

Supremacy 1731

Chapter 1731 Gonn vs Dankin!

The moment Dankin gestured his readiness with an indifferent expression, Felix wasted no time and bolted towards him, his chained daggers trailing behind him like vipers poised to strike.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

As he neared, Felix executed a flawless spin and hurled the daggers straight for Dankin's throat. The air hissed as the blades cut through it, aimed with lethal precision!

"What a waste of time."

Dankin extended his palm forward and unleashed a powerful burst of vibrational energy.

The shockwave met the flying daggers mid-air, halting their deadly advance and causing them to hover momentarily before they could reach their target.

Unfazed, Felix recalled the daggers back to his hands with a sharp tag, only to launch them once more.

This time, he swung them from both sides, creating a deadly arc aimed to ensnare Dankin from two directions simultaneously.

As the daggers closed in, Dankin took a step forward and phased out of existence, causing the daggers to smash against each other with a loud clanging noise!

"You must be regretting your decision." Dankin disclosed coldly as he continued walking towards Felix under his constant assault.

Yet, nothing landed on him...His phasing technique was just bulletproof since it matched his body's frequency with the spacetime of a parallel universe, which was the same as taking interdimensional steps.

"You are powerful, but your partner has no idea what he is stepping himself into." Plix addressed Apollo from a short distance with an inviting tone, "How about you ditch him and join our squad? We are in need of a Gleamkin."

"If you had any cuties in your team, I might have considered it." Apollo rolled his eyes and started ignoring him.

"Tsk, after your boy gets used as a rag, you will come back begging to join my squad." Plix sneered to himself.

Meanwhile, the battle wasn't going in Felix's favor at all. Even when he had gotten rid of quantum energy manipulation, Dankin was still a formidable opponent.

His control over vibration was to perfection. If he had to be compared to Felix in the spirit realm, there would be a massive gap between them.

If it wasn't for the capital city banning any disturbances that might affect spacetime destructively, Dankin would have easily vanquished everyone in the training ground with a single vibrational punch.

But, the same goes for Felix. If it was possible to apply spiritual pressure on quantum realm beings, he would have already owned the place even during his punishment.

Alas, spiritual pressure could be effectively applied only to beings with spirits and souls...Hence, the name.

The quantum realm creatures were all born out of quantum energy. While they seemed alive and had a breath to them, they didn't possess spirits in the general sense.

That's why the spirit realm didn't have a single wandering spirit belonging to the quantum realm.

Felix was told by Apollo that the quantum realm's creatures' could live for eternity. The only way for them to die was if their body got destroyed beyond repair...Even then, their bodies would merely break into quantum energy and return to the realm's ecosystem, awaiting the day of their birth.

As for some of the quantum realm creatures being able to reproduce on their own? He said there were mere theories on this matter and nothing confirmed yet.

"This is becoming tedious. I was hoping for a more challenging experience from you."

Meanwhile, Dankin finally grew tired of the cat-and-mouse competition after skillfully dodging another of Felix's relentless attacks.

"Let's end this farce."

With a cold gaze that seemed to freeze the very air, he cracked his knuckles and then...In the blink of an eye, he vanished, reappearing behind Felix with such speed that it bordered on the supernatural!

Without hesitation, Dankin threw a punch towards Felix's back, aiming to end the duel with a single, killer blow.

However, Felix demonstrated his own remarkable agility by rolling forward at the last moment, narrowly escaping the attack.

Still facing away from Dankin, Felix swung his chained daggers backward, hoping for a quick counter-attack.

Alas, Dankin caught the chains effortlessly, a cold smirk playing on his lips as he sent a powerful vibrational burst along them, straight towards Felix!

The move forced Felix to release the chains, lest he be overwhelmed by the attack. Yet, Felix was far from defeated.

With a swift motion of his finger, the chains turned liquid, snaking towards Dankin in an attempt to envelop him completely!

"Crystalize!"

Felix blurted, preparing to solidify the liquid chains into an unbreakable prison around Dankin!

But Dankin was already steps ahead.

"Useless attempt."

With a concentrated effort, he unleashed a vibrational shockwave so powerful it not only repelled the liquid assault but also caused the training ground itself to crack under sheer force!

Before anyone could react, Dankin charged back at Felix and unleashed a barrage of condensed vibrational projectiles.

This forced Felix to use whatever it took to evade and defend the projectiles, creating a fascinating dance that mesmerized the viewers.

"I have to say, he is quite a good fighter."

"His footings are masterful works of art. Where did he learn to move this way?"

"I didn't expect Dankin to fail to land a single assault on him."

"Haha, Dankin, are you planning to keep taking 'Ls' for the entire day?"

A discussion broke amidst the royal guards gathering behind Commander Bia as everyone seemed quite impressed with Felix's fighting skills.

They knew that while Dankin hadn't gone all out, still, making his life difficult wasn't an easy task in the slightest.

Meanwhile, Commander Bia, who had been watching the duel intently, neither displayed a positive nor a negative reaction.

Deep thoughts seemed brewing in her mind as she gazed at Felix's fighting style.

'Is it them or not? His fighting style is more in attune with Luminoans. He hasn't used a single ability that was shown by him...Was my intentions wrong?' Commander Bia frowned.

Knowing that she wouldn't be able to get anything from this, she reached out to Dankin and ordered him to go harder.

'Your wish is my command.' Dankin's expression turned colder as he halted his projectile barrage.

When he stopped, Felix did a back somersault and landed in a battle position, his eyes affixed on his opponent.

The entire area around him was utterly ruined, yet, not a single scratch was seen on his lumunious skin.

Seeing the change in Dankin's expression made Felix understand that he was about to go all out for real this time.

'It seems I can't defeat him purely with my blood abilities.'

Felix also decided to change his approach as he had no interest in prolonging this battle any longer.

Without a moment's hesitation, Dankin brought his hands together for a shockwave clap!

This was no ordinary clap as its power resonated with a high frequency designed specifically to target the sensory hearing of anyone within its range!

The effect was instantaneous and brutal as Felix found himself dropping to one knee, hands desperately clutching his ears in a futile attempt to block out the agonizing sound!

"Oh f*ck, what did we do?!"

"Ahhhh!!! my brain!!"

"Chrono, slow the time!"

Even the mercenaries ended up on the floor and desperately attempting to block the frequencies from frying their brains off!

Unbothered by the external causalities, Dankin seized the moment and performed a seismic stomp, channeling all his vibrational energy into the ground!

The shockwave traveled rapidly, gaining momentum before erupting in an explosion directly beneath Felix.

BOOOOOOM!!

The force of the explosion sent Felix soaring into the sky with minimum control over his body!

As Felix ascended, Dankin was already in motion, his arms transforming into deadly sonic blades.

He disappeared with precision and reappeared before Felix in an instant, ready to deliver a devastating scissor technique that aimed to slice his opponent in two!

The crowd held its breath, the silence punctuated only by the hum of Dankin's sonic blades.

"Well, that was quick."

"What a nasty combo...Dankin stopped messing around."

"Is he going for the kill? He sure is pissed."

It seemed a conclusive end to the violent battle as the royal guards were already planning to leave the training ground.

But, in a twist that left every spectator's heart skipping a beat, Felix's form turned illusionary at the very last moment, causing the sonic blades to slice through nothing!

A stunned silence engulfed the training ground at the sight of the sonic blades connecting, leaving even Dankin with widened eyes in disbelief.

"Huh?"

"Did...Did he just phase out?"

"Impossible..."

The stunned silence was followed by a collective reaction of disbelief at the notion of a Luminoan possessing dual attunement!

Their reaction was understandable since dual attunement for a Luminoan was even rarer than a Gleamkin being born with the possibility to manipulate both light and darkness.

At least, that race was able to utilize only two laws...But, Luminoans could be born with attunement to every law in the quantum realm!

For one to be born with two was a celebratory event!

Alas, Dankin was in no place to think about his misfortune of meeting someone rarer than a unicorn in the realm.

Before he could recover from his shock, the green blood lying on the ground from before turned into chains and snaked tightly around his form with an unyielding grip.

The pointed ends of the daggers found their way to his temples, making it clear to all that he had him at his mercy.

"..."

"..."

"..."

The arena, filled with the sounds of battle just moments ago, was now eerily silent, every eye fixed on Felix's form that phased back into existence with his hands holding the chains.

"Is this enough to join the mission?"

