

Supremacy 1411

Chapter 1411 The Mysterious Stalker

A momentary silence filled the coliseum.

The spectators blinked, stunned, as they tried to comprehend the brutal spectacle they had just witnessed.

Then, the silence shattered as the crowd erupted in a deafening roar of applause and cheers. They jumped to their feet, the stands shaking as they shouted Felix's name in unison.

The sound filled the coliseum, echoing back from the tall, imposing walls!

"This is a first of its kind! Avalanche, the five times champions, has been eliminated in the first round of the tournament by the hands of neither Goliath nor Ravager!!" Mr. Sogrus observed excitedly.

"I have to say this is a bit unexpected..."

"He can use even fire...Somehow, I am not shocked. A fighter of his caliber should be at least a duo-elementalist."

From the VIP section, the various sponsors and dignitaries looked on with a mix of shock and awe. Even those who had written off Felix could not help but be impressed by the raw display of power and strategic acumen.

Meanwhile, in the fighters' section, the other contestants watched Felix with newfound wariness and respect.

A chill ran through the remaining fighters as they realized the imposing challenge they would have to face in the upcoming battles.

But, the Ravager and Goliath didn't seem as worried.

'His telekinesis prowess is his weakness. As long as we capitalize on this from the start, he will be easy to handle.'

Both of them reached this conclusion.

While Avalanche was caught off guard and failed to take real advantage, it wasn't going to be the same for them.

After a few minutes, Felix escorted himself outside of the Colosseum entirely as he knew that the quarterfinals would be held in two days.

Sekiro and Karra met him outside and they walked in the direction of the national park.

"You are actually doing it." Sekiro said, his voice carried a tint of admiration.

"Doesn't hurt, master?" Karra asked with a faint concerned tone, still not used to being open.

"It's manageable," Felix replied calmly before coming to a full stop. He turned to the side and walked in the direction of a dark alley.

"Be right back."

Sekiro and Karra were puzzled by his sudden change of direction, but they followed orders.

Felix found himself navigating through the maze of narrow, twisted alleys that spread like a spider web around the coliseum.

A sensation of being watched had gnawed at him, a prickle at the back of his neck that wouldn't leave even while he was in the middle of the battles.

While there were thousands of eyes on him, the looks they were giving him were nowhere close as intense, bizarre, and borderline obsessed as the one he picked up.

He stopped abruptly, turning around to face the follower he knew was there.

"Come out." He ordered indifferently.

"Kikiki, your senses sure are sharper than a blade."

In the dim light cast by a solitary, lantern hanging precariously from a nearby building, he saw her - the same cloaked figure with cat ears that had been watching him before. Her cloak seemed to blend into the shadows, and her cat-like eyes shone with an intense, reflective light.

"You are?" Felix asked, his muscles tensed, ready for any sudden movements.

But the mysterious woman didn't move.

Instead, she let out the same bizarre laugh and said, "Lower your guard, I come in peace."

Felix remained silent, waiting for her introduction.

"Tsk, you're no fun."

The woman removed the cloak and exposed an exotic beauty, accentuated by a sprinkling of delicate freckles across the bridge of her nose, while tufts of chestnut hair peeked out from her ears, adding an otherworldly charm to her visage.

"..."

'No reaction?'

The follower was left surprised as she assumed that Felix would have recognized her face immediately due to her infamous reputation. Instead, he just kept staring at her like a piece of wood.

"Cough, you can call me Miss Sanae. I am the owner of the sole private detection agency 'Spectrum Detection Services'." Miss Sanae introduced formally, changing her entire attitude to a solemn one.

"Detection agency?" Felix frowned, "Is that even a thing in the spirit realm?"

"There are barely a dozen across the entire heavenly plane and most of their services were related to pitty cases. However, my agency is different." Miss Sanae grinned a bit, "I am interested in the big fish and there is plenty of underground trash that needs to be cleaned up and thrown into the law enforcers' clutches."

When Felix thought about it, he realized that the heavenly plane was indeed massively in favor of those in power and authority, which gave them the opportunity to abuse those below them.

The perfect example was Karra's previous heartbreaking treatment by her master and she had nowhere and no one to ask for help...Not even law enforcers could help her if she had no proof or the contract signed allowed her to get abused in such a manner.

"Interesting, I guess if there is a problem, there is always a niche solution for it." Felix inquired, "So, you were hired to make my life even worse or to seek an employment offer to help me out?"

"Neither." Miss Sanae extended her hand and offered with a sincere tone, "I want you to be my servant and help me with my cases."

"Hmm?" Felix was somewhat taken aback by her response.

He never thought he would ever be asked to be someone's servant in his life this directly. But, he wasn't offended or bothered by it as much as he was inquisitive about the offer.

"Why me?"

"If you are smart, you would have figured it out on your own."

"I am a blacklisted spirit who showed to not care about the higher-ups and abiding by their rules. For you to come at me with such an offer, means that you want an assistant who can help with a case or multiple cases against those higher-ups."

Felix disclosed indifferently.

She was right, he figured her out the moment she made the request and he merely asked for a confirmation.

"Kikiki, it's rare for me to be on the same page with another spirit."

Miss Sanae giggled weirdly as she covered her mouth. Then, a split second later her entire demeanor switched to a serious one like she was either a professional actor or a lunatic.

Felix was leading to the latter, but he wasn't in a position to judge anyone.

"Listen up, I wanted to wait until you are done with the tournament before I make my offer so your focus wouldn't be divided, but your sensitive eyes made it impossible."

Miss Sanae addressed, "I will give you until the end of the tournament to make up your decision, and don't bother asking me about the cases you will be handling as they are classified."

"What is it in it for me?" Felix shook his head, "I can earn enough Lumus through tournaments and especially the heavenly plane one. I doubt there is any kind of decent pay in your kind of industry."

No matter how hard Felix thought about it, he couldn't fathom how it would be possible for such an agency to earn a decent wage if they were exclusively reliant on clients' requests.

"That's where you are mistaken." Miss Sanae grinned, her eyes shimmered with unkind wickedness, "My agency obtains at least 50% of all properties and resources of each criminal spirit we brought down to justice."

"Is that so?" Felix's eyes gleamed under the dim light, sharing the same maliciousness in her eyes.

It was like two kindred souls matching together at last as Felix immediately understood that Miss Sanae wasn't going after the higher-up out of the goodness of her heart!

Imagine obtaining 50% of The Red Fangs Organization's properties and assets when bringing them down...Even if the other half went to the government and he merely was given 20% of the shares, he still wouldn't be complaining about it.

"So, what do you say?"

"What percentage?"

"5%."

"Not happening, 20%."

"20%? Even I don't get that percentage as I need to take care of my own people." Miss Sanae countered, "10%, final offer, take it or leave it."

"Not enough to move me." Felix shook his head, "I don't know your targets and what kind of assets they have, how difficult is their case, how long were you working on them, will they ever work out eventually? So many ifs and I would rather not throw away a sure method to secure Lumus for such an offer."

"First of all, you can continue doing your fights, I don't give a crap about them. Secondly, I will be providing you with a house to stay and your servants, which will help you avoid the daily homelessness penalty. Thirdly, I can lend you Lumus and allow you to use my servants to purchase anything you want to avoid the blacklist order."

"10% with such benefits doesn't look that bad, right?" Miss Sanae smiled, knowing exactly what she was doing.

Chapter 1412 Spectrum Detection Services

'It doesn't sound too bad, indeed.'

Felix was somewhat satisfied with her offer as he knew that he wasn't in perfect condition to haggle.

His solution to build his own house wasn't a sure thing and if it didn't work, he might end up in the streets for a very long time...He couldn't afford that.

Plus, the fact that he could move around the blacklist order in the markets was also a must if he desired to continue his journey in the tournaments.

Still, Felix wasn't done haggling.

"How about the salary?" Felix moved on, "My services aren't cheap."

"You will get paid two thousand Lumus, nothing more, nothing less. Our entire operation is based on payments after succeeding in cases, which means if you want a stable high salary, you have to give up on the 10% share. You can't have both."

"Fair enough."

Felix knew that her answer would be like this as he would have done the same too. In fact, he was pleased that there was even a salary on the table.

So, he didn't waste both of their times with this.

"One last thing, I have no interest in a permanent position." Felix said calmly, "The moment I become a golden spirit, I will either be your partner if I liked to continue with you or take my departure."

"So, you are telling me, you don't want a timer on the contract?" Miss Sanae asked.

"No."

All relationships between servants and their masters were enforced by binding contracts unless the servant himself hadn't imposed one.

For example, Karra's situation was so desperate, she just wanted to find a master and didn't have any other conditions.

In the case of Felix, his main goal was to become a golden spirit and obtain a governmental position to be offered the reincarnation opportunity.

Since golden spirits couldn't become servants to anyone, each servant that reached this grade automatically free himself.

If there was a contract between the two parties that enforced the servant to not upgrade to golden rank, he had to respect it, otherwise, the law enforcers would be introduced.

"I don't mind." Miss Sanae smiled, "But, you will have to close more than five small cases and one major case before considering becoming a golden spirit."

