

Shadow 1521

[Chapter 1521 The End Of The War](#)

The Turbulent Sea has always been turbulent. Of course, it is not surprising since the name is really on the nose

But today, when two titans duking it out, treating the sea like some kind of battle cage, the Turbulent Sea become more than just turbulent.

The sea becomes chaotic, thousands of island broke apart, hundreds of sea creatures the size of mountains was affected below.

Monster of the deep was awakened.

Each strike, each attack created a powerful destructive effect on the Turbulent Sea.

The space around the Turbulent Sea has always been chaotic and crazy.

Sometimes, it rips apart for unknown reason. Other times it open breaches to other worlds and other dimensions.

Sometimes its sky rain down stuff from other worlds, other times, it sucks people onto another world

But today, those breaches could not even appears. Even though it is called turbulent, there is also rules to it

But the force of Death Monarch and Kaiju fighting against each other destroys the very order that the Turbulent Sea maintain.

But now, the sea becomes calm. The effect of the battle is slowly healing. The battle is about to close its curtain

Azief opens his eyes.

He sees the destruction, the effect of his strikes, the clouds all over the Turbulent Sea was dispersed again, the destructive aura lingered in the air

For a second, he closes his eyes, and he tries to listen to the Song of the Sea. But he heard nothing.

However, what he did feel was the destruction and what he senses are death and destruction. And so, he opens back his eyes and he sighed

Floating in front of him, just in the quite right distance is Kaiju.

He is floating in the air, but unlike before where he had that domineering aura and the "I-can't-lose" attitude, he is now looking beaten and weakened.

The wind of the sea blows his hair and Kaiju looks like he is going to be blown away by that wind.

He still tries to grip the trident and he seems to grasping it hard.

Azief then spread open his hand and the power of the world gathers around him

Since Katarina uses a sword, Azief decided to also use a sword. A sword appears on his hand, and he hold the grip.

The space around the sword was sliced

'Buzz!'

Kaiju look at this sword and simply does not care

Win and he is a king. Lose, and he could only accept the judgment of others

Everyone that could watch this battle all watched this battle with bated breath

The curtain of the war is about to close and no one wanted to miss it.

By now, the White Owls also manage to recover back broadcast ability and the whole world could now see once again the battle

But they were shocked to see that the current scene. They did not see many things that happened and they did not know that a sword pierced Kaiju body

They did not know that Katarina had slashed her sword toward Kaiju.

The people of the world only saw the current situation. Kaiju and Death Monarch facing each other, Kaiju in a state of weakness, Death Monarch holding a sword.

Some people think it is a pity.

These people are warriors and even though Kaiju is someone who could not be considered good, there is this feeling of cherishing heroes.

Now that Death Monarch bring out his sword, and with Kaiju the way he is, how could anyone stop this sword?

Some people sighed.

Some people frowned.

Mixed emotions from all over the world.

No matter who stands on Death Monarch position, they probably also would do what Death Monarch would do.

Everyone would want to deal with such a formidable enemy like Kaiju once and for all.

As for the feelings of heroes cherishing heroes, even if there is, it is probably a weak feeling

The sword on Death Monarch hand gathers the power of the world.

Even though he said that he could only strikes three more times, nobody would underestimate the strike of someone like Death Monarch.

During the war with the Demon King, Death Monarch swing of the sword pacify the world, killing tens of thousands of demon-like creatures

Azief sighed again and then he swings his sword.

The sword shot out, the sword itself turns into a light sword.

There is no sword in his hand.

Where is his sword?

It becomes light and so the sword light erupted, like a beautiful thing, hiding its destructive power

The power of that sword erupted in almost an instant and it spreads to the world, the Ten Seas and the numerous continent all over the world

The sword is as majestic and domineering as before. But everyone who was watching it was shocked.

Because that sword light did not fall on Kaiju.

'What?'

This shocking sword strike passed directly above Kaiju head.

'Crack!'

'Crack!'

There is the sound of cracking that could be heard all over the world.

And the moment the sound of that crack echoes all over the world, thunder and lightning erupted all over the world. The sky turns dark red and purplish. Dark lighting could be seen trailing all over the clouds all around the world

The sword light cut the sky, and cut the laws, cut the order.

That is the thought of everyone. But there are some people who know what Death Monarch had cut

Death Monarch had just the Heavenly Will

Or to be more accurate, Azief had just completely shattered the connection between Kaiju and the Heavenly Will.

'You wanted to use a borrowed knife to kill me. You are still too amateurish' Azief muttered to himself

But the sword did not simply cut the connection between the Heavenly Will and Kaiju, instead the sword light continued on.

However, this part of the battle could not be seen by the people of the world. Because this sword light disappeared after cutting the connection

At least that is how it looks like for the people seeing this scene. But Azief knows where his sword light is going

The sword light is his sword will.

And there is a reason why people called it a sword will.

There is a part of his will in that strike. And so, he could feel and he could see what his sword strike sees.

Like a bomb that have surveillance camera attached to it only it is more complicated and more comprehensive.

The sword continued and pierce through the hidden dimension where the Heavenly Will resides.

There is a gate. A gate filled with divine energy, comprised of all the energy on earth.

A Heavenly Gate. Azief only smirks when he saw this in his Divine Sense

The sword cut through the energy like a hot knife cutting butter and then it hit the Heavenly Gate

BOOOM!

The sword is not his strongest attack. But even so, the momentum of this sword was so strong that even the Heavenly Gate could not help but tremble fiercely.

Hanging above the air, exuding divine energy, this gate might be one of the plans of the Heavenly Will to connect Heaven and Earth

This kind of gate is a powerful gate that could not easily be destroyed. But Azief had always been a step ahead of the Heavenly Will

Even in his weakest moment right now, his sword managed to smash onto the gate and causes it to trembles.

There are cracks all over and then the sword will finally dissipated

The sword will of Death Monarch could not destroy Heavenly Gate with a single sword, but it is at the level of shaking the Heavenly Gate with a sword

Why then bother slashing the sword?

To Azief, it was simple reasoning. And the message he wanted to convey is also very simple. What he wanted to convey is a warning.

And the Heavenly Will look at his gate and he retracted his energy from the world.

In the real world however, the people of the world could not see this dimension breaking battle.

What they see however that Kaiju energy and aura which was already declining, declined even more.

The world is silent. All wondering what Death Monarch is going to do now.

If Death Monarch words is to be believed. There are still two strikes that he could use.

The silence continued. But Azief simply looks at Kaiju. And he did not attack

Kaiju then look at the sky and look at Death Monarch and then he understood something. But he still needs to confirm it.

'Thank you'

Kaiju, even in his weakest moment still stands there above the sea proudly.

'You will go back to your world. And never come again. Next time you came, I will not be merciful'

Azief waves his hand and the chaotic energy all around the Turbulent Sea was scattered.

And the trident on Kaiju hand was yanked away from him.

The moment that trident leave his hand, he could feel all the power he felt before drained away from him and he falls down to the sea.

Azief look uninterestedly at Kaiju.

'As long as you did not die' now the whole world is trying to find the reason why did Azief did not kill Kaiju. They might not understand it but some people understand

In the end, however, Azief never cares about their understanding.

Azief then turned his gaze toward the distant island, the island continent of Arturia.

his divine eyes brimming with awe-inspiring power, his Divine Sense noted all of the ships and the enemies still on the island.

He have two more strikes.

And for him that is enough

He waves his hand

Whoosh!

With a mere flick of his hand, a cataclysmic gust surged forth, pulsating with the might of a thousand storms.

The pirate ships, the armada of the Crime Alliance, and the countless vessels aligned against the world powers, quivered before the overwhelming force unleashed by Azief.

In a single effortless motion, his hand moved across the heavens, like a divine painter's brush, and devastation cascaded upon the sea.

The very fabric of reality quaked as each ship met its swift demise, shattered and pulverized into fragments of their former grandeur.

The ocean trembled beneath the cataclysmic force, as if acknowledging the godly presence that commanded its every movement.

'What the hell!'

'Fuck!' someone cursed

'He still has that much power?'

Witnessing this extraordinary display of divine prowess, onlookers gasped in disbelief and awe.

'this is Divine Comprehension realm at the peak level. Truly like a god!' some Disk Formation levelers that was watching this could not help but exclaim

The magnitude of Death Monarch power eclipsed any mortal comprehension, rendering even the mightiest warriors humbled in his divine presence.

In just a couple of second, the gust wreak devastation

The ocean now lay strewn with the remnants of shattered hulls and broken dreams, a testament to the insignificance of mortal ambitions in the face of a true deity.

Death Monarch casual gesture had unravelled the vast armada, reducing it to a mere memory of defiance, its audacious challenge met with effortless obliteration.

The strongest man in the world is not someone that could be judged by common sense. Never has that sentence so inconvertibly proved as it is today

Amidst this, Kaiju turned into a dragon and disappeared from the Turbulent Sea, swimming in the dark deep ocean and quickly leave the Turbulent Sea.

Azief stands there on the sky for fifteen minutes, his eyes seems to look at the world. And then after feeling that everything is over, he simply said

'Cut'

And the guillotine on the execution platform falls down. Ten heads rolled own from the execution platform

The area around the execution platform is empty.

It is lonely death for them. The ten people that was under that guillotine could only watched as they saw their colleague failed to save them.

With Kaiju defeat, all hope is lost for them

And the Crime Alliance, the Pirates, the other organization that roams in the underbelly of society, could also only watched as their people being executed.

Azief had done all he could and he push his reputation and the prestige of the world power to its peak

Then he announced and the whole world heard it

'The war is over!' And then he flies off back to the island.

And the curtain of the war slowly closed down

[Chapter 1522 Sigh, Give Up, Bide For Time](#)

The world sighed. And those who watched the end of the war could not help but have many mixed emotions.

