

Supremacy 561

Chapter 561: A Unique Mechanism of Entry!

Inside the biggest pirate spaceship that was in the middle of the fleet formation, three individuals were sitting in the cockpit while eying the tiny yellow dot in the far distance.

"Captain Roger, we will reach the planet in under 30 minutes if we kept the same pace." A humanoid lizard with a black collar informed.

He was sitting before the cockpit's dashboard, clearly implying his job as the spaceship's operator.

"Should we increase our speed?" A dignified woman with a muscular body and a lean jaw bone suggested while looking behind her.

She was staring at their bearded captain, who had spider tattoos all over his face and neck, making him horrifying to look at. God knows if he had inked his entire body as well.

"No, we don't know if that weasel had already sold or shared the map to other parties before we took it from him." The captain spoke with an imperative voice.

"Indeed, the planet could be infested with other pirates or bloodline clans. If we increased our speed we will get picked up by their radars." The spaceship operator agreed.

"Heh, I do hope to find a group or two in there." The dignified woman licked her lips and said, "It will save us months of efforts to scan the entire planet for the ruins."

It seemed like Felix had made a big blunder as he always assumed that the Bloody Mary pirates were going to find the ruins a month later from now if the timeline stayed the same.

He was a bit confident that his actions shouldn't have changed the pirates' behavior since they rarely use a bracelet or give a crap about the SG news.

That's because they couldn't wear one lest the Queen report their location to the authorities due to them breaking multiple contracts.

Felix was right in this part as the Bloody Mary pirates didn't even care about the existence of the Phantom Organization or Felix and simply focused on their own things.

However, even though they were following the same timeline, Felix had failed to account for the notion that the pirates might have reached the ruins months earlier than the date shown in the documentary!

But he shouldn't be blamed since the documentary had been edited to show that the pirates went straight from space to the ruin's location completely opposite to those three's discussion!

Right now, they were coasting towards the deserted planet, seeking the riches of the ruins, not knowing that they were about to experience their first change in their timeline!

...

While the pirates were left to discuss the ruins, Felix and the rest had already reached the pyramid without getting swarmed by those Tombscreamers.

The spray was effective alright as the Tombscreamers kept avoiding the party at all cost. During their journey, they realized that nothing here was actually made out of gold.

Everything was due to the Tombscreamers' golden dust covering the entire ground and pillars.

They even started to wonder if the pyramid was also golden due to the dust or not.

'Boss, what now?' Erik asked while lifting his head, narrowing his eyes at the peak of the pyramid that reached almost 200 meters.

The rest also were surveying the area around them while standing still above the last staircase. None of them dared to step forth without Felix's approval.

'Since everything that we experienced is almost the same as the other party in their own ruins, it is fair to assume that the traps and conditions to access the pyramid should be the same as well.' Felix fed them some bullshit to calm their nerves before adding, 'I want you to create a tight triangle formation and take one unified step each time.'

'What?'

Everyone was either confused or surprised by the order. But seeing that Felix wasn't laughing made them understand that he was dead serious.

'Form up.' Malak didn't waste time by asking Felix to explain himself as she knew that the sprays could last them for only two hours.

At the start, there was some confusion about the placement but Malak took care of it by starting to appoint them their positions.

Momo was placed at the helm of the triangle while Erik and Pualani were placed at the other two corners.

The rest were left to fill the inside. They made sure to leave enough space for them to take a step forward without tripping each other.

When Felix saw that they were ready, he explained himself, 'The other squad had found out after multiple failed attempts, that to open up the pyramid, you need to walk in this formation as a single unit. There were probably sensors on the ground that react to only this unique method.'

'If there are no traps here why can't we brute force ourselves in?' Erik wondered.

'Because the pyramid is made out of Strucrase, one of the top ten strongest minerals in the entire universe.' Felix debunked his idea.

The others didn't dare to underestimate the pyramid after hearing so.

'Alright, Malak start leading the squad forward and make sure to keep moving forward no matter what.' Felix informed while hovering above them.

'What's going to happen if we aren't synchronized?' Malissa inquired.

'The pyramid won't open up.' Felix comforted them, 'There are no limited chances just keep doing it until you nail it. Though, do remember that the sprays have a limited duration so you can't take more than 15 minutes to open it up if you want to gather the treasures within.'

Malak nodded her head and said, 'On the count of three we will take a step forward with our left foot. Then I will restart the count and this takes to use the right foot. We will keep going like this until Sir Felix tells us to stop. Understood?'

'Yes.'

Everyone nodded their head but Erik as he lifted his hand and asked bashfully, 'Are we going to move on three exactly or after it?'

'The moment you hear me say it, step forward.' Malak stressed.

Upon seeing that everyone was ready, she took a deep and began counting telepathically.

The instant she said three, all of them took a step forward with their left foot. However, nothing happened, making them glance at each other's feet.

'Did someone mess up?' Khodri wondered.

'You guys are doing great, just keep going.' Felix rushed them.

When they heard his approval, Malak started counting again and others entered a focused state, moving exactly on the count of three every time.

They did so seven times in a row, crossing a third of the path, leading to the pyramid. Yet, still nothing much changed.

However, they didn't stop and question Felix but continued on the same unified marsh. Due to their suburb senses and focus, they were doing great so far, not breaking their unity.

