

Supremacy 1431

Chapter 1431 Ten Cities At Once!

Inside The Collossuem...

"Looks like everyone is here."

Ravager commentated calmly as he walked through the Colosseum's wide open gate leading to the arena and saw that all the fighters from other cities were spread out on the stands.

Each zone in the stands seemed to be occupied by a city's qualifiers, creating a pressuring aura to push everyone from daring to encroach on their zone.

Since there were more than ten cities' representatives had arrived today, the atmosphere was quite electric.

"This will be fun." Goliath smirked as he cracked his knuckles, walking right beside him.

Just like they had noticed them, the other contestants' focus was immediately drawn to them.

"Long time no see, Ravager." Rhael Stormchaser greeted from a distance with a faint smile.

With hair that resembled a gusty storm cloud, he was famous for summoning electric currents, leaving static in the air wherever he goes.

He was the champion of Paradisa City and this was his third time participating in the heavenly plane's tournament, which wasn't an easy task in the slightest.

"Rhael, I haven't thought you will be foolish enough to seek an early elimination," Ravager replied, his tone as cold as ever.

"Early elimination? Hohoho, strong words coming from the second runner." Nadira Flameheart interjected with a mocking crackle.

Nadira was a medium-build alluring woman with wild fiery curls cascading down her back, her amber eyes danced with mischief.

She was clad in red leather armor that seemed to be burning up...At her left and right, sat the second runner and third runner from her city, Valorielle.

"I thought you wouldn't bother showing your face after getting your ass whooped at the hands of a newbie." Thorn Briarwood joined the conversation with a deep rough voice, sounding like two metallic boards clanging against each other.

He had dark green eyes and a rugged appearance as his skin seemed like it was made out of a tree-Burk.

He was a master of flora manipulation and other elements, striking fear in Nirvanis City's fighters and earning his qualification for the tournament the second time in a row.

"A newbie?" Ravager smirked coldly, "I hope you will have the same confidence when you land against him."

"We saw his fights, he is strong, but he hasn't shown anything that can't be handled...Though, his utilization of sound element is quite intriguing." Elara Moonshade replied softly, but her voice still traveled across the entire arena.

She was a tall slim beautiful tan skinned lady...She possessed silvery tattoos that glowed depending on the moon's phase.

She was the champion of Luminaara City and considered the goddess of it as almost all companies were using her as a model for their products.

In fact, she was the only one with multiple powerful sponsors behind her back, working together to push her image higher and higher to secure better opportunities for advertisement.

"Even you, Elara?" Goliath narrowed his eyes coldly, "Didn't we ally with your team last year and managed to bring down eight cities under our feet? We promised we will become allies in this year's tournament."

In the Great Filter Stage, while the rules didn't enforce the fighters to create teams from each city, the fighters still did it for their own benefit.

After all, there could be a bit of trust between fighters from the same city since they would be representing all of its citizens and if someone betrayed the team, his reputation would be damaged immensely in his hometown.

Ravager, Goliath, and Avalanche were the known Astralis team for the past years and they had gone through too many battles together in the great filter stage, either alone or allied with other cities.

Last year, they allied with Luminaara City's representatives and managed to get decent results even though only Ravager and Elara made it to the final top sixteen.

"That was before we knew that Ravager was weak enough to fail to become this year's champion." Elara replied with the same gentle tone, "Plus, your champion is an unpredictable variable and it's best to not associate ourselves with him."

"Haha! As expected of our goddess, you never sugarcoat your words." Ironforge, the second-runner, laughed out loud with his head facing the sky.

The remaining champions and their second/third in line seemed to be sharing the same mentality as Elana.

None of them stepped in to offer a hand to Ravager, making it clear that they have absolutely no interest in becoming allies with them.

'This is a bit problematic.' Goliath frowned, a look of distress started to show on his face.

He was confident in his strength and Ravager, but he knew that it would be tough for them to take down thirty capable fighters.

Since everyone was forced to accept challenges from other fighters or it would be considered as an automatic forfeit, it meant that they would be left with two options.

Either stay in the Colosseum and accept all the challenges with short windows for a break, or leave the Colosseum and avoid the challenges entirely.

The only issue with the second option was that the Colosseum would be declared as conquered and it would be used to host fights of other cities in their own city!

'I will never let such a shameful scenario happen under my watch!' Goliath growled.

"Looking a bit intense there, Little Goli. How about we start with a quick warm-up?"

Jorvik, The Earthshaker suddenly jumped from the stands and landed in the center of the arena with a loud booming thud!

His feet were seen digging deep into the ground while more than ten meters around him was turned into a cracked wasteland.

As his name suggested, his appearance resembled the very mountains he commanded, his skin seemed made out of rocks and rubbles kept falling from him.

With the golden hue surrounding him akin to a cape, no one would think that he was the third runner from Paradisa City.

"Don't mind if I do."

Goliath joined him in the arena, allowing his hot lava to pour out of his skin and create a pool of lava around him.

Suddenly, the host Mr. Sogrus flew into the arena while yelling into the microphone.

"Waaaaait! There won't be any fighting until the city's champion arrives and give permission!"

"Tsk, then where is he? He should know by now about our arrival."

"Pfff, did our numbers scare him?" Nadira Flameheart chuckled.

"Most likely, he is still new to all of this and he must have not expected that he will be fending off ten cities right on the first day." Thorn Briarwood uttered calmly.

Everyone knew that the moment cities attack one another, the champion would be given a single day to make his decision of whether he wanted to accept their challenges in the Colosseum or hand over the rulership to the second runner.

If the second runner refused to accept the challenges, the third runner would be given the right of command.

Only after he reject them would the Colosseum would be considered a free for all place for battles in the great filter stage.

Since the capital had most of the population and influence in the heavenly plane, turning its arena into a public space meant all contestants would honor their sponsors' wishes and fight under the highest viewership.

Goliath and Ravager were obliged by their own sponsors to never make this happen as they wanted to advertise their products to other cities, not bring outsiders' stuff into their own city.

This was one of the reasons they wanted to either bring Felix to their side or get rid of him. Without him being sponsored at the moment, it could be uttered that he was making it harder for them to keep the metropolis under their reigns.

"If he isn't going to show up in the next two hours, I will return to my hotel."

"Hotel? I came all the way here, it will be a shame if I didn't taste the city's cuisine." Thorn Briarwood uttered as he licked his tongue.

"Disgusting perv." Nadira gave him a nasty side glance, knowing exactly that he wasn't implying food.

The rest of the combatants seemed to have made the same decision to take a hike after a few hours since they knew that Felix was in the metropolis through their GPS.

If he didn't show up, it only meant that he cowered up.

Speaking about the GPS, many combatants pulled their devices, wanting to see if he was still in his original place or if he had made his move.

"Huh?"

"Mmm?!"

When they noticed his new location, all of them lifted their heads instinctively.

"What's the matter?"

The other combatants were left confused at their teammates reaction and looked up as well, just to be left stunned at the sight before them.

There, hovering above the center of the Colosseum, was Felix, astride his majestic two-headed crimson lion. Its wings, vast and powerful, beat the air with rhythmic grace, holding them both aloft.

The lion's tail, aflame with brown flames, waved majestically, leaving a trail of sparks...The sight was awe-

inspiring, a fusion of might and elegance!

For a moment, time seemed to stand still...The once noisy arena was plunged into stunned silence, broken only by the soft beat of the lion's wings.

Whether it was a victor or not, none of them managed to escape from showing an astounded and awed expression at the divinity of the Crimson Lion.

Even from afar, they understood deep down in their hearts that this beast was absolutely priceless.

"Is that the Traveler? How did he get his hands on such a divine creature?!"

"What the...Didn't the information say he is a newcomer-

talented spirit? How can he gain enough money and network to buy such a beast?!"

"Did he hunt it on his own...That can't be, the permits take decades to be released!"

"Maybe his master lent it to him to make an entrance..Forget it, his master is that broke cheapskate witch."

Everyone was left absolutely clueless about this situation, trying their absolute best to make sense of it but to no avail...Even Ravager was taken aback.

"Traveler...How can one change so much in two weeks." Ravanger muttered, his heart started beating out of his chest the moment his eyes landed on Felix's expressionless expression.

He could feel it, he could feel that Felix had gotten much, much stronger than he could have ever imagined!

Chapter 1432 At Last, Some Silence.

ROAR ROAAR!!..

With two thunderous majestic roars, the crimson-flaming Lion landed in the center of the arena, kicking off a cloud of dust around it.

"Wait for me at the side," Felix ordered the beast and Sekiro before jumping into the arena alone.

The crimson lion took off into the air and landed in an empty area in the stands, sitting with its legs folded and two heads leaning against each other.

They went to sleep immediately, not caring in the slightest about all the eyes affixed on them.

'It's even more majestic upfront...'

'I doubt I can get one even if I worked my entire life...'

'This really makes no sense.'

This was the effect of possessing a divine beast in the heavenly plane. It was a symbol of status, power, and reputation.

Yet, it was owned by a mere red-graded spirit, which shouldn't be possible under any circumstances!

"Traveler, did you steal this beast from someone?" Rhael Stormchaser made a joke, but his tone couldn't be more serious.

It was clear that he was digging into Felix's reason for owning such a beast and everyone perked up their ears in interest to know the answer.

