

Strongest 1411

Chapter 1411: Playtime's Over [Part 1]

"You've got spunk, but can you back it up... boy?" Thanatos asked.

Suddenly, the Fourth Layer of Hell trembled as the Lord of the Underworld prepared to fight the bastard that kidnapped his daughter, right under his nose.

"Sweep away all Adversaries!" William roared as he summoned the golden cudgel that would allow him to fight to his fullest.

"Ruyi Jingu Bang!"

Thanatos sneered as he disappeared from where he stood a moment ago, and reappeared in front of the Half-Elf who noticed that his summon had not taken effect.

"Die!" Thanatos kicked the red-headed teenager's chest, sending him crashing towards the ground.

"Will!" Erinys shouted in fright when she sawt the Half-Elf take a direct hit from her father, whose blazing eyes were filled with fury.

Chiffon, Princess Sidonie, Morgana, and Ashe all glanced in the direction where their husband had fallen with anxious gazes.

They had seen William fight before, and knew that whenever he was in a pinch, he would use his Heroic Avatar, to gain Sun Wukong's power and sturdiness, allowing him to fight opponents who were stronger than him.

Thanatos looked down at the ground, which was now covered by a dust cloud. He intended to beat the Half-Elf and make him regret he was ever born, so he made sure to control his strength so that his prey wouldn't die until he had his fill of suffering.

The sound of a cough then spread across the battlefield before the dust cloud dispersed, showing the red-headed teenager trying to pop himself up from the ground while coughing up blood.

"What's wrong?" Thanatos asked in a teasing tone. "Did you lose your ability to fight after losing your connection with that monkey?"

William wiped the blood at the corner of his lips with the back of his hand before looking up at the Death God who had a sneer on his face.

He could still feel Sun Wukong's connection with him, but for some reason, he was unable to use his Heroic Avatar and summon the Monkey King to the Underworld.

"Boy, this is the Land of the Dead," Thanatos said. "All the entryways to the Underworld were sealed long ago. Even if you call upon that Monkey, he won't be able to come to your rescue. So, just be obedient and allow yourself to get beaten up!"

The God of Death once again disappeared from his spot and reappeared in front of William.

Before the Half-Elf could even react, Thanatos right foot collided with the side of his face, sending him skidding across the ground face first.

However, the God of Death wasn't finished. As the Half-Elf's body continued to skid across the ground, he disappeared from where he stood once again and reappeared above William.

He then smashed his foot against the Half-Elf's chest, pinning him to the ground. A mile-wide crater then spread across their surroundings as Thanatos grounded his foot into the Half-Elf's body as the Half-Elf screamed in pain.

"Does it hurt?" Thanatos asked. "You have no idea how much it hurts having your daughter taken from you by a mongrel who only managed to enter my Domain because of someone's backing!"

The God of Death once again kicked William, sending him towards the City Walls of Lust's Abode, breaking everything in his path.

"Dammit!"

Sun Wukong, who was watching the battle from the heavens, smashed his fist against the temple's floor in anger. He had tried to enter the Underworld repeatedly, but just as the God of Death had said, all the entrances were shut tight, preventing any one, except for the souls of the dead, from passing through them.

"This is what you really are, Half-Elf." Thanatos spat on the ground. "Without outside help, you are nothing! You only got this far because there are people who are always helping you in the background. People sacrificing their lives for you! The reason why you are living now is because of luck! Nothing more, nothing less!"

The God of Death then stared at the flying ship where his daughter was currently at.

"Take a good look, Erinys," Thanatos said. "Take a good look at the man you thought would make you happy. You thought that he could protect you? He can't even protect himself!"

The God of Death's words were filled with hate as he unsummoned his Deathscythe. He then raised his right arm and pointed it in William's direction.

A moment later, several Death Rays escaped his hand and descended on the Half-Elf, creating explosions that shook the Fourth Layer of the Underworld.

Those who stayed in Lust's Abode ran in different directions, and fled from the location where William was.

None of them wanted to be involved in this one-sided battle against the God of Death, whose anger knew no bounds.

"Stop it!" Erinys shouted. "Please, stop it Father!"

Thanatos stopped his onslaught and glanced in the direction of his daughter whose tears were streaming down the side of her face.

"Do you want me to stop, Erinys?" Thanatos asked.

Before Erinys could even answer, a loud shout emerged from where William was at.

"I'm fine, Erinys!" William shouted as he propped himself from the ground. His clothes were already tattered, and several wounds dyed his body in the color of blood.

"Oh, you're still fine?" Thanatos laughed. "Good. I still haven't had my fill yet!"

The God of Death then used both of his hands to unleash several Deathrays in William's direction, pummeling the Half-Elf's body like a punching bag, making the latter scream in pain.

"That's it! Scream!" Thanatos roared. "Scream for me! You're just a pathetic worm who thinks he is special because he is favored by two Goddesses! Scum like you should know your place!"

"Noooooooo! Stop it!" Erinys shouted.

Knowing that her father wasn't planning to stop, she urged her Flying Ship to fly towards William. The Half-ling planned to use her Flying Ship to block her father's attacks, but the latter understood what she was planning.

With a snap of his finger, hundreds of dark chains sprouted from the ground and bound the Flying Ship, preventing it from moving forward.

He also made sure to create a dome in order to trap his daughter, preventing her from leaving the ship and coming to the Half-Elf's aid.

What he wanted to do was to show Erinys' William's pathetic state to let her know that she chose the wrong person to love. He wanted to make her understand that the person she chose didn't have the power to protect her from anything.

Only he, who was a God and ruled over Death, could truly protect her.

The corner of the Primordial Goddess' lips rose slightly as she watched the battle. Although the Half-Elf was suffering, she couldn't help but think that this entire event was amusing.

She was the one that orchestrated for the soul of William's wives to be taken to the Underworld.

She was also the one that set the condition that in exchange for the safety of his wives, he must kill Belle in exchange for allowing the souls of his wives to return to the surface world.

Now that the deal was no longer possible, she wanted to know how the Half-Elf would handle Thanatos' wrath, who seemed intent on making the Half-Elf suffer.

"You're not allowed to help him, okay?" the Primordial Goddess said as she looked up at the constellation that was shining brightly above her. "This is a battle between men. Us ladies have no place in it."

The light on the constellation flickered brightly as if telling the Primordial Goddess to mind her own business, making the latter giggle.

Although the radiance from the constellation was becoming more intense, it didn't do anything, and simply glared at the God of Death, who was hell-bent on making the Shepherd she raised suffer from his one-sided beating.

Chapter 1412: Playtime's Over [Part 2]

The Half-Elf collapsed on the ground covered in wounds.

It took everything he had to remain conscious after the God of Death's repeated attacks on his body. He could tell that Thanatos had no intention of killing him, but that didn't stop the latter from making him suffer excruciating pain until his life hung by a hair's breadth.

Right now, he couldn't even move a finger, due to the injuries he received.

"Please, Father," Erinys pleaded. "Please stop hurting Will."

Thanatos snorted before crossing his arms over his chest.

"I will spare him, but you must promise to remain here in the Underworld with me," Thanatos replied. "You can no longer return to the surface world, and you will break all of your connections with this weakling. You are also not allowed to see, or talk to him in any way possible. If you agree to these conditions, I will let the Half-Elf go."

Erinys looked at William who wasn't moving from the ground and bit her lip. She didn't want the Half-Elf to suffer, and if she could trade herself for his safety then she would gladly do it.

"If I do as you ask, will you allow him to take the souls of his wives back to the Surface World as well?" Erinys asked as her vision blurred due to her tears that were falling like rain.

"Yes," Thanatos replied. "I will allow it."

The Half-ling took one more glance at the Half-Elf whose blood had already started to create a small puddle on the ground. Erinys knew that if this continued, even if her father was holding back, the person she loved would die.

Because of this, she took a deep breath and opened her lips to give her father an answer.

"Believe in him."

The Half-ling looked down at the crystal vials that she was holding in her hands.

Chiffon, Princess Sidonie, Morgana, and Ashe, looked at her with determined expressions on their faces.

"Stop interfering, you pests!" Thanatos roared as he raised his hand to make a grabbing motion.

A moment later, the crystal vials in Erinys hands floated in the air and flew in the direction of the God of Death, who grabbed them firmly in his hands.

