

Supremacy 1401

Chapter 1401 The End Of The Trials

Goliath and the rest of the supervisors started to sweat at the notion of Felix actually passing through the special package...They were paid too handsomely to afford to fail at their mission.

'Goliath, stop messing around and invoke the personal challenge trial.' One of the supervisors stressed.

'It's too shameful.' Goliath frowned, 'My reputation will take a massive hit.'

'Do we look like we can afford to care about your reputation? If the special package failed, we won't be able to justify our exorbitant prices and they will hit rock bottom!'

Since the supervisors were considered as working under the direct government, they had a bit of authority under their names. So, they didn't really fear the Red Fangs ruining their lives by blacklisting them or such, however, they knew that such failure would ruin their entire operation for good.

'Fine.'

Although he wasn't pleased, Goliath knew that he couldn't afford to let Felix pass the trial even if it meant putting his reputation on the line.

"Your next and last trial...Is me." Goliath gave Felix a cold stare before suddenly dropping to the ground, towering over him. He wasn't named Goliath for no reason as he was a towering hulk of three meters with gray iron skin, shimmering with intense red light.

"To pass the trials and earn your spot in the tournament, you have to land three direct attacks on me." Goliath smirked coldly as he had gotten into his battle position, "There is no time limit."

Booo!! Boooooo!!

The spectators went absolutely wild with boos and negative remarks as they felt like Goliath was making it way too obvious now that he wanted to eliminate Felix.

All of them were smart enough to realize that Felix must be banned to receive such treatment, and they didn't like it one bit. After all, as citizens, all of them were subjected to the same tyranny from the city lords and they were forced to keep their heads lowered against them to avoid getting blacklisted.

Alas, if only booing could solve anything.

"Are you ready?" Goliath asked, his eyes affixed on Felix.

Felix didn't bother to reply as he maintained his indifferent posture like he wasn't intimidated even slightly by Goliath.

It was understandable as his giant size was nothing to Felix who fought against beings the size of celestial objects.

But his reaction wasn't to Goliath's pleasure as it made him feel like he was being underestimated.

'I was planning to show you a bit of mercy, but now?' Goliath growled in his mind, 'I will beat you up until you will beg me to stop.'

Whoosh!!

Goliath was the first to move, his body blurring as he summoned a gust of wind to propel himself forward...His speed was astounding, bolstered by his control over the wind.

But Felix remained unmoved, his eyes narrowing as he focused on the incoming attack.

Just as Goliath was about to strike, Felix snapped his fingers.

A subtle vibration rippled outwards, subtly altering the air around him. Goliath's punch, guided by the wind, suddenly veered off course, missing Felix by a hair's breadth!!

'Huh?'

Taking advantage of Goliath's momentary confusion, Felix stepped forward and snapped his fingers once again, sending a thunderous concentrated wave of vibration directly toward Goliath!

BOOOOOOOOOOM!!!

It was too sudden for the wind spirit to dodge, and the vibrational force connected, sending Goliath stumbling back with a loud explosion - one hit.

Thud!! Thud!! Thud!!

As the viewers watched Goliath rolling into the ground uncontrollably, their booes came to a sudden halt.

Even though Felix had shown his capabilities in the tests, they were still confident that Goliath would teach Felix a lesson as he was one of the most infamous runner-ups in those tournaments!

His legacy ended when he was unsuccessful to become a champion five times in a row and he retired from the fighting scene and settled down as a supervisor, attempting to seek a career in the government.

Yet, here he was, lying on the ground with a similar stunned expression as the viewers.

'What happened? Was that sound element abilities? It can't be, I heard nothing, just pure silent vibrations turning into a weird explosion...' Goliath's mind was in shambles.

He didn't erect a telekinesis barrier, believing that his assault would force Felix into defense or at least evade, but to retaliation and so damn efficiently? He didn't anticipate it at all!

Still, not one to be deterred, Goliath got himself back on foot with a stern expression, telling everyone that he wasn't going to fall for the same attack again.

Whoosh!!

Without an ounce of hesitation, he summoned a wind vortex around his fists and legs, then he charged once again with an unprecedented speed!

This time, his body was protected with a tough telekinesis barrier, gleaming under the sunlight akin to glass armor. Felix remained calm and stretched out his arms, the arena pulsated, responding to his silent command.

An almost inaudible hum filled the air and vibrations began to ripple out from him, distorting the air around him and creating a visible aura of pulsating energy!

As Goliath launched himself forward, using the gale-force winds to increase his speed, Felix sent the vibrations forward, transforming the space around him into a wild, chaotic sea of invisible, energetic waves!!

If it wasn't because of his simple understanding of vibration and lack of training, he could have done more than this.

Still, even when he was merely touching the surface of the vibration element, Goliath suddenly found his flight path turned erratic as if he was being jostled by an unseen force!

His telekinesis barrier flickered, struggling to protect him from the turbulent energy. As a wind specialist, his situation was much worse due to the vibration and sound element being a tough counter.

He couldn't even control the wind in the vibration field due to it being absolutely dominated by vibrations!

The onlookers watched, spellbound, as the mighty Goliath was knocked around like a puppet caught in an invisible storm!

Crack! Crack...

What's worse, his barrier was visibly cracking under the relentless assault of Felix's vibrations, which made him even more shocked.

'How?!'

His telekinesis barrier was one of his most trusted assets and had gotten him through too many troubles!

Yet, here it was, breaking at an uncanny speed like it was being assaulted by a sledgehammer!

Unbeknownst to him, the vibrations weren't just hitting his barrier in a random manner, but a unique set of frequencies controlled by Felix.

Just like he did with the flame on his palm, Felix had found the right frequency of Goliath's telekinesis barrier and started messing with it through the vibrations.

The results?

With each hit, the cracks spread, spider-webbing across the barrier until, with a sound like shattering glass, it splintered completely!

'Impossible!'

Goliath was left defenseless in the chaotic sea of vibrations, his confident demeanor replaced by a look of shock and disbelief. Before he could regain control over his emotions, Felix clapped his hands twice, and two concentrated vibrations waves were launched at him.

BOOOM! BOOOM!

The vibrations hit their mark, striking Goliath squarely in the chest and hurling him further and further into the depth of the arena - two more hits.

Felix lowered his arms and the vibrations subsided, leaving the arena in a stunned silence.

-Three hits registered, congratulation to

The Traveler for passing the trials successfully!-

Even when it seemed like Goliath had much more to offer, too bad for him, the battle was over the moment the condition was fulfilled.

WHOOAH!! WHOOAHH!!!

The viewers imploded into frenzied cheering with flushed cheeks and fists in the air at this magnificent f*ck you to the city lords!

A blacklisted fighter went against the odds and emerged not just victorious, but in the most extraordinary manner!

While they were screaming at the top of their lungs, a stunned silence hung heavy in the air within the VIP section.

The rich, influential sponsors had just witnessed a trial that had far surpassed their expectations.

They had come to scout capability fighters, not expecting to see one of the best possible trials from a banned fighter.

"Impressive," Lady Iris breathed, a slow smile spreading across her face, "Truly impressive. This spirit, he holds capability far greater than we anticipated."

"His control, his creativity... it's rare. He has the instincts of a seasoned fighter. He didn't just defeat Goliath, he made him look like a novice." Boss Gideon nodded.

"Goliath wasn't clearly in his greatest form as he didn't even use his other two elements. But, praise when praise is due. This man is going to create waves in this tournament." Mr. Atticus said, his tone as indifferent as ever, but his eyes had a gleam of interest in them.

This look was shared by the majority of the sponsors, which made Boss Alves' expression turn bad.

'Those f*ckers are thinking of sponsoring him.'

He knew immediately that none of them were going to respect the blacklist order and miss out on such a once-in-an-era talent.

They had no problems with respecting the blacklist order if the spirit used on it was useless and nonimportant like Karra.

But with everything that Felix showed? Some of them were already dreaming of becoming the winner of the heavenly plane tournament!

"Boss Alves, cough, can we ask what made you blacklist the Traveler? Hehe, if it wasn't something too serious, I believe we can fix it through an apology or a payment?"

Boss Gideon was the first to launch the attack on Boss Alves, letting him know that his eyes were on Felix and he merely showed him due respect with a fair warning.

"I think so too, this fighter oozes talent and I believe we can bring the heavenly plane trophy home at last with him representing us." Madam Arabella supported, seemingly forgetting entirely about her prepared fighters.

"I don't care if you sponsor him, just know that you will be getting yourselves involved in a conflict far above your league."

Without giving any more details, Boss Alves walked away, leaving them staring at his back with puzzled looks.

They didn't know if he uttered this to convince them to drop Felix or if he was truly a laced treasure with venom and if they dared to touch him, it wouldn't end well.

Whatever it was, at this moment, none of them seemed to have any thought of giving up on Felix!

Chapter 1402 Making An Offer

While Felix was being cheered at by the audience as he was walking away from the arena, two sets of bewitching eyes were affixed on him.

In the solitude of her room within the ethereal palace, Asna stood before a projection that mirrored the events of the Colosseum.

It showcased Felix's trials in vivid detail, allowing her to be there in spirit if not body. As Felix overcame each trial, a complex set of emotions played out in her vibrant eyes.