"If anyone here to chitchat, leave the colosseum immediately," Felix uttered with a nonchalant tone. "If you came to fight, stay quiet and wait until midnight."

"Aren't you a bit too cocky?" Nadira Flameheart gave him a displeased look.

Felix didn't even bother to glance in her direction.

He looked at Goliath and Earthshaker, then nodded his head and emptied the arena, a clear sign of giving them permission to go at it.

While this was what those two wanted, it still didn't feel right to have a mere red-graded spirit order them around like this.

"Suddenly, I am no longer in the mood to fight."

The Earthshaker scratched the back of his head with an irritated expression and tried to leave the arena.

"As much as I don't like this situation, you ain't going anywhere." Goliath eyed him coldly. "I challenge you to a duel...It's your move now."

Jorvik, The Earthshaker turned around, his face oozing with displeasure and anger. "Are you sure about this?"

Although the great filter stage wouldn't start until tomorrow and Jorvik wasn't forced to accept the challenge, he couldn't turn back as it would make him seem like a coward.

"Make a move or f*ck off to whatever hole you crawled from." Goliath gestured with his molten hand for him to start the fight.

Just as Jorvik, The Earthshaker was about to get into his battle stance, Mr. Sogrus got in the way again.

"Wait, wait, wait! You can't waste a good fight like this without having a live audience to spice things up, right? Think about your sponsors, they won't be pleased if one of you got eliminated and hasn't brought any attention to their companies."

"That's true."

Goliath lowered his arms, knowing that it was truly not the best time to fight.

"Sogrus, make a public announcement that I will be fighting this bag of rocks at midnight." He requested with a stern tone.

"Of course, of course." Mr. Sogrus agreed to it immediately.

"Aren't you lucky? Delaying your damnation by a few hours." Nadira Flameheart snickered as she eyed Felix.

Felix ignored her yet again and gazed at everyone who seemed to be planning to leave the Colosseum.

"Where do you think you are going? I didn't come all the way here just to reschedule." Felix uttered indifferently, "I have more important stuff to handle than fool around with you."

Before anyone could react to his statements, Felix announced. "I challenge everyone here but Goliath and Ravager to group combat at midnight."

"..."

"..."

"..."

The moment the announcement rang in everyone's ears, their bodies froze in their places...Slowly but surely, they all turned to stare at Felix with widened eyes like they were looking at a madman.

Even Ravager, Goliath, and Mr. Sogrus shared the same reaction.

"Sigh, I had a feeling he will do something as crazy as this." Sekiro facepalmed, feeling like an idiot for thinking otherwise.

Meanwhile, Felix was seen returning to the arena while rolling up his sleeves, his expression as indifferent as always like he hadn't just challenged thirty of the strongest fighters in ten cities!

"You! Have you lost your damn mind!!" In the end, Goliath was the first to break into a furious tirade.

He pointed his shaky finger at Felix's back and yelled, "How can you do something so retarded!! You will get absolutely thrashed and make the situation even worse for us!"

"HAHAHAA!! He really is a crazy f*cker!" Ironforge caught his stomach as he burst into noisy laughter after finally processing this insane situation.

"Haha! Did he think he owns the heavenly plane after defeating Ravager?! This sh*t is too hilarious." Nadira Flameheart wiped her tears from laughing so hard, not taking Felix seriously even for a moment.

"As expected, he is an untrusted variable." Elara Moonshade shook her head in disappointment.

"This, this is a first...this is the first time I meet someone so eager to get disposed of from the tournament. Did he lose a bet or something?" Rhael Stormchaser was left more confused albeit the situation was quite hilarious.

If Felix had challenged one of them to a duel, they would be nothing more than interested. But, to challenge everyone to a group battle?

It was literally a suicidal decision since it meant that Felix would have to defeat all thirty of them simultaneously if they accepted the challenge!

While it was called a group battle, it was more or less a one for all battle royal since there weren't any fighting rules in the great filter stage.

Everyone was allowed to hit and eliminate each other...But in this scenario?

"Guys, we can't refuse such a freebie challenge, but we also can't indulge in this fight without a proper viewership." Thorn Briarwood suggested with a rough voice, "How about we send one of us to eliminate him quickly and then make proper separate battles between us?"

"My exact thoughts."

"Likewise."

"This f*cker has no sponsor, so he doesn't care about such things. Let's get rid of him quickly and turn this city into our turf."

No one declined the suggestion.

Without an ounce of hesitation, the fighters jumped into the arena one by one until Felix was encircled by thirty strong fighters from all directions.

"Sh*t, sh*t, sh*t!" Goliath gritted his teeth in anger at his inability to do anything.

He wanted to join the group combat, but he understood that he would receive the same treatment as Felix.

"What are you up to?"

Meanwhile, Ravager had a different reaction from everyone else.

As the one who fought him to the very end, he understood that Felix would never do something without careful preparation.

In other words, if he decided to take on this many at once, he had something that would enable him to win...But, no matter how hard Ravager thought about it, he couldn't find anything.

'F*cking bastard! Always making my job harder than it is!'

Mr. Sogrus cursed with sweat covering his forehead as he brought out his crystal device and started contacting his connections to swiftly promote the upcoming battle and sell the tickets for the show.

When the news got out, no one dared to skip such a showdown, especially when they heard it would be a group battle!

...

At Midnight sharp...The battle was finally streamed live to millions of waiting spirits in the chat rooms.

The entire Colosseum was packed to the brim with spectators and even the VIP lounges were sold out in less than a few seconds from the announcement.

Having no intentions to wait until a greater number of viewers join the stream, Felix stood up and dusted his ass...Then, he inquired as he eyed everyone, "Shall we begin?"

"Don't be too hasty, we have yet to decide who will take care of you." Nadira Flameheart grinned coldly.

"It's not like you had three hours to do it." Felix replied with an indifferent tone.

The fighters ignored his remark and began discussing who would take him down after the stream was finally live.

It was clear that everyone wanted to show the viewers across the entire heavenly plane that they had no interest in ganging up on Felix.

"Leave him to me, I will make sure to erase his cocky attitude instantly." Thorn Briarwood requested as he turned his hands into giant poisonous wooden fists.

"You wish, he is still the capital's champion and whoever got rid of him will get immense publicity." Jorvik, The Earthshaker scoffed.

"So, how do you guys want to decide this?" Rhael Stormchaser inquired.

"Let's do it through a digital raffle." Elara Moonshade said softly, "Whoever is interested in fighting him join the raffle and the winner will fight him."

"Fine by me."

"Alright."

"I'm in."

One by one, the fighters all agreed to use a raffle system, not caring that their discussion was being held right in front of their opponent.

"Kikikiki, look how they are disrespecting your master nationally." Miss Sanae chuckled as she watched the stream with Karra and little Timmy.

"Bunch of mean bastards. My master will teach them a lesson." Karra showed an angry expression, which made her look cuter than dangerous.

"Oho? Aren't you too confident in him?" Miss Sanae raised an eyebrow in surprise, "Did he show you something?"

Karra nodded her head with a look of reverence and said, "My master is going to eliminate them all at once."

"All at once? Kikiki, I know he became extremely strong with his spiritual treasures investment, but it will still take him a while to elimi...Huh?"

Abruptly, the rest of the sentence was stuck in Miss Sanae's throat after her widened pupils reflected one of the most unbelievable sights she had ever seen.

Felix, raised his hands leisurely, uncaring about the ongoing disrespectful discussion about him.

Then, with a single, resounding clap, a palpable wave of energy emanated from Felix, rolling outwards.

The fighters didn't even have time to react. It was as if the very sound had a weight, a force that pushed against them, sapping their energy.

One by one, each fighter's knees buckled, and their strength drained...Weapons dropped, and armored bodies thudded onto the ground, creating a surreal rhythm of defeat.

All of them, regardless if it was a champion, a goddess, or a third runner...All of them ended up on the floor with their eyes showing nothing but white.

"At last, some silence."

In the aftermath, Felix stood alone amidst a circle of unconscious adversaries, the silent master of the arena.

Ravager, Goliath, and the live audience stared in stunned silence, grappling with the unprecedented display of power they'd just witnessed.

Only one thought was swimming across their minds, 'It's done?'

Chapter 1433 The First To Secure A Spot!

Meanwhile, the spectators at home, who had just tuned in and prepared themselves for an exhilarating battle, stared in wide-eyed disbelief at their screens.

Families gathered in living rooms gasped collectively, their plans for a spirited evening of rooting for their favorites abruptly halted.

"Dad? Why are they on the ground? Is this some trick?"

"I don't know..."

Young children asked their elders if what they witnessed was a trick, while the older generation, who thought they'd seen it all, could only shake their heads in utter dumbfoundedness.

Up in the opulent chambers of the Colosseum, a hushed silence prevailed.

Here, amidst grandeur and decadence, the powerful and powerful had gathered, many having personally sponsored some of the now-incapacitated fighters.

Crystal chalices, hovering mid-air, paused in their paths as conversations came to an abrupt stop...Whispers filled the room, each murmurs a mix of disbelief and shock.

"He did that with a mere clap?"

Lady Iris felt shivers course down her spine as she watched Felix walking down the arena with the same emotionless expression.

"What kind of power is that..." Boss Gideon asked, but no one was in the right state to answer him.

Even Mr. Atricus' pupils were enlarged to the limit, trying his best to process the scene before him but to no avail.

