

Strongest 1351

Chapter 1351: Everyone Is Waiting For Your Return

Two days later...

William yawned as he cooked their lunch for the day.

Shannon and Erinys were still asleep because both of them slept very late last night. After tasting the forbidden fruit, the Fox Lady would tumble on the sheets with William for hours, until she was too exhausted to even lift her finger.

The Half-Elf understood that Shannon was taking advantage of the time they had together, but he was still overwhelmed by the Fox Lady's libido. Fortunately, his stamina was surprisingly good, so he was able to go all the way with her until she lost consciousness.

Erinys, on the other hand, may not be as resilient as Shannon, but her tenacity surprised even the Half-Elf who treated her with great care.

Since he couldn't go all the way with her, the only things William did with the Half-ling were hugs, kisses, and a little bit of foreplay. Even so, that was more than enough to make her climax several times, until she was exhausted.

Since the three of them only fell asleep three hours before dawn, William was expecting the two of them to wake up around lunch time. This was why he decided to prepare their lunch beforehand, so the two could eat as soon as they woke up.

< Your first wife's name is Wendy, and you first met her in the Hellan Royal Academy. >

"What is she like?" William asked as he continued to grill the fishes he had caught earlier.

< Let's just say that she is strong willed. When the two of you met, she was the one that took the initiative for the two of you to be together. >

"Was I happy being with her?"

< Yes. You were happy with her. She was the first girl you opened up your heart to after your short visit on Earth to reunite with Belle, during the trial in the Kyrintor Mountains. >

After Optimus had reached out to him, the Half-Elf no longer hesitated and asked him a lot of questions about his past life. Although he already knew how to regain his memories, he still wanted to have a better understanding of the people he interacted with in the past.

"The elf named Pearl, you said that she hates me, right?" William asked. "Will she agree to help me?"

< I don't think it's whether she agrees or not. It's more like, she will be too afraid to not help you. Listen, Will. I'm sure you can't remember, but the Elves have all been turned into Drows because of you. If Pearl were to refuse to help you, the entire Silvermoon Continent would become her enemy. >

"... I guess I don't have to worry about her anymore?"

< Mmm. Just ask Astrape, or Chloe, to drag her back to the Ainsworth Empire and get it over with. >

The Half-Elf smiled. Although Optimus' voice was quite robotic, he could still sense the mischievousness hidden in his words.

"About my soul, is there a way to fix it?" William inquired. "A quarter of my soul is sleeping in the Bell of Anthanasia, while half of it disappeared after my two familiars died. Is there a possibility to make me whole again?"

< ... The possibility exists. But, I don't have enough data to support this claim. I'd like to believe that it is possible. Still, if you want answers, you will need to return to the Tower of Babylon, and reach the 100th Floor. Make sure to bring Celeste with you. She is the one that helped you become a Familiamancer. >

William sighed. After Shannon had shown him what became of his two Familiars, Elliot and Conan, he felt a deep sadness that came from the very depths of his soul.

Although he couldn't remember them, the sacrifice they made in order to help him during the battle in the Demon Continent touched his heart. He hoped that there was a possibility to revive the two of them again, and once again complete his soul.

That way, he would be able to unlock the full power of the System. Optimus told him that the current him was unable to use the System's full potential. Forcing himself to use it would only take a toll on his soul and body, which would lead to his demise.

"So, the agenda is to first recover my memories then go to the Tower of Babylon," William stated.
"Anything else?"

< Going to the Tower of Babylon might have to wait. You will need to work with Hope to retrieve your wives from the Underworld first. The God of Death said that you need to kill Belle before he releases the souls of your wives. However, since you can't do that anymore, you will need to do something else entirely. >

"... We're talking about Erinys' father, right?"

< Yes. The God of Death that has a veeeeeeeeeeery strong grudge against you. >

William scratched his head because the hurdle was already too high to begin with. How could he possibly sneak past the God of Death in his own Domain and retrieve the souls of his wives under his nose?

"What about this Nisha Lady?" William inquired. "Shannon said that she took me away to protect me from her. What's her story?"

< Nisha is the avatar of your Sugar Mama. >

"What sugar mama?"

< Ask the readers. They call the Primordial Goddess, Sugar Mama. >

"Dafuk?"

Just as William was about to ask another question, a still sleepy Erinys stepped outside the house and headed towards him, as he continued to grill fish outdoors.

"Good morning," William greeted the yawning Half-ling with a smile. "Are you hungry? The fish is nearly done."

"Good morning," Erinys replied. "The smell woke me up. It smells good."

The Half-ling was wearing a pink, one-piece nightdress, instead of her regular pajamas. This was something that she had bought recently when the three of them started to live on the deserted island together due to Shannon's influence.

Since it was only the three of them living there, the Half-ling didn't even bother to change clothes, and went to look for William after smelling the fish that he was grilling.

The two exchanged a kiss on the lips, which lasted only for a few seconds, before she sat on William's lap.

Just as the two were about to have a conversation, William's strong hearing picked up a humming sound that came from above their heads.

A moment later, a flying ship, which was much bigger than Erinys' own ship, appeared in the distance and was headed in their direction.

It didn't take long before the ship arrived at the island and landed dozens of meters away from where the Half-Elf and Half-ling were seated.

"So, this is where you've been hiding him," a black-haired beauty said as she gazed down at the two people that were on the ground.

"Fortunately, we have someone on board that could find him, otherwise, we would have certainly flown past this island," a silver-haired lady with crimson eyes commented as her gaze locked on the Half-Elf whom they had been searching for the past few days.

Suddenly, a lady with long blonde hair jumped off from the ship.

A pair of wings sprouted from behind her back, which allowed her to land gently in front of the Half-Elf, whose eyes widened in shock after seeing her up close.

"Come, Will," Wendy said softly as she extended her hand to the red-headed teenager whom she missed terribly. "Your short vacation is over. It's time to go back home. Everyone is waiting for your return."

William, who recognized the blonde beauty as his first wife, Wendy, took a deep breath before extending his own hand to grab hold of her hand.

Looking at the ladies that were gazing at him with love, and affection, the Half-Elf felt in his heart that he was about to return to the place where he belonged.

End of Volume 8: The Ending of a Fairy Tale

Chapter 1352: Finding The Missing Piece Of The Puzzle

"Um, can you please untie her?" William asked as he pointed at Shannon, who was tied to the main mast of the flying ship. "That looks very uncomfortable."

"It's fine," Wendy replied with a smile. "It's not like she will die from being buffeted by strong winds, and exposed to the heat of the sun."

"That's right, Will, would you like more cookies?" Estelle smiled as she prepared to hand feed the Half-Elf with the cookies she just baked. "Eat them while they are still fresh. Erinys, you can have some as well."

"Thank you." Erinys picked up a cookie and took a bite. "It is good."

"I'm glad you liked it. Have more. There is plenty for everyone."

"Don't mind if I do."

The corner of the Half-Elf's lips twitched as he looked at the Fox Lady's current state, which was quite different from the Half-ling, who was being treated like a little sister by everyone present.

Perhaps, noticing his discomfort, the black-haired beauty lightly tugged on his clothes to make him look at her.

< Don't worry about Shannon. She got it easy. Originally, we planned to toss her on an active volcano and let her sink into magma. But, since you told us to spare her, we decided to not punish her too severely. >

For some reason. The Half-Elf still couldn't hear Belle's voice, so Optimus decided to translate whatever she was saying to William to make communication easier for both parties.

"Thank you," William replied. "Since she and Erinys are now my lovers, I don't want her to be hurt."

< Hahaha. She got off easy, >

Belle smiled, but her smile never reached her eyes. Clearly, she still hadn't forgiven the Fox Lady for kidnapping William right under their noses during the battle at the Palace of Light.

Aside from Wendy, Estelle, and Belle, there were other people on the flying ships as well.

