

SPELLCRAFT 591

[SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)

Chapter 591: The Fortune Wheel [Pt 2]

"Why don't we just spin the wheel? I think that's what we're supposed to do."

Breaking the anxiety with her words was the oldest, but seemingly least mature of the three—Lemi Vindiel.

The Half Elf had grown tired of everyone's interpretation of the wheel before them, and she was pretty much bored of it all.

"What's the worst that could happen?" She asked.

The two boys instantly shot her a look that immediately buried her argument.

"We don't understand the language, so there's no way to decipher what we're spinning." Ivan murmured, taking the role of the most sensible of the three.

"It could also be a trap. Don't worry, everyone. I'll protect y—" Edwards was instantly stopped by Ivan's dirty glare.

'Don't be weird...' The red haired man thought to himself as he put his brain to work.

It was unfortunate, but he was surrounded by idiots. Both Edward and Lemi were airheads that didn't seem to understand how grave the situation was.

Still, they couldn't give up hope yet. He simply needed to think of the most rational approach.

'Ask yourself... what would Jared do?' Ivan closed his eyes and nodded, thinking deeply.

It took a while, but after sorting through all the options, he realized the simple solution.

"Why don't we just contact Jare...d...." His speech slowed down as he realized what was occurring in front of him.

>WHIIRRRRRRR<

His eyes bulged, and his heart tightened. Veins appeared on his face as his face twisted to form a frustrated, angry face.

"Why the hell is the wheel spinning?!" Ivan's bark echoed in the empty hallway.

He glared at the two idiots beside him, both feigning innocence.

"Don't look at me like that! One of you must have done it! Confess now! Arghhhh!!!" Gritting his teeth, his bloodshot eyes was filled with murderous rage.

"It was Edward!" Lemi quickly fessed up.

For a moment silence prevailed amid the three. Lemi's hand was pointed at Edward, whose face—previously filled with guilt—slowly morphed to surprise.

"W-wha—?! But you—!" The buff boy stuttered, sweat coming from his face.

His eyes displayed a hint of heartbreak. It seemed he didn't take the betrayal well, or rather... he didn't understand why Lemi told on him when—

"Edward, you..."

The red haired boy slowly approached Edward, his rage filled face displaying a warped look of terror.

"No! Relax, Ivan. It's not like that! The thing is, she told me to—"

"Argh! Guys, the wheel is slowing down." Lemi interrupted the boys, now pointing in the direction of the spinning wheel.

One had to wonder about the convenience of her timing, but the occurrence with the wheel was more important.

While none of the three knew exactly what to expect, they saw enough to tell then what to look out for.

A single arrow pointed upward, and whatever gradient it landed on was most likely the effect that would occur.

The one who explained all of this was Lemi. She wasn't familiar with the language, but she was still a genius in her own right.

Figuring out how the game worked was something she focused on, while the others simply wanted to avoid it.

"I'll be honest with you guys..." Lemi murmured, watching as the wheel was about to completely halt.

"I was the one who told Edward to spin the wheel. I think it's here for a reason."

"This girl..." Ivan's head was steaming hot at this point.

The most rational thing was to simply call Jared to help.

He knew more than all of them when it came to Arcanas. Sure, there was the possibility that he would be busy with his task, but they could simply ask questions and get a good perspective—at the very least.

But now...

"Trust me, guys. I have this intuition that it's the right thing to—

>DING!<

As soon as the arrow stopped on a gradient, a loud chime echoed within the hallway. The gradient glowed in response to its purple color.

>SHWWUUUUSSSHHH<

A bright light suddenly enveloped everyone. Before they could react, they were overwhelmed by the brightness.

A few seconds passed, and the light finally sizzled out, allowing them to see.

"Ah... that was intense." Lemi rubbed her watery eyes as she opened them.

The blue and violet in her respective irises glimmered as she cutely stared around her—only to be met by an ugly, irritating sound.

"Lemi, youuuuu!!!" The screech offset Half Elf, causing her to jump in shock.

"What the hell, Ivan?" She shouted, equally upset.

Why did this guy have to be so rough in speech? Even though he was younger than her, not to talk of weak.

"I told you not to spin the wheel!"

"Who made you leader? On what basis?"

"W-well, that is—"

"You're not the oldest, I am! You're not even the strongest. Why should you call the shots?"

"We could have agreed unanimously. Why did you take the decision on your own?"

"I didn't! Edward and I agreed! Right E...dwar...?"

It was only at this point that the two arguing parties realized something they were too angry to notice before.

"W-where's Edward?"

At this point, anxiety slowly replaced the anger that dwelled in both their hearts. Their dear friend, Edward... was missing!

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"Ah, where am I?" A confused muscular man glanced around him.

His eyes permeated curiosity, but no fear, as he took in his surroundings.

He was currently in a purple room, completely devoid of anything else, but the color. It was like he was stuck in an endless space, having only the color to recognize.

'Does it have something to do with the arrow striking purple? Most likely...'

At this point, the young boy vigilantly prepared himself. He couldn't see or sense Lemi or Ivan, even by stretching his perception to its limits.

'Lemi's judgement was what led to this situation... I wonder...!' Edward had no ill will towards the girl.

However, he had to admit he was a bit rash. Now that he was trapped, all alone in this place, he couldn't help but feel this was his penance for spinning the wheel.

'What should I do?'

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Chapter 592: Lemi's Theory [Pt 1]

"Alright. I've decided!" Edward said to himself.

After thinking for a minute or two, there was only one solution to his problem. Yes, he had no other choice.

"I'll just cut my my through this place." The hulky boy stretched out his hand, and a burst of blue light manifested from his ring.

'Spatial Magic that stores my sword. Nice going, Jared.'

>SHUUUU<

Instantly, a bastard sword appeared in Edward's grasp, gleaming in its blue and black metallic color. The longsword was firm, sturdy, and best of all... it was brimming with power.

Edward had been guaranteed that even he couldn't break this blade no matter how many times he used it, so it was a treat to wield such a weapon.

The bastard sword, as tall as Edward himself, could be easily wielded with one hand, but the boy decided to pour his strength into it for a more assured effect.

He was trying to escape an unknown place, after all. Some measure of seriousness was necessary.

Mana smoothly coursed through the blade, causing it to give off a bright blue glow as it brimmed with far greater energy than earlier.

'The Mana Conductivity is perfect. Nice!' Edward grinned.

>SHWWWWUUUUUUUU<

Within seconds, Edward built up a frightening amount of energy, readying to use everything in a single slash.

With this much power, he could cut down the highest mountains in one swoop. Certainty, it was enough to break free from this strange place.

