

Shadow 971

[Chapter 971: Classes](#)

'I believe the classes is merely a manifestation of will of some Ethernal. And my Shadow Lord class is merely the manifestation of some Ethernal in the Ethernal world that have the ability to control shadows'

This word made Sasha who is listening to it suddenly seems to be filled with some understanding and all of her memory about Ethernal that she had read before suddenly appeared in her minds as she seems to be in a state of enlightenment.

It was like a new horizon was opened up for her. Azief continue by saying

'Of course, its power is not merely turning to shadows or having the power to manipulate shadow. That is just the physical manipulation of it. If I keep practicing and keep polishing and improving and walking the path of the Shadow Lord, then without a doubt, I would inherit this Ethernal will someday and become a true Shadow Lord, possessing the power of that Ethernal'

'The clothes that I wear, the abilities that I have because of the bestowment of this will, all came from this class. The system is like a bestowment system, a conferral system. It is to inform us, to guide us. But, the system itself possess no power. The World Orb gives this power'

'The system is to inform. And the classes are the way for the system to make us easily understand'

'Those who play games would easily understand that by converting to this class, one would get stronger. But where does this class come from? Why certain classes have different abilities? Why does when one reaches a higher level, one could feel a connection to the world, to the Universe and to the Omniverse? Why then, as some grows stronger, they could call upon an external power, an external Will that does not have a thought of its own, but remain forever eternal, in the force of the Omniverse?'

Smiling he said

'This is the system. A guide. A manual of sorts. A bestowment system. And the classes, is the will of that ancient race. As such the path that most people walked on is the path of those beings. The game-like system is merely the medium to which the force of the All Source manifested for us. It was to make it easy for us to understand. Maybe, if we live in the medieval era, it would come to humanity in a different method.'

There was another silence. Azief let Sasha tried to digest it first and then after a few second passes, he continues again

'To give you another example, for people who chose secret class, they must pass a test. This is to make sure that they are compatible with the will of that Ethernal. But.... there is an exception to this'

'An exception?'

Azief nodded and said

'Even though I have the Shadow Lord class, as I grew more powerful, my path goes further and further away from the Shadow Lord Path. I found another path. One could even say that I walk completely in the other way. But the other way does not mean it is the wrong way' Azief sighed and then said

‘Unlike others, I have to cut the Shadow Lord path from me. I did not do it yet. But that is the thing I must do if I were to persevere in my new path’

Azief knows what he needed to do and the path is clear. This word is not only to deepen Sasha understanding of the system but it also to remind him.

He himself could not be sure what would happen after he cut the Shadow Lord class from himself, but he reminded himself again, that this gamble, is a gamble he had to take if he were to keep going on this path.

‘Understand this. Each of these classes are the manifestation of the wills of the Omniverse. And all of these Wills come from the death of Eterna’

‘And regardless which way you choose, which path you choose to walk on, as you grew stronger, your ability would draw you to the source of power. You could start as a warrior and have all warrior skillset but as you grow stronger, you would find that you could even control the Laws of the world. And you might even be tempted to change to other classes. The System in this current situation is no longer an aid, but a hindrance. And the system has a ceiling limit. Even I don’t know what this limit is. But I know it exist. At that time, if you could not ditch the system, or find a new path that circumvent this limit, then your path is cut off’

Sighing, he then said

‘The application of it might be different from one another, but one could still change the laws of the world as long as one could walk a path till the end. Perseverance is the key’

Hearing all of this, Sasha seems to have some understanding at the grasp of her hand.

It was so close that she could almost grasp it

She thought about her class and she thought about the way she uses her skill and the feeling grow stronger. She closed her eyes for a second, remembering each word that Azief had said and she nodded to herself.

There is a chance for her, she thought to herself.

But there is still something missing. The problem is not the knowledge that Azief had told her. The problem lies in her path

Unless she could find the problem, she would not find the answer.

Opening her eyes, she then asks

‘Then Time Monarch Jean?’

Azief smiles and he said

‘Jean took a different approach from me. His way is suitable for him. He had gained a deep enlightenment on the Laws of Time. And there would come a time when the system would be a hindrance to him. But that time is long way forward for him. For now, the system is still a great aid to him. The path that he walks forward is a path that had been trod before’ Smirking, he then said

'But, the destination might not be the same'

'Since he cultivates the Will of the Ethernal. Time also has the Will of Ethernal' Then pausing for a second he then said

'You see; I also cultivate the Laws of Time'

Then he chuckles as if he found something very funny about it

He continued by saying

'But if I executed my Laws of Time, it would be different than the Laws of Time that Jean possess. Different understanding would bring about a different aspect of that Law. And if I were to compare my Time Laws with Jean Time Laws, I could say with one hundred percent certainty, that Jean would win'

'His understanding of Time outstripped me. And that is fine. Because the Grand Path that Jean walk on is not the same as mine. I did not have to control Time and having master it the way Jean mastered it because that in the end is not my Grand Path. I know exactly my grand Path. Hence, there is no need to be swayed with other people Grand Path. As long as you persevere, and confident in your own Grand Path, sooner or later, a path would open. When one reaches that level, people battle with the understanding of the Laws.'

Sasha shows a confused look and then Azief decided to simplify it

'For example, let say that there is two people who understand the Law of Fire. When these two people fought, even though they have both control the Law of Fire, different understanding would bring different effect'

'What do you mean?' Sasha asked

'For example, fire could be thought of as the physical fire. The fire that burns and destroy. The normal fire one could see everywhere.'

Sasha nodded

Smiling, Azief then said

'But there is also the intangible concept of fire. The concept that is on one mind and could not be seen. What kind of fire that is, you might ask?'

'For example the flame of anger. It is a sentence to signify the anger bubbling in one heart. But, here is the problem. No one truly believe that anger is fire. It is just a form of expression'

Sasha nodded again. Azief had to explain this carefully because it touches upon the power of words.

Of the many things that he had learn from Alsurt and of the many things he finds more useful among the many knowledge that Alsurt had imparted upon him, was the knowledge of words and meaning and what it means when words are assigned meaning

He then explains to Sasha

'But once, the connection of word is made with some tangible concept, and as people attached meaning to words, those who understand this, could control this intangible concept of fire born out of the meaning of the word'

'On Earth, this form of expression is used by many. Before the Fall, this form of expression did not have power. But, after magic came, to think it is the same would be a mistake'

'Second lesson' he said.

[Chapter 972: The power of meaning](#)

'Words have power. And if there is a meaning attached to words, then it is even more powerful. A symbol has as much power as those who understand it. A symbol that did not have meaning possess no power. But, once it is ascribed to some meaning, it could inspire, it could evoke great emotions when seen'

'When a word is assigned meaning, it will always have powered. What fuels it, is the imagination, faith and belief. Never underestimate the power of faith and belief. It could turn intangible thing to tangible'

'It could turn illusion to real. If one reaches this level, it would not only be physical fires that he or she could control. Instead, this person could stimulate anger in one heart. Messing with people emotions, evoke unstable feeling and this could affect the battle'

'In a battle with equally matched opponents, one mistake is all it takes to determine the outcome. This is the battle of Law. It is why for most of my battle, I rarely had to attack more than a couple of times. I embedded Laws in my attack. In this world, on Earth, there is not people that could withstand it. Since they did not stand on the same peak that I am' Then he stopped speaking for a while

Sasha was silent for a second as she digested all this. Azief look at this with a smile. He waited. A few moment passes and then Azief said

'How is it? Did it clear your confusion?' Sasha finally broke out from her contemplation and look at Death Monarch back.

She smiles and then nodded

'Thank you' Azief only nodded and said

'You are my Shadow Guard. It would not be good if you are weak. Other people could be. Not you' Sasha smiles and nodded

'I should work hard then' Azief laughed. There is a lot of troublesome thing and sad thing happening to him today.

But, if there is one thing that Azief had learned in his journey, is that life is a very important thing to ever take it too seriously.

When sad thing happens, be sad. When happy things happen, be happy. And when there is something funny, laugh. Take it as it goes. In a world like the world Azief is living in, everything is a luxury

Death is always at the end of the corner. With one wrong move, everything could end. And while that is terrifying, there is also a beauty to it

Every moment, every breath that you take, every move that you make could be your last. So, make it matter.

Enjoy it.

Feel it.

Bask in it like it is the last second of your life.