The Seven Virtues, Celeste, Lira, Ephemera, Shana, Melody, Audrey, and Cherry were also on the Flying Ship.

To William's surprise, there was also a purple-haired little girl, a golden piglet, and a floating mace, who were all seated opposite him.

This was the search party that had come to look for William after the battle ended.

The reason why the Seven Virtues were there was due to the fact that they didn't want to be near Nisha after what happened to Celeste and Cherry.

Because of this, they took the flagship of the Holy Order of Light and traveled to the Western Continent, without notifying anyone, to look for the missing Half-Elf, whom they believed would protect them from the Steward that handled the administration of William's territories.

Lira, Ephemera, and Melody, were all looking at William with longing. Unfortunately, they couldn't go near him because Wendy, Estelle, and Belle stuck to him like glue.

The three knew that they were the Half-Elf's secret mistresses, and in front of his legal wives and fiancée, their position was a bit lower in the hierarchy.

Medusa, who was unaware of this tense atmosphere, happily fed Bacon (Gullinbursti), Sharur, and Cherry the cookies that Estelle had baked.

She was quite relieved to see her Master again, but was also sad because the Half-Elf had lost his memories.

Celeste, who was the main reason they had been able to find William, sat quietly in the corner of the room. Among the people on the flying ship, her connection with the red-headed teenager was the strongest because she could tell the general direction of where the Half-Elf was, even with her eyes closed.

Everyone knew about the Prophecy about the beautiful Elf being William's Bride of Darkness.

However, since they believed that the Prophecy was already over, they thought that Celeste's role in the Half-Elf's life had ended, at least, that was what everybody thought at the moment.

Whatever, what Celeste thought of the matter no one knew aside from herself. For now, she just sat quietly, and observed the Half-Elf who had lost all of his memories.

"After you disappeared, the different Kingdoms, and Empires, in the Central Continent all officially acknowledged the legitimacy of the Ainsworth Empire," Wendy explained. "They have sent many envoys, bringing gifts to the Royal Palace, but since you weren't there, Nisha stored them in the treasure room for you to view at your leisure."

William nodded. Although he wasn't interested in treasures, he felt that he needed to give a response to Wendy, in order to make the latter understand that he was listening to her.

"The survivors of the Holy Order of Light were all captured, but thanks to your niece, Eve, none of them were executed," Estelle commented from the side. "All of them were locked up on the Floor of Asgard to prevent them from doing anything reckless."

"You will have to pass judgment on them after you regain your memories. For the time being, your fiancée, Lilith, is keeping watch on Nisha's movements, with the help of the Amazons who have also arrived in the Ainsworth Empire, whom Empress Andraste sent to assist her."

The Half-Elf once again nodded his head in understanding.

While this was happening, Optimus was actively showing him the images of his family members, including his cousin, Eve, who had helped spare the lives of the members of the organization that blindly followed the Pope's orders.

"Um, there is something that I want to discuss with everyone," William said after having a short chat with Optimus inside his head. "I need to see six people when I return to the Central Continent. Their names are Haleth, Amelia, Pearl, Priscilla, Anh, and Vesta. I believe they hold the method in order for me to regain my memory."

"Is that true?" Wendy looked overjoyed after hearing William's words. "Don't worry. We will gather them for you."

In truth, after the battle ended, they found out that the purpose of the Holy Light was to completely erase a person's memories. Because of this, all of William's lovers had become depressed for a time because they believed that his memories were gone forever.

Even Princess Aila, who held some of Belle's Memories, was also depressed because it took a lot of effort for her to become one of William's lovers.

Although she would gladly return his memories of Belle to him. The fact remained that the only one that the Half-Elf would remember was the black-haired beauty and no one else.

"Thank you," William smiled before shifting his attention to the Elf who was looking at him from a distance. "Your name is Celeste, right? There is something that I need to discuss with you in private. Will you be free to talk later?"

Celeste, who had suddenly been called out of the blue, wasn't able to immediately respond to the Half-Elf's question. She didn't expect that there was something that William needed from her after losing his memories.

Half a minute later, Celeste regained her composure and nodded her head.

"I am free," Celeste replied. "We can talk later."

"Thank you." William smiled at the beautiful Elf, making the ladies in front of him wonder what he was up to.

They were not aware that these casual words from William would allow Celine's twin sister, Celeste, to find the missing piece of the puzzle that she had been searching for all of her life.

Celeste gazed at William with a complicated look on her face.

The Half-Elf was currently inside her room, within the Main Flying Flagship of the Holy Order of Light.

William said that he wanted to talk to her in private, so she invited him inside her room to talk. However, the first question that the Half-Elf asked had surprised her, making her unable to reply right away.

"To be honest, I don't know if there is a way to revive a familiar that has died," Celeste stated. "There are only two Familiamancers in this world. Me, and you. So, I can't really answer your question. But..."

"But?" William looked at Celeste with such an intensity that it made the beautiful Elf flinch.

"But, I know someone that might know how to do it."

"You do? Is he also a Familiamancer?"

"... Not exactly. But, he is an expert when it comes to Familiars," Celeste explained. "Actually, when I thought that Chloe was about to die, he was the first person that came to my mind. If there is a way to revive your familiars, he is the only one we can count on."

William nodded. "Thank you. Knowing that there is a way to revive them gives me hope."

Optimus had asked him to consult with Celeste if it was possible to revive Elliot and Conan, who held the other halves of his soul. If he was able to bring them back to life, then his soul would once again be complete.

This would allow him to truly bring out the power of the Familiamancer Job Class, as well as unlock the Features of the System which were currently unavailable to him.

"By the way, where is this person you are talking about?" William inquired.

Celeste smiled because she found this question quite funny. The person that William was looking for was the same person that asked Celeste to go to the Tower of Babylon, to bestow upon William the Job Class of Familiamancer.

"You will find him on the Top Floor of the Tower of Babylon," Celeste answered. "Meaning, you have to clear all of its floors before you meet him. In order to do that, you need to retrieve your memories first. The current you might not be able to face the challenges that are waiting for you on the unexplored floors of the Tower."

"What is the Tower of Babylon like?" William asked. "Can you tell me more about it?"

"Of course," Celine replied.

The two then chatted about many things. They not only talked about the Tower of Babylon, but also talked about the Silvermoon Continent, where William's mother, Arwen, was waiting while being worried sick about him.

Celeste also told the Half-Elf about the Heavenly Virtues, her work as a Professor in Hestia Academy, Chloe, Claire, as well as her sister, Celine.

When the topic of her twin sister was mentioned, a hopeful, yet sad expression appeared on the elf's face.

"Perhaps, any day from now, my sister is about to give birth to your child," Celeste said softly. "There is also a possibility that she has already given birth."

Celeste stared at the window of her room, as if reminiscing a distant past.

"Many years ago, my sister and I became part of a Prophecy." Celeste smiled bitterly. "One of us would become the prophesied Bride of Darkness. Truth be told, when I learned of this, I got scared. However, my sister hugged me and whispered in my ears and said...

'Don't worry, my blood is tainted and the Power of Darkness emanates from my body. If there is going to be a Bride of Darkness, it will be me, and not you. So, don't be afraid. Everything will be alright.'

Celeste then shifted her attention to the Half-Elf whose gaze never left her face.

"Back then, I felt very relieved that I didn't have to suffer such a fate." Celeste continued her tale.

"Although I was sorry about my sister, a part of me rejoiced that I wouldn't have to become the bride of the evil prince, who would cover the world in darkness.

"You know, my sister is very strong. She was despised by everyone in the Silvermoon Continent because of her tainted blood, and was exiled because of it. Growing up, I was showered with love and affection, while she... was cursed and belittled by the Elves. I'm sure that she has undergone countless hardships since then, which shaped her to who she is now.

"My sister didn't wait for the Prophecy to come to pass. She didn't allow a prophecy to control her life, and she defied it."