"If I knew that all of you would just cause me endless trouble, I would have minded my own business and allowed Ahriman to absorb all of your souls," Thanatos gripped the crystal vials firmly, causing its exterior to crack. "You ungrateful wenches! I should have thrown all of you into the River of Flames where all of you belonged!"

Thanatos crushed the crystal vials, causing Chiffon's, Princess Sidonie's, Morgana's, and Ashe's Souls to float around him.

"I've been too soft as of late, I should have made you understand who makes the rules in this place!" Thanatos growled.

The God of Death then summoned hell flames to burn the souls of William's wives, making the Half-ling who was still bound inside the flying ship to scream in anger, fear, and frustration.

William had come to the Underworld to save his wives, and if their Souls were bathed in Hell Flame, it would cause severe damages to their souls. Even if William succeeded in returning their souls to their bodies back in the surface world, it was possible that they would remain in a vegetative state for life.

However, before the Hellish Flames could reach the soul of the four ladies, a wooden staff smashed into the side of Thanatos's face, making him take a few steps back.

"The truth is, I sympathize with you," William said as he slowly moved the fingers on his hand.

"If I had a daughter as loveable as Erinys, I would probably lock her up as well to prevent her from getting hurt."

The Half-Elf who had been lying on the ground earlier, slowly propped himself up using his right hand.

"If there was a guy who suddenly appeared to take her away from me, I would also beat the crap out of him until he was half dead.

"However, I disagree with your methods of parenting," The color of William's hair slowly turned silver. "You have done everything in your power to protect your daughter, but you have failed as a father."

"If I have a daughter like Erinys, I will never, ever, leave her alone, making her feel lonely."

The Half-Elf then raised his head to look at the God of Death with a steely gaze.

"I will give her the best presents on her birthday, and tell her Happy Birthday.

"I will take her to the amusement park on the weekends to have fun.

"I will buy her toys that she can play with.

"I will make sure that she is always smiling.

"And last but not the least, I will tell her I love her.

The wooden staff that had accompanied William since he was a baby flew in his direction, and the Half-Elf held it firmly in his hands, using it as something to lean on to support his body.

"You've already hurt your daughter, and now you plan to hurt my wives?!" the Half-Elf roared as the wounds on his body started to heal at a rapid pace.

His green-eyes, which glowed like emeralds, slowly turned golden, and a pair of white wings sprouted from his back.

"It's hard to fight with only a quarter of my soul," William stated as the white gem in his chest turned blue.

Chiffon's, Princess Sidonie's, Morgana's, and Ashe's souls, flew towards his chest, merging with him.

A golden flame suddenly appeared on William's forehead, and two small horns grew out of his head.

Particles of blue light spread out from under his feet, making him float in the air, as if they were some kind of rocket booster.

"My soul may not be complete," William said. "But now, the sleeping part of my soul has finally merged together, allowing me to have half of my soul."

A shockwave erupted within the Fourth Layer of the Underworld with William at the center.

His rank that had stagnated at the peak of the Demigod Rank, had finally broken through after the other half of his soul, which had been sleeping in the Bell of Amalthea finally awakened, allowing him to break through to the Pseudo-God Rank.

Holding the wooden staff in his hand, a weapon that had rightfully belonged to him since birth, the Half-Elf faced the God of Death, who had re-summoned his Deathscythe.

"Playtime's over, Boy," Thanatos declared as the Deathscythe in his hand turned crimson.

William faced the God of Death fearlessly as the silhouettes of his wives appeared behind him, supporting him in his fight, by lending him their powers.

"Yes," William replied as a small spark ignited within the depths of his golden eyes.

Even though he had become a Pseudo-God, it was still too early for him to fight against a God.

But, right now, he felt as if he had awakened a small part of the power that had long remained dormant in his soul.

A power that had accompanied him throughout his past lifetimes.

A power that was supposed to become part of a prophecy that had been fulfilled in a roundabout manner.

Deep inside William's subconscious mind, Optimus felt himself shudder, half in excitement, and half in fear of the unknown potential that William was slowly, but surely, starting to awaken from its thousands of years of slumber.

Chapter 1413: You Don't Have A Sense Of Humor

A few minutes before Thanatos descended on the Fourth Layer of the Underworld...

Calli, who had just left the Fourth layer after meeting Erinys, suddenly found herself frozen in place.

Suddenly, her entire vision was warped by a bright flash of light. When the light receded, she found herself face to face with the God of Death, whose eyes had already started to blaze crimson.

"You have met Erinys," the God of Death stated. "Tell me, where did you see my daughter?"

It wasn't a question, but a direct order, making Calli's body shudder. All of the Ferryman of the Underworld were personally chosen by the God of Death.

They had gained a unique privilege that others could only dream of in the Underworld, which had allowed them to live a life of comfort. However, all of them were subject to the whims of the God of Death.

If Thanatos no longer had any need for them, they would be stripped off of their roles, and tossed into the River of Flames as punishment for breaking his trust.

It was at that moment when Calli found herself choosing between the happiness of her best friend and her safety.

Her teeth chattered due to fear and anxiety because she knew, with utmost certainty, that she couldn't lie to the God of Death.

Because of her current panicked state, she had temporarily lost her voice, which made Thanatos impatient.

Without another word, the God of Death placed his hand on Calli's head and forcefully extracted her memories.

He had placed a spell on all of the Ferryman of the Underworld that the moment they met Erinys, they would immediately be transported to his Palace, where he could extract the information from their lips, or their brains, if they refused to cooperate.

Half a minute later, the God of Death tossed the body of the crippled Ferryman to the floor before teleporting out of his palace to descend to the Fourth Layer of the Underworld.

"E-Erinys...", Calli said in a hoarse voice as she tried to prop herself up, but she no longer had the strength to do it.

Eriny's best friend collapsed on the floor as tears streamed down the side of her face.. "R-Run... Erinys. He is... coming."

After squeezing out those words from her lips, Calli lost consciousness.

As much as she wanted to keep Erinys' location a secret, there was nothing she could do against the God of Death who ruled the Underworld and held their Fates in his hands.

Fourth Layer of the Underworld, Lust's Abode...

Erinys' flying ship, which had been shackled by countless dark chains, swayed in place as strong gusts of wind blew across the Fourth Layer of the Underworld.

William and Thanatos had exchanged several attacks with each other with the Half-Elf always being blown away with each exchange. However, he always managed to regain his balance before Thanatos could follow up with his attack, which the Half-Elf would always dodge by a hair's breadth.

"Die!" Thanatos unleashed countless Death Rays at the Half-Elf who was zigzagging across the sky, evading his attacks with the help of Optimus' high-speed calculations.

"Quickshot War Arts First Form," William roared as he dodged the Death Rays that fell on him like rain.

"Railgun!"

A brilliant flash of light erupted from the tip of William's wooden staff, dispersing the Death Rays in front of it before speeding towards Thanatos, who blocked it with his Death Scythe.

The God of Death was pushed back by William's attack by a few meters before the power of the Railgun disappeared.

"Quick Shot War Art, Burst Form," William shouted as he once again unleashed a powerful attack.
"Railgun Burst!"

Three Railguns fired consecutively from the tip of William's staff, pushing the Half-Elf back due to its powerful recoil.

Thanatos roared as he once again blocked the three Railguns that were fired in his direction.

However, due to the consecutive attacks, he was pushed over a dozen meters from where he stood, making him roar in anger.

Enraged by the Half-Elf's futile attempts to keep him at bay, Thanatos disappeared from where he stood and reappeared in front of William, with his Deathscythe prepared to strike.

However, instead of the Half-Elf, what he saw was Soleil, whose entire body shone as brilliantly as a star that was about to explode.

"Bloom in the battlefield!" William roared. "Fleur Du Soleil Ars Nova!"

A powerful explosion, similar to a Nuclear Bomb shook the entire Fourth Layer.

William reappeared in front of Erinys' flying ship, and created a barrier to protect it from harm.

As if coming to a silent understanding, William and Thanatos had fought miles away from the chained Flying Ship to prevent it from being involved in their battle.

However, after activating Soleil's Ars Nova, whose power was similar to a nuclear strike.

The Half-Elf teleported in front of the flying ship, and created a barrier, just in case the attack was strong enough to pose danger to the Half-ling, who was currently trapped inside it.