'Here goes...'

>WHOOOOSSSSHHH!!!<

His blade caused distortion in space, and a powerful wave of bright energy was sent playing in a single direction.

Unfortunately, the vast purple expanse swallowed the deadly slash, not leaving so much as an explosion in its wake.

There was no dent or destruction.

Just an empty silence that followed.

'It didn't work? Not even the slightest effect?' Edward felt challenged at this point.

Sure, he didn't use any special Martial Arts, neither did he utilize Martial State or Fusion Mode.

Still...!!!

'Alright! Let's see how much you can resist!' Gripping his blade tighter than ever, Edward prepared another round of attack, this time raising the stakes a little.

"12 Ultimate Forms: Step 1...!"

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"Oh shit! Oh shit! What should we do?"

At this point, even Ivan who had been the voice of reason, was in a panic.

The first few minutes, he had tried to pull himself together. However, he was going insane as time went on.

Not long after, panic took over entirely.

"We should contact Jared. Ah, communication isn't functioning here! Shit! I can't reach him!" He would have tried using the Soul Brand stuff to contact him, but Ivan wasn't an expert at Soul Magic.

Apparently, only Jared could communicate, not the other way around. Besides, he was only going to intervene if their lives were in danger or something.

The fact that he hadn't showed up meant they were not faced with a threat strong enough to warrant his attention.

"You shouldn't rely on Jared for everything. We can figure this out."

Lemi, at this point, was critically observing the wheel. A floating Automaton was beside her, and she was exchanging information with it as she proceeded.

"U-uh, what are you doing?" Ivan was surprised by the sudden change in the girl.

Not only was she silent, but she was actually being productive. It amazed him how their positions had changed so quickly.

"Trying to analyze what happened, and what we can do to get past this." She muttered, not letting her eyes off the roulette.

"And? What did you find?" Ivan said, feeling dumb for some reason.

"Not much. I'd advise you to forget about Edward for now. He's probably paying a penalty for failing to win the spinning wheel game."

Her cold voice echoed in Ivan's ears, causing him to flinch a little.

"We should be grateful he was taken. With this, I can further develop my hypothesis." She smiled, her eyes completely focused on the mechanism in front of her.

"Y-you... you don't care about what happens to Edward? He could be in danger right now, you know?"

Lemi ignored Ivan and kept conversing with her automaton. After some minutes, she finally spoke out.

"I've figured out an underlying principle. It's just a theory, though. Come here."

Ivan was furious with the Half Elf, at this point. Edward was their friend, and he was freaking out about his whereabouts. Yet... the one girl he had been showering so much attention didn't seem to care.

However, since he was curious about Lemi's discovery, Ivan swallowed his rage and moved closer to her.

"There are twenty two gradients here. It starts from white, and it stops at black. There are several other colors here and there, but what do you notice about this wheel?"

Ivan glared as he observed the object. He honestly couldn't see what she was talking about. It was all just a circular board of colors—with an arrow pointing upward.

"Look closely, the color yellow is repeated three times. Here, here and here."

Ivan's eyes widened as he saw what she was referring to. Truly, as she mentioned, there were three gradients with yellow. They were simply scattered in several locations and trapped amid other colors that one wouldn't pay them much mind.

Also, they had different shades of hue, so one wouldn't really classify them under the same grade.

"No other color is repeated there, or even has other shades of hue other than their base appearance."

Ivan nodded, totally lost, but agreeing regardless.

"I initially thought we needed to choose 'white' since it seems like the purest, but with what I'm seeing, the odds of actually reaching that are ridiculously high. Besides, the other colors have the same underlying basis. If we can't isolate a distinct feature of a particular element, then it just makes the effect or expected result left to random."

Ivan's head hurt at this point. He had been fooling himself all along, but now the young boy realized the truth.

'She's the one with the brains here... not me.'

While it was painful to admit it, the boy had to concede.

No one was more suitable for the role of leader than the Half Elf herself.

"I have a theory. If it's correct, then we can win this game."

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Chapter 593: Lemi's Theory [Pt 2]

"In case you didn't notice, there were initially only two gradients of yellow. I observed all the colors and their positions when we saw the wheel."

"E-eh...?"

This was news to Ivan. He thought the wheel had always been like that. How come she noticed something like that?

"After Edward spun the wheel and vanished, an extra one appeared. My theory is that due to our error in picking the 'wrong' color, an extra 'right' color appeared to make things easier. These serve two goals."

Lemi faced Ivan, who was downright flabbergasted by Lemi's reasoning.

"One is to give us a clue for which color is correct. The other is to make the next person who tries to spin the wheel have a better chance at getting the right color."

Since there were currently three yellow colored gradients, and nineteen with other colors, there was a greater likelihood to score yellow than the previous round when only two yellow gradients existed.

Extrapolating these scenarios, alongside another ongoing investigation of hers, Lemi was almost sure she was on the right track.

"There's more to understand, but... this could work."

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As Ivan listened more to Lemi explain, he began to realize just how short sighted he had been.

From the very beginning, the girl had been thinking of solutions to the problem, rather than simply avoiding it.

Sure, she was a bit rash in her actions, but her choices simply led to more discovery that she was using to further investigate their situation.

'Unlike me, who was panicking about Edward's disappearance, she simply focused on the task...'

"Edward will be fine. He's tough. Besides, he was a necessary sacrifice. If he didn't spin the wheel, I wouldn't have known so much."

It sounded cold blooded, but Lemi was just being rational. She unapologetically continued her task of investigation.

"Alright. I think I have it all figured out. From what my Automaton has analyzed from this foreign language, there seems to be a common denominator among the darker colors."

The Automaton used Light Magic to project what she meant so Ivan could understand what she was referring to.

"A-ah...?" The boy didn't understand though.

"I'm trying to extrapolate the language and understand the underlying principle here. Look above, there's a board above the wheel. If I assume that the letters there read 'Spinning Wheel' or at least something in that respect, I can check for similarities in the respective gradients."

Ivan was slowly comprehending.

"The Gradients have letters written within the colored gradient and above them too. The ones within are most likely the name of the colors, while the one above state something else. I was trying to understand what they state."

"And? Dis you get a good idea?" Ivan found himself somewhat excited.

All of this was new to him, but he couldn't deny that he was enjoying the new knowledge.

"Sadly, not exactly. There's so much to decipher, and since I'm using inductive logic, there's a chance that my conclusion could be wrong. There just isn't enough information or enough time."

"Ah, I see..." Ivan muttered.