'One, Two, Three!'

Thud! Creek!

The moment they crossed half of the path, the ground had sunken a little bit, creating ear-piercing creaking noises!

Sshshsshshsh!

The Tombscreamers went ballistic after hearing the noise as they began fluttering their wings towards them!

This created a horrifying picture of a sea of insects, aiming to engulf them!

However, due to the repeller, they ended up hovering five meters around them, creating a living golden dome that would send shivers down the spine of the toughest man in the galaxy.

Noticing that they were starting to panic, Felix quickly stressed, 'Don't take a single step! You will ruin your entire efforts and will be forced to restart all over again!'

The moment Nicci heard so, her foot got frozen slightly above the ground! She was just about to take a step back reflexively.

'I am so sorry!' Nicci apologized with her head lowered, knowing that she might have screwed it up for them.

Just as Malak wanted to comfort her, Felix shook his head and said, 'You guys are still in the safe. You just need to lift your foot slightly as well and then place them at the exact moment to restart.'

'Thank god.'

Upon hearing so, Malak immediately began the countdown, uncaring about the millions of Tombscreamers that were literally five meters away from her face.

Nicci and Malissa even closed their eyes to not see them and just followed Malak's voice and intuition.

It worked just like a charm as the ground had sunken even further after they took another unified step.

Sshshshshs!

This agitated the Tombscreamers even more but they still refused to cross the five meters mark. Upon seeing so, the squad ignored them fully and continued on their path downward.

By now, they already realized that the entrance wasn't on the pyramid itself but on the path leading it!

Who would have bothered to check the path itself and not the pyramid? They realized that they were lucky that Felix was there providing them with such crucial information.

If it wasn't for so, Felix had no doubt that it would take them at least seven days of trial and error to finally luck out on this hidden mechanism unlike the pirates in the documentary.

The bastards opened up the pyramid the moment they reached the underground world. Felix didn't know if they had information about the ruins or they had edited out the days wasted trying to open it up.

Whatever it was, the same golden gate that appeared in the documentary had emerged before his face after the squad took one final step!

Creeeeek!

The path started to raise on its own after the squad had reached this underground room.

When it finally connected with the ceiling, the darkness had consumed the room, not allowing the squad to even see their fingers!

"Are we trapped?" Erik murmured.

Before another wave of panic set in, Felix had ensured them, 'Don't worry guys, there is another way out.'

'You heard him.' Malak said while turning on her bracelet's flashlight. A couple of them did the same, illuminating the entire room easily.

The first thing that came from their point of view was the golden gate that was decorated with mesmerizing hieroglyphics and pictures of humanoid creatures!

The image of Lady Sphinx in both forms was predominant in the gate, making the squad believe that the ruins belonged to her!

'Elder, couldn't your worshiper be a bit low key in his devotion?' Felix stared speechlessly at the hundreds of Lady Sphinx's pictures and drawings on the gate.

He didn't take a close look at the gate in his previous life, making him miss out on seeing those pictures.

If it wasn't for so, he would have guessed that the ruins belonged to Lady Sphinx instantly.

As for his squad? They had already pulled up their bracelets and started taking pictures or filming the gate, knowing that they had just struck gold when it comes to information!

Chapter 562: The Hieroglyphics on The Gate.

'hehe, I wonder how much those pics and videos would be sold for?' Erik grinned as he kept taking pictures from different angles, completely forgetting that Felix was with them.

On the other hand, Malak was still sensible enough to care about Felix's opinion on this discovery.

'Sir Felix is the Organization interested in the information gathered from these ruins?' She inquired.

Felix nodded his head, making Erik and the resting sigh in dejection while lowering their bracelets.

They knew that it was impossible to earn profit from that information if the Organization required them.

'Don't worry, the Organization isn't that cheap to take it out of your hands without paying you.' Felix comforted them.

Though he didn't really care about the information, it would be quite weird to tell them that the Organization had no use for them.

After all, for giant backgrounds, hidden information like these were everything.

'Let's discuss the payment later.' Felix pointed at the gate and informed, 'It's not going to be easy to open it up.'

Malak nodded her head and extended her arm forward. Then, she activated the scanning feature, trying to seek traps, clues, keys, or anything that didn't match the room.

Alas, she ended up with nothing.

Just to be safe, she glanced at Momo and said, 'Your turn.'

Momo nodded his head and split his arm from the shoulder. Then, he threw it towards the gate while retreating with the rest.

The arm didn't touch the gate but it landed in close proximity to it.

The arm soon started to morph and grow in size until a smaller version of Momo had been created. He walked around the area while touching the walls and the floor, clearly wanting to activate traps.

However, he didn't find anything.

This could be a good or a bad sign since finding traps and activating them removes that sense of unknown danger.

'Now what?' Khodri wondered, 'Do we open the gate? How exactly can we do that? It doesn't have a keyhole or any hole in that sense.'

Like Khodri mentioned, the gate didn't seem accessible by keys or pushable by brute strength. Regardless, Pualani still decided to try his luck and push it wide open.

'Guys, please give me some space.' He requested while walking back towards the end of the room.

Figuring out that he was planning to smash through the gate, the squad swiftly stood at the sides of the room.