"Sounds fair." Felix nodded in agreement.

He didn't want to negotiate with this condition since his payment was dependent on the cases closed.

"Give me your agency location and I will be paying you a visit shortly with my servants."

Felix informed her, "You will have my answer by then."

Miss Sanae agreed and they both went their own separate ways.

After Felix returned to Sekiro and Karra, the first thing he did was ask about Miss Sanae and her agency.

"Why are you asking about that Lunatic?"

Sekiro narrowed his eyes, having a bad feeling about this.

"We will be under her wing." Felix answered as he continued his walk toward the national park.

"..."

"..."

Sekiro and Karra didn't even know how to respond. They knew that Felix wasn't a conventional master, but to cause trouble everywhere and anywhere he went?

"What's up with those reactions?" Felix frowned, "Is she really that bad?"

"Bad not in the sense she is hated by the public, but in the sense, no one wants to deal with her in fear of their own future."

Sekiro sighed deeply, "The entire upper echelon and the underground world consider her as their enemy and anyone related to her will suffer a much worse fate than just having a blacklist order on them."

"This is one of the reasons why even though she is a golden rank spirit, she has only one servant under her as no one wants to associate with her to not harm their future."

"Getting involved with her... It's like walking straight into a hurricane. The thrill is tempting, but the destruction is devastating. You don't want to be caught up in her storm, Trust me."

As he finished, he stepped back, leaving Felix alone with his thoughts in the eerie silence of the alleyway, his warnings echoing ominously.

'My people my ass.'

In the end, Felix was bothered by only Miss Sanae's falsehood about her having 'servants' under her, but in reality, she only had one.

Since the contract wasn't signed yet and he hadn't given her his word, Felix wasn't planning to let her get away with this.

As for the rest? He couldn't care less as he wasn't here to build a future.

"Let's go pack up," Felix ordered.

"Sir..."

"Drop it." Felix ordered.

'I hope everything goes well...' Sekiro could wish with a bitter smile and follow his master to their tent.

...

After they packed up, Felix and his employees took off right away toward Miss Sanae's detection bureau.

It was situated on the fringes of the city, far from the gleaming skyscrapers and bustling streets.

It was less of an official institution and more of a makeshift operation, a stark contrast to the grandeur associated with typical investigation bureaus.

The office itself was nothing more than a modest apartment complex, easily overlooked amidst the sea of more imposing structures.

A weather-beaten signboard hung lopsidedly over the entrance, the words 'Spectrum Detection Services.' peeling and faded.

'Is she broke?'

Felix's eyelids twitched, starting to have second thoughts about this whole thing.

Still, he pushed his doubts down and knocked on the door.

Kiiiiiii...

The door opened with a squealing noise as it had never been oiled before, exposing a short unique boy.

He was like an exquisite sculpture, shaped from pure white wax, his surface smooth and glistening with an ethereal sheen...His limbs were finely crafted, each detail painstakingly chiseled, possessing a lithe grace that belied his waxen nature.

Atop his head, where a normal boy might have hair, sat a single, sturdy wick, its flame flickering merrily. When lit, it bathed the boy in a warm, soothing glow, casting moving shadows that seemed to bring him to life.

'Interesting, was there always such a race in the universe?' Felix eyed the boy with an intrigued look.

All the records across the history of the universe never showed even a diagram of such a race that resembled a living candle.

Only in the spirit realm would it be possible to see all known and unknown races across its history in one melting pot.

After all, the memories reformation merely changed the personality, facial features, and such, the main body was still based on the previous race.

"Enter."

The boy opened the door for Felix and his employees and then slid through the floor, leaving behind him crumbles of melted wax.

Before Felix could step inside, Miss Sanae came out to greet them.

"Welcome to my modest abode."

"It's modest alright," Felix remarked indifferently as his eyes scanned the minimally furnished apartment.

The office was the heart of the bureau, cluttered with a myriad of documents, case files, and a few mementos from successful investigations.

A single desk stood against one wall, a lone lamp casting a pool of light over the papers scattered about.

Two adjoining rooms served as bedrooms, each sparsely decorated, the beds more functional than comfortable.

The kitchen was quaint and compact, bearing signs of use but also of a person who cared about cleanliness.

The living room served as a reception area of sorts, the mismatched furniture hinting at the many stories this place had witnessed.

Felix didn't expect a massive building with multiple floors, but at the same time, he didn't think that it was even possible for a golden spirit to be this poor.

"Don't worry about your salary. I can pay you three years in advance or even more if you're skeptical about my financial condition." Miss Sanae said, acting a bit hurt by his comment.

She expected Felix to back off and trust her...Alas.

"Three years will do." Felix agreed.

"...Are you always this insensitive?" Miss Sanae's lips twitched in vexation.

"You have no idea..." Sekiro murmured as softly as possible.

Chapter 1413 Fallen Specters

With one glare from Felix, Sekiro hid under his straw hat and nothing was heard from him again.

"Cough, feel free to sit anywhere." Miss Sanae offered as she took them to the living room.

After everyone was seated, the candle boy brought snacks and drinks...Then, he slid away again.

"Thanks, little Timmy."

"Mmmm." Little Timmy replied sluggishly.

"I wonder why hasn't he left you as well?"

Felix inquired calmly.

"Looks like you heard about me." Miss Sanae chuckled, not too bothered by his question.

"I didn't expect that it will be a two-man show." Felix narrowed his eyes, "10% doesn't sound too fair when it's going to be a partnership."

"Fine, you will get 15%, just drop it." Miss Sanae caved in immediately.

She thought before that there was a very slim chance Felix would either sign the contract right away or have enough principle to not renegotiate after a price had been decided.

Alas, Felix hadn't contemplated of either option as he wasn't stupid to get himself scammed in such an important decision.

"That works."

Fortunately, Felix wasn't that greedy and agreed to the offer.

"Sign this...All conditions are written there."

Miss Sanae uttered as she forwarded a holographic contract to Felix.

Felix read it carefully for a few minutes before he nodded in her direction and then signed it. Although there were some terms such as absolute loyalty, listening to orders, and other freedom-limiting terms, Felix still signed it.

After all, no matter how good the conditions were, at the end of the day, he was still a servant through and through.

The moment he did so, a wide smile broke on Miss Sanae's face. "At last, I will have a decent assistant."

"It can't be that no one has piqued your interest before me. I am not the only blacklisted spirit." Felix frowned.

"True, I had plenty of other assistants before, but I was forced to release all of them time and time again after they were offered to be removed from the blacklist."

Miss Sanae shook her head.

"Doesn't the contract ensure absolute loyalty? Why did you let them leave." Sekiro asked.

"What's the point of having assistants that don't want to work wholeheartedly to steal - Cough, to bring those f*ckers down to justice?" Miss Sanae said coldly, "So, anyone who came to me with the request, I void their contract and let them leave after paying the termination fees."

No wonder Miss Sanae wanted Felix badly...She was clearly listening to his conversation with the city's rich lords in the restaurant and realized that Felix would never get removed from the list by them.

So, he wouldn't be swayed like the others.

"You don't have to worry about me." Felix uttered calmly, "I am not interested in removing my blacklist order but in their assets."

"That's what I like to hear." Miss Sanae smiled.

"So, what cases are you working on right now?"

"Before I answer that, I need to ask you something." Miss Sanae's voice turned tenser as she inquired, "Are you familiar with the term Fallen Specters?"

"No."

Felix turned to Sekiro for answers and realized that he was just as ignorant as him.

However, what piqued his interest, even more, was Karra's reaction to the term. Her heart pounded like a drum in her chest, a sudden gasp escaping her lips.

"What's the matter?"

"N..Nothing." Karra stuttered.

"Didn't I tell you to not hide anything from me?" Felix's gaze got colder in displeasure.

"I..I can't."

Felix's expression turned a bit softer as he knew the difference between can't and won't. Karra not being able to speak meant that a previous master of hers was related to this term and she couldn't talk about the subject without receiving punishment.

All servants were banned from sharing any private details about their masters even if they broke off from them.

This was a strict law that was respected and feared by everyone due to the vile consequence of being thrown off from the heavenly plane immediately.

"Interesting, you have just signed the contract and have already given me a significant lead." Miss Sanae uttered with a thrilled tone.

Even though Karra didn't say anything, her reaction alone was enough to make her understand that the case was related to one of her masters.

All she needed to do was gather information about her previous masters and pinpoint the exact culprit.

It turned out, she didn't even need to do this.

"Was it the noble? Your last master?" Felix asked.

"I can't..." Karra muttered, tears threatening to drop from her eyes.

Felix didn't know if she was crying because of his questions or if she recalled some bad memories.

Whatever it was, he backed off as he knew that nothing out of value would come out from her lips.

"Can you tell me more about these Fallen Specters?" Felix inquired.

"Fallen Specters is a term not even golden spirits know about. If it wasn't for an unfortunate coincidence, I would have been in the dark about them as well." Miss Sanae manifested a hologram before everyone, showing a red-colored normal spirit.

Before anyone could comment, the interior of the red spirit started to turn darker and darker like he was infested by an evil seed and it had spread its roots across his entire body.