"Impossible...This is just impossible! There is no way he made everyone lose consciousness with just a single clap!" Madam Arabella was the first to have her insanity crack.

Unfortunately for everyone, Felix had no plans to explain what happened. He merely whistled once and the crimson double-headed lion woke up from its slumber.

Thud!!

It landed in front of Felix and he mounted on top with Sekiro...Then, he ordered it to return home.

After following his trajectory for a moment with their eyes, Felix disappeared into the horizon, making everyone switch their focus to the fallen fighters...

In a few moments at best, the thirty incapacitated fighters began to stir.

Slowly, the weight of the situation pressed down on them as they regained their senses...Their visions, previously a blur, started to focus on the distant sky of the Colosseum.

Then, it hit them.

-You have been eliminated from the competition, please separate yourself from other fighters-

-You have been removed from the competition, please separate yourself from other fighters-

-You have been removed from the competition, please separate yourself from other fighters-

One by one, they received this notification in their crystal devices, sounding loud and clear across the arena.

When Nadira, Rhael, Thorn, Elara, and the rest of the fighters heard it, their hearts sunk to the bottom of their stomach while their brains seemed to have short-circuited from stupefaction.

"It can't be..."

"This isn't real..."

"Me? Eliminated? Me? Like this?"

"WHAT THE F*CK JUST HAPPENED!"

Some were still in denial, some skipped straight to bargaining, and some were left absolutely livid.

The realization hit them like a tidal wave; they had been taken out of the competition not by a strike, not by an elemental spell, but by a mere clap of hands!!

Feelings of indignation, disbelief, and embarrassment washed over them...Especially, when they were talking all that crap, just to end up passing out without laying a single finger on Felix.

As the reality set in, some of the ashamed fighters left the arena with their heads lowered, while others left with flames burning in their eyes, not wanting to accept their early elimination without proper explanation.

"This is truly an unbelievable sight...If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I wouldn't have believed it even if I was beaten to a pulp."

Mr. Sogrus commentated with a tint of suppressed enthusiasm as he watched the outsiders, running away with their tails behind their backs.

WHOOOOOH!!! CLAP!! CLAP!! CLAP!!

As Astralis citizens broke out of their daze, all of them cheered across the entire city, not caring in the slightest about the method used!

All they cared about was the result and Felix had shown everyone that he wasn't joining this tournament to fool around!

Back at the bureau...

"You better tell me how you pulled it off! I can't sleep in peace without knowing!"

Miss Sanae was seen choking Felix's collar as she yelled at him like a frantic woman...Felix was ignoring her completely, his eyes affixed to the news on the tv.

It was speaking about nonother than his latest domination over thirty fighters, which caused a ruckus across the entire heavenly plane...Especially, when the battle lasted for less than a couple of seconds and everyone was removed by a mere harmless clap!

"Tell me! Tell me!" Miss Sanae kept shaking Felix's head, wanting to irritate him into a confession.

Alas, Felix was invested in his own thoughts.

'It worked as a charm because of those idiots underestimating me and not popping off their telekinesis barriers the moment they got into the arena.'

'I doubt it will work again now that everyone will start fearing me for real.' Felix shrugged his shoulders, 'Whatever, I learned it for the sake of the great filter stage anyways.'

The moment Felix was done with the case, he threw himself into his preparation to secure his spot in the top sixteen elimination stage.

His increased spiritual prowess to such a high level enabled him to have more access to much more complex and fuel-consuming abilities.

While the sound wave emerging from the clap seemed quite simple, in reality, it was one of the most complex vibrational abilities he had to master until this point!

He called it, *Brain Shutdown*.

It was a formidable ability that delved into the intricate neural networks of the target, meticulously identifying and matching the unique brainwave frequencies of the opponent!

Once synchronized, Felix released a precise vibrational burst, causing a disruption in the natural flow of electrical impulses within the brain.

This disruption immediately overloaded the neural pathways, making it impossible for the target to remain conscious!

The strength of Brain Shutdown was such that resistance was futile as long as the target wasn't shielding his mind and body with a telekinesis barrier.

It required immense concentration and mastery, as even the slightest miscalculation can render the technique ineffective.

Fortunately or unfortunately? Felix used Karra as his practice dummy in the past week.

While it seemed a bit inhumane and too ruthless, Karra didn't mind helping Felix at all...Especially, when the worst thing that happened was her passing out gently into the floor without any pain.

"The Traveller has removed thirty fighters, which resulted in his obtaining thirty points! He could be uttered to have secured his spot in the next stage in less than ten seconds from the start of the great filter stage!"

"This is a historical record on its own as even the most powerful champion Nebula hadn't achieved the same extraordinary results!"

"Is this the start of a new legacy for Astralis city and the end of the tale for The Northern Lights city?!"

The reporter on the screen was a clear Astralis citizen as he spoke with great zeal and joy, making sure that the entire heavenly plane hear about Felix's achievement.

He sure did a great job as the news didn't take long before it reached The Northern Lights' infamous representatives, Zephyr, Evergreen, and Nebula.

Amidst the clear azure sky, three majestic beasts soared, each leaving its own distinct trail.

Zephyr rode a Gryphocorn, a magnificent creature with the body of a bear, the wings of an eagle, and the spiraled horn of a unicorn, which glowed a soft blue.

Evergreen was mounted on the Verdant Wyrn, a serpentine creature covered in lush green scales and adorned with leafy wings, it's very being seeming to embody the essence of forests.

Nebula glided gracefully on a Celestifox, a silver-furred fox with starry patterns across its body and ethereal wings that shimmered like the Milky Way.

As they maneuvered through a cluster of fluffy clouds, Evergreen pulled out a flat, rectangular crystal device.

The glassy surface illuminated, revealing moving images of Felix, victorious and triumphant. "You won't believe this," Evergreen called out, his voice echoing through the open air. "The Traveler has defeated thirty fighters with a single clap."

Zephyr, with a twinkle of surprise in his eyes, responded, "I knew he had potential, but this was beyond anything I had imagined."

Nebula, her rabbit-like ears perked in interest...She got her own device out and checked the replay by herself.

When she saw how Felix pulled it off, she lost her interest immediately and uttered with an apathetic tone. "How boring."

Chapter 1434 Interrogating Sir. Azravan.

"We know that our goddess isn't easily impressed, but come on, this is still a spectacular scene." Zypher retorted at her comment.

While he was on her team, it didn't mean that he got along with her well. In fact, no one got along with Nebula as her personality wasn't that approachable due to her brutal honesty.

The fact she was dominating the heavenly plane's tournament for the last decade didn't help improve her image in the eyes of the fighters across the realm.

"I don't know how he caused everyone to faint, but he still used a sound wave to achieve it," Nebula replied calmly.

"It means his attack can't do anything against your abilities." Evergreen continued her sentence.

"Tsk, if you keep analyzing everyone's attacks on whether they can penetrate your space/time abilities, then you will never be interested in anything." Zypher clicked his tongue.

He understood that the only reason Nebula was still joining those competitions was to find someone posing an actual challenge to her.

Unfortunately, everyone she faced had left her disappointed...It wasn't really their fault as her elements made the fights simply be held in two different leagues.

"If you are so bored, why don't you just retire and leave the stage for us youngsters," Zypher muttered under his breath, "It will be nice to become a champion once."

Even her teammates were sick of her hogging the championship. If it wasn't for the fact that the top ten fighters were all rewarded with a decent amount of Lumus, no one would bother to participate in the heavenly plane tournament with her being around.

"I will retire when my master allo..."

"Allows you, we know, we know." Evergreen cut her off with clear vexation in his tone.

She had been saying the same every year after she won her fifth championship and by now, they started to think she was using it as an excuse to keep farming the half million Lumus each year.

Well, to be fair, both of them were certain that if they were presented with the same opportunity, there was no way they would retire early and leave such a free source of income.

A bit hypocritical of them, but even in the heavenly plane, each sought their own self-interest.

"Ahh, if only we weren't so high profile and everyone avoided us like a plague, we could have gotten our points in the same manner as the Traveler." Zypher changed the subject with a deep exhausted sigh.

"There is nothing to be done about it, everyone knows that the moment we reach the next stage, the tournament will be ours to conquer." Evergreen shook his head.

"Let them hide, hunting them is my only source of entertainment." Nebula yawned.

Both Evergreen and Zypher's eyelids twitched at her reply, deciding to remain silent for the rest of the journey to not get any more frustrated by her comments.

The Great Filter Stage was going to last for months and this gave them more than enough time to get the needed points to secure their spots even if the other contestants avoided them.

After all, the GPS merely showed red dots on their devices, but not the identity of the fighters.

So, it would be near impossible to avoid them forever, unless no one wanted to leave their cities.

Days went by and then months...

While the Great Filter Stage was going in full swing with fights happening across the entire heavenly plane, Felix was focusing on solving low-difficulty cases.

At the same time preparing for the real tournament as he knew that his ending wouldn't be pleasant if he didn't find a method to handle Nebula's space/time abilities.

Fortunately, the points gathered by each fighter were accessible to everyone, allowing Felix to see that he was still holding the crown with his thirty points even after months.

Though, Nebula, Zypher, Evergreen, Ravager, and many other powerful fighters were closing in the gap at a rapid pace...Especially Nebula, who was holding twenty-four points.

Considering that everyone avoided her, it was a note-

worthy achievement.