Initially, there was confusion, as she neither recognized Felix's appearance nor his personality, both were vastly different than his previous life.

However, the moment she looked at his eyes, she recognized him immediately as the eyes could never lie...

Then, a sense of relief washed over her, followed by a strange amalgamation of pride, sadness, and longing.

But as he emerged victorious against Goliath, her heart lapsed...This was a Felix she had never known, his countenance cold, his movements ruthless, his spirit devoid of the warmth and kindness she remembered.

He was like a robot in the form of a spirit with nothing but eyes and the battle experience of her beloved.

"What happened to you..." She muttered, her hand reaching out to the projection, touching Felix's expressionless visage. He was no longer the Felix she knew and loved. The bitterness of this reality stung like a fresh wound, reopening the scars she had tried so hard to heal.

'Did he already forget me? Did he already give up on me?

Tears welled up in her eyes, but she did not blink them away. They traced hot paths down her cheeks at the thought of Felix losing all of his emotions for her.

In a sense, this was exactly what she wanted so Felix wouldn't associate himself with her anymore or her celestial troubles...But, it didn't mean her heart wouldn't ache deeply at the mere thought.

Despite the pain and the heartache, she was still there for him, watching, supporting, and hoping. Even from afar, she couldn't help but be drawn to him.

'As long as he is safe and well, I am happy...I am happy...'

In her heart, she whispered a soft prayer, a plea to the universe. For his safety, his success, and above all, his happiness. Because despite everything, she still loved him.

And she always would.

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On the other side...

"This troublemaker...I knew he will straight out pick up the tournaments as a way to gain Lumus, but sigh..." Elder Kraken smiled wryly as he shut down the stream.

Lord Hades told him to distance himself from Felix, but he had no intentions of leaving Felix out of his sight as he knew what kind of trouble he was capable of. His assumption was rightfully so with everything that happened to Felix on day one.

'At least, he didn't use any of his previous elements.' Elder Kraken nodded, 'Even if Lord Hades or the elders had any suspicious of him, they would be more likely to believe that he has won the jackpot in the memories reformation and gotten an extraordinary talent for a warrior.'

It was a known fact that only golden newcomer spirits were allowed to choose their personalities, talents, and any modification they desired to help them in their stay.

Red spirits and below receive randomized personalities, memories, and traits. Some win the jackpot and receive memories and traits that could be translated to legit monstrous talents while the majority receive basic personalities.

Elder Kraken used this advantage to keep his personality similar to his old one. If it wasn't for him, Felix would have been a truly different person entirely.

'Well, he knows how to get himself out of trouble.' Elder Kraken waved his hand carelessly and returned to his own issues, trusting that Felix was capable of taking care of himself.

If he knew what he was doing at the moment, he would have reduced his trust a couple of notches.

Felix and his two servants were seen sitting at the nearest restaurant after they were intercepted by one of the sponsor's servants and taken there.

"Sir, your astounding performance must have captured the eyes of the sponsors." Sekiro spoke with a hushed tone, "I have a strong feeling that the blacklist order can be taken care of today if we get ourselves under one of the sponsors' umbrella."

"Mmmm." Felix gave an acknowledgment noise, seemingly disinterested.

His reaction didn't put Sekiro's heart at ease, but he learned by now to not question Felix's judgment or motives. So, he remained quiet like Karra and waited for the sponsor to join them.

To their absolute shock, the sponsor didn't just come in less than a couple of minutes, he brought with him two of his peers, causing all the customers to get frozen at their tables.

"Is that Lady Iris? Skyglide Transportation Company's CEO." A customer murmured, his widened eyes attached on Lady Iris like he met a celebrity.

It wasn't farfetched to call her a celebrity as she was a key player in the transportation industry with her infamous company.

Skyglide Transportation Company was responsible for providing advanced, efficient, and comfortable public transportation services across the heavenly plane.

Though the prices were exorbitant, making everyone feel the pinch each time they take transportation ways.

Still, the majority of the customers' eyes were on Boss Gideon and Madam Arabella.

"I have lived in the city for more than a millennia and this is the first time I see Madam Arabella - she is as rare as a spectral unicorn..." Another customer commented, his eyes never leaving Madama Arabella.

His reaction was understandable as Madam Arabella's name dominated the food and restaurant industry in the entire plane with her company, "Nebula Foods".

Nebula Foods owned a chain of high-quality eateries and cafes spread across the plane and were also known for being the best supplier of exotic spirit realm delicacies.

In fact, this restaurant belonged to her and she was the one making the first initial contact with Felix.

As for Boss Gideon? He was just as important and famous as his peers...His company was called Aetheric Visions Entertainment and it was one of the biggest players in the entertainment industry.

In fact, his company was so powerful, it possessed a significant share of the streaming revenue of the yearly tournaments across the heavenly plane.

Now, all of those heavy swingers were standing in front of a single table. Before the patrons could even question Felix's identity, Madam Arabella snapped her finger, and the entire restaurant staff came out to kick off the customers politely, refunding their money and even packing their food to take with them.

Even though the treatment wasn't to their comfort, no one would have dared even if their money wasn't refunded.

The blacklist order was simply a death sentence and everyone avoided it akin to a plague. So, the restaurant was emptied and closed down in a few seconds, causing Karra to gulp a mouthful in fear and hide behind Felix.

"Greetings, Sir Traveler, I am Iris Singaria. Do I have the pleasure of knowing your real name?" Lady Iris introduced with a charming smile.

"I go by The Traveler." Felix replied expressionlessly, coming off a bit impolite and cold.

His response wasn't to the sponsors' pleasure as it made him seem arrogant and disrespectful, but they kept their displeasure to themselves.

"I see...Looks like you aren't of the type to like beating around the bush, so I will be straightforward." Lady Iris offered, "Me and my associates are curious in sponsoring you in this tournament and we are willing to do more than just pay for your entrance fee."

Sekiro and Karra's faces lit up immediately as they knew that their days of being blacklisted were shortlived. Alas...

"I have enough to pay for myself, so I refuse your offer." Felix stood up and asked calmly, "Is that all?"

Chapter 1403 The Three Black Sheep

'Here we go.'

Sekiro stood up after him, his head lowered under his hat, and sighed his frustration away, feeling like an idiot for expecting a different result.

Lady Iris looked at Felix, disbelief etched across her face. She was not accustomed to being turned down.

There was a moment of stunned silence before Madam Arabella broke it, her voice quite enticing, "What if I told you we can remove the blacklist order on you and provide resources you could only dream of?"

"What do I have to give in return?" Felix asked, giving them a chance. In his eyes, if he could get rid of this irritating blacklist order from his back and also receive the support of the big lords in the city, why not? As long as the payment was something he could live with.

"I speak for myself when I say that I want you to win the tournament or at least qualify for the heavenly plane's tournament." Lady Iris shared, "This is the minimum requirement. If you managed to win this tournament, I will be getting 40% of the winnings in addition to having you promote my company's name and products in each opportunity presented to you."

Felix shook his head and looked at the other two, seemingly leading them to propose their counteroffers.

"20% of the winnings, but a ten years ambassador contract to my company." Boss Gideon said.

"35% of the winnings, but a ten-year-long committed partnership in all tournaments." Madam Arabella offered.

All of those offers might sound a bit too steep or harsh, but Sekiro wanted nothing more but for Felix to bite on any one of them.

After all, his master would be getting the support of an authoritative figure in the city, which ensured that he wouldn't get blacklisted again.

The payments were nothing in comparison to the rewards.

Alas, Felix wasn't interested in such a low-quality subordinate partnership, especially when he was confident in his capabilities to break new heights in the tournaments.

The end rewards could reach up to half a million Lumus and that was an amount even those rich lords would salivate for.

"This is my one and only counteroffer, the first to take it will be considered as my partner not sponsor." Before those executives could react, Felix disclosed, "In terms of earnings, you will get 50% from this tournament and 20% from the heavenly plane's tournament. This is non-negotiable. In addition, you will invest at least one hundred thousand Lumus of resources to help me boost my spiritual prowess. I will act as the ambassador for your products, but I will get paid at least 5% of the profit in case of the sales increase due to me."

"Last but not least, this deal would end the moment I get accepted into a governmental position." Felix concluded, "Those are my terms."

As Felix concluded his counteroffer, the room fell into a tense silence. The representatives of Astralia's leading companies, once smug and confident, were now thrown off-balance, their expressions ranging from surprise to mild annoyance.

"I must say, this is a first," commented Boss Gideon, his lips curling into a mirthless smile. His eyes, however, were sharp and assessing as they bore into Felix.

Lady Iris exchanged a quick glance with Madam Arabella who responded with a slight shake of her head, clearly disapproving of the turn of events.

"There's a reason we don't usually do things this way," retorted Lady Iris, her voice containing an edge that wasn't present earlier. "We provide the sponsorship, you fight and bring in the Lumus. But your situation is much more exceptional as you are a blacklisted fighter and representing you means going against the Red Fangs' wishes."

"We are doing you a massive favor by just giving you an opportunity considering your dire situation."

Felix merely nodded, not backing down. "I understand, but my conditions stand."