The moment Death Monarch announced to the world that the war is over, the war is over.

That is the strength of his word.

In the aftermath of the conflict, the world powers basked in their victory, celebrating their triumph over the dark forces that had threatened their dominance.

The war had been long and arduous, with countless lives lost and cities ravaged.

However, it did not exceed the casualties like the War of Weronian and while there is may lives lost, it is in the tens of thousands which is small considering the fact that the world was at war.

Of course, because of the expansion of the world, not all parts of the world was attacked. Even the world powers does not have enough manpower to attack every continent in the world

Since there is too many of them to count.

The sizes of every continent is also very large and the fact that the world has become a Super Earth had made many people migrate all over

Those with power and wanted to be left alone could even hide in these continents and secluded themselves

The Crime Alliance, the pirates the other criminal organization focused their attacks on large and important cities.

They were never intending to occupy any of the cities.

They simply have to inflict the greatest damage and then hope that kaiju defeated Death Monarch.

However, the world powers had ultimately prevailed, and their victory was unequivocal.

The evil force, known collectively as the Crime Alliance, consisted of various nefarious organizations that operated in the shadows of the criminal underworld.

They had sought to challenge the authority of the world powers, aiming to disrupt the balance of power and impose their own malevolent agenda upon the world.

The Crime Alliance had employed ruthless tactics, employing piracy, terrorism, and other illicit activities to weaken the world powers.

They thrived on chaos and instability, preying on the innocent and vulnerable in their quest for control and dominance.

Their actions were driven by greed, power-hunger, and a disregard for the sanctity of life.

In contrast, the world powers, comprising established governments and organizations, represented stability, order, and the rule of law.

They stood as beacons of justice, working to maintain peace and protect the well-being of their citizens.

This.....this is the script. This is the propaganda. Whoever wins become justice. And everyone could already tell how this story would be told.

The justice of the World powers.

The evil entity of Crime Alliance, the pirates and the others that oppose the formation of the Seven World Powers are the evil forces of the world

Why are they called the evil force?

Because they lose.

And whoever lose is evil.

And whoever wins is justice.

The world powers wins and it won in such a way that there is no doubt about it

So, the other forces that attack the world powers become villains and the world powers become heroes.

Thus, always how justice work.

Many people that watched this battle all over the world sighed. Some of them sighed harder than the rest

Some sighed longer

Some could only remain silent.

'So, in the end the world powers still wins. Heh' some people snorted. Some people sighed. Some people felt like the world become even more oppressive.

The world powers is not always good.

Some of them are evil. No....that is a naïve way of seeing it. The world powers is motivated by interest.

And the interest of the state always outweighed the interest of the individual. The world power is just another structure of power like a state, only they are bigger and they are ruled by godlike beings.

But in this world, everyone have the chance to become godlike. Death Monarch, before he became Death Monarch was a lone wolf.

At least that is how he is described by man. A lone wolf that operates alone. But even then, his strength rivals that of the World Government.

Death Monarch did not create this structure. But he sure as hell did perfect it.

The Seven World powers all have their sins. In their pursuit for power, clearly many people were harmed.

The only difference between them and the so-called evil forces they defeated is that they know to balance it

More people benefited than it oppresses. The rulers have different perspective compared to the ones that are being ruled.

For example, the Order of Thinkers.

They are considered to be the one with the least influence among the Seven World powers. They have many great inventions and many powerful weapons

But they lack a powerhouse, like Death Monarch for Pandemonium, like Jean in the Republic or how Japan got Hikigaya.

Some people might think that out of the seven world powers, they are the most harmless considering the lack of influence they could exert

But that.....that could not be more further than the truth

The Order of Thinkers is populated by a secret order. There is a reason why they are called the Order of Thinkers.

They started out from a secret organisation. A secret organisation of scientist, inventors, intelligent people

But one must note that the Order of Thinkers are mostly joined by fringe scientist. Some of them are even considered crazy.

But to say that they are not scientist would be a false statement.

These are not people who promoted pseudo-science or some made up science.

Many of those that follow the Grand Researcher, the found of the Order were people who were shunned in the scientific community

What made them called fringe is because of their lack of ethics in proving their scientific method

Some because of some political leaning. Others because they do not know how to socialise with the higher society

Some lack funding and could only theorize.

For example, one of the chemists in the Order of Thinkers once created something that would target someone based on a genome differential.

There is another who created something that seems to breach boundaries between world only it is built during the time before the Fall

Some created a variation of the CRISPR-Cas9 to edit the human genome. In both cases, they worked for government secret research.

And for both, they were shunned and erased.

The chemist created a biological weapon that could target a certain DNA that is prevalent in certain people.

The possibility of genocide by a chemical weapon has never been higher.

His research however was cut short. Human right group, ethical committees, politicians who did not want their name related to this research shut him down and shut his access to research.

The chemist himself is quite the crazy kooky one. But he is one of the Chemist in the Order of Thinkers.

As for the one who created the variation of the CRISPR-Cas9, he tries to do human experimentation even though he was not allowed to

Activating the so-called warrior gene.

This uncontrolled experimentation of humans by manipulating the Monoamine oxidase A gene was barely stopped when it was found out

The military who he worked for was very reluctant to shut down this program but the moment it reached the politicians desk and the possibility of the news broke out to the public made him a scapegoat of the military.

He never had the chance to prove that he could manipulate people tendencies towards violence.

This particular biologist believes that if he could do this, he could create a perfect soldier who felt no remorse and would fight to the death.

By manipulating this gene, he propose that the soldiers would have incredible strength, and would be like the berserker in the old Viking stories.

The only side effect would be death after the overexertion of adrenaline in the body

This was the research of that biologist and he was stopped.

Now, these two people were shunned and when the world Falls, the Grand Researcher came to them and hold them and bring them into the order of Thinkers

And they are not the only ones. The early members, the founders of the Order of Thinkers are this kind of crazy and somewhat evil scientist.

To them, the highest purpose is to the advancement of science and technology....regardless of the human cost.

Of course, after they became a world power, more sane scientist, the one so called the orthodox scientist began to join.

But it did not change the fact that the Order of Thinkers had every questionable people holding the power.

And during the war with the Multiversal Convergence many things about them were revealed like human experimentation. What the world sees was the product that have succeeded.

They did not see the humans, the lives that have been sacrificed to gain that success.

The Aztec have human sacrifices. And a few other pagan religions also have human sacrifices. But no one talks about the human sacrifices of science.

To them, they are fighting for the advancement of science for they believe that science would lead to some kind of paradise or utopia.

Just like those shamans who believe sacrificing children and babies to the Sun would somehow save the world

The only difference is that they have the name of world power, their power and influence is legitimate and acknowledge by the other world powers.

So, some people sighed.

Some people give up.

And some people will bide their time again.

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[Chapter 1523 Return Home](#)

Then there is the League of Freedom. The names did not match their intention.

It might be called the League of Freedom but their freedom is unlike the freedom before the Fall.

Their freedom is a perversion of the term freedom. A doublespeak. Doublethink full of Newspeak.

But they do preach some of the ideals of freedom and over the years, the Doublespeak decrease, the double think is not so prevalent and more of the Newspeak is eradicated.

Ironically, in the beginning they did not believe what they preach.

Yet, as time goes by, they were funnily enough is influenced by the manifesto that they write to fool the people.

They fight for the freedom of the world to....choose. That was their manifesto. At that time, there were only a few factions in the world

And their main enemy has always been the World Government who sought to unify all of the Earth under One Government.

Hirate believe that if the world is unified under one power, the resources of the world could easily be redistributed and then with one unified command, humanity could make the leap forward into a different kind of future.

Of course, with the appearance of Pandemonium, this idea had to be shelved but the objective of the World Government ahs never changed.

As an antithesis to the World Government, League of Freedom unify people who did not want to be in any other powers.

And as years go by, League of Freedom who at the beginning was more authoritarian becomes mellow a bit with them upholding their own manifesto

Among the many world powers, they are the only ones that is known to start with a sketchy past.

To be more accurate a very brutal past. But that is rarely mentioned nowadays

The League of Freedom is filled with misfit and crazy criminals that has been whitewashed.

The Republic supported many rebel forces all over the world, employ spying on many world powers.

What about the World Government then?

They are even worse.

Their projects are shrouded in secrecy most of which would be very dangerous and broke so many laws that it would be a joke.

There is the Genesis project.

On paper, it looks like a noble project but those who are involved in it knows that there is something very wrong with that project

There is also the Chimera project.

Then there is the World Gate which also contributed to the weakening of the time space and fabric of reality of Earth, contributing to the Multiversal Convergence.

How about the Lotus Order? Surely, they are not like the other world powers. But no, they also have skeletons in their closet.

Lotus Order, in theory was given the power to govern the continent of Asia. But Asia is big. And Lotus Order does not reign supreme.

What one called Lotus Order is only merely the territory that once belong to China, Mongolia, a few parts of the North Korea and some territory around the Ural mountains.

As for other parts of Asia, they are ruled by warlords that pay allegiance to the Lotus Order.

Of course, this allegiance is just lip service. These warlords are basically kings in their dominion.

Surely such a weak world power that could not even control fully their region of power could not have any way to do evil stuff, right?

But no, evil always finds a way.

In the process of pacifying the rebellion forces in Asia, how many people were killed, how many people were slaughtered and how many innocent people were caught up in such killings?

The soldiers that the Emperor of Wei uses is not always honourable.

They might not interfere with other world powers or supply other rebellious forces with weapons or trying to escalate conflict but surely they are no saints

Then there is the African Alliance. There is civil war, child soldiers, massacres, attacks on civilian, instability all around

The African Alliance has fifty-four members.