"What the..." Sekiro was left stunned as he watched the red spirit still emitting a red hue around him without a single change in his exterior appearance. However, his entire internal body was now a clamp of unsettling darkness.

"What are we watching?" Felix asked, his voice as stern as it could get.

"This was the process of spirits becoming fallen specters after feasting on negative energies: Spirits such as hate, fear, or despair for a consistent period of time until their new personalities break apart and allow those emotions to take hold of them."

"When that happens, fallen spirits begin to lose their illumination slowly until they became black-colored spirits." Miss Sanae narrowed her eyes, "Here is the kicker when they reach that far, the fallen spirits can't lose any more illumination even if they had a hundred billion Lumus of debt." freewebnovel.com

"In other words, they couldn't be kicked out of the heavenly realm at all and had earned a permanent residency here."

"How is that possible?!" Sekiro responded strongly, "There is no way the ethereal elders and Lord Hades would be ignorant about such a dangerous matter!"

"I don't know about the elders, but Lord Hades definitely knows about this." Miss Sanae sneered, "But so what? There aren't enough fallen specters to cause a scene in the heavenly plane and even if there were a decent amount of them, it was impossible to find them as they look just like us."

Lord Hades wasn't interested in handling any small issue arising in his realm as that was the job of the elders.

Unless big matters that threatened the entire realm had occurred, he would turn a blind eye to everything happening under his nose.

As mentioned, if Felix wasn't related to Asna, he wouldn't have made Elder Kraken's life difficult.

"How do those fallen spirits even come to light? Is there someone responsible? Or the process just happens naturally?" Felix asked.

"The process itself might be natural, but I am certain that someone in the upper echelon is running an underground cartel responsible for this." Miss Sanae snickered, "As for the reason? You tell me."

Felix contemplated about it for a moment before answering, "Permanent black spirits mean loyal slaves who don't need to worry anymore about getting kicked out of the realm for eternity. Since they are considered as 'breaking the rules', those spirits will never snitch as they will end up forcing the law enforcers and elders to get involved and fix the 'loophole', which means their permanent stay is over for good."

"Bingo."

Chapter 1414 Reaching The Finals.

"The Fallen Cartel is selling those specters to their trusted sources as they can be used for the lowest jobs or the highest without worrying about the payment." Miss Sanae added, "My investigations have led me to believe that the Fallen Cartel must be sponsored and protected by one of the higher-ups due to their operations being almost nonexistent."

"It must be Karra's previous master, he is a known noble." Felix answered with a serious tone, "She can't give him up, but we can find out about his identity through other means."

"Most nobles in the city have high governmental positions." Miss Sanae frowned, "If someone in the government had his hands on this, then it's going to get a lot more complicated."

There was no need to ask why as all of them understood that governmental spirits were considered untouchable by the rest of the spirits.

Even Miss Sanae as a gold spirit and a recognized/

supported detective by the government, would find it extremely challenging to investigate a governmental spirit.

The highest position her authority could help her were the companies leaders in the city...Even they would be too tough to bring down to justice.

"I will do my thing and investigate the noble's identity." Miss Sanae said, "You should focus on your tournament for now as the moment you finish, you will be given cases to handle."

"Alright." Felix agreed.

It was clear that the fallen specters' case was one of the biggest ones for Miss Sanae and treated it with great care.

There was no way she would let Felix, a completely untrusted rookie help her out in it before testing him with a much simpler and smaller case first.

Felix didn't mind at all as he also knew that he had to get accustomed to the laws and such before assisting her with the real deal.

"I need your help with the tournament." Felix switched the subject with a request. "I need the three years payment in advance, plus a loan, and your servant's help."

"You want to invest everything in improving your spiritual prowess...Are you sure it's worth it?" Miss Sanae advised, "Boosting your spiritual prowess by that much is useless, considering that you will be winning barely fifty thousand Lumus as the champion. Even if you made it to the heavenly plane's tournament, you will be forced to invest even more as the fighters there are on a whole different level. Why do you think our city hasn't brought the trophy back home even after such a long time? We might be considered the capital, but there are cities where fighters spend most of their time hunting beasts and exploring the realm's dangers, unlike our fighters."

"I am confident in my ability, will you help me or not?" Felix replied calmly.

While it might seem like Felix was gambling his Lumus on something uncertain, the tournaments were merely a side quest in his eyes.

A side-quest to earn money and recuperate what was invested in his spiritual prowess.

In reality, Felix wanted to improve his soul's strength to an ungodly level, so that when he returned to the living world, his biggest weakness would turn into his biggest strength.

Obviously, he had no clue if it was even possible to reincarnate with the same soul or such, but he would be a fool to not prepare for the possibility.

"Fine, how much do you need?" Miss Sanae asked.

"One hundred thousand in total."

Sekiro and Karra gasped in shock and before they could even breathe out, Miss Sanae replied, "Fine, that's seventy-two thousand Lumus as a salary and the rest is a loan."

Then, she clapped her hands and little Timmy came into the living room, carrying a suitcase.

The suitcase seemed to have difficulty containing the illumination of the crystals as the light was piercing through its dark leather.

As little Timmy unlatched the suitcase and cracked it open, a chorus of brilliant lights emanated from the nestled crystals inside, bathing the entire living room in a mesmerizing golden glow.

"Satisfied?"

Felix nodded and requested her servant, "Take it and spend it entirely on spiritual treasures for the next week."

Little Timmy turned his head to Miss Sanae and waited for her order.

"Go."

The moment he received it, he took the suitcase with him and left the apartment, heading to the bazaar.

Spending a hundred thousand Lumus could be considered a lot even if taken Ravager, Goliath, and the other monstrous veterans into consideration.

Felix was about to spend close to two hundred thousand Lumus in less than a month on them!

With this boost, he was certain that he wouldn't get manhandled ever again by the likes of Avalanche through telekinesis control.

...

One Week Later...

With the tournament in full swing, the onlookers bore witness to a series of intense and fiery battles. Felix managed to outshine and outperform in each round as the following bouts were against relatively weaker opponents compared to Avalanche.

With Felix's relentless spirit and ingenious use of his unique abilities, he was the first to ensure his place in the upcoming finals.

Simultaneously, in the parallel half of the tournament, Goliath was pitted against Ravager.

This was a clash of the Titans, but much to the audience's surprise, Ravager displayed dominating prowess.

He dominated Goliath, effortlessly bridging the perceived gap between him and the rest of the contenders, marking a decisive victory that left spectators in a state of shocked silence.

As the dust of the semi-finals settled, only two combatants remained standing - Felix, the dark horse who came out of nowhere, and Ravager, the cold and undeniable champion.

The stage was set for the final battle, a mere day away, with the audience on the edge of their seats.

The majority of the crowd had their bets placed on Ravager, given his dominating performance against Goliath, but there was a certain air of unpredictability, which made many opportunity-seeking viewers wager on Felix in hopes of striking it big.

While everyone was holding their breaths in anticipation and hype for tomorrow, Mr. Atticus was seen sitting on a noble chair that oozed with royal elegance.

In front of him, the known formidable champion Ravager was sitting on the floor with his head lowered akin to an obedient pet.

This should have been impossible when considering that Ravager was also a golden spirit, which meant he was no one's servant!

"How certain are you of winning tomorrow?" Mr. Atticus inquired calmly, taking a small sip from a cup of tea.

"100%," Ravager replied, his tone filled with nothing but absolute confidence.

His confidence wasn't based on pride or arrogance. But, in Felix's latest two battles.

The fighters might have been relatively weaker than Avalanche, but after showing most of his trump cards and weaknesses, even those fighters had made him work for his victory.

When he watched him struggle against them, his interest died down and he became certain of his victory.

"It's good to be confident, but don't get too cocky." Mr. Atticus warned, "I have placed close to five hundred thousand Lumus on you... You know what will happen to our agreement if you lost."

"I understand."

While the odds were in favor of Ravager, there was still plenty to gain if one made certain to wager a decent amount of money on him.

"You are excused."

With a head nod, Ravager stood up and flew away, his expression still as cold as ever, but in the depth of his eyes, an untold amount of rage was hidden.

'Just wait a little longer, I am getting closer and closer...' He thought to himself as a picture of a beautiful girl that resembled him greatly surfaced in his mind.

While most fighters participate in those tournaments for money, he was doing it for the sake of saving his little sister.

His little sister was turned into a permanent servant under Mr. Atticus and unless he gave up on her, no one had any right to take her away, not even her brother.

In the spirit realm, it was more than possible to give birth to new spirits just like in the living world.

The only difference was that those newborn spirits weren't given personalities and memories, leaving the job to the parents to take care of it.

Both Ravager and his sister were born in the heavenly realm and had no connection with the living world at all.

Because of this, they had no achievements that could be translated into a better color.

So, the moment they were born, they were given a standard indigo color and it was up to the parents to protect them from getting thrown out.

Unfortunately, not everyone was up to such a massive responsibility and both Ravager and his sister ended up on the streets after their parents lost their jobs and failed to pay the rent in time.

The heavenly plane was even more vicious to the homeless as the daily penalty was the biggest contributor to spirits getting thrown out.