He felt sad and angry because of what happened with Katarina. But now he laughed and he smile.

It did not invalidate his anger and his sadness.

It is just time is precious.

If he did not laugh now, when there is something funny that tickles his humor, when would he laugh?

Would he have time for it later? Sasha look at Death Monarch and she says

'You are a bit mellow now' Azief reply

'If only the world thinks like you did, I would not have so many problems' Sasha smiles and then she shot back

'Because I am your shadow. I dare not say that I know you intimately. But I dare say, that I know you more than those people'

Azief chuckles a bit. It truly looks like a harmonious relationship between the superior and the subordinate.

Then there was silent.

He then thought of a few things he still did not resolve.

One in particular bear a burden of Karma onto him. he could see it now, the strings on him connected him and her.

It is not a string of love but of complication of cause and effect. There is a woman which he promised something to her.

He had promise that woman and that promise must be fulfilled. He had even almost forgotten about it but the word now echoes in his mind

'So, be it. I will become your master after I reach Disk Formation. This, I promise you' This is the promise he made to Somi the Fairy of the Battlefield.

He promises that woman that she would be his disciple. Thinking about it then, Xi Feng would have a senior sister.

He smirks thinking of this. Since she is going to the senior sister of Xi Feng; she could not be too shabby if they ever met later.

In the future, he had seen that Xi Feng would appear in that great battle between him and the world.

He still remembers it.

After all, it is hard to forget such a sharp sword strike. A sword slash that seems to cut open the Heaven and contain the trace of the origin power of primordial beginning.

Xi Feng in the future would surely transcend the people of his world and travel the Universe. That is the future he had seen.

His disciple seems to be quite a great figure in the Universe. At least, the one in the future. As such, how could Xi Feng senior sister be weaker than her?

This senior sister is none other than Somi the Fairy of the Battlefield.

At that time, Somi had lost a lot. She asks for discipleship and he accepted the request with provision.

But, since then he had never taken her formally as her disciple and he did not teach her a lot of things

He had truly neglected her. But he did not neglect her intentionally.

There were too many things that happens and the matter is always big and concerns the world that he did not have time to truly formally take her as his disciple.

Not to mention that his system did not truly work as it was intended as he walk the path of perfection.

When other people uses the discipleship system, there is bar window that is added to the status window

It would then give bonuses for the disciple to easily learn skills from the teacher. If the class is the same, it is even easier for the disciple to learn the skill.

Experience could also be transferred.

Learning points would be obtained by the teacher and the disciple would gain easier access to powerful skill, growing stronger faster

But, there is of course some things that people would look at when accepting disciple.

The stronger the comprehension of a disciple, the easier it was for the teacher to gain learning points.

This is what he had got to know reading from the reports of the intelligence agency of Pandemonium.

But this kind of system will not work between him and Somi. Because, the system is no longer a blessing and an aid for him.

Instead, it is a restrain for him.

Other people would still have the game like status window.

And he still has that. But, it is very blurry and at times it did not even work properly

Of course, there are other ways of teaching someone and Azief could do this Somi.

But since his class is different and the path he is walking is very different from her, he might not have a lot of things he could teach her.

He felt guilty for this delay and he hope to resolve this entanglement between him and her as fast as possible.

Though, he would think the best way to compensate Somi. Thinking about it, Somi is very proficient in sword.

He, himself is not that bad at using the sword. Maybe, there is something he could teach her after all
He sighed and then he said toward Sasha.

‘Summon Somi here later’ Hearing this Sasha was shocked for a second. She did not understand why Death Monarch wanted to meet with Somi

If it’s the Great General Wang Jian, she could understand. But his wife. Azief could see the confusion on Sasha face and he said

‘I promise her something before. It is time for me to fulfill that promise’ Sasha suddenly get an enlightened look.

She once heard that Death Monarch once promises the wife of Wang Jian that he would take her as his disciple

But after years of nothing, even she had forgotten about that matter. It appears that Death Monarch finally wanted to honor that agreement

She then nodded

‘I will summon her when you are ready’ Azief nodded, satisfied with this arrangement. This is what he likes about Sasha.

She knew that he would be busy for these couple of days. And promise to bring her when he is not busy.

And then Azief was also reminded of a certain other woman and he said

‘Bring Sina back to Pandemonium. There is too many beast in the world right now. I am worried that she would encounter certain things that she could not handle. And the court need some stable influence. Sina could be that stable influence’ Azief knows how to balance power

He just rarely used it because he sees it unnecessary for him.

But, he could see that as more and more people believe in Pandemonium and live in it, the responsibility that he had is also multiplying

Their faith gives him power. But he did not need their faith. That did not mean that he did not care at all about these people.

More people living is good. He likes life after all more than he likes death. It is ironic he thought to himself.

Azief himself knows the position that he occupied in the hearts of the people of Pandemonium. He is the pillar of their safety and the promise of Pandemonium prosperity.

With him gone, there would always be unstable influence. Most of the time, he would not be worried.

Because he is confident that he would be able to come back

This time he is not so sure.

[Chapter 973: The other woman](#)

The throne room become silent. The sound of the wind outside could sometimes be heard and the coldness on the wind could be felt in the room.

Azief did not feel it and was not affected by it. His throne room had some changes after the expansion of the world

There is even broken glass on the floor on the corner of the throne room. But this detail is ignored by both Death Monarch and Sasha

Azief did not care about it because he had many things in his mind. Sasha on the other hand was brought here almost instantly.

Even though she saw the messy throne room, she attributed it to the chaos during the Multiversal Convergence and after that she bows her head to Death Monarch and care not about her surroundings.

She did not use her Divine Sense since it could be rude doing it when Death Monarch is beside her.

But if she would look outside right now she could see there is clouds all over the towers of the Palace.

Maybe, after she goes out of the throne room she would be able to see it more clearly

Azief look at Sasha who was frowning. She seems to try to think a better way to word her thoughts after listening to his order.

Sighing, she then said

‘She would be on Sofia side. I don’t think she would want to come back unless Sofia also come back. Sina is stubborn that way’ she replies to Death Monarch

Most of the time, Sasha would not hesitate to fulfil any request of Death Monarch.

She is efficient and capable and that is why Azief could always entrust her with his trust.

But when it is about the people that Death Monarch consider families and friends, Sasha had to tread carefully.

Unlike other people, Sasha could not really force these people and uses the methods she uses on other people

Not to mention, that the one that Death Monarch is talking about is Sina. Sina is Azief friend. But Sasha is also close friends with Sina.

As such, she understands quite a bit about what Sina would do in this current situation. She is very supportive of Sofia.

She would not go back unless Sofia go back. She looks at Azief. Azief sighed. Then he shakes his head. He doesn’t have time.

He is already rushing now. He still has many enemies. If not for the fact that he had to quickly raise his level, he would not be this anxious

He would have time to settle and calm any storms that could arise.

But, he had to leave.

And while Hikigaya would abide by his promise, it is always safer to have many measures in place.

He refuses to lose anybody else. Loki had taken the blame for him. Katarina is kidnapped by some Demon King.

Sofia wanted to give him an ultimatum. And now Sina is roaming the brand new world without being fearful at all.

Sophie had her arrow.

While she would not be invincible in this world, she could survive almost any encounter. And she had many other treasures and artifact on her that Azief did not have to worry about her

Sina on the other hand, ignorance had made her brave. She did not see the dangers that lurks on this brand new world

But, he is not her.

His gaze extends all over. And there are all kinds of monsters. Some of them, that he could not even see but only sense.

It is too dangerous for her. He would not be able to take it if he goes away and another person that he loves, suffer.

The more he becomes stronger, the more he needed an anchor to remind him who he is and why he did the things he did.

So, he looks back at Sasha and simply said

'Bring her back nonetheless. She is still too weak. There are too many threats for her outside. And I will not be able to see her all the time during my seclusion'

Sasha sighed and then said

'She would not be happy to know that you called her weak' Azief only smiles at this and said

'That is the truth. Connection could only go so far. If another monster appears, would she be able to call all of her friends to save her in that moment? She could not. I know you are close to her. And you wanted to shield her. But, my orders are not to harm her. It is to keep her safe. Then he paused for a second before saying.

'I.....do not want to lose anyone else.'

Sasha heard this and there is an understanding looks on her face.

She had her fair share of losing people she loved so she understood the feeling of Death Monarch.

