SPELLCRAFT 1211

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[SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)
Chapter 1211: Kuzon Vs Legris [Pt 1]

'How should I handle this…?'

Kuzon's thoughts were in overdrive as he stared at Legris Damien, his heart racing with every second that elapsed in the blank dimension.

He knew fully well that he couldn't underestimate this man, especially after he had just invaded the Constellation Realm itself, and even killed one of their allies.

'Z'ark will be missed, but I'm sure Jared has a way to revive him. I can't dwell on that right now.'

Besides, the Constellations could also do something about Z'ark's demise even if Jared was unable to—though Kuzon highly doubted his rival wouldn't have a solution prepared for the possibility of any of their deaths.

'Focus, Kuzon… Focus!' He glared at Legris, whose grin now seemed more devilish than anything he had ever encountered before.

'Leo advised me to retreat, but…' Kuzon knew how dire the situation was.

Legris had been going after the Constellation Energy Fragments all this time. If he succeeded in his task of absorbing Aether in this Realm, then he would be able to achieve what he wanted.

In essence, fleeing was the opposite of what needed to be done.

'What is the point of trying to protect my Constellation Fragment if Legris can just absorb all the Aether he needs anyway?'

It was for this very reason that Kuzon moved. He couldn't allow Legris to get what he wanted, especially since the stakes had been proven to be just that high.

'I have to be careful, though…'

Sure, he knew Jared had easily defeated Legris back then, but he also recognized that the latter had been leading him on all along.

'I can't afford to fall for his schemes.'

Kuzon knew that killing this monster wouldn't solve the problem, though he badly wanted that to be the case. Gritting his teeth and clenching his fist, he settled on the most effective method.

'I have to capture him. I doubt he'll be able to hold the Constellations for very long. Once they're free, they should be able to get rid of him permanently.'

After all, the reason Legris had taken all the Constellations off the board for this event was because he couldn't afford to face them.

'There is no need to rush. If I end up stalling for time, it works in my advantage…'

As long as he prevented Legris from sucking more Aether, he could take as much time as possible.

'Either more backup arrives to support me, or the Constellations get freed, or both… I gain more by dragging this fight out.'

Despite this logical conclusion, Kuzon felt another drive within him. It didn't stem from pure logic, but it also didn't contradict his earlier postulation.

'If I can capture him with my ability alone, I will do so!'

Kuzon knew that he wasn't Jared. They were both different, and they had unique abilities attributed to them.

'But… if he was able to fight against Legris, I should be able to as well…'

Of coutse, he wouldn't be reckless. The stakes were too high for that. However, Kuzon had a burning desire not to fall behind Jared.

'I've trained for this long because of that!'

With look of resolve etched on his face, bright gold energy suddenly exploded from Kuzon, filling everything in his immediate vicinity with power.

'I can't properly use Leo's power because of the poor connection we both have, but…' Tightening his fist, he released even ore energy,

'... I don't need to!'

~VWUUUUUUUUUSSSSSSSSSSHHHHHHHHH!!!~

Kuzon's entire body turned golden, and a golden crown hovered above his head. Several weapons floated around him—ranging from a sword, to a spear, then a staff, an axe, and arrow, and a shield.

Golden threads also began to floar around him, almost like they were weaving space itself as it were.

His entire self, and even his apparel had turned golden, with fabric that surpassed even the finest quality that any man could ever lay eyes on.

Both of his hands were also adorned by golden jewelry, and his ten fingers all had rings on them.

The threads that danced around him weaved to form a giant sphere, with him at the center, almost as if he was in the middle of a forming ball of golden yarn.

Of course, the threads were thin, only shining golden, hence, Kuzon and his entire arsenal were still visible despite the ever-spinning threads.

'Offense. Defense. Perception.' Kuzon thought to himself as he stared at Legris. 'I have everything!'

In his Absolute Emperor Transfiguration, he was both invincible, and he could command his environment to do his bidding. Adding that to Leo's [Authority]—despite how limited it was—and he was a force to be reckoned with.

He could bypass distance, and he could attack with speeds that defied the limits of living beings.

Yet… even with all of this power, something made him uneasy.

It was Legris' smile, despite all of the power he had just displayed.

"Haha…" His laughter echoed, causing even Kuzon to shudder slightly.

He couldn't place his hand on it, but… Legris disturbed him.

"You've gotten stronger, Kuzon. I suppose I can't play around with you the same way I did with Jared… I think."

Suddenly, black-like energy began to manifest from Legris, covering the severed hand he had. Replacing it was a claw of sheer darkness, and that was only the beginning.

Legris' cloak transformed into the very darkness he summoned, and his hair slowly became a fiery black flame, dancing to the tune of his ever-growing power.

His boots also had the same effect, and before long… everything about Legris' apparel, as well as his right hand and hair, became shrouded in black power.

"Well… none of you have ever seen me in this form, right?" His cackle once again caused Kuzon to shudder, but he maintained his composure.

Legris was now far stronger than before, but so what? He was also much more powerful than before.

And in the end, the mission hadn't changed!

'He is a risk we can not afford to let loose.' Kuzon's thoughts echoed as he gnashed his teeth and prepared for combat.

'For everyone's sake, I must stop him!'

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SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar
Chapter 1212: Kuzon Vs Legris [Pt 2]

'This entire dimensional is as large as a universe by ordinary standards…' Kuzon thought to himself as he spread his senses far and wide.

'Without Leo's complete power, I can't control all of it, but if I use my Original Magic as a binder, I should be able to come close.'

That meant he had to substitute—or rather, reinforce—the unstable [Authority] of his Constellation with [Marrionette].

It was a difficult task, but Kuzon was up for the challenge!

'Let's go!'

Instantly controlling the gravity, friction, and resistance of everything around him, Kuzon felt completely absolved of anything that would have offered at least some measure of pull to him. That meant only one thing.

'More freedom!'

~WHOOOOSH!~

In a flash, he closed the distance between him and Legris, who still hadn't noticed Kuzon's appearance thanks to the vast difference in speed between the both of them.

'Fo safety, I won't attack directly.'

Thankfully, he didn't need to. The prime reason for moving so close to Legris was to investigate the plausibilty of the action.

And he had just confirmed it.

Plus, now that he was within striking distance, that meant his attacks would reach Legris much faster than before.

'[Golden Execution]'

The Axe by Kuzon's side instantly vanished from that position, instead manifesting above Legris' head.