William narrowed his eyes as he stared at the brilliant, mushroom-like explosion in the distance, which was the aftermath of Soleil's full powered attack.

A moment later, the mushroom was split apart, from its center, showing the God of Death, whose face was no longer hidden by the tattered hood of the cloak that he always wore.

The God of Death had long, platinum blonde hair that was held in place behind his back by what seemed to be a black ring, with a skull embedded at its center.

His blue eyes, which were very similar to Erinys', stared hatefully in his direction, making the Half-Elf feel a shiver run down his spine.

Just like his daughter, the God of Death was extremely handsome. Compared to him, William only looked like an above average guy, proving that his beauty far surpassed the realm of mortals.

"Is that your best, Half-Elf?" Thanatos asked with a sneer.

Clearly, the damage he received from William's attack was nearly non-existent, making the Half-Elf smile.

"No," William replied. "How about I fight you again when I have recovered the other half of my soul?"

Thanatos scoffed, "Very funny."

"Yeah... you don't have a sense of humor," William replied as he quickly thought of another way to fight against the God of Death who simply shrugged off Soleil's full-powered attack.

In truth, the Half-Elf was also using this battle as a way to better understand what kind of attacks could hurt a God.

Although his situation was not very optimistic, the Half-Elf wanted to gauge if any of his attacks could pose a significant threat to a God, which would be beneficial when the Gods of Destruction finally descended on the world of Hestia.

Chapter 1414: I Apologize In Advance If I Accidentally Kill You

Unknown to William, his fight with the God of Death was being watched by several Gods in the Temple of the Ten Thousand Gods.

His Patron God, Gavin, and those who had always supported the Half-Elf like Issei, Lily, David, and the rest of the Gods who had a good impression of him, watched the battle with varying expressions on their faces.

Some found this battle amusing, while others had started to bet with each other on who would win the battle.

Surprisingly, all of them sided with Thanatos, making the bet void because no one wanted to bet on the Half-Elf, who was currently fighting a desperate battle against one of the strongest Gods in existence.

Celine watched this battle from the Elysian Fields as she hummed a lullaby to her baby, who had just finished breastfeeding.

Lyssa, the Goddess of Wrath, looked fondly at Celine's baby boy before shifting her gaze to the battle that was happening on the Fourth Layer of the Underworld.

'Aren't you worried?' Lyssa asked using telepathy as she glanced at Celine who was still humming a song.

Celine shook her head as she continued to hum her lullaby.

'William might not win against Thanatos, but he wouldn't lose to him either,' Celine replied.

'Oh? You believe in him that much.'

'Of course. I was the one who taught him how to fight, afterall. Besides...'

The beautiful Elf caressed the side of her baby's face before shifting her gaze to the projection of the battle in front of her.

'He knows that he is now a father,' Celine stated. 'He will not allow himself to kick the bucket before he can even hold his child.'

Lyssa smiled because she didn't know where Celine's blind confidence was coming from.

However, for some reason she found herself agreeing with her, as she looked at the Elf boy that was wrapped up in a light blanket.

Celine's child was a full-blooded elf, with one major distinction. He had red hair like his father, and purple eyes like his mother.

After being born, Celine had given him a name, which she, and William had both agreed upon if the child she gave birth to was a boy.

Ciel Von Ainsworth.

He was William's firstborn, and would become the elder brother of the kids that would be born after. Because of this, Celine vowed that she would raise her child properly, so that he would grow up to become a person who would pave the way for the next generation.

"Your father is fighting right now, Ciel," Celine muttered as she lovingly held her child. "Let's cheer for him, okay?"

As if responding to his mother's words, Ciel opened his eyes and smiled at her, making Celine's and Lyssa's heart melt, temporarily forgetting that the father of the baby in front of them was fighting with his life on the line, against the God of Death, who ruled the Underworld with an iron fist.

"World End Tempest!" William smashed his right palm on Thanatos chest, making the latter take a step back before punching William's chest, which sent the latter smashing towards the wall of the Fourth Layer.

'Even the power of Rule Breaker is not enough to deal damage to him,' William thought as he wiped the blood away from the corner of his lips. 'I need a stronger attack.'

The Half-Elf had already tried all of his attacks against Thanatos and none of them worked.

Stormcaller, and Soleil only managed to give him a slight bruise, which healed in a matter of seconds.

His special attack, World End Tempest, wasn't good either. At most, it only tickled Thanatos, and made him take a step back due to the force behind the attack.

'What's next?' William dodged frantically as the God of Death once again unleashed several Death Rays, only this time, the Death Rays were as big as an electric pole, disintegrating everything that it touched.

William had repeatedly tried to call out to the wooden staff in his hands, but it was to no avail.

When he was back in the alternative world of Camelot, he was able to unlock the wooden staff's true form, allowing him to split Merlin's domain in half, and make Lancelot lose consciousness during their exchange.

The Half-Elf believed that if he could use that attack again, he would be able to deal significant damage to the God of Death, making the latter feel a world of pain.

Unfortunately, the wooden staff remained dormant no matter what kind of method he tried.

William instinctively felt that the staff would only respond to him when his soul had fully recovered, allowing him to wield the weapon that could make even Gods fear for their safety.

"I guess you're not ready yet."

A voice spoke inside William's mind, making the Half-Elf frown.

Suddenly, the scenery around him changed.

He was no longer inside the Fourth Layer of the Underworld, but in a place with a clear blue sky, and an ocean that expanded as far as the eyes could see.

William knew that he was inside his Sea of Consciousness, and right now, he was looking at the silver-haired Einherjar, who was wearing the battle regalia that he had worn during the battle of Ragnarok.

"Although I have recovered, we still haven't completely merged together," the Einherjar William said. "But, before we do, can I ask you a question?"

William nodded as he looked at the past him, who had kept his memories of Asgard during his many lifetimes.

The soul that had slept within the Bell of Anthanasia, remained uncorrupted by Darkness, and had fought against Ahriman, when the Dark Prince had gone berserk during his fight against the Heir of Darkness.

"Why do you fight?" the Einherjar William asked.

"Isn't that question a bit strange?" William asked back. "Why ask me the obvious? You are me, and I am you. You know everything about me, so you already know the answer to this question."

The Einherjar William smiled. "I want to hear it from your lips. That is the only way for the two of us to once again become one. When you were corrupted by Darkness, our resonance with each other waned. Although we still share the same goals, our viewpoints have changed."

"Isn't that normal?" William replied. "The only permanent thing in this world is change. If we stand still, nothing will change. This is why we must move forward and do the things we have to do, for the sake of the people who believe in us."

The Einherjar William walked towards the Half-Elf until they were only an arm's length away from each other.

"I'll ask again, why do you fight?" The Einherjar William stared at the Half-Elf with a smile. "Tell me why."

William took a deep breath before extending his fist, until it rested on the Einherjar's chest.

"To keep the promises that we failed to keep thousands of years ago," William replied. "And to keep the promises we made in this lifetime. We cannot turn back time, but we can strive, with everything we have, to prevent the same thing from happening again."

The Half-Elf then retracted his arm before pounding his own chest with conviction.

"Even in the face of great adversities," William said.

"Even against the whims of Fate," the Einherjar William smiled before he, too, pounded his chest with a fist.

"Even when facing our greatest fears."

"And the challenges we've overcome through the years."

"Even when there is no hope in sight."

"We will make our stand and fight."

"And keep the promises we have made."

"For those whose love we were bound to take."

"In a world where everything is grieving."

"It is proof that we are still living."

The Einherjar William laughed as he turned into particles of light and merged with the Half-Elf, becoming truly whole once again and allowing the half of his soul he still had to merge completely.

As the two parts finished merging together, the Einherjar William gave the Half-Elf some parting words.

"Do not shun our Origin, for that is what we truly are," the Einherjar said softly. "Accept the power that lies within, and fight the flames that slayed the living."

The sound of a bell echoed within the Fourth Layer of the Underworld, as William's body radiated a silvery light.

His golden eyes gazed steadily at the God of Death, who started to unleash his heavenly might.

"Try not to die, Father," William said as he gathered the silver light in his hands, turning it into a sword. "I still can't control this power, so I apologize in advance if I accidentally kill you."

William knew that with only half of his soul, he could only use this ability once a day.

Thanatos firmly gripped his weapon as he stared at the Half-Elf whose silvery radiance was expanding continuously.