'This makes him seems a bit human' she thought to herself.

'Only slightly' she added.

This is after all still the fearsome Death Monarch.

Sasha had been the first person that Death Monarch had met after he returned from the Thirteen Steps of Supremacy.

But, even then, Sasha did not feel the way she feels right now. There is no world shaking pressure bearing down on her.

But, the feeling of uneasiness still creeps in her heart. It is not easy to make Sasha feel like this. There are only a few people in this world that would make her heart sways like this.

These people are people who are dangerous to her and those who were stronger than her to the point it almost activates the fight and flight response.

Sasha could feel that there is a powerful vigorous energy that circulated around the area of Death Monarch

The aura of the world and the Laws of the world seems to circulate around him as natural as the wind that blows, the sun that rise and fall and the lapping waves of the ocean.

Everything felt calm and peaceful.

And that is the terrifying thing.

When something that is out of place happened and you thought that it is natural, that is more terrifying than a world pressure bearing down on you.

The simple aura of Death Monarch could affect her heart.

All around the throne room is full of messy stuff.

Glass on the marble tile, broken furniture on the other side, yet there is no feeling of fear and instead there is this feeling of serenity

How could Sasha not be alarmed?

And she knows that Death Monarch did not intentionally doing this. It is unintentional. It looks like whenever he sits, everything seems natural, like he is a part of the world

Even when she met Loki she was not freaked out like this.

It is clear that Death Monarch seems to comprehend something during his fight with the Demon King and he had become even stronger now.

She shook the thought of her head and then she remembers what she and Death Monarch was talking about.

'As per your order' she said.

But, then she was reminded of another woman. She knew she had to ask the question so she takes a deep breath and then ask

'What about Sofia?' This time Azief was stumped. Sofia waited to know what Death Monarch would decide.

Unless Death Monarch give her the order, she did not dare do much against Sofia.

Sofia herself is not a weak opponent that Sofia could easily take away.

Of course, if she uses the resources of the Shadow Guard and under the premise that Sofia would not want a bloodbath, she would easily take away Sofia away from that hill.

But, in the end, she still needs Death Monarch permission. Azief sighed when thinking about Sofia.

He knew why she went there. He closes his eyes.

A memory of the past enters his mind.

When he went back from his journey, after he went to have that coffee with Sina, he went to Sofia. That night, they kiss each other like they had never kiss before.

It was passionate. It was full of hunger. And they touch each other, kiss each other like there is no tomorrow.

He had been quite good at it. Kissing, that is. He would kiss her on her forehead and he would utter words of love

Then he works his way down, peck her on her nose. And then he would press his lips to her chin. And each time, he would tell her that he loves her.

He wanted to convince her. And yet, nothing he could say, nothing he could do, would be enough to convince her.

They kissed each other, love each other and also talk with each other. That night she talks to him about how he had to make a choice.

He was sitting on the swing in front of the porch, looking at the white picket fence. She lay down her head on top of his lap and ask him to make a choice.

He pretends not to hear. He pretended he was asleep. She knows that he pretended to sleep and pretended not to hear.

Why would Death Monarch need to sleep? How could he not hear when he could hear a conversation a mile away?

[Chapter 974: Two women](#)

He pretended not to hear and she pretended that he was asleep. She wanted all of his love. It is a reasonable claim to make for lovers.

But, one part of his heart has always been on Katarina. The connection between him and Katarina is of magical nature. It is unlike the feeling he felt for Sofia.

Sofia....is a person who he had known. Someone he had known out of familiarity. His first love that he could not realize when he was in high school

There is a sense of nostalgia, and a connection between him and those past moments. Their meeting was a series of coincidences that piled up and become fate.

Familiarity that breeds affection. Affection that birthed love. And before long, naturally he fell in love with her, even without meaning to

Loneliness. Familiarity. Affection. All of these affect his feeling toward her until it is what it is today.

Katarina on the other hand, is like those encounters in some romantic stories.

He met her trapped inside an ice cave and the moment they look at each other eyes, something in their hearts sparked.

And both of their hearts wanted each other, the moment their eyes meet each other.

If they never met before, then it would be fine.

But once they met each other, they could not withstand being apart each other, like it never knew how much it needed the other before that moment.

Like fireworks.

Three days. That is all it took for him to fall in love with her and her with him. If this is not magical, then what is?

They have some similarities. But they also have a lot of differences. But this differences did not push them away from each other.

Instead, it pulls them even closer. This kind of love...he had never ever thought he could experience it

What do you call this love that started with one look?

What do you call this kind of love that when you look at each other, everything falls away, fade into obscurity, and only you and her exist in that time and space?

When they look at each other, even if the world is falling apart, they feel that it would be alright as long as they have each other

When they meet each other, it was like there is a feeling that all this time, they were waiting to meet each other

To love someone that loves him back. Is there no greater happiness then this?

This kind of love.... what kind of love is it?

And he could not just turn it on and off as he likes.

But, that is what she asks of him.

One day...she said...One day, he had to make a choice. He just did not know that one day....is today.

She could not be hurt again. That is what she said. She once felt how painful it is to see the person she loves, love another person.

Azief know her story. In all of its gory details. It would be a lie if he said he did not feel jealous.

Because unlike Sofia, Azief was a big ball of depressing air in the past. He never felt that he was worthy of anyone.

Everyone around him seems to move forward.

He is the only one that look like he sat in the same place. And as years passes, it even appears that he regressed.

He did not date any woman because of this inferiority complex. In the life before the Fall, he did not want to be responsible for another person because he knew he could not keep up to the task

Azief wanted to be rich in the past.

Because he felt how it is to live a life of poverty. He wanted to love. But he does not want the person he loves to live in suffering with him

No one could understand this until they themselves live a life of poverty. Until you had to begged your friend for money so you could eat for the day.

Azief wanted to be rich because only then he could make sure that the person he loved would live a good life. Azief did not want to love someone and make that person miserable by loving him.

So, Azief had never had any experience before meeting and dating Sofia. And he knows now. That love is not that simple. And it is not easy.

Sofia is someone that he just couldn't let go. Was it fate that they met each other in that mall? Was it fate that they stay together?

Or was it simply his stubbornness that keep this fate intact?

Even though, he likes to pretend to be this badass character during the initial Fall, when he saw her in that mall, he keeps risking his life for her, regardless of what his mind is telling him

She was his first love.

And men rarely forget their first love. Rarer still, to make it work.

But while she was his first, he was not her first.

So, he felt quite jealous about this.

But each time, he holds her, all this jealousy fades away. Because the one holding her hand and caress her hair is him.

But, there is also this difference between them. Azief felt the beauty of love when he is with her. Everything is new for him

But, she knows that love could also very much hurt. Azief could not have thought of it but apparently Sofia loves him more than he loves her.

If love could be quantified, then Sofia is confident she loves him more. And that, in the game of love make her the weaker one.

She even wished that Azief would be the old Azief she knows. The Azief that the world knows and the Azief that she knows is two different people.

It is like the difference between Heaven and Earth.

And as time passes by Azief become even more different. This is not only on appearance but also in demeanor.

If in the past the badass persona is simply an act, then now, it is no longer an act. Azief truly had become the strongest badass motherfucker alive

Because she loves him, she felt even more insecure. Who knows what is going on her mind when she told him to make a choice?

That matter was unresolved. That night, there is no answer coming out from Azief mouth

But, when Sofia went to that hill Azief could feel this in the bottom of his heart, the premonition of something sad would happen if he goes there.

He then knew, that Sofia wanted him to give her the reason to leave. He could not understand her. So, like most time, he avoids that place. Sighing he then said to Sasha

'Let her be wherever she wanted to be' Sasha shakes her head and then said

'This would not work. Sina would not agree to come with me if this is the case' Azief think for a second and then he said

'She would understand. Tell her, I know how to handle this. I think Sofia would also not object to it. And if you could...tell Sofia what she is doing is unnecessary'

Sasha sighed and then she said

'I don't think she would respond fondly to that kind of comment' Azief smiles bitterly. Of course he knows that she would not like to hear it.

'She is forcing me to choose. Knowing full well, that I have no choice. She wanted a reason and she wanted me to give that reason to her'

There is silence inside the throne room and moment pass. Sasha did not say anything as she let Death Monarch settle whatever he wanted to settle in his heart.