Celeste once again gave Wiliam a bitter smile as she continued her story.

"She chose you, over the Prophecy. My sister gave you her everything. Her love, her body, her wisdom, and her future. It was a great gamble on her part. Frankly, it was something that I could never do.

"In the end, she succeeded. She defied her Fate, even at the cost of being taken to the Underworld. However, I believe that my sister has never regretted her choice. Instead of being Felix's prophesied Bride, she became the mother of your child. While I... who was supposed to be your bride, was tossed aside.

"I can still remember the gaze you gave me when you still had your memories. In your eyes, I am only Celine's twin sister, Celeste, and that is all I am to you. I'm not really sure why I'm telling you this, but I have long wanted to get this off of my chest.

"It may sound stupid, but if I were to go back to the past, and talk to my younger self, I would tell her that she shouldn't be afraid of the Dark Prince. Instead, I would tell her that she should look forward to

meeting him because beneath his cold and unfeeling gaze was a warmth that would make anyone who he holds dear in his heart feel loved and safe, even if the entire world was covered in Darkness."

Celeste closed her eyes and stayed silent for a few minutes before standing up and headed towards the door of her room.

"It's already late, and I want to rest early," Celeste said softly. "Goodnight, Will. When the time comes for you to climb the Tower of Babylon, I will accompany you. But, until then, I would like to be alone and think about what I want to do for the future."

The Half-Elf nodded his head in understanding and thanked Celeste for telling him everything he wanted to know.

The moment the door closed, William heaved a long and deep sigh.

Celeste's revelation made him realize how blessed he was to have Celine in his life. Although he felt sorry for Celeste, there was nothing he could do about it.

< Control your own destiny, or someone else will. I hope you learned something from talking to her, Will. >

'I did,' William replied as he glanced at the closed door behind him.

Due to his strong hearing, he was able to tell that, behind the closed door, the beautiful Elf was weeping.

But he dared not comfort her.

Not now, when his memories still hadn't returned.

Only when he regained what he had lost, would he be able to decide what path he would take in the future. He would do this not only for his sake, but for those who wept behind closed doors because of the choices that they weren't brave enough to take.

Chapter 1354: Troubling News

Several days later, the Flagship of the Holy Order of Light finally arrived at the Central Continent.

Their first destination was none other than the Ainsworth Empire, where the majority of William's subordinates were waiting for his return.

During the war, all of them had come out from the Thousand Beast Domain, in order to fight for him.

When the Half-Elf was hit with the Holy Light from the Pope, those who had the ability to freely enter it like Chloe, were unable to do so. Simply put, all the "settings" that the Half-Elf had were reset.

It was like clearing the cache, cookies, and trash bin of your computer. Everything was wiped clean, so William had to open the portal that led to the Thousand Beast Domain, in order for his subordinates, especially the members of the Demonic Tribes, to return to the place that they now call home.

Medusa, Cherry, and Shana had pestered William to open the gate for them because they wanted to return.

The Virtuous Lady of Prudence was even able to ask for some "Merit Points" from William, after giving the Half-Elf a kiss, which made him blush, making Shana tease him until he relented.

Actually, the one who was in charge of giving the Merit Points was Optimus and not William. However, since the Half-Elf didn't know how to do it, the System passed twenty thousand merit points to the blue-haired lady, so that she would no longer pester William.

Getting her reward, she gave the Half-Elf another kiss before happily entering the Thousand Beast Domain.

Surprisingly, it was not only the three ladies who entered William's domain. Audrey also accompanied them.

Now that the battle between the Half-Elf and the Holy Order of Light was over, the Virtuous Lady of Fortitude decided to explore the Thousand Beast Domain, which had fascinated her since the moment she first saw it.

Erinys was dragged by her two playmates, Medusa and Cherry to the Thousand Beast Domain, which the latter didn't resist because she felt at ease at having friends that were the same height as her.

Lira, Ephemera, Melody, and Celeste, on the other hand, remained. Among these four ladies, the first three wanted nothing more than to grab William and lock him inside a room with only the three of them.

Unfortunately, they were unable to do that because Wendy, Estelle, and Belle, were currently present, and they weren't able to overcome the hierarchy in William's harem, especially when the First Wife was there.

Wendy sighed as she looked at the three ladies who were looking at William as if they wanted to eat him.

"It will still take us two days to arrive at our destination," Wendy said as he looked at William. "Why don't you accompany Lira, Ephemera, and Melody during that time? I'm sure that they wanted to talk to you about many things."

When the three Virtuous Ladies heard Wendy's voice, they all looked at her as if she was an angel.

Originally, they thought that they wouldn't be able to have an opportunity to spend some time with William on their journey because Wendy wouldn't allow it. Who would have thought that his First Wife was this understanding?

In that instant, the three girls' opinions of Wendy changed. It was only William, who suddenly found himself being dragged by three beauties towards their room, who was unable to comprehend the current situation.

"You're more understanding than I originally thought," Belle commented.

"They're already part of the family," Wendy replied with a smile. "If possible, I want everyone to have a good relationship with each other."

Belle sighed. The number of women that William currently had far exceeded the limit that she asked of him.

But, there was nothing that could be done about it because this happened after losing his memories of her, making him forget the promise he made to her as well.

The rice was already cooked, and it could not be uncooked. Since that was the case, Belle could only get along with William's other wives, and lovers, whom she believed already numbered in the 30's.

Estelle had no comment whatsoever. She had long gotten over the possibility of the Half-Elf having a harem, so she made peace with it long ago.

She was very confident that William would attract the honey and the bees, the moment he left the Southern Continent. Also, as a member of the Royal Family, she already knew that Kings and Emperors could have many wives and concubines.

The silver-haired lady already knew how much William loved and cared for her. They had already shared many passionate moments inside William's Sea of Consciousness in the past because it was the only place where she could transform into a girl.

The Half-Elf had taught her many things. In fact, everything that William had learned from the Life Archon, Owen, was shared with Estelle back then.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that when it came to a spiritual relationship, Estelle had managed to take the lead from Wendy and Ashe, who shared his love back in the Southern Continent.

"Now that the peanut gallery is gone, let's all discuss the important matters," Wendy said with a serious expression on her face. "One of us must always be by William's side, to ensure that Nisha wouldn't be able to make her move against him."

Estelle and Belle nodded their heads because Shannon had warned them about the danger that Nisha posed to the Half-Elf who had lost his memories.

The biggest reason behind why they also left without notifying anyone, was due to the fact that they wanted to keep William's whereabouts a secret from the veiled beauty, who had used her Organization to sweep the entirety of the Central Continent to look for her Dark Prince.

"I will also talk to Bronte and Titania and ask them to always accompany him," Wendy added. "As for Astrape, I will ask her to go to the Silvermoon Continent to bring Pearl to the Ainsworth Empire. According to Will, he needs her in order to regain his memories alongside Haleth, Priscilla, Amelia, Vesta, Anh, and Erinys."

Estelle pressed her hands together as she glanced at the two ladies beside her.

"I don't know why, but I get this feeling that there is something that we have overlooked," Estelle stated.

"You, too?" Belle asked. "I also have this nagging feeling in the back of my mind that won't go away. I didn't think much of it because I don't want to think I was becoming paranoid. How about you, Wendy?"

"Actually, the moment we snuck out of the Central Continent, I had a feeling that something would happen, while we were away," Wendy admitted. "I just don't know what it is."

It was at that moment when Celeste appeared in the living room with a troubled expression on her face.

"I just talked to Chloe and she told me some troubling news," Celeste said. "After I asked her to look for the ladies that William needed to gather, she found out that Haleth, Amelia, and Priscilla were missing. She said the last time she saw the three was when Nisha asked them to help with the management of the Demonic Continent. She hasn't heard from them since then."

Wendy, Estelle, and Belle, suddenly had grim expressions on their faces. They didn't expect the veiled-lady to already be two steps ahead of them, which threw a wrench in their plans.