For the first time in his thousands of years of life, Thanatos felt that he was now facing something that truly had the power...

To kill him.

Chapter 1415: Love And Happiness That Were Rightfully Hers From Birth [Part 1]

Thanatos expression had turned incredibly serious as he gazed at the silvery sword that had formed in William's hands.

Even the spectators from the Temple of the Ten Thousand Gods, who found the battle to be entertaining, couldn't help but change their stance after seeing the sword that the Half-Elf was currently holding.

"I guess the cat is now out of the bag." Lily chuckled as she gave the onlookers a mischievous gaze.

Issei and David nodded their heads because this was the secret that the Gods that were close to William had kept to this day.

They, who had seen the battle between the Half-Elf and Ahriman, had discovered the red-headed teenager's unique ability for the first time.

Although they felt a lingering fear when they saw the aftermath of the battle, they believed that William was responsible enough to only use that power as a last resort.

Now, the Half-Elf was using that power as a last resort, in order to fight against a God, and a Father, who wanted to make his life a living hell.

"Godslayer... that child is a Godslayer," one of the Gods on the scene muttered.

All the Gods and Heroic Spirits watching the battle knew what it meant to be a God Slayer.

Those who had this title were not someone who simply wielded a weapon that could potentially kill Gods.

No. It was a label that Gods placed on an individual who had the power to kill them, even if they weren't wielding a God Slaying Weapon.

A moment later, a sigh was heard in the Temple as one of the Gods patted his chest in relief.

"Fortunately, I don't have any quarrels with that boy," a God said with relief. "Although his God Slaying powers are unstable, because he only has half a soul, I'm still amazed to see a God Slayer in my lifetime."

Freya frowned before shifting her gaze towards the Primordial Goddess, who was lazily watching the battle from her throne.

As if sensing her gaze, the otherworldly beauty glanced in Freya's direction and arched an eyebrow. It was as if the Primordial Goddess was asking Freya if she had a problem with her, making the latter shake her head.

'She knew from the beginning that William has this kind of power,' Freya thought. 'Now her avid interest in his soul makes sense.'

Freya had only gotten to know William when he became an Einherjar in Asgard. She never dreamed that the boy, that one of her Valkyrie Captains had married, would turn out to be a God Slayer.

During the battle of Ragnarok, William didn't show even a little hint that he had this ability, which led to his death against the God of Destruction, Surtr.

'Is it just a coincidence?' Freya shifted her gaze back on the Half-Elf whose entire body was radiating a silver glow. 'Did he suddenly become a God Slayer in this lifetime due to necessity?'

Freya didn't know the answers to this question. Because of this, she planned to descend into Hestia in order to talk to William, after he had settled his battle with the God of Death, who now planned to fight William seriously.

"Apologize in advance if you accidentally kill me?" Thanatos asked. "Kill the God of Death? You must be daydreaming, boy. Better wake up to reality. It is I who should apologize if I accidentally kill you."

William didn't answer because he was done talking.

Words had no meaning right now. Only action would make the God of Death understand that he could not treat the Half-Elf like a sandbag that he could beat up anytime he pleased.

The Half-Elf flapped his wings before charging towards Thanatos at great speeds, almost turning into a silvery blur.

A moment later, the sound of weapons colliding against each other reverberated throughout the Fourth Layer of Hell, making cracks appear in their surroundings.

William wasn't proficient in handling swords in his current lifetime because he had mostly trained with a spear.

However, for some reason, he was able to wield the weapon in his hand as if it was a part of his body, making his attacks faster, and fiercer than ever before.

The Half-Elf didn't have any hesitation with every slash he made because he understood that Thanatos would no longer hesitate to kill him.

Although the God of Death was stronger than William, the brilliance that the Half-Elf was radiating was suppressing his Godlike powers, making him unable to fight using his full power.

William was currently a Pseudo-God at its initial Stages, but right now, he felt with utmost certainty that he had the power to kill a God.

Thus, instead of retreating, he advanced, trading blows with Thanatos, even though he was being blown away by his Godly strength each time they clashed.

Erinys, who was watching this scene, felt torn.

She didn't want William or her father to get hurt, but she couldn't do anything because her flying ship was being held in place by several dark chains.

William and Thanatos clashed several times, causing the entire Fourth Layer of the Underworld to slowly break apart, each time they exchanged blows.

When both fighters were pushed back by their last clash, the God of Death took that opportunity to gather the Power of Death in his surroundings.

"Tactus..." Thanatos shouted as he gathered Death Energy in his left hand. "Mortis!"

The Half-Elf, who was also thinking of delivering a powerful attack on the God of Death, didn't back down either. Instead, he charged at the God of Death as he prepared to unleash a powerful attack of his own.

"Divine....," William roared as he gathered the silvery radiance in his hands. "Tempest!"

The two once again clashed, and this time, the sky above their heads, and the land under them, shattered as if they were made of glass.

The God of Death was powerful, but he had rarely fought in his life. After living for thousands of years in the Underworld, alongside the souls of the dead, Thanatos had never had the opportunity to fight to his fullest because no one dared to antagonize him.

Except for one person.

The person had not only intruded on his Domain, but the young man had decided to take his daughter away from him.

'Is it the difference in experience?' Thanatos thought as his body crashed towards the ground due to the blow behind William's attack. 'For him to be able to overpower me like this...'

The God of Death's eyes locked on the red-headed teenager who had regained his balance mid-air, and was currently charging at him like the Angel of Death who had come to take the souls of the dead to the Underworld.

"Make the Gods tremble in your wake!" William's entire body glowed brightly, turning into a silver comet with the tip of his sword aimed at the fallen God. "Godslaying Ars Nova!"

Within that dark world, William shone brightly like a newborn star that was about to deliver the Coup de Grace to the God that had stood in the way of his happiness.

However, before he could even stab Thanatos with his sword, a Half-ling suddenly appeared between the two of them with her arms spread wide.

Four pairs of gray wings protruded behind Erinys back as she faced William with an unyielding gaze, with the intention of protecting her father from harm.

The brilliant light, that was almost blinding, collided with the little girl, who used her body to shield her father from her lover's deadly blow.

The Gods who were watching the battle took in a deep breath when they saw the end of the battle that they initially believed to be an easy win for the God of Death.

On the Fourth Layer of Hell, Erinys' tears fell as the blade that was meant to slay Gods, pierced the flesh of one of the two most important people in her life, marking the end of the struggle between her father and the Half-Elf, whose blood stained her soft and delicate hands.

Chapter 1416: Love And Happiness That Were Rightfully Hers From Birth [Part 2]

Erinys held onto William, and supported his body, as blood seeped from almost every pore of his body.

When the Half-ling suddenly appeared in front of him, the red-headed teenager forcefully canceled his attack. This caused a backlash, which created severe internal injuries.

Truth be told, William had almost lost his senses when he initiated his final attack against Thanatos.

The blood inside him boiled as if it was set on fire, urging him to thrust his sword on the God of Death's chest, piercing his divine heart, and obliterating it to pieces.

However, after seeing Erinys stand in his way, he regained his sanity and forcefully canceled the blow that was meant to kill Thanatos while his Godslaying powers suppressed his Divinity.

Just like Superm*n being weak to Krypton*te, Gods were inherently weak against God Slayers. It was similar to the hunter and the prey. Both were natural enemies, with the God Slayer overcoming all adversities, killing the God he was fighting against.

It was the typical Hero versus Demon Lord scenario where the Hero always gained the upper hand against a being who couldn't be defeated by anyone else but him.

"I'm sorry, Will," Erinys cried as she clung to the Half-Elf that was heavily injured because of her.

Blood spilled out of the corner of William's lips, but he paid it no mind and hugged the crying Half-ling who was hugging him tightly.

"It is I who should be sorry," William said after he had forcefully swallowed the mouthful of blood that had risen up from his throat. "I got carried away. I'm sorry."

Erinys, who could smell the strong scent of blood on William's body, only cried louder, similar to a little girl whose favorite toy had been taken away from her.

Thanatos slowly propped himself up from the ground before staring at the Half-Elf who was holding his daughter in his embrace.

When he saw Erinys suddenly appear to stop William from plunging the sword into his chest, he felt as if his very soul had left his body.