Right now, Felix was seen sitting in Miss Sanae's office, working on a file of another case, but this one was related to adultery.

In the heavenly plane's system, spirits had automatic consent from their servants for sex-related matters unless it was stated in a contract that the servant forbid it.

So, when two married spirits go out of their way to commit adultery with anyone else besides their servants, the court would intervene and punish the cheater.

"People really cheat even in the afterlife, I guess looking for unnecessary trouble can't be changed for some."

Felix shook his head as he closed the file, picking up a time in his schedule to go spy on the cheater and film him during the act with his illusion abilities.

He had solved more than eight cases using the same method, causing Miss Sanae to treat him akin to her precious treasure.

Obviously, Felix was working this hard since he was paid through a hefty commission and to upgrade his color to golden, he needed more than a million Lumus.

Since he had used almost everything he possessed to push his spiritual prowess, he was still a long way before making it happen.

Thud!

"Darling, I am back."

Suddenly, Miss Sanae burst through the door with a wide grin while wearing her infamous black cloak...One look and one would be certain that she was up to some shady stuff.

"I told you, don't call me that." Felix eyed her coldly.

He might not be able to display any intimate emotions, but his frozen heart was still owned by one person and one alone...He had no interest in flirting even if it was a joke.

"Tsk, loosening a bit won't kill you, you know?" Miss Sanae uttered as she started undressing in front of him, uncaring if he saw her naked.

Felix still turned his head to the side and asked indifferently, "How was your research?"

"It's harder than I anticipated." Miss Sanae frowned, "It's like Karra's previous owner went out of his way to make sure that she doesn't associate with him. I asked everywhere and used all sorts of connections to no avail."

"Is that so."

"This kind of authority is quite scary." Miss Sanae said with a stern tone, "We already know he is a noble, but now I have a strong feeling that her previous master was in a high position in the government."

"What does that mean?" Felix inquired.

"It means what it means." Miss Sanae shrugged her shoulders, "I will continue trying my best to investigate the case, but if a governmental official was related to it, I ain't getting close by a mile."

Felix could understand her concerns as she was still a mere private investigator with indirect support from the government.

This meant she could examine everyone besides governmental officials...Only investigators from the law enforcers department could handle such cases.

If even his master knew her boundaries, Felix had no interest in overstepping them regardless if it meant not bringing fairness to Karra.

Unbeknownst to them, the moment they decided to house Karra, they were already involved in the case whether they liked it or not.

Boss Alves was working even harder than them to find dirt on Miss Sanae to use against her...He started with nonother than Sir. Azravan.

Right now, Boss Alves could be seen sitting in Sir. Azravan's office at the top of his shop.

"Azravan, why don't you make it easier for all of us and just confess your connection with the witch and her servant." Boss Alves uttered while sipping tea in a calm manner.

"Boss Alves, I really have nothing to do with them, I..."

"Sigh, stop with the lies, I have no time to waste." Boss Alves interrupted him with a wave of his hand, displaying multiple holographic screens.

Each screen showed detailed evidence of Sir. Azravan's involvement with Miss Sanae and Felix.

One showed the delivery of the crimson double-headed lion under his shop, and another showed a recording of Sir. Azravan repeated visitations to the Bureau.

"This..."

Sir. Azravan's words were stuck in his throat as he had no clue that he was being investigated by Boss Alves' people.

"Are you ready to speak now, or do you want me to remove all of your shop privileges?" Boss Alves uttered calmly, "You know fairly well how negatively your business will be affected without them."

"My apologies, but my visitations to her bureau are related to a private matter in my family and you have no right to get your nose in it." Sir. Azravan replied coldly, "As for the crimson beast? It wasn't given to them, it was lent as part of our payment agreement."

Even though Sir. Azravan was caught in a difficult place, he still refused to open his mouth.

It wasn't like he didn't want to betray Miss Sanae, he knew that if Boss Alves found out about the fruits and his scam, it would be a thousand times worse than Miss Sanae having it.

After all, Miss Sanae couldn't have cared less about them, but Boss Alves would have most definitely contacted Mr. Zinner and taken the fruits' cultivation method to himself, using it to kickstart a new business in the beasts' market.

This was enough to seal his fate completely.

Plus, even if he brought out the matter, Miss Sanae couldn't be mentioned due to the contract terms...So, he would be outing himself to another greedy monster for no reason.

"Are you sure this is your stance?" Boss Alves narrowed his eyes at him.

"I don't have a stance, I uttered what's really happening and if you don't believe it, you can take away my privileges." Sir. Azravan replied with a stern tone, "My profits

might take a massive hit, but it's better than having you bastards use it as a sword for every little inconvenience related to me."

"Now, f*ck off from my shop before I call the law enforcers for threatening a law-abiding citizen."

Chapter 1435 Forced To Commit To The Case.

"..." Boss Alves was left silent but a tint of surprise was seen in his pupils.

He was taken aback by Sir Azravan's aggressive stance, causing him to doubt the truth of his words.

'Now, I am certain there is something going on between them.'

Boss Alves understood that Sir. Azravan would never attempt cutting ties with his company unless the consequences of telling him the truth were much harder to handle.

"This isn't over."

Still, he didn't overstay his welcome as he had no interest in involving the law enforcers.

Unlike other citizens, Sir. Azravan couldn't really be blacklisted by all upper echelons since he was bringing the rarest beasts into the city and they were his number one customers.

So, even if Boss Alves used his connections, it wouldn't work.

After his departure, Sir. Azravan reached out to Miss Sanae immediately and voiced his complaint.

"What did you do to the Red Fangs' leader? He came snooping on our business, wanting to give you out."

The moment Felix and Miss Sanae heard this, their expression became solemn.

"What did you tell him?"

"What do you think? I bullsh*t myself through his interrogation, but he isn't stupid enough to believe me." Sir. Azravan got irritated, "Now, even my shop's privileges will be lost and this will harm my profile even more."

"Those privileges weren't legal in the first place, so stop crying about it." Miss Sanae stressed, "Just stick to your story and he won't find anything."

"Do I have any other choice?" Sir. Azravan asked again, "You still haven't told me what's between you."

Sir. Azravan knew about the blacklist order on Felix and how Boss Alves seemed at odds with him, but he had no idea about its reasoning.

Neither Miss Sanae nor Felix had any intentions to bring him into their situation.

"Don't worry about it, stick to your story and you will be fine."

Before Sir. Azravan could say anything, the call was hung up and he was left seething in his office, feeling like he was caught in the middle of something way above his paygrade.

'F*ck, I just wanted to earn money.'

"Alright, this is starting to freak me out a bit." Miss Sanae said, her tone as serious as it could get. "For Alves to go out of his way to dig dirt on me, it implies he wants to get rid of me. Since we never had such a bad interaction, it only means he wants to get you kicked out of my office after I get punished."

"He is doing this for Karra clearly as there is no way he will be narrow-minded to come this hard at me just because I pissed him off." Felix nodded in support of her analysis.

"In other words, the noble behind Karra has no intentions of letting this matter go to rest until she gets kicked out of the heavenly plane." Miss Sanae reasoned.

"For a noble to go this far, Karra's relation to the specters' case must be deeper than we anticipated." Felix stated, "She could know some damaging information about the noble and the only way for him to get peace of mind is by kicking her off the plane."

"If it's like that, then this situation won't be over until he gets what he wanted." Miss Sanae gave Felix a knowing look.

"Not happening." Felix understood what he wanted and rejected it immediately, "I have no interest in throwing Karra out."

"Despite your asshole attitude, you sure are a devoted one." Miss Sanae smiled for a moment before her expression turned solemn again. "But, loyalty won't get us out of this sticky situation."

"Why do we need to get out?" Felix shared, "Even if the noble was in a governmental position, we can still investigate him and hand over the data to the law department. They can take it from there and handle him."

"We can do this, but we won't be getting anything in return unless the department decided to reward us on their own." Miss Sanae frowned, not too pleased with the notion of working for free.

"That's where you're mistaken." Felix shook his head, "This Fallen Specters' case must have other backgrounds involved. In fact, even Alves might have a part in it. So, while we can't do anything to the noble, we can still earn a significant amount of assets if we took down his subordinates."

"That's true."

Miss Sanae realized that Felix was right.

For such a massive and hidden operation, there were way too many gears at work...Yet, everything was kept under control and in the shadows.

This signified the involvement of many other capable figures and if they focused on them during their investigation, they were bound to get paid handsomely.

"Since Alves is acting as the noble's sword against us, he would have definitely visited him one time or a couple lately." Miss Sanae smirked faintly, "I just need to keep my eyes on him and he will definitely lead us to the figurehead."

"You do that, I will see if it's possible to gather information from other sources." Felix nodded.

Felix didn't specify what he would be doing exactly as he was planning to use his illusion abilities to invade Karra's memories and extract information directly from the source.

While this kind of information couldn't be used in courts, it would help them learn much more about the Fallen Specters case if Karra was really an important figure in the operation.

....

The Next Morning...

Felix could be seen sitting on the roof with a holographic screen, showing Nebula dominating each fight with her space/time abilities.

"Compared to Selphie, her time abilities are much worse than even lesser spells...But, they are still more than enough to strike despair in the hearts of the fighters." He commentated.

Indeed, Nebula was seen slowing down time momentarily each time she was on defense, causing all projectiles and even the fighters to be left helplessly traveling at a snail's pace.