There was a murmur of discontentment among the sponsors, their displeasure evident. They were not used to such terms being dictated by the fighters, it was always the other way around.

Felix watched them, unfazed by their collective annoyance.

He knew what he was worth, and he was not going to let anyone underestimate him...As for the blacklist order? While it was annoying, he had many plans to go around it.

Just as Lady Iris tried to change his mind, a sharp, discordant chime of a communicator was heard in the restaurant.

Lady Iris reached into the pocket of her elaborate gown, retrieving a slim, glowing device, resembling an ancient smartphone but made out of crystals.

A holographic message unfolded in the air, casting shifting shadows across her face. As she read through, her emerald eyes widened in surprise, and then deep concern.

'Read this,' she murmured, projecting the message to her peers.

The news detailed how Karra had been blacklisted, tied to an influential noble, and the initial reason for Felix's run-in with Red Fangs.

As the implications became clearer, a deep hush enveloped the room. The powerful people who controlled vast aspects of Astralia's economy felt the weight of their vulnerability in the face of nobility...Especially, when they knew the name of the noble.

Boss Gideon, who had been previously in a relaxed posture, stiffened. 'This is not just a simple blacklist. This is a message. If we align ourselves with this spirit, we will be putting ourselves in deep trouble.'

Madam Arabella's face turned a shade paler. 'That bastard Alves kept such information to himself, wanting to set us up.'

'I don't think he thought that far, he probably just pissed about us not respecting his blacklist order and wanted to punish us.'

Lady Iris sighed, closing the holographic message, her usual calm composure broken.

There was a pause, the gravity of the situation dawning upon them all.

They had entered this restaurant, expecting to sign a rising star, a potential gold mine. But now, the risks associated with Felix were too great...The danger of retaliation from an ethereal elder was a cost none were willing to pay.

Felix, sensing the shift in the restaurant, realized he had lost any prospective alliance he might have hoped to gain from this meeting.

The sponsors, once eager to sign him, were now eager to distance themselves.

'As expected.'

Honestly, he wasn't surprised in the slightest as he expected as much...A noble's authority was simply above all in the heavenly plane.

Without another word, Lady Iris and her peers turned around and left the restaurant, not bothering to interact with Felix for another second, fearing that the duke's wrath would befall them.

"Well...At least we didn't make any new enemies." Sekiro chuckled in derision, finding some positivity from their situation.

"I would rather have them leave now than sign us and separate us when they find out," Felix replied, sipping from a cup of tea without an ounce of bother in his tone.

He was a contract expert and knew that those companies would put a clause to keep him imprisoned contractily if things went south.

In other words, he wouldn't be able to do much but at the same time, he wouldn't lose much. In the case of Felix, he would be losing an entire decade of his time here, which was unacceptable.

"You better eat, we will be leaving in the streets for a while and I doubt any restaurant will serve us again." Felix uttered casually as he began feasting on the dishes before him.

"How can you even eat in such situation..." Sekiro rubbed his eyelids to ease his wariness and started eating too.

Meanwhile, Karra operated based on orders from Felix, and the moment he uttered to eat, she started eating without a single complaint.

While the three black homeless sheep were feasting on their last meal at such a nice place, they had no clue that two pairs of golden eyes were watching them carefully from the window...

'Calculating, intelligent, fearless, and has plenty of room for development...I guess I finally found a worthy assistant to my agency - Kikiki....'

Chapter 1404 The Spectral Tournament

'Hmmm?'

Felix had a peculiar sensation that felt like prickling needles at the back of his neck, a shivering echo of being observed...He was too familiar with it.

He paused, his every instinct on edge as he swiveled around to face the window. His eyes scanned the area, focusing on the edges of his view, but there was nothing - no one - there.

'Were my senses wrong?'

His gaze lingered on the seemingly innocuous scene before him, but finally, he turned back, shrugging off the fleeting feeling as nothing more than an overactive imagination.

The moment he had dismissed his suspicions and continued eating, a shadow detached itself from the deep corners of a narrow alley.

The figure was slender and moved with a fluid grace that echoed the movements of a feline. A set of cat ears perked up from beneath the hood of her cloak, swiveling attentively.

'Kikiki, as expected, his senses are quite sharp. But, let's see how he fares first in the tournament.'

The cloaked female lingered for a moment more before slipping back into the depths of the alley, a wide grin etched on her hidden face, exposing two gleaming fangs.

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One Week Later...

Life took an unexpected turn for Felix and his servants.

The bustling city of Astralis, its neon lights and crystalline structures, was replaced by the calming tranquility of the national garden.

For a little over a week, they made their home in a small tent, surrounded by an array of colorful flora and ethereal wildlife.

During the day, the garden shimmered with vibrant colors, the sunlight diffusing through the foliage and casting patterns of light and shadow on the emerald grass.

At night, bioluminescent plants and insects would light up the landscape, an eerie yet enchanting spectacle that captivated them all.

Felix and Sekiro spent their days searching for a new place to stay, approaching each apartment complex and renter they came across.

But time and time again, they were met with locked doors and dismissive glances, their pleas drowned by the invisible wall erected by his blacklist order.

Felix was placing his hopes before on staying in one of Elder Kraken's apartment districts, but it turned out that using his name on his servants brought him more trouble.

That's because Elder Kraken didn't dare tell his servants to give Felix a break as he knew that Lord Hade's orders must be taken like royal verdicts.

If he dared assist Felix in the shadows whether directly or indirectly, he knew that it wouldn't end well for him.

If Felix was any random spirit, Lord Hades wouldn't have cared less, but the fact that his existence was linked to Asna made him a target.

Despite the looming sense of isolation and countless rejections, Felix bought a tent and settled down in the national garden with the rest of the homeless spirits. Right now, he was training in silence under a serene tree while Karra and Sekiro were watching him from a distance.

"You think his plan will work?" Karra asked softly.

"Well, whether it works or not, it's not like we have any other alternative." Sekiro smiled wryly.

When Felix realized that it was a mere waste of time to seek out a home while blacklisted, he dropped the thought and came up with a different strategy.

It was simple really, acquire enough Lumus to build his own small house in the suburb of the city!

Each spirit had the right to build a single house with a mere permit from the government and no one could take this right away from them.

Though, building a house whether small or big was extremely expensive and almost 90% of spirits never use this one-time permit.

"Our hopes on him winning the tournament if we don't want to live in the streets forever." Sekiro could only wish Felix the best of luck.

As for the thought of leaving Felix behind after a year? It wasn't an option unless Felix couldn't afford to pay his monthly salary.

While servants had laws and rights, resembling workers, they were still called servants for a reason.

The only way for them to be dropped was through either the owner releasing them or one of the conditions in the contract wasn't fulfilled...Until then, the servants must be loyal to their master for eternity.

Days went by and before long, the day of the spectral tournament arrived, brimming with a raw energy that filled the air. Hundreds of fighters of all shapes and sizes stood in the Colosseum's grand arena, their varied colors blending into a kaleidoscope of vibrant hues...Felix couldn't be seen, but he was amidst them.

An excited murmur flowed through the crowd, anticipation palpable as they awaited the start of the mayhem. As the murmurs gradually gave way to a sea of silence, a tall, silver-skinned figure ascended the stage.

Dressed in an emerald tunic and with silver hair falling in waves over his broad shoulders, Mr. Sogrus, the beloved host of the annual tournament, carried an air of calm charisma.

His captivating presence had everyone's attention locked onto him, hanging on to his every word.

"Ladies and gentlemen, spirits of Astralis," he began, his voice resonating across the vast arena.

"We are gathered here for the most exhilarating event of the year, the grand Spectral Tournament! I, Sogrus, am honored to be your host once more!"

As Mr. Sogrus wrapped up his introduction, an energetic hush fell over the audience. Suddenly, the colossal screen at the center of the arena flickered, and a series of lines began to divide the hundreds of fighters into four distinct groups.

A deep boom echoed throughout the Colosseum as Sogrus announced, "Now, for the initial stage of our tournament - the Battle Royale! Each group will engage in a massive brawl, with the aim to be among the last four standing in their respective groups."

With a grand gesture of his hand, a series of barriers lit up, separating the groups from each other.

Each barrier pulsed with vibrant hues corresponding to the colors of the groups: cobalt blue, fiery red, luminous yellow, and deep emerald green.

The fighters within each barrier eyed each other, tension simmering as they sized up their competition.

"Roll the dice!" Mr. Sogrus shouted as he eyed a massive holographic dice with all of its facets having only one to four numbers, rolled on the ground.

After a couple of spins, the dice stopped at number three.

"Group three! Prepare yourselves!"

As the last syllable of Sogrus's announcement faded, the barriers around groups one, two, and four flickered and vanished, freeing the fighters within.

His voice, magnified to reverberate around the entire Colosseum, instructed, "Groups One, Two, and Four, you may now vacate the arena. Your battles will commence shortly."

Within seconds, the arena was cleared, leaving only the luminous yellow barrier of Group Three shimmering. A hundred fighters from various walks of spirit life stood inside the barrier, their auras mixing to create a beautiful spectrum of colors.

Felix ended up being among them! He could be seen standing at the edge of the arena with a few fighters holding his sides, giving him solemn looks once in a while.