"I did find a common denominator among the darker colors, and also some similarities among the other colors. Guess what? None of those have any similarity to the color yellow. I think it's safe to assume that Yellow is the safe color."

"A-ah, I thought you had already established that..." Ivan chuckled a little

"Are you crazy? Do you think I would just blindly follow one approach without cross referencing with another source of evidence?" Lemi suddenly shouted, causing the boy beside her to jerk back.

'I didn't know she could be this serious... damn...' Ivan's thoughts trailed.

"My bad."

"It's fine. As I was saying, with the two tests I devised, I'm almost certain that this is correct. There's a chance of failure, so I can't be a hundred percent sure."

"T-then, how many percent?"

"About sixty. But if you add my gut feeling, and the fact that we don't exactly have a choice... it skyrockets to ninety nine."

Ivan sensed some weird logic behind Lemi's last statement, considering she just mentioned stuff about not leaving anything to chance. Still, his trust in her analysis made it impossible to doubt her.

"Let's give it a try then."

"Thank you. Now spin the wheel." She smiled.

"E-eh?" Ivan stopped dead in his tracks and glanced at the Half Elf.

For a moment, silence took charge. Millions of thoughts coursed through his head as he wondered the reason behind her suggestion.

"You heard me, Ivan. Spin the wheel." Her grin grew broader.

"B-but why? There's no telling if it'll end up getting the desired results. The odds are still overwhelmingly high and—"

"Do you trust me, Ivan?"

"W-well..."

"There's no time for hesitation, Ivan. I have a reason behind everything I do. I know you wish you had Jared here with you, but guess what? I'm not him! Even if he were here, do you think he'll explain every single thing to you? No, I doubt it. Yet, I'm almost certain you'll follow his instructions anyway."

"H-hold on, I—"

"I don't have the time to explore every single reason behind my decisions. Edward understood that, and he listened. So... what will it be?"

Ivan was stunned beyond words. Faces with the serious stare of his colleague, he only had to choose what decision to take.

The boy found himself swallowing his saliva.

"One question. If I do this... will it add to the probability of winning?"

"Yes."

Ivan sighed, gulping once more as he did what he was told.

"This better work." He murmured, spinning the wheel in front of him.

>WHIIIIIIIRRRRRRR<

The mechanism began rotating, and all eyes were on the object.

"Please work. Please work. Please work." Ivan begged and prayed.

He wondered why Lemi was so calm when the stakes were so high. Was she so confident of their victory.

"There's no need to beg or pray. The odds are against you. You'll most likely lose."

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Chapter 594: Game Of Chance

"There's no need to beg or pray. The odds are against you. You'll most likely lose."

Ivan's eyes widened the moment Lemi said this.

"Why do you look surprised? It's a simple fact." Her melodious voice sounded distant and unfazed.

"T-then... why?" The young boy's voice rang in despondent betrayal.

Just what was going on here?

"See what I mean?" Lemi's finger was pointed at the stopping wheel.

Just as she predicted... the gradient that the arrow pointed to was not yellow. It was orange.

"Y-you! Lemi what did you—?!"

>SHIIIIIIINNNNNNGGGG<

Before Ivan could pounce on the Half Elf, another burst of light enveloped the hallway. It blinded the two of them, transporting the boy from the place.

Just as with Edward, the light faded after some time, now leaving Lemi all alone—well, except for her Automaton.

"As expected." She smiled, drawing closer to the wheel.

"How hilarious... his face before vanishing. What an idiot. So much for trusting me..."

Lemi understood that she wasn't as amazing as Jared or Lewis Griffith, but she wasn't stupid either.

Her actions and methods were simply not meant to be understood by most people. It didn't make her wrong, but it simply showed how her mind functioned from everyone else's.

"Have you finished analyzing it?" She asked her Automaton.

~[Confirmed: All Ivan's Actions have been calculated. Replication is possible.]~

"Perfect. Transfer the information to me."

~[Understood]~

The Half Elf shut her eyes and a bunch of data suddenly popped into her head. She processed them, sorting out the application and methods to utilize.

Opening her eyes, she observed the spinning wheel—which now had four gradients that were colored yellow—and prepared an appropriate course of action.

"Then, shall we begin?" She placed her hand on the wheel and took a deep breath.

What Ivan didn't understand was that he was also a necessary sacrifice so she could learn something more.

Most people based games like Roulette or Spin The Wheel on luck. However, to someone like Lemi, those factors were incoherent with her beliefs on certainty.

'The weight of the board. The speed of the spin. The muscle movements of the player, the position of one's hand on the board. The direction of the spin. Everything can be calculated.'

By observing Ivan's interaction with the wheel, using both her senses and her Automaton, Lemi could replicate his actions and gain the same results.

Or... she could alter the data to match an action that would guarantee the desired effect she was aiming for.

'At this degree, with this level of strength, I'll spin right too... ah, yes. Let's go for that one...' A smile formed on her face as she readied herself.

Everything was counting on this single move. She had done her research and arrived at this conclusion—the most optimal and assured means of success.

Would she win? Would she not?

'You better not lose, Lemi!'

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"Haaa... haaa..." Edward heavily exhaled.

His hands tightly clenched his blade, and his eyes were still full of determination. However, his heart wavered a little.

'Is this really the way out?' He asked himself.

So far, he had swung his sword many times, all to no avail.

Not only could he not make a single dent in the world he found himself in, but he couldn't even see a reasonable effect of his efforts. Nothing worked!

"Damnit... guess I'll have to give it everything I have."

Doing something like that was risky, but the results were assured. However, considering none of his Martial Arts had worked, couldn't it be possible that even this final move of his would end in a similar effect?

Common sense told him that. However, his desperation to keep using Martial Arts and to return to his friends plagued his mind.

He had tried Bond techniques, Martial State, etc. Yet, all of them were to no avail.

Ultimately, this was the only thing he was yet to do.

"Huu... guess I have no choice." Edward slowly took his stance as he closed his eyes.

His feet planted themselves on the purple ground and he began pushing his muscles to their limits.

Slowly and steadily, he raised his power. Doing everything at once was extremely dangerous, so he had to take his time to achieve his desired state.

'More... more power... more—'

>SHWWWWUUUUU<

Before Edward could build enough power, he felt his body tingle with light, forcing him to open his eyes.

'A-ah...!' He was glowing... and it wasn't with his own energy.

The bright light enveloped him, seemingly making him much lighter—though he found himself unable to move in the process.

'Am I finally returning?' He thought to himself.

If that was so, then was it because of his hard work all this time... or was everything he did meaningless?

Edward didn't know.