Sometimes it changed. Sometimes new leaders emerge, a new kingdom rise, old kingdom falls

While the formation of the African Alliance has alleviated many of these atrocities, the problem is still there.

Hatred could not be extinguished in a day. It is like an ember of fire on the verge of dying

All it needs is wind blowing just enough to lit the ember into a fire and this fire could spread and turns into a great flame

Vast resources, advanced technology means shit. Because people are going to be people.

And how about Pandemonium? The strongest of them all. With Death Monarch sitting on its throne, it should be free of such evil.

When compared to the other world powers, it must be acknowledged that Pandemonium did not suffer the same problem that the other world power suffered.

They did not have to vie for anyone for the lands that they have inhabited. Death Monarch clear up the continent of Australia from monsters and take it for himself

And even though they were a few Australians that survived the initial attack, who dares come before Death Monarch and try to claim that land in front of him?

Unless you are not screwed right in the head, you would not shorten your life doing such a stupid action.

But Pandemonium has the largest and most powerful intelligence agency in the world headed by Sasha.

Sasha herself even though she has the title of the Nightingale, she is not some kind of peaceful birds that sings in the night

She is in charge of a very powerful intelligence agency that probably knows everything about everyone.

Death Monarch rarely care about what Pandemonium does.

But the apparatus of power that Pandemonium had amassed being under the umbrella of the strongest person in the world has allowed them to have great control and influence over the world.

Wherever and whenever they make a move, it affects the entire world.

They could disrupt the stability of a region simply by uttering a few sentences.

When a force reaches that level of power, that level of influence, then even an unintentional move could bring catastrophic consequences to innocent people

And the world always have to worry about Death Monarch losing control. The six powers is basically the check and balance of Death Monarch

Before today war, there is still many forces that are free. Not everyone that opposes the world powers are evil

To some of the world powers, the forces that attacked them today are criminals, pirates and terrorist.

The broadcast focus on the members of the Crime Alliance and the pirates because they are more well known. But there is also some forces that are regarded as terrorists forces

There is the Independence Leader for El Salvador Guillermo who fought against the League of Freedom

But it is clear that Guillermo is one of the warlords that tried to wrestle the control of Central America and to be acknowledged by the world powers.

While his motive are not pure, they are many of those independence leaders that does not really approve of their lands and their territory to be carved up by the seven great powers.

Now, that the threat of monsters is not as high as before, humans find a way to divide themselves again

To the world powers, these people are terrorist. But another man terrorists is another man freedom fighter

They lose, they become terrorist.

They won, they become freedom fighters.

The definition of good and evil in the arena of politics had always been defined by the people in power

And so today...people mourned. Mourned the era of the great competition. Today, the supremacy of the world power prevails.

And whether that is a good thing or a bad thing.....is still something that needs to be seen.

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Regardless of what the world thinks or hope to see, everything was already set in stone.

The world powers that participated in this war quickly returned back to their headquarters.

The Lotus Order was the fastest to return.

The moment they saw Death Monarch defeated Kaiju; they give the order to return to Asia.

By now, all the personnel of the Lotus Order has left the island and sailing back to Asia. To those who knows the inside story, they would not be surprised.

Even though the Crime Alliance retreated in Asia after finding out that Death Monarch defeated Kaiju, that is not the only threat facing the Lotus Order.

It is not that lee Sangmin and the Emperor of Wei did not want to take it easy. But a rebellion happened inside the Lotus Palace.

The son of the Emperor lead a coup. So, how could they not quickly try to return home

The moment they went out of the Turbulent Sea, they could use teleportation array to quickly connect with the teleportation array in Asia.

Joining the war was the Emperor of Wei Feng Jing.

In the war, he defeated three thousand pirates alone, break through the encirclement of a thousand androids and manage to destroy one of the energy supplies of the mech army of the invading force

Arrayist Sage Lee Sangmin participated in the creation of the protection formation of the island.

Without his protection formation, the island would have even wrecked when Azief and Kaiju duking it out with each other

He also helps from the background by constructing talismans and amulets for the low-level soldiers and crested many arrays formation traps on the four directions of the city of Arturia, making it impenetrable from poison gas and other more subtle and intangible kind of magic.

Now, they are sailing home.

[Chapter 1524 One Last Piece](#)

As for the Republic, there was Jean.

Jean should rest after what he had done. He has been fighting all over the world. From Asia, to Europe, from Africa to Central America, his figure could be seen everywhere around the world fighting the invasion forces

But the moment the war ended Jean seems to have received a news that startles him. He returns to the island and then quickly returns to Moscow.

Not many knows the reason but for someone like Jean who was always calm to suddenly being so anxious, something big must have happened

The Republic lost many people but the memorable death were Null. That is Jean former general when he was campaigning all over Europe.

Who would have thought he would have died fighting Susanoo? Maybe it is because of his death that Jean returned back to Moscow.

It is reported that Maximoff also returned to Moscow in panic. Many people thought he would at least stay for a while considering that he is very much injured

Everyone knows Maximoff as quite the good sniper. Not many people knows he is also related to Jean.

He is the disciple of Paulette. And since Paulette is Jean woman, in a way Maximoff also in Jean camp

But not all of the people from the Republic returned home. While the ship of the Republic has now left the port, there is one person left that is from the Republic.

And that person is the Ice Queen Katarina.

The reason she did not return....everyone seems to know. The Ice Queen made quite the impact during the war

Everyone still remembers her sword

It is hard to describe her sword.

But one thing they acknowledge was its power. It is a sword shot by a Disk Formation levelers that pierce through the body of Kaiju who holds the trident.

At that time, Kaiju could even fight evenly with Death Monarch who is in Divine Comprehension realm.

And everyone seem to know that Death Monarch and the Ice Queen is now together.

Not many people know why the Divine Archer and Death Monarch break up, but details like that never matters to them

What matters to them is how juicy the stories is. Facts never mattered in the conversation. The common people gossiped but those powerful people thinks

And they think it very deeply. With Death Monarch and Ice Queen on the same side, it means the Republic internal problem will be solved sooner or later.

It is no longer time to hedge the bet. It is time to go all in, these are the few thoughts of the people after confirming the matter

This line of thought clearly refers to the Boris Problem.

Why does the Boris Problem is the thought that rise to the mind? Because Katarina now have the support of Death Monarch

And the support of Death Monarch means the support of Pandemonium.

Katarina is Boris younger sister. And everyone knows that Boris love Katarina. And Katarina loves her brother

So, the Boris Problem had to be discussed.

But that had to wait for other days.

With the war won and the immediate threat neutralized, the world powers need to focus on the painstaking process of recuperation.

The pirates is defeated in Arturia today, but there is still many pirates all over the Ten Seas.

The war won today simply proven the world powers invincibility and also shows the world who really rules the world

This does not mean that somehow from today, the entire world power would have the ability to supervise every faction in the sea

But without a powerful figure for them to unite around, the process of disintegrating powerful pirate crew become easier

And with the death of many powerful Crime Lords and Pirate Lords, the situation of the sea would become more chaotic for the pirates and the Crime Alliance.

Power, like nature, abhors a vacuum. And with a vacuum of power , ambitious men would rise. And in that chaos, the world power could divide them, weaken then and then control them

Some of the smart people in the Crime Alliance and the Pirate Lords could clearly see such a scheme.

But even if they knew, it would not matter. They could not stop it. Because human desire is there

The more they push back, the more they will find out that there is nothing they could do to stop it.

The Ten Seas is no longer a threat. The Crime Alliance will fall into internal fighting.

The war is won and the world powers retain their supremacy

And since the war has been won, there is no longer any reason for them to stay in Arturia

Death Monarch did not force them to stay, and so they would not stay

The League of Freedom, the Order of Thinkers, and the African Alliance should return now and focus their attention towards their respective territories, assessing the damages inflicted by the conflict and working to restore normalcy.

However, a sense of unease gripped the international community.

The ships of the World Government remained docked in port; their intentions unclear.

While the other five great powers swiftly returned home to address their own territories, the World Government lingered, leaving observers perplexed and curious.

The other five great powers all sailed home. But the ships of the World Government is still at port

And everyone wonders.....what does the World Government want to do?

And everyone remembered. The trident is in Death Monarch hands. Where were Hirate? Where is Raymond?

Was there an agreement? And if there is an agreement, what is the agreement about?

There is many questions that has not been answered yet.

And the world could feel that thing are not really over yet.

.....

Azief is inside a room.

This is the meeting room that Arthur had given him.

Even though it might seem like the war did not touch the city of Arturia, only those who are on the ground knows that the war did touch the city

Fortunately, enough the people of the city have all been evacuated.

And while there is many buildings that fall prey to explosion and destruction, it would be easy to reconstruct them using the robots.

He sat on his chair and he looks around him

"Arthur did a great job' he thought to himself.

The room itself is designed in a way to impress those who come it, like it is a room that exudes majesty

The room itself is in a vast rectangular room, its proportions carefully designed to command attention.

The hall's length stretches between one and a half to three times its width, giving it a sense of spaciousness and grandeur.

Its height, taller than its width, adds to the imposing ambiance.

The hall is adorned with large windows, allowing natural light to flood the space and providing breath taking views of the surrounding landscapes.

Along one of the long sides, a magnificent bay window stands proudly, offering an even more panoramic vista and serving as a focal point of the room.

Elaborate tapestries depicting scenes of valour and heraldic symbols hang from the walls, adding vibrant colours and intricate designs to the room ambiance.

Azief sighed looking at those.

Azief knows Arthur had his own band of knights and for them, he would give them titles. With Arturia claimed by Pandemonium, Azief would also bestow title to him.

'I did neglect that' he mutter to himself.