For him, Erinys was his precious daughter, who brought life to the dull world of the dead that he governed. Although he didn't spend much time being with her, he would always watch over her from his throne, making sure that he was safe from any harm.

When William appeared in the Underworld, the God of Death was very tempted to kick him out. However, he couldn't do that because of his mother, the Primordial Goddess, favored the Half-Elf.

He endured...

Endured more...

And continued to endure...

Each time he saw his daughter look at William with tenderness, he had the strong urge to leave his palace and toss the Half-Elf into the River of Flames, making him suffer.

The Half-Elf would always pat his daughter's head, and kiss her forehead, especially when he told her goodnight. Back then, he was really afraid that Erinys would become pregnant because of the Half-Elf's gestures.

Gods were born from the beliefs of people, while their children were born from their bodies.

Some of them didn't even need to have a partner to give birth to a child.

Erinys was born in that manner, so Thanatos was worried that the Half-Elf's constant skinship with his daughter would leave her pregnant. Fortunately, the Half-Elf didn't do anything untoward with his daughter until he met with him face to face.

Unfortunately, by that time, it was already too late.

Erinys had already fallen in love with William and chose to go with him to the Surface World.

There, the Half-Elf had taught her a lot of things, which would have made Thanatos forcefully descend into Hestia just to snap William's neck.

Fortunately, he wasn't able to see what was happening in the Surface World due to certain restrictions placed on him as the God of the Dead.

Thanatos hated William because he had stolen something very important to him. His love was different from others because he believed that, if you truly wanted your child to grow strong, you needed to let them leave the nest and fend for themselves.

Similar to how wolves, lions, and birds, were pushed away by their parents to live on their own, Thanatos believed that it was the only way for Erinys to become an independent person, and grow to become an individual who wouldn't need to rely on others to survive.

However, after hearing William tell him that he failed as a father, he finally understood that the distance he created between him and his daughter had made her very lonely.

This was why he vented his anger on the Half-Elf, and wanted to show his daughter that she had chosen wrongly. He wanted to prove to her that the one she chose to fall in love with didn't have the strength to protect her.

But, in the end, it wasn't Thanatos that protected Erinys.

It was the other way around.

Despite the dangers, his daughter came to his rescue and used her small and frail body to stand in front of the sword that was meant to take his life.

'You've grown strong, Erinys,' Thanatos thought as he looked at his crying daughter, whose dress and body were now stained with the Half-Elf's blood.

Even though he didn't want to admit it, Thanatos had to face reality. The Half-Elf he had looked down upon had become an existence that threatened beings such as him, who stood above mortals and wielded great powers and could make the entire world tremble if they wished for it.

Two hours later, Erinys finished wrapping William's body with bandages, which almost made the Half-Elf look like a mummy.

Even so, she didn't find the situation funny because she knew that the reason why her lover suffered so much was because of her.

"I think it's about time I have a proper talk with my father," Erinys said.

"Do you need me to accompany you?" William asked as he stared at Erinys' blue eyes that closely resembled Thanatos' own eyes.

"No. I want to talk to him alone."

"Are you sure?"

Erinys nodded.

William could see the determination in her eyes, so he no longer insisted on accompanying her. The Erinys of the past would cower whenever her father was around, but now, there was strength in her gaze, which assured the Half-Elf that everything was going to be alright.

The Half-ling left the Half-Elf inside her cabin before flying towards her father, who was busy repairing the Fourth Layer of the Underworld that was on the brink of total collapse.

"Father, we need to talk," Erinys said as she landed behind Thanatos.

The God of Death turned around to look at his daughter, whose eyes were no longer filled with fear, as she looked at him with a steady gaze.

"Are you leaving again?" Thanatos asked.

He knew that this wasn't the reason why Erinys wanted to talk to him. The God of Death knew that Erinys would accompany the Half-Elf back to the Surface World, so this question was useless.

Even so, he still asked, not because he knew the answer to it, but because he wanted to hear the answer from Erinys own lips, so she could make her stance clear to him.

"Yes," Erinys replied. "I will go with him. However, I promise to visit you twice a month."

"I see," Thanatos turned around to continue to repair Lust's Abode. However, the real reason why he turned around was to prevent his daughter from seeing the smile that had appeared on his face.

He thought that Erinys would leave him for good, but after hearing that she would visit him twice a month, he felt a happiness that he had not felt for a very long time.

In order to hide his current mood from his daughter, he decided to ask her why she came to talk to him.

"Father, I just want to say that I have been lonely for many years," Erinys said. "You never came to see me on my birthday. You never came to see me whenever I was sad."

Tears once again streamed down Erinys face as the pent up sadness she had endured over the years burst forth like a raging river.

The Half-ling told her father all of the things that she had felt throughout the years that she hadn't been able to see him, and the things that she had wished had happened over the past few years of her life.

Thanatos didn't make any comments, nor did he stop Erinys from pouring out her resentment to him. Only when the Half-ling was too sad to talk, that only sobs escaped his lips, did the God of Death turn around and wrap his daughter in a loving embrace that had been long overdue.

"I'm sorry for making you lonely and sad," Thanatos said as he hugged his crying daughter. "I know it's a bit late, but I'd like to talk to you more, do things with you more, and understand you a little more."

William, who had strong hearing, heard Erinys pain-filled cries from inside the cabin. However, even though her sobs were filled with sadness, they also contained relief, and a sense of peace, as if the burden she had carried for a very long time had finally disappeared from her heart.

"I'm happy for you, Erinys," William said softly as he placed his hands over the blue gem in his chest.

He could tell that it was not only him who felt this way, but also his four wives, whose silhouettes were currently hugging him from all sides, easing the pain he was currently suffering from with the power of their love.

All of them knew that after they returned to the surface world, the Half-ling, who had lost her voice, would regain the things she had lost, as well as gain the love and happiness that was rightfully hers by birth.

Chapter 1417: Overflowing Feelings [Part 1]

William stayed in the Underworld for two more days because Erinys wanted to stay with her father a little while longer.

To her surprise, Thanatos accompanied her during those two days, and left the workload to his subordinates.

Right now, he wasn't a God of Death, but a father who was doing his best to make up for the lost time that he hadn't spent with his daughter.

Finally, on the second day, Thanatos came to find William, so that the two of them could talk in private.

After making sure that no one could overhear their conversation, Thanatos asked William the question that had been bothering him for a long time.

"What is Erinys to you?" Thanatos asked as his blue eyes stared at the Half-Elf, making sure that the latter knew that he was asking a serious question. "If you just plan to fool around with her, it would be best if you don't take her back to the Surface World. My daughter is not an accessory that you can carry around whenever you please, and toss aside when you no longer need her."

William held Thanatos' gaze before answering his question.

"I wanted Erinys to be by my side forever," William answered honestly. "When I first saw her, I only thought that she would play an important role in my life because she is one of the faces of Hope, but after spending some time with her, I found out that she is a very sweet and considerate girl who cares about others."

"So, do you plan to make her your concubine?" Thanatos asked in a steely tone. Clearly, he didn't like the idea of his daughter becoming the Half-Elf's bed warmer, whose position was lower than the Half-Elf's wives."

William shook his head firmly. "No. I plan to marry her and make her my wife."

Thanatos' piercing gaze never left William's face, looking for any sign of falsehood in his answer.

However, after a few minutes, the God of Death only snorted, which meant that he couldn't find any lies in the Half-Elf words.

"Remember this, Half-Elf," Thanatos said as he looked down on the red-headed teenager who was going to take her daughter away from him for a second time. "Erinys is my only child. If you make her cry, I will descend to Hestia and kill you. Do you understand?"

William nodded. He didn't plan to convince the God of Death with words, but with his actions.

Half an hour later, the Half-Elf returned to the Flying Ship to find an anxious Erinys, who hugged him the moment he stepped on the deck of her ship.

"Did my father say anything harsh?" Erinys asked. "Did he hurt you?"

William smiled as he patted the anxious Half-ling's head.

"No. We just talked," William replied. "Talk between men."

Erinys breathed a sigh of relief knowing that the one she loved and her father were no longer at odds with each other.

What she didn't know was that during the time Thanatos and William talked in private, the two were having an intense discussion about something which concerned the doll-like beauty's future.

"Say your goodbye to your father," William said as he crouched down to kiss Erinys' forehead. "It is time for us to go back to the Surface World. It will be a while before you see him again, so say your goodbye properly."