Intrigued, Felix decided to watch since he also didn't know how exactly did the pirates open up the gate.

His extracted memory of the documentary wasn't really complete since it lasted for hours even though it had been heavily edited.

Asna had informed him that he was skipping through a lot of details that he thought before were useless.

'Since this temple belonged to Lady Sphinx's worshiper, it only meant that the key isn't going to be based on violence.'

Felix thought while watching Pualani morph into a man bear with two long fangs, thick brown fur, and lastly a unicorn in the center of his forehead.

Naturally, for the transformation to work, he needed to remove his helmet, forcing him to hold his breath lest he suffocates.

Not wanting to waste time, Pualani narrowed his bloodshot eyes at the gate and dashed on his four legs akin to a bulldozer!

Due to the room's size, he reached the gate almost instantaneously, smashing his head right in the thin gap of the center!

THHHHUUD!!!

The shockwave resulted from such collision shook the room, making the rest hold into the wall lest they fall!

'Did it work?' Erik asked in excitement, feeling that such a massive force should possibly do the trick. The rest thought the same as well.

Alas, when they looked at the gate, they found out that Pualani's forehead was bleeding profusely while the gate hadn't been even scratched!

'It can't be.' Khodri questioned, 'Is the gate also created from Strucrase?'

'Possibly.' Pualani replied while rubbing his bloodied forehead. He didn't seem in great pain but just vexed about failing to leave a mark on the gate.

He quickly deactivates his morphing ability and wore his helmet back on since it had a self-cleaning mechanism.

'Boss any ideas?' Erik asked.

Felix didn't respond as he was focusing on the hieroglyphics that were set perfectly in two straight lines at the sides of the gate.

Having absolutely no clue what he was looking at, Felix gave up and requested assistance, 'Asna, mind translating for me?'

'Why don't you ask big sis?' Asna snorted, 'She knows the language better than me.'

Felix coughed, not wanting to say that he didn't want to bother Lady Sphinx during her hour of study.

He knew that Asna would snap at him instantly.

'I thought you were better, I guess I was mistaken. Elder Sphinx, can you p...'

'Hold on a second now.' Asna stopped him mid-sentence with a wide pleased smile and said, 'I will do you a favor since I am in a good mood.'

Felix smiled faintly and let her focus on reading the hieroglyphics.

A moment later, Asna clarified the line on the left side, 'An ocean that couldn't be crossed even if one traveled it for trillions of years.'

Then, she moved to the right side, 'What is the purest object in the known and unknown universe?'

'That's it.' Asna said as she took a sip out of a coke can.

'They seem like riddles to me.' Felix knitted his eyebrows, believing that it was highly likely for Lady Sphinx's worshiper to know of her previous habit of telling riddles.

So, the key to the gate must lay within those two puzzles!

Felix closed his eyes and began pondering on each one of them, 'An ocean that couldn't be crossed even if one traveled it for trillions of years...This could mean many things that are related to infinity. Hell, it could be infinity itself.'

Lady Sphinx chortled softly as she read his thoughts. But, she didn't interject or assist him. She wasn't that bored.

'What's the purest object in the known and unknown universe? Is it material or som...Hold on a second?'

When Felix read the other one and tried to connect them, he found a tiny connection that would have gone missing without his knowledge of someone!

Lady Sphinx!

He knew that the temple belonged to Lady Sphinx's worshiper, this entailed that the answer must be related to her since his devotion was obviously on a point of madness!

By having such a clear connection, he easily found the solution to both riddles!

Knowledge and Truth!

The first riddle was implying that knowledge could never be learned all of it no matter how much effort someone put!

Meanwhile, the other implied that the Truth was the purest object in the universe! He didn't know why he referred to it as an object, but it made sense!

'So, the key is knowledge and truth.' Felix massaged his temples while inspecting the gate, 'How exactly am I supposed to use them to open up the gate?'

Felix didn't know if he should shout them out loud or write them somewhere on the gate.

He was worried that something bad might happen if he chose poorly.

After all, he was going commando without his previous knowledge.

He didn't mind risking his life by making a decision, but he would be actually risking his squad's lives while he was lying on a comfy bed currently.

Hence, he spent a minute or two thinking deeply while inspecting every nook and cranny on the gate.

After not spotting anything unusual, Felix thought, 'I guess I will need to say them together. Since Lady Sphinx is called the Guardian of Knowledge and Truth, I will say them in that exact order.'

'Asna, please spell for me those two words correctly in hieroglyphics language.' Felix requested with a serious tone.

Asna knew that it wasn't time to fool around lest he ends up killing the squad due to a mistake of hers.

So, she spelled those two words slowly and corrected him when he tried to pronounce them.

This carried on for another minute.

The squad had already given up on Felix after seeing him frozen stiffly before the gate.

They were having their own discussion on how to open it.

Unfortunately, their plans all revolved around violence since there wasn't anything else to be done in their eyes.

It wasn't like they could read hieroglyphics and see what Felix was seeing.

'I wonder what the boss is thinking about?' Erik said telepathically.

'I think he went offline to contact the Organization?' Malissa suggested.

'I be...shshshs, he is back.' Malak quietened them down after seeing that Felix had moved to the center of the gate with his hands folded and eyes closed.