As William's Steward, Nisha was capable of using her authority to do things as she pleased. Now that three of the seven ladies they needed to find Hope were gone, they would have to find a way to retrieve them before the Avatar of the Primordial Goddess did anything else to get in the way of the Half-Elf's full recovery.

Chapter 1355: Everything Has Now Come Full Circle

"I think we should talk to her," William said after hearing Celeste's explanation, who had just finished talking with Chloe.

"But, that is dangerous," Wendy stated. "We don't know what she will do to you when she gets the chance."

"That's right," Lira commented as she held William's hand. "Nisha is the enemy that the Pope has been fighting all these years. Even with our strength, we were unable to find her whereabouts, and the power of Deus has spread throughout the entire world. Will, she's probably more dangerous than the Pope. You should just leave this matter to us."

William gave Lira's hand a light squeeze in order to comfort her.

"The thing is, I don't think that the missing girls will turn up even if you confront her," William explained. "The sooner we deal with this issue, the sooner this matter will be cleared up. Also, you girls will be there to protect me, so we have nothing to worry about."

"That is true. But, it is still too dangerous." Melody, who was holding onto William's right arm, was feeling restless at the thought of losing the Half-Elf again.

It was the William who was tainted with darkness that had managed to subdue her, but even then, he treated her with respect, and tenderness, making her fall in love with him.

The current Half-Elf was a stark contrast to his cold and confident persona. He was now very casual, blushed easily, was easily swayed, and worried needlessly. She and her sisters discovered this new personality of his when they dragged him to their room to give him their overflowing love.

Melody, as well as her sisters, loved these traits as well, but she found the red-headed teenager too innocent to deal with the veiled beauty, who didn't bat an eye when it came to cutting off the arms of her sisters.

"Everyone please listen to me," William stated. "I think that if we don't address this now, this might become more troublesome in the future. With the power and influence she wields at the moment, what is stopping her from doing something else? It might be Haleth, Amelia, and Priscilla, right now, but after that? She might also target others."

The Half-Elf shook his head.

"Also, I think she did what she did because she is already aware of my condition," William explained. "I know that this might seem weird coming from me, but I don't think she has any intention of hurting them, or me."

Estelle sighed while gazing at the red-headed teenager, who was being hugged by Lira and Melody.

"You're being too optimistic," Estelle commented. "What would you do if she had intentions to harm you?"

William gave Estelle a bitter smile. Last night, he had a dream. In that dream, he found himself in a very dark place. However, for some reason, he was able to see his surroundings.

Seated on an obsidian throne was an otherworldly beauty that made William's heart skip a beat. He instinctively knew that the person in front of him wasn't a mortal, but a Goddess.

In that dream, the Primordial Goddess and William talked about many things. Perhaps it was about his lovers, his family, his life, his future, and what he should be doing moving forward.

They talked about many things, and yet, he had already forgotten all of them after he woke up, except for one phrase.

"I will never hurt you."

The Half-Elf could feel the sincerity behind her words and, because of this, he was willing to meet with Nisha, whom he believed had ties with the Goddess he met in his dream.

He wanted to tell them about the dream he had, but he felt as if doing it would be wrong for some reason.

But, since he had already decided to meet with her, the Half-Elf remained firm, forcing the ladies around him to compromise.

"Very well, but we three will go with you," Wendy said. "The rest of you will be responsible for gathering Vesta, Anh, and Erinys."

"Oh, please add Princess Aila as well," William interjected. "She holds some of my memories as well."

The Half-Elf then gazed at the black-haired beauty who was paying close attention to him.

"She holds some of my memories of you," William clarified. "Although they are fragmented, I want to know more about you."

Belle felt touched after hearing William's words. Currently, the Half-Elf was unable to hear her voice because the Primordial Goddess had placed a curse on William's body, preventing him from hearing her voice.

Even with the power of the Holy Light, this curse wasn't erased like William's memories, because the power of the Primordial Goddess far exceeded what the scepter of Light could purify.

William didn't know why the Primordial Goddess was targeting Belle. She must have a good reason for doing so, and he wanted to know what that reason was.

"We can't waste anymore time," William said. "The sooner I get my memories, the sooner we can prepare for what is about to come. Just trust me on this one, okay?"

The ladies exchanged glances with each other before nodding their heads.

"Understood, we will believe in you." Wendy nodded.

"Thank you, Wendy," William replied.

When everything was said and done, the flying ship once again resumed its journey, and sped towards the Ainsworth Empire at full speed.

Meanwhile, somewhere in the Temple of the Gods...

"You surprised me," the Primordial Goddess said before moving the Queen Piece forward. "What you did was truly unexpected. How many years did you plan for that to happen?"

"Thousands of years," a beautiful Goddess replied as she moved her knight to press the Primordial Goddess into the defensive. "It wasn't easy, but everything has now come full circle."

The Primordial Goddess nodded, as she lazily rested the side of her face on the palm of her hands, while gazing at the chessboard.

"Do you think they have a chance?" the Primordial Goddess asked as her Queen Piece took down the beautiful Goddess' Bishop.

"There is always hope," the Beautiful Goddess replied as she placed her Queen down, making the Primordial Goddess frown. "But, you're keeping that Hope away. Checkmate."

"Hah... if only the Fate of the World could be decided by a chess game. Alas, that doesn't work in reality, right??"

"Indeed. But, isn't it about time you let go of the grudge you have towards that girl? After all, it has been thousands of years already."

The Primordial Goddess smiled sweetly, and yet, the Beautiful Goddess in front of her knew that this smile wasn't one of happiness, but one of scorn.

"The crime of destroying an entire Pantheon isn't something to be taken lightly."

"Gods are born, and Gods die. You already know that they don't die completely, but just enter another cycle. Isn't it about time you forgive her already?"

"Heh... this is coming from one of the handful of Gods who survived the destruction of her own Pantheon?"

This time, it was the Beautiful Goddess that smiled.

"Aren't you the same?" the Beautiful Goddess asked back. "Hestia is just one of the countless worlds out there in the multiverse. But, those that mattered to us congregated in that world, making it the focus of our attention."

"And yet, it's about to be destroyed."

"Perhaps. But, the least you can do is give it a chance, right? After all, you don't want your favorite... soul to wander aimlessly through the Cycle of Reincarnation for the umpteenth time, right?"

The Primordial Goddess, glanced down from the heavens as if considering the Beautiful Goddess words.

She could see the Flagship of the Holy Order of Light flying towards the Ainsworth Empire, where her Avatar, Nisha, was waiting for William's return.

Her plan had already been flipped completely on its head by the unexpected move of the beautiful goddess in front of her, and all that was left was to pick up the remaining pieces.

It was a very rare occasion, but right now, the Primordial Goddess was given two choices.

Watch the world be destroyed and start from scratch.

Or, give it a chance, and see if a miracle was going to happen.

'Well, I can always drag him to the Elysian Fields at the last second,' the Primordial Goddess thought as she flicked her King Piece, making it fall on the chessboard.

She had waited thousands of years for a chance to get what she wanted. The question was, would she be willing to wait thousands more to get the ending she deserved?

Chapter 1356: By The Gods,I Hate That Woman

The Flying Ship landed inside the Palace Grounds of the Ainsworth Empire.

Immediately, all the Pseudo-Gods, the Demon Patriarchs, as well as William's subordinates, came to greet the return of their Emperor, and Master.

William stood on the deck of the flagship and gazed at everyone that had gathered to meet him. He was overwhelmed by emotions, because he didn't expect that so many would come to see him.

Suddenly, the Half-Elf found himself being hugged by a young nymph who had flown towards him when she heard the news of his arrival.

Loxos clung to the Half-Elf, and kissed him passionately in front of everyone, making those who saw it cheer and whistle because of her boldness.