Erinys nodded. "Un!"

Gray wings sprouted from Erinys' back which allowed her to fly towards her father, who was standing in the distance, waiting for her.

William looked at this scene with a tender gaze because he could tell how much Thanatos loved his daughter.

A few minutes later, a teary-eyed Half-ling returned to the flying ship. After saying her goodbye to her Father, she felt as if she had finally managed to take that final step, allowing her to grow as an individual.

Thanatos watched as the Flying Ship soar towards the sky, headed towards the portal that he had created.

As the God of Death, it was easy for him to allow anyone to leave his Domain whenever he wished.

"Goodbye, Erinys," Thanatos muttered as he looked at the flying ship that was about to pass through the portal. "I'll be waiting for your return."

The moment Erinys flying ship passed through the portal, they found themselves in a familiar place.

"The Sacred Grove," William scanned his surroundings to confirm his suspicion. "It is indeed the Sacred Grove."

Erinys, who was hugging his waist nodded her head because this was indeed the same place where William's mother stayed.

Suddenly, a clapping sound reached their ears, making the two look up at one of the branches of the World Tree where the sound was coming from.

"Welcome back, Will, Erinys," Arwen said with a smile. "It has been a while."

The beautiful Elf jumped off the tree branch, and glided gently towards the ground.

The smile on her face widened after seeing the Half-ling clinging to her son's waist. Due to Erinys' adorable beauty, Arwen was very tempted to take her home with her, and cuddle her to oblivion.

"Mother, Erinys is not a toy, please don't look at her like that," William said as he shielded the Half-ling from his mother, whose thoughts were clearly written on her face. "You're going to scare her."

"Nonsense," Arwen replied as she walked towards William to give him a hug.

Naturally, she also gave Erinys a hug and even slightly pinched her cheeks, while holding back the urge to take her home with her.

"Since you're here, and came from the base of the World Tree, I'm guessing that you just returned from the Underworld," Arwen said. "Did you succeed in recovering the souls of my daughters-in-law?"

William nodded his head. "Yes, Mother. I brought them back with me."

Arwen had long wanted to talk to the ladies that had married her son. He wanted to spend some time with them, and subtly encourage them to give birth to William's babies, so that she could hug her grandchildren sooner rather than later.

Living in the Sacred Grove could be quite lonely at times, and if not for the fact that Skyla, the White Crane, was keeping her company, she might have not been able to bear the loneliness of her duty.

Her husband had once again fallen into a hibernation state, so she was unable to talk to him. Because of this, she spent most of her days going to the Spring of Life, trying to coax Acedia to talk to her, whom the latter ignored completely.

"You did well, Will." Arwen sighed in her heart. "I can finally hold my grandchildren."

William who heard Arwen's words couldn't help but smile because his mother didn't know that Celine had already given birth to his child.

After talking to Thanatos, the God of Death confirmed that Celine had already given birth.

However, he told the Half-Elf that the Goddess, Lyssa, wanted to let the child stay in the Elysian Fields for a few more days before they returned to the World of Hestia.

Celine's Patron Goddess didn't say why the mother and child couldn't go with him back to the Surface World, but since the Goddess had once descended to help him fight against Ahriman, the Half-Elf decided to just wait for a few more days for Celine's arrival.

But, before leaving the Underworld, William asked Thanatos to pass a message to Celine, which made the God of Death arch an eyebrow.

Since it was part of the things that the red-headed teenager and him had talked about, the God of Death agreed to pass the message.

"Erinys, I'll go and see them first," William said as he crouched down to look the Half-ling in the eye. "Stay with mother for a while, but if she does anything weird, don't hesitate to escape and lock yourself inside your cabin, okay?"

Erinys smiled and nodded her head. "I understand."

Arwen, who heard William's rude words, crossed her arms over her chest and pouted.

Seeing that his mother got the message, the Half-Elf took his leave and headed down the path that would take him to the Spring of Life.

With the soul of his wives, stored within the gem on his chest, the red-headed teenager's steps quickened, as if he couldn't wait to arrive at his destination.

A few minutes later, the Half-Elf waded towards the spring, to return the souls of his wives to their rightful bodies.

However, before he could do that, several strands of hair rose up from the water and wrapped itself around his body, preventing him from moving.

A moment later, he was dragged underwater until he came face to face with the beautiful Elf, whose hands wrapped around the back of his head, pulling him into a long, and passionate kiss, making the Half-Elf sense Acedia's overflowing feelings for him.

Chapter 1418: Keeping His Past And Present Promises

For a brief moment, William blanked out because he didn't expect Acedia to take the initiative to give him a passionate kiss.

Although they had kissed a few times in the past, the kiss she was giving him now contained a strong desire that she rarely showed him, making the Half-Elf momentarily forget why he had come to the Spring of Life.

A few minutes later, their kiss ended, but it seemed that Acedia still wanted to kiss William because she kept on pecking his lips, as if to tease him.

The Half-Elf smiled and used Water Magic to allow himself to move his body under the water.

Since the lazy elf seemed to have missed him so much, after not seeing him for several months, he decided to pamper her a bit and started to peck her lips as well.

Soon, the pecking turned into a long kiss then into a passionate one.

The hair that was wrapped around William's body loosened, allowing the Half-Elf to move his hands, which he used to wrap around Acedia's body, holding her in place so that he could continue to kiss her.

Finally, after several minutes, their lips parted and the two looked at each other.

"I love you," William said before planting a kiss on her forehead. "After today, you will start living with me, okay?"

A smile then appeared on the beautiful Elf's face as she nodded her head.

"I love you too, Will," Acedia said softly. "Always have. Always will."

The Half-Elf felt touched because of her words, so he hugged her tightly, not wanting to let go.

They stayed in that position for a few minutes before William reluctantly pulled back. Acedia nodded her head in understanding and made a gesture for her beloved to do what he had come to the Spring of Life to do.

William gave Acedia a brief nod of acknowledgement before picking up Chiffon's body, which was by the beautiful Elf's side.

She had been using Chiffon's body as her personal hug pillow ever since the Half-Elf had placed the pink-haired Dwarf's body inside her territory.

Acedia liked to hug Chiffon in her sleep because her body was soft, small, and felt good to the touch.

William gently supported the back of his wife's head with his hand before giving the pink-haired girl a kiss on the lips. As if waiting for that moment, the gem on William's chest glowed faintly.

After the crystal vials were destroyed, the Half-Elf had no choice but to store the souls of his wives inside his Sea of Consciousness to keep them safe.

In short, the Half-Elf returned Chiffon's soul to her body with a kiss, allowing her to once again take full control of her vessel, which had been nourished and strengthened by the Spring of Life.

The pink-haired dwarf's body started to glow as her soul slowly, but surely, merged with the body that rightfully belonged to her.

William watched with bated breath as Chiffon opened her lips to take in a breath of air. Even though they were underwater, the Spring of Life provided them with oxygen, allowing them to breathe without any problems.

Then it happened.

William's wife slowly opened her eyes, and looked at him with a faint smile on her face.

"I'm back...", Chiffon said. "Thank you, Will."

The Half-Elf hugged Chiffon and kissed her forehead. In truth, he was feeling a bit worried that the method he chose wouldn't work.

Now that he succeeded in returning the soul of one of his wives to her body, the weight that seemed to hang in his heart, finally disappeared, allowing him to breathe easier.

Soon, Princess Sidonie and Ashe opened their eyes as well. Although they had been successfully revived, they still couldn't move their bodies properly. But that was fine.

They knew that it would take some time for them to adapt to being returned to their renewed bodies.

After spending several months in the Underworld, the three ladies were finally able to return to the Surface World, where their beloved had worked hard while he waited for the time of their revival.

Two hours later, William returned to the Sacred Grove, carrying Acedia in his arms in a princess carry. He planned to take the lazy elf with him, so she would always be by his side.

Princess Sidonie's, Ashe's, and Chiffon's movements were still a bit stiff, but they no longer had any problems with walking on their own feet.

"Won't you stay for a bit longer?" Arwen asked while holding Erinys in her arms. "Even a day will be good."

William was tempted to agree to her mother's request, but in the end, he firmly shook his head. After talking with Thanatos in the Underworld, he understood what he needed to do right now, and he could not wait even a single day in order to put his plan into action.