He uttered calmly as he gazed at Commander Bia's slightly dazed expression, completely ignoring the tightened-up Dankin in front of him.

Chapter 1732 Commander Bia's Plight.

"You!! This isn't over!!"

With a livid expression, Dankin immediately phased out of Felix's bindings and attempted to strike him with a powerful vibrational punch capable of shattering spacetime, a forbidden technique within the city's boundaries!

Felix, expecting such a reaction, was already in the process of phasing out again to evade the strike.

"That's enough!"

However, before the punch could even cross one meter, Commander Bia's stern shout sent a shockwave that landed against the punch and canceled its vibrations, which turned it into a normal punch.

Felix was able to catch it easily with his hand.

"Maybe, I was too soft on you."

Felix's expression turned colder as he pulled Dankin to him and returned the favor by connecting a fist with his nose!

"Argh!" Dankin was hurled into the distance while catching his nose in pain.

"I said, that's enough."

This time, Commander Bia's authoritative voice reverberated into everyone's ears, forcing them all to fall to their knees like their own bodily vibrations were forcing them to listen!

Even Felix and Apollo fell victim to such an ability and found themselves unable to fight against it.

'What a demanding ability.' Lady Sphinx frowned, noticing Felix's entire body vibrated at a cellular level.

It was like she took control of everyone's strings that created them and controlled their behavior through them.

'She is too dangerous.' Felix wasn't pleased in the slightest by being controlled, but all he could do was lower his head and be obedient like the rest.

At the end of the day, he was a mere Luminoan and he had to act like one.

After a moment of silence, Commander Bia canceled her control and freed everyone. Then, she turned around and walked away.

While she didn't announce Felix's victory, it was clear that he was accepted into the team with Apollo.

"Don't be late," Royal guard Sera warned everyone for Commander Bia before following after her.

She stood out with her striking silver-colored hair that flowed down her back in soft waves, shimmering with a luster that seemed to reflect the very essence of her vibrational energy.

Since the Vibronixian were created out of vibration and were separated merely through gender and color, she resembled Dankin's twin.

"Dankin! Let's go!" She yelled from a distance after noticing that he hadn't followed them.

Dankin ignored her and kept staring daggers at Felix while still clutching his deformed nose. Unfazed, Felix kept gazing back at him with an indifferent expression.

He had held his grounds against a third ruler...If he was intimidated by a mere nobody in the grand scheme of the universe, he should resign his title as the paragon of sins.

"I will recall this..."

With one last defeated icy remark, Dankin phased out of existence and when he reappeared, he was behind his squad.

'If only I had my control over pride sin.' Felix murmured, 'I would have helped him with tuning it out a bit to save him from an early death.'

...

After the mercenary trials ended, Felix and Apollo booked a room in a fancy hotel, waiting there until the start of the mission.

With Felix having a valid identity now, no one could reject them.

Unbeknownst to them, Commander Bia was on to their disguise regardless of the effort put in to maintain it.

To be honest, only Felix was putting in the effort as Apollo acted the same as always...Even his name was pronounced somewhat the same.

At this moment, she could be seen gazing out into the night, her thoughts spiraled around their enigmatic figures.

'Could it truly be? Were Gonn and Bollo more than they appear?'

She mulled over every encounter, every battle where they had demonstrated their prowess.

Felix's rare dual attunement, and Apollo's dance between light and shadow, which spectacles that defied explanation...Their abilities were not just rare, they were unprecedented.

If it wasn't for the information bestowed upon her, she would have merely appreciated their talents and placed the matter to rest.

Her fingers traced the rim of her teacup as she was deep in thought.

"Their personalities, too... They somewhat matched the description even when Gonn tried his best to change his attitude."

With each sip of tea, Bia felt the weight of responsibility weighing down on her shoulders. A responsibility placed by the most despised enemy in her eternal life.

'Uranus, what does he want from them? Can I use this to my advantage?' She contemplated with a solemn tone as memories of what occurred in the past week resurfaced in her mind.

Flashback...One week earlier.

Uranus's form could be seen reconstructing from vibrational waves somewhere random outside of the city. He had just departed from Zephyr's brothel in quite a bad mood.

"I have no time to waste on such a mindless search. This is her territory, she would be more fit to find them if they were hiding here." Uranus narrowed his eyes coldly as he looked at the massive palace in the distance.

Meanwhile, Commander Bia was in her private quarters, reviewing the Echoing Tower's floors and strategizing her next move when an unexpected and uninvited presence filled her mind.

A presence she knew all too well but never wished to encounter again, the unmistakable mark of Uranus reaching out to her.

Then, a voice, as vast as the quantum realm echoed in her mind.

"Bia, you have had your fun. But it's time we meet. Outside the city's premises. Now."

'No, no, no, no, no... this can't be happening...'

The words struck her like a physical blow, sending a wave of fear crashing over her, followed by a shock so potent it left her reeling in her chair.

A tint of hatred, long buried under layers of sternness bubbled to the surface.

She had wished this day would never come, hoped that her new life would keep her hidden from the prying eyes of gods and their whims.

"Ignore this message at your own risk, Bia," The voice continued its tone hardening. "I've allowed you to have your peace, your little hideaway. But make no mistake, I've always known where you are. Ignore me, and I have no qualms about finishing what I started."

The threat was clear, its implications chilling, making Commander Bia feel her hands clench into fists, her nails digging into her palms.

The audacity of Uranus, to come now, to threaten her after all this time...

With a steely resolve, she whispered back, her voice a mix of defiance and wariness, 'I am not as weak as before, you don't own me and you will never do ever again.'

The silence that followed was suffocating, leaving Commander Bia's heartbeats to reverberate across the chamber.

Finally, Uranus replied, his tone as cold as ever. "Is this how you address your husband? I knew that I had been too soft on you."

"You are no husband of mine, you monster!" Commander Bia lost her cool the moment she heard the 'husband' term, her voice shattered all the furniture in the chamber!

If one knew what Uranus had placed her through during the old time, her reaction would still be underplaying it.

"Bia, I am not here to argue with you." Uranus threatened one last time with an icy voice, "I need you for a task, meet me at the provided location. Otherwise, your strength, your little royal family that you're relying on, none will be of use against my wrath."

Bia's mind raced...The implications of Uranus's threat and the sudden vulnerability of her position struck her hard.

She knew full well just how powerful and horrifying Uranus could be when angered.

The fact they were in the quantum realm wasn't in her favor at all when he was the true and only deity of vibration.

To confront a god was foolery, yet to hide was to live in fear of the inevitable.

With a heavy heart, she made her decision, understanding that her options were nonexistent.

"Fine. I will meet you, Uranus..."

"Don't leave me waiting... Wife."

Uranus snorted in ridicule like he contemplated of someone worthy of being his wife was a joke on its own.

As the presence of Uranus receded, Commander Bia was left to stare at the colorful sky with a deadpan expression.

She felt as if her soul had returned to those horrible times, a period she wished nothing more but to erase from her memory...

Chapter 1733 The Thunderous Heartbeat!

A few moments later...

Under the cloak of dim quantum lights, Commander Bia made her way to the designated meeting spot outside the city's premises.

After she arrived, the figure of Uranus materialized before her, his presence as imposing as ever.

"You've come," Uranus's voice boomed, breaking the silence around them.

"You've made it clear I have little choice in the matter," Bia replied, her voice steady despite the turmoil that stirred within her.

Uranus's gaze seemed to pierce through the darkness, focusing intently on Commander Bia, making her feel like a predator was staring at her.

Not known for wasting time, Uranus neither spoke about the past nor checked on her situation here.

He produced a spiritual picture and showed it to Bia with a gesture that demanded her full attention.

"This wretched place holds two individuals of interest to me." He said coldly.

Bia studied the picture closely, not recognizing either individual...However, she picked up on their identity being from the matter universe.

Thus, for them to be able to enter and remain in the quantum realm for a prolonged period implied that they were at least at a unigin level.

That's because she was the only primogenitor with the capability to enter the quantum realm without suffering from horrible side effects.

The same side effects Lady Sphinx suffered from while entering the quantum realm through shrinking a sand grain and controlling through a wisp.

Since the quantum realm didn't support anything related to spirits or souls, only those with powerful souls at levels of unigins could resist the backlash.

As for her? She was using her vibration manipulation to avoid the backlash entirely.

Uranus wasn't surprised she didn't recognize them. He went on and introduced them in great detail.