When Ravager's parents realized that their children would be getting kicked out first, they sold them in the servant's markets at dirt-cheap prices, just to secure their stay in the realm.

That's when Ravager and his sister first got separated and for the past hundred years, he had no clue about her owner until the past decade.

The moment he found her, he reached out to Mr. Attirus to buy her for a price ten times more worth than her.

Alas, Mr. Attirus found out through his connections about their relationship and took advantage of Ravager's desperation.

He told him the only way to free his sister was through winning the heavenly plane's tournament while being sponsored by him.

After an untold amount of training and failures, he finally made a name for himself and got closer and closer to his goal.

With this kind of motivation and pressure, he would rather go through hell back and forth than allow himself to fall under Felix in tomorrow's finals!

Chapter 1415 The Traveler Vs Ravager! I

Meanwhile, in the living world...

In the heart of a secret, underground lab, hidden from prying eyes and filled with state-of-the-art equipment, Lady Sphinx moved with an air of somber determination.

The room was bathed in sterile, white light, highlighting the endless rows of gleaming machinery and complex circuitry.

In the center of the lab was a large medical pod, almost ethereal with its soft, blue light illuminating the room.

Inside, floating in a sea of preserving liquid, was Felix's lifeless body. His once vibrant, brown eyes were closed, his strong, scarred physique at rest.

The pod was surrounded by screens that showed a vast amount of data. This included the fluctuations of his weak heartbeat and the careful maintenance of his cells.

Every second of data was crucial, a silent testament to the man who once roamed free and conquered the universe.

'Kraken, how is it going in there?' She asked.

'He has just reached the finals in the tournament and Asna is still residing in a private palace under Lord Hade's protection.' Elder Kraken informed after receiving the news from his main consciousness.

'It's been more than a decade here and he has yet to complete two months there.' Lady Sphinx frowned, not too pleased with the current time difference.

The time difference between the spirit realm and the living world was random and ever-changing. At the moment, it was against Felix.

After all, it would be meaningless to return if the entire universe had entered a new era and everyone in the UVR era had become dust beside the immortals.

'All we can do is hope for the shift to happen soon.' Thor sighed.

'I never thought I would miss a kid before, but spending an entire decade without him and Asna is quite boring.' Carbuncle confessed, pushing smoke rings in the direction of Lord Shiva to irritate him.

Lord Shiva expressed his opinion on the matter, stating, "What would be the purpose of bringing him? He will perish just as quickly."

'This again? Didn't we tell you to save your pessimistic view to yourself?' Thor got annoyed.

Who could blame him? Ever since Lord Shiva was revived, he seemed to have completely given up the idea that Felix could dethrone those beings.

In his eyes, the moment someone gets targeted by them, their visa in the universe had expired.

"I am just saying, right this instant, they can be watching us, waiting for the looks on our faces when they kill him the moment we finally bring him back." Lord Shiva opened a magazine and read it lazily, "I ain't going to give them the satisfaction of seeing that."

"How useless, I don't know why Sphinx even bothered to bring you back." Thor clicked his tongue in criticism.

Lord Shiva ignored him and continued reading his magazine.

"Let's bring him back first and see what happens," J?rmungandr glanced at Lady Sphinx and inquired, "By the way, have you reached out to Lord Quetzalcoatl yet?"

"No, he is still missing and Lord Osiris' death strings can't work on him." Lady Sphinx shook her head.

"Plan B depends on him heavily, I wish he shows up sooner than later."

"Him showing up isn't the problem, it's whether he will accept your preposterous request." Lord Loki jumped in, his tone was as playful as ever.

"We still haven't used the ticket he gave us, we can only try our best to convince him." Lady Sphinx said.

"Let's hope for the best..."

Back to the heavenly plane...The Next Morning.

In the heart of the colossal coliseum, an immense crowd sat in electrifying anticipation. Their roars of excitement shook the very foundation of the arena as they awaited the spectacle that was about to unfold.

The climax of the tournament had arrived. The final duel between Felix and Ravager!

"And now," the host's voice simmered down to a crackle, tantalizing the audience with anticipation, "A fighter who emerged from the shadows, a dark horse who trampled expectations and forged a path in this tournament that none of us saw coming."

He let the silence stretch, the excitement in the crowd palpable, "His determination has moved mountains, his courage faced the fiercest of foes. The brilliance of his strategy, the unyielding resilience of his spirit, earned him a place in this final!"

Again, Mr. Sogrus paused, his gaze locked on Felix, "Carrying the powers of sound and fire, a man who stood against the storm, a fighter whose very existence is defiance. I present to you, the one who beat the odds...THE TRAVELER!!"

WOOAAH!! CLAP CLAP CLAP!!...

And then, as if a giant had struck the earth, the crowd erupted, a thunderous cheer that filled the coliseum!

There was excitement, awe, curiosity, and perhaps even a hint of fear in their eyes. But Felix, like a tranquil sea amidst a raging storm, walked in a calm and composed manner in the direction of the arena.

He was carrying behind him a standard silver hammer, a unique weapon of choice in the eyes of the viewers.

Next, Mr. Sogrus introduced The Ravager, giving him the same love and hype as Felix.

"Allow me to introduce to you a man whose very name sends shivers down the spines of the bravest fighters. A man whose power is as relentless as the storm and as unpredictable as wildfire. A man who has climbed to the top, overcoming every challenge, every obstacle, like they were mere pebbles in his path!"

"With a heart crafted from the flames of adversity, and a will as resolute as the mountains, I present to you, the embodiment of sheer dominance... Ravager!"

The crowd erupted into deafening applause, their voices united in a single monstrous roar that echoed through the vast expanses of the coliseum.

As the sound waves crashed over him, Ravager remained unfazed, his icy eyes meeting Felix's across the arena, a silent declaration of the impending epic clash.

"It's best if you surrendered and saved both of our times." Ravager spoke calmly, "You have already earned a decent reward and a qualification slot to the heavenly plane by being second."

"I could say the same to you," Felix replied nonchalantly.

"If that's how you feel, don't blame me for what happens next."

With that being said, The Ravager kept his mouth shut and entered his battle stance.

The air in the coliseum was saturated with anticipation as both combatants squared off.

Felix's figure radiated an ember-like glow, his vibration abilities subtly rippling the air around him while Ravager seemed to embody the elements he commanded, a tempestuous whirlwind of water, wind, and fire swirling about his form.

"All set?" Mr. Sogrus glanced at them both for a moment before yelling, "FIGHT!"

Whoosh!!

Ravager was the first to make a action as he raised his hands, beginning the elemental dance.

"Aqua Torrent!" He uttered, sending a colossal wave of water cascading towards Felix, its sheer mass promising to crush him.

But Felix was ready.

"Vibration Dissipation." he chanted to himself, channeling his energy, he sent a series of tremors into the ground, creating barriers of vibrating air that parted the water around him, turning Ravager's tidal wave into innocuous streams that pooled at the edges of the arena!

Taking advantage of Ravager's momentary pause, Felix retaliated.

"Inferno Burst."

His hands, glowing bright red, shot fireballs that hurtled toward Ravager with intense heat.

Ravager swiftly countered a powerful gust encircled him, diverting the fireballs away.

The audience gasped as the diverted flames formed a fiery ring around the perimeter of the battlefield.

Ravager wasn't going to give Felix a instant to rest.

Whipping his hands in a fluid motion, he merged his mastery over wind and fire to summon a twister of flames that he directed toward Felix!

Felix braced himself. His entire being hummed as he emitted a barrier of anti-elemental vibrations, neutralizing the blazing tornado and causing it to spiral upwards and dissipate in a shower of embers!

Seeing an opening, Felix initiated his next move, he thrust his palm forward, sending a focused vibration beam toward Ravager.

Ravager, not to be outdone, deftly responded with a thick water barrier that not only absorbed Felix's attack but refracted it in multiple directions, making it harmless!

With that, both parties seemed to have come to a understanding that simple long-range attacks weren't going to work on their opponent.

"Time to end this."

So, Ravager decided to tap into Felix's weakness right away, not in the mood to fool around!

Chapter 1416 The Traveler Vs Ravager! II

Ravager's eyes sparkled with resolve as he raised both his hands, focusing his spiritual energy on his opponent.

His fingers danced, pulling invisible strings as he engaged his telekinesis. The air between them crackled, becoming dense as if squeezed by an unseen force, and around Felix, invisible hands reached out, attempting to constrict his movements, compress his form, and assert Ravager's dominance!

"It's done."

Boss Alves smirked, believing that there was no way a newbie was going to defend against Ravager's telekinesis prowess.

Just like Mr. Atticus, he had also put a decent amount of money into Ravager's victory after his sponsored fighter dropped out in the semi-finals at the hands of Felix.

Just as his peers were about to break into wide smiles, Felix's own telekinetic energy flared, a vibrant, pulsing aura enveloping him!

The two opposing forces clashed in a silent war, straining against each other in a tense, vibrating deadlock!

The ground beneath them rippled with the energy and the audience gasped in awe, watching the display of sheer power!

Despite the intensity of Ravager's assault, Felix's telekinetic barrier held strong, an unyielding shield against the relentless pressure.