"Ugh... can't she just wait until it is only the two of them?" Opis, who was feeling embarrassed due to her sister's actions, covered her face.

"You know Loxos doesn't think about these things," Hekaerge commented. "She acts before she thinks."

"That is what makes it worse."

"Well, look at the bright side. At least everyone now recognizes her as William's lover."

When the passionate kiss ended, Loxos pulled back and stared at the Half-Elf whose face had become flushed due to the unexpected turn of events.

"I was very worried," Loxos said as she cupped William's face. "I really thought that I wouldn't see you again."

The Half-Elf was very tempted to say, "Who are you?" but knew that if he said that, the young beauty in front of him might become heartbroken, so he only smiled and patted her head.

"I'm back..."

< Her name is Loxos. >

"I'm back, Loxos," William said softly as he continued to pat the young lady's head. "Have you been good while I was away?"

"Yes," Loxos replied.

She then stood on tiptoe and whispered something in William's ear, making the Half-Elf blush.

"Okay." William nodded. "Let's meet again later."

Loxos' smiled and her smile was so bright, it made William feel guilty about lying to her.

However, since he needed to act like everything was under his control, he walked down the flight of stairs, and descended from the Flying Ship under everyone's gaze.

It was not only his subordinates that had come to greet him. Representatives from the other Kingdoms and Empires of the Central Continent were also there to see him.

After winning the battle against the Holy Order of Light, the Ainsworth Empire had become the center point of everyone's attention within the Central Continent.

Nisha, who was managing the territories under William's command, had dealt with them properly, while waiting for the Half-Elf to return.

"Welcome back, Your Majesty," Nisha bowed respectfully to the Half-Elf who had finally returned to his Empire. "There are many matters of state that need to be discussed, but we can wait until tomorrow to talk. I'm sure that you are tired of your long journey. Your room has already been prepared, and servants are already waiting to assist you. Please, let's head inside the palace."

William nodded as he followed behind Nisha.

Wendy, Estelle, and Belle, were right behind him. Just like their original plan, they wouldn't allow the veiled-lady to take advantage of William in his current state.

Nisha only smiled from underneath her veil when she saw how overprotective William's wives and lovers were of the Half-Elf.

'What are they so worried about?' Nisha thought. 'I'm not going to bite him. Well, on second thought, I might just do that later.'

The veiled-beauty continued to walk along the palace hallways, until they arrived at the Emperor's Chamber, which was William's personal quarters when he was in the Ainsworth Empire.

"Nisha, there is something that I need to talk to you about," William said right after he entered his quarters, alongside his wives. "Are you free right now?"

"Rest for now, Your Majesty, we can talk tomorrow... or tonight if you really want to," Nisha replied. "I have many things to discuss with you, and I hope that we can talk in private."

"Sorry, but we need to talk right now," William insisted. "Time is of the essence for me. Also, I will greatly appreciate it if you wouldn't lie to me."

Nisha observed the Half-Elf whose green eyes locked onto the veil that was covering her face.

"Is it really important?" Nisha asked.

"Very important," William replied. "At least, it is very important to me."

Nisha nodded. "Then, shall we discuss this while properly seated? I've been moving from place to place, and truth be told I'm quite exhausted myself, Your Majesty."

"Of course," William gestured for her to sit on the couch inside his room.

When everyone was properly seated, William asked the most important question of all.

"I need to meet with Haleth, Amelia, and Priscilla, can you tell me where they are?" William asked.

"Of course," Nisha replied. "The three of them are currently assisting me in taking care of the remnants of the Demon Lord's faction. They were feeling restless about not doing anything, so I sent them there to keep their minds occupied."

"Haleth, in particular, was very worried about you, so in order to take her mind off things, she decided to help with the clean up of Felix's underlings for you."

"..."

"..."

"..."

Wendy, Estelle, and Belle didn't expect that the three people that they were looking for had only gone on an errand in the Demon Continent. They had suspected that Nisha might have abducted them and was holding them hostage somewhere in order to force William to listen to her demands.

The Half-Elf also felt relieved because his worst fears hadn't become a reality. The atmosphere inside the room also grew less tense after they found out the whereabouts of the three ladies that they were looking for.

"Do you want to meet them now, Your Majesty?" Nisha asked.

"Yes," William replied. "Can we go right away?"

"But of course," the veiled beauty stood up and extended her hand to the Half-Elf. "I would love to guide his Majesty to meet with them now."

William smiled and accepted her hand, allowing Nisha to pull him up. A moment later, a bright flash of light descended upon the two of them, making them disappear from where they stood.

""... Sh*t.""

The three ladies inside the room cursed out loud after seeing William disappear right in front of them.

After being told that the three ladies they were looking for were just in the Demon Continent, doing a cleanup operation, Wendy, Estelle, and Belle lowered their guard.

Also, since they were in the same room as William, they didn't expect that Nisha would have a way to take the Half-Elf away in a manner that they didn't expect.

"She was granted permission to use the Bifrost Bridge!" Wendy, who was first to realize what had just happened, pinched the bridge of her nose. "By the Gods, I hate that woman."

Estelle and Belle looked at each other in dismay. How could they possibly catch up to Nisha, who could practically use the Bifrost Bridge to take them anywhere in the Central Continent?

"Let's go to the Floor of Asgard." Wendy sighed as she stood up. "Maybe we can track their movements from there. I just hope she doesn't do anything funny to Will."

The three ladies hurried to leave the room and went to look for Astrape and Bronte.

Among William's subordinates, only the two Pseudo-Gods could take people and travel at the speed of lightning towards their destination.

The Primordial Goddess who was watching this scene from the heavens giggled because she had already planted this idea inside Nisha's head the moment she got an opportunity.

Now that the veiled-beauty was alone with the Half-Elf, who had lost his memories, she would be able to have a nice, and long, talk with him, without the interference of his wives and lovers, who stuck to him like glue.

William blinked when he found himself on top of a cliff, overlooking an encampment at the bottom.

Several Demons were moving around, and seemed to be busy hauling supplies from inside a cave. There were also several Humans around, which the Half-Elf assumed to be part of Deus, who were under Nisha's command.

"Look over there, Your Majesty," Nisha pointed in the distance where a lady with long blonde hair, and green eyes, was busy writing something on a scroll.

The red-headed teenager looked at the beautiful lady, whom he had seen from one of the projections that the System had shown him inside his Sea of Consciousness.

'Haleth...,' William thought as he looked at the Half-Elf, who had confessed her feelings for him back in the Trade City of Alabaster.

"Haleth is helping me write the inventory of the supplies they confiscated from Felix's minions who had gone into hiding," Nisha explained. "Fortunately, we managed to capture one of their leaders and tortur— I mean, interrogate them until they spilled the beans."

The corner of William's lips twitched because he had already known how notorious the veiled-woman beside him was. If the latter didn't even bat an eye at dismembering the arms of Celeste and Cherry then what kind of torture had she performed on the pitiful leader that was also one of Felix's former subordinates.

"Ah, looks like the two of them have also finished rounding up the rebels," Nisha stated as she pointed at the flying ship that appeared in the sky. "Can you see them from here, Your Majesty? Amelia and Priscilla are inside that Flying Ship."

The Half-Elf gazed at the flying ship in the distance and narrowed his eyes. As if using a pair of binoculars, his vision zoomed in on the deck of the flying ship, and two pretty ladies. One of them had long green hair, green eyes, and was wearing glasses. He recognized this woman as Amelia.

She was the daughter of the Baron that William helped back in the Southern Continent when their barony was attacked by the Titanic Trollhound.

Beside her was a young lady with long, black hair, similar to Belle.

She was none other than Priscilla, who used to be William's second in command back in the Hellan Royal Academy when he was still in charge of the Angorian War Sovereign.