He told her about Apollo being able to command light and darkness. His playful and pervy personality. Also his name and any information that could be used to see through his disguise.

When he started talking about Felix and how he could utilize seven sins laws, heat laws, void laws, and most likely, liquid, electromagnetism laws, and even vibration, Commander Bia was left utterly stunned.

"How can there be a unigin with this many laws under him? Isn't this against the universe order and balance?!" Commander Bia asked with a dazed expression.

She might have left the matter universe at a young age, but she still understood that the universe would never allow a singular being to command this much power.

"I am not here to answer questions," Uranus remarked with a hardened gaze, "It will be in your best interest to find them. Actively hunt for them. If, upon my return, you have nothing to show, I will take you back with me and finish what I have started."

Commander Bia felt chills course down her spine at such a clear threat, leaving no room for negotiation or refusal.

Understanding that it would be in her best interest to agree, she nodded with a lowered head, seemingly accepting her fate.

"If only you were this obedient, we might not have reached this state." Uranus' voice turned soft as he reached out with his hand, caressing her cheek gently.

"..."

Commander Bia could only bite her lips tightly until a drip of blood flowed down her chin, holding her boiling hatred and disgust to his touch.

While it was gentle, she felt like a piece of dark ice was placed on her cheek. His coldness always showed his true character of being an emotionless monster, who cared about no one but himself.

Seeing that she was shaking in her place like she was trying her best not to slap his hand away, Uranus retracted his palm with an indifferent look.

"You know how to reach me."

The meeting ended as quickly as it had begun, with Uranus disappearing into the aether, leaving Commander Bia alone with her contemplations and disturbed feelings.

As she turned to make her way back to the city, her expression was as icy as Uranus' touch. Her mind raced with plans and contingencies.

How could she navigate this? How would she protect those under her command from the whims of a god? The answers eluded her at this point.

However, after the mercenary trials ended and she was 80% certain about Felix and Apollo's true identities, the answer finally arrived.

'The Echoing Tower...That's my way out of his captivity forever...'

She murmured as she took a small sip of her tea. Her gaze at the rainbowy quantum lights reflected an untold story of resolve mixed with a tint of madness.

A couple of days later...

Commander Bia and her squad, accompanied by the chosen mercenaries, stood in front of the Dimensional Transportation Building.

It was a fascinating structure, towering above them. The building pulsed with energy, humming softly, a sound that echoed in the bones of all who approached.

This building had countless gates per floor, each one a portal to a different destination. The gates were marked with symbols and numbers, a complex system of identification that spoke of places both near and unimaginably far.

Usually, this building was packed with travelers from all around the quantum realm. But today, it was reserved for Commander Bia's squad.

Bia addressed her assembled team, her voice slashing through the air with clarity and purpose.

"Today, we have been tasked with a mission that shall examine us to our very limits. It's more than just a quest; it's a test of our resolve, our strength, and our unity. We will face unknown dangers, navigate through unfamiliar dimensions, and confront powers that defy our understanding."

The mercenaries, veterans of countless battles, remained silent, their faces masks of seriousness.

They had seen much in their lifetimes, yet the magnitude of the Echoing Tower instilled a sense of fear and anticipation.

"We have been ready for such an opportunity for millions of years." Plix noted with a solemn assuring voice, "Have no concern, for we, the Quantum Divers, shall have your back throughout the entire journey."

"Likewise, likewise." Apollo nodded passionately, making Felix's eyelids twitch.

Even though they had signed a contract that forced them to remain with the party and follow Commander Bia's orders, none of them planned on respecting it.

That's because the only draw side of voiding the contract was getting blacklisted by the Vibrnonxian empire and get treated as a fugitive.

In their case, they were already fugitives.

Nods and murmurs of agreement echoed through the group, a tangible sign of their unity and readiness to face whatever lay beyond those gates.

Commander Bia nodded in approval.

"Then let us proceed."

With a final look at the towering gates, Bia led her team forward, stepping towards one of the shimmering portals. One by one, the other teams followed.

The Dimensional Transportation Building, once buzzing with the voices of the assembled team, fell silent.

After a grueling journey that spanned over two months, Commander Bia and her squad finally shortened the distance between them and the tower until it appeared as a tiny black dot from a distance.

The portal had deposited them in the nearest area possible to the tower, but the final leg of their journey was left to their own devices.

This last stretch wasn't easy in the slightest due to the tower's location being situated in an extremely dangerous zone.

But, for a team created out of the best of the best in the Vibronxian empire, it merely set them back for a short while.

KAAAAA-THUUUUMB!!!

As Felix and the team approached the Echoing Tower, a sudden, thunderous heartbeat echoed through the air, reverberating across the vast distances of the desolate landscape that surrounded them!

The sound was so deep, so powerful, that it seemed to shake the very ground beneath their feet, sending a shiver down the spine of everyone present!

'What was that?' Candace exclaimed, her eyes wide with surprise.

'What else?' Felix answered with a solemn expression, 'It's heart within The Echoing Tower.'

Chapter 1734 Gathering of The Fifty Major Nations!

He was already told by Apollo that the Echoing Tower was called such because of this resounding periodical heartbeat.

It was also the main reason why everyone assumed that the stone of reality was the heart of an ancient creature.

KAAAAA-THUUUUMB!!!

As they got closer to the tower, the thundering heartbeats became louder while the tower started to come into the picture.

After a few moments, The tower stood before them, a colossal formation of pitch-black material that absorbed the light around it, giving the impression of a void in the shape of a tower!

It resembled a gigantic cylinder with tree-like branches extending everywhere, defying any natural order or pattern.

On these branches hung chaotic portals, swirling with colors that seemed out of place. These portals pulsed with an eerie light, as if breathing, synchronized with the heartbeat that had startled them.

The entire tower emitted an ominous energy that stirred a primal dread within their hearts.

'This...This is no ordinary structure. It's alive, somehow. Can you feel it? The dread...It's almost tangible.' Felix murmured as he gazed at the tower's magnificence.

'What are those portals? I thought it had only one entry point.' Thor inquired.

Felix forwarded the question to Apollo and he responded with, 'Those portals might be connected to the tower, but they don't lead within it. Some of them are portals connected to the millions of quantum mazes across the realm, while some are exit points from the tower. Though, these are extremely rare.'

'I see.'

Felix nodded in understanding while following Commander Bia and the rest to the top of the tower.

After a short flight, all of them arrived at the tower's roof. The moment Felix gazed down, he couldn't help but raise his eyebrows in surprise.

The entire roof was packed with thousands upon thousands of mystical and peculiar creatures.

Some were known like the Chronographs, Vibronixian, Luminoans, and Planktons, while some he merely heard about.

Such as the Chronowalkers, Nanites Swarm, Dimensional Nomads, Quarklings, Chaosians, and many more.

There were fifty major nations across the realm, it was only normal there would be this many powerful and unique races ruling this infinite expanse.

Just like they had noticed the gathering, their arrival had unsettled the atmosphere.

The Quarklings' leader, a being of shimmering energy that flickered in and out of visibility, was the first to speak with a friendly and warm tone.

"What a surprise, Commander Bia. I didn't expect you to lead the mission."

"Long time no see, Mognki'r." Commander Bia nodded back respectfully, "We don't know when the tower will teleport next, so we might as well commit our full resources to each journey."

"Haha, I couldn't agree more."

Virona, The head of the Nanites Swarm joined the conversation with a somewhat metallic laughter.

Just like his swarm behind him, his body was constructed out of billions of tiny silver wasp-like creatures, making his appearance resemble a magnified version of the little ones.

Suddenly, a Chronowalker, whose appearance seemed to flash with shadows of the past and future, stepped forward.

"It seems like everyone had the same thought?" Tempus Vey said, his emotionless voice echoing as if spoken across centuries.

The rest of the leaders all gazed at each other with solemn expressions. No one here was a nobody.

All the leaders enjoyed high status in their nations as some were army commanders, heads of royal troops, police chiefs, or even members of the royal family!

The Chaosians had sent an actual prince to lead the mission and at the moment, he was seen sitting on the corner of the roof with his squad members surrounding him.

Unlike the Vibronixians, the Chaosians seemed to not take in any mercenaries from different races...Only ten Chaosians were running the task and yet, not a single person here dared to disrespect them.

While the other races didn't dare to interact with them due to their fickle and aggressive nature, the same didn't apply to the Vibronixians.