'Impossible...'

The Ravager's eyes widened in shock as he could feel that Felix's defenses might not be the best, but they helped him avoid complete domination like what happened against Avalanche.

This was what made him even more surprised as he knew that his telekinesis control was better than Avalanche!

"How could he have increased his spiritual prowess so soon?!"

Boss Alves and his peers' expressions turned ugly immediately as it made them understand that someone must have helped Felix with buying spiritual treasures.

They knew that it would be impossible for Felix to get this strong through the black market as he had to pay close to half a million worth of spiritual treasures!

'Kikiki, good job, good job, I have placed a huge bet on you, don't be disappointing me now.'

The culprit Miss Sanae was seen amidst the audience laughing to herself and scaring the viewers next to her with her creepy laugh.

"Shall we continue?"

Felix said coldly as he extended his arm and made it seem like he was holding a sniper rifle in the direction of Ravager.

His arm hummed with vibrational energy, and a glow of red, orange, and yellow hinted at the fire element mingling within!

He took aim, his eyes fixed on Ravager, and as he pulled the imaginary trigger, destructive bullets erupted from the tip of his finger.

Whoosh! Whoosh!..

These projectiles were more than mere bullets; each contained a volatile mix of fire and vibration, promising an explosive end upon contact!

Ravager moved with speed that was a blur, narrowly dodging the first few shots, his agility on full display.

BOOM!! BOOOM!! BOOM!!

However, the resulting explosions that erupted in the wake of the bullets were far-reaching and brutal.

The concussive force buffeted against his telekinetic barrier, each impact threatening to shatter his defenses!

Realizing the scale of the threat, Ravager made his move. His hands swiftly formed a complex gesture, and in response, water surged from his form, twisting and spiraling into a formidable water tornado.

The swirling vortex of water moved to meet the explosive bullets head-on, absorbing the brunt of the explosions and dissipating the vibrational energy within!

The water tornado acted as a formidable barrier, but the continuous onslaught from Felix's sniper arm pushed it to its limits!

'A bit more, just a little more...'

Unbeknownst to Ravager, Felix was dissipating most of the vibration inside his body through the underground as tremors, building up for something much more destructive while he was occupied with his bullets!

The moment Felix began to sense that his vibrations were covering the entire half of the arena before him, his eyes flared with resolve as he stopped his endless assault and slammed his hands onto the ground!

RUMMMMMBLE!!!

A shockwave of vibrational energy rushed outwards...The force was so strong, so violent that the very arena around them split cleanly into two halves yet again, causing a rumble of terror and excitement to ripple through the spectators!

"He broke it again!"

"Will he bury him as well?!"

While the viewers assumed that Felix would use the same strategy against Avalanche, he took off into the air.

With a swift upward sweep of his hands, he manipulated his newly empowered telekinesis, lifting the enormous chunk of the split arena into the air!!

The sight was breathtaking, displaying the sheer power and dominance he held over his abilities, but no one knew that there was a great sense of pressure and pain behind Felix's stoic expression.

Lifting half of the arena wasn't easy in the slightest.

'What is he up to?'

Ravager narrowed his eyes in focus at the sight of Felix pulling the silver hammer from his back.

Before he could react, Felix brought it crashing down onto the levitated half of the arena!!

RUMMBLE!!!

The collision was cataclysmic, causing the giant mass to shatter instantly into a storm of rubble, boulders, and debris, turning Ravager's side of the sky into a treacherous minefield!

Felix chose a hammer as his tool because of its compatibility with his vibration element. While everyone was left stunned at the destructive scene, the hammer did nothing but trigger the vibration across the elevated half of the arena!

"Here I come."

Without wasting a second, Felix propelled himself forward, closing the distance between himself and Ravager in the blink of an eye while the sky rained rocks around them.

Felix engaged Ravager, swinging his massive hammer with a combination of brute strength and delicate precision, each move calculated and lethal.

With his eyes locked onto his opponent, Felix's mind was a whirl of tactical calculations.

His gaze swept over the myriad of boulders and debris scattered around him, their chaotic disorder turned into weapons with his elemental control.

Felix spread his arms wide, calling upon his oscillation abilities. A hum of power radiated from him, vibrating the air around him and causing the surrounding rubble to tremble in resonance.

Then, with a sweeping motion of his arms, Felix launched the vibrating debris into Ravager!

Every stone, every shard of debris began to pulsate with a powerful rhythm, imbued with Felix's vibrational energy. They shot forward like missiles, cutting through the air with deadly precision toward Ravager.

As they neared their target, Felix increased the frequency of their vibrations, causing them to emit an ear-piercing whine before striking with the strength of a mini explosion upon contact!

"ENOUGH!"

In the middle of the relentless assault from Felix, Ravager's countenance hardened. His usually cool demeanor flared with fierce determination as he decided to put an conclude to the barrage.

Ravager planted his feet solidly on the ground, drawing upon his dual elements of wind and fire.

The arena filled with an escalating roar as the wind began to swirl around him, picking up heat as the fiery essence was infused into it.

His hands glowed with a bright, sizzling aura, the combination of the two elements creating a volatile power ready to be unleashed!

And then, with a forceful wave of his hands, he discharged the built-up energy. A wave of searing hot wind expanded outwards from him, carrying with it the intensity of a wild inferno.

The wave collided with the onslaught of debris, and the resulting explosion was a spectacle of pure elemental might.

BOOOOOOOOOOM!!!

Each stone, each piece of debris caught in the explosion was instantly reduced to sand, scattering into the wind.

'Sh*t!'

The sheer strength of the explosion threw Felix off balance, propelling him backward through the air like a ragdoll.

He crashed into the ground several times before using two fire jets from his palms to decrease his momentum!

The moment he stopped, the audience gasped collectively at the sight of him being merely one meter away from getting kicked out of the arena's premises!

After the dust settled, silence covered the colosseum as neither Felix nor Ravager made another move.

They merely stood at the edges of the arena with stoic and cold expressions, staring at each other and calculating the best way to defeat their opponent.

'How do I eliminate this monster?'

'How do I eliminate this freak of nature?'

For once, they shared the same thought.

Chapter 1417 The Traveler Vs Ravager! III

Ravager would be lying if he said that he wasn't in a pinch. He was depending on ending the battle swiftly through his telekinesis' control, unfortunately, Felix's monstrous upgrade foiled his strategy.

Now, he had to treat this battle just like the one with Goliath, the only difference was that Felix proved to be ten times much tougher to crack.

'I have to go all out and use my new ultimate ability...There is no other way.' Ravager narrowed his eyes coldly in the direction of Felix as he prepared to use his final attack.

An attack he spent years trying to master for the sake of using it to clutch the championship in the heavenly plane's tournament.

He wanted to save it until then, but he understood that if he lost this battle, he would never hear the end of it from Mr. Atticus.

Whoosh!!

The tension in the air suddenly spiked, and the audience held their collective breath as Ravager's body lit up in a riot of colors!

The sky darkened ominously, and a powerful gust of wind swirled around him, lifting him off the ground.

"Traveler!" Ravager's voice echoed throughout the silent arena, each syllable carried by the wind that was rapidly picking up speed. "You should feel honored to be in the presence of my first ultimate ability...Elemental Triad: Inferno Cyclone Tsunami!"

As the words left his lips, fire erupted from Ravager's body, enveloping him in a massive pillar of flames that reached skywards!

The fire took on a life of its own, twisting and spiraling around Ravager like a swirling, searing tornado...The flames danced and crackled with a life of their own, their intense heat warping the air around them!

Suddenly, from the eye of the fire tornado, a column of water shot forth, spiraling upward into the sky before cascading down like a waterfall, adding another layer of devastation to Ravager's onslaught!

The heat of the fire turned the cascading water into steam, blanketing the entire arena in a thick, scalding fog.

Ravager was in the eye of the chaos, his silhouette barely visible through the haze of steam, the flickering flames, and the cascading waterfall.

His arms were stretched wide as if controlling the maelstrom around him, his eyes glowing intensely as he poured every ounce of his power into the ultimate combination of his elemental abilities!

'A loose use of the term ultimate, but it doesn't seem like a weak ability.'

In the face of imminent destruction, Felix's face remained stoic. He closed his eyes, focusing all his energy. The ground vibrated under him, resonating with his energy. "Anti-Elemental Vibration Barrier!" he yelled, his voice strong against the tempest.

A spherical barrier materialized around Felix, flickering with translucent energy, trembling under the force of Ravager's attack. As the cyclone of fire and water crashed against his defense, Felix's barrier vibrated violently, trying to match the frequencies of the elements and neutralize them.

However, the sheer intensity of Ravager's attack was too much!

Felix grimaced as his barrier started to crack, the vibration unable to negate all the energy from the onslaught.

With a deafening crash, the vibration barrier was broken!

'Sh*t!'

Felix tightened his fists and smashed them on the ground to get better stability against the raging tempest...It was threatening to kick him out of the arena's boundary and he refused to lose in that manner!

"The Traveler is risking going through a world of agony to keep himself in the fight!!"
Mr. Soglus commentated out loud.

Crack Crack!