Most of the people work under him was given title but the lats time he conferred a title was during the time when he was stuck in that Fake World

Arthur on the other hand had uses the bestowal of title to open up lands on the island continent.

'I do need to acknowledge Arthur and give him an appropriate title' he thought to himself. Azief had many things in his mind.

There is still the matter of his breakthrough that he needs to solve.

There is the secret that he had learned about the future.

And the meeting he had with the Creator also gives him a lot of things to think about

So, it is then understandable why something so trivial in his eyes was forgotten

But what is trivial to him is very important to the people below him.

Standing on different heights, the aspiration and dreams would also be different.

Now, that he saw those heraldic items and coats of arms, suddenly the memory of this problem rises in his mind and he nodded to himself

It is time for another conferring of titles to make sure the division of power clear.

Azief continue to observe the room. The centre piece of the hall is the large fireplace that occupies a prominent place.

The fireplace, crafted meticulously from stone, boasts an exquisite overmantle.

Intricate carvings adorn the overmantle, showcasing the coat of arms of Arthur.

The crackling fire within the fireplace casts a warm glow, illuminating the room and providing a comforting atmosphere.

The hearth serves as a gathering point, drawing people closer during colder seasons, and adding a touch of coziness to the grandeur of the hall.

'I guess Arthur created this to create some kind of ambiance.' After all, when you reached Disk Formation level, the cold hardly could penetrate your body and the heat would not make you sweat

Unless the cold is magical in nature, and the heat is like the heat of the direct sun.

Other than that, they could easily regulate their body temperature to optimal state to adapt to the climate

Azief sighed

'I am early. I am rarely early' he muttered to himself

[Chapter 1525 The Deal](#)

Azief sighed alone in the empty room.

Azief rarely come into the room early. It is almost like a habit that he comes into the room at the end.

Because most of the time, people wait on him and not the other way around. And usually, today would also be the same.

But today, he had a lot to think about

And there is no need to intimidate the person he is going to meet today. Nowadays, there is no need for him to intimidate anyone.

Because everyone is already pretty intimidated. There is too little too much. Azief knows when to apply pressure and when to ease off.

"Katarina.....I guess she could take care of herself. And the sword.....that sword strike..." and he chuckles a bit

'it would be too much for me to help her. After all, that kind of path needed to be traversed by oneself. Katarina should walk that path alone' And he sighed

'Then there is Jean' And with this Azief sighed

Jean's problem is not his problem. But the circumstances made him unable to forget it and made him even more curious.

Especially after he himself checked on Paulette. There is this premonition....a premonition that this has something to do with him

It is just a feeling. A faint feeling.

But Azief had learned not to ignore such feeling. The feeling that he felt is no mere worries or concern. The moment he had learned the rules of destiny and fate, even his feeling is attuned to the destiny and fate.

He doesn't know how he is related in the big scheme but he could tell that there is connection between what happen to Paulette and his own fate and destiny.,

The connection is there, no matter how subtle.

'Not a direct cause but something that would resonate with my own fate and destiny' he muttered to himself. He did not tell Jean this because he himself could not be sure

He sighed and ask the same question that Jean had asked him

'Who attacked Paulette?'

This is something that concerned Azief too. He does not know what kind of beast that could put Paulette in such situation.

And Jean also did not know

This alone is very amazing. Both Azief and Jean is in Divine Comprehension realm. The things that they want to know could easily be deduced.

Azief could see through fates and destiny, manipulate life force and death force, Jean could manipulate time and space and it should have been very easy for both of them to find out if someone attack Paulette.

But even after mobilizing their power, all they could see was a blank. A void. An emptiness.

Either the person doing it have powers beyond them or they use some kind of method that could hide from the perception of a Divine Comprehension realm.

If Loki could do it, if Void could do it....why not someone else?

Jean did not wait for long before he rushed back to Moscow.

Arturia did not have many medical devices. Azief did offer him to go to Pandemonium. But, he probably has his own method.

Azief had heard that Jean had something called the Room of Clocks. And he has all kinds of magical methods.

Jean brought her to him first. And Azief put his hand on her and survey her energy. She is not dead.

She seems more like...like she is asleep.

Like a Sleeping Beauty. Her energy is not chaotic but for some reason she did not wake up. Azief uses his abilities but none of it works.

Of course, there are other kinds of magic that he did not use. After all, there is still many methods that he could try. But that requires a deeper examination.

But Azief did not dare try. In destructive capabilities, Azief knows that his power is second to none in this world

However, in the methods of healing, even with all of his abilities he must conceded to many of the healer profession. Normal injuries, even those who were cut, as long as there is a breath, Azief could breathe life force and save such a person

However, it is different when the diseases and the affliction touches the ethereal. The intangible. And that is what Paulette seems to be afflicted by.

A different kind of magic.

A dark magic.

And this kind of magic is the hardest to solve.

Dark magic is notoriously difficult to counter and dispel. Its intricate nature made it a formidable challenge even for someone as powerful as himself.

It twisted and corrupted the very fabric of existence, leaving a trail of chaos and suffering in its wake.

And dark magic has many mediums and many ways. Some uses emotions. Some uses items. The intangible. The unseen.

In some worlds there is stark differences between dark magic and white magic and every world has its own definition of what constitutes dark magic or white magic, whether that magic is good or bad.

Of course, just like on Earth, where the concept of justice in general decided by the powerful, the definition of magic is also determined by the ruling powers

But there is the justice that is recognized by the public and then there is the justice that other people know in their hearts.

And the same is for magic. Azief had seen many destructive magic and not all destructive magic is considered dark amici and vice versa.

But most worlds agree that anything that contributes to destruction and chaos could fall into the category of dark magic.

Fireball for example destroys thing. But it could also light the way, warm the body, create a light in darkness.

This is nature of magic that had two sides. Like a knife where you could use it to kill people or to chop cabbages.

You could use a hammer to build a house or smash someone head with it

Then there is magic that its own entire existence is rooted in destruction, in chaos, in providing despair and sadness.

And that is its only function. Most of these kinds of magic falls clearly into what most worlds would agree a dark magic.

And because of that he is very reluctant in trying to save Paulette. Not because he did not want to
But because he understood the difficulty.

One wrong move and he could bring more harm than good. Given enough time, Azief could probably
learns and resolve such magic. But that requires certain experimentation, a method of trial and error

And Azief is quite sure that Jean would not want his girlfriend to be some kind of lab rat for him to try all
kinds of magic.

And in the method of healing, Jena might also be more advanced than him. However, even though
Paulette problem is not his, one thing puzzles him.

This method...it probably would work against anyone. Of course, it probably would not have such an
effect on Divine Comprehension leveller and might only work with Disk formation levelers.

From the report he find out that Paulette seems to be bitten by a snake. There is all kinds of weird thing
surrounding this matter.

And his intuition is telling him that this might not be so simple. For now, he simply ordered Arthur to
find more information about this matter

Azief then sighed.

He got the report about Shinji death

Sasha told him to leave it to her. And he will. Shinji was a person that he very much admired.

If not, he would not have recruited the man.

'Maybe, it is better it ends like this' he mutters to himself.

If people hear it, people might not understand why he said what he said. Only he understood it.

It's only been a few hours after the battle. The execution platform is still wet with blood and the sound
of explosion could still be heard all over the island.

There is still some pockets of battle. But Azief did not need to interfere no more at this juncture.

He was thinking about something else when someone knocked the door

Azief waves his hand and a gust of wind flew and the door opened.

There is three people in front of the door. They walk in and look around the room.

'A medieval design'

'there is no table'

'the windows bring in the light. A pity there is fire all over the city' these three people enter and all
speak at the same time

Azief smiles and then click his finger . the door closes, a table materializes and three chairs manifested
itself

six feet long and three feet wide table appears

'Sit'

The three people nodded and sit on the chair. There is Raymond, wearing a war armor. His face had some scratches, his blond hair is tied neatly his blue eyes scanning the room.

On the other seat, there is Hirate, his face is pale white, a trace of tiredness could be seen.

And on the other seat is Hikigaya. He now wears something a bit more casual. At least casual for him. He still wears his robe but it is a brand-new purple robe.

His hair is let loose and there is a smile on the corner of his mouth, looking at Hirate

Azief have many things to do, many things to settle. So, he did not want to waste time.

'I think you know why I call you here' at this he turns to Raymond. Raymond face turns solemn and he nodded.

'We have a deal, Raymond. Do you still agree with that deal?'

Raymond eyes narrowed. Hirate is solemn. And Hikigaya is just sitting on his chair, looking at all of this with apparent amusement

[Chapter 1526 Ask The Question](#)

'We have a deal, Raymond. Do you still agree with that deal?' for a moment there is an oppressing silence in the room

'I promise you before. I am not a man that would break my promise' Azief eyes narrowed.

'It is hard to simply believe your promise. I know of your reputation'

'Then you know I am telling the truth'

Azief shakes his head

'The stake is too high now. I could not afford any failure.' He paused for a second before saying

'I do not want to delay myself again. If I trust you now, and you betray me, I would have to spend a lot of time. It would be like raising a tiger to kill myself'

Hirate was about to say something but Raymond stop him with his eyes. He sighed and then said

'I am speaking honestly. But you can't believe me. Then what do you suggest we do right now?'

'Swear it. Swear it under the Heavenly Will'

Raymond eyes narrowed and the atmosphere in the room seems to crackle. The tension only lasted a few second and then he chuckles.

'It seems you have found a method to use the Heavenly Will' Azief did not even bother to reply.

The silence did not last long, Raymond sighed and swear to honour the deal

Above the heavens, the entire Heavenly Way shakes. But no one could feel this other than Azief and Raymond.