Then, she finished them off with a spatial blade, cutting them from the middle with their telekinesis barrier still intact.

Since death wasn't an choice in the heavenly plane, the spirits regrew their bodies to their peak forms again and then regain their consciousness.

This was one of the many reasons she was feared, as she always threw her opponents into week-lasting comas if not longer.

"Simple skills, but overpowered enough to dominate the realm." Felix knitted his eyebrows, "If I want to not fall into the same ending, I have to find spacetime resonance frequency."

Felix had spent months on it by now and he was still struggling with this...Through his studies on spacetime in the living world, he found out that there was a possibility the spacetime have a natural frequency at which it oscillated, known as a "resonance frequency."

This meant that certain types of waves, such as gravitational waves, could be amplified or suppressed depending on the frequency.

It was like spacetime was the chessboard and the waves were the chess pieces on it.

While players controlled the pieces and left the board alone, Felix was attempting to gain control over the board itself and make it capable of affecting even the pieces.

If he pulled it off, any spacetime-related ability could be countered by manipulating its frequency resonance.

This was his base theory at least as he had really no clue if it was even possible or if he was way over his head.

After all, he had no master this time and a entirely rare element to explore. Fortunately, he was capable of using his imagination to go through thousands upon thousands of experiments and errors.

"I barely have two months left before the start of the next stage...Will it be enough?"

Honestly, Felix doubted it and he had a intense feeling that he might end up a target to Nebula's domination.

Alas, he could only work his hardest to master this ability and wish for the best.

Chapter 1436 The Northern Lights City.

Two months later...

The Great Filter Stage had ended in an epic desperate one for all battle in one of the farming fields near the capital city, involving Goliath, Ravager, and more than twenty other fighters!

At the end of the battle, only Ravager was left standing with a body tattooed entirely with heavy wounds.

Even Goliath was seen lying on top of two other fighters passed out completely.

"I did it, I made it,"

Ravager spoke with great difficulty...His muddled eyes seemed to be begging to shut down, but Ravager resisted the urge at all costs, waiting patiently for the announcement.

In less than a minute, the announcement had come at last, resounding across the entire heavenly plane through tv channels and other media outlets.

-The Great Filter Stage has been concluded! Congratulation to the top chosen sixteen fighters: Nebula, Evergreen, Zypher, Draven, Draxis, Widowed Nyx...The Traveler, and Ravager!-

'Thank...Go,'

The moment Ravager heard his name, his eyes rolled at the back of his head and he fell on his back, passing out immediately.

Even when his points were ahead of many before those two months, he didn't laze around like Felix, knowing that it would take a single lucky break for a fighter to surpass him.

He was right as the list had multiple changes occurring in their rankings. In fact, Felix became second after Nebula surpassed his points by more than ten.

But, Felix didn't really care as nothing earned from such a list beside ego-boosting.

Right now, he could be seen sitting in a meditation position on the roof, his eyes closed shut, unopened even after the announcement rang from his device.

The air around him seemed to twist and turn like a heat wave in a desert. Yet, his expression wasn't that of delight, instead, he was frowning all the time.

'Still, a fail...Am I tackling this wrong, or was my theory faulty from the start?' In the end, Felix opened his eyes and the wavey field around him fell apart.

He looked into the sky and the images of Lady Sphinx, Thor, and Jormungandr appeared on the clouds.

During those difficult times, Felix missed them the most as he came to the conclusion that his masters were making his life hundred times easier with their guidance and infinite wisdom...

-Congratulation, you have made it successfully to the next stage, please report to Northern Light City's Colosseum in three days.-

"I guess I can only aim for the second runner and hope for the best during the finals."

Felix dropped the matter for now and began the preparation for his departure.

The tournament would be held in the Northern Light city since Nebula was the previous champion, giving her city the hosting privileges.

This was big for the city as it made it possible to get more investments in it, which in turn allowed its leader to request more spirits quota.

After all, only a few spirits get sent directly into the capital and the rest were spread out among other cities based on the yearly quota.

The governors desired more spirits since they were considered their citizens, which in turn boosted the city's economy and status in the realm.

All of this was being affected by the heavenly plane's tournament, which was one of the main reasons it meant a lot to each city.

...

"You going now? Give me a lift too." Miss Sanae requested with an excited tone as she was wearing a t-shirt with Felix's nickname on it and holding a cheering colorful finger.

"No space, take the train." Felix rejected, his eyelids twitching at her appearance.

"Come on, the lion can lift all of us at once."

"No..."

"You know that lion belongs to me as much as you?"

"..."

"That's what I thought." Miss Sanae smiled widely again and exited the office while cheering out loud, not caring about the pedestrian's weird looks.

When they noticed Felix coming out of the office, all of them had a sudden shift of attitude.

"Traveler!! Fighting!!"

"We believe you!"

"I am planning to bet half of my savings on you! Don't make homeless!"

Some cheered, some joked, and some tried to rush him to get pictures or videos...Alas, when they noticed the two-

headed lion resting next to the door, their courage died down immediately.

Felix merely glanced in their direction for a moment before riding on the lion, having no interest in showing any fake politeness to those 'fans'.

Sekiro, Karra, and Miss Sanae all jumped on the back of the lion, causing it to growl in irritation, clearly not too pleased with the number of passengers.

Thud! Thud!

Alas, one knuckle on each head was enough to silence its displeasure and take off into the air, leaving the streets packing up with pedestrians waving in the air.

Oculon was amidst those pedestrians, staring at Felix's party with a composed expression.

"The target is on the move, Are there any instructions?" Oculon spoke softly into his device.

"Do not chase them, any vehicle will be spotted and we can't afford to give you a beast of the same rank to follow them. Just take the train and intercept them in the Northern city." Boss Alves ordered.

"As you wish." Oculon took off right away.

Meanwhile, Boss Alves left thinking really hard about a way to take advantage of their departure.

"They will stay there for two weeks or less, and with that witch being out of town, it's the best time to reach out to her people and buy them off." Boss Alves knew that it would be more than possible to buy them off at the right price.

After all, there was no such thing as allegiance among the underground spirits since their allegiance fall to the highest bidder.

'By the time they come back, all of them will be thrown into the streets.' Boss Alves uttered coldly.

...

A couple of hours later...

Felix and his party were seen flying in the direction of the Northern Lights city's walls.

When they got approved for entry, even Felix was somewhat surprised by its mesmerizing blend of ethereal beauty and architectural ingenuity.

The cityscape sprawled over a vast expanse of snow-

covered terrain, with buildings crafted to not only withstand the cold but also to embrace and enhance the snowy aesthetic.

Homes and establishments, shaped with sloping roofs and crystalline walls, seemed to emerge organically from the snow, looking almost like they've been carved from ice and snowdrifts themselves.

The streets, paved with a shimmering blend of frost and starlight, reflected the soft luminescence of the ever-

present orange northern lights in the sky.

These lights, with their undulating, otherworldly glow, bathe the entire city in a warm, comforting hue, creating a stark but harmonious contrast against the icy-blue structures below.

"I can't believe the most powerful competitors in the tournament emerged from this city," Karra murmured in astonishment as her head kept moving around nonstop.

"While the city's atmosphere seemed serene and gentle, most spirits here with some talent to battles head to the northern mountain chain to find spiritual treasures." Sekiro shared, "Unlike the southern beast kingdom, no permit was required for such exploration, and thus, many decent seekers explore the peaks and fight the beasts in them for the sake of harvesting those spiritual treasures."

If it wasn't for the governmental permit, most of the cities near the southern beast kingdom would have given birth to absolute monsters.

After all, the local-born spirits obtained talents and such from their parents instead of having the memories reformation machine hand them random traits.

The Northern Lights city's citizens were all naturally with some sort of talent for battles compared to the other cities because of that opportunity.

"Kikiki, from today onward, their legacy is going to be replaced." Miss Sanae chuckled as she patted Felix hard on his back, "My darling here is going to put everyone in their place and win me all of the bets."

'Should I tell her that I am not confident in winning the finals?'

As Felix kept hearing her annoying laugh and having his back beat up, he erased the thought entirely from his mind.

'Nope.'

Chapter 1437 The First Showdown!

After a while, Felix and his servants checked into the designated hotel for the contestants, leaving Miss Sanae to get her own lodging somewhere else.

Miss Sanae wasn't too pleased with this as she wanted to hang out with them...Too bad, Felix shut down all her attempts to bring them to her hotel, having no interest in getting annoyed even during the competition.

"The tournament will start in three days...Should we visit the market? The city is too far from the capital for the red fangs to have any influence here. So the blacklist order won't hold us back." Sekiro suggested.

"I am not planning to buy anything at the moment." Felix rejected.

Felix was aiming now at the golden color upgrade, so he had no interest in buying more spiritual treasures.

"Take Karra and go roam around the city." Felix permitted, "I will be continuing my training here."

Karra got somewhat excited as it had been a while since she was out to avoid meeting the duke or his subordinates.

"Alright."

Sekiro nodded his head and left the room with Karra.

The moment the door closed behind them, Felix turned his head to face the window and ordered coldly, "Come in."

If someone was here, they would be left bewildered as there was nothing either in front or behind the window.

However, Felix's senses were rarely wrong.

"Not bad, I thought my wind camouflage was perfect."

Whoosh!

