be compared?

The Laws of this world is clear to him. he could manipulate the sky and the wind, the elements and the intangible

Because his Thirteen Laws all touched the basic laws of the Universe and that is why it was very easy for him to do this.

Some people also cultivated Laws but some of the laws that they cultivated did not touch all the Laws of the world.

But Azief Laws are all high tier Laws which could command all kinds of Laws beneath it.

It all depends on one own understanding of certain laws and how they walk their path

So Time stopped for him.

His finger seems to open up the Heaven and he smiles. Azief could feel back the connection between him and the Heavenly Will restored.

There is of course that resistance. Azief look up and saw an eye looking at him. But that eye could not do anything other than just looks at him.

At the same time, Azief could feel that the gulf of separation that he created is almost all dissipated by the Heavenly Will Avatar.

But almost is never enough.

One third of the Heavenly Will still belongs to him. Azief could feel the dissatisfaction of the Heavenly Will Avatar but he only smiles.

In this timeless world right now, there are probably only four beings that are not affected by it.

Azief knew that the moment he mobilizes the power of time, that person in Moscow would realize it.

And he was not wrong. Jean was in his Room of Clocks meditating when he suddenly opens his eyes. he looks at all the clocks in the Room and he could see that many of the Clocks on the walls and on the ceiling stopped.

Then he smiles

'You're back'

Inside a cave, there is someone who is sitting cross legged in the air.

On his four cardinal direction there is four books, floating alongside him. The pages of the books would flip every few hours.

This is the cave of Hikigaya the Illusionist Archmage. But suddenly the pages stopped in midair, refusing to change to the other page.

Hikigaya eyes frowned. He moves his feet downwards as he floated down to the ground.

He takes a step forward and he appears outside of the cave.

The moment he comes out, he could see that the mist that he had conjured up is in a state of stillness, the gas could not even move

Time was stopped.

'Jean?' that was his first thought.

But, it did not take him a second to deny this

'It's not him' Then he looks up at the sky above and he saw an eye. A gigantic eye looking down on the people of Earth.

This eye seems to emanate a pressure that could flattened an entire continent just by the ferocity of its stare.

Hikigaya chuckles.

'It's him' He nodded but there is also uneasiness in his heart.

It has been six months. A lot of things had change and it is not exactly for the better.

Hikigaya is sure that the person that have mobilized the Time Law is none other than Death Monarch

He could not detect where Death Monarch is but he is sure of his assumption. Because there is the Heavenly Will in the sky, showing itself.

From what Hikigaya had gathered, there is only one being in this world that the Heavenly Will is this angry at and that would be Death Monarch which robs its power and authority over the Heavenly Will.

Azief believe only four beings in this world that could withstand the compulsion of time.

That would be Jean who is the foremost expert of using Time Laws, Hikigaya who is also a Divine Comprehension leveler, him who mobilize the Time Laws and there is the Heavenly Will Avatar

But actually there is a few other beings on Earth that could withstand the compulsion of the Time Laws.

On a mountain somewhere, sitting on top of a boulder on the mountain highest peak, where the peak is as tall as four thousand feet height, the peak which is covered by the moving clouds, there is a young man sitting cross legged on top of that boulder.

The area that he is inhabiting is full of clouds and white mist, the cold could even turn boiling water into snowflakes.

The wind is also very harsh that it cuts normal stone.

A four thousand feet high mountain is a very tall mountain. It blocks the wind from its front side and withstand the turbulent wind from the back.

Bu as tall as this mountain is, even this mountain could not reach the sky of the current Earth. in such a location, the young man could still survive and even sat down on its highest peak and withstand the blades of wind and the coldness

The land he is on is a land of fire.

There is deserts and there is volcanic activity almost every second. There is wyvern flying in the air and on the ground, there is titanic fire serpents that eat fire and drinks lava.

This young man who sat on the highest peak of one of the tallest mountain in this area is wearing wolf fur clothing.

His body is muscular and lean and his face is handsome and beautiful with a hint of a feminine feature.

He has long silver hair and his hair covered his left eye.

He has been closing his eyes, dreaming, sitting cross legged on top of that boulder, appearing like he is meditating.

And in dreams, he plotted and schemed.

But then like something shocked him, he opens his eyes in a hurry. The message of the dreams halted.

No, it is not quite accurate to say that the dreams halted, it is more like the recipient of the dreams that he was about to send suddenly seems to still.

So, he opens his eyes and he could feel the changes in Time and Space of the world.

the current world is actually very vast and wide that no normal leveler could simply stop Time all over the world

At most, it would stop Time and Space in one particular area. Jean might be able to affect half the world.

But the whole world affected by Time Laws? There is only one explanation

He looks up at the sky and he see the eye.