Priscilla was also Princess Sidonie's loyal subordinate, who served as her spy and infiltrated the Hellan Royal Academy. After Princess Sidonie went with William to the Central Continent, she remained in the Southern Continent to support Princess Sidonie's younger brother, Carl, with managing the Kingdom she had left behind.

"As you can see, Your Majesty, all three of them are safe," Nisha said.

William nodded. "I can see that. Thank you for giving me some peace of mind."

When William held Nisha's hand back in his room inside the Royal Palace, he didn't expect himself to be spirited away to the Demonic Continent in the blink of an eye.

He could already see Wendy, Estelle, and Belle, panicking because of his disappearance, which gave him a headache.

Nisha, who was responsible for his sudden disappearance, was taking things in stride, and even had a sweet smile on her face. It seemed that she found kidnapping William in front of his wives a very amusing thing to do.

"Is there anything else that you would like to see, Your Majesty?" Nisha asked. "If not, I would like to have a nice, long chat with you about very important matters."

The veiled-beauty held William's hand, and pressed it over her chest, making the Half-Elf blush.

He was still not used to the bold advances of the beautiful women around him, and wondered how his former self was able to handle several women at once when they asked him to make love with them.

"Important matters?" William asked back. "What kind of important matters?"

Nisha didn't reply right away. Instead, she took off her veil as she stood in front of the Half-Elf. She then wrapped her arms around his waist, pulling him close to her, until their faces were only a few inches apart.

The Half-Elf subconsciously took a deep breath when he saw the otherworldly beauty standing in front of him.

Nisha was probably one, if not of the most beautiful woman that William had seen in his lifetime, and that was something coming from someone who was always surrounded by beautiful women.

Her body gave off a faint smell of flowers that made him feel as if all of his worries had disappeared completely.

She had long black hair that reached down to her waist, and a pair of golden eyes that seemed to suck the soul out of anyone who saw them.

The Half-Elf could feel himself being reeled in by her gaze, but before he could completely fall into those golden depths, he forcefully tore his gaze away, allowing him to regain his composure.

"The reason why I wear a veil is because anyone who sees me would more or less have the same reaction," Nisha whispered in William's ears. "The weaker men would be helplessly charmed by my beauty, making them slaves to my whims. The strong-willed ones would covet my beauty, and want me to become their possession.

"However, none of them succeeded. To this day, the only one whom I've given my body to is you, but I'm sure you can't remember it now."

Nisha giggled as she took a step back, allowing William to take a breather. She found the current Half-Elf quite adorable, and was quite tempted to tease him, but Nisha knew that behind that innocent, and somewhat flustered appearance, was a young man who had experienced many things that even the most seasoned warrior hadn't seen in their lifetime.

"Are you ready to talk now, Your Majesty?" Nisha asked.

William took a few deep breaths before he finally regained his composure. After making sure that his heart was stable, he once again gazed at the beautiful woman before nodding his head.

"Good." Nisha smiled. "Now, it is time for us to have a serious talk."

Suddenly, everything became dark.

William almost panicked because he couldn't see anything.

He couldn't see the sun.

The Demons and Humans were gone.

Haleth, Amelia, and Priscilla were nowhere to be seen.

Everything had suddenly winked out of existence, until the only thing that surrounded him was pitch-black Darkness.

As a Half-Elf, who could see even in the dimmest cave, staring into complete and utter Darkness made his heart beat wildly inside his chest.

Suddenly, somewhere in that darkness, a soft, and silky voice reached William's ears, making him feel as if a heavy pressure had descended over his shoulders.

"Who is more foolish? The child that is afraid of the dark, or the man that is afraid of the light?"

There was a faint trace of mischievousness in the voice, which made William wonder if the speaker wanted him to answer her questions, or if she just said that to tease the Half-Elf whose breathing had become ragged.

Optimus had already told him that the being that lurked within the Darkness was the same person that had turned him into the Prince of Darkness.

Because of this, he raised his guard and steeled his heart, as he waited for the Primordial Goddess to finally make her appearance.

Chapter 1358: Ten Thousand Year Grudge [Part 2]

William didn't have to wait long for the voice to speak to him once again, telling him a story that he didn't know.

"Eons ago, when there was only Darkness in the universe and, contrary to popular belief, I was the second existence that came into being..."

The owner of the voice said these words fondly, as if reminiscing of a distant past that no longer existed.

"In the beginning there was Chaos," the voice said softly. "Then, the Protogenoi, who are also referred to as the Primordial Gods, came into existence.

"Void, Darkness, Earth, Sky, Mountains, Sea, Underworld, Light, Day, and Love.

"They were the first existences to exist during a time when there was nothing else in the universe.

"And... through Love, many others were born.

"The earth was filled with creatures, both fair and hideous, and the Gods came into being. After hundreds of years of evolution, different races and civilizations thrived. Among them, Humanity was the

most populous, allowing them to spread to all corners of the world, carrying their beliefs, and venturing into the unknown.

"Their lives were very frail, and subjected to the whims of the Gods, who controlled the elements, and wielded powers that mere mortals weren't able to fathom. And yet, these frail, and short-lived creatures, were the very pillars that kept these mighty beings into existence."

There was a short pause as if giving William time to digest the words that had been spoken. A minute later, the Goddess who lurked within the Darkness continued her tale.

"The lives of Gods weren't that peaceful," the voice stated. "Even among themselves, grudges, jealousy, schemes, deception, and paranoia were rampant."

The owner of the voice chuckled, as if to ridicule these petty squabbles among existences that stood above the mortal realm.

"Then war happened.

"A War between Gods, which shook the very foundations of the world, destroying the land, and changing it in ways that one couldn't even imagine. For ten years, the Gods fought against each other, until a victor emerged from the chaos.

"After that great war, a time of peace settled across the land, and one of the first Pantheons in existence came to be. Everything went well at the start, until the Head of the Gods went to spread his seed to every beauty that he laid his eyes on."

Another chuckle filled with ridicule reverberated in the surroundings before the Goddess continued where she left off.

"This God had dethroned his father, and threw him into the pit known as the Underworld. He thought that everything was over then, but to his surprise, a prophecy came into existence.

"You who have overthrown your father will one day suffer the same fate.

"That was the prophecy that made him stop his affairs in the mortal realm, lest he be dethroned from the seat which he had strived hard to get. But, as if due to a twist of fate, this child, who shouldn't have been born, was born... thanks to a Goddess who had nurtured the God, who claimed the seat as the King of all Gods.

"Oh... the irony. To this day, I didn't see it coming. Eventually, the God, who proclaimed himself to be the King of Gods, thought that he succeeded. But, alas, her foster mother wasn't able to stop herself from caring for the poor soul, whose existence was denied."

A light snort was heard within the darkness before the words of the Goddess once again reached William's ears.

"She sent the soul of the unborn child into the Cycle of Reincarnation, in exchange for her Divinity. This Tender Goddess placed a condition on the soul that it wouldn't be born on the same plane existence as his father. After that, she took to the Heavens and became a constellation. Watching over him, laughing with him, crying with him, and wishing him happiness in his life.

"But, something unexpected happened. This soul, who was in the future, suddenly found himself in the past. Meeting the God who was supposed to be father, and even fought against him. Their battle shook the heavens, made the lands tremble, and made the heart of a certain Goddess... skip a beat."

A solemn silence then descended within that pitch-black world that lasted for several minutes before an Obsidian throne appeared before William. Seated on it was the Primordial Goddess, who looked at the Half-Elf with a smile that was sweet enough to rot his teeth.

"Oh, just to make things clear, that Goddess was not me," the Primordial Goddess said. "I only fell in love with you after I watched your struggles for hundreds of years, after I became aware of your existence."

The Primordial Goddess snapped her fingers and the image of blonde-haired beauty, with blue eyes, appeared in front of William. Her beauty paled in comparison to the Primordial Goddess in front of him, but there was this calmness that soothed William's soul as he looked at the Young Goddess in front of him.