>SHIIINNNGGGGG!!!<

In the beam of light, he vanished from the purple space. And, as soon as he left, the entire area collapsed.

With no prisoner, there was no need for a prison. Thus, it ceased to exist.

"Let me out of here, you bastards!!!" Ivan screamed with passion.

He was trapped in an orange room. Similar to Edward's prison—though Ivan was unaware of this fact—there was nothing to be seen for miles other than the endless hue of orange.

After being transported away, he at least thought he would have to face enemies or see Edward, but none of that was the case.

He was simply tossed into this world with not a single soul present.

"You bastaaarrrrrrrrrrr!!!"

After some time of throwing tantrums and trying out techniques, Ivan realized it was hopeless.

'I'm not a musclehead like Edward. It's better I think rationally...'

Interacting with Jared, and now Lemi, showed how certain problems did not require violence. Sure, he wasn't a genius in that field, but he had learned a thing or two.

Looking far into the horizon, he realized that the world was endless. He even spread his perception, but as far as he could sense... there was nothing but space.

It was hopeless to try to run away or escape. Rationally speaking, there was nothing he could do.

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Chapter 595: Half Elf's Thoughts

'Welp, I'll just wait for Lemi to pull me out of this mess.'

And so, Ivan took his meditative stance and began internal training. Rather than wasting his energy and burning out his Mana, wouldn't it be better to take this time of solitude to increase it?

'Alright... let's do this instead.' Ivan smiled, closing his eyes as he commenced his Mana Core training.

However, merely seconds into it—

>SHWWUUUUUUUUU<

—He felt his body shrouded by white light.

'Oh, you've got to be kidding me.'

One would expect Ivan to be happy, considering he wanted to get out of the place just some moments ago. However, his face clearly showed annoyance toward his rescue.

"At least give me some time to traaaaiiiiiinnn..."

Ivan's voice echoed as he vanished from the orange space—which collapsed upon the frustrated boy's disappearance.

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"I did it. I was right. Whew!" A sigh of relief escaped Lemi's lips.

She was just as surprised as she was impressed by her abilities. As someone who knew the uncertainty of life, there was no way she could have known for sure that her plan would work.

"In your face, dad... I mean—" Her face became flushed with embarrassment for a minute as she fell to the ground on her buttocks.

"Dad? What the hell am I saying...?" Her eyes narrowed as she gritted her teeth.

Her father was nothing more than a jerk who left her mother and even had the guts to neglect her.

'And even now he gets on my nerves. What a dude. He's not as amazing as I imagined...'

Ana had told her the truth some time back, and they both took their time deconstructing all they knew this far.

They also investigated everything they could—a major reason they were close. After exchanging information and engaging in separate as well as joint observation, the girls arrived at the same conclusion.

"Jared Leonard is Lewis Griffith..."

She had previously thought that was too far-fetched. Perhaps Jared simply had Lewis' memories.

However, after seeing her aunt's current disposition towards Jared, and most importantly Jane Ursula's interaction with him... it was difficult to call that the case.

There was also the fact that Jared's personality—even since when Ana knew him—was odd for a child.

They could only have been formed by personal experiences, and he had to be the same same person as the man in the past.

"Maybe he could have done this much faster than me. Maybe he wouldn't have needed to sacrifice his teammates, but..."

At least, with this, she proved she didn't need his assistance.

The only reason she even embarked on this mission was for the greater things at stake—not because she personally believed in him.

'He healed me of my sickness. He trained me to fight, and he even helped with my research. I can tell he's trying to right his wrongs...'

Unfortunately for the Half Elf—despite how selfish she seemed—those things he did weren't enough.

"He would do the same thing for his friends. He resurrected Aloe Vida, a total stranger... he trained Edward and Ana, even before they became very close. He's saved people without necessarily having a connection to them—even going as far as risking his life."

Whether she admitted it or not, Lemi could feel the gnawing pangs growing in her heart. The truth that she wasn't any special to Jared as everyone else.

"N-not like I even care! Hmph!" Her face was once again flushed with pink.

>SHIIIIIIINNNNNNGGGG!!!<

A bright light appeared, causing the Half Elf to cover eyes with her hands, even after closing them.

The surge of energy lasted a brief moment, and once it died down, she could hear the voices of her two companions.

"Lemi! You did it!"

"I'm back... I'm already back..."

Edward seemed motivated to be back, but Ivan appeared somewhat gloomy. Not like she cared much about the latter, though.

"I'm glad to see you're both in good health. I told you to trust me, didn't you? My plans always work!"

There were a few holes in her statement. Luckily, none of the two in front of her were smart enough to notice.

"Yeah, I guess you're right. I'm sorry for doubting you." Ivan swallowed his words and smiled slightly.

"You're a good leader."

Those words made Lemi's heart leap slightly. She didn't expect Ivan to say something so decent, for once.

"Why, thank you Iva—"

"Indeed! Lemi is just the best. Why do you think I spun the wheel the first time. All you have to do is trust her. She has a plan for everything." Edward interrupted her word of thanks by stealing Ivan's attention.

"Hoho! I see now. I don't understand most of what she says, but we can trust her words, right?"

"Yep! She's crazy smart."

"Haha! That's our leader for you!"

As they kept talking about how awesome Lemi was, leaving the subject of their conversation out of the discussion, she couldn't help but feel a bit...

'Aren't they exaggerating a bit? I'm not that awesome.'

They kept talking about how they would blindly follow her as long as she had a plan. At this point, she had become deified.

'You guys, stop! That kind of thinking is dangerous, you know?' At this point, the Half Elf was panicking.

They had yet to even see the Arcana they were searching for, yet these idiots were already drawing conclusions.

Wasn't it crazy?

'What if they start looking up to me for everything? I don't have the answers! Ah, shit...' She found herself under stress at this point.

'What should I do? I'm surrounded by idiots! Is this how Jared felt?' Lemi found herself thinking about her father.

Jared must have had his memories as his last life for some time. That meant he had to interact with humans who didn't measure to him in terms of intelligence and made him into someone more special than he was.

'In that respect alone, I can at least empathize with him...'

Keeping up with expectations was a rabbit hole she never wanted to get into.

Though, just as she must have suspected, it was too late.

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Chapter 596: Arcana Of Fortune [Pt 1]

'I'm over five hundred years, for crying out loud. These humans are like children to me.'

Lemi felt like she would cry out, with the way the two human boys kept talking.

Was this her punishment for defying Jared? Babysitting the boys.

"Haa..." A brief sigh escaped her lips.