Felix's perfect performance in the trial had gone viral in the city in the past weeks amongst this tournament contestants, making him get put on their radars.

While no one showed it, Felix could tell that many fighters seemed to have a personal beef with him as their eyes never left him.

'Looks like the red fangs are still splurging their money on me.' He sneered, his eyes as indifferent as ever.

Mr. Sogrus raised his hand, quietly descending upon the Colosseum. His voice, filled with anticipation, echoed through the silence. "Ladies and Gentlemen let the Battle Royale... begin!"

At his command, the last barrier vanished! The tension exploded into motion as fighters lunged at each other, their unique abilities illuminating the Colosseum!

Suddenly, a group of six spirits separated themselves from the melee. Their forms hardened with the distinctive glow of telekinesis barriers, a shimmering layer that enclosed them like a second skin.

Their predatory gazes fell on Felix, and almost immediately, they veered toward him, cutting a path through the chaos! Each one of them had an impressive display of raw power, their bodies illuminated by the swirling energy of their respective abilities.

One swirled with a vortex of wind, another's form crackled with electricity, while a third was coated in a layer of frost.

"Damn it! Will they ever give it a break?!"

Sekiro gritted his teeth in anger while Karra showed a worried look at the sight of Felix being rushed at by multiple fighters at the same time.

Even the crowd gasped as the group of hired spirits lunged at Felix. But Felix stood his ground, his face as calm as still water.

'Show me what you got.'

The same stalker from that night was seen blended in the crowd, her golden eyes affixed on Felix, refusing to have him leave her sight.

Suddenly, Felix turned to stare at her directly while his extended hand in front of him merely closed into a fist.

'Huh?'

Chapter 1405 Sending A Message!

The stalker felt like Felix had detected her intrusive eyes from thousands of other pairs, which was quite difficult to believe even for her.

After blinking once, she found out that Felix wasn't looking at her anymore, his indifferent pearls were affixed at his rushing enemies.

The instant Felix's hand became a fist, a low rumble began from inside his body and traveled to his feet before going under the ground.

Rumble...Rumble...

The rumbling grew in intensity as it echoed throughout the noisy coliseum. But, no one heard it and no one felt anything.

"The bounty is mine!"

One of the rushing spirits called AblazingSoul manifested a magnificent flaming sword, reaching tens of meters in height, and swung it at Felix from midair the moment he entered his range.

"F*ck off to the side!"

Another spirit called Stormtrooper with a loud mouth zigzagged rapidly through the chaotic battlefield, relying on his lightning-quick mobility to speed past all his competitors. Then, he hurled a lightning bolt in the shape of a spear in Felix's direction!

Before any of those fighters could even worry about losing their bounty, the lightning bolt seemed to have magically vibrated into energy particles the instant it got too close to Felix's comfort zone!

"How?"

Stormtrooper was left stunned as his most trusted offensive ability didn't even force Felix to use his telekinesis barrier!

Whoosh!!

The same situation happened to the massive flaming sword! It got cut from the middle the moment it tried to pass through Felix's body, making it seem like those elements were allergic to touching Felix!

"Was sound element always this powerful?! How can vibrations in the air create such a powerful invisible barrier?!" Sir Sogrus commentated with a startled expression that was shared with the rest of the viewers.

Everyone had seen how Felix was capable of blocking Goliath's wind abilities, but the vibration field at that time was apparent and clearly oppressive as hell.

But now? No one could see or hear a single ounce of vibration coming out of Felix, making it seem like he had nothing around him!

This was the result of Felix's intense training on his vibration abilities. During the trial, he was using vibration too crudely and wasting too much fuel on less performance.

But after he optimized his manipulation through trial and error, he could now create an invisible barrier around him that automatically detect the frequencies of elemental energies.

Then, match the vibration with the frequency to cancel its creation! It could be said to be the only absolute anti-elemental element, capable of nullifying the creation of any ability!

"Useless tricks!"

RoidRage roared as he charged toward Felix from the ground akin to a furious bull. He did resemble one as he had massive nostrils and two horns while his feet were hoofs.

Whoosh!!

The wind seemed to be his main element as his charge was being boosted by two wind jets attached to his shoulders. AblazingSoul, Stormtrooper, and the rest of the bounty hunters gave up on a ranged battle and swiftly charged after RoidRage, knowing that Felix's peculiar barrier could not protect him from melee attacks.

They were right in this sense as Felix's field was strictly anti-elemental at the moment as he didn't have enough time to master the field completely.

But, it didn't mean he wasn't prepared for such development.

"Siaseme shockwave...Erupt."

The instant RoidRage and the rest of the bounty hunters were a mere ten to twenty meters away from him, Felix slammed his fist onto the ground, causing a shockwave of invisible energy to erupt from beneath him, rippling outwards through the ground!!

The vibrations coursed through the arena floor like a heart-shattering drumbeat, causing the very foundation of the arena to tremble violently, and in the next instant, it fractured!

RUUUUUUUUUUMBLLE!!!!

With an ear-splitting crack, the ground exploded, sending chunks of rocks and debris soaring into the sky like confetti in a violent celebration.

The once smooth and polished arena floor was now an uneven, devastated battleground with pits and crevices punctuating the surface!

"Ahh!!"

"What the hell!"

"Argh!!"

The initial explosion had launched the closest fighters to the source off their feet, their telekinetic barriers failing to withstand the sudden explosive assault!

This eruption caused even the sponsors and golden-ranked spectators to be left stunned at its immense destructiveness, thinking that a new fighter's spiritual prowess shouldn't fuel such a powerful attack.

They were right in this sense, but they had no idea that Felix had been preparing for this eruption from the start of the battle royal by sending precise vibrations through his feet!

"What a turn of events! But, this isn't enough to reach the hits threshold for each player!" Mr. Sungrus yelled excitedly.

Since death wasn't an option in the spirit realm, the only way to win such fights was through either reaching a hit threshold, surrendering, or kicking the fighter out of the arena.

The hits threshold was a universal twenty in this specific tournament, which meant Felix had to score twenty direct physical hits to eliminate those bounty hunters! Felix knew as much and had prepared his next strike for it.

"Vibration Pulses."

With an outstretched hand, he flexed his fingers and then clenched his fist. Suddenly, a concentrated pulse of vibration erupted from him, imbuing the airborne giant rocks and debris with its energy.

Whoosh Whoosh!

They hummed with power, a lethal choir singing their impending doom as they rocketed toward the disoriented and defenseless bounty hunters!

Caught off guard, the bounty hunters barely had a chance to react as they were pelted by the barrage of rocks!

Their screams were muffled by the noise of the battle, bodies flung and tossed like ragdolls amidst the debris.

Some managed to deflect a few rocks, but the majority were hit squarely, the impact sending them crashing out of the arena and into the unforgiving invisible walls of the Colosseum!

WHOOOAH!!!

The audience erupted into astonished cheers and stunned gasps at the sight of Felix standing in the midst of the ruined arena, dust and fumes swirling around him. He didn't move an inch from his original spot even when the entire area around him was completely in ruins.

His message was clear - he wasn't going to strike anyone, but if someone dared to challenge him, he would face the same fate as the Red Fangs' bounty hunters!

"Sh*t, it feels even worse knowing that we can't have him represent us." Boss Gideon cursed with an irritated voice.

"He is strong alright, but our fighters aren't to be underestimated." Madam Arabella smiled faintly, "Now, that he has shown some of his trump cards to nobodies, it will be easier to get rid of him."

Since Felix wasn't going to represent either of them, they would rather have him removed from the competition to not steal any of the three qualifying spots to the heavenly plane's tournament.

After all, those three slots were too precious and they had to fall under their hands to increase their companies' reputation and profit.

"I forgot your new fighter was in the same group as him. I hope he delivers after praising him to the roof before us."

Everyone's eyes suddenly switched from Felix to a striking figure right in the center of the arena, floating in the sky with a dominant aura.

He was emitting an intense red shine that rippled around him like a vivid aurora. His skin was as dark as night, and it held an uncanny design of red and blue veins, embodying the essence of his elementary powers...His peepers flickered, one with the deep blue of a tempestuous sea, the other with the fervent glow of molten lava.

Chained daggers with blood dripping off them hung from his waist, their cold, gleaming edges a stark contrast to the warmth of his form.

It looked like Felix's earthquake didn't please him too much as his cold sinister peepers were now affixed on him, ignoring all the contestants around him.

"I wanted to save you for last, but I guess you aren't that patient," ScaldingWinter said coldly while setting one dagger in flames and the other in chilling ice.

Chapter 1406 ScaldingWinter!

The tense atmosphere in the Colosseum intensified as everyone could see that ScaldingWinter had set his eyes on Felix.

Before Mr. Sogrus could hype up their fight, ScaldingWinter catapulted his daggers towards Felix with a powerful swing of his arms!

Cling Cling!..

Fire and ice energies trailed in their wake, merging and separating in a mesmerizing display of power before turning into massive blue and red furious dragons!!

The audience held their breath, entranced by the swirling dance of flames and frost while the fighters escaped from the dragons' path with fearful expressions, knowing that their barriers wouldn't hold against them.

Meanwhile, Felix remained calm, his eyes narrowing as he focused his vibration powers.