"This young Goddess didn't command the elements. She couldn't make the wind blow for her sake. She couldn't make the sea split apart, so she could walk on on the dry ground beneath it, nor could bend the will of the mortals, in order to make them do her bidding.

"She didn't have that power. But, the power she wielded was very important to the Gods of that Pantheon. If that soul hadn't traveled back in time to meet her, as well as defeat her father in front of her, which made her fall in love with him, perhaps that Pantheon would still exist. Alas, she fell in love, and because of that, she cast aside her Divinity of Eternal Youth.

"This was the power that kept the Gods and Goddesses of that Pantheon young, allowing them to live for thousands of years, making them nearly immortal.

"But, after she cast aside her identity as a Goddess, to follow that young man whom she had fallen in love with, the Gods of that world, slowly aged. The civilization of the people that worshiped them also waned, making them lose their power as the years went by.

"The Goddess of Eternal Youth might have thought that her disappearance wouldn't be a big deal to the Gods, but contrary to what she thought, the importance of her existence was irreplaceable. No one before, or after her, managed to take her place, and because of that, one of the first, and strongest, Pantheons in existence was buried in history."

The image of the Young Goddess disappeared from that Dark World, and the Primordial Goddess who sat on the throne looked at William with a sad expression on her face.

"That young Goddess' name was Hebe," the Primordial Goddess said softly. "But, she now has a different name. After thousands of years of death and rebirth, her wish has been granted. She was now married to the person whom she fell in love with. Now, here is a little question, my beloved William...

"Do you know who Hebe is in this current generation?"

The Half-Elf bit his lips because even though he had lost his memories, and had no recollection of his other past lives, it was quite easy to know who the Primordial Goddess was talking about.

The one person that she couldn't forgive, even if thousands of years had passed.

It was none other than the black-haired beauty, who William met on Earth, and the person whom the Primordial Goddess wanted the red-headed teenager to forget.

"Belle," William said firmly. "Her name is Belle."

Chapter 1359: Ten Thousand Year Grudge [Part 3]

"Belle," William said firmly. "Her name is Belle."

"Right," the Primordial Goddess replied. "Just a single person, but the ripple she created when she left shook the very foundations of a Pantheon that once stood above others. Now, they only exist in Myths and Legends. So, in a way, the Prophecy succeeded in a roundabout manner."

The Primordial Goddess crossed one of her legs over the other before giving William a smirk.

"You who have overthrown your father will one day suffer the same fate."

the Primordial Goddess lightly tapped the armrest of her throne as she arched an eyebrow at the Half-Elf, who was digesting everything she had said.

"And it all started with you going to the past, meeting Hebe, and fighting your father in a duel that made her fall in love with you," the Primordial Goddess added. "Aside from the Primordial Gods and the first generation Protogenoi, all Gods age. The Power of Belief sustains them, and they could live for tens of thousands of years without a problem.

"But, Time doesn't wait for anyone, including Gods. Slowly, but surely, they too, will age, with very few exceptions—like those who already live in the Underworld, and those who maintain the balance of the worlds, like the Gods of Destruction and the Gods of Rebirth. Even if they lived for a million years, age will still catch up to them and they, too, will fade and join the other Gods before them who have disappeared from the Temple of the Ten Thousand Gods."

William took a deep breath before clenching his fists.

"So, are you saying that it is Belle's fault that the Gods that belonged to your lineage died?" William asked. "Is this the reason why you have been targeting her?"

"Yesn't," the Primordial Goddess replied. "It is not solely because of me, but the lingering hate of the Gods who blamed her for their demise."

"Is there a way to remove that grudge?"

"Of course there is. But, you already know the answer to that, right?"

William frowned. Optimus had already told him that in order for the souls of his wives to be returned with him, Belle must die. Naturally, this was an outcome that he didn't want to happen. Because of this, he needed to negotiate with the Primordial Goddess, who was keeping the will of the Gods that died.

A grudge that lasted for ten thousand years.

"Aside from Belle's death, is there really no other choice?" William insisted. "There must be another way, right?"

"I wonder?" the Primordial Goddess gave the Half-Elf a teasing smile. "Well, I guess there is a way. But, in order for the past grudges to be resolved, you need to pay the corresponding price. Are you prepared for that?"

"Yes."

"Good."

The Primordial Goddess then waved her hand and the projection of a battlefield appeared in front of William.

Countless Giants could be seen for miles on end, numbering in the tens of millions. The weakest of them were Millennial Ranked, which comprised half of their entire army. The remaining half was composed of Myriad Beasts, over a Thousand Demigods, Hundreds of Pseudo-Gods, and three True Gods of Destruction.

It was a force that could easily destroy a world, if they all attacked at the same time.

"If you manage to survive the onslaught of the Army of Destruction, I will consider past and present grudges wiped clean," the Primordial Goddess stated. "But, this is just one of the conditions. There are two more."

"I'm all ears," William replied.

Since the battle with the Army of Destruction was already inevitable, this condition was fine with him. If he didn't win the battle against them, there was no need to worry about what would happen in the future because he would already be dead.

"If you manage to win the war, you must name your first child with Nisha, Dias," the Primordial Goddess giggled. "Just so you know, that child is destined to overthrow you when he grows up."

The corner of William's lips twitched. If he survived the war against the Army of Destruction, his own son would overthrow him?

Not a chance!

"Okay, I agree to this condition," William replied. 'I'll make sure to discipline him properly, so he won't do such a thing when he grows up.'

"Heh~" The Primordial Goddess smirked after hearing William's thoughts. "You are quite optimistic, aren't you?"

William ignored the Primordial Goddess' teasing remark and asked for the third condition.

"The last condition is simple," the Primordial Goddess said as she pointed at the constellation that appeared in the sky above her domain. "You are going to ignore her for the rest of your life."

The constellation above the heavens shone brilliantly, and the colors of the stars turned crimson red. Clearly, the constellation was not pleased with the last condition that the Primordial Goddess gave, making the Half-Elf sweat buckets because the last condition was a death flag.

"I'm just joking," the Primordial Goddess giggled after seeing William's constipated expression. Clearly, she was just making fun of the Peeping Tom who was eavesdropping on her conversation with the red-headed teenager.

It was then that a serious expression flashed over the face of the Primordial Goddess.

"I want Ahriman's Soul," the Primordial Goddess stated. "If you are able to give that to me, as well as abide by the two conditions I stated, I will not lift a finger, move my lips, or bat my eye against Belle. All past and present grudges will be wiped clean."

"Okay," William agreed to the Primordial Goddess' conditions. "I also have a condition."

"Oh? Did I hear properly? Are you asking me for a condition?"

"Yes. My chances of winning against the Army of Destruction are already abysmally low. If there will still be infighting between Nisha and me, then that already low chance will become zero."

"So, you don't want to have any infighting between you and Nisha's forces, right?"

William nodded.

"Okay, I can agree to this," the Primordial Goddess. "From this moment onwards, she will not target any of your wives, lovers, or do anything that might jeopardize the preparation against the war with the Army of Destruction."

"Thank you," William bowed his head respectfully. "Um. If possible, I'd like to ask a favor. Could you help return the soul of my wives to me?"

"Hahaha." The Primordial Goddess laughed sarcastically. "Very funny. If you want your wives back, get them back yourself. Just remember that if you ever face Thanatos, you will not only be facing the God of Death, but a Father who had his precious daughter taken from him.

"Erinys is one of my granddaughters, so I want her to be happy as well. But, this issue must be settled between you and Thanatos. I have no intention of being a third wheel."

William sighed. He knew that the possibility of getting the souls of his wives back by asking the Primordial Goddess to intervene was small. Even so, he still thought that it wouldn't hurt to ask. Now that he knew that Erinys' father, Thanatos, was going to make things difficult for him, he was now feeling uneasy about how he could take his wives back from the God of Death, who wanted to tear him apart.