Dankin called out, his voice laced with mocking amusement. "Oh, look! It's the prince of pandemonium himself. What are you doing here? I am surprised you managed to find your way when your mind is all f*cked up with chaotic thoughts."

Prince Malakar, upon hearing the taunt, paused...The other squads, accustomed to the unpredictable nature of the Chaosian, braced themselves, unsure of how he might react.

Yet, Prince Malakar simply turned towards the direction of the voice, his demeanor calm, almost amused.

With a voice even and unfazed, Prince Malakar responded, "Dankin, is it? Mockery is a curious choice of weapon against one who thrives in the unpredictable. But then, I suppose when faced with the vastness of chaos, one clings to whatever semblance of control they can muster..."

"I am surprised you managed to connect such big words without attacking mid-sentence." Dankin snickered, "After all, you wish you had our kind of control."

The rest of the viewers couldn't help but smirk faintly, knowing that Dankin had struck a nerve.

As expected, the Chaosians behind Prince Malakar had gotten antsy, their gazes were as voracious as a starving pack of wolves.

The Chaosians might be powerful and considered one of the top three most authoritative races in the realm, but still, they had a massive drawback.

They could not control order within them since they were born with high attunement to chaos.

This caused some of them to even attack their own families on a whim, commit suicide, stage a coup, go on a random conquest, and more screwed-up decisions.

This turned their empire into a foreigner-free zone since no one could handle existing in the same area as those lunatics.

"Sigh, Chaos, dear Dankin, is not just destruction. It is creation, potential, and the very essence of change. You see disorder, I see the fabric of possibilities. But worry not," Prince Malakar continued, his tone taking on a lighter note, seemingly unaffected by his ridicule, "I bear no ill will for your jest. Consider it an invitation to behold the art of chaos. Perhaps, you might learn a thing or two."

The coolness of his retaliation, devoid of anger or irritation, left an feel far more impactful than any display of power could have.

'Is this the Chaosians you described to me? You said they are easily agitated and one should avoid them because of it.' Felix raised an eyebrow with a hint of respect at Prince Malakar's mature reaction.

'This is not normal, something is fishy.' Apollo scowled with a look of confusion, 'Whether it is a prince or an emperor, none of them will eat such a public insult and do nothing about it. Their nature makes it impossible.'

Even Commander Bia, Dankin, and the rest of the Vibronoxians were left baffled. Commander Bia didn't care about Dankin's offenses since Chaosians were their mortal enemies and this was nothing but a normal occurrence between them.

Piss them off, pick a fight, teach them a lesson, rinse and repeat. However, it seemed like the Chaosians had ascended such petty confrontations.

"What's going on? I kinda feel stupid now..." Dankin gazed at his squadmates with a bewildered look, having no clue how to move on now.

Chapter 1735 The Bizzare Topmost Floor!

1735 The Bizzare Topmost Floor!

"Put it to rest, Dankin." Commander Bia ordered, relieving him of the awkwardness.

Dankin took advantage of the chance to throw one more insult before giving up on picking a fight with them.

'This has never happened before. Have they figured out a way to control their chaotic thoughts? That can't be right?' Syla communicated with the squad through an encrypted frequency channel.

'That shouldn't be possible.' Sera shook her head, 'The Chaosians have been unable to control their thoughts ever since their birth.'

'It should be a mere fluke.' Dankin sneered, 'Should I continue pressing them? It will be more helpful to us if we manage to get rid of some of them before the opening of the tower.'

Knowing that a battle ought to break up between them within the tower, they might as well kick it off right now, right here.

At least, there would be fewer variables that might affect their victory. When it came to variables and unpredictability? Chaosians thrived in such environments.

'No, we must maintain as much strength and energy as possible.' Commander Bia remarked sternly as she gazed at the powerful leaders around them, 'It's clear, we aren't the only ones with the same goal in mind.'

Unlike the mercenaries, Dankin and the rest of the royal guards all showed serious expressions.

Their eyes were still clouded in confusion about the true purpose of the mission since Commander Bia hadn't given them the details yet.

'Our intentions might be correct.' Felix narrowed his eyes, 'This mission might not be for collecting treasures on surface level.'

'Why bother? We will be ditching them either way.' Apollo replied lazily.

Felix remained silent, having a feeling that it might not be as simple as that...

After an arduous week of waiting, tensions high, and patience wearing thin, suddenly, the Echoing Tower started to shake akin to being hit by a ninth-degree earthquake!

Without warning, the tower pulsed!

KA-THUMB!!!

A deep, resonant heartbeat, louder and more forceful than any that had come before, echoed through the air.

It was a sound so robust that it bordered on the physical, vibrating through the bodies of those assembled, rattling bones, and forcing many to their knees!

The heartbeat was not just heard; it was felt, a primal force that resonated with the core of every being present.

Yet, no one lost their focus or acted out of place. They started to scan across the tower's roof with penetrative gazes.

Then, near the center of the tower's roof, a harmless crack emerged.

Ka-thumb!!!

With another heartbeat, the crack began to widen, the very stone and substance of the tower seeming to breathe and shift.

What had been a mere sliver in the surface expanded, growing into a gaping maw!

As the crack opened fully, revealing a dark, yawning entrance into the topmost floor of the Echoing Tower, the commanders shouted orders, rallying their squads as the initial shock wore off.

Prince Malakar led his squad towards the gaping pitch-black abyss and everyone gave them room for it.

Even when they showed bizarre control of their aggressive nature, no one was stupid enough to trust them to behave.

Thus, it was best to put some distance from them within the tower.

After his subordinates went in, Prince Malakar turned to gaze at the Vibronixians while he was standing at the edges of the crack.

Then, he said with an emotionless tone, "See you inside."

Before anyone could respond, he jumped inside the abyss.

"He thinks we scared of them?" Dankin requested with a cold tone, "Can we chase them down?"

"No, there will be plenty of opportunities to face them." Commander Bia said calmly, "Remember, this is a marathon, not a battle."

Soon, the squads crossed the threshold from the known into the unknown one by one until only Commander Bia's squad was left behind.

"Go ahead."

Commander Bia ordered Felix and the rest of the mercenaries to go in first.

Without questions asked, Plix led his team to dive first into the crack, and the remaining four followed suit.

"See you below. Woohoo!"

Apollo made a peace gesture as he backflipped inside the abyss, not feeling an ounce of fear from the unknown or shame.

"Is it in his nature to try and embarrass me at any given second?" Felix murmured in irritation after being left with everyone's judging stares.

After taking a deep breath, he jumped in too.

Plunging into the dark crack, Felix felt the world around him dissolve into shadow, a sensation of falling through endless nights gripping him.

But as suddenly as the darkness had enveloped him, it receded, leaving him freefalling across a blue clear sky with bits of white clouds here and there.

Yet, what struck Felix with a sense of astonishment was the serene and majestic landscape that unfolded before him.

A vibrant grass field surrounded by forests, rivers, and trees, which mirrored the beauty of the common environments in the matter universe.

Thud!!

Landing on the soft, verdant earth, Felix's slightly widened mouth was filled a bit with dust and dirt...Yet, he didn't bother to close it.

"How?!"

"No one knows." Apollo appeared next to him as he answered with a tint of marvel in his voice, "Such an environment is too common for us, but to see it here, in the quantum realm, it must be the strangest phenomenon ever experienced."

It seemed like the rest of the squads were also awed and mesmerized by the environment. However, it was for a different reason.

They never had seen something like this while Felix and Apollo were shocked by the notion of a tower's floor mimicking the reality in the matter universe.

'Is everything here made out of quantum energy? Or is this the real deal?' Felix soon jolted his head, 'It can't be? It will mean we have been sent to a dimension outside of the quantum realm entirely mirroring the matter universe.'

Felix understood that was impossible since their sizes would have to forcefully return to normal while the quantum natives wouldn't even be able to exist. After all, quantum energy was too small to exist in the matter universe.

'As long as you are in the Echoing Tower, nothing is impossible.' Lilith shared a piece of advice with a knowing expression.

'You mean my assumption right?'

'Of course not, are you dumb?' Lilith rolled her eyes at him.

'...'

Felix's lips twitched, but he couldn't retort as he had walked himself into getting insulted.

He realized that since they were still on the topmost floor of the tower, the reality disturbances weren't strong enough to create such an impossibility.