Suddenly, Zypher emerged from inside a small tornado and entered the room...When he landed on the floor, he bowed his head respectfully and introduced himself, "I am Zypher, you might have heard of me."

Felix remained silent and kept staring at him indifferently, letting him understand that he wasn't interested in greetings, but in his reason for spying on him.

"Excuse my intrusion, but I just got too curious about you and wanted to see what makes you special." Zypher confessed, "It's not common for a total newbie to reach the top sixteen of the heavenly plane's tournament in his first-ever appearance."

"If that's all, you should leave." Felix said.

He closed his eyes again and returned to his meditation session, not worried in the slightest about Zypher making a move against him or such.

The heavenly plane tournament was under the government's management and it took it extremely seriously. If someone broke the rules, his fate wouldn't be pleasant even if it was Nebula.

"You are a curious fella indeed, I hope we can face each other and trade some pleasantries."

After leaving this challenging remark, Zypher took his leave immediately.

He understood that the moment he was caught by Felix, he could have reported him and caused him to get punished...So, to let him go was truly interesting and he was appreciative even if he didn't show it.

...

Inside another suite at the end of the corridor, Zypher, Nebula, and Evergreen were sitting together.

Zypher and Evergreen were face to face while Nebula was sitting on top of the window, her alluring white hair cascading down her furry shoulders.

"So?" Evergreen inquired.

"I got caught by him, his senses are on another level," Zypher confessed.

"You got caught and he let you go? It was the perfect opportunity to get rid of a strong competitor." Evergreen raised an eyebrow in surprise.

"I don't know either, but he seemed like he didn't fear me at all."

The moment she heard this, Nebula's interest was slightly piqued.

"If he doesn't fear you, the proclaimed fastest fighter in the history of the tournament, then he either has something in his sleeves fueling his confidence or he is just cocky," Evergreen stated.

"He does strike me as a bit cocky, but at the same time, I don't feel like he bases his confidence on his cockiness." Zypher shook his head, "I am telling you, it's best to be careful against him...He will be a tough opponent."

"One could only hope..." Nebula seemed even more pleased to know that Felix might be tough.

Most of the qualified contestants each year were the same and she was getting bored and tired of defeating in the same manner time and time again.

If it wasn't for her master, she would have indeed retired a long, long while ago.

...

Three days later...

Amidst the radiant glow of the Northern Light City Colosseum, sixteen figures stood in a circle on the arena floor, their silhouettes casting long, dramatic shadows upon the icy blue battleground.

Each fighter's aura was unique, a testament to their distinctive powers and the journeys that had brought them to this esteemed venue...But all of them possessed golden hues except for Felix, making him stand out akin to a sore thumb.

Suddenly, the arena's massive luminous crystal dimmed, and a spotlight focused on the center of the floor.

A platform rose, and upon it stood Mr. Monnar, the host of this grand tournament...His robe was the shade of the midnight sky, adorned with twinkling star-like gems, making him seem as if he were a part of the very cosmos.

"Welcome, esteemed fighters, to the Northern Light City's Grand Colosseum!" His voice echoed, resonating with every corner of the amphitheater.

Clap! Clap! Clap!...

The audience erupted in cheers, their excitement palpable as they had been waiting for this day for a long while now.

"Today, we shall unveil the brackets! Destiny will pair you, and skill will decide the outcome!"

With a flourish, Mr. Monnar summoned a large crystalline board beside him. On it, slots for names awaited, shimmering faintly.

'Please don't pair me with Nebula.'

'I beg you, goddess of luck, keep me away from that rabbit woman.'

'I landed against that monster last year in the first round, it won't happen again, right?'

The fighters watched intently, their hearts beating out of their chests in agitation and worry, not wanting to get paired up with Nebula at all costs.

Since the higher a fight climbed the ranks, the more Lumus he would be awarded, no one wanted to get eliminated right from the start.

"Start!"

He raised his hand, and the names of the fighters began to arrange themselves, forming pairs, setting the stage for epic clashes.

When the names were decided at last, some seemed to sigh in relief, some rejoiced, some didn't react, and some had the color drained out of them.

Only two fighters didn't show much of a reaction...Felix and Nebula.

'I will be fighting her in the quarter-finals instead of the finals while Zypher is in the first stage, I guess my luck has run out at last.'

While Felix's expression remained unchanged, he wasn't too pleased with the brackets' results as it set him up for an early elimination, which might cause him to leave barely with anything.

He didn't invest so much just to try again next year.

On the other hand, Nebula seemed quite satisfied as she gave Felix a peculiar look of desire that would make anyone mistake her intentions.

When Felix traded looks with her, he could feel like she was telling him to not disappoint her.

'If only I can use my other elements, I would have wiped that smug attitude out of her with a single slap.' Felix's eyelids twitched in irritation, feeling like he was being looked down on by a weakling.

Alas, he could do nothing about it but suck it up and give it his best against her without using his previous abilities.

"Ladies and gentlemen! The brackets have been decided and the first elimination stage will begin shortly! Stay tuned after the advertisement break!"

Mr. Monnar announced out loud before kicking off the fighters from the arena and preparing it for the showdown.

"This doesn't look too good for that unlucky asshole." Miss Sanae uttered with an irritated tone. "He will be fighting the two most powerful fighters in the entire tournament right from the start. Can he really win?"

Even the odds were heavily, heavily in favor of Felix, which made her hesitate whether to risk it all and wager big or chill a bit.

'Screw it, what kind of master doesn't believe in her servants?!'

In the end, without too much consideration, Miss Sanae placed three hundred Lumus on Felix's first battle.

And, that was it...She didn't dare bet even one Lumus on him against Nebula.

"Let the battles begin!"

After the break was over, Mr. Mannar kicked off the tournament with no one but Felix's vs Zypher's battle as their position in the brackets was on the far right.

Both Zypher and Felix entered the stage under constant cheering from the audience...Since this was the home ground to Zypher, Felix wasn't receiving any love at all.

"Who would have known we would meet so soon." Zypher smiled at Felix as he had gotten into battle posture. "I hope you give it your best."

Felix stared at him indifferently for a few moments before he turned to Mr. Mannar...Then, he pointed his finger at Zypher and snitched on him.

"I discovered this man spying on me yesterday in my room, I want him defeated and I have the proof to prove it."

"You..."

Zypher's smile froze just like the rest of his body, feeling a cold wind blowing on his cheeks as he eyed Felix ratting him out in public without an ounce of shame!

Chapter 1438 Getting Scorned By Everyone!

With that accusation ringing in everyone's ears, a hush fell over the crowd.

The declaration hung in the air, echoing ominously. Whispers buzzed through the audience like an agitated hive, the earlier cheer replaced by palpable tension.

The spotlight seemed to burn brighter, turning all eyes onto Zypher, forcing him to break from his daze and try to defend himself.

However, when he opened his mouth, he realized that anything he said would just make the situation worse for him.

'F*ck me! Why did I show myself when he called and even entered this rat's room!' He cursed, his eyes burning with fury at the sight of Felix's indifferent expression.

He felt like an idiot for believing that someone as powerful and stern looking as Felix would publicly rat him out.

'You bastard! How can you willingly throw your reputation like this.' Zypher spoke mentally with Felix.

'Do I look like I care?' Felix replied carelessly, 'Forfeit the battle and I won't need to bring out evidence. You know that the punishment might even be strict enough to ban you from participating in a couple of future tournaments.'

'Shameless f*cker! Don't you have any pride? How can you go this far to avoid a fight?!

'Pride? I'm just not an idiot who wastes his energy and time on something that can be concluded with the least amount of effort.' Felix warned one last time, 'Now, voice your surrender before I make this larger than it is.'

'You're bluffing, if you had the evidence, you would have used it yesterday and reported me without needing to expose yourself to the scorn of the viewers.' Zypher narrowed his eyes with a cold smirk, greatly confident in his reasoning.

'The moment I sensed your existence, I have already started recording in case you were dumb enough to trust me and enter my room.' Felix shared. 'I didn't report you yesterday since I have no interest in eliminating you without knowing first if you will be one of my opponents.'

'As for the viewers' scorn?' Felix ordered calmly, 'Look at me, do I really look like I care?'

Zypher felt his heart drop to the bottom of his stomach at the sight of Felix's visage remaining the same as ever even when the audience began to get rowdier and rowdier.

He could feel it deep inside his bone. 'This f*cker isn't bluffing!'

Zypher realized that he couldn't afford to bet possibly five future tournaments for the sake of fighting for one.

'Even if I forfeited, we will be investigated later on for the reasoning and he will give them the evidence either way.'

'I can see what you are thinking, but don't worry, I have no interest in ruining your future. I just want this easy win.' Felix assured him. 'So, either take a bet on me or believe that I am bluffing and let me expose you here.'

'F*ck! F*ck! F*ck this sh*t!' Zypher got angrier and angrier at his situation the more Felix spoke, realizing that his fate would be in Felix's hands either way.

Still, he had to choose the most favorable option even though this decision made his heart burn in hatred and fury.

Soon, he looked at Mr. Mannar and lifted his hand in the air, declaring his forfeit.

Everyone was taken aback by his decision and before they could react, Zypher had already turned into a wind tornado and disappeared from the arena.

"I guess I am the winner by default?" Felix uttered calmly as he walked back to his seat.

BOOOOOO!!! BOOOOOO!!!...

The moment his ass cheeks touched the seat, an explosion of angry booes and hisses resounded thunderously across the colosseum.