Using his [Authority] and [Marionette], he forcibly held Legris in place, using threads to control space while also constructing an actual gulliotine for his target.

The axe served as the executioner's blade, while everything served as Legris' restraints.

Of course, all of this occured within a second, making it too fast for anyone to perceieve… not even someone as powerful or skilled as Legris.

~WHOOOOOOOSSSSHHHHHHH!!!~

The Axe descended on the target, cackling energy rushing from it as soon as it began its fall.

However…

~FSHUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUU~

Right before the axe reached Legris, it rapidly began to rust at the tip, with blackness seeping into its golden form.

Before long—or any time at all—the darkness had completely wrapped itself around the axe until it became as dark as night.

The same applied for all of Legris' restraints.

All of them crumbled into darkness, returning to him as if he was ther owner.

"Haa…" Legris whispered, turning to Kuzon, who was now miles away from him. "... I thought you wouldn't want to kill me."

Rather than being flusterd, like Legris would want, Kuzon gave a confident smile and responded with words of his own.

"I had to see if I could. It seems I cannot, huh?"

'So this is what Jared was talking about, huh? The black stuff…'

It was going to prove problematic, especially now that Legris was covered in the stuff. According to what Kuzon had observed, the darkness absorbed anything it came into contact with, rendering it a part of Legris.

That made attacking Legris virtually impossible since he could render all attacks null.

'I don't even want to begin to imagine what would happen if that stuff came in contact with me.' Kuzon narrowed his gaze on Legris.

Usually, his Absolute Emperor's Transfiguration guaranteed him no harm or interferece, but with something like this in the equation, Kuzon wasn't so sure anymore.

He had to operate with the assumption that he could be damaged by Legris.

'And not just that, there seems to be another problem…' Kuzon sighed internally, focusing his senses on the areas around Legris.

As expected, he couldn't successfully analyze or control it.

'That black stuff negates my abilities. I can't use [Authority] or [Marionette] around his immediate vicinity at all.'

Using it on Legris himself was also out of the question.

'It has to do with that strange black power of his. Just what is that thing, for it to be interfering with even a Constellation's Representation?'

Kuzon did not have the answers.

All he knew was that it wasn't Aether, Nether, or any other kind of energy he had ever dealt with before.

That made Legris all the more dangerous.

'He probably used that, or some variant of it, to ensure the Constellations can't interfere beyond their dimension.'

Kuzon reckoned that if he learned more about the black energy, he would perhaps be able to figure out more of Legris' power, or even how to free the Constellations early.

He wasn't going to push his luck, but that was certainly a possibility.

'Let's observe some more. It can't be absolute, ri—?'

"My turn!" Legris' voice sharply echoed in the air, interrupting Kuzon's thoughts as soon as it proceeded from his lips.

~WHOOOOOOOOSSSSSSSHHHHHHHHH!!!~

Legris swiftly extended his dark claws towards Kuzon, quickly eating through space and every energy in its way as it made its way towards prey.

"Tch." Kuzon was able to quickly teleport from his position, allowing him to easily avoid the strike,

In an effort to counterattack, he used his golden threads to generate several arrows from multiple directions. Their golden forms covered the expanse, like tiny dots in a vast stream of a blank canvas.

They numbered a billion at least, and Kuzon summoned all of them in a mere instance.

'Their offensive capabilities aren't too impressive, but they're fast, and they can cover multiple locations at once…'

Kuzon thought this was the best way to achieve the desired result of chipping at Legris' defenses… at least to see how far it could go.

'Does it recover quickly? Can it encompass him entirely? What of resistance?' He had to know the full details.

"Descend."

~WHOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMM!!!~

The moment Kuzon said the word, the golden arrows began to lunge at Legris at such speed that it defied explanation.

Slicing through space, enough to create distortions all around, they all centered in the direction of the lone man.

Kuzon watched as Legris covered himself in a cocoon of darkness, and he watched as the arrows pierced the darkness a million after another.

They kept falling and piercing.

Over and over… and over again!

"Let's see just how much you can take." Kuzon whispered, now wieling a golden staff in his hand.

"I'm just getting started."

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SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar
Chapter 1213: Kuzon Vs Legris [Pt 3]

~FWUUUUUSSSHHHH!!!~

As the last barrage of arrows fell, all fired at the dark cocoon that housed Legris, Kuzon watched in silence.

The golden projectiles, like heavy raindrops on a cloudy day, showed no mercy in their rapid bombardments. Each one tore through space, sending shockwaves and cackles of energy bursting forth with its strike.

In the end, however, once the noise settled and the vast array of arrows were exhausted, the cocoon remained.

"I see…" Kuzon murmured as he watched the blanket of darkness unfurl, revealing Legris within.

He was unharmed, much to Kuzon's disappointment, and his wide grin even seemed to taunt him. The black cocoon returned to his cloak and the rest of his black-coated form.

"That was quite a barrage." Legris whispered, but Kuzon ignored it.

'So the speed and numbers don't matter, huh?' He had thought that an overwhelming attack could override the regenerative or dexterious qualitiy of the black energy, but that didn't seem to be the case.

As a result, Kuzon had to start looking for another alternative.

'Now I'm even more hesitant to get too close.' No trace of his arrows could be seen or sensed by him, and it almost felt like they didn't exist.

It caused Kuzon to shiver at the thought of what would happen if he was affected.

'Let's seek out another alterna—"

"You shouldn't ignore me!" Legris' voice echoed in the vast expanse, and Kuzon felt the golden hair at back of his hair tingle as the man of darkness appeared behind him in a rush.

It was so swift and sudden that it defied explanation.

~WHOOOOOSSSHHHH!!!~

Legris sent out his claws in that split-moment, with Kuzon seemingly defenseless and caught off-guard by the sudden strike.

However…

"I don't think so." Kuzon's voice suddenly echoed behind Legris, causing the latter's eyes to bulge in shock.

After all, if Kuzon was behind him… then who was in front?

The golden figure who stood there was merely a golden manifestation of Kuzon—a mannequin he designed from his golden threads.

And now that Legris had closed in on this duplicate of his, he could finally try out his next move.

'Can the darkness protect you now?'

Kuzon's golden statue instantly took the form of several strings, all of them wrapping themselves around Legris as if binding him all over his body with their immutable force.

However…

"This won't work, you know?"

… All the threads quickly became nothing but darkness that melted upon contact with Legris.

In no time at all, he was free.

"You should know better, Kuzon. Or… ah, Jared is the smart one. You're just the one who got priviledged with a bunch of power and has nothing else going for him."