In other words, this must be a mere external copy of the matter universe made out of quantum energy.

'Is it just me or does it resemble Earth's environment a bit too much?' Candace tilted her head in confusion after noticing many tree species from Earth, such as Maple Tree, Oak Tree, Willow Tree, and more.

'You're right.' Felix raised an eyebrow in surprise.

'There are many other species unrelated to Earth.' Lady Yggdrasil shook her head, not thinking too much of it, 'It could have mirrored most of the trees in the universe.'

'Most likely.'

The rest agreed and dropped the subject...Seeing everyone move on, Candace could only shrug her shoulders and drop it too even though she still had a weird tingling feeling about it.

Soon, Dankin, Sera, and the rest of the royal guards entered the floor and grouped up near a massive maple tree.

After waiting for a short moment, Commander Bia joined them.

"What took you so long?" Plix frowned, "Is everything okay?"

"Don't concern yourself over me." Commander Bia replied with a firm tone.

Plix didn't like her response, but as an escorting mercenary, all he could do was zip his mouth.

Uncaring about his feelings, Commander Bia reached inside her armor and brought out a small red bag...Then, she pulled out a rugged-looking brown scroll with a black rope keeping it tightly rolled up.

Seeing the scroller ten times bigger than the red bag created it clear that it was a dimensional inventory.

This didn't surprise either Felix or Apollo as both of them had bought their own through Zephyr's assistance even when it was incredibly difficult to get one's hands on them.

If it was up to Felix, he would have fetched with him his spatial rings or AP bracelet, but there was no way he could shrink them too. Thus, he departed them behind in a secured place until his return.

Without further ado, Commander Bia tapped on the scroll and dropped a bombshell on them.

"This is a map leading to the first floor...Our main mission is to reach it and retrieve the stone of reality. Our secondary mission is to explore the bottom floors and obtain any kind of treasure in it."

Felix, Apollo, and the mercenaries were departed utterly speechless, feeling like she was pulling their leg.

"You joking right?"

"Do I look like I am in the mood?"

"..."

Chapter 1736 The Map of Echoing Tower!

"How did you get your hands on such a relic? Is it even the real thing? A map of the tower? It sounds too good to be true." Felix asked with a deep scowl.

This new development made him postpone ditching the squad. The situation was just too bizarre.

Nations were struggling for eons to reach even the top ten floors without dying or getting lost.

Just when he decided to participate for the sake of getting rid of the celestial chains, a magical map popped off? He refused to believe in such a coincidence.

"I guess I owe you an explanation at least." Commander Bia shared, "During our last exploration, we secured a copy of this map on the hundredth floor. Our people have failed to clear the floor from the All-Seeing-Eye and most of them ended up dead. Only one managed to escape the tower successfully from a random portal that kicked him out of the tower into a quantum maze...He reached out to us and we helped him return to safety."

"At that point, he had no clue that this map had a detailed, outlining paths, traps, exit points, and, most importantly, hints towards the tower's core."

"How is that possible?" Sylia covered her mouth in shock, "Doesn't this mean someone must have traveled the entire tower from top to bottom, documenting every little detail about it?"

This piece of news had startled the rest as well.

"How can there be a detailed map of the tower when no one managed to reach the first floor?" Plix remarked.

'Does it have to do anything with your previous mission?'

Felix addressed Lilith, knowing that the upper celestial unigins were the only ones who made it near the stone of reality.

'How can it be related to us?' Lilith gave him a lazy look, 'We entered the tower when it had merely ten floors while the map must include much more. Otherwise, those idiots wouldn't court their death by following a half-finished map.'

'Make sense.'

"We have also been seeking the answer to this question." Commander Bia replied with a solemn tone, "Unfortunately, no one knows as the map wasn't found as a scroll. It was engraved in a giant stoneplate and our people managed to copy it on scrolls."

Soon, she turned her head and gazed at the other squads.

"Now, it becomes painfully clear that this information was not kept as secure as we hoped. The very fact that every major nation has sent their best here is evidence enough. The map has been copied by other people and leaked on a wider scale."

It only took another map in the hands of greedy person and he would make a fortune by selling it to other nations.

"How sure are you that it didn't leak from your side?" Plix frowned.

"Because it was me who survived the tower and brought out the map," Dankin disclosed coldly.

When they heard this, no one dared to accuse him again...Dankin might be arrogant and full of himself, but his loyalty to the royal family was uncontested.

"With everyone in possession of a map's copy, this will complicate our mission. We're not just navigating the tower's dangers but also contending with every skilled squad that has entered this race." Commander Bia brought the main subject back, "We're up against the best, which means we'll need to be even better."

"Hold on, hold on, we never agreed to this."

One of the mercenaries in the other squad shook his hands with a hint of dread in his eyes. It was only normal he would have cold feet.

"He is right, the only reason we joined the mission is because we thought we would remain in the top five floors." Plix agreed with a solemn expression.

"Have we said or written in the contract that we will remain in the top five floors?" Commander Bia responded calmly.

"No...But..."

"There is no buts." Commander Bia gave everyone an emotionless gaze, "You are all free to follow us as per the contract terms or you can leave the squad and get entrapped here forever."

"Heh, just to let you know." Dankin snickered, "The first sign of portals appear on the hundredth floor, and the ones after it. Even those portals mostly lead to lower floors or the void. So, it's not in your favor to ditch the squad and act on your own."

The mercenaries felt shivers course down their spine...Even Felix and Apollo had no clue about this hidden fact.

It might not seem like much, but they understood that the tower's true dangers start after the hundredth floor.

The topmost five floors were still considered safe due to being newly created and the dimensions within them were stable.

This might be the reason why portals didn't open up in them as the spatial stability must be topnotch.

'So, what do you think?' Apollo asked Felix with a serious tone.

'What I think is we need to get our hands on the map.' Felix narrowed his eyes on the closed scroll, using various types of visions to see through it.

He understood that this map was currently the greatest treasure in the tower if it was truly the real deal.

If they managed to obtain it, they could even go much deeper into the tower with minimum risk.

Since the lower they had gotten, the more screwed up the time would be, there would be a big chance of them landing in a place that had a time difference of millions of years to seconds!

While he would be forced to spend millions of years in it, by the time he comes out, mere seconds had gone on the quantum realm.

In other words, he wouldn't need to fear for his life anymore from the hunters on his tail since he would be able to enlarge his size and enter his void realm.

In his realm, no one could contest against him!

Alas, all of those dreams and thoughts disappeared after realizing that the content of the map was written in coded vibrating strings, each releasing a unique frequency!

'Damn it, it's impossible to read it without knowing the coded language.' Felix was left displeased.

'We can always steal it from other teams.' Apollo suggested while gazing at the spread-out squads.

'They are not dumb to not code it too.' Felix shook his head, 'Which means, if we ditched our team and sought after them, we would be forced to fight them.'

While Felix recognized that Apollo could enslave them by using his hypnotizing darkness/light crescent ability, he also comprehended that it wasn't the time for battles. There were fifty squads and each had more than ten strong fighters.

Since the topmost floors didn't have much danger to them, anyone who made a move would cause a chain reaction that wouldn't end well in their favor.

'If it is going to end like this, we might as well stick with the team and wait for a better opportunity to snatch a map during the chaos.' Felix stated with a sinister smile, 'With everyone possessing the same information, there is bound for chaos to arise.'

'Aight, seems good enough for me.' Apollo agreed with his head resting behind his hands.

Chapter 1737 I am Already Inside.

It appeared like the other mercenaries also realized that they had no better option, but to stick with the squad even when they were heading to the bottom of the tower.

After all, the map had the exit points written on it too, which meant their only way out was when Commander Bia decided to leave.

"We expect a better payment when, no, if we return," Plix remarked coldly.

"Don't worry, none of you will be mistreated,"

Dankin promised, but a hint of cruel ridicule could be picked up from his tone. No one thought much of it since it matched Dankin's sh*tty personality.

"Let's start searching for the entrance to the next floor." Commander Bia ordered while taking the lead, "We have wasted enough time chit-chatting."

"Should we spread out to cover more grounds?" Sera suggested.

Since this was the newest floor, the map didn't have details on how to leave it. The same applied to the rest of the topmost five floors. Only when they arrive at the hundredth floor would it start being effective.

Fortunately, the five topmost floors weren't too dangerous and their only difficulty was locating the entrances.