Even though she felt like their treatment of her was polarized, the Half Elf couldn't bring herself to hate it. In fact, it was the opposite.

'Well, it's not so bad...' Lemi smiled slightly, feeling her initial hesitance fade away.

Both of the boys were loud, annoying, and mistaken about her.

However, she couldn't say she disliked the scene unfolding before her.

'I guess you also enjoyed yourself like this sometimes...' A boy appeared in her mind—the same person she suspected to be her father.

"Maybe I should have—"

>SHIIIIIIINNNNNNGGGG!!!<

A bright light interrupted her line of thought, causing Lemi and her comrades to close their eyes in response.

It was a bright yellow color, almost golden in its ambiance.

"W-what's going on now, Lemi?"

"Yeah! Did something go wrong?"

The Half Elf almost wanted to take back all the nice things she thought about the two boys the moment they came crying back to her.

"How the hell am I supposed to know?!" Her voice screeched, causing both boys to scream in response.

If the brightest mind among them had no idea what was occurring, how could they think of anything?

"I don't want to return! I don't want to go back there!" Edward shouted, clinging firmly to the giant blade he swiftly summoned.

It seemed he was ready to swing his sword to simply avoid the looming fate that seemed inescapable.

"H-hey! Don't you dare swing that thing!" Lemi screamed.

"H-how did you—? You can see me?!"

"No! Of course, not. But I can tell what stupid things you'll do."

This intense back-and-forth between Lemi and Edward unnerved Ivan, who was left just as confused as the two.

His mind was under stress, and he didn't know what to do. Perhaps he wouldn't mind returning to the quiet and peaceful place from earlier, but...

'What if Lemi can't bring us out?!

Sweat dripped from his face as he entered a state of panic.

"Rarararararara!!!" Before he knew it, Ivan was throwing balls of flames in the direction of the light—not that he could even see well, to begin with.

>BOOOOMMMM<

>BOOOOOOMMMM<

>BOOOOOOOMMMMM<

Loud explosions echoed across the hallway, causing Lemi and Edward to snap at Ivan.

"I-I was freaking out, okay? Hope nothing hit you!"

"Of course not! Can't you tell where I am by hearing my voice?"

"A-ah, true..."

"You guys are idiots."

Who would have thought that a team which almost achieved perfect unity was once again ripped apart by an unexpected variable.

"I think we should just—"

>WHOOOOOSSSHHHH<

A gust of wind suddenly manifested, and the light slowly converged in a single location. Everyone's vision slowly returned, and their various awkward positions were revealed.

Lemi was flat on the ground, trying her best to avoid being hit by Edward's swing or Ivan's explosive spells.

Ivan already had two fireballs prepared—ready to launch them—while Edward's blade was raised, taking on a stance that meant he could strike at any time.

"You guys! What the... unbelievable!" Lemi screamed in exasperation, rising to her feet while casually dusting her outfit.

"W-well..."

"I just..."

"Save it!" Lemi ignored their excuses and pointed her gaze in the direction of the converged light.

Floating in mid-air was a card. It hovered in the air, slowly spinning as it bounced ever so slightly.

"I've never felt energy like this before... what is this?" Edward was the first to whisper.

The mysterious object hummed, glittering yellow as it invited all three of the spectators to draw nearer.

"I think... that's the Arcana. We passed the test, so this should be our reward... right?" Ivan simplified the experience, staring at Lemi for confirmation.

The Half Elf did not respond. Her eyes were simply focused on the card, enamoured by its existence.

"Interesting... we actually got one." A smile leaked from her face.

She reached out for the card, but was promptly stopped by Edward and Ivan.

"It could be a trap!"

"Y-yeah!"

Despite their volatile arguments, there was no doubt that they still cared about each other. There was no way they could just accept such a risk and—

"You're right. Edward, try taking it." Lemi smiled in response to their worry.

"E-eh? But it... could be a trap." His response was that of confusion and apprehension.

Unfortunately for him, the Half Elf didn't seem to care about his worried reaction.

"Exactly. You're the sturdiest among us. Come on... just do it. You're strong, right? Right?"

The musclehead nodded, though it was a bit uncertain whether he agreed to Lemi's clearly unreasonable request because of his confidence in his abilities... or the foolish feeling of love.

Either way, the boy sucked it in and approached the card with a fierce look of determination. He had to do it! He had to prove himself.

"I am stro—" As soon as he touched the card, it glowed purple and sent a wave of energy.

>WHOOOOSH HHH<

The violent burst of power instantly repelled Edward far far away from the suspended card.

"Argh!" The muscular teenager was pushed far down the hallway.

It took his absolute best to regain balance and launch himself back to his comrades, though he was wincing as he returned to them.

"Ow... ow..." He nearly cried, feeling his body throb in pain. Cackles of purple lightning flickered on his body as he felt their sting every second.

It would appear that he wasn't strong enough.

"Your turn, Ivan." Lemi glanced in the direction of the very hesitant human.

"Hell no!"

"Come on, don't you trust me?"

"Not at all!"

"I have a plan, and I need you to—"

"Do it yourself!"

Lemi's eyebrows twitched as she glared at the stubborn redhead.

After watching the strongest member of their group get flung away so easily, who in their right mind would want to take the risk? Definitely not the most cautious one among them.

His answer was an emphatic NO!

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Chapter 597: Arcana Of Fortune [Pt 2]

"Nooooo. Leave me alone! Don't do this... please."

The long hallway was filled the echoes of one particular human. His throes were loud, and they rang of desperation, but they had no power in them.

The owner of this voice was, of course, Ivan.

"Edward, you traitor. Don't let they fiend deceive you. Let me gooooo!!!" The young man cried, kicking his feet in the air as he was overpowered by his hulky friend.

"Ivan, just calm down. Didn't you say you trusted Lemi too? She has a plan, so just—"

"Nooo! Let me gooooo!!!" The red haired boy kept throwing his tantrums.

His throes almost made Edward give in and release him, but a glance in Lemi's location made him reconsider that idea.

Her serious gaze, and the very dangerous glint in her eyes that promised a harsh punishment if he failed, made Edward keep going.

He carried Ivan to the suspected Arcana, and then threw the young boy toward the card.

>BBBZZZZTTTTZZZ<

Once more, the Arcana changed color, sizzling with orange electricity as Ivan was launched back.

"Garrghhhh! It hurrtrts!" His screams echoed as he flew backward.

Fortunately, Edward caught him. Still, his body sparked with orange electricity, making him make funny faces that only served to depict his pain.

"Y-you bastards..." He gritted his teeth as he looked at Edward and Lemi.