Legris' devilish grin showed nothing but utter disgust towards Kuzon, but the latter maintained his calmness.

'What's with his sudden change in mood?' Kuzon narrowed his gaze and watched Legris smile morph into one that showed slight annoyance.

While he knew that Legris considered him an enemy, he couldn't explain the sudden display of malevolence towards him.

'Is he about to get more serious?' Kuzon asked himself.

It would be more disadvantageous for him if he allowed Legris to pull out more cards. As a result, Kuzon decided it was best to end things with his next move.

'This will be rough.'

Grasping his staff, while drawing all the power he had spread out of back into himself, he focused all of it into his weapon.

'Here goes…' Kuzon narrowed his gaze and centered his attention on Legris, who seemed to be waiting for his next strikee.

An unfathomable amount of golden energy was channeled into the staff that Kuzon held, and the multiple other weapons that floated around Kuzon also whirred at the growing staff's tip.

It seemed like all of his power was being concentrated on that single blow.

"Haha! Are you stupid? Going for a pure energy blast?" Legris cackled, his eyebrow raised in both shock and disappointment.

Kuzon understood why.

If Legris was adept enough, he would be able to evade the attack, leading to a waste of energy. Plus, if Kuzon directed the energy on a large scale, perhaps destroying the entire dimension, then its effectiveness would be lessened.

In the end, he wouldn't be able to deal any substantial damage.

Finally, it was still unclear if his black energy had some form of limited durability. From what he noticed, they didn't seem to have one.

As a result, if Legris shrouded himself in that black cocoon of his, then he would be invulnerable.

Still… Kuzon began his aim.

'He desires as much energy as possible, so he won't bother dodging my assault since he can just take it head on and absorb the power I give him.'

As a result, Kuzon knew he wouldn't miss.

~BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM!!!~

The pressure that proceeded from the staff was enough to cause the entire dimension to tremble. The air vibrated, and everything within it understood its immense power.

Despite such strength, however, Kuzon only focused the energy in a streamlined blast—enough to completely bathe the dark cocoon that Legris was already forming in its light.

The energy would be focused, and it would deal immense damage. However, the fact that Legris was pulling up his black coccon made it evident that he was more than confient enough to handle Kuzon's blast.

'Let's see, shall we?' Kuzon grinned, releasing all of the pent-up power that had formed on his weapon.

And then… it fired.

~WHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM!!!~

The hum from the beam of light sent shivers through every particle in the entire dimension, and the actual attack definitely eviscerated everything in its path as it made its way to Legris Damien.

The dark cocoon formed.

The blast neared, its speed and power unlike anything the dark sphere had ever handled before.

As the two manifestations of contrasting nature clashed, everything was blown away, creating shards of space and energy lashing around in a never-ending vortex of power.

The entire dimension was bathed in a storm of phenomenal power, all coalescing at a single point—the blot of darkness.

Whether even this, a power enough to shatter a universe, would be enought to infiltrate the dark territory was still uncertain.

All of existence could only wait and see.

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SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar
Chapter 1214: Kuzon Vs Legris [Pt 4]

"What an idiot…" Legris whispered to himself.

He could hear the loud rumblings and the massive eruption that occured beyond his haven, but none of that fazed him in the slightest.

None of Kuzon's attacks were ever going to reach him.

'He can't get past the wall. Nothing can.'

He always knew Kuzon to be someone who fought with overwhelming power, but over the years, Legris knew Kuzon had matured beyond that.

After all, he was able to defeat several members of the Nether Cult and elude them for years.

That had to count for something.

'He also defeated Kido, though he had to sacrifice his life… right? I mean, he would have used some measure of his intelligence in doing that.'

That was why it made no sense for Kuzon to try infiltrating his dark cocoon by brute force.

Perhaps the young Midas had simply run out of options and hoped a highly condensed blast would solve the problem.

That wouldn't be too surprising, considering the way people often acted once all plausible alternatives had been exhausted.

With desperation, they would try anything just to achieve their goals.

Legris considered Kuzon being in such a situation—scrambling for victory using any means possible.

'Is he lashing at me right now?' Legris wondered to himself.

That was indeed a possible scenario, but something felt off. He couldn't place his hand on it, but… he just found it unbelievable that Kuzon would be so stupid.

'Or maybe he… h-huh…?'

Suddenly, Legris found his body unable to move. Not just that, but he could no longer detect the flow of his power or control it in the slightest.

It felt like he was completely stuck.

'N-no…'

If that was the case, then there was only one thing that would follow.

~FSHUUUUUUUUUUUU…~

His dark cocoon disintegrated, leaving him totally bare to the rest of the golden radiation that graciously poured on him.

~BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMM!!!~

The blast showed no mercy. It tore through any form of resistance Legris could have dreamed to muster after his defense had broken own, shattering all his other countermeasures in a jiffy.

In just one instant, one that felt like an eternity, Legris found himself bathed with overwhelming power that caused him to open his grinning lips for the most agonizing shriek he could give.

"GAAARRRRRGHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!"

The blast drowned his screams in its condensed embrace, nearly disintergating him as he stood in it for just a few seconds.

However… the moment he thought he would disappear for good, it ceased.

The golden radiation stopped ripping through his body, destroying every cell in his body as it erased every layer of his current existence.

Rather than the overwhelming light in front of him, it was now Kuzon who stood in his presence.

"Y-you… what did… you do…?"

Kuzon's smile was condescending, and it caused Legris' chest to tighten as he stared at the young boy. His body was nearly all burned, and the darkness he had used to shroud himself was no more.

He couldn't even make more thanks to the paralysis that his body currently endured, which caused a disconnect between him and his power.

Legris was completely helpless at this point, and he knew it.

But how? Why? It made no sense!

"You said I was just someone who got privileged with a lot of power, and I have nothing else going for him…" Kuzon's voice echoed in the abyss that was an already devastated dimension.

He moved closer, most likely to enjoy Legris' damaged face of defeat.

"How does it feel to be wrong?"

It was at this point that Legris realized he had underestimated the young Midas. No, it was more accurate to say that he simply did not give him enough credit.

'I was too slow to comprehend what he was doing…' Legris thought to himself, gnashing his teeth as he glared at Kuzon.

"It's over now. I'm going to capture you and end this invasion of yours."

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Kuzon's plan was simple, but also complex at the same time.

It only became an actual strategy after he studied Legris and his strange power for a few times, before finally realizing how it functioned.