He smiles

Looking at that eye, the answer is confirmed

'The Heavenly Will' he mutters

He looks at the eye but the eye would not be able to see him. That eye might see everything under the Heavens, but it would not be able to see him unless he wanted the eye to see.

This man is none other than Yewa Hafar.

'And there is only one person on Earth that could command the Heavenly Will' he mutters and then he laughed.

It was like he was hearing a good news from someone.

'You are finally back' and there is a sinister smile on his face.

'I have been waiting for quite a while' His aura almost went chaotic but he quickly suppresses it.

He looks at that eye for a few more moment before closing back his eyes.

There is a smile on his face, the wind blowing his silver hair and flutters his fur attire. He closes back his eyes and continue.... dreaming.

On another continent, someone just shakes his head like he was trying to shake off a hangover.

His eyes are bloodshot and his entire body is trembling, the forces of Time and Space around him was distorted before creating a small Void of Time and Space in that particular spot where he moves his finger.

But, the Void did not do anything, it was more like it had stopped.

Like Yewa Hafar this person is also someone that managed to break through the compulsion of Time.

This person is sitting in a room that appears to look like a modern world office. What is interesting however is that this person is in Disk Formation level.

Other than Divine Comprehension leveler who could easily move even when the whole world was affected by Time and Space stopping, Disk Formation leveler usually have no defense against such thing.

Yewa Hafar is an exception because he is the Acolyte of the Destroyer.

Even though he came here under some limitations, he knew many spells and dark magic. It is easy for him to counter simple things like a being manipulating Time and Space

But this person that managed to break free from the compulsion of Time is also not that ordinary person with no stories

The reason why he could resist the compulsion of Time and Space is because there is something special about his Willpower.

He regained himself as he put his trembling hands on top of his table. He waited of a while for the trembling to stop before taking a deep and calm breath.

It did not take long for him to get his bearing

'I almost get caught off guard' he mutters to himself.

This person is in his office in an undisclosed location.

He was alone today as he gave his subordinate some vacation time.

He is probably one of the best employer ever in the world right now.

In the current state of the world, he is probably the only employer that gives his employee a day of.

He is dressed in a designer tailored high-end three –piece suit, with a light maroon tie, a fedora on top of his slightly shaved heard

On his feet he wears leather shoes that look a lot like an Italian and wears a rose color glasses.

On his wrist is a wristwatch. the watch had no pointer and it had symbols instead of numbers.

A fashion that seems to perfectly captured the fashion before the Fall and complemented it with the mysticism fashion of the new era after the Fall.

Formal yet casual.

This man is none other than Loki.

When he felt time stopped, he himself nearly stopped but the Willpower of a Sovereign inside him fight back this suppression of Laws and he broke out almost immediately.

Some people were anxious, some people were nervous when they found out that Death Monarch is back.

And of course there are beings like Yewa Hafar who had always been awaiting the return of Death Monarch

If there is a similarity between Loki and Yewa Hafar was that they both have waited for Death Monarch to return home.

And like Yewa Hafar, these past six months is not spent in vain. Yewa Hafar had once again rearrange his chess pieces. The same could be said for Loki.

Loki then got up from his swiveling chair and got out of his office. He tries to use his super speed but it does not work

'I should quickly try to breakthrough to Divine Comprehension level. It makes me passive in many areas. It is a good thing that the world is as big as it is now, if not I am going to get caught by my brother' he said to himself.

'Still, as long as you do not become a Sovereign, Hades helmet is enough for me to hide from you'

When he comes out from the office, he could see that almost all the things in the area has stopped.

Then he comes out from the area and stepped on the garden on the outside.

There is a bee that is standing still on the air with his wing standing still but it did not fall down to the ground.

Each time he moves, the ripples of time and space around him vibrate violently.

To move in such an environment requires great power as each step he takes, the force of time and space is pushing back.

It would be wise for him not to move. But Loki had to confirm something.

He could see that there is an eye in the sky.

'It seems that the Heavens really could not tolerate you' Loki is thinking of many things. He could not help but think of Void when he thinks about the Heavens

When he looks at that eye, there is complicated feeling that arose.

The reason why he did not become a complete Sovereign is because Raymond and the other Sovereigns ripped apart the Will of Heaven.

So, he never had a throne unlike the other Sovereigns

Loki had already wear Hades Helmet of Invincibility. Only that Helmet has been covered with illusion to look like a fedora hat so that eye could not see him.

He shakes his head off from some thoughts.

'What the heaven sees, you see' he thought to himself.

'That is why sometimes I look at the sky and hide my face' he mutters. He looks at that eye and like Yewa Hafar, that eye could not see him

'It is a pity that I could not trace where you are right now. But sooner or later you would have to return to Pandemonium. When that happens, I will seek you out' Loki did not linger for long there as he then returns to his office.