"I'm sorry, Mother. We can't stay," William said.

A disappointed expression briefly appeared on Arwen's face, but it soon disappeared after she forced herself to smile.

"I'm sorry for being selfish," Arwen said. "I know that you have a lot of responsibilities, so forget what I said earlier."

William knew that his mother was feeling down, so he decided to share some good news with her, which made the beautiful Elf's eyes widen in shock.

"Is this true?" Arwen asked.

William nodded. "It is true. Also, I have more good news for you, Mother."

Arwen narrowed her gaze as she focused all her attention on William. She was afraid that if she blinked, she would be unable to hear the good news that he was about to tell her.

The moment the Half-Elf shared the "good news" with his mother, Acedia, Princess Sidonie, Ashe, Chiffon, and Erinys looked at him in surprise.

"Wonderful!" Arwen happily clapped her hands and rested her hands on William's shoulder. "What are you waiting for? Go! Make sure to prepare everything as soon as possible. I will definitely attend no matter what!"

William nodded his head in understanding because he knew that his mother would react this way because of the good news that he shared with her.

A moment later, a beam of light descended from the sky as the Bifrost Bridge took the Half-Elf and his wives to the Floor of Asgard, where his subordinates were waiting for his return.

Floor of Asgard...

"What did you say?!" Nisha exclaimed as she gazed at the Half-Elf who was still carrying Acedia in his arms. "Your Majesty, are you sure about this?"

"Yes," William replied. "Nisha, I know that you are already busy. It doesn't have to be grand. I just want to keep the promises that I made long ago."

"B-But this is too sudden," Nisha commented. "Are you really sure you want this done?"

The red-headed teenager nodded as he glanced around the ladies that had gathered to welcome him back to the Floor of Asgard.

"Make the preparations," William ordered. "A month from now, I am getting married."

Wendy, Estelle, Ashe, Chiffon, Princess Sidonie, Lilith, Princess Aila, Acedia, Cathy, and Belle.

These were the ten ladies that he planned to marry even though he had already married some of them in the past.

When he married Wendy and Ashe, it was in the Temple where he had taken the Trial of Courage alongside Estelle.

He married Chiffon on the 51st Floor of the Tower of Babylon in order to save her from the Guardian who wanted to eat her heart in order to gain her Divinity.

The beautiful Succubus Princess, Sidonie, was someone he married in a grand wedding in the Kraetor Empire.

Lilith had become his fiance after he returned from the Deadlands. He had wanted to marry her, but things were too hectic back then, preventing him from doing so.

As for Princess Aila, after regaining his memories of her, the Half-Elf decided to right the past wrongs and wed her.

The lazy Elf, Acedia, had been with him until the bitter end, during his last struggle in Asgard. He had promised to meet her again in the past, but this promise was broken after he died in Midgard and lost his memories in Asgard.

As for Cathy, she was his self-proclaimed Ninth Wife. Among the seven women who completed her form, four were William's lovers, including Erinys.

Vesta, Priscilla, Amelia, and Pearl, were the only ones who had kept their distance with him, but he was fine with that.

Cathy once told him using telepathy that none of the four girls dislike him.

Even though Pearl originally resented him from brainwashing her sister, the Elf had already come to terms with the fact that she couldn't rewind the past.

Also, while William was away, she and her sister, Charmaine, had a heart to heart talk, allowing her to finally let go of the grudges she felt for him.

Of course, Cathy admitted that it was also due to the fact that she always made William drink her blood whenever they were merged together.

This made the four girls experience a pleasure that made them yearn for his touch.

The Half-Elf felt a bit conflicted about this discovery, but Cathy assured him that it was already a done deal.

She even insisted that the seven girls, who completed her form, only needed William's determination to woo them.

Because of this, the Half-Elf planned to use the month-long gap between now and his wedding to form a closer relationship with Pearl, Vesta, Priscilla, and Amelia.

Lastly, there was Belle.

The one he loved back on Earth, and married with the blessings of her parents.

The Half-Elf had many other lovers, and he intended to marry them all.

However, for now, he planned to marry the ladies who had stuck with him throughout his past and present lifetimes, in order to make them understand how much he truly loved them.

Although everyone was shocked by his declaration, Nisha still decided to push through with it after making William promise him that she would be among the next batch of wives that he married.

The Half-Elf agreed with her condition, which made his Steward more motivated to prepare a grand wedding that would make the Half-Elf the envy of all of the men in the world.

Chapter 1419: A Fresh Start [Part 1]

After the initial uproar of William's declaration to get married passed, the preparations for the grandest wedding in Hestia were underway.

Nisha spared no efforts to ensure that the Half-Elf's wedding would be a complete success. Although she was envious, and jealous, of his wives, the Steward of the Ainsworth Empire endured because of William's promise to marry her as well after a year.

The veiled-beauty knew that when it was time for her wedding, she wouldn't be able to emulate the scale of the wedding preparations that she was juggling right now. However, she was fine with that.

Now that the end of the world was just around the corner, the most important thing was that all the loose ends would be dealt with, so that they could focus all of their attention to the battle that would decide the fate of Hestia.

Days passed...

Weeks passed...

Finally, only a week remained before the Half-Elf and his wives would become the center of everyone's attention.

The Sovereigns of various nations went out of their way to find the best gifts that they could find. Although some were still unwilling to admit it, the fact remained that William was the most influential person in the North, South, East, West, and Central Continents.

There was simply no one else who could take his place, so regardless of what they thought about him, they made sure that they would not come empty handed to the wedding that would be talked about for years to come.

Thousand Beast Domain...

"Do you know where William is?" Vesta asked Charmaine as soon as she found the Half-Elf's personal maid inside the villa. "Priscilla and I have been looking for him for the last hour or so."

Charmaine shook her head. "Sorry, I don't know where Master is."

Priscilla, who was standing beside Vesta, sighed. "Forget it. He must be very busy in preparation for the wedding. Let's just look for him later."

Vesta pinched the bridge of her nose before sighing.

"Charmaine, if you find him, tell him that we are looking for him, okay?" Vesta said. "I can't believe that I've been dragged into this marriage fiasco because of Cathy."

Vesta's words were filled with complaint, but the blush on her face was enough to make Charmaine understand that the latter only wanted to spend some time with her Master before the wedding took place.

For the past few weeks, William did his best to make Vesta, Priscilla, Amelia, and Pearl like him. Since the time was short, he didn't have the time to make their relationship match the level of his wives and lovers.

What William wanted was for them to consider having a relationship with him, and promised to do his best to love and care for them as much as he did for his wives.

What William didn't know was that although Vesta, Priscilla, and Amelia, seemed uninterested in him, deep inside they envied Erinys, Haleth, and Anh, who were already the Half-Elf's lovers.

Vesta just wanted to play hard to get, but after having her blood drunk several times by the Half-Elf, she knew that she would be unable to find someone who could make her feel so good.

Priscilla on the other hand, respected William ever since they had met in Hellan Academy. She had witnessed how her Master, Princess Sidonie, pursued the Half-Elf and used whatever means necessary to become his lover.

Naturally, Priscilla supported her with everything she had, and because of this, William had become so outstanding in her eyes that she couldn't help but wonder what it would be like to become his lover as well.

Amelia, on the other hand, felt that she wasn't qualified to become one of William's lovers. Although she was born from a noble family, the red-headed teenager's status was so high, that someone like her felt insecure about being with him.

Fortunately, her friend, Wendy, was there to convince her, and with William's kindness, and gentleness, she finally took that leap of faith and agreed to marry him.

"Well, I guess the only problem now is your sister, Pearl," Vesta glanced at Charmaine who was busy cleaning William's room. "Your sister still doesn't want to accept him, and the marriage is only a week away. What are we going to do if she suddenly decides to run away?"

To Vesta's surprise, Charmaine just gave a giggle before the Elf hurriedly covered her lips with her right hand.

"Don't worry about my sister, I will do my best to convince her," Charmaine stated. "If all else fails, we can always knock her unconscious. It won't matter as long as the seven of you transform into Cathy. By the time she realizes it, it'll already be a done deal."

Vesta, and Priscilla nodded their heads in agreement. A moment later, the two bid their goodbyes to Charmaine and left to look for their "sisters" who represented the Virtue of Hope.

When Vesta and Priscilla left the Villa, Charmaine smiled mischievously before closing the door of William's room.