Because Felix decided to fight off the tempest, his telekinesis barrier was the first to eat the whole brunt of the attack, cracking rapidly and showing spreading fissures across Felix's entire body!

Even with Felix's upgraded spiritual prowess, his barrier was sadly unmatched against this kind of destruction.

In a few moments at best, it shattered as well and finally left Felix to face the wrath of the infernal storm with nothing but his iron will!

Ugh...

Felix grunted silently in pain as his skin began to burn off and receive sharp cuts from the wind, leaving him bleeding from new spots each second gone by!

In the heavenly plane's battles, there was no such thing as elemental resistance that enabled one to be completely immune to elements from all sources.

Everyone could get burnt off, poisoned, frozen, smashed, and the list goes on...Since death wasn't an option, the worst that could happen was reaching a level of pain that force one to pass out.

So, even when Felix was using fire abilities, he was still getting burnt off by Ravager.

One hit...Two hits...Five hits...Ten hits...

"How long can you last?"

Boss Alves snickered with the rest of his peers who were already cheering on a well-earned profit from their massive wagers.

"Master, please be safe..."

Meanwhile, Karra and Sekiro weren't loving the sight before them that much.

Karra was praying each moment while Sekiro was silently watching his master struggle with a solemn expression.

He knew that his master had invested too much in this to return with nothing below fifty thousand Lumus.

Twelve hits...thirteen hits...

'I...Have...To...Do...Something.'

While the pain clouded his mind a bit, Felix was still sensible enough to know that he was nearing the hit limit and there was no way the storm was going to end before he clock off.

So, he sent his brain into overdrive, thinking, and brainstorming, to come out with a plan, a strategy, anything to help him off!

'I need something powerful and explosive to counteract the tempest momentum while at the same time not too destructive to ruin the arena.'

The first thought that came into Felix's mind was the same suicidal explosion he used against Avalanche, but he understood that if he used it, there was a high chance he would end up outside of the arena.

After all, he was barely holding into the ground and it was already starting to crack and show signs of giving up to the infernal storm.

If he went with something that destructive, it wouldn't end well for him.

When his mind wandered in the direction of explosiveness but at the same time not producing equal damage, he reached a sub-perfect solution!

'I need to use sound to my advantage. It's not guaranteed to work, but I don't have time to complain.'

Sixteen hit...

Only four registered powerful direct hits remained and Felix knew that he had merely a few seconds at best before they get registered.

In the heavenly plane, hits registration depends on the damage and pain they cause to the target...Because Felxi's pain tolerance was so freaking high, he lasted much further than most spirits!

'I have to harness the noise around me as they are mere vibrations in the wind.'

Felix honed his senses on the frenzied, resonating noises around him, the vibrations of elemental fury that filled the air.

He ignored his injuries, the pain, and everything else, drawing in the rampant vibrations and containing them around him.

This created a bizarre scene under the baffled looks of the viewers.

"Am I the only one who stopped hearing the storm?"

"Why did everything go so quiet all of a sudden?"

"Am I tripping?"

The raging noisy infernal tempest was now as quiet as a forest after midnight, making everyone believe that they must have gone deaf or something.

But in reality?

All the sounds produced by the raging storms were absorbed by Felix until his body seemed to be vibrating with the untapped power!

The focus of vibrational energy within him reached a peak, a pulsating orb of pure force that seemed ready to rupture.

"RELEASE!"

Then, with a raw, primal shout that resounded thunderously in this uncanny silence, a deadly shockwave erupted from Felix's form, its oscillation frequency so high it broke the sound barrier with a thunderous crack, rolling outwards in a rapidly expanding circle!!!

The shockwave ripped through the air, an unstoppable force that collided head-on with Ravager's Inferno Cyclone Tsunami!!

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!!!

The collision was catastrophic. The shockwave, imbued with the power of Felix's concentrated vibration, tore through Ravager's supreme ability, scattering the elements!!

The flame in the cyclone was extinguished, the wind was silenced, and the tsunami dissolved, the devastating attack neutralized in an instant by Felix's shocking counter!!

'What the...'

'Huh?'

'Impossible...'

The arena was left in stunned silence as the echoes of the clash slowly faded away, revealing Felix standing tall amidst the chaos, battered but unbowed.

A number nineteen was written on red above his head, but his bloodied face displayed not an ounce of fear, nervousness, or worry.

He merely lifted his head and eyed the stunned Ravager with the coldest stare he could muster.

"That's all you got?" He taunted, his ragged appearance betraying his absolute confidence.

Yet, Ravager actually felt a chill course down his spine as the predatory look in Felix's eyes made him understand that this fight wasn't close to being over!

'Get a hold of yourself! He has a mere one more hit and his telekinesis barrier is already down.'

Still, Ravager didn't allow his emotions to get the best of him as the stacks were too high to fail.

"You have earned my respect, but for the sake of my beloved, you have to bow down today," Ravager replied coldly, his hands reaching out to his pockets and bringing out two small daggers.

It was clear, with Felix only having one more hit before his elimination, Ravager wanted to finish him off up close.

"Bring it on." Felix challenged, bleeding out of his mouth and nose, but still, he strolled forward while cracking his bloodied knuckles.

Chapter 1418 The Traveler Vs Ravager. IV

Felix clutched his vibration-infused hammer as he increased his speed, turning his walk, into a jog, before finally going full sprint in the direction of Ravager!!

On the other side, Ravager tightened his grip on his trio-

elemental daggers.

Not wanting to fight amidst the destroyed side of the arena, Ravager took flight and charged at Felix, his daggers glinting menacingly under the harsh light!

'His telekinesis barrier will take time to recover, this is my only chance to end this! I just need one strike.'

'His fuel must be tanking after that ultimate ability, I just need to break his telekinesis barrier and he will be a sitting pig for slaughter.'

Both fighters had their own thoughts on how to end the fight and they revolved their strategy around it.

Felix was sure that Ravager's energy was low because he was using physical daggers instead of bombarding him with elemental abilities.

Just like in the living world, the moment a fighter exhausts his energy, he would be done for a while.

Rumble!!!

With a feral grunt, Felix swung his hammer, sending a wave of ground-shattering vibration toward Ravager!

Ravager reacted swiftly and evaded the attack by using his wind element, boosting his speed up a notch.

With a swift motion, he hurled a fire-infused dagger toward Felix. A sizzling sound filled the air as the weapon cut through it, heading straight for its target.

Felix calculated its trajectory and distance then swung his hammer at it, hitting it right at the tip, creating a sparkle.

Whoosh!

A hammer vs dagger, there was no debate on which one received most of the damage as the dagger flew with an even faster speed back to Ravager.

Cling!!

Ravager blocked the dagger with the second one and captured it mid-air before continuing his charge!

The moment he arrived next to Felix, he danced aside with lightning reflexes, leaving Felix to swing at thin air with his giant hammer.

Whoosh!!

The force behind the swing threw Felix slightly off balance, and Ravager seized the opportunity, lunging with his twin daggers at his backside!

Felix barely had time to recover, feeling the whoosh of the twin blades slicing through the air, dangerously close to his torso.

'Vibration blast!'

A shockwave of vibration erupted from Felix's back and landed on the twin daggers, halting Ravager's momentum for a moment.

This allowed Felix to pivot swiftly, adjusting his grip on the hammer, and swung it in a wide arc towards Ravager, forcing him to retreat!

Not one to back down, Ravager came at Felix again, moving with a lethal combination of agility and precision.

He kept aiming at Felix's unprotected sides, but Felix's battle experience was leagues above him, making him feel like it was impossible to touch him!

'Fall! Fall! Fal!!'

As his attacks got frenzied and more deadly, he was starting to lose his precision and Felix kept on the defense, using his hammer as a shield against the daggers!

Cling! Cling!...

Sparks flew everywhere as each clash between those weapons resulted in loud metallic clings that seemed to die off in noise abnormally.

But not everyone paid any attention to this small detail as they were captivated by the exciting close ranged dance between those two experienced fighters!

'I still need more, I need enough to end this fight once and for all.'

Felix's narrowed eyes were affixed on Ravager's rapid daggers, tracing their trajectory akin to a hawk to be able to block them off with his hammer.

For minutes on end, their battle raged, their weapons clashed, sparks flying with each strike.

Sweat trickled down their faces, and their breaths came in ragged pants, but neither showed any sign of relenting.

'I can't hit him...I actually can't hit him even once...What kind of monstrous battle experience is this?'

Ravager's blood run cold at the notion that the fight would end in Felix's favor if the battle lasted in this manner.

He was growing tired and his energy was closer than ever to depletion.

While Felix seemed to be just as tired, his predatory eyes were as focused as ever, sending shivers down Ravager's spine.

"I can't falter here! I am so close! I CAN'T"

With a deafening roar, Ravager charged yet again at Felix, and this time he was harnessing the power of the wind to boost his attacks.

Alas...

'It's time to end this.'

With a swift, deceptive movement, Felix feinted a swing at Ravager. Predictably, Ravager moved to evade, but Felix had anticipated this.

Swiveling on his heel, he redirected his hammer's trajectory and sent it hurtling toward Ravager's exposed flank.