Then out of nowhere, a weird jarring noise had emerged from his throat, confusing them all alike. Before they could ponder on it, Felix carried on speaking that way.

'What's up with hi...'

Creeeeeek!!

Just as Khodri wanted to clear up his confusion, his mouth widened up in shock just like the others who had their eyes affixed on the gate that was slowly opening up!

Ka-thump!

No one cared to see what lays beyond the darkness inside the gate as their eyes had switched to Felix who was sighing in relief.

'Bos, boss, how did you do it!?' In awe and disbelief, Erik questioned what was in everyone's minds.

Felix smiled faintly at them and said, "I had a little help."

Chapter 563: The First Trap!

'Humph, little my ass.' Asna snorted while giving him a side-glance.

Felix ignored her and said to his squad, "Let's not waste any more time, we running short."

Malak and the rest swallowed their questions and nodded their heads. Then, they switched their vision to what lays behind the golden gate.

Pitch-black darkness!

Malissa who's able to see clearly in the dark due to being a bat half-ling exclaimed, "There are three paths!"

The others quickly spotted their flashlights in the darkness and saw one corridor connected to three entrances.

'This is the worst-case scenario.' Malak knitted her eyebrows and spoke, 'We can't split up and we are going to waste a lot of time if we chose poorly. This if we didn't get killed by traps straight away if we chose the wrong path.'

The others couldn't help but nod their heads in agreement.

'How about I split myself into three parts and scout all three paths first?' Momo suggested.

Before the squad could interact with his idea, Felix shut it down immediately, 'It won't work since this is a labyrinth that is filled with traps. The other squad had ended up meeting the exact same thing.'

'Did they pass it successfully?' Erik asked with a nervous tone.

'Not all of them.' Felix shook his head, 'They had the advantage of numbers so they were able to split up into three groups and go through all of the paths. However, only five squadmates had made it out successfully.'

The squad's members' expressions didn't appear so good after hearing so. If only five of them survived from probably tens of bloodlines, then their situation was far deadlier than they expected.

'If only it was possible for the holograms to go through walls, we would have sent the leader or someone else to scout the paths quickly for us.' Nicci said softly.

If that was possible, Felix would have already volunteered to scout for them so he could hide the fact that he knew the real path to all three treasuries.

Alas, the feature might be called ghosting, but it was still bound by the laws of the universe.

Light can't travel through opaque objects. So, Felix's holographic image that was made out of light needs to always stay in direct contact with Malak's bracelet.

'Now what? Should we wing it?' Erik wondered.

The others remained silent, thinking deeply on ways to either pick the right path or at least scout them all as fast as possible.

Momo could scout all three of them but it was going to take ages for him to travel through them all due to his copies being smaller in stature.

'How about we trace the exact footsteps of the previous squad?' Felix clarified his bullshit, 'If the same entity who created the other temple was the owner of this one, then there is a high chance of the labyrinth being somewhat the same.'

'Well...'

The squad looked at each other with unconvinced expressions, appearing like they thought it was a stupid idea to create the same labyrinth instead of just mixing a couple of walls.

However, so far everything that Felix said had ended up happening and they were more inclined to believe the Organization Intel than their own...Especially when they didn't have any other plans at the moment and time was short to spend it thinking thoroughly for a plan.

15 minutes had already gone by and they were still at the gate of the pyramid. That didn't look so good.

But they still didn't agree rashly since they understood that they had only one chance to make it.

Felix left them to discuss it of their free will.

If they chose to trust him then they would be safe but if they decided to go with another plan, then he would do his best to hinder them.

He wasn't joking when he said that the other two paths were a death sentence since he watched in the documentary how those pirates never appeared again...Even to the end of the documentary!

After a couple of minutes of throwing out ideas, the squad realized that they had only three options, split up, send Momo, and waste a substantial amount of time that might cost them their lives later, or trust Felix's Intel.

In the end, they decided to with last option.

'Momo, you will be at the far front of the squad with Sir Felix.' Malak said while exhaling deeply.

Momo nodded his head and stepped forward, going through the gate. The rest waited until he was ten meters away from them then followed after him.

'Take the left path.' Felix said.

Momo went through the left path obediently while flashing the light on the walls and the ground in case there was a trap.

He was also utilizing his bracelet scanner to detect any abnormality.

Thankfully, they crossed the entire closed-off corridor without meeting any danger. However, they did end up reaching another cross-path made out of two paths.

'The right one.' Felix informed with a confident tone.

Momo took it and the rest followed. When they reached another cross path safely, they began to feel slightly confident in Felix's Intel.

Their confidence grew bigger after they crossed the 3rd, 4th, and 5th corridors successfully as well!

'Did he actually make two exact same labyrinths in two temples?' Erik said speechlessly, 'What an idiot.'

The rest couldn't agree more. Though, they were glad that he did this since he helped them out greatly.

'Are we close?' Malak asked while facing another cross-path.

'Yes.' Felix nodded his head and said, 'If the Intel is correct, then we will reach the 1st smaller treasury after we go through the left path.'

Everyone got a bit jibbed at the sound of that and began walking with quicker steps through the left path.

However, the moment crossed half of it, they were forced to stop after seeing that Momo had stiffened on his place.

'Guys, I think I have stepped on a trap.' Momo said with a calm tone while gazing at his foot that had sunken in the ground just by one centimeter.