With a single, decisive gesture, he slammed his hand onto the ground. A pulse of vibrational energy erupted from beneath him, causing a humongous patch of the arena floor to rise up in the sky and act as a natural shield!

BOOOOOOOOOM!!

The fiery and icy dragons smashed against the hard floor of the arena and broke it into countless fragments before dying off into Felix's vibration field.

Felix's vibration field could counter any elemental ability, but it was within reason. It was impossible to block such powerful attacks in time since their frequencies were too agitated and erratic, making it extremely difficult to neutralize them in time.

"My turn."

Felix tensed his body and finally moved, jumping into the sky and using the flying fragments of the ground as a platform to increase his speed until he arrived at the metallic chains.

His vibration field had neutralized the dragons, but the daggers and the chains weren't affected as much.

When ScaldingWinter saw Felix being near his chained weapons, he grimaced and tried to yank his chained weapons back. Alas, with a swift movement of his hand, Felix sent a powerful surge of vibration energy toward ScaldingWinter's weapon!

The air rippled around the chained daggers as they absorbed Felix's vibrational energy. The chained weapons trembled, the vibrations grew more and more intense, and then the energy crawled up the chains towards ScaldingWinter!

His eyes widened in surprise as he could feel the fast-approaching dreadful vibration pulses, but he didn't know whether to let go of the chains or not. He knew if he let go of them, he might lose them for good as Felix was on hold of the daggers.

'I can't block it!'

In a split second, ScaldingWinter let go of the chain, and the powerful vibration still whipped him directly, causing him to get launched in the direction of the colosseum's walls!

"GET HOLD OF YOURSELF!" Madam Arabella yelled furiously as she watched her investment about to get eliminated with the trash of the tournament.

Whether he heard her or not, ScaldingWinter had no intentions of losing like this.

"Fire blasts!"

He somersaulted in the sky to regain his balance and then he fired powerful fire blasts from his hands and feet to stop his momentum.

After a few explosions, his speed came to a halt and he remained floating above the arena's surface.

"Cool toys." Felix commented as he held the chained daggers with both hands, swinging them around him in a masterful and elegant manner like he was born to wield them.

"Bastard!"

ScaldingWinter didn't like this sight in the slightest as he thought that Felix was provoking him.

So, he didn't hesitate to charge in his direction, initiating a second assault! Alas...This was still a battle royal with a hundred contestants in a small arena.

BOOOM!!! BOOOM!! BOOOM!!

Before he could even cross half the distance, he found himself getting jumped by at least ten fighters, taking advantage of his cracked telekinesis shield and missing weapons!

They had been observing the duel between Felix and ScaldingWinter and were well aware of the high stakes.

Knowing that ScaldingWinter was now vulnerable, it was only natural to pounce and get rid of one of the strongest fighters in their group!

A hulking figure known as Boulder, with skin like jagged rock, launched massive stone fists in ScaldingWinter's direction.

At the same time, a mercurial figure named SilverWind made entirely of glimmering particles, unleashed a tempest of razor-sharp gusts towards him...And from the distance, Pyre, a spirit wreathed in a flaming aura, directed a wave of searing fire!

ScaldingWinter was soon on the defensive, evading, blocking, and counterattacking where he could.

Without his trusted weapons, he was forced to create two daggers from ice and fire to use his infamous twin elemental dance!

Even when it was a ten vs one battle, he still created a dazzling spectacle of sparks, steam, and flickering shadows...But the continuous barrage was taking its toll. His movements started to slow, and he began to falter.

The crowd watched in an enthralled silence as the once-dominant fighter was now caught in a desperate struggle for survival.

Unfortunately for him, he had started a fight with a predator...

Felix had stayed out of the direct conflict, observing and analyzing. Now, the time was right to make his move.

Felix swiftly maneuvered his way through the battlefield, deftly sidestepping rival fighters and their potent abilities. Even if someone tried to be funny and attack him, Felix made them regret the thought.

His gaze locked on ScaldingWinter, the rhythm of his heartbeat syncing with the pulsating vibrations emanating from his body.

'Let's see how those toys will fare.'

As he neared his target, Felix focused his vibrations on the chained daggers...The daggers began to hum, vibrating in sync with Felix's energy, causing even the viewers to see air getting distorted this time!

With a swift burst of movement, Felix closed the remaining distance between them. Utilizing the stolen chained daggers, he launched a flurry of vibrating attacks on ScaldingWinter.

His movements were as unpredictable as they were swift, taking advantage of ScaldingWinter's momentary vulnerability!

Slice! Slice!...

The crowd watched in awe as Felix turned the tide of the battle in an instant with dominant strikes more powerful than even ten fighters' combined assaults!

Crack Crack!!

'Sh*t! Sh*t! Sh*t!'

ScaldingWinter's expression grew uglier and uglier with each direct hit on his telekinesis barrier as Felix's attacks always result in the creation of a massive fissure!

This made him realize that unless he made a change, his barrier was bound to break in a few seconds at best and leave him weakened by those beasts!

Alas...Against Felix Maxwell, not a single enemy was ever given a chance to turn the battle around the moment he sunk his teeth into his flesh.

Felix flicked his wrist and sent one end of the chained daggers spiraling towards ScaldingWinter.

The sharpened edge bit into the icy platform, creating a distraction. In the blink of an eye, Felix closed the distance, lunging forward to wrap the second chain around his opponent's torso!

ScaldingWinter, still reeling from the sudden attack, tried to fight back, but the vibrating chains around his body sent him into disarray, disrupting his balance. Before he could free himself, Felix tightened his grip on the chained daggers, causing the chains to wrap tighter around ScaldingWinter, binding his limbs to his body!

"You should have stayed away from me and secured your spot."

With this indifferent statement resounding deep into ScaldingWinter's ears, Felix pulled the chained daggers forcefully, invoking a potent vibration, akin to a forceful seismic wave.

Then, he swung him once and launched him into the coliseum's wall, causing the crowd to gasp in astonishment as they watched him soaring through the air akin to a canon ball!

ScaldingWinter, his form a helpless projectile, crashed into the coliseum wall with a resonating impact!!!

He wasn't given even a single chance to stop his momentum this time as the throw was simply too powerful.

Whooah!!!! He is down!! Clap!! Clap!!...

He slumped to the ground, motionless and defeated, while the audience roared in amazement and thrill at the end of the fight.

"ScaldingWinter is out of the ring!" shouted Mr. Sogrus, the thrill clear in his voice. "An incredible display from The Traveler, folks!"

Chapter 1407 The Three Monsters And The Preparation To Take Them Down

"DAMN IT!"

Madam Arabella slammed her fist on the armchair angrily, black lines were already covering her entire forehead.

She invested too much in ScaldingWinter to push him to win the tournament and get excellent results in the heavenly plane tournament.

Alas, her hopes were dashed the moment she decided to torment Felix.

"He is too strong...I am starting to think that only the Ravager, Avalanche, and Goliath the Juggernaut are capable of taking him down in this tournament." Boss Gideon commentated.

"We will see about that." Mr. Atticus said calmly, his eyes placed on Felix who was being avoided akin to a plague in the arena. Not a single fighter dared to target him

after his performance, realizing that it was much easier to secure one of the other three slots than attempt to eliminate him.

So, for the next ten minutes, Felix was seen sitting near the edge of the arena with his arm resting on his knee, scanning the ongoing chaos in a nonchalant manner.

Just like the area around him was a banned zone, not a single fight was picked near him, which created a bizarre scene for the viewers.

"What an interesting newbie..."

Standing tall amidst the first group of fighters, the figure of Ravager was as imposing as it was intriguing. He possesses an alluring charisma of a stoic warrior, his icy gaze filled with inscrutable depth, often leaving his opponents unnerved.

His skin has an ethereal soft golden glow, showcasing his status as a newly risen golden spirit. Intricate tattoos adorn his body, swirling around his muscular arms and broad shoulders. His hair, a wild untamed mane while his attire of fluid silks mirrors his affinity to water.

His demeanor was not that of one who brags, but of a cold and serious predator who lets his skills speak for him.

This was Ravager, the previous two times champion of Astralis's Spectral Tournament in a row, stealing the crown from the known most powerful fighters, Goliath and Avalanche.

His strength and battle experience were so overwhelming, almost 99% of the fighters join those tournaments for the sake of securing the second or third rank.

He was that overbearing.

Sensing two pressuring pair of eyes on him, Felix turned his head to the side in a relaxed manner and returned the stare to the Ravager in the midst of the chaos reigning in the Colosseum.

Felix and Ravager, standing across from one another, their eyes locked in an intense standoff...The air between them seemed to vibrate, each sizing up the other with silent scrutiny.

Around them, the Colosseum was in a state of frenzy. The ground shook with impact, smoke, and dust filling the air, clouding the vibrant bursts of elemental abilities.

Fighters charged, bellowed, and fell.

Energy blasts rocketed skyward, shattering the heavens in a spectacular display of power!

Yet amidst all the mayhem, their unemotional expressions were unchanged, each man seemed carved from stone.

No words were needed, for their eyes spoke volumes more than words ever could. It was clear to all - a storm was about to break between these two.