Azief hearing the promise acknowledged by the Heavenly Will could feel that the Heavenly Will become even more complete.

However, it becoming more complete did not mean that it was good for him.

But unlike before, he did not try to stop it.

'A month. I will give you a month. After that, meet me. I will send you a message. At that time, come'
Raymond nodded

He and Hirate had made a deal with Death Monarch. They made the deal knowing fully that he had to pay

So, he simply nodded in agreement. It would be stupid of him to try to back out of this deal at this point of time

Azief waves his hand and space behind him tear itself apart.

Coming out from the space is a wooden case. A three feet wooden case.

The wooden case floated in the air and Raymond, Hirate and Hikigaya could all see that the wooden case is carved with all kinds of runes and other methods of sealing.

there is matrixes of sealing carved and the scent of the wooden box seems to emanate a scent that seems to affect the space where the scent flows.

The wooden box, like anything that Death Monarch possess is magical

The wood case slowly floats toward the table and when it is on top of the table, it slowly floated down and then it landed on the table gently.

Azief look at the wooden case with a complicated expression. Hikigaya also look interested.

'It's in there?' Azief nodded.

'Open it' Azief said to Raymond and Raymond did not need to be told twice.

He opens the wooden case.

The moment Azief spoke the word open, everyone could tell that the sealing formation of the case was dispelled.

Raymond open the top of the case and inside the case is a three feet long trident.

Even though the trident is just lying there, Raymond could feel its energy radiating out. Like a sea wave that keeps rolling to the shore.

Raymond look at the trident and for a moment, it was like he was entranced.

'Take it and try to hold it' Raymond was broken out of his contemplation and his face becomes a bit weird.

It is because the words that Azief had said that made him feel like there is something wrong

'What happened?' he ask

Azief did not mean to hide anything so he tell the truth

'I try to hold it. What happens was there is a rebounding effect. I could still hold it if I wanted to'

'But I could not mobilize its power and it keeps rejecting me. If not for my realm, the trident would jump out and flew out from my hands'

He paused for a second and then said

'To guard against any unexpected accident, I sealed the trident inside the wooden case. It did not reject Kaiju. I wanted to see whether it would reject you or will it accept you'

Raymond look at the trident.

And he was thinking about the past.

He had hold it for a moment when he was clashing with Kaiju in that island filled with winds and storms.

At that time, the trident did not reject him. Even Sofia had the chance to hold that trident. And the trident also did not reject her.

Raymond look at Death Monarch. Azief notice the stare but he did not seem to mind. In Raymond mind right now, there is a question

Sofia could hold it. He could hold it. Kaiju could also hold it. Why not him?

However, he decided not to think too much about this. It is better that the trident rejected him.

Whatever the reason was, it is good for him. Raymond hold the trident and for a second he waited if there is any reaction from the trident

But nothing happened and he smiles. He pulls the trident out from the case and the moment he brought it out, the size and length of the trident changes

Now, it is seven feet tall with Raymond standing around 6'6. Raymond could tell that if he wanted to, he could make it longer and bigger.

But because his control over the trident is non-existent, the changing of size of the trident has some limitations.

And he could feel two foreign energy coursing through the trident. One of them is divine in nature.

A pure divine energy that pulsate with indescribable power. Just by being in contact with this energy, Raymond felt like his connection with the laws of the world deepens

This divine energy must be the energy of Poseidon.

The Poseidon of Olympus.

Raymond had brush up some knowledge about the true origin of this trident when he found out that this trident is the true trident of Poseidon

In his study he had learned extensively about Olympus. Not the one in the Greek myths but the one that is real in this Universe.

After all, other than Pandemonium, World Government is one of the most active world powers in breaching to other worlds and dimension and of course they know a little bit about the elusive Intergalactic United Alliance

But Raymond himself had never seen Olympus or any of the major power of the Universe.

What he knows....is that the myths about Olympians is not all.....make believe and stories. Some of them are very real.

As for the other foreign energies, it is also divine in nature but it is different. There is a trace of faint weakness. Yes, weakness

That is the one thing he could describe about the other energy that he felt. That probably belong to Kaiju. Fortunately, Kaiju did not refine the trident full power. If not, probably there is no one in this world that could restrain him.

After all, the trident in his hand is not some replica, or a copy of some divine weapons but a true trident of Poseidon.

If the myths is to be believed, Cyclops created the trident.

And from what he understood, Cyclops in the Universe are a very unique breed of beings that could forge all kinds of magical weapons using all kinds of things, tangible and intangible.

'How do you feel?' Azief question echoes in this large room

Raymond was startled for a second. He finally remembered he is still in the room. He smiles and nodded

'It did not reject me' Azief hearing this look at the trident. His eyes seems to glow with blue light and then the glow dissipated.

'Interesting' he paused for a second, a smirk on the corner of his mouth and he added

'Very interesting'

Azief click his finger and the space around him tear itself apart.

Like a small opening suddenly was torn apart from space itself, creating somewhat a void-like space

And then the lid of the wooden case suddenly jump into the air and nailed itself onto the wooden case

Then the wooden case, just like the way it came, floated up and then enter back into the void of space.

And then the void space closes itself

Azief look at Hirate

'I have fulfilled my deal. I expect you to fulfil yours. Now, go'

Hirate scoffed. He is not used to being at the beck and call of someone else. As the President of the World Government, he is the one that summon and dismiss people.

Now, that it is being done to him, the feeling is not good

But he did not go. Death Monarch tell him to go and he goes? That doesn't sound like him. And Hirate has a question he wanted to ask him.

Does he really not care? Or does he not know? This question swirls in Hirate mind.

'You ask me here just to become a witness?'

Azief look at Hirate and another silence descended in the room

'I admit that when I called you I have some questions. But when I think about it, some of the question I wanted to ask you would come to my table in the end'

'Some of the question?' Hirate smiles.

He could guess what that question would pertain., the question that Death Monarch have, the answer which would lay onto his table must be the kind of question that Sasha could answer

That question is probably the question about the war.

'What about the question that would not come onto the table? You said some of the question. I presume that there are some questions that you did not ask me. A question you knew where the answer would not come on your table'

Azief sighed

'I summon you here hoping that you know something about what happen with Paulette'

The room become silent.

Raymond did not say anything because he himself does not know what Death Monarch knows. And he doesn't know what Hirate knows.

He was busy fighting during the war.

And Hirate....he is used to the way he shielded secrets for him and from him.

'Why didn't you ask?'

'I thought you would tell me if you know?'

Another silence in the room

Hirate face turns sour.

'Is this a test?'

Azief look at him lazily

'Do you have anything to say?'

Another silence. Hikigaya sitting on his chair only watched this matter with a smile. He did not have any intention to stand up for Hirate.

When has he ever seen Hirate being so flustered or so worked up?

'What do you know?' Hirate suddenly ask.

'Maybe....as much as you know'

'You don't want to talk about it?'

The silence this time is longer. Raymond already got what he wants but he also wanted to know what Hirate and Death Monarch is talking about

Since Death Monarch did not say anything, he stays here.

Azief close his eyes for a second and then opening it back he ask

'Is Loki there at that time?'

And Hirate chuckles.

A smile formed on his face

[Chapter 1527 The World Is Big](#)

Hirate smiles. But it is an uneasy smile

'Wipe that smile out of your face Hirate' Azief never liked seeing a smile from Hirate face. It felt like he is conspiring against you.

Maybe it is just his feeling. After all, his experience with Hirate shape his experience. So, it is reasonable why he felt like this.

Hirate sighs, takes a deep breath and nodded

'Tch' Azief clicked his tongue.

'This will be complicated' he mutters to himself. But Azief did not hide what he said and Hirate nodded

'He is not the perpetrator' Hirate added

Azief look back at him and simply ask

'You think or you know?'

At this Hirate could not answer. Another silence fills the room

'He was helping her' he said

Azief only chuckles at this

"What if that is what he wanted you to see? Do not underestimate the things he could make other people see and the things he could make people believe"

Azief sighed and then he said

'What if that is what he plans from the beginning?'

'you don't believe him? I thought he is your sworn brother. I thought that your oath of protecting him is a sign of affection toward him. Was I mistaken?'

At this Azief chuckles.

"Who would have thought that you would defend him fiercely? How the world has changed' he mutters with a smile on his face

'Loki and I....we have a very weird relationship. I would protect him...but trust him?' he paused for a second, closes his eyes and opening it back he said to Hirate

'I trust him with certain things. But there is a lot more that I don't trust him with. Things he would do for me.... sometime is not what I wanted him to do. But.... but he always thinks he knows better'

Of course, Azief could not tell to Hirate that he knows Loki soul come from a very different timeline from all of them. In a way, it is not wrong to say Loki come from a future.

A future that is not yet written.

And because of that he could not trust the motivation of Loki.

Loki and Paulette have no enmity. Logically, in anyone mind, Loki would have no reason to attack Paulette. But.....that is now.

The difficult thing about trying to understand Loki action is that he came from the future. His knowledge and his perspective in seeing thing is different.

If Loki lived in the now.... without knowing any future information, there should be no reason for him to attack Paulette.

But what if in the future that he is from, he and Paulette were enemies? What if they were rivals? These what-if situation is what worries him.

He knows Loki is here to stop something. It might be his future. It clearly points to that in some capacity.

Or it might be something else. Considering Loki cunning mind, it would not be an exaggeration for him to put some red herring so that he would be confused, chasing an empty lead.

Azief is confident on only one thing.

And that is Loki would never do anything to jeopardize his life. But for the people he loved and people who he cared about...Azief is not so sure.

Because the objective is different

Loki could make anyone bait. Even Sofia, Even Katarina, Sina, Sasha. People he cares about. People he has become attached to.