Then after a few more moments of silent, Azief then said

'I would be leaving most of the internal security of Pandemonium towards you. Unless there is truly something that would threaten Pandemonium or the world, do not disturb me' Sasha nodded and said

'I would make sure those noisy minister would not send a memorial trying to discuss thing with you. And would you not mind me appointing some of the officials to oversee the reconstruction program?'

Azief thinks for a moment and nodded

'Do it. And....' Azief hesitated before saying.

'Don't die' he said with a trace of gentleness in his voice.

Sasha only smile and nodded. This is the way Death Monarch show his affection to his subordinate. Not honest at all, she thought to herself.

Then she slowly retreated back from the throne room. Azief took a long look at Sasha before he got up from his throne and take a step forward.

The space contorted and become distended before he completely disappears from the area of the throne.

Sasha raise her head and see there is no one on the throne. She frowned. Thunder booms on the sky outside and rain falls down.

The thunder flashes only for a momentary moment and the rain falls in a drizzle. Sasha took a moment and thought to herself

'What is the limit of the world? And what is his limit? Even if he did not want to be a threat, even if he wanted to be peaceful, how could anyone trust him when he holds all the cards?'

[Chapter 975: The keeper of the palace](#)

'What is the limit of the world? And what is his limit? Even if he did not want to be a threat, even if he wanted to be peaceful, how could anyone trust him when he holds all the cards?'

Sasha could only sigh. She knew that there is a contradiction in these thoughts.

The Great Power had no choice to keep maintaining their vigilance to Death Monarch the stronger he become.

Even if Death Monarch wanted to live in peace, since he is strong to the point that each of his move could affect the world, he could not do it.

If he stays the same, people would surpass him. If it's his friend, then maybe that is fine. But if it's his enemies, then how could Death Monarch be safe?

The moment he had the title of the strongest, he had to keep moving forward that path until the end.

She sighed and then she arrives at the door.

With one last look at the empty throne, she pushed the door and walk out from the throne room.

Creak!

The door is quite heavy.

The door opens and outside she could see dozens of Keeper of the Palace all were waiting outside the throne room.

She got out of the room as the door behind her slowly about to close itself.

When they saw that it was Sasha was the person that come out they bow slightly. Only one person did not bow toward her and it was the Head Keeper of the Palace

Sasha did not mind. The position of Head Keeper of the Palace might not seem imposing.

But, Sasha knows that even though Head keeper is not the official of Pandemonium, the power and influence he holds could sometimes be more powerful than the most powerful minister of the court.

Other people could not dispense with the formality. But, this person can

The Head of the Keeper of the palace was craning his neck to see the inside of the throne room.

He was able to see that the throne inside the throne room is empty as the door slowly closed back.

But, he saw the thunder and lightning., flashing bright on the glass window behind the throne and there is a bitter smile on his face

In that brief moment, he saw the messy state of the throne room and he could feel that breath of power radiating out from the throne room

He then knew that Death Monarch was there.

‘He had gone away again’ this is his thought. He had been very familiar with Death Monarch who did not always sit on that throne.

And after knowing the matter that happen today from some of the operative of the Shadow Guard that come to check on them, he knew Death Monarch would be very busy

Hence, he did not want to annoy Death Monarch and could only shakes his head.

In his mind, he also is thinking of assigning people to clean the room.

They could now use the nanobots freely after this.

Since the Research Department had released it there is no longer any reason to keep it under wraps.

The throne room is empty and the flashing of thunder could be seen and the drizzling of rain could be heard.

But, even though the throne room is empty, he did not dare to come into that throne room right now.

He needs to know what Sasha talk about with Death Monarch. One of the taboo things in the palace is doing thing that is not necessary.

And he still need to check many parts of the Palace. There is still a lot of place that he did not yet inspect.

And he is quite sure many of the structures around the Palace needs repairing.

The keeper of the palace behind him could see that he is craning his neck to look at the throne room. They remain silent and waited for his order.

They just come out from the Anywhere Room.

Anywhere Room is a room and one of the method of escape created by Death Monarch for when the people in the Centre Palace in danger.

It is a measure of protection for the Keepers of the Palace. This room is known to only a select few and it is hidden inside one of the tower of the Palace.

It would transport the people that went into it to a pocket dimension

Of course this pocket dimension is not able to last indefinitely and it was powered by the energy stones that powered the formation of that pocket dimension.

When the world started changing and the demons began attacking the Centre Palace, the Head Keeper rang the alarm and bring all of the staff of the Palace into the Anywhere Room.

He has the key of the formation so he opens it.

It wasn't until half an hour ago that he brought everyone out.

And it takes them time to navigate the new palace.

Sasha did not notice it yet but the Palace had also been changed.

The people that lives near the Palace could not sense this change because the distance between the closest town and cities near the Centre Palace all had widened its distance from the Centre Palace

Outside the Centre Palace before was a street that would lead to a large market where there is thousands of organized houses and buildings.

But now, those market was thousands of kilometers away.

The officials would surely have a headache trying to solve this matter later. Those merchants would surely want to move back to their original position in the market

Most of them open their market near the Palace because of the security and no one dares to do crime near the Centre Palace

It is like under the foot of the Monarch.

Thankfully, there is some buildings that is still around the vicinity of the Centre Palace and did not change their position. Most of such structure is a structure that is made from some magical material.

If they wanted to determine the reason why some structure changes and why some did not, they have to research it

But, that is not the job of the Keeper of the Palace. And it is certainly not the job for the Head Keeper of the Palace.

All he need to make sure of is the condition of the Centre Palace and make sure it did not draw the ire and anger of Death Monarch.

the Centre Palace is now like a lone island. The guards that guarded the walls are the Centre Palace guards. That what takes the time of the Head Keeper

When he went out from Anywhere Room, he had to send these people out first to keep the order and to scout the area.

Unlike other people, most of the Keeper of the palace do not possess high level and there is no high level combatant amongst them

If they go out without first ascertaining the situation, they could die easily becoming some collateral damages.

Most of the young Keeper of the Palace are orphans.

Rather than being at the mercy of some warlords in the world it is better to seek protection inside the Centre Palace, under the protection of the strongest person in the world.

When the weather changes and a familiar aura spread out inside the palace, the Head Keeper knew that Death Monarch had returned.

He brought along with him a few dozen keepers of the Palace to quickly go toward the throne room.

He wanted to get instruction or maybe there is some orders that Death Monarch wanted to give to him.

In the past, this would not take a long time.

There is elevator and while the palace itself is big, it is still not a chore for the keepers who were at least Pillar Forming or Orb Condensing levelers.

But, when the word expands, the Palace also expands with it.

Most of the buildings and some towers and structure that is under construction before the expansion crumbles because of the sudden shift of the ground and the pressure of the energy and the sudden changes of topography

But the Centre Palace is not some normal structure.

There is array formation on many parts of the Palace.

While one could not boast that each of the brick is embedded with some kind of formation like the Lotus Palace, the Centre Palace also have its own strength.

The material that is used to made the Palace is not only sturdy, it is malleable and also very flexible.

There are some wings of the palace that needs major reconstruction after this but mostly most of the structures inside the Palace and the surrounding castles is alright

If not for the fact that it is forbidden to teleport inside the Palace, the Head Keeper would install some kind of teleportation formation on the throne room so he could easily answer the summon of Death Monarch

Of course, this restriction did not apply to certain people that is allowed to teleport in and out of the palace.

They have their own identification method that would not alarm the entire palace. If others tried to teleport into the place and it is not one of those people who had the identification method, the alarm would ring out and everyone would capture such a person.

After jumping through some broken stairs and fallen bridge he finally arrives at the throne room. But before he could even see Death Monarch, his lord had already disappeared.

Only Sasha came out of the room. But, the Head Keeper did not lose his respect for Death Monarch He bowed toward the direction of the room

Seeing that the Head Keeper bow toward the throne room, the other Keepers of the Palace behind him also bow toward the same direction.

Then as the door close, the head keeper of the Palace slowly raises his head up and he look at Sasha

‘This woman again’ he thought to himself. Sasha also look at the man in front of him. Sasha recognized this man just fine.

And while she smiles looking at him, her thoughts are exactly as this man.

‘This man again’ she thought to herself. They both look at each other, smiling like an old friend that meet each other after a long time not meeting each other.