'For one, the dark energy does not cover his entire body…' Those were the first thoughts Kuzon had when he observed Legris.

He only covered his severed hand, his cloak, his shoes, and trousers with the murky black stuff.

As a result, a decent amount of his body was exposed.

That made him vulerable..

Unfortunately, Kuzon ran into another problem once he tried to capitalize on the single weakness Legris seemed to have.

'He uses his black cocoon to protect himself from all-directional attacks!'

While it was frustrating, this move of Legris proved Kuzon's suspicions correct, since he wouldn't need a black cocoon if he was already invulnerable to all attacks.

Those arrows were perfect in proving that Legris had to protect his vulnerable parts from any incoming assault that couldn't be stopped by his limited darkness.

However, that brought another issue to the table.

'How do I get rid of the cocoon?'

There didn't seem to be a way to go about it—at least externally—so Kuzon decided to pay more attention to all the events that had occured thus far.

It was at that point that he was able to realize something important.

'When he uses the black cocoon… he's more vulnerable!' And no, Kuzon didn't mean he was more vulnerable in the exteriror.

No, it was the opposite.

Legris had a limited amount of his black energy. As such, anytime he made a black cocoon, all the black energy in his clothing, hand, and hair, would be minimized.

Depending on just how dense he wanted to make the cocoon, he woul use up all that energy.

'Since he'll be safe within the cocoon, there's no reason to have even more black stuff around him. It makes sense…'

Kuzon was only able to arrive at this conclusion thanks to his keen observaion of Legris when he finally came out of the cocoon.

The dark cocoon was absorbed into Legris' coat, and once that happened, it regained its flame-like property.

Kuzon also suspected that Legris had already infused the darkness into his arm and hair before undoing the cocoon, so it wouldn't seem like the cocoon was merely the coalition of his black energy.

With all of this information coming together in Kuzon's mind, he decided to brew the perfect strategy that would help him take down Legris.

It was perfect!

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SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar
Chapter 1215: Kuzon Vs Legris [Pt 5]

Kuzon knew he was making a few assumptions in his analysis.

In the first place, he hadn't confirmed that Legris needed to use his existing darkness to form the cocoon, or that Legris couldn't just make more.

To compensate for this, howver, he had to come up with a plan with the possibility of that in mind—a plan that accounted for Legris' potential counterattack!

The first and most important part of it was his golden mannequin.

The mannequin was used as a decoy for Legris, and eventually use to bind him. Of course, Legris was able to easily disarm the strings easily, but not before Kuzon activated his plan.

'[Marionette Butterfly]'

Unlike the regular Marionette Worms, this one blended properly with its surroundings and host, making it indistinguishable from air or skin.

Since it took on the properties of its host, Kuzon was able to make it indistinguisbable from Legris' own self.

And so, as he destroyed the rest of the strings, the Marionette Butterfly was able to remain in close proximity to Legris.

There was a chance that Legris would notice it given enough time, so Kuzon decided to use an extremely powerful attack to distract Legris and force him to use up all his darkness to protect himself in his dark cocoon.

The plan worked!

Legris did exactly what he wanted, shrouding himself in the dark cocoon, while completely vulnerable to the Marionette Butterfly.

The question remained, though.

How exactly was a butterfly able to defeat someone like Legris? Well… the answer lay in what the insect construct could do.

Laying as many eggs as possible in the form of pollens.

The Marionette Butterfly infected Legris through his ear, infecting it with thousands of Marionette Worms who swiftly developed as they invaded his body.

They took control of his nerves, and eventually all of his bodily functions.

In the end, Legris was completely taken over by Kuzon, who did not rely on brite strength or overwhelming power… but simple tact.

Once Legris was no longer in control, it made sense that his dark cocoon would break down, causing him to take damage.

The conclusion of their fight thus arrived.

'I used up a lot of energy in that last attack. Plus, the Marionette Butterfly took a lot of energy to create in order to design it as I desired and also due to the numerous Worms it would produce…'

His plan was not without its downsides. He even had to collect all the energy he had spread all around him to achieve his desired result.

He probably had less than ten percent of his total Aether pool left, and he was also mentally exhausted. However, Kuzon was still able to smile as he drew closer to Legris.

He was able to prove his opponent wrong.

'I know I'm not Jared. I'm his rival.' That thought alone mae him smile brightly and confidently in the presence of a man who knew nothing about him.

"It's over now. I'm going to capture you and end this invasion of yours."

'[Golden Constraints]' Kuzon silently cast a Spell, causing several braces of gold to wrap themselves around Legris.

As a result, he was completely shrouded in golden locks and chains, unable to escape.

'With the Marionette Worms in control of Legris, I now have full authority over his body. Still, I refuse to be careless.'

Adding extra layers of defenses felt redundant at this point, but Kuzon did so anyway.

'I should meet up with the others. I wonder the ones that are closeby…'

He never thought he would be able to end the fight so soon, but that in itself brought Kuzon satisfaction unlike any other.

He actually defeated a Legris superiror to the one Jared had fought, and he even managed to bypass the problem of the black energy.

'I even captured him alive!'

"Haha! I can't wait to see the look on Jared's face when I sh—"

~WHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSHHHHHHHHH!!!~

Like a bolt of lightning—no, much faster than that—Kuzon vanished from his position.

His bulging eyes glowed as cackles of golden energy rippled across his body. His left hand tightly gripped his right hand, which was now missing for some reason, and his face had a deep scowl on it.

It all happened so fast that even Kuzon was still wrapping his head around it, trying his hardest to dull the pain he was feeling in his incomplete right arm.

Pain…?!

He was feeling pain despite still being in his [Absolute Emperor's Transfiguration]?!

That meant only one thing!

"Keuk!" His bulging eyes widened even further as he focused all his attention on the man who now stood where he currently occupied.

It was… another Legris!

'Shit! There's two of them now? How?!'

Kuzon instantly understood how he had messed up. Thanks to him retracting all the energy from around him, he had no Authority or Sensory Prowess to help him detect Legris until it was too late.

'He was able to take away one of my arms. If I took a second later, I would be dead!'

Beads of sweat fell from Kuzon's face as he endured the pain and dulled the rising fear within him.

The Legris he had under his constraint was right beside the new one, and seeing the both of them next to each other just doubled the feeling of dread that he experienced.

Perhaps it was this dread… this uncontrollable fixation he had… that prevented him from noticing yet another looming figure behind him.

"G-guh!!!"

… Not until it was almost too late!