If it wasn't for his extensive experience in dealing with traps, he would have either applied more force or lifted his foot.

In both situations, the trap would go off and kill him! in the worst-case scenario, affect the entire squad!

'Are you certain?' Malak asked while retreating slowly back with the rest of the squad.

'100%.'

Everyone felt their hearts sink at his confirmation. They didn't know what trap he stepped on and that was what was scaring the shit out of them.

This time Felix didn't say anything or warned Momo before stepping on the trap since he knew that his squad could handle it.

If it was something serious like locking them inside the corridor or something like that, he wouldn't have dared to withhold information.

'Keep retreating slowly until we exit the corridor.' Malak ordered, 'Momo, split your arm with the bracelet and suit. Then make it come to us. This will ensure your survival after you remove your feet.'

Momo was already planning on doing so. He was simply waiting for them to leave.

After seeing that only small white dots had been left behind him, Momo carried out his survival plan.

The arm transformed into a tiny version of himself and started gliding on the ground in a shape of a sphere.

Only after he sensed that his arm had reached his party did Momo lift his leg casually.

Not an ounce of fear or worry was shown on his jelly-like stiffened face.

Out of nowhere, creaking noises began echoing in the corridor, making Momo confused about where the sound was coming from.

Just as he planned on retreating to safety, he was left surprised by the emergence of an army of mummies in front and behind him!

They all appeared to be just a bunch of skeletons from different species, with a green shining talisman on their forehead and green eyes made out of flames.

The clucking noises from before were coming out of their mouths as they kept biting their teeth continuously.

'Momo, what was that?' Malak inquired immediately after hearing the echoes of those noises.

'We are in luck. They are just a bunch of low-class brainless mummies carrying bats.' Momo said with a faint smile while getting jumped at those mummies.

This would have killed any commoner from fright but Momo just let them do as they please. Biting, smashing with their bats, stomping on him!

He took everything with a bored expression like this was an everyday occurrence in the life of slimes.

'Hold on Momo! We are breaking our way in!' Malak said while flying with her eternal blue flames through the corridor.

She was so fast, she crossed half the destination while the others were still in process of activating their abilities!

The moment she saw the army of mummies filling up the entire corridor, she extended her palms in front of her and shouted, "Sun Ablaze!"

Whoosh!

A red fireball had emerged from both of her palms and began expanding and expanding nonstop even though she was literally penetrating through the mummies' army!

The mummies neither cried nor wailed, they simply turned into scorched black skeletons and fell to the ground into a heap of bones!

Nothing survived after getting touched by that red sun that never ceased to expand!

When she was finally about to reach Momo, the sun had already reached the roof and the walls, having no more room to expand!

Malak snapped her finger and the sun exploded into a shower of red particles, falling on the thousands of bones lying on the ground.

This was the reason why Momo wasn't worried about mummies.

They might look terrifying and undying but the moment one gets rid of the talisman on their foreheads, they would return to their original dead state!

Chapter 564: The 1st Treasury.

'You alright?' Malak asked while looking at Momo who had his body parts spread in every direction.

'Not dead.' Momo replied casually while ordering his body parts to gather up.

By the time they reached him, the rest of the squad had arrived with their abilities and weapons fully active, ready for battle.

Alas, they found only leftovers from Malak's 2nd active primogenitor's ability *Sun's Ablaze.*

It allowed her to create a fireball that could be expanded based on her elemental energy!

So, if she had an infinite amount, it wouldn't be farfetched to create an actual star!

'Let's carry on moving.' Malak said in a straightforward manner, not wanting to hear any question about her abilities in those crucial moments.

The others glanced at each other weirdly but listened to the order and returned to the same formation.

While they were walking slowly, they noticed wide open entrances on the walls, making them believe that the mummies had emerged from them.

When they spotted light inside, they ended up disappointed by a bunch of bones lying on the ground.

'Someone please scan those bones and beam them in your spatial card.' Felix requested.

'Aren't they just useless bones?' Erik asked with a curious look.

'This ruins could date back from millions of years to a hundred million.' Felix clarified calmly, 'There is a low chance those bones must have become an F grade natural treasure if they absorbed natural energy throughout this long-duration.'

Felix had lowered his time estimate since he didn't want to scare them by telling them that ruins were here for billions of years from the Era of the Primogenitors!

Yet, they were still beyond excited at the news as they never expected to luck out on such ancient ruins in their first run!

Erik and the rest immediately split up into groups and went into each room, scanning the bones with their bracelets and beaming only ones that were showing enough elemental energy to be recognized as F grade natural treasure.

As for the element, it was naturally sand element since its energy was predominant on this planet.

Sure enough, they managed to find at least 49 bones that could be considered as F grade natural treasures, making them grin widely in elation.

'Each bone is going to net us 6 million SC.' Erik said with a silly smile.

'I wonder how much the real treasures are going to net us.' Khodri rubbed his hands with an eager expression as he focused on the dark corridor.

'We are about to find out.' Malak gestured with her head at Momo and started walking towards the end of the corridor.

The rest followed after them and made sure to not let their excitement ruin their focus.

After spending a minute of slow walking, they finally reached the end of the corridor.

This time, there was only a single golden door greeting them.