They were traitorous friends who betrayed him, and—

"Oh, please, Ivan. It wasn't that bad. Besides, you could have just used Magic to escape Edwards grasp whenever you wanted. Stop making a big deal out of it."

The red haired young man gulped, realizing he had been found out. He was truthfully curious about the results... though he was also sort of unwilling to take the risk.

The fact that they forced him was perfect since he could blame them for mishandling him.

'How did things end up this way?!' Ivan's thoughts rang... though he was unwilling to accept defeat.

"W-well, it hurts! You wouldn't understand since you didn't feel it!" He barked.

"You're right. Fortunately, it seems I won't have to."

Lemi snickered, approaching the glowing card, picking it with her delicate fingers.

Ivan and Edward winced, expecting some sort of 'buzz' or negative reaction. Personally, the former wished for a scream as well.

However...

"Oh? Looks like I was correct, after all. See?" Lemi's grin was yet to fade, and there was no scream.

Rather, locked between her fingers was the card that gave them so much trouble. It flickered with yellow lightning, resonating with the Half Elf holding it.

"H-how...?" Ivan's jaw was slack with surprise.

His planned revenge had failed!

"I suspected as much when it flickered purple in reaction to Edward, and then orange when it was your turn." The girl explained, drawing closer to the boys.

"You both picked the wrong answers in the test, and the colors that the wheel landed on was displayed in the sparks of electricity."

The reason Lemi wasn't affected was because she was the one who got the answers right. In essence, she was the chosen one!

The Arcana was rightfully hers.

"Oh? Looks like it's The Wheel Of Fortune. Nice. I have such good luck!"

It took a while for the boys to realize this—perhaps they never got the full picture on what happened—but they had just gotten played by Lemi.

"Muahahaha!" She gave a mock evil laugh as the defeated men hung their heads in shame.

At this point, the zeal to fight or argue had long faded.

"Let's just go home..." Ivan's voice unenthusiastically echoed.

"Y-yeah..." Edward responded.

Lemi shrugged. She felt a little bad for the boys, but every course of action she made way the most optimal.

Sure, she used them, and they arrived at a conclusion where the Arcana Of Fortune chose only her. However, one could argue that she contributed most to their mission.

In essence, no one deserved the power more than she did.

'Though I don't even know what this does...' She looked at the warbling card.

In the end, she would still have to consult with Jared and train to master whatever ability was waiting in store for her.

'Sweet! Something nice to experiment with.'

Now that their business within the hallway was complete, it was time to leave. The boys were long ready to depart, but Lemi was still enjoying herself a bit.

"Alright. Let's go." She finally agreed after watching their unmotivated faces.

Jared had given each them Spell Cards so they could return, though one was enough for all three of them.

Lemi decided to use the one in her possession, and it glowed blue as soon as she activated the Spell.

"Goodbye, hallway. I enjoyed myself!"

>VWUUUUSSSHHH<

The blue portal appeared before them, and they were able to leave in one piece. It truly was a fun time—though open to interpretation, depending on which member was asked.

They could all agree on one thing, however.

'Mission complete.'

[The Glacier Dungeon]

"Tch... this is unexpected." A gruffy tone sounded, and misty breaths escaped the lips of the man who spoke.

"Yeah. I agree." A feminine voice replied.

"W-what should we do?" This time, it was the tone of a child.

The group of three had troubled expressions on their face, and as they exhaled, visible evidence of their breaths leaked out.

Maro Smith, Aloe Vida, and Asa were in quite the pinch, and they knew it.

Their mission was to recover an Arcana suspected to be in this location, so of course they had tried their hardest.

They were able to navigate their way through the harsh climate of eternal frost that surrounded the Dungeon.

Once they entered the extremely dangerous structure, they were greeted with countless opponents, most of which were frosty statues. With their intelligence and abilities, they somehow managed to get by.

The journey got more difficult the further they ventured into the Dungeon, but they endured. Until finally... they arrived at the heart of the most dangerous place they had ever experienced.

Now this was where things got a bit tricky.

"This is... a bit too much, don't you think?"

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Chapter 598: Cold Reflections

The Boss of the Glacier Dungeon wasn't the real problem.

Sure, it was a tough opponent—standing at about sixty meters in height alone. The Golem-like entity had a very bulky body, and its cold skin was hard.

The Mana it exuded was also extremely immense.

Aloe Vida and Maro struggled a great deal against it. Not only was it strong, but it was fast as well. Due to its extreme mass and magical density, it was a challenge to fight it.

Still, by using Asa as the deciding factor, they had managed to push through. The young Beastfolk had a special ability that allowed him to escape the detection of anyone.

Even he couldn't explain it beyond 'merging with the surroundings'.

The ability was useful in this respect, though. By planting Mana Bombs in the specified areas that Maro told him to—the Boss's weak points and most important joints— they were able to deal serious damage and slow it down.

Once Asa was done with his mission, Aloe Vida leaped into action and used her frightening Magic ability to finish it off.

All in all, it was a tough round, but... they still managed to emerge victorious.

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"So, why...?"

Aloe Vida was sick and tired of facing challenge after challenge. It ate at her energy, but Mana wasn't her problem.

The whole thing just seemed unfair.

"The Boss has been defeated, so what is the meaning of this?"

The three team members watched as three thin layers of ice emerged from the ground. They had immense energy within them—energy that couldn't be explained or described with words. It was simply overwhelming.

"This could mean trouble..." Even Aloe, the most powerful of the three, felt like she couldn't comprehend the energy she was sensing within the ice sheets.

Finally completely separated from the grounds, the three surfaces transformed into mirrors, reflecting the respective challengers within them.

From left to middle to right—Aloe, Asa and Maro watched as the mirrors took in their image. Confused expressions formed on their faces as they failed to comprehend the relevance.

Until—

>SHWUUUUUUU<

—The most absurd thing occurred.

Out of the mirrors proceeded the reflections they encapsulated. Single copies of the respective personality captured came out of the mirror.

Aloe Vida's eyes widened as she gazed at a copy of herself—the same happened to the two beside her.

Their mirror selves gave dead, cold expressions. Other than the misty energy emanating from them, and the blank expressions they made, it was impossible to differentiate any of them from the original.

"What are we supposed to do? Fight them?" Aloe Vida glanced at Maro.

It didn't seem like there was any other option. Even though all three copies were transfixed in a single position, unchanging in the slightest, they were still obstacles.

It was possible that they wouldn't receive their grand prize with the mirror versions of themselves standing.

"How much Mana do you have left?" Maro whispered to Vida.