[Chapter 976: High official \(1\)](#)

Sasha look at the Head Keeper; her eyes seem to be very penetrating while the Head Keeper is still looking at her with an amiable smile

With one look it appears like the perfect picture of a harmonious colleague.

But those that knows the true story, knows that this colleague is not that amiable nor are they harmonious.

The Keeper of the Palace that is not adept in the matter of the Palace did not know that there is a tension forming between these two.

It is like sparks flying between them, but none of them are losing ground.

Then the Head Keeper said with a joyous tone

‘We meet again, Your Excellency Sasha. Thank you for sending your people to help us earlier’ he said that like he was truly grateful.

But only he knows the sour feeling in his heart.

This woman would not stop unless he knows all the secrets of the Palace. He is quite sure that Sasha did not just send the Shadow Guard to simply save them

He believes that this woman that did not know boundaries have a more nefarious reason to send her people to his place.

If the shadows are her dominion, then the land of this place, every tile, every inch of it, is his territory.

As many people knows, in the palace there is many secret structures.

And while Sasha herself is in charge of the many secretive departments and structure scattered all across Pandemonium, she is not in charge of the security of the Palace.

During the battle between Death Monarch and Demon King she did enter the palace. She at that time was searching for something.

This probably relates to the secret weapon that changes the towers in the distance into a gun-like weapon, shooting bullet of concentrated energy that could phase anything that is not their target and strike true to any target that it had chosen.

But Sasha herself did not know of the other secret of the palace. During that time while she was in the Palace, he did not say anything.

The reason is simple. Whatever she wanted to do at that time was related to the safety of Death Monarch.

It was an emergency period.

As such, he did not want to nitpick it that much. But, After the battle ended, she sent someone inside the Palace.

Now, that is not something he could overlook.

He dares not ask an explanation from Death Monarch, but he will want an audience and he will spoke of the promise that Death Monarch had promised him when he took the position.

He was worried that when Sasha send her men, it was for her to seek the Anywhere Room.

Anywhere Room is one of the secret of the Centre Palace. While it is one of the important secret of the Palace, it is not the only secret.

The Palace is his grounds. And the shadows are Sasha territory. When this was established, when this understanding was reached, a line was created.

She wanted to cross that line. This is not something that he could easily allow. Give an inch and then she would ask for more.

Until in the end, she might even control the Palace. But, he still smiles amiably.

Sasha waves her hand. Her face did not show joy but it did not show any feeling of dislike either.

It was a neutral expression as she said

‘I am doing what is expected of me. The people of the Centre Palace is Death Monarch people. How could I let you and your people be worried?’ she said as her face finally cracked a smile.

The Head Keeper then said

'The gesture is appreciated but the people of the Palace have their ways of protecting themselves. By the grace of our Lord, he did leave some measures. There is no need for the Shadow Guard to...for the lack of a better word, meddle with the matter of the security of the Palace'

'Of course, of course. Death Monarch surely have left some measures. As expected of our liege' Sasha said, laughing slightly.

'But, Lukas, do not be that distant. We are colleague serving the same lord. If not for the fact that we are serving under the same lord, I might even think you were threatening me just then' and she laughs again.

Everyone could feel a cold wind passing by. She laughs but not one of the Keeper of the Palace wanted to laugh with her.

Even the most obtuse could feel that there is something wrong with the words Sasha had just said.

And then, some of them understand why they feel unease hearing the words of Sasha just then.

It is the excuse that the Shadow Guards always use when they wanted to arrest the officials of the court.

Threatening a high official could be a small matter. But if one wanted to pursue this issue, it could be blown up to be a huge matter.

A High official is an official that is acknowledged by the highest ruler of Pandemonium. And there is influence attached to this honorary title

It depends on people. There are not many officials in Pandemonium that is given the title of High Officials.

This is not a position of power but a position of honor. Death Monarch himself establishes this position of honor.

And there are only a few people in Pandemonium that is given this high official title.

One of them is Wang Jian, the leader of the military faction. There is also Sina who also have her own faction in the court and possess one of the largest pill and potion refinery in Pandemonium.

She had a monopoly on the potion making business and with other Alchemist, she also controls a controlling stake on many of the pill company.

Then there is the Immortal Couple with both of them given this title for their contribution during the battle against Sithulran.

And Sasha as the Shadow Guard leader, the hidden blade of Death Monarch was also rewarded with this title, adding to her untouchable status in Pandemonium.

Even Sofia and Loki, the closest person to Death Monarch was not awarded with this title.

Sasha knew the reason.

She had once asked Death Monarch about this matter.

He replied saying that Sofia did not contribute much to the founding of Pandemonium hence it would not be good if he gave this title to her.

Giving her the title would not make people respect her.

Instead, she might even receive scorn and mocking behind her back. That would not be a good gift instead would only bring more problem for Sofia.

And the other reason was that Azief understood that if he gave her that title, it would then make her a part of the court, whether she likes it or not

That is not something that should be given to her since it would only restrain her.

If one-day Pandemonium falls, and he was not there to hold up the sky for Pandemonium, he did not want Sofia to sacrifice her life because she is restrained by that tittle.

As for Loki, Azief simply said

He is a wanderer.

Giving the title would not help him much and instead it might be him that would give him headache with the problems that he might cause.

Loki had many schemes and plots and not all of it is beneficial for Pandemonium. She always believes that Loki had his own objective and his own path.

The Trickster is unlike Wang Jian who is loyal to Pandemonium or like her who is loyal to Death Monarch.

Marching to his own beat and moving according to his own pace, Loki is not someone that could be controlled.

And Death Monarch had never wanted to control Loki. He did not like forcing someone to work for his government.

It is because he never thought that the government that people created under his name could last this long or become as it is today.

It is like he is an objecting father that said to his son that he would never succeed only for the son to succeed tremendously well and return home, showering him with all kinds of benefits.

It is this reason of why Death Monarch did not feel good trying to force people to enter the government.

The fact that the Pandemonium stay strong and sturdy as year passes by is because they rest under the shadow of Death Monarch might.

And as he began to care more and spend more of his effort for Pandemonium, he created the High Official title.

The title is only given to the loyal people that Death Monarch had no problem of entrusting task with.

For example, there is Wang Jian someone who is very loyal to Death Monarch and Pandemonium.

He is a general that loved the people and the people loved him.

When he establishes the Southern Court, independent from the Central Court during the schism between the central government and the military, the people under him prosper and obey the general.

Even his wife is loved by the people as she opens up charity for orphans and help opening shelters for new arrivals from other places.

Every once in a while, she would also go to the sea to fight off against the sea monsters that would try to sink down ships that sail toward Pandemonium.

[Chapter 977: High official \(2\)](#)

Wang Jian is loyal to Death Monarch.

He is the epitome of a loyal general.

Loki did not choose wrong when he had saved him from the persecution of the Yue dynasty before the formation of the Lotus Order

But as much as he holds his loyalty toward Death Monarch, it is clear that he is more loyal towards the people.

If this is any other kings or ruler, this kind of general while useful would be looked on with wariness.

Because sometimes, the measure enacted by the ruler is not necessarily a measure that would benefit the people. Sometimes it even oppresses the people.

This however is not a problem for Death Monarch.

It is clear that Death Monarch did not entirely promote only people that loyally follow him. It was almost like he wanted to balance it.

Wang Jian would remind him if he were to go too far.

The reason why he gave that tile to Wang Jian is probably because he was loyal to Pandemonium more than he is loyal to him.

In ancient Rome, when a great general had won a victorious battle against the enemy, driving his chariot through the streets of Rome, a chariot decorated with gold and ivory, followed by his troop behind him and preceded by his most glamorous prisoners and spoils taken in victory, one would have the feeling like he himself was divine.

In some way, representing the God Jupiter.

The interesting parts about all of this was that behind the victorious general in the chariot, there would be a slave.

Holding a golden crown over his head, this slave would continually whisper to the general, "Remember, you are mortal"

Even as the cheers drowned the words and the jubilation of victory fills the streets, the job of this slave is to do only one thing and one thing only

To remind that general that he is not some divine being.

That is Wang Jian role.

At least that is Sasha opinion about why Wang Jian was given the title despite his conflicting loyalty

It is to remind Azief not to go down that road.

Even before this Death Monarch was not someone that is utterly evil. If he is really such a person, the whole world would not have such complicated feelings for him

They fear him, awed by him, threatened by him, grateful to him and many other contradictory feelings.