As long as he did not die, Loki probably would not mind using anyone to fulfil his objective. And that is why he could not fully trust Loki. Maybe, Paulette is just another piece of his plan

A pawn.

The room went silent again.

"Maybe you should trust him a little" Hirate said and Azief only chuckles at this.

"Go. Come when I summon you"

"when will that be" Azief thought for a moment

"maybe in a month" Raymond nodded and he got up from his seat. Hirate followed him from behind.

Now, inside the room there is only him and Hikigaya.

"A month? You seem to be delaying it?"

"We have just broken the Crime Alliance and the Pirate Lords. We kill a few pirate lords and a few high-ranking members of the Crime Alliance"

Hikigaya nodded but he does not seem worried.

"in the past this kind of purge would create chaos all over the world"

"How about now?" Azief ask. Hikigaya only smiles

"It would not?"

"it would not" he answered.

"Why?"

"the world is too big now"

Azief laughed at this answer and nodded.

"Yes, the world is too big now"

"Then why?" Hikigaya ask. The question is simple but only these two understand the meaning of this question.

In the wake of the Multiversal Convergence, the once-familiar world underwent a remarkable transformation, stretching its boundaries far beyond what anyone had ever imagined.

Countless new continents materialized, each with its own unique landscapes and biodiversity, spanning vast distances that seemed to defy the laws of physics.

The realm between the heavens and the earth expanded, creating a breath-taking expanse of celestial wonders and mystical realms.

Amidst this grand expansion, the balance of power shifted, and the dynamics of large organizations such as the Crime Alliance and the Pirate Association were forever altered.

A few years ago, their very eradication would have sparked unprecedented chaos and turmoil, igniting a fervour of revenge and retribution.

Yet, the world had changed.

The Multiversal Convergence brought forth a new era, where boundaries were blurred, and the possibilities seemed endless.

Azief, with his unparalleled abilities, had swiftly and decisively exterminated the high-ranking members of these organizations, striking a blow that would have previously shaken the foundations of society.

But now, a palpable shift in the air could be felt.

The once mighty organizations, while undoubtedly nursing their wounds, seemed hesitant to embark on a path of immediate retaliation.

They could not because there is still Death Monarch, sitting there on the top of the world, watching over the world, like the Heaven that hangs above the Earth

The very mention of the name Death Monarch Azief instils fear and trepidation in the hearts of all who hear it.

His reign as the undisputed ruler of the world brought with it an aura of invincibility that seemed impenetrable.

It might seem like the world power is equal. But if it is equal, then why does when Death Monarch spoke....everyone have to listen?

Once Azief ascended the throne as the strongest being in existence, no one dared to challenge his authority or dream of overthrowing him.

In the early years, there were some people that thought of challenging him. But as time passes and he grows stronger the more people felt like it is almost impossible to bring him down

The battle between him and Kaiju was so interesting because, Kaiju almost seem to be able to fight him

The might of Death Monarch Azief extended not only to his own person but also encompassed his loyal followers and allies.

His power was so overwhelming that attempting to directly attack him or his people would be nothing short of suicidal.

Aware of this fact, those who harboured ill intentions against him turned their attention towards his allies and the other members of the world power

However, even this avenue of attack proved to be a daunting task.

The war that had ravaged the lands and reshaped the world had already depleted the ranks of the pirates and the Crime Alliance

The loss of countless soldiers and resources left them in a weakened state, unable to mount a substantial offensive against the fortified positions held by the world power.

Furthermore, the sheer vastness of the expanded world presented a logistical nightmare for those contemplating an assault on the important cities held by the world power.

The distances to be covered, the intricate supply lines to be established, and the coordination required among their forces made such an endeavour nearly impossible to achieve at this juncture.

And the most important reason is the absence of Divine Comprehension levelers among the Pirates and the Crime Alliance

This played a crucial role in their inability to pose a significant threat in the current juncture.

In contrast, the world powers had individuals with Divine Comprehension level abilities who possessed immense power and were capable of protecting their territories from any potential attacks.

Jean alone had saved countless cities and kept the attack of the pirates and the Crime Alliance forces at bay.

And this is only one. Now, that Azief and Hikigaya is also free, it means there is three of them.

And the three of them could overwhelm the world if they wanted to

This power disparity tipped the scales heavily in favor of the world powers, rendering the Pirates and the Crime Alliance virtually defenceless.

It is fortunate that the Crime Alliance hides in places where finding them is almost nigh impossible.

They would make their headquarters and place of residence in places where Divine Sense does not work.

This significant advantage held by the world powers was the primary reason why Hikigaya questioned the need for a month to pacify the broken cities and eliminate any remnants of the Pirates and the Crime Alliance.

From a strategic standpoint, pooling their efforts for a week would have been sufficient to accomplish these objectives.

Within a week, the combined might of the world powers could have swiftly restored order and eliminated any remaining threats within their respective cities.

The timeline of a month appeared unnecessarily prolonged to Hikigaya, given the overwhelming power and resources possessed by the world powers.

The notion that it would take a month to pacify the entire world seemed excessive and raised questions in his mind.

Azief was about to answer but then he shook his head.

"I have my own consideration" The moment Azief said this, Hikigaya did not insist more.

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[Chapter 1528 Prelude](#)

As the island of Arturia undergoes rapid reconstruction, utilizing the convergence of magic and advanced science, the world's attention is captivated by the task at hand.

However, unbeknownst to most, behind the scenes, individuals wielding great power and influence are engaged in schemes and machinations that ripple across the globe.

The defeat of the Pirate Association has sent shockwaves throughout the pirate-infested seas.

With the Pirate Lords silenced by their recent loss, it is anticipated that their once boisterous presence will be significantly subdued.

Furthermore, the vacant seats left by fallen Pirate Lords foreshadow an impending clash among the remaining pirates, as they vie for supremacy and control.

Yet, as long as their battles are contained within their own ranks and not directed towards coastal settlements, the world at large may remain indifferent to their internal struggles.

The focus will shift towards rebuilding and revitalizing the coastal regions ravaged by the piracy scourge, allowing the common folk to gradually regain a sense of security and peace.

Simultaneously, the Crime Alliance finds itself in disarray, having suffered significant losses, including the decapitation of their leadership by the relentless guillotine of justice.

Forced to retreat into the shadows, they must regroup and re-establish their network of illicit activities.

The world, too, must re-evaluate its stance and recalibrate its position in response to the shifting power dynamics resulting from the retreat of these two formidable forces.

Amidst the tumultuous aftermath of these significant transformations, the world grapples with the need to reorganize itself.

Nations, organizations, and individuals of influence reposition themselves, seeking to exploit new opportunities or protect their established interests.

And it is the same for Death Monarch and his ally.

He is still in the room.

The room filled with an unusual silence, interrupted only by the presence of Azief and Hikigaya.

In that moment, Azief found himself reflecting on the peculiar workings of fate as he look at Hikigaya sitting not far away from him

It was a curious twist that brought them together in this manner, as neither Azief nor Hikigaya had ever anticipated such a connection.

Their relationship could not be categorized as friendship, nor could it be described as camaraderie.

Yet, there was an undeniable sense of alliance that had developed between them.

Hikigaya had proven himself to be a trustworthy and capable individual, someone who could deliver on his promises.

Azief held great admiration for competence, and he found himself regarding Hikigaya as a reliable ally.

Silence, though often considered burdensome by some, held a sense of comfort for both Azief and Hikigaya.

It allowed them the space to engage in deep contemplation.

At their level of evolution and strength, their minds were capable of simultaneously processing a multitude of thoughts.

The complexity of their thoughts had grown alongside their own personal growth, further enhancing their cognitive abilities.

Even in the midst of forming words and engaging in conversation with Hikigaya, Azief's mind was a whirlwind of simultaneous contemplations.

He navigated a realm where numerous ideas and considerations coexisted, his concentration undeterred as he exchanged words with his newfound ally.

And then he spoke

"I'm just worried about Jean. Would he be able to come when I created the Ten Realms? Sangmin promise me that he would come and I have no reason not to believe him. And Raymond is already in the bag. You, me and then Jean. But after what happened with Paulette, I worry that...."

Hikigaya shook his head and spoke

"I believe Jean would come" there is another silence and Azief simply reply

"I hope so"

Then he began talking with Hikigaya about other matter

Azief turned his attention to a matter of great importance—the potential breakthrough of Oreki into the Divine Comprehension realm.

The possibility of Oreki attaining such a level held significant implications, not only for Earth's safety but also for the stability of the world as a whole.

Azief harboured concerns about the World Government intentions regarding Japan.

With Oreki's potential ascent to the Divine Comprehension realm, Earth could find itself in a safer position.

Azief was wary of any attempts by the World Government to reclaim Japan and feared the resulting chaos that might ensue.

Hikigaya, once a prominent member of the World Government, had seceded from its ranks, effectively removing Japan from the World Government influence.

In the past, neighbouring world powers would have seized the opportunity to conquer Japan, asserting their control.

However, with Hikigaya formidable strength in the Divine Comprehension realm and his command over the Laws of the World, he had become the stalwart shield and sword of Japan, much like Azief role in safeguarding Pandemonium.

However, Azief recent decision to bestow the Trident of Poseidon upon Raymond had left him concerned.

With plans to enter seclusion, Azief feared that Raymond, acting under Hirate orders, might wield the trident and attempt to reclaim Japan.

The immense power of the trident could potentially overwhelm Hikigaya, leaving him vulnerable and Japan unprotected.

Yet, Azief worries could be assuaged if Oreki were to break through into the Divine Comprehension realm.

With two formidable allies in possession of such power, Azief could find solace, knowing that Japan would remain secure even in his absence.

The combined strength of Hikigaya and Oreki would form an impenetrable barrier against any threats that may arise.