'To think I will be forced to take such weaklings seriously again...Isn't it ironic Asna?' Felix shook his head, breaking off the intense staredown like it was nothing.

While his mind was as creepily silent as everyone else, Felix imagined Asna mocking the Ravager with her assholeish personality.

He sniggered to himself for a moment before his stoic expression retook control over him again.

'Is he laughing at me?'

While it was brief, the Ravager caught him in the act and he didn't seem pleased in the slightest.

Unfortunately for him, Felix didn't bother to glance in his direction ever again.

Sometime later...

"The MimicJoker has fallen at last!! With that, we have our four finalists, and first four fighters to make it to the tournament!"

Mr. Sogrus extended his hand widely and congratulated loudly, "Make some noise for The Traveller, The Banshee, Morris, and Miss Jasmine!"

Clap Clap Clap!!

Out of nowhere, a single pair of hands started clapping, the sound echoing through the vast expanse. It was soon followed by another, then another until the entire coliseum resonated with the applause of thousands of spectators.

In the center of the arena stood the four finalists - Felix, The Banshee, Morris, and Miss Jasmine...Besides Felix, the three finalists looked like they had gone through hell seven times and came back worse each time.

To survive a battle royal with hundreds of fighters was no easy task and if Felix hadn't displayed his overwhelming strength, he would have become like them.

After the applause died down, they were excused from the arena and the dice were rolled yet again to decide the next group.

In the meantime, the arena went into a rapid reparation, becoming brand new in less than a few seconds.

"The next group is number one! All fighters please grace the stage." Mr. Sogrus requested.

'Avalanche's group.'

Felix's cold eyes followed the sole golden shimmering spirit amidst hundred fighters - Avalanche. He was a lean humanoid bear with snow-white fur that gleamed like a field of untouched snow under the sunlight.

He was considered one of the favorites to triumph the competition if he prepared enough to take down Ravager and get his revenge from the last tournament.

The fight that Felix watched on the tv was a replay of a very old competition where Goliath and Avalanche were still dominating the competition.

But now? It was too hard to predict the outcome with Felix and Ravager involved.

"What an expected but disappointing turn of events."

Mr. Sogrus sighed at the sight of Avalanche sitting at the edge of the arena while the rest of the fighters stayed as far as possible from him.

While no one was dumb enough to take the risk and fight off Felix - Avalanche, Goliath, and Ravager were on a whole different plane.

Unless those three sought to warm up in those group battles, it was impossible to see them breaking a sweat unless someone joined the competition without a single clue about their reputation.

Thus, the next three battle royals were quite exciting but not too explosive with those three acting as mere spectators.

In less than an hour, the final twelve finalists were decided and the competition came to a close for one day to give the fighters proper rest before the real deal begins.

...

Back in the national park...Felix could be sitting under the same tree while Karra was cooking a hot pot in the open under the stars.

As for Sekiro? He was sent to secure some spiritual treasures in the black market.

As the name implied, no one cared about the rules, laws, blacklist orders, or whatnot due to all the trades being carried outside of the laws' all-seeing eyes.

However, it wasn't all good and magical as the prices of the items there were at least triple the market price.

Still, Felix had been sending Sekiro consistently on a daily basis to get as many spiritual treasures as possible at the most reasonable prices.

In those past weeks, Felix had spent close to thirty thousand Lumus on them alone, but they were worth it as they made his battles much easier.

If it wasn't for those upgrades, it would have been much more annoying to deal with ScaldingWinter.

'The price might reach triple or even higher for each treasure, but I have to increase my spiritual prowess as much as possible before I meet those three monsters.' Felix thought.

Even though those three fighters hadn't showcased anything in today's competition, Felix knew deeply what they were capable of.

Even ScaldingWinter wasn't their match and Madam Arabella was merely dreaming of him coming close to their level.

'As long as I can defend myself against their telekinesis prowess, I will be alright.' Felix returned to his training, attempting to master a vibration ability capable of neutralizing mental energy more effectively and rapidly.

Right now, he was struggling to make it happen due to the mental energy nature being on a different plane of frequencies. The only reason he easily broke his opponents' telekinesis barriers was due to its frequency being stable as those barriers could be considered somewhat physical.

The same couldn't be applied to the rest of the telekinesis abilities.

Sometime later...

Sekiro returned with an irritated expression like he was just fed cow's dung forcefully.

"That bad?" Felix asked.

"You have no idea."

Sekiro closed his eyes and poured the bought spiritual treasures and the Lumus change in front of Felix.

"That's it?"

Even Felix's unemotional expression turned for the worst after seeing that Sekiro had bought with him an abysmal amount of spiritual treasures with the kind of capital he had given him.

"Sorry, boss...But you have become kinda famous and as your servant, I have also entered the blacklisted database." Sekiro sighed, "Those dishonest merchants knew that you are desperate for spiritual treasures for the sake of the competition and jacked up the price quite heavily. The ones before you are the cheapest considering the circumstances."

"I see..." Felix frowned, "Don't worry, this is on me, I should have thought about it beforehand."

"Still, good thing we have bought a decent amount in the past weeks before they caught up." Sekiro shivered, "I would have honestly punched some of them if I was forced to waste forty thousand Lumus on such exorbitant prices."

Chapter 1408 The Final Sixteen!

The Next Morning...

A grandiose holographic panel illuminated the massive coliseum, casting an ethereal glow over the eager spectators.

The atmosphere was electric, with the audience on the edge of their seats, their eyes glued to the panel above.

It was finally the moment of the draw, the stage was set for the sixteen chosen fighters of the Spectral Tournament.

Mr. Sogrus ascended onto the stage and motioned toward the holographic panel which began to swirl with intricate, ever-changing patterns of light.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he called out, his voice resonating through the arena, "The moment we've all been waiting for! It's time to decide the brackets!"

He reached out and pressed a button on his crystal device. The swirling lights of the holographic panel started to coalesce into distinct orbs, each representing a fighter.

The orbs started to float randomly, then one by one, they moved toward their designated slots in the bracket.

The first match-up appeared.

The orbs of Avalanche, the snow-white humanoid bear, and Felix's orb moved together, their names appearing side by side on the panel.

A low murmur of anticipation filled the stadium as the audience realized the high-profile match-up in the first round itself!

Next, the orbs of Ravager and Goliath floated away from each other, their names appearing on the edges of the brackets, making everyone understand that those two could only fight at the finals.

The process continued until all the fighters were assigned their places in the bracket.

'I have to fight Avalanche and either Goliath or Ravager in the finals...What a shitty draw.' Even though Felix cursed, not an ounce of fear or bother was seen on his face.

He wasn't intimidated, but mildly irritated by the difficulty of the battles...His last night's preparation had given him an additional boost of confidence to deal with those three monsters.

"Let the battles' begin!"

Following Mr. Sogrus' announcement, the two first contestants graced the stage.

It was no other than Miss Jasmine from group three and Goliath the Jugguernaut from group four.

As both combatants entered the arena, their respective auras flared up, illuminating the arena with vibrant hues of golden and vibrant red.

Goliath the Jugauernaut was deserving of such a name as he was a solid figure standing tall at over four meters.

He was a testament to raw strength, his body was a fascinating fusion of metal and earth elements...His skin resembled a blend of rugged terrain and gleaming metal, reflecting the stage lights with an ethereal glow.

On the other side of the platform stood Miss Jasmine, a stark contrast to Goliath's imposing form.

Standing at a modest one meter and a half, she was an embodiment of elegance and grace. Her skin held a gentle, green hue, much like the stem of a rose, that was further accentuated by the soft, floral patterns that decorated her body.

As these two figures stood on the stage, their unique appearances showcased their elemental affinities, setting the platform for the unforgettable spectacle that was about to unfold.

'I hope she at least makes him use some of his new trump cards.' Felix thought as he watched Miss Jasmine initiate the battle.

"Whirlwind Vines!"

With a graceful twirl, her hands danced in the air, summoning a whirlwind of thorny vines which sprung forth from the ground, entwining themselves around Goliath!

The audience gasped as the sharp thorns bit into his rocky skin, poison seeping into his veins!

She was a plant/poison elemental and was one of Boss Gideon's reputable representatives due to her always qualifying for the tournament and sometimes reaching even the semi-finals.

Alas, Goliath wasn't called a monster for no reason.

He merely grunted, his body radiating with heat as the metal element within him reacted to the poison, neutralizing it!

With a roar that echoed through the arena, he stomped his foot onto the ground.

Earth and magma elements melded together...The ground underneath Miss Jasmine cracked open, spewing a fountain of molten magma toward her!

Swift as a deer, Miss Jasmine evaded the blast of magma, summoning a barrage of toxic darts made of plant matter and launching them toward Goliath.

He responded by erecting a wall of solid metal, blocking the lethal barrage!

As the fight ensued, Goliath manipulated the terrain to his advantage, using his mastery over earth and magma to launch relentless attacks, each more fierce than the last.

Jasmine, on the other hand, used her poison to corrode his defenses while using her plant abilities to heal her injuries and evade attacks.

Unfortunately, the tournament had a HP system and no matter how much Jasmine healed herself, those direct hits still registered.

So, the battle ended in Goliath's favor the instant he landed the last twentieth hit, causing the fight to conclude between them.