It appeared exactly the same as the first gate! It had also two lines written in hieroglyphics and pictures of Lady Sphinx decorating it.

However, everyone noticed that the hieroglyphics weren't the same but they still couldn't understand what they mean.

This time, they turned towards Felix, hoping that he might open it up just like he did previously.

'Asna, please transla...'

'Never resting, never still; moving silently from hill to hill; it does not walk, run or trot; all is cool where it is not.' Asna interrupted him by translating the line on the right side.

Then, she carried on with the left side, 'What is always old and sometimes new; never sad, sometimes blue; never empty, but sometimes full; never pushes, always pulls?'

'I really shouldn't have skipped those parts.' Felix's eyelids twitched after realizing that probably all treasures would have riddles to solve to gain access.

He didn't know if the worshiper wanted to hand out his stuff to those who were intelligent enough or he simply liked this form of locking his treasures.

Whatever it was, Felix closed his eyes and began pondering on the solution for them.

'It doesn't rest and not stand still, yet it keeps moving silently from hill to hill? Though, it doesn't walk, runs, or trot? So it flies?'

Felix's first assumptions were birds, planes, and clouds. But he realized that all of them remain still once in a while. In addition, it wasn't supposed to be cool around them. Birds, clouds, planes, don't fit in it.

'What else flies besides those three and fit perfectly to the conditions of the riddle?' Felix started eliminating one thing after the other, from a kite to a paper airplane.

Yet, none of them fit the conditions perfectly. This made him realize that his thought process was flawed.

The riddle never mentioned something flying but just it didn't travel on the ground.

This opened up multiple hidden options! After thinking thoroughly about them, he settled with the Sun!

The sun never rests or remains still. It was moving silently from hill to hill. In other words, rising from the east and set in the west.

Naturally, it doesn't walk, run or trot and everything is cool but where it was!

'One down, one to go.' Felix smiled with a pleased expression as he recalled the 2nd riddle.

The moment he reread it, he couldn't help but chuckle to himself. He instantly figured out the answer due to having a connection with the first riddle!

The answer was The Moon!

The moon had been around for quite some time, but there's a "new" moon every month or so! A Blue moon is a rare event, which explains, 'sometimes blue'.

The moon is a body of rock, so it's never empty, but we do see what we call a full moon some nights. And the moon's gravity "pulls" on the ocean to create low and high tides, but it doesn't push anyone around!

Felix would have taken quite some time to figure it out if his mind hadn't been just affixed to the sun and celestial bodies.

'Asna, please spell them.' Felix requested while massaging his throat.

Upon seeing so, the squad's members' eyes brightened up, knowing that he was about to emit those weird noises again.

After a minute of practice, Felix indeed spelled the Sun and the Moon one by one using the hieroglyphics language.

His voice was still jarring to the ears but the gate didn't care about how he sounded but whether he got the riddles right or not.

Creeek!

Seeing the gate rumbling as its slides from the left to the right was more than enough of a confirmation!

Ka-thump!

The moment the gate opened up, no one bothered to address Felix's method of opening it up as their widened eyes were allured to the bright golden lights behind it!

Those lights were coming out of nothing but the millions of Tombscreamers that were covering walls spreading hundreds of meters further apart and twelve pillars that were connecting the ceiling and the ground!

Nothing was spared!

The entire sight sent goosebumps through their skin, letting them know that entering this room was going to be an extremely dangerous endeavor!

However, greed had suppressed their instinct of survival after seeing hundreds of shriveling humanoid body parts lying randomly around the place!

There were beastial fingers, tails, bones, hades...etc, all mixed up together, making them doubtful but mostly excited.

In the world of natural treasures, it was common knowledge that shriveled body parts that experienced the passage of time for millions of years belonged to extraordinary individuals!

That's because only strong lifeforms had the tenacity to avoid getting decomposed like the rest!

However, seeing that the Tombscreamers were avoiding touching them at all costs made them realize that something was off about those natural treasures.

'Let's take a moment to think before we rush inside.' Malak took a deep breath to calm herself and said, 'First, why are Tombscreamers here as well? How did they exactly manage to get inside or survive? I doubt they don't need fresh air.'

'I believe there must be an air pocket in this massive hall connected outside of the pyramid.' Pualani suggested.

'Be quiet, I will find out.' Malissa requested while closing her eyes and removing her helmet.

She held her breaths and placed her hand next to her right ear, making her hear nothing but her heartbeat, the others' heartbeats, and the occasional wing fluttering of those dormant Tombscreamers.

The moment she got adjusted to those sounds, she focused on the variable sounds in the premise, taking in all the sound waves she could get.

In a short moment, she picked two almost identical sounds. Both of them resembled the sounds of an ongoing flow.

The only difference was the direction of the flow.

She instantly figured out that it was the wind going from an air pocket and going out from another!

'You are right, it seems like the entire pyramid is ventilated properly.' Malissa opened her eyes and said, 'We might even find the exit where the wind is going to because it's definitely not going through the hole that we opened up!'

This was brand new information to Felix as he didn't see the pirates using any other method of escaping the underground world besides that hole!

'It will be in our best interest that we locate that exit.' Felix knitted his eyebrows, 'I can't place all my cards on that hole. I have had a bad feeling for days now that I can't shake away. And I am starting to believe that something is going to happen in the pyramid that wasn't documented.'