Ravager didn't have time to react and knew that the hammer was going to land on him. However, instead of panicking, he was already thinking of a counter-attack.

'My telekinesis barrier will block the force, I can use the momentary opening from the swing to finish him!'

And so, he watched as the hammer hit him directly on the center of his back.

Just as he wanted to suck up the incoming pain and counterattack, a sudden powerful vibrational shockwave discharged from the surface of the hammer.

BOOOOOOOOM!!! Shatter!

with a thunderous boom, the telekinesis barrier exploded into invisible pieces and Ravager was sent flying off his feet akin to being launched by a slinger!

The audience gasped collectively, their eyes widened as they watched Ravager's body drawing a high parabola in the air, heading straight for the outer boundary of the arena!

Mr. Atticus and his peers' hearts came to a sudden stop as their enlarged pupils followed the trajectory of Ravager, feeling like they were in a dream.

'How?'

Even the Ravager had absolutely no idea what happened as he couldn't fathom that a hammer could carry such an overwhelming punch!

Unbeknownst to him, Felix was absorbing all the vibration resulting from their clashes inside his hammer and released at once!

'WHO CARES ABOUT HOW! I CAN'T FALTER HERE!'

However, Ravager was not ready to concede defeat as the image of his dear little sister surfaced in his mind, waking him up from his stupor!

"HALT!!"

Struggling to right himself in mid-air, he summoned every iota of his elemental prowess, using fire/water to provide a counterthrust and wind to alter his trajectory!

But the force of Felix's hammer was too strong and he still lacked the proper fuel to change his fate.

In the end, despite a gallant effort, the elemental defenses buckled and Ravager, unable to stop his trajectory, crashed into the protective barrier at the edge of the arena before rolling out onto the ground beyond the boundary line...

"I lost..."

Ravager muttered, the massive contusion on his back didn't hurt as much as the thought of Mr. Atticus venting his anger on his little sister in the shadows...

Alas, no one cared about his feelings or troubles as the audience exploded into a thunderous roar of applause and cheers a moment later.

"RAVAGER LOST!! THE TWO TIMES REIGNING CHAMPION LOST!!" "HOLY SHIT, I JUST MADE A FORTUNE!!"...

While the bulk of the viewers were cheering in excitement, almost 99% of the bettors felt their souls leave their bodies as they eyed Felix standing in the center of the arena, leaning against his hammer as support.

His victory was secured against all odds and he had to work his hardest to achieve it, but those bettors wanted nothing more but to rip his throat out at this very moment!

Especially...

"MOTHERF*CKER!! I JUST LOST A QUARTER OF A MIL IN ONE SITTING!"

Furious and frustrated, Boss Gideon threw a glass of wine into the window, breaking it into fragments.

"I can't believe this...Did we lose?"

"Did we really just lose to a nobody?"

Meanwhile, Lady Iris and Madam Arabella might be soft-

spoken, but they were struck just as hard as Boss Gideon.

Yet, no one was struck as hard as Mr. Atticus...He could be seen grabbing into the armchair with his hands tightly until the armchair began making noise.

'Unforgivable...Half a million was thrown down the drain...Unforgivable!' He uttered in his mind while staring daggers at both his representative and Felix.

Half a million was the supreme prize in the heavenly tournament and Mr. Atticus had lost it in one sitting.

It could be uttered to be the dumbest decision to bet such a heavy amount for the sake of winning a mere hundred thousand Lumus, but one would argue that it was stupid only the results weren't already predetermined.

In this case, Mr. Atticus had full confidence in Ravager to defeat Felix as he had invested pretty heavily in him.

So, putting half a million or an entire million didn't bother him as he always knew that it would return to him with extra bonus.

He made a fortune doing the same in the past two years...Alas, he was awakened from the dream at last by the hands of Felix.

On the other side of the spectrum...

"KIKIKI! KIKIKI!! I am starting to think that it's best to sell the bureau and bet everything on my lucky charm."

Chapter 1419 The Heavenly Plane's Tournament.

'Hmm?'

Felix didn't know why, but he suddenly felt goosebumps across his skin like something bad was going to happen.

'Whatever.'

He raised his guard for a moment before dropping it after the feeling went away. Probably, Miss Sanae had come to her senses and dropped that lunatic thought.

Felix lifted his hammer with great difficulty and strolled away with his back facing Ravager, not bothering to comfort him on his loss.

He rarely did this even when he was nice...Now that he was as cold as a piece of ice, this entire fight was just business to him.

"Wait sir Traveler, there is still the victory ceremony to be held."

Mr. Sogrus came down next to Felix and murmured near his ears after spotting him getting closer to the edge of the arena.

"Not interested, send me my reward at this address."

Not bothering to stop for even a moment, Felix placed Miss Sanae's card inside Mr. Sogrus' suit pocket and continued on his path.

"..."

Mr. Sogrus glanced at the card and then at Felix's back, feeling like he had to do something to stop him from leaving.

But, when he saw the heat coming from Felix's body and the blood trail he was leaving behind him, he had a change of heart.

'Delivery is good too.'

He gulped a mouthful and returned to his audience, knowing that he had to work extra hard to keep them around for the ceremony without the champion.

Alas, just as he turned in the direction of Ravager, the words were caught in his mouth after noticing that he had gone missing!

'Motherf*ckers! Can't one do his job in peace?'

With the champion and the runner-up both missing, Mr. Sogrus decided to skip the entire ceremony and spot the light on the heavenly plane's tournament.

"With the three qualifiers being decided to be The Traveler, Ravager, and Goliath, our city could be uttered to be stronger than ever! I don't realize about you guys, but I have a strong feeling that we will make it past the semi-

finals this year!"

"Past the semi-finals? Let's hope they can secure their spots in sixteen single-elimination stages first." One of the spectators' scoffed.

"How can you be this pessimistic after watching this epic final?" The spirit next to him gave him an unfriendly look.

"You must be new. You don't realize how difficult the heavenly plane's tournament is. Even the strongest can get eliminated before reaching the top sixteen due to The Great Filter Stage."

"The Great Filter Stage?" The spectator was indeed a new arriving spirit and this was his first time watching a tournament.

Before his seat neighbor could explain it to him, Mr. Sogrus brought it out on his own.

"The heavenly plane's tournament will begin in six months! Just like each year, all the qualified fighters from the hundreds of cities around the realm will have complete freedom to eliminate any fighter they desire!"

This was called The Great Filter Stage for a reason as there was no way a tournament could be held with close to a thousand fighters across the entire heavenly plane.

To make matters more interesting, the government had decided to turn the entire heavenly plane into an open battlefield for only those qualified fighters!

The only limited areas were the cities and that's all!

The contestants could even decide to group up in private territory and wage war against each other if they wanted since all the damages would be paid in full by the government.

Since the cities could be considered safe spaces from the battlefield, there were plenty of rookie contestants whose first thought would be to hole up in them to avoid the battles.

Alas, the only method for the fighters to secure their spot in the top sixteen was by eliminating as many fighters as possible.

That's because of a point system that rewarded a point for each fighter eliminated and the sixteen contestants with the highest points during those six months would be chosen.

In other words, everyone would be more than motivated to get out of their cities and hunt other contestants!

"As most of you know, all fighters will be allowed to use GPS in their crystal devices to track the location of their opponents." Mr. Sogrus rubbed his hands together excitedly, "We will have a direct live streaming of each fight happening across the entire realm."

Clap! Clap! Clap!!...

The audience rejoiced and applauded until their hands grew red at the kind of excitement and drama awaiting them in those inter-city fights!

Each year, the heavenly plane's tournament has close to 80% of the spirits following its event due to how massive it was...Even if someone had no interest in fights, he would still tune in to watch for the sake of joining the festivities and having a sense of pride for their city.

This kind of attraction was the reason why all the companies waste so much of their resources on sponsored fighters.

The kind of visibility their products and companies would receive was nothing like anything else.

Mr. Atticus knew this very well and that's why even though he was seething internally after losing half a million in the wager, he had no plans to make his only sponsored fighter lose focus.

"Our deal was for you to win the heavenly plane tournament and give exposure to my company plus 50% of the reward. Now, it's 100%... You will pay what you lost me in full." Mr. Atticus uttered coldly as he stared at Ravager who was kowtowing to him with his forehead affixed on the floor.

"I understand..." Ravager replied, his voice softer than usual.

While the punishment was too much, he was merely relieved that Mr. Atticus wasn't going to vent his anger on his sister.

"You better prepare well for the tournament, don't show me such a disgraceful result again." Mr. Atticus warned with a glacial stare, "This is your last chance."

Ravager flinched, but he still showed his understanding with a head nod.

"Scram."

The moment he was given permission, he stood up and flew away immediately, wanting to throw himself into training again.

As he was flying away, Felix's face popped up in his mind.

'This freak appeared out of nowhere and in less than a month became the city's champion.' Ravager narrowed his eyes solemnly, 'Now that he was given six months, he is bound to emerge even more fearsome.'

Although Felix caused his defeat, Ravager didn't harbor an ounce of hatred toward him. Instead, he felt even more motivated to improve himself and break his limits, realizing that his current strength wasn't enough to win the heavenly plane's finals.