~FWIIIISHH!~

Kuzon vanished once more, but not without losing one of his legs. The searing pain, and the seeping rot of darkness caused him to nearly scream out, but he controlled himself and maintained his distance, swiftly erecting a dense barrier around himself with his remnant energy… though he was unaware of just how much good that would do him.

'N-no…'

After all, his opponents weren't merely two Legrises… but three!

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SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar
Chapter 1216: Severe Handicap

'D-damnit…!'

Kuzon found himself exasperated, nearing the brink of desperation, as he looked at the three figures in front of him.

One of the Legrises—the newest addition to the trio—had managed to sneak up behind him and would have nearly kill him if not for his swift response.

Sure, he lost a leg, but it could have been much worse.

"Haa… haaa…"

At this point, he was expending a considerable amount of energy on his barrier, while ensuring he was able to detect anything within a reasonable range.

There was no other way to go about it—defense was the only option he had now.

'H-how? What did he do? Why is there more than one of him right now?'

Kuzon, just like the rest of the team, understood the nature of Legris' abilities. They knew he was difficult to kill because of the numerous versions of himself that existed in a special space that he controlled.

Neron had gotten trapped there once, and he was barely able to win back then.

'But even at that, Legris can only have one version of himself at a time in reality. Or… is that what he made us think all this time?'

Now that he thought of it, Legris had never displayed much of his black powers until now. It all seemed to be happening too much… too fast.

'Why now?'

Kuzon felt an ominous feeling as he tried his hardest to regain composure.

Both his arm and legs felt like they were on fire, and it hurt him at an unspeakable level. He initially didn't understand why, but after taking the time to notice it, he realized the reason.

'It's rotting. My body is rotting…'

The darkness was seeping deeper and deeper into his golden body, and it caused him to feel both pain and destrution.

He had to do something about it—and fast!

'I need to cut them off!'

Kuzon swiftly summoned two blades, positioning them close to his severed arm and leg. He gritted his teeth and squinted his eyes, ready to feel the agony that awaited him.

'I have to time this well!'

None of his summoned constructs could harm him in any way, which meant he had to return to his base form. However, he was assured that the destruction of his body would intensify rapidly the moment he left Absolute Emperor Transfiguration.

That meant he had to be swift… absolutely precise.

'Just do it, Kuzon! Just do it!'

He controlled his blades, and they went into action, targeting the respective areas of his flesh that the darkness had yet to reach, so as to ampuate the rest of his rotting flesh off.

~FWISH!~

~WHUSH!~

He sliced off the corrupted lumps of flesh, leaving his wounded form alone as he winced in pain.

Strangely, it didn't hurt him as the Legris' darkness did.

Still, he could feel a strange sensation from his emptied arm and leg as he tried to heal them.

'It's not healing…?!'

He could only close the wounds, but nothing was growing or healing up. At that moment, the fear within Kuzon began to intensify as he stared at his three foes.

The Legris that was previously under constraint was now free, and it seemed like the Marionette Worms within him had been purged, considering the fact that he now had full control over his body.

'The others must have helped him out.'

What made matters worse was that all three of the Legrises now had black energy on their apparel and bodies, like burning flames that never died out.

If all of them served the same purpose and possessed the same level of intensity as last time, then he had no chance in the slightest.

'My Aether levels are low, and I can't even access Leo after those two strikes from Legris…'

In essence, he was stuck!

'I can manage to recover slowly, but I doubt they'll give me the chance to do that in peace.'

His defenses might as well be paper, with the way the black energy Legris had could negate and suck in whatever constructs he could make.

That meant he was simply in an unprotected house with no real roof.

'The most effiicient way to deal with this is mobility and perception.'

Kuzon knew fully well that his best bet was sensing danger and evading the attacks before they reached him.

'But there are three of them!' That lessened his odds of evasion by a large margin.

He wasn't also in the best physical state, and his lists of arsenals were severely depleted.

'Plus, I can't use [Absolute Emperor Transfiguration] anytime soon…'

There was only one more option for him to use, but it was too risky to even attempt.

'[The Emperor's Domain].'

The Emperor's Domain was his personal realm, one which he completely controlled. Within it, he had absolute authority.

'If I use that, there's a good chance I can turn the tables.'

But that in itself came with its own risk.

'If he uses that chance to absorb my domain, or he makes another unexpected move, then it's all over.'

At this point, Kuzon was tempted to simply retreat.

It was possible for him to hide in The Emperor's Domain, at least to recover or come up with a strategy to counter Legris.

But…

'I can't do that!'

Sure, Kuzon felt a surge of pride that discouraged him from retreating from such a battle. However, his reasons ran deeper than that.

'If I leave him be, he'll only have more chances to absorb more energy.'

Also, he didn't know when backup would arrive, but if he was absent when they did, then there would be no one to inform them of Legris' weaknesses and his capabilities.

'I currently have information on him, and I am aware of just how dangerous he is…'

If he left the battlefield now, it would reduce the overall chances of winning.

As a result of all these factors, Kuzon clenched his one remaining fist and braced himself for a fight he had no chance of winning.

'I'm going to hold the fort… no matter how long it takes!'

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[SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)
Chapter 1217: Abrupt Interruption

"Haha!"

"What's wrong, Kuzon?"

"Not so confident anymore?"

Legris Damien's voice echoed in the crumbling expanse, sending shivers down Kuzon's spine as he listened to every word.

The three opponents before him were overwhelming. He knew that much.

Still, he could not afford to retreat.

"[Original Magic: Marionette]" He whispered, causing golden threads to manifest around him, like puppet strings that danced at the owner's whims.

Some of the threads gathered together, shimmering brightly to form an arm and leg, replacing the ones he had already lost. He could control them with Magic, and while they didn't feel as natural as his own limbs, they were effective.

This was all he could rely on at this moment.

"Well then, Kuzon… let's see how long you can struggle against me."

"Make this fun, okay?"

"Don't you die so soon!"

~WHUUSH!~

In a flash, two of the Legrises vanished from their position, and the final one lunged at Kuzon with a crazed smile on his face.

The darkness around him ignited like exploding flames, growing more intense as he brought himself closer to Kuzon.

"Tch!" In an instant, Kuzon teleported from his position and reappeared at a much further location from his foe.

Space warped as he reappeared, barely escaping the dark embrace that would have been his fate if he had wasted any more time.

However…

"Predictable!"

… A voice was waiting for him at his new location.