Clap Clap Clap!!

The audience cheered as they watched Miss Jasmine walking down the arena with a disappointed expression.

She knew the battle was done the moment she matched against Goliath due to his elements countering hers heavily, which caused her to receive many hits in such a short time.

'I used to watch battles end only with death or surrender, this feels off.' Felix shook his head, unsatisfied by the outcome of the fight, feeling like he was left with no closure.

Sadly, this was the reality of having no death or UVR in the spirit realm.

No matter how the spirits attempted to make their lives resemble the living world, at the end of the day, they were still dead.

This Hit Threshold System was the only thing making sure the battles end in a decent duration and if it wasn't for it, the spirits might continue torturing each other until one of them finally caved into the pain.

"Next constants! Please step forward!"

'It's my turn.'

After the applause died down, Felix glanced at the screen and saw that his battle was next.

He fixed his clothes and walked to the platform from one side while Avanlence was gracing it from the other.

The moment both of them landed on the arena, the entire colosseum exploded in frenzied cheers and the bets started flying in on each side.

While Felix had demonstrated himself to be a deadly fighter, he was still not as renowned as Avalanche, making the gambling dens give a much higher pay on his win.

'If only I was able to bet on myself, I would have come out of this tournament ten times richer.' Felix sighed while cracking his fingers.

The moment Felix learned about gambling in the tournaments, his first thought was to always bet on himself.

Unfortunately, his hopes were soon dashed by Sekiro as he informed him that combatants and their servants were incapable of putting money into any battle they were participating in.

It was done like this to stop them from throwing battles for the sake of a good payoff.

If he dared to make a shady deal with outsiders and threw the fight either way, he would get found out easily as the legal authorities were the ones responsible for such investigations.

They weren't to be f*cked around with if they had full investigation access.

So, Felix dropped the thought entirely.

"Both combatants ready?" Mr. Sogrus asked.

"Mmm."

Avalanche nodded with a sleepy look, seemingly wanting this battle to end as fast as possible to return to his slumber.

"You may begin."

Felix permitted indifferently, making Mr. Sogrus' eyelids twitch at his commanding tone. Still, he swallowed his displeasure and kicked off the battle immediately.

"FIGHT!"

Chapter 1409 The Traveler Vs Avalanche! I

Without wasting a moment, Avalanche pulled at his water element, the air around him dropping drastically in temperature.

Whoosh!

He manipulated the water molecules in the air, conjuring a chilling blizzard that shrouded the battlefield in a curtain of frost and snow!

Through the storm, Avalanche charged forward, his body crystallizing into an armored glacier.

Felix remained unfazed, his own aura beginning to pulse more noticeably.

'Harmonic Tremor.'

He smacked his hands once and sent a low-frequency blast that swept across the icy terrain, shattering the surface and weakening Avalanche's charge!

In retaliation, Avalanche raised his hand, conjuring shards of ice in mid-air.

With a powerful sweep of his arm, the shards propelled towards Felix, sparkling ominously in the arena lights.

Yet, Felix remained untouched, using his anti-elemental vibration barrier to resonate with the frequencies of those ice shards and neutralize them.

The moment he blocked them, Felix launched himself forward, each step on the ground released a rumbling tremor underneath!

rumble...Rumble....RUMBLE!

Just like building a symphony, the rumbling increased in intensity until Felix was merely tens of meters away from Avalanche.

RUMMMMMBLE!!!!

Then, he took one final step and the earth seemed to have been flipped upside down as the arena broke in half from the center, leaving behind a yawning chasm!!

"Not bad, but you have already shown this ability before." Avalanche commentated lazily as he manifested a dome of ice around him, predicting that Felix was going to use the giant pieces of the arena as his main weapon.

"I never use the same technique twice."

Felix replied back in a calm manner while pointing a finger gun in the direction of Avalanche.

He charged a intense vibration into a tiny point at his fingertip, forming a bullet-like shape from the ambient metallic dust around him. The buzz of energy around his finger grew in intensity until it was nearly deafening!

With a quick flick of his finger, he released the charged bullet, propelling it through the air at supersonic speed!

It raced across the divided arena, smoke, and debris, and punched through the ice dome that Avalanche had erected as a defense, leaving a neat hole in its wake!

The bullet continued its journey unabated, crashing into Avalanche's telekinetic barrier with an echoing crack, hairline fractures spider-webbing across its surface!

Avalanche's sleepy attitude was no more to be seen as he eyed his cracked telekinesis barrier with a puzzled look, seemingly incapable of understanding what happened.

Unfortunately, this wasn't the end of Felix's barrage.

Pew! Pew! Pew!..

Just like he was a wild west gunslinger, Felix kept jumping from one flying rock to another while firing multiple bullets at Avalanche from many directions.

The tip of his fingers turned red from friction caused by the intense vibration and air molecules, yet he wasn't planning to stop!

"What kind of technique is that?!"

"I am starting to doubt that his element is sound more and more!"

The audience gasped in awe, as the noise of Felix's bullets echoed throughout the colossal stadium.

Crack! Crack!

Realizing that he wasn't in the best of situations, Avalanche finally broke out of his daze and reinforced his ice dome until the bullets' weren't able to penetrate its thick surface anymore!

'If Avalanche kept underestimating him, this might be the first time he never makes it past the single-elimination group.'

Ravager thought to himself, his stoic eyes affixed on the ongoing assault.

Avalanche seemed to have realized this fact as well.

'The moment I recover my telekinesis barrier, I will go all in on him.'

He decided, his expression resembled a fierce predator polar bear, seeing flesh after weeks.

Unbeknownst to him, the moment he thickened his ice dome, he had locked himself inside and made it harder to see the outside as light particles weren't able to penetrate its surface as easily.

He could be uttered to have blinded himself in front of no one but Felix.

'Let's see if this will work.'

Felix landed upside down on a giant rock that was about to reach its peak velocity and extended one arm forward while the other pulled back, making him seem like he was holding a sniper rifle.

Then, energy hummed through Felix's veins akin to an insistent drumbeat, swelling from his shoulder down to the tips of his fingers.

The waves of energy grew intense at the tip of his extended finger, pulsating with the untamed might of raw vibration.

With a swift, fluid motion, he reached into his pocket and produced a long, silver bullet, positioning it meticulously at the apex of the amassed vibrational energy.

His eyes, sharp and focused, locked onto Avalanche, who stood ensnared within his ice dome.

'Resonance frequency.'

Waiting for the perfect moment, Felix activated his frequency neutralization ability, targeting the ice dome.

This was a different technique to the anti-elemental barrier as he was planning to vibrate the ice molecules fast enough to break apart the hydrogen bonds that hold the ice in its solid form, thus turning it into liquid water!

In other words, using frequencies to change the form of an element!

His ability seemed to have succeeded as the once thick icy shield shuddered and began to transform into liquid.

In that moment of instability, Felix let loose the silver bullet!

It shot through the air, a gleaming arrow of energy, cutting through the disrupted dome and landing directly on Avalanche's chest at an alarming speed!

'Huh?'

Before Avalanche could even react to his ice dome turning into water, he found himself hurled into the depth of the chasm with blood coming out of his chest and back as the bullet penetrated him thoroughly!

"..."

"..."

"..."

Stunned and somewhat dumbfounded, the sponsors and the rest of the viewers had the words stuck in their throats at the sight of Avalanche disappearing into the darkness of the underground.

They weren't expecting a one-sided show as no one was dumb enough to disrespect Felix after his previous performances, but none of them thought that it would be one-sided the other way around!

Unfortunately for them, the shock wasn't even close to being over as Felix still had plenty to offer.

Felix intense his remaining energy, wanting to go for the kill.

He raised his hands, and a surge of invisible power cascaded from his fingers.

The rubble and detritus that had once made up the arena floor began to tremble, then shake violently.

"ARISE!"

He tightened his grip, and like marionettes obeying the command of their puppet master, the debris of rocks and boulders began to rise, levitating in the air around Felix.

Beneath him, Avalanche was caught in the chasm, struggling to comprehend his current situation...His thoughts were abruptly interrupted as he saw the shadow of the hovering debris closing over him.

'Oh no!'

The light dwindled as the chasm above was filled, becoming a sea of levitating rubble, making him understand that Felix wanted to bury him!

Not giving him even a moment to escape, Felix brought his hands down with all the force he could muster.

Responding to his command, the floating debris plummeted toward the earth with crushing force.

A symphony of collisions echoed throughout the stadium as every rock, every fragment, found its place, sealing the chasm and Avalanche's fate within under the widened eyes of the viewers.

As the dust rose into the sky and cast a shadow on Felix's figure, lips trembles, eyes shuddered, and the hearts of the viewers and the fighters thumped.

Silence covered the entire colosseum as even Mr. Sogrus was seen staring at the ruined arena at the loss of words about his commentary.

'Is it don...'

Rumble...

Before Felix could finish his thought, an unnoticeable tremor was picked by his sensitive ears, making his expression turned stern again.

'As expected, they aren't easy to take down...'

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!!!

Chapter 1410 The Traveler Vs Avalanche! II

The dust of the collapsed arena was still settling, the cheers of Felix's victory echoing through the silent air. The spectators' faces were still turned to the figure standing alone in the center of the arena, their applause ringing out in unison.