"Traveler, just wait, I will come stronger than ever and show you that defeating me was your biggest mistake...Just wait."

...

Back in Miss Sanae's bureau, Felix could be seen sitting on the living room floor while Karra was cleaning what remained of his wounds.

In the spirit realm, fighters' rejuvenation depends on their spiritual energy and if they wasted it all while being heavily injured, they would have some pretty nasty hours to spend.

Ka-thump!!

Suddenly, the door was opened barbarically, slamming against the door, causing Karra to jolt out of her place in fright.

"Travelerrrr! My sweet little assistant. Come give me Mommy a kiss." Miss Sanae rushed through the door with a wide gleeful smile, showing her tiny fangs.

"Don't touch me." Felix stared in her direction indifferently the moment she was about to give him a hug.

Miss Sanae froze in her posture before pulling back with an upset look. "How can you reject such a beauty? I have plenty of suiters, I let you know."

"More like enemies." Felix sneered and turned on the tv, wanting to see if the rules for the heavenly tournament were about to be released.

He already knew the known ones, but there were plenty of instances where the rules had some changes.

"Tsk, you might have lucked out with fighting traits, but your sh*tty personality makes up for your luck." Miss Sanae clacked her tongue in annoyance and sat next to them, eying the news as well.

Felix ignored her and increased the volume after seeing the replay of his fight being played on the heavenly plane tournament main channel.

"A new dark horse has risen from the capital city! Will this year finally have our beloved capital snatch the crown from the Northern Lights City?!" The reporter disclosed passionately.

"The Northern Lights city...Looks like the three usual suspects, Zephyr, Nebula, and Evergreen are representing it again." Sekiro uttered with a deep frown.

"How strong are they exactly?" Felix asked calmly.

He didn't bother to check the heavenly plane's tournament fighters before since he barely had time to prepare for the local one.

"To put it into a better perspective." Sekiro turned to Felix and uttered with a deadly serious expression, "The weakest of them is two times stronger than Ravager..."

Chapter 1420 His First Case.

"Interesting, how about the strongest?" Felix asked.

While he had to struggle heavily to take down Ravager, it was understandable as he had a mere month to get accustomed to a new element, new fighting style, new environment, and a new power system.

But with six months to prepare? As long as he had enough resources and trained hard enough, he was bound to create an upset in this year's tournament.

At least, this was what he believed until he heard Sekiro mention the strength of the current known strongest fighter in the heavenly plane.

"That's Nebula, she is an absolute freak of nature and believed to be the most talented fighter in the history of the realm, blessed with all the possible battle traits one needs to reach the apex." Sekiro mentioned with a solemn tone, "She has been dominating the heavenly plane's tournament for the past decade, winning ten championships in a row and making the Northern Lights City surpass even the capital in terms of popularity."

"A ten times winner?" Felix frowned. "How can the Ravager and the city lords even have their kind confidence in winning the tournament when they knew about such a monster?"

"Well, each year people believe that Nebula is being pushed for retirement by the government due to her monopoly on the championship. All fighters are kinda putting their hopes on this each year. I don't know about Ravager, but I think he thought the same and now he will be in for a shock when he sees that she will be joining yet again."

"Pushing her for retirement?" Miss Sanae sneered, "Foolish dreams. The moment rules are set, the government won't change them unless there was a massive issue in them. In this instant, Nebula is dominating the tournament fair and square with her strength. The government doesn't give a sh*t about the fighters and the gambling dens woes."

Felix nodded, thinking the same. The government wasn't in the business of entertainment but keeping the entire heavenly plane's realm functional.

So, they had no reason to force a retirement out of anyone just for the sake of improving the viewership or making the end prize more accessible to other fighters.

The strong wins and the weak losses...This was the law of the jungle in the living world and in the spirit world.

"Ravager doesn't seem like someone with such a weak mindset," Felix uttered calmly.

Having fought Ravager, Felix might not have shown it, but he had seen a familiar kind of rage, despair, and drive to win against him.

A drive that far surpassed pride or a reward, which made him understand that he was in this for a totally different reason than he or any other fighter.

He didn't know the reason and he honestly couldn't care less about it...But, he understood that if his assumption was correct, Ravager was going to come back stronger than ever and make a name for himself.

"Whether he thought like that or not, it doesn't really matter against Nebula." Sekiro shook his head, "I am sorry to say this, but I doubt it will be even possible for you to defeat her."

For Sekiro to say this out loud even after seeing what he had demonstrated in the finals made Felix's heart skip a beat.

"What are her elements?" He asked.

Sekiro looked him dead in the eye and sighed, "She is the only space/time elemental to ever step in the heavenly plane."

"..."

Felix remained speechless as he had to act stunned before them...But in reality? The news didn't really move him as much with his experience with those two elements.

'For me, mastering those two elements are hundred times easier than vibration as I have already studied them carefully. For this spirit to master them without a single memory about the living world, she really must be as talented as they make it.' Felix thought.

He didn't bash Nebula's achievements in the slightest, understanding that imagination might bring into life even time/space abilities, but unless one had a strong grasp on their laws and rules, not a single ability will manifest as imagined.

In other words, Nebula had to actually study time/space's laws without anyone's assistance and reach a high level of understanding to the point she could wield them using her imagination!

This was something only freaks would be able to achieve.

Felix was in this category as the fact he was using a vibration element in a mere month was enough to set terrors in the entire heavenly plane if they ever knew that it wasn't a sound element.

'Space/time elementalist...I don't know about the rest, but if I want to defeat her, I need to reach a high level of understanding of vibration that will enable me to counter her.'

Felix knew that this was going to be his most complicated task in the next six months, but he was up for the task.

"The Great Filter Stage will start in two weeks after all city tournaments end." Miss Sanae suddenly turned off the tv and warned, "If you want to participate in it, you better close a case first as I am not paying you to focus on tournaments."

"You cashed out rich from betting on me, everything that you have paid me has already been returned two folds." Felix replied nonchalantly, "Don't be so shameless and act like you aren't already benefiting from me."

"You little sh*t, what kind of servant talks like this to his master?" Miss Sanae got annoyed at how right he was.

"Tell me the case and I will finish it in less than a week." Felix uttered calmly, "I need the other week to prepare for the filter stage."

"Aren't you a bit too cocky for a rookie? Kikiki, you think solving cases is as straightforward as your barbaric fights?" Miss Sanae laughed as he covered her mouth.

"Try me," Felix replied, his eyes as unbothered as ever.

"Fine, go solve this case, and if you managed to close it in a week, I will make an exception and give you 50% of the profits from it."

Miss Sanae continued chuckling as she forwarded Felix a holographic case file.

"I will take you on that."

Felix opened the case file and read it carefully for a couple of minutes...With each page flipped, his gaze got colder and colder.

His reaction was reasonable as the case revolved around a servant called Emeric and one of the infamous shopkeepers in the city's bazaar, Sir. Azravan.

Emeric had contacted Miss Sanae privately and told her that he desired to sue his master for physical/mental abuse, fraud, and price manipulation.

However, he couldn't generate any proof to validate his case and help him in a court of law.

It was known that the court always sides with the accused since the moment they were found guilty, the punishment was almost always getting kicked out of the heavenly plane.

So, the court takes such cases with great importance and if one couldn't present a strong case, it would fall apart before the judge.

Emeric hired Miss Sanae to find enough proof to free himself from the abuse and the only reason he mentioned fraud and price manipulation was to help the case be stronger.

"Are you sure you are up to the task?" Miss Sanae uttered with a solemn tone. "I might have given you an incentive to work hard this week, but I don't want you to rush the case to prove your worth. If Emeric's master ever found out about this, he is going to put him through a much tougher hell and we won't be able to save him without proper evidence."

"Don't worry, he will be free to seek another master in a week." Felix assured before requesting, "I need to meet him first, so set up a date the next morning."

"It doesn't work like that cowboy." Miss Sanae shook her head, "Since he is coming at us privately, we can't contact him at all. Just the fact he came to me for help took a great deal of bravery."

"So, you have to finish this without his help."

As much as Miss Sanae refused to admit it, working on such private cases was a great pain in the ass due to the limitation imposed on her.

But business was business and if she wanted to survive, she had to accept such cases to pay the bills.

"You accepted this case one month ago and this is all you have found?" Felix asked, his tone a bit too judgy as he opened the case file again and didn't find much useful Intel on the shopkeeper.

"First of all, I have ten active cases as we speak and this wasn't a preference at that moment." Miss Sanae scoffed. "Secondly, my findings are decent and I doubt you could have gotten them even after months of exclusive work on it."

"We will see about that." Felix eyed Sekiro and ordered, "We will leave after dinner to check on the shop."

"Sir, have you forgotten?" Sekiro sighed, "We are blacklisted, we should count ourselves lucky to set foot on his property."

"..."

"Kikikiiki, a week he said." Miss Sanae laughed at his irritated expression and walked back to her office, knowing that he was bound to come back to her with no results.

As much as she wanted him to succeed, at the same time, she knew that he had to be humbled sooner than later.