Thus, the question of Oreki potential breakthrough weighed heavily on Azief mind.

As for Raymond, with the trident on his hand, it is only a matter of time until he could break through

They spoke about this for half an hour and then they change the topic

After their discussion about Oreki potential breakthrough to the Divine Comprehension realm, Azief and Hikigaya shifted their focus to the Ten Realms Project, a crucial plan that required meticulous planning and coordination.

Hikigaya, being one of the main contributors to the plan, expressed his preference for the Illusory Sea to surround the Empire of Japan when the project was initiated.

Azief, considering the suggestion, did not voice any objections, indicating his agreement with Hikigaya choice.

In parallel, Azief made the decision to relocate the continent of Pandemonium to the Turbulent Sea.

The other great powers of the world would have the freedom to select their preferred sea as a barrier, effectively designating it as a restricted area.

This step aimed to enhance the effectiveness of the plan and provide strategic advantages to the participating powers.

Their conversation stretched on for hours as they refined and polished the details of the plan, taking into account potential challenges, contingencies, and desired outcomes.

And then the only thing that is left is silence.

Hikigaya sighed.

"This is a tall task" Azief nodded.

"Why?"

This why is different from the why before

And Azief could tell. So, he ponders the question. And he takes his time to answer. But the answer come quick

Because this is the same question that he had asked himself multiple times in the past. So, the answer come quick.

"I'm tired" he answered

Hikigaya frowned.

"You want to let go?"

"I want rest"

"And what about the world?"

Azief chuckles

"It will keep spinning"

Hearing this Hikigaya also chuckles.

And then he sighed. Though it is not a sigh of disappointment. There was that silence again. But these two have grown comfortable with the silence.

"Have we grown old?" Hikigaya ask

Azief shook his head

"We just walk our own path" he said it leisurely

Hikigaya look at Death Monarch and then he smiles.

Something about Azief response resonated deeply within him, bringing a smile to his lips.

It was an answer that satisfied his restless soul.

Though only a decade had passed, excluding the years spent in the Fake Earth, it felt like a lifetime to Hikigaya.

Along his journey, he had forged many friendships.

However, as time progressed, some friends had met untimely ends, while others had chosen different paths or simply vanished without a trace.

Some had become lost in their own struggles.

There were days when Hikigaya believed that things would remain unchanged, that the bonds of friendship would endure forever.

But there were also days filled with pain and hurt, experiences that aged his very soul.

In the depths of his heart, he wondered where the youthful spirit he once possessed had gone.

However, in that moment, Death Monarch's words severed all doubts and questions. "We walk our own path."

The simple yet profound statement cut through the fog of uncertainty, clearing Hikigaya mind like a divine wind dispersing a dense mist.

It reminded him that each person's journey was unique and that their individual paths held meaning and purpose.

"I wonder what you think about sometimes" Hikigaya ask

Silence filled the room once more, as Azief took his time to consider Hikigaya question.

It was a characteristic trait of his that those close to him had come to recognize and understand.

Sina, Sofia, and Katarina were aware of the reasons behind his deliberate approach, as he had shared his story with them.

In the past, Azief had been inclined to answer questions quickly.

Perhaps it was driven by a desire to please others or to appear intelligent.

Reflecting on it now, he couldn't fully comprehend why he had possessed such a tendency in the past.

But as he grew older, he found himself pausing, allowing a moment of silence before responding to a question.

Contrary to what some might assume, Azief intention was not to create suspense or intrigue.

Though Azief could not really blame those who thought so. After all, he always like to do some theatrics whether it be persuading people or threatening them

Rather, he simply wanted to take the time to fully understand the question at hand.

He desired to delve into its depth and meaning, pondering over it before formulating his response.

It was a conscious effort to avoid the impulsive nature of his past, when his quick answers had often led to undesirable outcomes and even tragedy.

However, those were events from a different time, a chapter of his life before he became the person he is today.

Looking back, the memories of those days appeared hazy and indistinct in Azief mind.

Yet, the habit he had cultivated remained, a testament to the lessons he had learned.

As Hikigaya question lingered in the air, Azief embraced the silence, allowing his thoughts to flow and intertwine.

And then, with the weight of consideration behind his words, he finally spoke, his answer carrying the weight of wisdom gained through experience.

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[Chapter 1529 The Discussion Of The Path](#)

As Azief spoke, his voice carried a magnetic quality, exuding a persuasive power that had not been present in his youth.

In his younger days, he had never been considered a particularly skilled orator, although he would often speak animatedly when conversing with his friends.

However, just as he had grown stronger by overcoming his weaknesses, Azief journey of self-improvement had transformed some of his vulnerabilities into his greatest strengths.

One of his earlier weaknesses had been a fear of challenges.

Yet, through numerous near-death experiences, he discovered a profound sense of triumph in overcoming adversity and surviving against all odds.

Having stared death in the face multiple times, Azief began to view walking the tightrope between life and death as something less daunting and even exhilarating.

With each brush with mortality, he gained a new perspective on fear and the boundaries of his own capabilities.

Now, after years of growth and resilience, Azief had honed his skills of persuasion.

The challenges he had faced and the lessons he had learned had imbued him with the ability to captivate and sway others with his words.

It was a transformation that had taken time and effort, a testament to his relentless pursuit of personal growth.

"Or maybe, it is because I sit at the highest seat and so my words have that persuasive power to it" he thought to himself.

After all, a poor person wanting to become rich would not listen to the advice of another poor person.

They want to hear the advice of a rich person. But sometimes, the only one who could see you objectively is also the person that shares the same fate as you.

This thought flashes in his mind for a second

He said to Hikigaya.

"I am no smarter than you. Or anyone else. I think the same thing...." He paused for a second before he added "Probably"

A second pause and then he continue

"My thought at that time might seem unique, and there were a time when I feel my thought is special and no one else think the same way. There is this desire to be special. That we alone thought of it and no one else and this desire to be special could sometimes overwhelmed you"

"However, I like the idea that I was special. Because then it is the world that is wrong and not me" he chuckles at this thought

"Childish, don't you think?" he mutters. Hikigaya did not say anything. Azief then continue saying

"But after a while, after knowing more people, talking to them I discover that what I thought of is not that uncommon. What I thought was special, is not that special"

He paused for a second and then he said

"I just see more"

He pauses another second and then added

"And then when you see more, your mind is open. And because I have seen more things, I could understand more. The people in the world, is like a frog that watches the sky from the bottom of a well. How could it see the green grass, the creatures of the world? It only sees the blue sky and yearned for it"

"The frog does not have wing" Hikigaya said.

Azief smiles and answered.

"Before, the frog does not have wings"

"And now?"

Azief smiles

"But today, if the frog want wings, they just have to jump and jump hard and wings will be there"

Hikigaya hearing these words chuckles.

And he nodded.

Azief added

"Before, one could only yearn. And that yearning could never be fulfilled. But now, the yearning could be fulfilled. So, why not jump? And why not jump hard? Take the wings and soar to the sky"

Azief likes to talk in metaphor and Hikigaya is the same kind of person.

The frog is the common people of the world. And the wings is the energy of Heaven and Earth.

The All Source, The World Orb whatever you want to call the Source of Energy that is present between Heaven and Earth

In the past, both Azief and Hikigaya are also that frog in the bottom of the well.

At that time, both of them did not even look at the blue sky but like any other normal people, look at the ground.

Hikigaya, during his high school years, had adopted a cynical, nihilistic, and stoic persona.

He was a loner who took pride in his ability to handle things on his own, never relying on anyone except his younger sister.

He adamantly refused to accept pity, sympathy, or charity, recognizing that his path was not one of self-improvement.

However, this mindset often led him to hurt both himself and those around him, causing his own descent.

Everything changed for Hikigaya with the arrival of the Fall.

He transformed into a warrior, a warlord, and continued to evolve into something greater.

Now, he sits atop the world, possessing the power to influence global affairs with his words and actions.

This newfound position of authority contrasts starkly with his previous desire for a simple, uneventful life.

On the other hand, Azief, in his younger years, aspired to become a government official.

He recognized the corruption within the government but sought stability through a government job.

This shows that even in those times, there is a sense of justice within him. Of course, the years had polished that heart of justice.

And he become colder and more practical. But if one studied Azief past, one would understand why he hated the Crime Alliance.

He longed to be a productive member of society, striving for a path he thought would provide him with security.

However, life proved to be far more complex than he had anticipated.

Azief matured over time and learned that choices had consequences, some of which he regretfully made in the past.

He stumbled, fell, and at times, struggled to regain his footing.

When he did rise again, he often found himself disoriented, feeling lost and uncertain as he groped his way forward through the uncertainties of life. pandas`n?v?| com

Both Hikigaya and Azief journeys highlight the complexities of growth and the challenges faced along the way.

Their paths have taken them from their initial ideals to a place of greater power and influence, but not without sacrifices and missteps.

At that time both him and Hikigaya is a frog.

A frog that did not look up and see the vast open blue sky

But they look down and see the darkness of the well.

They stare at it and all they could see was the darkness of that well

If there is one similarity between them.....then this is that similarity. They were both normal people before.

With normal dreams, normal desires and broken dreams and unfulfilled desires.

Just like the seven billion people of the world.

All trying to live in a world that has become colder, crueller and harsh.

And no one could have expected that one day all of their life could change.

The Fall happens, meteors raining down from the Heavens and the world is filled with energy that brings power and unlimited possibilities.

Infinite possibilities, infinite dreams.

And then the frogs began to look up and looking up they began to see the sky.

And then seeing the vast sky, they yearned for it. And so, they jumped and when they jumped, they rose.

And they jump even more and before they know it, they have wings. And with wings, they soar to the sky freely.