"No need, I have communicated with the rest of the leaders and made a unanimous decision to share the entrance point with all if anyone located it." Commander Bia replied.

The race would officially start only when the squads arrived at the hundredth floor. The Chaosians weren't brought into this decision as no one could trust them.

Commander Bia suddenly gazed at the clear sky and more specifically, at the invisible one-way entrance to the tower.

While it couldn't be spotted, she could sense its vibrations still going strong.

She knew the entrance would remain open for a minimum of a week and a maximum of two weeks.

This was quite an extremely short period considering that time was almost irrelevant to the quantum realm citizens.

'He should be on his way here. I have to go as deep as possible before his arrival.'
Commander Bia murmured to herself.

Her expression was as stoic as ever, but her true emotions were jumbled...For she was going to do something she never would have dared to consider in the matter universe.

Sometime earlier, Commander Bia was the only one left behind on top of the tower's roof...

She gazed at the gaping abyss with a mixture of fear, hesitation, and worry. It was like she was having second thoughts on an important decision.

But soon, she tightened her fists, and the hesitation was erased from her eyes behind the helmet, replaced by unmoving decisiveness.

'This is my only chance to close this hideous chapter from my life once and for all. I can not falter and run away in fear anymore, for there is no place in the universe that can hide me from him...'

Realizing that even living in the smallest and vastest dimension in the universe wasn't enough to secure her safety was enough to seal her decision.

Without further ado, she reached out to Uranus' unique frequency and established a communication link with him.

'I have reason to believe that the very individuals you seek, have infiltrated my team as mercenaries.'

There was a pause, the briefest moment of silence that seemed to stretch for an eternity.

Then, Uranus's voice tingled with interest, responded. 'Is that so? Where are you now?'

'We are about to enter the Echoing Tower.' Commander Bia replied, not wanting to let him on the truth that her squad was already inside.

If she lied and said that she was also within it, he wouldn't believe her since the Echoing Tower cut off every communications from the outside.

'The Echoing Tower?' Uranus asked coldly, 'What are you doing there? Why have you told me this late?'

'I have been sent on a mission by Quantix Prime. I wasn't suspicious of their identity until now since they are using a well-crafted disguise.' Commander Bia continued mixing truth with lies, 'It's only now that one of them has used an ability from the provided Intel.'

'Of course, I am merely 50% confident about my judgment. It's best if you wait until we leave the Echoing Tower. I will obtain more information to confirm my suspicion.'

'No.' Uranus ordered coldly, 'Give me the tower's location and don't enter it...I am coming to you right now.'

'Absolutely not.' Commander Bia hardened her tone, 'If Quantix Prime heard that I gave up on the mission, he would have my head on display for all.'

Before Uranus could respond, Commander Bia pressed on while giving him the location's details, 'I didn't call for your permission, I contacted you to inform you of my suspicion. Do whatever you want with the Intel, I am heading in.'

'You better not...'

Commander Bia cut off the connection with a deep breath and a hand resting on her chest, feeling like it was about to beat out of her body.

Then, with a determined gaze, she jumped into the abyss, going against her ex-husband's order for the first and last time...

...

As the connection with Commander Bia severed, the air around Uranus crackled with barely contained fury.

"Daring to bait me to the tower to get rid of me?" Uranus uttered with an icy tone, "Staying in the quantum realm seems to have made you delusional and overconfident."

Even with all of her attempts to hide her true motive, Uranus was just too shrewd and sharp to not figure it out.

The question now was whether she was luring him into the tower, without Felix and Apollo being near her...Though, he was 90% certain that she wasn't lying as he would easily pick up on it.

Knowing that he needed a second opinion on the matter, he decided to call Eris and Demeter against his will.

'Eris, Demeter,' Uranus's voice boomed across the ethereal link, 'I have just received news that our targets are in the Echoing Tower.'

'The Echoing Tower?' Demeter raised an eyebrow in surprise, 'I have just heard about it and was wondering if those two will attempt to enter it for the sake of accelerating the punishment duration.'

'I thought so too.' Uranus, his rage giving way to cold, calculated intent, replied, 'I will head there first. I'll slow duration around the portal to keep it open until you arrive.'

'No need to trouble yourself with duration manipulations for my sake, Uranus.' Eris suddenly remarked.

'Why is that? Do you have a different plan in mind? Or are you doing this out of spite?' Uranus sneered.

"There is no need to trouble yourself, because..." Eris paused for a moment prior to adding with a calm voice, "I'm already inside."

"Huh?"

"What?"

Both Uranus and Demeter were left stunned at her statement.

Not bothering to explain to them, she added, 'I already know whom she is suspicious of...I am not at my peak. So, I will be awaiting you.'

Back to the present, within the topmost floor of the tower...

Prince Malakar, his gaze, ever-changing and unfathomable, wandered across the sea of faces prior to him, each member of the assembled teams lost in their own search for the next floor's entrance.

Soon, his eyes settled on Felix and Apollo...For a moment, Prince Malakar's interest seemed piqued, a flicker of recognition, or perhaps anticipation, crossing his features.

In that brief instant, Prince Malakar's eyes, those swirling vortices of chaos and color, shifted dramatically, mirroring perfectly the eyes of Eris, the goddess of order and strife.

Then, just as quickly as it had appeared, the reflection vanished, leaving no trace of the goddess's presence in Malakar's gaze.

He blinked, and once again, his eyes were his own, mysterious and deep, holding an untold amount of secrets within their depths...

Chapter 1738 The Hundredth Floor. I

After weeks of navigating the treacherous and ever-changing environments of the first top five floors, the squads finally cleared them and arrived at the last entrance, leading to the hundredth floor.

The journey up until now had been a relentless test of their patience since the entrances were hidden in plain sight and guarded by puzzles that demanded not just intelligence but a deep understanding of the quantum laws that governed the tower.

Yet, the relief of overcoming these obstacles was short-lived.

All the squads were seen spread out in front of a giant archway that was pulsing with energy so ominous it made their skin crawl.

"Whatever challenges we had faced before pales in comparison to what we are about to experience." Commander Bia warned with a solemn expression.

Tempus Vey, Mognki'r, Virona, and the rest of the leaders were also advising their teams to be at their best performance.

No one took their words lightly as they had already been told about what awaited them on the other side.

'Do not forget to freeze the instant you pass through the entrance.'

Commander Bia stepped forward, leading her squad towards the entrance. The Chaosians were nowhere to be seen while the entrance was found open, which implied that they had already gotten inside.

Felix and the rest of the squad followed her closely, stepping into the entrance without an ounce of hesitation.

As Felix crossed the threshold into the hundredth floor, a tide of cold air brushed against his skin.

When he opened his eyes, the sight that greeted him was the same as described by Commander Bia.

He found himself standing in a vast, gloomy landscape, where the air was thick with a dreadful fog that seemed to swallow the very light around him.

Dead trees, their branches twisted in silent torment, covered the barren dark land that stretched out to the horizon.

The ground beneath his feet was cracked and dry like it hadn't tasted a drop of water for eons.

In the distance, creepy mountains loomed, their slopes bore the semblance of crying faces, etched into the rock as if mourning the desolation that surrounded them.

'It's truly a landscape of despair...' Candace murmured.

Felix didn't respond as he focused on not moving an inch while his eyes looked up to the sky.

Despite the gloom that dominated this realm, the sky above was somewhat clear. Yet, what Felix and the others were focusing on was a massive pitch-black crack, cutting through the center of the sky like a wound in the very fabric of reality.

Felix and the rest of the squad stood there for a moment, taking it all in. Then, without an ounce of hesitation, every one of them sprinted at full speed through the barren landscape!

'GO! GO! GO! We stop after five seconds at the decided location!' Commander Bia ordered out loud while her gaze was affixed on the pitch-black crack.

Since Felix, Apollo, and the rest of the mercenaries had never visited the place and had no clue about the destination, all they could do was stick to the main squad!

'Whoever gets left behind is done for! So, run like your life depended on it!' Plix addressed his squad while teleporting from one place to another.

Chronos used his time manipulation to accelerate while Sylia relied on vibrations to phase in and out to keep up.

Meanwhile, Commander Bia and the royal guards relied on the same technique, helping them cross thousands of kilometers in mere seconds!

As for Apollo and Felix? They both jumped on a darkness cloud and accelerated at an unfathomable speed, matching up to the royal guards quite easily.