"YOU LOSER COWARD!!!"

"MOTHERF*CKER! I LOST TEN THOUSAND LUMUS BEFORE THE FIGHT EVEN STARTED!"

"INVESTIGATE THOSE TWO BASTARDS! THIS MUST BE A BETTING COLLUSION!"

"Kikiki! I have won almost double the amount in less than ten seconds! As expected of my dear treasure."

No one was more happy with this outcome than Miss Sanae and those who placed their bets on Felix.

The remaining 90%? All of them lose money and they weren't planning to let this down easily!

"Everyone, please calm down! Both parties will be investigated at the end of the tournament and if there was truly any foul play between them, all of the bets will be voided. So, just relax and enjoy the next battle between Draven and our champion Nebula!"

Mr. Mannar did his absolute best to cool down the audience's rage.

When everyone heard that an investigation would be carried out, their anger was suppressed a bit but not completely died off.

Everyone was still irritated at Felix for turning such an epic battle into this sh*tshow for the sake of a free win.

But as he said, he really couldn't care less. He could be seen cleaning his nails even when his ears were picking up the worst possible curses thrown in his direction.

"How disappointing, if you had to rely on such cheap tactics to get rid of Zypher, you really should consider forfeiting against me."

When Nebula floated down from her seat and got near Felix, she left this discontented comment and continued on her path to the arena.

"Or else?" Felix asked with a dull tone.

"I will give you a short demonstration," Nebula uttered without turning her head.

Felix remained silent as he watched her step into the ring with Draven on the opposite side.

Draven stood apart from the ordinary with his luminous, crystal-like skin. Every facet of his form seems to catch and refract light in mesmerizing patterns, giving him an otherworldly glow.

He possessed two large butterfly wings on his back, fluttering softly against the wind. His weapon of choice was two sharp metallic spinning axes.

He wasn't weak in the slightest as he was one of the fighters who almost always reached the quarter-finals in each year's tournament, making him a difficult opponent to challenge.

"Start!"

Alas, the moment the battle kicked off, Nebula unleashed her powers.

"Time Prison."

Time itself seemed to ripple around Draven, the world around him growing blurry and slow.

'Crap!'

Draven tried to escape from the confinement of the time prison, but his movement was so slow, it made the viewers wonder if he was even giving his best.

To the spectators, it looked as if his butterfly wings fluttered desperately, trying to break free, but they only moved sluggishly, caught within the temporal snare!

"Severence Star."

Seizing her advantage, Nebula gracefully swung her arms wide, her fingers tracing a luminous arc in the air.

They met above her head in the form of a glowing star. With a swift and decisive motion, she pushed the star towards Draven.

"Noooooooo!!"

Draven's scream of terror and despair traveled in slow motion like a broken record as he watched the approaching star.

Alas, the time prison made it impossible for him to escape in time, causing it to go through his body with a sudden flash of light.

When it faded, Draven was no longer in one piece...

His crystalline body had been segmented, each part floating in place, mirroring the points of the star!

His eyes, still gleaming with life, looked around in confusion and horror, trying to comprehend the state he was now in.

"Release." Nebula snapped her finger, freeing Draven from the time confinement.

The moment she did so, Draven separated body fell into the ground and he released one of the loudest painful wails in the history of the tournament.

It lasted for a mere second before his eyes showed white, forcefully causing him to pass out to block off the agony of being sliced into pieces like a vegetable.

Nebula didn't show even an ounce of emotion at the sight. She merely turned around and stared at Felix whose focus was on their battle.

Neither she nor did he speak.

Words weren't needed as she made it clear that her fight with Felix in the next two days was going to result in the same ending if he didn't forfeit.

A clear punishment for how he dealt with her teammate!

Chapter 1439 Nebula's Master.

After Nebula's battle was over, Draven was picked up by his servants and taken into his hotel room to help him get better.

With his terrible condition, the odds weren't in his favor. He would most likely spend at least two weeks in a coma until his entire body was healed back to form again.

Nebula showed absolutely no sympathy for her opponent as she floated back to her seat.

Ravager, Draxis, Widowed Nyx, and the rest of the fighters all showed black lines on their foreheads from distress.

'How can I take down such a monster...' Ravager clutched his fists tightly, 'Is saving my little sister really a hopeless wish?'

Ravager worked his ass to the bone in the past six months to prepare for the tournament, creating new powerful abilities and enhancing his battle experience.

But, what he had witnessed made him understand that everything he had worked for would be for naught if he landed in Nebula's hands.

Just like he was improving, she was also getting stronger.

This year's version made everyone feel a sense of despair rising with them as Draven wasn't even given enough time to use his telekinesis barrier...

"Next we have Ravager vs Widowed Nyx!" Mr. Monnar announced, causing those two fighters to grace the stage.

'It's not the time to despair, all I can do is give it my best and reach the final. If I lose then against Nebula, that f*cker might not take it so hard on me.' Ravager thought with a cold expression as he eyed his opponent.

Opposite him, Widowed Nyx floated slightly above the ground while having a dark cloud surrounding her.

She taunted him, confidence dripping from every word, "Come at me."

Ravager's response was a soft whisper, meant only for himself but heard by everyone due to the deafening silence, "Condensed Zypher Flaming Swords."

Suddenly, brilliant flames erupted from his hands, forging themselves into two gleaming swords that radiated intense heat.

The sheer energy emanating from them caused the ground beneath to crack and smolder! Yet, their creation wasn't done as two thin wind tornados manifested around them, making them resemble two illuminating wind swords!

'Danger.'

Widowed Nyx's smirk vanished, replaced by a look of genuine alarm.

Whoosh!!

As Ravager lunged at her with blinding speed, she hastily summoned her renowned telekinetic barrier and used a darkness ability to create a cover for herself.

Alas...

The swords, imbued with a force the likes of which had never been seen, sliced through the darkness cover and her barrier effortlessly...

The powerful likeness barrier neither shattered nor cracked, it got severed as smoothly as a knife going through butter...

'What...'

Widowed Nyx barely had a moment to register the shock before Ravager's blades met her, cleaving her in two with a clean, burning precision!

Whoosh!!

Ravager emerged on the other side of the dark cloud, leaving behind him a flaming 'X' mark on the dark cloud and Widowed Nyx's severed body.

WHOOOOAH!!!

The instant Widowed Nyx's body parts hit the ground, the spectators broke from their daze and cheered in excitement and fever...Everyone expected a heated conflict between the two sides as Widowed Nyx wasn't a weakling at all.

For it to end in this dominating manner surely shocked everyone and caused even the fighters to rethink their future battle with Ravager!

"Will you look at that."

Felix showed an interested expression as he watched Ravager dissolve his swords and exit the arena under the erupted cheers of the excited crowd.

He figured out that Ravager had created this new powerful technique in the past six months to deal with his own vibration element and fighting style.

After all, his anti-elemental vibration barrier couldn't handle intense abilities like those while his barrier and hammer would absolutely get destroyed with a single swing from those swords.

While Ravager's heart was in the right place, Felix hadn't spent this period messing around either.

...

After a while, the remaining battles were concluded and the quarter-final contestants were chosen.

Felix didn't hang out any longer in the Colosseum and went back to the hotel with Sekiro, Karra, and Miss Sanae by his side.

While Miss Sanae was counting her winnings with a gleeful grin, Sekiro and Karra had concerned expressions.

"Sir, won't this situation bring you some trouble?" Sekiro asked, referring to the problem with Zypher and the upcoming investigation.

"Zypher forfeited willingly and as long as I don't show them the evidence of him spying in my room, I can just tell them that I was playing mind games and he got freaked out for some reason." Felix shrugged his shoulders, "As long as we didn't collude to fix the bets, the only ones who care about Zypher's forfeit are his sponsors and his betters."

"I see..."

For now, Felix didn't waste his time thinking about Zypher or the repercussions...His mind was occupied with his upcoming fight, wanting to think of a plan that could help him secure the win against that monster.

...

Sometime later, on the northern side of the city, where only governmental officials were allowed to live, Nebula was seen walking inside a corridor of a magnificent palace.

Her usual arrogance and careless attitude were no more. She became polite and respectful as she walked with a straight back in the direction of a gate at the end of the corridor.

When she arrived at the door, she knocked twice and called, "Master, may I come?"

"Enter." A very familiar voice resounded from the other room, a voice that was chill, and soothing. Felix would have recognized it immediately.

After the door was opened, an identical clone of Carbuncle appeared, sitting at a desk with his head buried into hundreds upon hundreds of holographic screens!

He resembled a small humanoid fluffy hamster with two sets of folded crystal wings on his back and a gemstone engraved on his forehead.

Unlike the lazy stone-head Carbuncle that Felix know about, this one's eyes were large and expressive, gleaming with an age-old wisdom, their gold-flecked irises deep pools of curiosity and mystery.

He resembled a scholar, a teacher, and a strict authoritative figure who didn't accept his commands being rejected or ignored.

"Master, did I catch you in a busy time?" Nebula inquired with an sorry tone.

"When was I never busy?" Carbuncle smiled kindly.

"True." Nebula chuckled for a moment before she uttered with a tone of admiration. "Working as a soul scribe official must be the hardest governmental position in the spirit realm."

"It's alright."

Carbuncle waved his hand and all the screens disappeared, leaving him facing his previous servant.