Felix's instincts weren't wrong in the slightest as the Bloody Mary Pirates were already halfway through their journey!

15 minutes left before they enter the atmosphere! Felix and the rest had just made out to the 1st treasury!

An ambush at such moments could be fatal to their exploration outcome!

Chapter 565: He is Up For Trouble!

'Should we collect those natural treasures now?' Erik inquired.

Malak thought about it for a few seconds and ended up ordering Momo to go pick up the closest natural treasure.

Momo sent a copy of himself with a bracelet.

The moment it reached the natural treasure, he didn't touch it but beamed it straightway inside of his AP bracelet.

Everyone looked around a bit nervously, expecting something horrible to happen.

However, they waited and waited, yet nothing changed. Even the dormant Tombscreamers didn't wake up.

'I don't know if we are just paranoid or maybe beaming them into our bracelets didn't activate whatever trap was placed on them.' Khodri said.

'Momo try with another natural treasure.' Still wary, Malak requested.

Momo went and beamed a long shriveled yellow finger that appeared like it was dried under the sun for millions of years.

Just like before, everything remained the same.

'Alright, it seems like there are no traps here.' Malak looked at Felix and asked, 'How did the other squad fare in this treasury?'

Felix shook his head and bullshitted, 'They found a different treasury so I can't really take their experience into consideration here.'

Felix said so because he knew that as long as his squad used their AP bracelets to beam the treasures while avoiding the Tombscreamers, then they would be completely safe.

That's because this wasn't a real treasury but an actual previous lab! Those body parts were the last things that hadn't been decomposed throughout the billions of years.

This was based on the conclusion spoken by the narrator in the documentary. But it did explain why those body parts were lying randomly like this.

The tables they were on had been either decomposed or simply eaten by those Tombscreamers, leaving only those body parts.

'Alright, spread out and collect everything!' Malak ordered firmly, 'No matter what, do not touch them!'

Upon seeing them marching slowly inside, Malak asked while pointing her finger at a golden gate on the other side of the room, 'Sir Felix, should we check it out?'

Felix nodded his head and followed after her. When they reached it, they were met with another gate that had hieroglyphics on it.

'Sir Felix, how are you going to open it?' Malak asked with a worried tone, believing that Felix was using the Organization's Intel to open the previous gates.

Since he told them that the other squad had found another treasury, she thought that the Organization's Intel was useless in this situation.

Understanding her worry, Felix decided to feed her some details, 'You see those lines? They are riddles that were written in an ancient language called hieroglyphics.'

Malak's eyes widened in surprise as she didn't think that those lines were riddles.

'So, you were using the Organization's answers before?' Malak questioned with a bewildered expression, feeling that it was a bit stupid of the owner of those two ruins to even write the same riddles on his gates.

She got to admit that it was a bit suspicious how everything was the same.

Felix knew that she was an intelligent and careful woman. So, he decided to tell the truth this time and ease up her suspicion.

'That's naturally impossible.' Felix clarified while eying the hieroglyphics, 'I have simply read the riddles and solved them. That's why it took me always a couple of minutes to open the gates.'

'Shameless!' Asna cursed instantly.

'I didn't think you actually can read such an ancient language!' Malak gave him a respectful look and said, 'I doubt many people have access to this language, don't even mention learning it.'

Malak didn't know if the Queen had this language saved up in her data or not but she was more inclined to believe so.

That's because it would be impossible for Felix and others to know the language while the Queen was ignorant.

So, she believed that the only reason she couldn't find this language in the network was that it was locked in a low layer!

Just as she wanted to speak, she saw that Felix was focusing on the riddles.

She immediately quietened down and backed off, going to help the rest in collecting the treasures.

Thankfully, no one messed up in the gathering process.

In a few minutes, the entire room had been cleared out thoroughly from any natural treasure. Not even the bone of a pinky was left behind!

Lady Sphinx could only roll her eyes at the sight, having a slight feeling like she was being robbed. But, she was too rich to care.

'Sir Felix, we are done.' Malak informed while walking with the squad towards Felix.

Upon hearing so, Felix mouthed off the answers to those riddles and successfully opened up the gate for them.

Everyone smiled widely, loving how everything was going on so smoothly without any hiccups.

The fact that they reached here and collected treasures without losing a member was quite astonishing.

'It was all due to the other squad's efforts and Sir Felix's critical Intel.' Malissa winked at Felix and said, 'Without them, we would have been going in blind and stopped at the underground world.'

Everyone agreed with her as they realized that the ruins were quite out of their league in terms of information.

They literally wouldn't have been able to unlock the gates since they couldn't read hieroglyphics and solve the riddles.

Felix didn't know how exactly did the pirates solve those riddles in his previous life but he was more inclined to believe that they had some in-depth information about the ruins.

'Who checked the air pockets?' Felix switched the subject quickly.

Though his skin was thick, Felix still didn't like enjoying praises like those that had zero relation to him.

'I did.' Malissa spoke, 'I have marked them in my bracelet, should I take you there?'

'Please.'

Malissa started walking towards a wall and the rest followed after her.

When they reached it, they were met with a small square-shaped hole in the upper level of the wall.

'This is where the air exit.' Malissa informed.