If Apollo wanted, he could have surpassed them in the blink of an eye, but since they had decided to remain with the squad, they had to move at their pace.

"It's closed! Head to the entrance swiftly!" Mognki'r, the Quarklings' leader shouted as he led his squad in the same direction.

Quarklings were another race that utilized the laws of light, which enabled them to move at a godly speed.

However, unlike the Gleamkin, Quarklings could exist only in an environment with light on since their bodies reflected the light that gave them their physical form.

Without the existence of light, their forms enter a state of quantum superposition, where they could either exist or not. The only way to find out was by casting a light in their area.

"Sh*t, it's closed. We should have gone first!"

"Quickly, they have gotten ahead of us!"

"Don't rush, it's a marathon, not a race."

After stepping inside the hundredth floor, the fifty squad leaders each had their command. Some decided to sprint towards the entrance while some preferred to build a stronghold near the entrance, knowing that clearing the hundredth floor first wouldn't change the outcome.

As they ventured deeper into the eerie expanse, a divide began to emerge, each squad trying its best to leave as much distance as possible from their enemies while at the same time not venturing too far from their destination.

Then, each squad started to build a stronghold, using whatever power in their possession.

Meanwhile, Commander Bia moved with purpose through the eerie landscape, her eyes scanning the environment for the ideal location to establish their base.

Upon reaching one of the creepy mountains, Bia raised her hand, signaling her team to halt.

The mountain, with its sorrowful faces etched into the stone, seemed as good a place as any to set up their stronghold.

"I think we could go much deeper," Dankin suggested as he glanced at the closed-shut crack in the sky.

"It's not worth the risk." Commander Bia rejected, "Our main goal is to leave the hundredth floor with minimum casualties while at the same time reducing our competition."

Dankin nodded in understanding and quickly sprang into action with the main squad of royal guards.

Together, they began to weave the quantum energy through their vibration control, manipulating the very fabric of reality around them.

The air buzzed with power as the quantum energy solidified, forming the walls and foundations of their stronghold.

In moments, a tough colorful structure stood against the mountainous chain, its walls shimmered with a subtle glow.

"Chronos, surround us with a temporal ring. Bollo, create a dome of darkness around the stronghold." Commander Bia ordered, "Gonn, help us establish a vibrational barricade spanning hundreds of kilometers."

Without further ado, everyone tackled their duties, knowing that time was out of essence. In a few moments at best, an unbreachable fortress was born with spatial, temporal, vibrational, and many other unique powers keeping it guarded.

Yet, no one felt an ounce of safety as they knew that the true danger of the floor could not be resisted, blocked, or avoided...

'Get in your positions and take a comfortable posture...It's going to be a long night.' Commander Bia said with a solemn expression as she sat down close-legged on the roof of the stronghold.

Felix and the rest each chose a comfortable position...Apollo lay on the ground with his hand resting on his palm while Felix leaned against the wall in a seated position.

Meanwhile, some of the squads were still going hard while the majority had decided to settle down too.

After a few minutes, no one was on the move, causing the level to be enveloped by an eerie silence...

Their eyes, previously scanning the desolate terrain for hidden dangers or paths forward, now fixated almost involuntarily on the massive pitch-black crack that marred the otherwise clear sky above...

Time seemed to stretch on, the oppressive atmosphere weighing heavily on their spirits.

The squads, scattered across the darkened land, remained motionless, a collective sense of tension and dread binding them together.

Their senses were heightened to the extreme, every rustle of the wind or shift in the fog sending ripples of tension through the ranks.

Just as the tension reached its peak, with more than half an hour having passed in this unsettling standstill, the black fissure in the sky began to shift.

The fissure in the void widened slowly, almost unnoticeable at first.

But then, the fissure suddenly expanded violently, revealing a massive, horrifying eye!

Its iris was deep blood-red, surrounding a pitch-black split that seemed to absorb all luminance and hope!

The eye was impossibly large, and as it turned slowly, it cast a sinister red hue across the hundredth floor, giving the whole terrain an eerie glow...

The red luminance illuminated the twisted shapes of dead trees and the mournful outlines of mountains, casting shadows that contorted into hideous forms.

This terrifying sight caused everyone to remain frozen in fear, not daring to even move an inch from their positions.

That's because movement was equal to instant death!

'I would have never expected to play a deadly version of the children's game: red light, green light, after ascending to a unigin.' Felix chuckled in derision as he used his senses to gaze into the supermassive menacing eye.

Chapter 1739 The Hundredth Floor II.

'Remember, the All-Seeing Eye is sensitive to the fairest disturbances.' Commander Bia warned with a cold tone, 'While I am sure none of you have any trouble with remaining in one posture, the same can't be said about being forced to move.'

This was the reason every squad had to build a stronghold with countless fortifications. The All-Seeing-Eye was one of the Echoing Tower's unknown mysteries.

Many attempts to breach past the hundredth floor ended up in failure in the past. That's because there were three challenges against each squad.

Avoiding the All-Seeing-Eye's gaze, the other teams' sabotaging attempts, and lastly, locating the entrance to the next floor.

In the previous floors, everyone was chummy with each other since there were no indirect methods to get rid of their competition.

In other words, any squad that made a direct assault against another without provocation would give the rest a valid motive to switch on them and get rid of them first.

But here? In this desolate and gloomy landscape? With a weapon above their heads that never missed, everyone would have thoughts to eliminate their nearest opponents.

That's exactly what the Chaosians had in mind before even stepping into the tower...

...

In the unsettling red glow cast by the massive eye in the sky, Prince Malakar and his Chaosians were spread out across the eerie landscape.

Unlike the other squads, they were hiding in the open, their eyes reflecting a sinister predatory glimmer...

Prince Malakar reached out to his followers through a telepathic link unique to their kind.

'Make your move on your targets...We have to reduce the number of those leaches by at least 50% before we enter the next floor.' He ordered coldly, not an ounce of calmness from before was seen in his eyes.

It was like he was a different person.

Among the Chaosians, Samalon responded first with a faint murderous grin, 'My Prince, the Vibronxian squad is within my radar. They are unaware of my presence.'

Prince Malakar's response was swift and devoid of hesitation. 'Eliminate them.'

'By your will, my Prince. They will not see me coming.'

Knowing that the Vibronoxians weren't an easy opponent to handle, Samalon didn't rush his ambush, thinking carefully about his strategy.

'Their fortifications are topnotch. I only have one chance to create a disturbance before getting spotted with their vibrational network.' Samalon thought to himself as he gazed at the massive pitch-black dome of darkness around their stronghold.

He was currently using his chaotic manipulation to turn into a perfect tree in the forest, which made it impossible to spot him since everything about him matched a normal tree.

Chaos, in its essence, held within it the infinite potential for all forms and states of existence.

By tapping into this vast reservoir of possibilities, Samalon could reshape the fabric of his being into a tree or any other life form as long as he could handle the transformation.

The rest of the Chaosians also disguised themselves as trees, boulders, and whatnot.

While Samalon was contemplating his hardest on his next move, one of his teammates was already kicking off the rise of the chaos.

Hyrus focused his gaze on the Gleamkin squad's stronghold.

The Gleamkin, known for their mastery over light and darkness, had trouble building a stronghold from scratch like the Vibronxians.

Instead, they took advantage of their speed and searched for a cave carved into the side of a mountain.

They fortified themselves in it with a massive boulder sealing the entrance. Meanwhile, the area around it was bathed in a blinding light so intense it deterred anyone with bad intentions.

Hyrus had watched all of this happening right before his eyes since he had arrived here first and hid himself near the cave, knowing that any squad that found it wouldn't let it go.

'This should do the trick.'

With a single thought, Hyrus willed the solid matter to transform, to betray its nature, and become a relentless, advancing flood of a gooey, cement-like fluid!

As the boulder and the ground liquefied, the once-solid barrier began to seep into the cave, the fluid morphing into an unstoppable tide that sought to engulf everything in its path!

Rumble Rumble!!

'Oh no!! We are being attacked!'

Inside the cave, panic took hold as the Gleamkin squad caught sight of the approaching disaster.

Their expressions turned to horror at the realization that the disturbances were too powerful and if they reached them, their lives would be over!

As expected, The sensitive all-seeing eye turned its gaze upon the mountain, its singular horrifying slit enlarged a little.

The squad leader, recognizing the direness of their situation, made a desperate decision.