Even though Nebula became free the moment she turned into a golden spirit, she still called Carbuncle her master and treated him with the same reverence as in her oldest days.

It was expected of her as she wouldn't have reached this stage without his support and care.

"How is it going in the tournament?" Carbuncle asked, "I haven't been paying attention lately."

"Master...You make me participate in it every year and you don't even bother to watch." Nebula sulked.

"Since you desire to join the law enforcer department and climb the ladder in it, you have to make sure that you're ahead of the rest in all areas." Carbuncle stated, "The heavenly plane's tournament is the perfect preparation stage to take on the qualification test."

"I already feel like I am ready to give it a go." Nebula scoffed, "Plus, I have dominated the tournament for ten years, who can claim to be better than me?"

"Don't be so sure..." Carbuncle's eyes showed a sudden sparkle in them. "You will soon understand that there is always a bigger mountain and a bigger monster."

"There you go again, speaking cryptically." Nebula acted annoyed, "Bigger monster? If there is one, it's definitely not in this year's tournament."

"Again, don't be so sure." Carbuncle smiled and refrained from any clarifications.

Chapter 1440 It's Time To Fulfill Your Promise,

"Master, I know that Soul Scribes can see through the fabrics of dimensions and document almost anything happening in all dimensions, for you to speak like this, means you know something important." Nebula narrowed her eyes in intrigue.

Soul Scribes' entire job was to record every event, law, and decision made in the realm in addition to other realms. Also, they chronicle the lives of spirits, recording their deeds and experiences.

But, this was it.

They could only document stuff and never act on them or tell anyone about them.

Since they answer only to Lord Hades himself, no one would dare to pressure them into giving their information, not even the ethereal elders.

This kind of authority also made them understand the moment a soul scribe attempted to break the rules, he would also answer to Lord Hades for his punishment.

So, not a single soul scribe dared to get out of Lord Hades' favor.

"If you know that, you should also understand that I can't divulge any kind of information." Carbuncle chuckled.

Nebula pouted but didn't press any further. However, she didn't drop the matter completely.

She started to think if there was truly someone capable of turning her world upside down during this competition.

"Traveler is the only unfamiliar face and he hasn't shown anything yet that can be of a threat to me? He even used tricks to avoid fighting Zypher...It can't be him, right?" She pondered out loud.

Carbuncle merely maintained his kind smile and refrained from adding any comment.

"Whatever, we will see what he can do two days from now." Nebula sighed in defeat and gave up on wasting her time on speculations.

"So, what brought you here?" Carbuncle asked, changing the subject.

"Oh, I came to tell you that I want to retire after this year's tournament." Nebula said with a solemn tone, "I don't care how difficult it is to enter the law enforcers department, but I feel like I have prepared enough for it and I want to give it a try."

"I also think that it's about time you give it a try." Carbuncle nodded in approval.

"Really?!"

Nebula's eyes widened in surprise and excitement...She expected a strong rejection and prepared herself to convince her master since he always turned her request down.

"There will be soon an opening for a captain law enforcer position in the capital and it will serve as the best stage to begin your governmental ladder climb." Carbuncle gave a slight nod, "You should understand that this kind of opportunity doesn't happen very often...You should work even harder to prepare for the examination."

"Will do! Don't worry, no one is going to steal that position from me." Nebula assured with a stern voice.

The heavenly plane's government officials were considered the rulers of the realm as every one of them, even the lowest ranked, held much more authority than a golden spirit.

That's because the government was the extension of Lord Hades' body, which meant becoming part of it was the same as being one with Lord Hades.

For one to reach such a stage in his life, he would make sure to not commit even a tiny mistake for fear of getting his position revoked.

This made it extremely difficult for a governmental position to be freed and accessible to other spirits...Don't even mention a great position like a captain law enforcer.

Nebula understood that even other lower-ranked law enforcers would seek this opportunity to secure a promotion.

"When will the examination be held? Why did the captain's position was emptied? Did he make any mis.."

"All you have to do is focus on your competition and when the time comes, you will know everything." Carbuncle interrupted.

"Alright."

Knowing that her master didn't like to repeat himself, Nebula dropped the matter for now even though her excitement was over the roof.

"I will be going now, I have taken enough of your time." Nebula bowed her head respectfully and walked toward the door.

The moment she opened it, Carbuncle opened his mouth and then closed it, seemingly hesitating to say something.

In the end, he watched the door close behind him without saying his piece.

'Don't rush, there is time for everything. You have waited long enough, a bit more won't hurt...' Carbuncle thought to himself as faced the library of documents in his office, holding an unfathomable amount of information.

One of the benefits of being a soul scribe was having the ability to glance at your previous life and document everything that happened in it, giving you direct access to your own 'memories' in a sense.

But, the downside? None of them could act on such information, turning them into mere passive spectators.

They were banned from even reporting those matters to Lord Hades, which was an odd order, but since it came from the lord himself, no one dared to disobey it.

Some soul scribes found it too hard to handle the notion of having this kind of information and yet doing nothing about it.

Fortunately, Lord Hades was understanding and made it possible for all Soul Scribes to give up on their post and return to being normal spirits again after erasing their memories.

Carbuncle had documented his entire life, and his goal to unite again with his wife in the spirit realm became his number one goal the moment he became a Soul Scribe.

But since he couldn't act at all on such information, having his hands tied behind his back, he couldn't fulfill his goal even when he knew exactly the location of his wife inside the spirit realm!

'I have been watching her from afar for thousands of years if not longer...The day I reunite with her is fast approaching, I just need to play my cards right.'

Carbuncle held his hands behind his back in a thoughtful manner, his eyes seemed to penetrate the fabric of reality as he stared at no one but the main key component in his plan.

A sudden ray of light was reflected from his pupils, showing the image of Felix, sitting on the floor of his room in a meditation position.

'It's time to fulfill your promise, little Felix.'

..

Oblivious to any of this, Felix's brain was working on overdrive, desiring to solve the spacetime frequency resonance problem in those two days.

Felix knew that it would be almost impossible, but he couldn't sit down and not do anything to prepare for the battle.

'I must be either missing something or my theory was false from the start. The latter won't be helpful at the moment, so what can I be missing?' Felix pondered.

This kind of difficulty was expected as Felix had no teacher nor the time to study the subject in a steady manner.

He was like a primogenitor learning about his element for the first time. It took them eons to master their elements and pass on their knowledge, helping the future generation to close the gap in the blink of an eye.

At the moment, Felix had no one to do such and had to investigate it on his own.

'What am I missing? The researchers said that spacetime isn't silent at all, carrying a cacophony of vibrations with textures and timbres as rich and varied as the din of sounds in a tropical rainfor...Wait a second.' Felix raised an eyebrow in surprise, 'Why am I still following the teachings of researchers in the living world when I am inside the spirit realm?'

'Nothing here makes any sense as even the time difference between the realm and other dimensions isn't fixed.'

'If I want to come up with a spacetime frequency resonance, I have to find it depending on its relativity to what dimension it exists in and the exact moment of seeking uttered frequency!'

'I might not experience it, but time isn't fixed in the spirit realm, which means its frequency also keeps changing.' Felix frowned, 'In other words, even if I found its frequency resonance right now, it won't be the same when I fight with Nebula.'

Felix wanted to gain control over the chess board and stop Nebula from moving her pieces in it, but now he realized that the board was shifting across the entire room constantly.

If he wanted to stick to his plan, he needed to gain hold of it the instant Nebula attempted to move her pieces!

'This is even harder than I anticipated...I have really chosen the hardest element to investigate on my own.'

Even though Felix uttered this, he still had a creeping cold smile on his face...Unlike others who would despair at the thought, Felix was merely glad that he had found the right path.

As for how challenging it would be to tread on it? He couldn't care less!

"Let's test out the new hypothesis now."

Felix closed his eyes and extended his hand forward. His fingertips gently caressed the air in front of him.

Slowly, the room's vibrations shifted. Felix could feel it, a subtle hum that resonated deep within his very bones.

He adjusted the dials in his mind as he imagined he was holding into a device capable of reducing and increasing frequency.

As he was tuning the frequency of the area around him while keeping in mind that his desired frequency was ever-changing, suddenly, a harmonious note rang out in his mind!

A note so perfect, he felt like it resonated with his soul!

In that ephemeral moment, Felix felt a surge of power like never before.

He glanced at a vase sitting on a shelf across the room and focused intently. Instantly, the vase disappeared, leaving a void where it once stood!

With another thought, Felix shifted its position, and the vase reappeared, now floating mid-air before gently setting it down on his table!

'This is it!'

His eyes widened in realization.

With control over the frequency resonance of spacetime, the very fabric of reality was his to manipulate!!

His mind raced as he imagined the endless possibilities. Teleportation, shifting objects across dimensions, or even erasing them from existence – all of it was within his grasp!

Alas, just as he was about to embrace this newfound omnipotence, a high-pitched note pierced through his mind, almost making him pass out from pain.

'Ugh...'

His concentration was shattered and the room's atmosphere had returned to normal as he was left holding his head with a twisted expression.

'Did the frequency resonance change while I was controlling it?' He guessed as he felt his connection to the spacetime frequency snap all of a sudden.

'I barely was there for two seconds and it has already changed? Does that mean I have to be continuously conscious about its changes during a fight to avoid landing in a completely different frequency and getting backlashed?'