Some criticized his actions, some worshiped him, others tried to get out of his way but one thing they could not do was to ignore him

When everything had him as the source, it is truly hard to ignore a person who with each move could affect the future of the world.

Sasha is like a secretary to Death Monarch. And as such, she knew a little bit about the feeling of this boss of hers.

In the beginning, Death Monarch might not care that much about the people that lived inside Pandemonium.

As long as they did not hinder him in his progress toward a higher peak, he would not bother much with them

But, probably Death Monarch himself admired the spirit of the people that live inside the dominion in which he protected.

Sasha remembers a conversation she had with Sina. She spoke that in the beginning, Azief had no family after the event of the Fall

He loses his family during the initial Fall. But the feeling he had about his family is very complicated

He did not feel good about his real family but at the same time mourn their death.

Was there sadness? Maybe.

But Sina was very clear that Death Monarch while he mourns the death of his real family, he was not that sad about it.

Any love that he had for his family had been grinded by the stone called time

If there is one thing that he does feel about his family was guilt but not of trying to reconnect or something like that. It was the guilt of not feeling sad.

A family that did not talk with each other, a parent that hated his existence, an existence where he was ignored and belittled.

How could he then be truly sad when they truly die? Probably, it could have healed if the rift is patched up sooner.

But that time passed.

As each days and years passes, in the end there is no word that is spoken. The feelings are not conveyed, the word unspoken from the tongue, and as such, it became the norm.

There is a time when it is too late for a relationship to heal. And that is what happened with Death Monarch with his family.

Since he had no family, he decided to build a new one.

A family that is not connected by blood but connected by the bonds of affection and love.

And so he built a new family with Sina, Sofia and Loki in that forest.

Loki the mischievous little brother. Sina the mature older sister.

And Sofia who were friend in the beginning and become much more than that

He then become a little bit warmer, a little bit happy. And he began to care about people, and fiercely protect those who were close to him.

And the same thing happened with Pandemonium.

He began to care about the people of Pandemonium.

That is why he set up certain measures and even slowly warming up to the people.

Yes, Death Monarch is not as heartless as the world wanted to portray him to be. If there is a type of ruler that one could describe Death Monarch, it would be a benevolent dictator.

Was it the ideal ruling system?

No. Is it good for the people? It is.

For how long? Nobody knows.

But for now Pandemonium had Death Monarch as its ruler and life is good.

Wang Jian is one of the measure he had created in case of matter involving Pandemonium

As Sasha is also one of the people that was given the title, she knew that while the whole court thinks that the title is the only thing they get, the truth was they also get something else.

In Sasha case, she got to learn and the clearance level to operate the gigantic energy gun. She got a weapon among many other things.

This weapon is of course something that is unlike any other public weapon.

Most of the things that Death Monarch gives her is weapon in the level that could theoretically be considered an interplanetary weapon.

As for Wang Jian, if she had to guess, Wang Jian probably possess the key of formation of Pandemonium.

If Wang Jian really had the key, this just goes to show how Death Monarch trusted Wang Jian with the lives of the people of Pandemonium

Pandemonium has many array formation and protection matrixes that is embedded in the soils and connected by the energy veins all over Pandemonium.

Sometimes it is added, other times it was modified.

There is a department whose job is to research formation and strengthen it. Like a computer program update.

This is the reason why the formation of Pandemonium is regarded by many as the strongest protection formation against magical means.

The protection formation of Pandemonium is still lacking a bit in terms of mechanical methods of protection but in terms of magical protection, Pandemonium takes the cake.

As for the Immortal Couple, it is because of the sacrifice of Shi Lihua. And there is another person that was also given that title.

Thinking about that person, Sasha look at the Head Keeper and smiles. The Head Keeper maintain his calm, but the other keeper of the palace is not as calm as their leader.

The Keeper of the Palaces that is standing behind the Head Keeper hear the threats in Sasha words but then they were reminded of something and instead of cowering they straight up their body and they look at Sasha bravely

Their eyes are sharp and it is full of fighting intent. Sasha the Nightingale might be a name that awe and suppresses the officials of the court.

But this is the Centre Palace, the home of Death Monarch and in here, other than Death Monarch, they hold the power.

There is home ground advantage. And since when the Shadow Guards could meddle in the matters of the Palace Internal Staff.

And because there is another person that was also awarded the title of a High Officials. And that is the Head Keeper of the Palace Lukas.

This is the reason why these Keeper of the Palaces could be brave.

This title enables the Head Keeper of the Palace to stand tall even when he is talking with dignitaries from other world powers and the powerful minister of the court.

The Head Keeper only smiles faintly and said

‘You misunderstand my intention. I have no such intention. Though, if you keep wanting to insist on it, I could only plead in front of our liege’

Sasha smiles and then shakes her head

‘I am just joking. What is a few jokes between friends right?’

'True' Lukas said, a smile also on his face.

The other Keeper of the Palace once again bows a bit showing once again the humility of the keeper of the palace.

Sasha eyes was sharp and notices all of this.

[Chapter 978: Line that should not be crossed \(1\)](#)

The Keeper of the palace might not have powerful influence if one counted them individually, but as long as the Head Keeper possess the trust of Death Monarch, they will not fear anything in Pandemonium

Sasha also has her own thoughts about this Head Keeper of the Palace.

Lukas is a middle age man of Caucasian descent.

He is around six feet four, with a chubby round face and white pale skin. He had a smiling large eye, his green eyes would look at you gently.

He is also slightly chubby in the area of his stomach. Well, he might be called the servants of the Palace, but one had to look who is his master.

The Head Keeper of the Palace probably lived a life that is even better than some of the world leaders in the world.

But this harmless appearance of this person is nothing but a fa?ade. And then there is Sasha

To many officials and ministers of the court, Sasha is one of the most dangerous and mysterious subordinate of Death Monarch

Many people feared her because of her status and her secret like organization that is akin of internal affairs and secret police as they also punish people of Pandemonium that had ill will on Pandemonium.

Since her job did not have a specific job specification and the broad way that her power could be used, many people did not like her and her organization in particular.

There were many times that the officials wanted to dismantle her organization.

But, because of the special nature of her organization which answer to one but Death Monarch, her organization did not only keep existing, it also grew more powerful.

But, this person Lukas is also not someone that could be underestimated. The Head Keeper of the Palace possess great power in Pandemonium.

Outside of Pandemonium, they might not possess great power and rarely their name would be something that would make people in awe like Sasha did

But inside Pandemonium, even though the Head Keeper of the Palace is only in Energy Disperse Stage, he is very powerful that even those powerful ministers and the Three Great Generals would not readily offend the Head Keeper of the Palace.

This is because even if you wanted to offend him, you have to remember who this person master is.

The Head Keeper of the palace represent the will of the Centre Palace, and who is the Will of the Centre Palace?

It is Death Monarch. Lukas and Sasha had seen each other many times. And Sasha even knows certain methods of the Head Keeper of the Palace

No normal people would be able to last standing long in the palace if they didn't have some skill.

And this Lukas had sacrificed the chance of entering the army or developed himself instead he chose to be the Head Keeper of the Palace, becoming an errand boy

But no one would be able to mock him. because even though he is an errand boy, one must not forget whose errand boy he is.

Lukas also have a lot of information about the matter of the Palace, the feeling of Death Monarch and all of this things that made him very precious to the officials and minister when they wanted to gauge the mood of Death Monarch before rolling out certain plans or wanting to present a memorial or a plan.

Lukas sighed as he looks at the closed door of the throne room with complicated feeling

'Will He allow us to enter?' he ask Sasha. Sasha understood the question and she shakes her head

'My lord will try to breakthrough to the next level. I think since you are cooped inside the Palace, you would not know much about what is happening outside the palace. I would not mind to keep you up to date with the current information'

Sasha then look around her.

She is still around the throne room. Who knows if their conversation outside the throne room would causes the One inside the throne room angry

Sasha look at Lukas and then said

'Walk with me' Lukas did not object as he put his hand behind his back as he walks beside Sasha. Then without even looking back, he said to the other keeper of the palace

'Go to your station. Do what you are hired to do. Do not speak of anything that is happening inside the Palace to the people outside. Make sure the security of the Palace return to normal. And check the Gardens.' The other keepers bow their head and slowly retreated from the area.

BOOM!

