

《Spirit King》

Chapter 4 - Trap

“Woah!” Louis looked around in awe.

As they walked farther into the tunnel, ancient like hieroglyphics on the wall glowed like green glow sticks. These glowing shapes looked almost like a hologram as it stuck out of the wall mystically. Near the entrance of the tunnel, the hieroglyphics were completely unrecognizable due to the darkness and lack of glow, however, they noticed that the glowing became much more prominent as they walked farther in.

Niko also looked at these walls as if he was trying to understand a very complex problem. The glowing drawings on the wall that was once unrecognizable began to take the shape of strange horned half goat half men. The upper bodies of these humanoid creatures were human while their lower body was that of a goat. They also possessed horns of various shapes on their forehead as well as long goatees. The goat men were an army of thousands, marching together towards one common enemy.

Niko’s eyes widened as his already slow walk became slower. The enemy that these goat men were going to face was a lone human man. The man wore a long robe as his face showed no expression. There was something very peculiar about the man, either it was his ability to stay calm or the man's surrounding which was littered with thousands of corpses that were piled on top of one another.

“He's fighting them alone?” Louis asked in surprise. Both Niko and Louis were immersed in the story as their walking speed became faster, eager to find out what happens next.

The man suddenly raised his arms up above himself as if he ordering something to happen. Strangely, the corpses that littered the land began to shake like the tail of a rattlesnake, all at the same time. It was as if the world was shaking and their body moved along with the world.

The goat men took a few steps back as fear began to appear on their faces. Smoke like white particles began to leave the body of the many corpses. The corpses were still lying lifelessly on the ground, even though, the strange smoke came out if their body.

The smoke began to take shape and slowly became almost identical to the bodies they came out of. They had the same looks, the same size and the same lifeless looks on their faces, the only difference was the slight transparency of these newly summoned ghosts like creatures. These ghosts varied, from goat men to four-armed monsters to the enormous bull like beasts. In a matter of seconds, an army was erected from nothing.

“How powerful! Is he some kind of special necromancer?” Louis asked himself in awe, as he continued to look.

Niko was getting used to the way Louis thought out loud. The past few minutes of walking together in this tunnel, Louis wouldn't stop talking about his past life and how much he wanted to be a footballer. Louis seemed like he was a very outspoken person who wouldn't mind speaking out about his feelings. Niko kept these things in the back of his mind, as he didn't know Louis for too long as of yet.

Niko began to think, “That isn't a necromancer... Those are spirits and not corpses... To create an army out of nothing... Such a powerful technique!”

The spirits of the slaughtered corpses began to charge and slaughter the goat men. This battle was completely one-sided as the goat men began to retreat in defeat. The goat men weren't weak, however, they were no match for these ghosts. A bigger and stronger goatman came to fight, his horns were much longer and so was his goatee, however, he was taken out by the ghosts.

The scenes on the walls began to fade as the drawings were no more. The drawings became a line that went along down the tunnel until it finally reached open space. A room. The line then began to multiply and cover the whole stone room like veins.

Louis and Niko paused.

“Should we enter it?” Louis asked as both of them had paused their walking.

Both Niko and Louis looked at the inside of the room before entering. The room was completely empty, however, a cone-like structure rose from the ground perfectly centered in the room. The structure was half the size of Niko and the glowing lines that were scattered on the wall were all connected to this structure. If someone were to follow these glowing lines, they would be led to the centered cone structure, as the glowing lines were coiling around it all the way up to the tip.

On the tip of this structure was a strange dark green gem. The gem was the size of a tennis ball and shaped like a pill. In the middle of the gem was a black skull of a

horned animal, the animal looked like a goat, however, they would need to get closer to clearly identify it.

“The room seems harmless... Let's enter it... But make sure to watch your surroundings.” Niko said as Louis began to step inside of the room.

Louis entered the room, and as Niko was about to enter, something strange happened. A green transparent wall appeared right in front of Niko, preventing him from walking any further.

“What's this?” Niko's face darkened.

Louis was as surprised as him on the other side of the transparent green wall, as they both looked at one another in confusion. Suddenly.

“Rumble!”

The tunnel shook as pebbles and dust began to fall from above. Niko panicked. He was unsure of what was going on. When he looked at Louis, he looked even more confused. The tremor wasn't on the other side of the transparent wall. The ground beneath Niko's feet vibrated violently as it quickly disappeared. Niko fell into the dark abyss before him, with shock and surprise in his mind.