~WHOOOSSHH!~

This time, his opponent was too quick for him to evade entirely, so he did his best to defend himself from the inevitable hit that was about to reach him.

Whether he would survive or not, or if he would be able to escape with even more permanent injuries, was up for debate.

All Kuzon could think of at that moment… was how dark the world had become.

Then—

~BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO OOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM!!!~

In the blink of an eye, faster than both Kuzon and Legris, a brilliant surge of blue light burst through the dimension.

Sounds of shattered glass, similar to the one Kuzon made when he initially confronted Legris, echoed far and wide.

And a powerful arc of energy, one that could only be produced from a powerful slash, was already right in front of Kuzon, separating him from Legris.

"What the—"

~WHUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUMMMMMMMMMMMMM!!!~

The shockwave sent Kuzon flying backwards, and the strike successfully connected to Legris, pushing him further away.

In the end, that single attack had managed to deter the enemy, and also send Kuzon flying in the direction of safety.

"Keuk!"

It took a while for him to regain his composure, but Kuzon forced his body to come to a halt while slolwy opening his eyes to take in the sudden damage that the new intruder had wrought.

"Kuzon… mind telling me what's going on here?" The deep voice of the greatest Martial Artist that he knew rang in the air.

It instantly brought a smile to Kuzon's face.

"Took you long enough… Edward."

Right beside Kuzon's now stable form was an insanely well-built young man. He had very long brown hair, with beards covering a majority of his face.

A few small scars decorated his face, but even more of those were stuck all over his immensely thick and muscular body.

He was by no means a hulky figure. Instead, he stood at the epitome of perfection, with abs, biceps, triceps, and everything else toned to perfection. He had no shirt on, and he only wore very short tights, thus revealing most of his body to anyone who saw him.

"It's a relief to see you, man. But… why don't you put something on?" Kuzon's voice reverberated across to Edward.

If Edward desired it, he could even use [Marionette] to sew a proper attire that would size him.

"No. It gets in the way…" Edward's reply was vague and brief.

Whatever that could mean, it was made abundantly clear that the young man had no need for proper clothes.

Kuzon found it absurd, but now wasn't the time to dwell on anything like that.

Instead, his eyes trailed to Edward's hand, where he saw a glowing sword in his tight grip. The blade had some runic inscriptions on it, and it felt special.

Blazing amber light, as well as cool azure energy emanated from the weapon as it warbld, leaving even Kuzon enamored by it.

"Don't look at my sword. I'm not lending it to you."

"W-what?"

"Well… I'm not."

"Why would I… why did you even… argh, never mind!"

Kuzon felt slightly embarassed, but more annoyed by the fact that Edward would think he wanted his sword.

More importantly, he was annoyed that he kept losing track of the most important issue of all.

'I should be on edge, but… why do I feel at such ease?' Kuzon's thoughts trailed.

Had Edward's presence suddenly restored some measure of his confidence? If that was the case, then Kuzon felt both relieved and threatened.

'He's gotten that strong, huh?' That was certainly helpful for them at the moment since Legris was a force Kuzon knew he could not handle alome

However, his level of strength brought another worry to his mind.

What if Edward had also surpassed him?

'Now isn't the time to worry about that. Let's focus on our adversary!" At this point, the three Legrises had gathered once more, all three of them grinning at both Kuzon and Edward.

"What's the situation?" Edward asked, his tone displaying not even a modicum of the playfulness from earlier.

Now that he was now in 'serious mode', Kuzon chose to do the same.

"Legris Damien has that strange black energy that can negate and suck in all energy and attacks that we throw at him. It seems he can also bring suplicate versions of himself to reality, though I am still unsure of his limits."

Kuzon made sure to divulge the rest of his knowledge to Edward through a mental link, ensuring the privity of their discussion.

"I-I see…" Edward whispered. "You even lost your arms and legs…"

Kuzon could feel a portion of Edward's attention on him, and it felt unpleasant. He didn't want to be considered handicapped in such a battle of pertinence.

"That doesn't matter. Right now, we only need to focus on one thing…"

Edward slowly nodded in agreement, and both of them looked at the sole entity they had to give all their attention to.

"... Legris Damien!"

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[SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)
Chapter 1218: Legris Vs Edward and Kuzon [Pt 1]

~Do you have a plan?~

Kuzon heard the voice of his only available ally reverberate in his head, and his heart tightened a little.

So far, he had studied Legris and arrived at a few conclusions. Back then, he thought he had developed the perfect plan to take him down.

Yet…

'There's no guarantee that this plan will work. Last time, I failed woefully.' Kuzon admitted to Edward.

They were currently at a disadvantage because Legris could pull off yet another surprising move that would completely shatter their expectations and lead them to ruin.

In essence, any plan of his would be a gamble!

~I trust you, Kuzon. I'm ready to follow your lead.~

As Edward brandished his blade in preparation, his eyes completely set and focused, Kuzon saw all of this and laughed at himself.

'He has the resolve to do the neeful, so what am I being so hesitant for?'

Nothing in life was ever completely certain, yet people lived thier lives and made plans for how they wanted it to go.

The same applied to battle.

Even though they couldn't predict what Legris would do next, that wasn't to stop them from trying their best to understand his current capabilities and defeat him.

'He also isn't entirely aware of our abilities, especially yours. We can use that to our advantage.' Kuzon smiled as he took on the same focused gaze as his partner.

'Right now, we need to understand his limits. That means creating avenues where he would have no choice but to reveal more of his cards. Once we understand his limitations, I can come up with a strategy that will checkmate him!'

That seemed conceited, especially coming from the one who just lost an arm and leg against Legris, but Kuzon couldn't care less.

He had learnt his lesson from that mistake, and he had no intention of making it any longer.

'The major issue now is pushing him to his limits. I have a good idea of how to do that, but I'll mostly be relying on you.'

Edward slowly nodded once Kuzon transmitted this thought to him, his eyes glowing with both azure and amber light.

He was ready in every sense of the word.

'Then… here we go!'

****

Legris stood among himself, all eyes on the targets for elimination.

In a sense, he considered himself fortunate since two Constellation Hosts had gone out of their way to seek him out.

Even though his entire space was rich in pure Aether, the Constellatation Fragments still had more quality.

If he was able to defeat both Kuzon and Edward, that would add to his benefit.

However…

'It's quite a task.'

'I didn't think I would need to expend so much.'

'This is more bothersome than expected…'

Bringing two more versions of himself into reality was something he was saving for last, but Kuzon really pushed him to that point.