The sound of thunder breaks the silence between the two. The rain is still falling, and one could not tell whether it pick up the pace or it is still the same drizzle of the rain.

Lukas look at the flash of lightning and frowned.

Sasha knows why the sky seems to be out of whack. The feeling of Death Monarch, was it as stormy as the sky above, she thought to herself.

Every once in a while, the thunder would break and lightning would flash.

The rain keeps on falling as Sasha keep walking the stony surface of the Palace as she looks at her surroundings.

She was too shocked at her sudden appearance at the palace that she did not have time to see what changed about the Palace.

She was just chasing the Three Demonic sister when Death Monarch suddenly appeared from out of nowhere, grab her and suddenly she appears on the throne room

Lukas follows Sasha as they walk through the open bridge that connect the throne room to the other part of the structure of the palace

Sasha widened her eyes as she now could see the changes that is happening on the Palace. She was shocked at the scale of the change.

'It seems...a lot of change happened.' Smiling, Lukas who was beside him nodded.

'It is indeed' Sasha look to her left at the open bridge and she could see that all around her are translucent mist.

But that is not what shocked her.

He could see tall mountains on her left side.

And these mountain is very large and forest also could be seen, with tall and wide trees.

Hills and rivers, streams of waters, lakes all of it could be seen on the left side of the bridge. The shocking thing about this was that this did not exist before.

This is not the first time that she walks this bridge that would connect her to the other part of the palace.

But when she looks on her left side she would see a few small hills and a large clearing area below where it is a palace for the Keepers of the Palace had their morning briefing.

But now, not only there is a mountain in the distance, the height between the ground and the bridge had also multiplied. They are high up in the air.

Yes, during the expansion, the Palace did not only get bigger, stretching the walls and causing some of it to break, it also grows higher

From the outside, it was like a palace that is about to pierce the sky.

They could see that the clouds that is not too high above their head spouting off thunder and lightning

Sasha look at her right side and she could see a large vast land beneath the palace and she drew a gasp. Large empty land other than a few sparse structure could be seen

And that is not the only change

Sasha had a lot of time before she was caught back to the throne room.

She seen the peaceful environment of Pandemonium and she compared it to the things she had seen when she was out of Pandemonium when she was chasing the Three Demoness.

There is a lot of seismic activity outside of Pandemonium

The waves affected the seas and the ground, tsunamis raises up higher than it was ever recorded in the history of mankind.

Dormant volcanos on the ground and underneath the seas are all waking up.

Some of them erupt almost immediately others were forced by the pressure building up under the ground

The power and frequencies of disaster would increase and it would not take long for it to envelop the world.

Titanic earthquake would not be an anomaly, as Sasha herself witness one of such earthquakes that break apart an island into pieces.

On some places, the oceans receded, leaving swathes of naked sands and coral and powerful suction energy coming from the sea.

Sasha had checked the perimeter of Pandemonium the moment that the matters inside Pandemonium calmed down.

After all, at that time, her priorities had been the Three Demoness that is loyal toward Loki. And that is when she sees the seas after she came out of Pandemonium

There is an enormous whirlpool in many of the seas hundreds of times bigger than the largest sinkhole in the world.

But the four corners of Pandemonium were calm, as it seems to be protected not only by the protection formation but also by the force that she is very familiar with.

Azief after all had uses his Divine Sense to calm down the storms of energy all over the world

While it is still catastrophic it was lessened by Death Monarch effort.

[Chapter 979: Line that should not be crossed \(2\)](#)

The reason why there is a whirlpool in the seas is simple.

The tectonic plate beneath the ocean bed came apart forming a huge gap in the bottom, boiling magma poured out but extinguished by the massive amount of water which then rushed down to the abyss

It went down so quickly that the overall water level fell in matters of seconds.

She thought to herself that if Death Monarch did not use his power to calm down the disaster all over the world, then the casualties and the disaster would be even worse.

Fortunately, that the world expansion did not only affect Earth.

If Earth is the only planet that expanded and growing larger with the others did not, then what would happen would be that one day.

It would not be an impossibility for Earth to collide with the Moon and the other planets in the solar system before finally being attracted by the gravitational field of the sun and colliding with the sun itself.

The matter is still not confirmed yet but Jean had told her that the other planet also seems to experience the same thing.

It seems there is a balance. Like a perfect balance that manage to make sure that the transformation of Earth would not destroy it in the process.

So, even though Earth had become probably then thousand times bigger with each continent would take not days, but decades of time if one tries to walk from one continent to the other it was like nothing had changed other than the increase in energies and all kinds of new laws

The distance between the Sun and Earth is still the same.

The ration of their size is still the same.

And the power of the gravitational field between them adjusted to this change in a miraculous event with no demerit for earth itself.

Today, there is a tragedy. But this Multiversal Convergence event would benefit the Earth for decades to come.

She did not know how to feel about it. Especially knowing that the one responsible for all of this is her liege. And she also did not know why The Trickster would take the blame.

Those two relationship is quite complicated, she thought to herself.

For a few seconds both of them did not say anything to each other. Sasha was thinking about all of this matter and Lukas also has his own thoughts

The roaring thunder cracks in the sky and it brought Sasha out of her mind and she then look toward Lukas.

She then said with a nonchalant tone

'Did anyone from the outside trying to contact you?'

Lukas was not surprised with Sasha question but he does raise his eyebrows. Then a smile blooms on his face.

He did not answer the question immediately. He took a bit of time as the only sound around them is the sound of their footsteps.

The Keeper of the Palace and the Shadow Guard is very alike.

They both only serve one master. And they best not forget it.

Other people could give them benefit. But once they take that benefit and betray their master, then there would only bad ending for them

Thus, both Sasha and Lukas knows very much who they should be loyal to and who should they listen to.

And maybe because of that, the cooperation between the palace and the Shadow Guard is very tightly knitted.

That doesn't mean that they did not have their own conflict and differences of opinion. But, at this moment, both of them is very united

Of course, the little clash in front of the door of the throne room is real and not fake. But, they know the real enemy

And Sasha knows that too.

Lukas then sighed and he just nodded. Sasha click her tongue.

'Is it the Central Government? Or the military?' Sasha asked

'Central Government. As for the military, it might be only because they are not here. As long as Wang Jian holds power over the military, I am not too worried about them. Though, the people that he entrusted in the Central Government might not be as trustworthy' Lukas reply.

Sasha nodded.

Lukas only smiles.

There is no one that knows how complicated and tangled the relationship between the politicians, ministers and the military inside the court other than someone who is always inside the court.

Pandemonium way of ruling could be seen to be in disorder.

But, there is also an order to it.

At times, it appears like a Republic. At other times, it appears like a stratocracy. At others times, it appears like an absolute monarchy.

But it is quite hard to pin down what path Pandemonium is walking in.

The minister debates matter of Pandemonium and sometimes execute orders to safeguard the continent.

At times like this, when the Central Court takes control, it appears like a Republic. Because even in the politician and ministers side of the court, there is factions.

They would ask for majority vote and then when the majority is in agreement, they would execute the order.

This was evident during the time of Death Monarch absence and the presence of the military was spread out during the expedition outside of Pandemonium.

At that time, the official factions gain the court.

But when the matter between the military and the official faction reach to a head, and the military people that is already in the court begins exerting some pressure, the direction of Pandemonium was hold by the military people.

The budgets were diverted to military research and military advancement.

Study of formation, building of superweapon was all directed during the brief period of time where the military faction rules the court.

The economic research that is being headed by the Ministry of Finance was halted as the military take the resources to quickly strengthen the recruits of the army, diverting most of it toward technology that would have practical purpose in war and in the battlefield.

In this period, formation master, array master, any profession related to formation arrays rises up as one of the focus of the military department was the protection formation and also the application to it toward the army

Hence, Wang Jian who were already a powerful general with keen grasp of formation become even more powerful.

A thousand Orb Condensing leveler would not be able to kill ten Energy Disperse Stage leveler.

That is how it was.

But if one is in an army like Wang Jian, having one thousand Orb Condensing leveler added with military formation that seems to be able to raise the energy of the soldiers to the peak of their potential, these thousand soldiers could kill ten or even more Energy Disperse Stage leveler.

Wang Jian ambition was to create a force that could theoretically bridge the gap between the low level soldiers and the high level individuals.

This is his path.

Conquering with military might!

Wang Jian even studied Death Monarch.