"Go," the Primordial Goddess said as she waved her hand. "I hope that the next time we meet will be under better circumstances. Goodluck, my Prince, your greatest challenge is yet to begin."

Soon, the dark world, and the Primordial Goddess, disappeared.

The Half-Elf found himself staring at a clear blue sky, and a gentle breeze blowing against him.

"Did you have a nice nap, Your Majesty?" Nisha, who was currently providing William with a lap pillow, asked.

"Nisha?" William blinked. "How long have I been napping?"

"Four hours."

"Eh?"

William couldn't believe that he had spent four hours talking to the Primordial Goddess. Their discussion hadn't even lasted for more than an hour, but after giving it some thought, the Half-Elf decided to not worry about it.

Just as he was about to prop himself up from Nisha's lap pillow, a brilliant flash of light appeared beside him.

Within that light, Wendy, Estelle, Belle, Astrape, Bronte, and Titania, emerged.

The six ladies glanced down on the Half-Elf, whose head was resting on Nisha's lap with steely gazes.

William knew then and there that things were about to get messy if he didn't clear things up with the six ladies who had spent several hours tracking their location with the help of the Bifrost Bridge.

Chapter 1360: Bittersweet Memories

After clearing things up with his women, William returned to the Thousand Beast Domain to run away from the aftermath.

However, before leaving, he made sure to take Princess Aila with him.

Haleth, Amelia, and Priscilla would return to the Ainsworth Empire in the morning after they finished wrapping up the missions that had been assigned to them.

Because of this, he decided to retrieve the fragmented memories he had of Belle, that his past self had given to the angelic Princess for safekeeping, first.

"You look very troubled, Will," Princess Aila said as she gazed at his face. "Is there something wrong?"

"Yes," William replied as he looked at the naked, angelic beauty in front of him, who was also inside the bathtub with him, and currently straddling his lap. "Something is rising, and it's not the Shield Hero."

"Rising?" Princess Aila tilted her head. "Shield Hero? You're funny, Will."

The angelic beauty smiled sweetly, which melted William's heart. Among his lovers, Optimus told him that Princess Aila was the shyest among them all.

However, that shy person was now alone with him inside the bathtub, and pressing her soft, and fragrant body against him.

William didn't expect that his casual favor of having Belle's memory returned to him by the Princess would lead to this scenario, where the angelic beauty would take a bath with him.

Frankly, just like William's other lovers, Princess Aila wanted to be with him. But, with so many women wanting to have some time alone with the handsome Half-Elf, the "shy" princess needed to take the initiative in order to have some quality time with her lover, who had lost his memories.

"I missed you, Will," Princess Aila said softly. "I'm sorry because I am unable to help you recover all of your memories."

William felt an ache in his chest after seeing the teary expression of the lady in front of him. He then lightly pulled Princess Aila close to him, and kissed her soft lips, making her forget the worries inside her heart.

Shannon had told him that if there came a time when he felt that his wives and lovers were feeling sad, or troubled, the quick fix was to give them a kiss, to help lighten their mood.

He didn't know if what the fox lady told him was the truth, but after seeing Princess Aila's expression, he decided to give it a try.

Soon, only the sounds of kissing echoed inside the bathroom, as the Half-Elf, and the angelic beauty in his arms, kissed, until they panted for breath.

"Are you feeling better?" William asked after he regained his composure.

"Yes," Princess Aila replied with a slight blush on her face. "Your kiss is clumsier compared to how you kissed me in the past, but it feels good as well."

William smiled. He was still not used to being surrounded by so many beautiful women, but he had to admit that having them around made him feel at ease.

"Can you return my memories of Belle?" William inquired. "I really need them."

Princess Aila nodded. "Of course. Now, close your eyes."

William obeyed. A moment later, he could hear and feel the water being drained from the bathtub. He also felt a pair of soft lips pressed over his own, and his manhood sliding inside Princess Aila's... until its tip kissed the entrance of her womb.

However, before he could do anything else, a flood of information passed inside his mind, filling up the blank spaces in his memory.

Within a field of flowers, with fireworks illuminating the night sky, a young teenager stood.

The scene looked so picturesque, and yet, William could only see sadness emanating from the red-headed teenager, as he gazed upon the heavens.

Suddenly, a pair of slender arms wrapped themselves around his body from behind.

William saw the teenager look up to see a beautiful lady smiling down on him.

A moment later, the black-haired beauty lowered her lips to kiss him.

The Half-Elf watched as their kiss ended.

He watched as the two talked heart to heart with each other, surrounded by a field of flowers, with the moon and the stars shining down on them.

"Belle, for me, You are the beginning of a letter, the contents of a poem, the ending of a Fairytale," William said after he finished putting the ring on Belle's finger. "I don't know what the future holds, but I will do my best to find you."

Yes. He said those words to her back then. But, in the end, it was Belle who found him.

It was her who crossed that insurmountable distance between their two worlds to be with him.

"Let us make some ground rules before you return to your world," Belle said with a serious expression. "If you marry dozens of wives I will castrate you."

"Okay," William replied. "I didn't intend to have dozens of wives in the first place."

William shuddered after hearing Belle's threat, and his promise.

He had already surpassed the limit that she had set for him. Did that mean that his Little Brother really would have to be chopped off?

'She's not really going to castrate me, right?' William thought as he continued to watch the scene in front of him.

Soon, the image of the flower field disappeared, and was replaced by a wedding.

His Wedding.

"Should anyone present know of any reason that this couple should not be joined in holy matrimony, speak now or forever hold your peace," the priest said as he looked at the people inside the church.

It was at that moment when William remembered the face of his grandfather, James, who had appeared on Earth just in time to facilitate his wedding with Belle.

A man then suddenly opposed the marriage, but his Grandpa threw a wooden mallet at the guy's face, making him lose consciousness.

"Is there anyone else who opposes this marriage?" James asked in a challenging tone.

William couldn't help but chuckle because even he wouldn't oppose his own wedding, if the priest who was in charge of it was his grandpa, who was hell-bent to have their bloodline spread far and wide.

"With the blessing of everyone who is present here today, I now pronounce both of you husband and wife," James said before giving William a wink. "You may now kiss the bride."

That was the day when William got married to Belle, and the day that Hebe's Ten-Thousand-Year wish became a reality.

Several more scenes happened after that. William visiting the kids in the orphanage with Belle and giving them toys, and their last bittersweet goodbye before he left Earth to return to Hestia.

His memories with Belle weren't that many, but they were enough.

As the memories firmly rooted themselves inside his mind, a single tear streamed down the side of William's face, which Princess Aila caught with her fingertips.

She then placed it inside her lips to taste it because she instinctively felt to do so.

The taste of William's tear was bittersweet.

She had already finished transferring the memories to the Half-Elf, who still had his eyes closed. The angelic princess knew that William was currently watching the scenes of his memory, and the tear he shed just now was proof that his memories of Belle had finally been restored.

A few minutes later, William opened his eyes. No more tears streamed down the side of his face, and yet, he felt very sad after regaining his memories.

So little of his memories remained of Belle, which proved that he was really on the verge of forgetting her completely by the time he could pass his memories to Princess Aila.

This realization made his heart ache, as he thought of his older self, who desperately tried to preserve Belle's memories, while his soul was slowly being corrupted by darkness.

"It's fine," Princess Aila said as she pulled William's head close to her chest, in order to help calm him down. "You're going to be fine."

Soon, the angelic Princess felt something warm sliding down her chest, as William's tears finally fell like rain.

Princess Aila held him close, and lightly patted his head. She allowed him to cry because this was part of the healing process. The Princess who had used all of her courage to be with William, was now giving him the courage to overcome the sadness he was feeling.

An hour later, William finally stopped crying, and the angelic Princess did her best, to make her lover temporarily forget the sadness of having his memory returned to him, by making him feel the love and affection that only she could provide to him.