Both Azief and Hikigaya walk their own path. But, this did not mean that they could not appreciate each other thought

There is silence. And Hikigaya is deep in thoughts.

Azief notices something.

There is an aura around him that is slowly rising up and affected the room. The space and time around Hikigaya is distorting.

Azief spread his Divine Sense and then he found out what happened. The space and time itself is not affected. It was an illusion.

Azief did not intend to stop it. Hikigaya is on the verge of something. Whatever he realized, his realization is increasing his mastery of his own Grand Path.

Azief did not stop him even when he could.

This is a kindness.

And so, the moment he did this, Azief could feel the invisible cause and effect that now bonds itself with Hikigaya.

The cause and effect between Hikigaya and him was already there and now it is strengthened.

But who owes who and who help who?

Cause and effect....which is the cause and which is the effect?

Not falling, not ignoring:

Odd and even are on one die.

Not ignoring, not falling:

Hundreds and thousands of regrets!

He is reminded of the story of the wild fox koan

Every time Baizhang, Zen Master Dahui, gave a dharma talk, a certain old man would come to listen.

He usually left after the talk, but one day he remained.

Baizhang asked, "Who is there?"

The man said, "I am not actually a human being. I lived and taught on this mountain at the time of Kashyapa Buddha.

One day a student asked me, 'Does a person who practices with great devotion still fall into cause and effect?'

I said to him, 'No, such a person doesn't.'

Because I said this I was reborn as a wild fox for five hundred lifetimes. Reverend master, please say a turning word for me and free me from this wild fox body."

Then he asked Baizhang, "Does a person who practices with great devotion still fall into cause and effect?"

Baizhang said, "Don't ignore cause and effect."

Immediately the man had great realization.

Bowing, he said, "I am now liberated from the body of a wild fox. I will stay in the mountain behind the monastery. Master, could you perform the usual services for a deceased monk for me?"

Baizhang asked the head of the monks' hall to inform the assembly that funeral services for a monk would be held after the midday meal.

The monks asked one another, "What's going on? Everyone is well; there is no one sick in the Nirvana Hall."

After their meal, Baizhang led the assembly to a large rock behind the monastery and showed them a dead fox at the rock's base.

Following the customary procedure, they cremated the body.

That evening during his lecture in the dharma hall Baizhang talked about what had happened that day.

Huangbo asked him, "A teacher of old gave a wrong answer and became a wild fox for five hundred lifetimes. What if he hadn't given a wrong answer?"

Baizhang said,

"Come closer and I will tell you."

Huangbo went closer and slapped Baizhang's face.

Laughing, Baizhang clapped his hands and said, "I thought it was only barbarians who had unusual beards. But you too have an unusual beard!"

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[Chapter 1530 Cause And Effect](#)

Azief remembered that story for some reason. Maybe it is his mind making the association with what he is thinking about and dug out that story.

When he first read it, the story of the fox is not what attract him. It is the reason why Huangbo slapped Baizhang face and why Baizhang laughed that made him wonder

He thought and thought and he reached his own conclusion about this matter.

This story is about exploration of cause and effect, as well as the nature of realization and liberation.

Baizhang response indicates that while practitioners may cultivate great devotion and spiritual practice, they should not disregard the consequences of their actions.

It emphasizes the importance of understanding and respecting the interconnectedness of all things, including cause and effect.

Huangbo slap is a non-conceptual action meant to awaken Baizhang to a deeper understanding.

Baizhang laughter and comment about Huangbo beard playfully highlight the limitations of conceptual thinking and the need for refinement in spiritual practice.

And so, he asked himself.

"Not falling into causation."

Why was he turned into a fox?

"Not ignoring causation."

Why was he released from the fox body? If you have an eye to see through this, then you will know that the former head of the monastery did enjoy his five hundred happy blessed lives as a fox.

Not falling, not ignoring:

Odd and even are on one die.

Not ignoring, not falling:

Hundreds and thousands of regrets

There is many interpretations of this koan.

This is Wumen poem, a monk that compile this story have about the koan

Wumen poem suggests that neither view of causality has an absolute monopoly on the truth.

There is an alternative translation of Wumen's Ode

βαῖδας ἤθνε | Not falling, not darkening

Two colours, one game.

Not darkening, not falling

One thousand mistakes, ten thousand mistakes.

"Two colours, one game" refers literally to the "die" used in the Chinese game that had colours instead of numbered dots as in the die known to Europeans.

The image refers to the Zen view that there is an underlying oneness to the two colours of falling or not falling into cause and effect.

When one turns the light around and awakens to one's self-nature, "then opens the gate of the oneness of cause and effect".

for the ordinary person the two conflicting views of causality are between falling into cause and effect or not falling into cause and effect, because they dream of being free from cause and effect as being separate from cause and effect.

But when a person awakens to their true nature those who have awaken sees the oneness of cause and effect

therefore, that person does not "darken", "obscure", or "ignore" the functioning of cause and effect by imagining cause and effect are two separate things, that cause and effect is separate from one's natural nature.

`Not subject to causality.'

How can this answer cause five hundred rebirths as a fox?

`Not blind to causality.'

How can this emancipate a fox?

To understand clearly you have to have just one eye.

Then you will appreciate how that previous monk lived five hundred fox lives as five hundred lives of grace.

That previous monk that turned into the fox is the abbot of that temple and he turns into a fox because he answer the question 'Does a person who practices with great devotion still fall into cause and effect?'

And he answer 'No, such a person doesn't.'

`this mean that the answer Not subject to causality.'

This answer cause five hundred rebirths as a fox!

And then the fox asked the current Baizhang the same question

"Does a person who practices with great devotion still fall into cause and effect?"

Baizhang answer, "Don't ignore cause and effect."

`This means that the answer is not blind to causality. Or in other words do not ignore cause and effect'

This emancipate the fox

What about Huangbo?

Later on, he shows up and asks, suppose the old master, the fox had answered correctly, would he have saved himself the trouble of five hundred lives as a fox?

And then the current Abbot told Huangbo to come closer.

Before the abbot had a chance to slap Huangbo, Huangbo slaps the abbot.

This is Zen way of agreeing with each other.

Practice isn't about being right about doctrine, conforming to a set of ideas and values. There's nothing to understand or conform to in Zen.

All the Zen literature is actually quite simple anyway, and understanding it is no guarantee of anything.

If you like Zen you appreciate that some people understand, but understanding is not the point.

Living is the point.

Thus, awakened persons neither "fall into" nor do they "not fall into" cause and effect, because they are one with cause and effect.

And because they are one with cause and effect, they do not darken or ignore cause and effect.

Yet another and very different translation to the above two takes things more literally:

Controlled or not controlled?

The same die shows two faces.

Not controlled or controlled,

Both are a grievous error

This is a debated koan with different thought and different interpretation. And everyone who read it, have their own thoughts about this Zen story.

You could think that the old abbot becoming a fox, lives five hundred years more and that is a grace to live so long.

One could see it as a punishment and find that the five hundred years is a long time of punishment.

But Azief has his own interpretation. And he does not agree with this Zen story nor did he agree with the Way of the fox or the Way of the Abbot.

He did not follow this way. And his way is not of cause and effect

But his way does touch the way of cause and effect just like Hikigaya way touch the cause of effect of the world.

Hikigaya never told him what his Grand Path is.

But Azief could tell and Jean could tell. Anyone who have found their Grand Path and working to get there, all could tell

Turning illusion into reality, reality into illusion, subverting reality and the illusory, unveiling truth, transcending illusion.

This is his feeling of the path that Hikigaya had taken.

And that path surely would touch cause and effect.

The stronger they are, the more they are exposed to this kind of thing, of using the rules of the world and the laws that affect the fabric of reality

If he changes something, there is cause and effect. The more he uses it, the more cause and effect that would be burdened.

"Karma, Fate, Destiny....how could it not be touched?"

"One flower, one leaf, a stone on the road, the wind that blows, the infinitesimal atoms and particles that floated all over.....everything is connected"

"Remove a flower, remove a leaf, remove a stone, fate and destiny could be overturned and Karma is formed."

When Hikigaya turned something unreal into real, when he turned the illusory into reality, how could it create cause and effect.

"And he still did not realize he is in that state"

Hikigaya himself did not notice what is happening to him.

He did not notice that the space and time around him is being distorted and things around him turns illusory and some things seems to pop out from that distorted space.

Azief thought of his own enlightenment in the past, and maybe he is also like this.

And Hikigaya enlightenment also somehow made Azief ponder his own path.

He did not expect that as he talks with Hikigaya, their conversation veered from talking about the world affair to discussing the Grand Path

If this is in the Three Thousand World what he and Hikigaya is having right now could be considered a Dao Discussion.

This kind of discussion does not have to be long. Sometimes it could be short. There are times when one could preach for thousand of years and enlightened some beings

And sometimes, all it takes is one word to cut all confusion.

What is important is to yourself and your true nature. And whether you agree or not with your true nature or rebel against it, both are acceptable outcome.

Follow the Heavenly Way or rebel against it?

Be it subordinate, or be its protector or be its adversary...any answer is acceptable.

Just like life, you make a choice and you stick with it.

And the moment you did not stick with it, that Heart that Seeks the Path would crack and it began to crumble.

As Azief was thinking of this he suddenly sense that something is changing about Hikigaya and he look back at Hikigaya.

The aura that emanated out from him before now slowly being absorbed into his body

That aura seems to melded itself perfectly with Hikigaya but Hikigaya himself did not notice it.

Azief only smile seeing this.

This change is not a noticeable change. It is like a will. A desire. Some kind of force of the soul.

It refines the Heart that Seeks the Path.

In the Three Thousand Worlds, this would be called the Dao Heart.