'It's a good thing I took that countermeasure when I suspected something…'

Not only was this more tasking for him, however, but the manifestation of his ability also ate through his current stockpile.

It wasn't wise to recklessly use so much of it, but at the same time, he didn't see himself winning if he didn't go this far.

'I already decided to do anything it took to succeed in this mission…'

'That's why I trapped the Constellations with so much of it…'

'That's why I haven't held back as much as I would for the sake of conserving more of it.'

At this juncture, it was all or nothing!

Desperation mixed with ambition filled Legris, and seeing two of his targets and resources before him only drove him further into his desires.

'Kuzon is a bother, but the real threat is Edward. No matter. If I can separate them and handle their abilities separately, then it will be my victory.'

That meant he would have one version of himself attack Kuzon, while two would attack Edward.

'If it comes down to it, then…'

No, it hadn't come to that yet. Legris chose not to jump the rope and simply focus on how he could emerge the victor given the current conditions.

'Alright then.'

'I can do this…'

'I'm going to win!'

Preparing all three versions of himself, Legris caused his darkness to ignite, and his pure black eyes manifested a purple glow within.

~WHOOOOOOOSSSSHHHH!!!~

Instantly, all three forms of his scattered. Two swept through the collpasing space and rushed towards Edward, while two flew in Kuzon's direction.

At this point, he didn't want to play with his food. It was better to take the most efficient route, using the pure essence of his ability to defend himself from any of their counters while focusing on destroying them.

He estimated that in just a few seconds, he would be able to neutralize his opponents and win!

The one that lunged at Kuzon was especially glad.

The young Midas had lost most of his Aether in their earlier fight, and he wasn't in optimal physical condition.

No matter how much he tried to compensate for his lost limbs using his Magic, it would do no good.

Especially not against his own ability!

'I'm going to—'

~WHAM!~

The sound of a flesh pounding on another flesh reverberated throughout the shattering expanse, as the most shocking welcome greeted his face.

Planted right in the middle of his face was a powerful punch that sent shockwaves flying all across the area.

'W-wha…?!'

Kuzon's hand—the one covered in his marionette strings—had successfully hit his face with the most devastating blow.

"Keuk!" Legris felt the pain course through his body, and his body jerked backwards in response to the powerful strike.

Before he could recoil from both the shock and pain, however, the same hand retracted itself, and Kuzon twisted his body to give him a kick with his Marionette legs.

~BOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMM!!!!~

The hit sent Legris flying back instantly, his body becoming nothing short of a ragdoll.

In just two swift strikes, Legris found himself at the mercy of the supposed handicap and weakling of the bunch.

"E-eh…?"

It was unbelievable!

*

[SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)
Chapter 1219: Legris Vs Edward And Kuzon [Pt 2]

Legris was invincible.

As long as he had his black energy, it was impossible for any Magic attack to reach him. He absorbed the Aether, broke it down, and took it within himself.

As a result of this strange ability that ensured he would always be protected by his darkness, he was confident of his victory.

Until…

~BOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMM!!!~

His body helplessly flew far from Kuzon as the latter landed a powerful kick on him. The impact caused shockwaves to reverberate across the empty space, and the power placed behind the strike caused Legris to recoil in pain.

'H-how?!' He thought to himself, swiftly regaining his composure.

He was now a far distance from Kuzon, thanks to the force, and he could feel remnants of the pain he recieved from the attack, but none of that mattered at the moment.

There was only thing that occupied his thoughts.

'How was he able to injure me?!'

Legris' mind instantly went into overdrive while glaring at Kuzon, whose Marionette hand and leg was now being corrupted by his darkness.

He watched as Kuzon detatched the thread-like substance that had been affected by the dark energy, while replacing them with more of his Marionette Strings.

That meant he could replicate his attack without a care in the world, since he could always replace the unusable portions of his prosthetic limbs with new material.

'I thought having a false arm and leg would prove disadvantageous, but I was wrong…' Legris' thoughts trailed.

It was the opposite!

Thanks to this new form of Kuzon, he could directly fight Legris without needing to keep his distance or hold back.

'And I think I now know how he was able to hit me.'

It was an oversight on his part, but Legris had only ignored it for this long because no one had ever been able to bypass it until now.

'Well, to be fair I haven't used it in proper combat until now, but…'

All forms of matter and energy broke down when they made contact with his power. That was why Magic, no matter how sophisticated it was, would still be ineffective against him.

However, there was one key factor that seemed to be an exception.

'... Martial Arts.'

Legris recalled how he was pushed away by Edward's strike and concluded that Kuzon must have gotten inspiration from that moment to test out his suspicion.

'And now that he knows, he is sure to capitalize on it.' Legris thought to himself, clicking his tongue in mild annoyance.

Unlike Magic that relied on Aether or Nether to generate results, Martial Arts was all aout using power, or force to commit an action.

A punch from a Martial Artist was far more than simple ENERGY. They utilized force, and sometimes even used the power of their adversaries against them.

'When he hit me, even though the energy in his hand and legs were being devoured, he was still able to geenrate enough force to affect me.'

Plus, Kuzon must have also made both his hand and leg incredibly dense with his Aether so that it wouldn't break down too quickly.

Everything was planned from the start, and now that Legris thought about it… he could only smile at his own hubris.

'I overestimated by abilities and underestimated theirs…' A thin line formed on his face as he generated a wide grin.

'But no matter…'

Slowly, a thin shadow began to manifest beside Legris, and from the black silhoutte emerged something ominous—or rather, someone.

Another Legris.

Two Legrises now stood side by side, their gaze focused on Kuzon as they smiled in anticipation.

'It'll be too complicated to try to avoid getting hit by him, so by multiplying his target, his current strategy falls flat.'

He only had one Marionette hand and one Marionette leg, after all.

Unless Kuzon was willing to say goodbye to his other limbs, he wouldn't risk hitting him with his other limbs.

'Two against one. Let's see how you handle this!'

~WHOOOOOSHHH!~

The two Legrises lunged at Kuzon with full speed, the entire space around them being devoured by the dark energy they were coated in.

In no time at all, they both appeared beside Kuzon, one taking a vantage position to his right, while the other appeared on his left side.

Since they both did this simultaneously, there wouldn't enough time for Kuzon to protect himself from his two targets with his limited supply of limbs at the same time.

No form of defense would be sufficient, and they had the upper hand in terms of advantages.

'In the end...' One of the Legrises thought to himself as he reached out to grab Kuzon.