As Death Monarch is the strongest human in the world, Wang Jian wanted to also create countermeasures if someone as powerful as Death Monarch were to attack Pandemonium.

As such during the time the military hold power, the court is full with military men and almost all of the resources of Pandemonium were directed to most of the military.

Other than World Government, Pandemonium possess one of the largest army.

Of course if compared to the army before the Fall, in numbers, Wang Jian could not beat those numbers.

But what he could be proud of was that the soldiers that follows him into war were all high quality soldiers.

He had a lot of Seed Forming officers and even larger pool of Energy Disperse Stage captains.

if the forces of the world before the Fall were to try their mettle against Wang Jian army, they would easily be destroyed, regardless of their number.

Wang Jian holds the military, and as for the officials, it is Haziq and Anatoli.

The clash between the military and the court officials is a frequent conflict that happen in the court.

Most of the time, Death Monarch, the paramount ruler of Pandemonium looks at all of this with one eye closed

When one goes too far, he would then step out. He would reprimand one side, scolded the others and he would either take the middle way or goes to the extreme.

Because of this ambiguity of the administration of Pandemonium, there is this certain sense of disorder.

Yet, at the same time, the people of Pandemonium itself rarely were the victim of the games of the high lords and ladies.

Simply, because there is a rule.

There is a line that one must not cross in Pandemonium

You could battle in secrets, employ intrigues and schemes, plotted against your political enemies, but never, never ever should the officials and the members of the Pandemonium court should involve the people who do not play the game of power into it.

Do not drag innocent people into the filth.

Of all the many other rules of conduct between the officials of the court, and the influential people in the military, this is one of the rules that they would never ever dare break.

Because doing so would make you the target of Death Monarch. And being a target of Death Monarch on Pandemonium, is not a good thing

[Chapter 980: The two people of the court \(1\)](#)

Lukas sighed and mutters

‘They are probably worrying that Death Monarch did not need them. Most people would worry that their superior getting weaker. It would not be like in Pandemonium, where they worried even more when their superior becoming even stronger.’ He chuckles a bit

Sasha nodded. She could understand the worry of the court officials. Lukas continue

‘But, to these officials, while they like that my lord grows stronger, it is too fast. If my lord could see everything and be anywhere, why would he need them? Probably that is their thoughts. As an ant, how could one see the views that the eagle sees?’

He is still calm as he walks inside the Palace like he owns the place.

Sasha frowned a bit listening to his word that have many implications but then she nodded like she could understood it.

'Being useless mean there is no need for them'

She sighed deeply.

'They do not understand Death Monarch. He would not rid of them as long as they stay in the line and do not take things too far. As long as they do their job, there is no reason for Death Monarch to do anything that would make him have more work' Sasha said.

Sasha knows that the formation of Pandemonium and its rise as the number one superpower force in the world was not something that is planned by Death Monarch

Because he is the strongest person in the world, the force that he had created also gained that reputation.

Death Monarch probably knows how to govern. He just did not want to because that is not his path. Many people think that Death Monarch was quite suitable as an overlord.

But if people look at the behavior of Death Monarch and studied it, one would see that rarely does Death Monarch goes and conquered other people lands.

Even Pandemonium was based on one of the forbidden zones of the world which is a continent called Australia before the Fall.

Many people died in this land during the initial waves of monsters appeared. Danger and opportunity lies side by side.

A forbidden zone was then turned into Pandemonium.

And he reluctantly become the leader of this force and more and more people settled in this land believing in the protection of Death Monarch

Sasha dare not say that she knew Death Monarch as intimately or as personally as Sofia, or Sina does.

But she does know that while her lord knows how to govern, that is not his passion. It is not his Grand Path

If Death Monarch really wanted to govern, wanted to become an Overlord, why would he let the creation of the administration official to be approved.

Why would he allowed the military to also enter the muddy water of the court? Why would he not just conquer the four corners of the world?

There were many times that he could have grab the mantle of power.

During the Fake World period, if Death Monarch wanted to rule the world, then he could have simply live in that world

A world of restriction by the system, but he would be king of everything.

Probably that is not a life that Death Monarch wanted to live. Some people would hesitate to destroy such a world and return back to the real world

There is no such hesitation on Death Monarch. His Grand Path is unwavering

As for Pandemonium, he did not want it.

But he also could not just throw it away when so many people had believed in him.

And it is not that bad for him, as with this force, there is a deterrence force for any power in the world to meddle with the people he loves.

Sasha could only sigh as she thought of this.

The reluctant monarch, she thought to herself. If everyone knows her thought, they would find it hard to believe.

Death Monarch is interested in searching for his Grand Path and achieving his Grand Path. She could only sigh inwardly.

She keeps walking as she look on her left and right, seeing the changes of the Centre Palace.

Lukas walk beside him and even though he had this kind of harmless appearance, every one of the Keeper of the palace that saw him would bow deeply and there is a trace of fear and respect in each one of their eyes

The Keeper of the Palace is like the eunuch during the rule of an Emperor. They might be weak but they possess great influence over the Emperor.

Of course, the Keeper of the Palace dare not exert their influence over Death Monarch.

After all Death Monarch is not some young emperor they could coax or someone that they could manipulate by using words or scheme.

One wrong move, one wrong word, and they could easily die under the gaze of the strongest man in the world

But, it did not diminish the fact that at least in Pandemonium, they possess great power as they could determine who could get in the Palace or not.

Unless it is someone that Death Monarch specifically said they could come into the Palace, the Keeper of the Palace exercise their power to determine audience with Death Monarch

The fact that Azief allowed it was to give this power to the Keeper of the Palace as a means of protection.

Both Lukas and Sasha knows this which is why they did not dare cross a certain line.

Sasha then said, reminded of the conversation before.

'They are very impatient' Lukas shakes his head and sighed

'I could understand them. The world is changing too much. They needed assurance. You sometimes forget that these ministers are not like you'

'What's that supposed to mean?' Sasha said

Lukas then said

'Most of them is in Energy Disperse Stage and only a few of them are in Seed Formation stage. As for Disk Formation levelers, they are a few of them but these are those people who break through without great foundation. If they met a true Disk Formation leveler that had truly trained their Seeds, they would easily be defeated. And not to mention if they were attacked by an assassins or a squad of highly trained operative.'

'Are you on their side?' Sasha ask.

The tone is very calm. It is not a questioning tone. Simply a question. Sasha knows a lot of dirty secrets of the people in Pandemonium.

But Lukas history remains unknown to her.

It is not because here research is lacking.

It is because someone was covering it up.

And the only one who has power to cover up such thing in Pandemonium that even her Shadow Guard could not even found a clue is only one person.

And that would be Death Monarch

Since, even her own superior wanted to cover up for Lukas, how could she not be tactful and drop the matter?

But just because she dropped the matter, did not mean she would not take the chance she gets to learn something about Lukas, this person.

Lukas reply

'I am on nobody side. I just understand them. To the eyes of people like Death Monarch, we might look like an extra. But, we also fight for our existence'

'Are you scolding Death Monarch?' Sasha said with a slight laugh

'He would not punish me for this kind of thing'

'You seem to think you know him'

'I don't. And I never pretend to be. But I know that not all stories about him is real. People called him a tyrant. But, it is these people that put him on his place and wanted to serve under him'

Sighing he then said

'He did not ask these people to take him up as a leader. He did not ask to be worshiped. But people do it anyway. Because sometimes one position is determined by the power they have. Even without doing anything, he sat on a seat many people wanted. And so, because of that, I know he would not mind it if I criticized him every once in a while. Unless, it is to protect his reputation, he would not kill me'

Sasha only chuckles.

She and Lukas is speaking words that no Keeper of the Palace and the officials of the court dares utter from their mouth.

'Very brave of you'

Lukas only smiles and did not say anything else.

Another moment of silence passes between them as they already walked to the hallways overlooking the gardens on the other side of the open hallway

'Any new changes in the Central government?' Sasha asked.

'Same old, same old' Another silence moment occurred.

They did not say anything but as they walk further and further away from the throne room, there is this tense atmosphere around both of them

Sasha could see that there is a lot of cracks on some of the structures as she could see one of the tower had almost on the verge of falling down.

Fortunately, there is a nano robots that is flying around the structure and is repairing it with something that look like laser technology.

But, the nano robot that is flying around the Palace is low.