He fired a beam of light from his eyes at the approaching cement-like fluid, wanting to solidify it as quickly as possible.

Since he couldn't speak psychically with his people as this wasn't a skill set everyone possessed in the quantum realm, he had to make the first move, believing that his male teammates would follow suit!

'Damn it! Damn it!'

Beams of pure, radiant energy shot forth from their eyes, converging on the advancing fluid.

Alas, the all-seeing eye, with its slit already positioned over the cave, ended up more attracted to the emerging new disturbance.

The ominous cloud cover parted as the All-Seeing Eye unleashed a sudden concentrated beam of green light toward the cave!

The beam was a force of absolute precision and destruction, cutting through the air, a line of fiery green against the gloomy red background of the hundredth floor!

It pierced the mountain with surgical accuracy, creating a perfectly sized hole that traversed the entire structure uninterrupted!

The light, unstoppable and indifferent to the materials it encountered, found its target in the cave and everything within it!

'Noo....'

The Gleamkin, caught in the act of defense, had no time to react before the green light enveloped them and the advancing flood, erasing their being in an instant...

There were no screams, no sounds of struggle, just the eerie silence that followed the light's retraction...

The All-Seeing Eye blinked once and the beam was retracted, leaving behind a forever altered landscape. Where once stood a mountain with a cave sheltering the Gleamkin squad, there was now only a massive, long hole that ran from the top of the mountain to its base.

'Horriying as ever...'

Although Hyrus was hiding a decent distance from the contact area, he still felt his heart engulfed in a wave of inherited fear, like that beam was the absolute enemy of his existence.

This feeling was shared by everyone who managed to witness the All-Seeing-Eye making its move.

'I wonder who ended up dead.' Syla asked psychically with a hint of dread in her voice.

'How can you assume that someone has died 100%?' Felix frowned.

He watched as the beam got fired, but it didn't raise a single ounce of alarm for his safety. It was like his gut feeling wasn't scared of the beam landing on him.

This was surprising considering that everyone was scared shitless from the All-Seeing-Eye.

'We are sure because the green beam is believed to be created out of anti-quantum energy.' Commander Bia cleared his doubts with a solemn tone, 'Since all matter in our realm is made out of quantum energy, nothing, and no one can survive this beam.'

Chapter 1740 The Hundredth Floor. III

'How sure are you about this?' Felix doubled down with a hint of surprise in his voice.

In his mind, if what she said was true, then he had nothing to fear from the beam. While he was somewhat certain that the beam might be created of that bizarre anti-quantum energy due to his gut feelings being insensitive to it, he still had to make sure.

'All we know is that the beam never failed in obliterating anything it touched.' Commander Bia added, 'Thus, we can only theorize that it's anti-quantum energy.'

Commander Bia also wanted to confirm the theory since it would ensure her safety on the hundredth floor and give her more freedom to do as she pleased.

But, she didn't dare attempt to confirm it on her own skin while the others weren't considered helpful in this matter.

However, it soon dawned on her that she was traveling with two potentially surface dwellers, who had no relation to the quantum realm like her.

'Should I experiment with one of them?' Commander Bia thought about it briefly before shaking her head, 'The beam doesn't discriminate and if I went for it, they have to be away from the squad.'

Additionally, she understood that if it didn't work against them, this would expose their identities, and she had no desire to make enemies with two Unigins, who were being chased by her most loathed being in the universe.

'It's best I remain chummy with them until that plague catches up.' Commander Bia coldly narrowed her eyes, 'I will need any help I can get.'

The current state between Felix and Commander Bia was quite weird. Both of them sought each other's assistance against a mutual enemy.

However, none of them dared to bring this matter up front as it meant exposing their identities to each other. Without a mutual link to establish a sense of trust, the status quo would remain as such.

Meanwhile, Felix and Apollo were discussing telepathically how to move forward with this new piece of information.

'What do you think? Should we test out the theory?' Felix asked.

'With what?'

'In the next daylight cycle, I will use my blood-bending abilities to create a clone and send it away. When the night cycle comes, I will get it beamed out by the eye.' Felix replied.

'Sounds good enough, but it will be difficult to pull it off with so many eyes on us.' Apollo added.

'We are bound to get attacked or attack another team, we will make our move during the chaos.'

'What's next if we succeed?' Apollo questioned the real question.

'We won't have any use for the team.' Felix smiled coldly, 'Besides Commander Bia, the rest will be too scared to make a move during the night cycle. This will give us complete ownership over the floor.'

In other words, they wouldn't need to remain lowkey anymore and could use the All-Seeing-Eye as a weapon to obtain the map and eliminate as many squads as possible before entering the next floors.

He wouldn't be the paragon of sins if he gave a sh*t about the lives of some strangers in a foreign realm.

'It's a pl...'

Rumble!! Rumble!!

Before Apollo could finish his sentence, the solid ground beneath the stronghold suddenly commenced to shudder and liquefy, the earth morphing into a dark, viscous substance!

In moments, what was once firm ground transformed into a vast swamp with a facade deceptively calm but with a deadly intent!

The transformation was so sudden, so unexpected, that the Vibronxians barely had time to react!

'It's the doing of a Chaosian!!'

'Motherf*ckers! They must have hidden around the place before we arrived!!'

'We are making too much of a disturbance! The All-Seeing-Eye is on to us!!'

Panic ensued as the entire squad commenced to sink into the newly formed swamp, their movements becoming sluggish as the swamp fought to claim them.

It was extremely easy for them to escape from the swamp, but this would force them to make an active movement.

The All-Seeing-Eye was more responsive to such movements than to the environmental ones!

That's why the Gleamkin refused to budge even when the flood was approaching them, knowing that a single movement from them would cause the menacing eye to fire at them.

No one knew why exactly, but that's how it was in the hundredth floor and they would be foolish not to respect it.

Amid the chaos, Samalon watched from a safe distance with a wide grin, the sight of the struggling Vibronxians, ensnared by his trap, brought a sinister satisfaction.

When he gazed above and noticed that the All-Seeing Eye had its horrifying slit concentrated on the sinking stronghold, his satisfaction only grew.

With the All-Seeing-Eye's ominous gaze fixed upon them, Commander Bia and her royal guard knew they needed a diversion to shift that merciless focus away from them and buy themselves precious time.

'Quickly! Offset the focus as practiced!' Commander Bia barked loudly as she connected her mind to the massive vibrational grid around them!

Without a word, the royal guards sprang into action and channeled their focus on a small desolate hill, unremarkable in the landscape of the Echoing Tower's hundredth floor, but strategically located tens of kilometers away from their current position!

'Get ready to ditch the place.'

Apollo warned Felix, having no interest in placing his faith in his squad even when he knew what they planned against ambushes.

'No need, it seems like their strategy is going to work.' Felix replied as he merged his senses with the vibrational network.

He saw how the royal guards had unleashed a concentrated wave of energy, directing it like a spear through the ground toward the unsuspecting hill.

The effect was immediate and dramatic.

Rumble!! Rumble!!!

The earth commenced to tremble, at first a mere vibration but quickly escalating into a powerful quake that radiated outward from the hill's base!

The ground beneath the hill shuddered as if in agony, the vibrations finding faults and weaknesses in the rock!

BOOOM!!!

And then, with a roar that echoed across the desolate landscape, the hill cracked open!

The ground split, tearing apart in a display of raw power, creating a chasm where once there had been solid earth!

Dust and debris filled the air, a cloud of destruction visible even from kilometers away!

The massive disturbance, exactly as Commander Bia had hoped, attracted the All-Seeing-Eye's attention.

Its dreadful gaze that was preparing its beam against the stronghold suddenly shifted to the hill, drawn by the earthquake's scale and the landscape's rupture!

As the beam struck, the area around the hill was bathed in an otherworldly green light, illuminating the chasm and the shattered remnants of what had been!

'Reinforce the ground! I will seek out the culprit!' Commander Bia ordered with great intensity.

Dankin and the rest of the royal guards moved as one gear and started using their quantum energy manipulation to change the structure from a swamp into a solid again, giving them well-needed stability.

Meanwhile, Commander Bia extended her senses through the vibrational network and swiftly found out the source of the ambush.

It appeared as a disharmony in the frequencies within a forest of consistently, standing out akin to a sore thumb for those skilled enough.

'Found you, you rat.' She uttered coldly as she prepared her retaliation, having no intentions of letting him go!