Out of the three, she had been the one who expended the most energy. Her Original Magic, and the Light Magic that was useful for burning through the obstacles rightfully earned her the position of vanguard.

Maro was the strategist, and while his Magic was the weakest, his technology and use of resources made them complete their mission with relatively greater ease.

Even the plan for dealing with the Boss came from him.

As for Asa, he was a tough nut. His combat ability was scary—as expected of the child of the Beast King. In terms of battle prowess and skill alone, Vida thought he was better than her.

Unfortunately, he was still weaker than her in every other regard.

"It's fine. I'm still fine... I've almost recovered the Mana I expended." She quickly responded to Maro's inquisition.

"Scary... are you sure you're human?" Asa's voice echoed with awe rather than disrespect.

"H-hey!"

Aloe Vida was blessed with a great deal of Mana and her recovery was just as fast. Thanks to the multiple Mana Core technique Jared taught all of them, she was now able to stock up a lot of Mana, making her reserves extremely abundant.

"That's good. What of you, Asa?" Maro's gaze fell on the young Beastfolk.

"I'm not a monster like Miss Vida, but I have over sixty percent of my Mana pool."

Maintaining his 'null' state, as he had dubbed it, took a lot of energy from him, so even though Asa hardly fought the Boss, he was still plenty drained.

"I'm not a monster, Asa. I just... have my circumstances." The lady squealed, a bit embarrassed.

"Take it as a compliment, Miss Vida! You would suit a lovely bride for my father. I'll make sure to tell him all about you."

"What are you even—?" Aloe groaned in exasperation.

Apparently, Asa had some weird ideas, no doubt thanks to his Beastfolk heritage. Whether or not he would go along with his word was something the 'monster' lady didn't want to consider.

'It's because of Jared, and my sudden resurrection that this happened...'

Ever since that moment, her power had increased beyond expectations. As if that wasn't enough, it kept rising after the incident.

As a result, her recovery and growth skyrocketed.

'Even when I told him, Jared told me he has also resurrected others, yet... none of them are showing as much potential as me...'

It made her wonder if her resurrection was the only reason behind her ever-growing power.

"Focus, everyone." Maro's voice brought her back to reality.

The opponents were still stagnant, in front of them. The decision on whether or not to engage remained undecided, though it was about to be addressed.

"I believe we should start simple. Let's start small, maybe with simple Spells... just to see their reactions."

As expected of Maro. Rather than choose a straightforward answer, he preferred to mull over the situation and consider other possibilities and alternatives.

That was why he was unanimously agreed to be the leader.

While Aloe was a Magic Lecturer, and a powerful Mage at that, she knew her limits. She wasn't as tactical as Maro, and she certainly wasn't as brutally violent as Asa.

With this understanding android maturity, she nodded in response to Maro's suggestion.

"I agree."

"Me too."

"Alright you two... let's do this!"

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Chapter 599: Original Versus Copy

>BOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMM<

It was meant to be a demonstration of simple Spells, yet the explosion caused the entire area to roar in response.

Aloe had used her [Light Grenade], while Maro utilized a [Fireball] Spell. The one with no bearing with common sense was Asa.

He went ahead to use [Icy Burst], causing massive ice spikes to emerge from the ground, enveloping the opponents in a powerful cold explosion.

"A-Asa!" Maro and Vida yelled at the boy instantly.

"W-what? I did as I was told." He replied innocently, his blue eyes radiating absolute honesty.

"How do you call that a simple Spe—" Maro stopped dead in his tracks the moment he realized something.

'Asa's right! It's actually a simple Spell... at least, by his standards.'

"I used an Advanced Spell. That's simple, right? We've been using Peak all this time. Miss Vida even resorted to Original Magic, which is Transcendental!" Asa was confidently defending his decision.

Unfortunately for the two adults, they couldn't argue with him.

He was right, after all.

It was their fault for not giving him enough of a thorough explanation. Despite his prowess, Asa was still a child.

"Well, what's done is do—"

>WHOOOOOSSSHHHH<

Suddenly, three figures approached them with deafening speed.

"Dam—"

Fortunately, one of the three originals was fast enough to react. Swiftly erecting a golden barrier that encompassed them, Aloe's eyes widened as the copies dangerously approached.

>BOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMM<

Sparks of energy flew in multiple directions as her barrier was chipped down in mere moments, not lasting more than five seconds

The explosion caused Aloe and her allies to dart backward, creating enough distance between them and the enemies.

"Tch! They're strong." Maro commented, gritting his teeth as he watched the shattered ground they once stood on.

The devastation their copied had wrought within mere seconds was frightening, to say the least. As the smoke cleared from their location, the three artificial human—or whatever could be used to describe them—looked just as cold and lifeless as before.

However, Maro, Aloe, and Asa could sense danger pulsating from them.

"They're going to be tough."

"Yeah. You think they're mimicking our power level?"

Maro didn't want Aloe's suspicion to be true. Because if it was, then they were in serious trouble.

"I'm sorry, guys. This is all my fault..." Asa gave a stifled sound.

The Beastfolk expressed worry, and guilt was written all over his face.

"No, it's not your fault. These things most likely have a defense mechanism which we triggered by attacking." Maro responded, refusing to take his eyes off the opponents.

They were no longer stationary. In fact, their movements seemed to indicate they would be attacking any moment.

"Yeah. They would have probably come at us regardless of the kind of Spell..." Aloe reassured the boy, rubbing his head in a playful manner.

Her optimistic and energetic smile reflected in the boy's clear blue eyes, and he found himself accepting her words as true.

"Yeah. You're right! It's not my fault at all! It's Maro's fault for choosing this course of action, right?"

How could the adults have known that Asa would end up making such a conclusion? They almost sighed in exasperation.

"W-well, that's not exactly—"

>BOOOOOOMMMM<

Aloe found herself unable to correct the boy's ideology due to the enemies striking once more.

"Shit!" She readied her body, infusing Light Magic to give her far greater speed to react to the enemies.

"Be careful. Don't use your full abilities on them. It might trigger another response."

"Got it!"

>VWWWOOSH<

Aloe surged from their location and solely charged at the three copies. Golden Mana flashed as she closed the distance between them in a flash, creating several hardened light constructs to pierce them.

"Will she be alright by herself?" Asa asked Maro, whom he had already deemed to be the sole cause of their predicament.

His eyes suspiciously watched the older man.

"She should. So far they're not displaying more dangerous abilities. I suspect they respond to our power levels, or maybe there's something else going on here. In any case, I need to observe them more."

As such, Aloe Vida would take the forefront and engage the enemy while he watched them closely.