Then, a thunderous crash resonated from beneath the ground, the vibrations reaching every corner of the coliseum.

The ground shivered, then convulsed violently as a massive formation of ice erupted from beneath the arena floor!

Jaws dropped in shock as a giant sword, carved of the clearest ice and glinting menacingly in the sunlight, thrust upwards into the sky!!

Astride this icy behemoth was none other than Avalanche himself, bloodied and battered, yet unbowed. His white fur was stained red, his body marred with gashes and bruises, but the fire in his eyes was stronger than ever.

"TRAVELER!!!" He roared, the sound rippling through the coliseum, causing the cheers to die abruptly.

His breath came in ragged pants, his chest heaving while his eyes were filled with an untamed fury locked onto Felix.

The coliseum fell into stunned silence, the taste of victory was swiftly replaced by the anticipation of a renewed fight.

"Avalanche hasn't given up yet!! But, how long can he last with only two hits left before his elimination?!" Mr. Sogrus commentated excitedly as he highlighted a small number on top of Avalanche's head.

It was eighteen written in red.

'He must have blocked many hits down there.' Felix frowned, knowing that the number should have been much higher.

"TRAVELER!!"

With another furious roar, Avalanche launched himself toward Felix while extending his grip forward like he wanted to choke him out.

'Sh*t!'

Felix's expression turned for the worst as the air itself around him was bent to Avalanche's psychokinetic energy before it latched onto him!

He felt like he was caught by an iron grip, invisible but unbearably strong, anchoring him to his spot as surely as chains would!

A vicious snarl twisted Avalanche's muzzle as his hands danced with a cold, eerie light, summoning his ice abilities.

Ice shards, sharp as daggers, emerged from his palms and flew towards Felix with frightening speed, crashing against his telekinetic barrier!

Felix's barrier flickered under the relentless barrage, shimmering waves of energy struggling to keep the icy onslaught at bay.

Avalanche was relentless. He raised a claw, and a frigid gust, teeming with minuscule ice particles, stormed towards Felix. The gale force wind lashed against Felix's barrier, each ice particle a hammer blow!

'Focus, focus, focus.'

Felix's face twisted with exertion, sweat dripping from his forehead as he fought to maintain his barrier while at the same time wanting to use his vibration to neutralize the telekinetic energy holding into him.

He found it already difficult to pull it off while he was at peace, don't even mention in this stressful situation.

Avalanche's barrage was relentless...His eyes were cold, unwavering in their intensity as he watched Felix's barrier begin to splinter.

"BEGONE!!"

With a roar that echoed through the silent arena, Avalanche brought down his fist. A colossal icicle, sharp and deadly, spiraled toward Felix!

It crashed against his barrier with an earth-shattering impact. The barrier rippled, flickered, and with a flash of light, shattered into a million sparks!

BOOOOOM!!

"Cough!"

The crowd gasped as they watched Felix coughing out blood while laying amidst chilling ice rubble.

"Ice Chains!"

Avalanche wasn't even close to appeasing his anger as he manifested multiple chilling chains from the rubble and controlled them to ensnare Felix's limbs.

"Traveller is in grave danger! If he can't free himself, Avalanche will reach the hit threshold in no time!" Mr. Sogrus disclosed out loud, his widened eyes affixed on Felix's starlike ensnare body.

'I am in trouble...'

Even Felix knew that his situation wasn't optimal at all.

While the chains were pretty easy to break from, the overpowering telekinesis pressure was still on him, keeping him affixed to the ground.

As much as he overestimated Avalanche and the other two monsters' telekinesis prowess, he was still caught off guard and his preparation wasn't enough to counter it successfully.

'Think...Think...There has to be a way to win this.'

Felix's new rational and ruthless personality made him incapable of having his emotions take the best of him even in such desperate situations.

So, he started calculating and thinking of a new strategy while his indifferent eyes were affixed on Avalanche in the sky.

"ICICLES RAIN!"

With arms spread wide as he manipulated the moisture in the air, Avalanche manifested countless sharp icicles, hanging above Felix like a deadly chandelier, their lethal points gleaming ominously in the arena's light!

"RELEASE!"

The moment Avalanche's hands slammed down, the sky fell.

Hundreds of razor-sharp icicles rained down on Felix, a glacial storm intent on piercing him to shreds!!

The air around Felix began to hum, a low vibration that grew into a throbbing pulse as he summoned an countermagic barrier.

Alas, there were just too many icicles, and the vibrations needed to match each icicle's frequency to nullify it in time before it landed on Felix.

With Felix's current understanding and mastery of the vibration element, he wasn't yet at the level to nullify anything in his path.

Thus, the barrier rippled and faltered, managing to deflect only a fraction of the icicle onslaught, leaving the audience gasping in collective horror as the remainder of the icy barrage showered Felix, each hit resonating like a chilling death knell...

Five...Seven...Twelve...

The number of direct hits with required damage kept increasing on top of Felix's head, making him and everyone else understand that he was merely a few seconds away from elimination.

While the pain was extremely intense and his body was riddled with chilling bloody holes, Felix's expression remain as stoic as ever like he had no pain receptors.

'I guess there is no other option left.'

Instead, his mind was occupied with a method to save himself. In the end, he realized that his mastery of the vibration element was still not enough to deal with those monsters and he had to improve his whole strategy.

'I have one chance to pull it off and end this.'

Felix closed his eyes, his face a picture of intense concentration...His fists were clenched tightly at his sides, each finger vibrating slightly.

Suddenly, a flicker of flame sprang to life around his hands, dancing and crackling as it began to grow in intensity and volume.

At his command, the vibrations within his hands rapidly escalated, causing the flames to surge and grow brighter.

Before Avalanche and the viewers could react, in a flash, the fire vibration mixture spread into his entire body and it exploded!!

BOOOOOOOOOM!!!

The shockwave was so devastating, it spread outwards like a small star had ignited in the heart of the arena!!

The ice chains were no more and what's more surprising, the telekinetic hold Avalanche had on Felix was immediately shattered!

'The hell!'

The raw, brute pressure of the blast was too overwhelming, and it forced him to focus completely his telekinesis on his protection, which weakened his hold on Felix!

"..."

"..."

"..."

As the shockwave died down and the atmosphere began to return to normal, there, at the epicenter of the explosion, stood Felix, his once vibrant aura now replaced by a chilling calm.

His clothes were singed, tattered, hanging off his frame like the remnants of a battle long fought. His skin was bloodied, peppered with tiny cuts from the shockwave, each wound a stark contrast against the pale pallor of his skin.

His hair, now wild and disheveled from the blast, framed his face, casting dark shadows over his piercing eyes.

Despite his injuries, his stance was unwavering, defiant against the brutal aftermath of his own creation.

It was a sight that sent a collective shiver down the spine of the onlookers.

"Wha..What a madman..."

"He actually tried to blow himself up..."

"Dear Lord, does he not feel pain?! How can he not pass out?!"

Whether it was the sponsors, the fighters, or the viewers, none of them managed to process the current situation before them.

Felix wasn't planning to give anyone time to do so.

Channeling his vibrational power into his palm, Felix introduced the element of fire.

The bullets, once simply silver and metallic, now glowed with a fiery intensity, a deadly combination of vibration and fire, ready to be launched!

Without any hesitation, Felix let out a low growl, "Burning Quake Bullets."

In an instant, the bullets shot forward with a sonic speed, their trajectory a deadly dance of vibrational energy and crackling fire!

The air around them distorted due to the immense heat and pulsating vibrational energy, leaving a trail of flickering embers and trembling air in their wake.

Not expecting an immediate retaliation after such an overwhelming explosion, the fire bullets struck the stunned Avalanche, their vibrational energy allowing them to penetrate his icy exterior with ease.

Each hit was like a mini-explosion, a burst of fiery flames and crippling vibrations, causing Avalanche to be pushed higher and higher into the sky, his mighty form wracked with pain!

Crack Crack....Shatter!

'Oh no!'

The relentless barrage of the burning quake bullets proved too much for his incomplete telekinesis barrier, shattering into pieces after the tenth bullet.

The immediate Felix saw his barrier fading away, he fired two more fiery bullets, and the moment they were about to land on Avalanche, he muttered, "Ignite."

Then, as if reacting to Felix's will, the vibration stored inside those bullets agitated the frequency of the fire bullets, causing them to explode simultaneously!

An earth-shaking boom echoed throughout the arena, followed by a blinding flash of fiery light.

The force of the explosion was akin to that of two grenades, a devastating surge of energy that tore through Avalanche's body!

Arggh!!!!

A roar of pain echoed through the coliseum, quickly followed by the sound of a heavy body colliding with the protective barrier of the arena.

When the dust settled, the audience could see Avalanche's enormous form slumped against the barrier, his eyes showing only white.

While Felix was able to handle such a enormous explosion on a close range without passing out, the same didn't apply to the others...

While he kept calling them monsters, in reality, the only monster in this entire tournament was no one else but him.

This conclusion seemed to have taken root inside everyone's minds as the echo of the explosion still rang in their ears, a reminder of everything that transpired before them...