"Sorry, Vesta, Priscilla," Charmaine said as she glanced in the direction of K-City, which had now become the main attraction of the Thousand Beast Domain. "I won't allow you girls to disturb my sister's happiness."

In a park somewhere in K-City...

It was just past lunch, and most of the people were either in the theme park, or busy helping with the preparations for William's wedding.

Because of this, the park was mostly deserted, so no one was able to hear the faint sound of two people kissing in one of the most secluded places that was surrounded by trees.

William's body was pressed against a tree, while an Elf with light-green hair had her hands wrapped around his head, holding him in place as she pressed her soft lips against his.

When their lips parted, the Elf panted for breath before looking at the Half-Elf's eyes with a flushed expression on her face.

"Do you understand now?" Pearl asked.

"... Yes," William replied. "Thank you for forgiving me."

Pearl took a step back and wiped her lips with the back of her hand.

A day ago, William asked for Charmaine's help in order to bridge the gap between him, and her sister, Pearl, who always avoided him whenever he tried to talk to her.

But, to his surprise, Charmaine just smiled and told William to meet up with Pearl somewhere in K-City at ten in the morning.

"Go out on a date with my sister," Charmaine said. "Don't worry. I'll make sure that she will come."

William followed Charmaine's advice, and just like his personal maid stated, Pearl made an appearance wearing a white sundress, with a skirt that only reached her knees.

Pearl's body was quite curvaceous, so wearing something like this brought out her natural appeal, which surprised the red-headed teenager.

Usually, Charmaine's older sister wore ranger clothes that covered most of her body. When William saw her wearing something fashionable, the Half-Elf almost didn't recognize her and wondered if he was looking at a different person.

Then, their date started.

William took her to a cafe that Charmaine had recommended to him, and ordered a strawberry parfait for the silent Elf, who didn't even bother to look at the menu in order to place an order.

Overall, it was an awkward date with William being the only one talking, as he took Pearl from one place to another.

In the end, the Half-Elf thought that Pearl preferred a place that was surrounded by nature, so he took her to the park to get a breather.

As they were taking a random stroll in the park, Pearl suddenly grabbed his hand and took him to a secluded place surrounded by trees.

Then it happened.

Pearl pinned the Half-Elf's body to a tree using her body, and stared straight into his eyes.

"I've been thinking a lot these past few days," Pearl said. "I also had a heart to heart talk with Charmaine, and both of us agreed that we can no longer turn back time and return to the past. The attack on the Southern Continent, my sister getting brainwashed, we can't go back to that time and set things right."

The Half-Elf didn't push away the Elf whose light-green eyes showed her determination.

"You know, I've always hated you," Pearl stated. "I really hated you."

William nodded. "I know."

"However, the more I've come to know about you, the more I feel that you weren't the one at fault for what happened to my sister," Pearl continued. "However, I didn't want to accept it. I refused to accept it. This is why I always told myself that I should hate you. I always told myself that if my anger disappeared, I would lose my reason to be around you."

"But no matter how many excuses I made to myself, no matter how much I tried to find reasons to hate you, it all led back to the fact that the one who started the war was not you. However, since that was the case, who should I hate? I don't want to admit that I had misplaced my anger on you, so I continued to hate you. Even now, I find myself trying to convince myself to hate you still."

Pearl started to pound William's chest with her closed fist, but it lacked the strength to actually hurt him. In the end, Pearl buried her face in the Half-Elf's chest in order to hide her embarrassment, and the tears of frustration that she was holding back.

William couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief because he finally understood that Pearl no longer hated him.

Since that was the case, he would also take that step to ensure that both of them could have a fresh start, and give their relationship a chance to grow.

Chapter 1420: A Fresh Start [Part 2]

"I'm sorry," William said as he rested his hands on Pearl's shoulders. "But, if it will make you feel better, I did my best to treat Charmaine, and the other Elves who served me, with respect and kindness. I didn't do anything to hurt them."

Pearl nodded. "I know. Charmaine confessed everything to me. Aside from having their blood sucked, and you being a breast lover, you didn't do anything to harm them."

The corner of William's lips twitched when he heard the part about him being a breast lover. However, with everything that he had done in the past up to now, he couldn't come up with any words to refute Charmaine's claim.

Since that was the case, he made a vow that later tonight, he would punish Charmaine in bed, and make her understand that she shouldn't share the embarrassing things about him to other people, especially her sister.

Pearl talked about other things, and William simply listened. In the end, it was Pearl who took the initiative to kiss him, taking him by surprise.

"Let's start over," Pearl said before turning around. "Is what I'd like to say, but I will be marrying you in a roundabout manner a week from now."

The Elf turned around because she didn't want to let William see her current expression. However, even though the Half-Elf couldn't see her face, he could see how red her ears were, making him feel relieved.

Out of the seven ladies that merged together to make Cathy manifest, Pearl was the one who had been going out of her way to avoid him.

Now that they had finally had a proper talk, he felt that the wall that stood before them had finally crumbled, allowing him to see her for who she really was.

A caring and kind older sister, who truly loved her little sister Charmaine.

"Charmaine is very lucky to have a sister like you," William said.

"I bet you say that to all the girls you've met," Pearl said as she started to walk away. "Let's go and continue our date. By the way, that strawberry parfait was my favorite food in that cafe. It seems that Charmaine told you about it."

William looked surprised for a moment because Charmaine didn't really say that her sister liked to eat strawberry parfaits. His personal maid only told him that he should take a girl to a cafe and let her eat something sweet to lighten up her mood, and it just so happened that the place and food type that Charmaine had recommended were actually Pearl's favorite cafe and dessert.

"What are you waiting for?" Pearl asked as she turned around to look at the Half-Elf who was still leaning against the tree. "Do you not want to continue this date?"

William smiled before walking toward the Elf whom he found cute with every passing minute.

"Let's go," William said. "But, before that."

The Half-Elf reached out to hold Pearl's hand, and intertwined his finger with hers.

Pearl looked at William's hand, that was holding her own, for a few seconds before nodding her head. She, too, locked her fingers with his, holding onto him firmly, making the smile on the Half-Elf's face widen a bit.

Soon, the two of them walked together while holding hands, and spent the day in each other's company, enjoying every minute of it.

Later that night in William's room...

"I'm... Hah... Sor... Mmh... Sorry Master," Charmaine pleaded as she panted for breath. "I... Hah... shouldn't have said... Mmm! That you were... Hah... a breast lover."

A tingling sensation ran down her spine as William lightly bit onto her right breast, sinking his fangs on it.

William and Pearl had a wonderful date, and had dinner together. They also shared a kiss, filled with promise before parting ways, as they decided to give their budding relationship a chance.

What Pearl didn't know was that as soon as William returned to the Thousand Beast Domain, he immediately called for Charmaine to visit him in his room.

Curious about what happened on her Master's and sister's date, the Elf happily went to see William, only to be subjected to his punishment, which made Charmaine writhe in pleasure.

An hour later, the Elf rested her head on William's chest as she enjoyed the afterglow of their love making.

"Thank you, Charmaine," William said. "You helped me a lot today."

Charmaine shook her head as she wrapped her hand around William's waist. "It is I who should thank you, Master. My sister has been looking for an opportunity to have a proper talk with you, and apologize. It just so happened that both of you decided to ask for my advice at the same time, so I thought that if the two of you went out on a date, things would get cleared up eventually."

"But, you shouldn't tell people that I'm a breast lover. They will have a bad impression of me."

"Understood, Master. I will no longer tell anyone about it."

William smiled because he knew that Charmaine had already learned her lesson.

With only a few days left before the grand wedding started, he was able to finally make peace with Pearl.

Truth be told, this matter had been weighing on his mind a lot as of late. He didn't want to force anyone to marry him, and he knew that Cathy wouldn't declare with confidence that she would be his Ninth Wife, if she didn't have any evidence to back her claim.

Although his relationship with Pearl was just at the starting point, it was enough. He would work hard to get her to accept him for who he was, and he would accept everything about her in return.

The important thing was that both of them were now moving forward towards a future that was worth fighting for.

Now that he had finally gained the acceptance of all the ladies who represented the Virtue of Hope, he was able to breathe easy that, on the day of their wedding, he would be able to embrace all of the ladies who would be part of his life forever.