Maro hoped he would find the weakness of their copies, or at least learn enough about how they functioned to turn the tables around.

"What about me? I should join the fight! I can at least help Vida." Asa made to leave, but Maro stopped him by placing his hand on his shoulder.

"No. You don't know restraint. For now, we simply observe."

Asa wanted to snap at the man, but Aloe's words surfaced in his mind, causing him to stop.

'You're lucky she told me to respect and listen to you...' The boy sulked.

For Beastfolk, strength was everything. In terms of Mana Capacity and Magic abilities, Asa had already surprised Maro. That was probably why he found it difficult to listen to the human, despite the age difference.

Fortunately, Aloe had figured this out early on and managed to knock some sense into the young and impressionable Beastfolk.

Being beaten by an older woman who was far stronger than he was—also pretty and very kind—made Asa develop some sort of attachment to her.

It was close to filial love, mixed with respect and idolization. In simple terms, to Asa, the young woman could be seen as...

'Aloe Vida is so cool!'

... A mother he never had.

'She has to marry father!' He thought to himself, watching as the brilliant lady zoomed in the air as she singlehandedly handled there copies.

It was just as Maro posited. The clones weren't utilizing the full abilities of the originals.

Aloe Vida's ability to keep up, and even overpower them was proof. However, just as they were about to celebrate, the Aloe clone suddenly started increasing in power.

"W-what is that?" Asa's eyes widened as he saw fake Aloe's Mana surge with greater power.

Its power, and speed especially, instantly caught up to the the original's and it zoomed in on Aloe—catching up to her in a flash.

>WHOOOOOSSSHHHH<

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Chapter 600: Abrupt Eruption

Launching a frightening kick at Aloe, the copy sent her falling down.

>SHWUSH<

Right before the gleaming Aloe could hit the ground, she twisted her body in midair. Swiftly maintaining her balance, she returned to her comrades in a flash.

Asa's eyes sparked with relief to have Aloe back with him, while Maro nodded with gratitude for taking on her task with due diligence.

"So, did you figure anything out so far?" She asked, keeping watch on the three copies who hovered in the air.

"Yeah... I did. I think I've figured it out."

Maro's words were never to be taken lightly. The fact that he had taken some things into observation, and was able to offer a reasonable conclusion in such a short time simply spoke of his capabilities.

"I know how we can win."

"Oh? Pray tell." It wasn't easy restricting herself to a particular set of skills, so Aloe was pretty much prepared to end the fight and get their prize.

Besides, her copy seemed to be adapting very quickly. If she kept delaying, it wouldn't take long for it to catch up.

"From what I've observed, the clones can only mimick the power levels of those they resemble. As in Aloe's case, even though you were overpowering the three, only your copy became stronger."

Seeing that the other two still struggled to fight with her, not making any noticeable improvements, it could be posited that their clones could only match the power levels of their respective originals.

"I suggest we take on copies different from our own. That way, they won't be able to use our abilities when fighting." Maro continued by explaining what he meant.

By matching Aloe with Asa's copy, for instance, she could go all-out without the clone being able to evolve beyond its current limits.

Likewise, if Asa fought Aloe's copy, the same results could be seen.

"The best part about this plan is that you don't need to use too much of your abilities to handle Asa's clone, considering your limited self is already superior to both mine and his copies."

The real problem was Aloe Vida's duplicate. It had already reached a level that would make it quite difficult to catch or combat without having to resort to some degree of seriousness on the part of Asa or Maro.

"I suggest you leave your duplicate to us. You can handle ours, right?" The red-haired man asked.

"Yeah, I can. But are you sure you'll be fine? I mean... what if you have to resort to using more power and your duplicates match your power levels? Things could get more difficult for me."

That was where their problem existed. They were all in the same area, and so if any of them exceeded a certain threshold, the clones would respond in kind.

"Think we should split up? That'll be nice." Maro looked around him.

They could lead Aloe's duplicate through the entrance of the Boss Room and fight with it in a different location.

"The only thing we're unsure of is whether or not they'll be willing to leave this place." Maro considered the fact that they spawned in the Boss Room.

Perhaps they were being too optimistic in thinking they could lure the enemy away from their territory.

"You guys... they're about to make their move again." Asa pointed at the hovering beings.

Just like he said, they seemed to be preparing for another charge.

"Both of you just try your best to hold my copy off until I destroy yours. Once that happens, you're free to go all-out!"

"Smart move, Aloe. Well said."

"Miss Vida is the best!"

As the two nodded in response, Aloe prepared herself for round two against her opponents. It would be a bit tricky, but they didn't stand a chance against her.

"Alright the—"

>BOOMMMMM!!!<

In an eruption of pure blue energy, the three copies were instantly engulfed in an explosion that consumed the air they occupied, and the ground underneath them.

The heat and pressure caused the three to brace themselves, shell-shocked by the sudden occurrence.

'W-what... just happened?!' Maro's thoughts rang.

Aloe and Asa had similar thoughts, wondering what could have caused such an explosion... possession enough power to easily destroy the enemies they had painstakingly strategized against.

Before they could make sense of what was occurring, the blast died down, and steam radiated throughout the area.

The icy surroundings began melting, sizzling like boiling water, as the floor turned wet with the heated liquid, leaving only a few sheets of solid ice floating around.

As the smoke permeated the surrounding, a splashy sound of approaching footsteps could be heard.

"Someone else is here!"

"This... this energy!"

"S-so strong..."

Maro, Aloe, and Asa jointly glared at the emerging being in front of them. He was a distance away, but the sound he made as he drew closer gave an ominous vibe.

"You people waste too much time." His voice was deep and commanding, enough to cause all three of their bodies to shiver.

Sweat fell from Maro's face as he could feel himself get overwhelmed by the Mana Pressure alone.

Asa and Aloe still seemed alright, but his head was pounding so much and he was slowly becoming light headed.

In the presence of this extremely powerful stranger whom he did not even know... Maro felt tortured.

"You could have just killed them in one blow... talk about a waste of time."

The mist around the stranger cleared, revealing his surprising form.

"Y-you are—!!!" Asa was the first to respond.

The young boy's body trembled as he fully captured the image of the person in front of him.

The man had two horns growing on his head, also possessing rough blue and red hair that flowed to his backside. His eyes glowed with both crimson and azure, having the glare of a beast.

He wore a long garb, though his bare chest could be seen due to its design. His bare foot and exposed portion of his arm showed scales, like those of a dragon. The scales gleamed blue and red, and they seemed incredibly tough.

There was no doubt. This man, whoever he could be...

... Was incredibly strong!