'... Victory is mi—'

Before the second Legris completed his thought, Kuzon swiftly dodged both of their strikes, the latter's eyes focusing on their second hands and legs also reaching out for him.

In the end, he couldn't properly defend himself.

... Or so they thought.

~WHAM!~

Kuzon raised both hands to block their kicks, an act that shocked Legris—the both of himself.

"I've got you now."

Kuzon's whisper echoed in Legris' ears, but before he could even act on it, the young Midas grabbed both their legs with his hands, instantly crushing his bones with the powerful pressure he generated.

"G-guark!"

"G-gugh!"

Once their bones were broken, Kuzon still didn't let go. Instead, he used his brute strength to swing them around, flailing them about as if they were nothing but helpless dolls who had no choice but to do his bidding.

"W-what? How?!"

"Y-your hand will—"

Before any of the Legrises could completely comprehend the current situation, Kuzon directed blows to their faces, sending them flying away once more.

"Well, thank you for your worry..." Kuzon smiled, completely ignoring the darkness that was eating through both hands.

For his Marionette hand, it got replaced by new threads, and as for his normal hand... the most surprising thing happened.

Like a shell, or an extra layer of skin, the darkened components began to peel off from Kuzon's hand, revealing fresh ones underneath.

Just as a snake would shed its skin, it seemed Kuzon had just shed his, completely evading Legris' surefire corruption.

Watching Legris' shocked face only made the grin on the Young Midas' face widen.

"... I'm perfectly fine."

*

Chapter 1220: Legris Vs Edward And Kuzon [Pt 3]

"Haa…"

Kuzon heaved a sigh of both relief and mild excitement as he glanced at both his limbs, realizing that his plan of coating them in an extra dense layer of Aether was working well to his advantage.

Not only could he manage to take on two Legrises at once, but if he played his card right, he could even have the upper hand.

'I'm faster than Legris is, and if we consider our abilities, I'm a step above him.'

The major challenge was his problematic ability.

'But now that I can bypass it, I have to capitalize on my superior skills and go all-in for close-quarters combat.'

Of course, Kuzon wasn't much of an expert on Martial Arts, but he was more than skilled enough to hold his own in a direct battle.

'I know I should be worrying about my own battle, but…' Kuzon's thoughts trailed as he glanced behind him, noticing the battle occurring a far distance from him.

The fight between Legris and Edward.

'... I wonder how he's faring.'

Kuzon knew it was hubris to take his focus from an enemy that had cost him two limbs, so he swiftly returned his focus to the two recoiling Legrises before him.

'Just because I've found an avenue for attack doesn't mean I should get any less careful.'

He had been slowly recovering his Aether, so Kuzon reckoned he had enough to handle a proper fistfight.

'Let's do this!' Narrowing his eyes and strengthening his body with Aether, he launched himself towards Legris, generating shockwaves in his wake.

'I trust you, Edward!'

****

"Haa… haa…"

Three versions of Legris were heaving heavily as they stared at an indomitable figure who stood before them.

This man, with long white hair and bushy beards, was none other than Edward Karl Leon, and despite having no armor or piece of clothing save for his tight shorts, he felt imposingly taller than all three Legrises combined.

Right now, he was merely standing still, staring coldly at them with his azure and amber eyes, energy climbing from his perfect body.

The air around him seemed to undulate, and a certain pressure filled his immediate vicinity, preventing any of the three Legrises from venturing in—at least, not without expecting the consequences that would follow.

Edward had a glowing blade on his hand, and the power that emanated from it seemed to radiate nothing but sheer force.

"Come on, you three…" His voice resounded like thunder, and the Legrises who watched him maintained their distance, glares fixated on him.

Their number was initially two, but after being overwhelmed by Edward, one more member was necessary. Even with three of them, the chances of victory did not seem to increase in the slightest.

No, with Edward currently in Martial State, it seemed to have shrunk even more.

"... Try me."

The trio glanced at each other and nodded, determination sparking in their eyes. Sure, Edward had them far outclassed in terms of power, but he was still limited by his current form and senses.

They were three in number, so if they coordinated their attacks well, it would eventually lead to his ruin.

Once the Legrises understood this, two of them vanished from their position, leaving one standing there. The remaining two took on different positions at behind Edward, one at his right flank, and the other at his left.

Legris was utilizing the triangle formation, and Edward was stuck in the middle. By attacking him all at once, with their most potent attacks, surely they would be able to bring down the monolith that was this young man.

"Haha! That's more like it!" Edward yelled, tightly gripping his blade as he awaited their combined assault.

~WHOOOOOOOSHHH!!!~

The world shook as the three versions of Legris began their attack in threefold. The darkness surrounding them increased in might, and their rush towards Edward ate up all the Aether that surrounded him.

They would have taken the chance to devour any of the external Aether he was supposed to leak out in the Martial State, but none of that was present.

All the Aether was being held in by Edward, everything flowing within his body and through his veins.

The result was not only a vast increase in the power behind every blow given, but a sheer resistance to the darkness that tried to eat through his body.

~BOOOOOOOMMMMM!!!~

The first noise that reverberated in the vast world was Edward's leg crushing the skull of one of the Legrises.

It was a merciless stomp that instantly shattered the head of his adversary, killing it instantly, like a weakened animal.

~CRUNCH!~

With one Legris down for the count, the other two were next… and they were already too close to Edward to pull back now.

Would he use his sword to cut them down? Thinking logically about it, a blade had better reach, and it was also a better way to fight Legris, who could use his dark powers to corrupt Edward if he got too close.

However…

"You aren't worthy… to be cut down by this blade."

This whisper from Edward was followed by the disappearance of his blade, and the formation of his two unoccupied hands into fists.

~WHOOOSSSSHHH!!!~

In two consecutive thrusts, Edward extended his fist to pummel Legris' face.

~BOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMM!!!~

The shockwaves that sparked from the impact were enough to silence the sounds of bones being crushed, but that did not in any way reduce the severity of the attack.

Both of the Legrises, though still alive, had disfigured faces thanks to Edward's attempt at a bloody makeover. Their jaws were now loose, broken thanks to the fist salad they had just gotten from their adversary.

Black blood decorated their face, and their mashed-up flesh felt like a disgusting vat of swirling pudding.

In simple terms, they were in a state where they should have wished they were killed off easily.

Before any of them could react in pain or otherwise, Edward grabbed both of the Legrises by their throats, his grip an inescapable prison.

"Is this… all you have?"

*