Felix rubbed his chin while looking at it but he didn't say anything. He left Malak to take care of it.

She didn't disappoint as she had beamed a tiny recording camera and ordered, 'Momo, please split a tiny version of yourself and make it travel through this air pocket.'

She handed the camera to him and said, 'Attach this to yourself so we can monitor everything inside. Who knows, we might get lucky and end up finding either an exit or another hidden treasury.'

Momo nodded his head and got to work immediately. He created a tiny version of himself and stuffed the camera inside.

Then, he placed him on the wall and he started gliding like a snail towards the air pocket.

The moment, he reached it, he got sucked fiercely due to his nonexistent weight before the wind flow!

The hologram that was synchronized with the camera only showed messy images.

Not knowing how long this would last, Malak ordered Momo, 'Keep an eye on your copy.'

Then, she gestured for the rest to continue moving.

She didn't ask Momo to repeat the same strategy with the other pocket flow because she knew that the wind would blow Momo's tiny copy out.

Well, at least they had a way to explore those air pockets. It may lead to nothing or everything...

Meanwhile, in Felix's exploration spaceship, Declan and Samir were chilling in the cockpit.

They were watching a movie on a big holographic screen while drinking beer.

They were this relaxed because they were being updated regularly on the situation down there to keep their minds at ease.

"Leader Malak just sent me a message, entailing that they emptied the 1st treasury without casualties." Samir rallied the news with a surprised and excited expression.

"Oho? It seems like everything is going on track." Declan stroked his white beard and wished, "Hopefully, it remains like this for the rest of the exp..."

Peep Peep!...

Before he could finish his sentence, a sudden alarm went off, coming out from a circular glass screen on the dashboard, that appeared like sonar!

'Queen, what's the matter?' Samir asked solemnly while fixing his posture.

'12 unidentified targets had been spotted 3654km away from the spaceship.' The Queen responded.

Declan and Samir glanced at each other and saw only shock and horror in each other's eyes!

"This can't be possible!!" Samir shouted while waving his hand at the holographic movie.

Then, he started pressing a couple of buttons on the dashboard with an agitated expression.

A few seconds later, a screen had emerged before him showing a blurry sight of a fleet of grey spaceships, approaching the planet while in an invisibility state!

Samir narrowed his eyes at the spaceships and noticed that they were at odds with each other!

He knew that it was almost impossible for army fleets to not have unified spaceships!

"F*cking scum pirates! Why are they coming here?" Samir cursed with pure hatred in his tone.

He had a rich past against pirates since he was a captain of a merchant spaceship that had been caught multiple times by them.

In most situations, the pirates simply kill the bloodliners and rob the merchant spaceship clean. Then, pick a couple of fresh women to enjoy themselves.

The rest? They let them go since they were useless commoners who wouldn't get sold for much.

They leave them with the spaceship since it was against the pirates' code to steal even the spaceship.

That's because most merchant companies and guilds had only a few spaceships at their disposal. If they got all destroyed or robbed by pirates, they would be left with no choice but to file a bankruptcy.

In other words, fewer merchant spaceships to rob. It was already extremely difficult to luck out on the merchant spaceships. The pirates didn't want to make it any harder.

However, in the latest merchant expedition by Samir, things didn't go as usual...That cost him his freedom and most importantly, his wife...Both of them ended up as slaves.

The only difference was that he was auctioned while she was left behind for the pirates...

He might be a commoner without a drop of bloodline essence in his body, but his bloodthirsty eyes as he glared at the incoming pirates' fleets were enough to send chills down Declan's spine.

'This boy is up for trouble!' Declan knew immediately that Samir was planning to face off against the pirates' fleet!

Chapter 566: Trading Fire!

'Leader Malak, we have an urgent situation.' Declan sent a telepathic message as he watched Samir turn on the main engines of the spaceship!

'Speak.' Malak said while treading carefully behind Momo, who was leading them inside a new dark corridor.

Declan quickly updated her from the start to finish, making sure that he didn't miss anything.

By the time he finished, Malak's composure was broken to pieces as she knew that they were in the worst scenario possible!

They were inside the ruins with no sight of an exit!

So, even if they wanted to give up on the ruins and retreat inside the spaceship, it was impossible at this moment!

Seeing Malak's complexion had turned a bit pale, Felix frowned his eyebrows and asked, 'What's the matter?'

'Pirates, a fleet of pirates is about to reach the planet.' Malak informed while taking a deep breath to calm her agitation.

Just like Samir, her history with pirates wasn't pleasant at all.

'Pirates???' Felix was taken back by her response.

He wanted to argue and say that the pirates were meant to arrive in next month not now, but seeing her solemn expression made him rethink his future information.

'Are they the Bloody Mary Pirates or another group? If they are the Bloody Mary Pirates, does that mean the timeline had been changed even for them?'

Felix's confidence in his future knowledge had been shaken at the thought of the timeline getting disrupted even to those pirates who were supposed to remain static in this timeline.

In Felix's eyes, if even those pirates that had no relation to him or SG were affected by his actions, it only meant that his future knowledge was starting to be more harmful than useful!

However, after recalling the amounts of edits in the documentary inside the pyramid, it finally clicked on Felix's mind that the pirates might have reached earlier and edited that part out!

'F*ck me! I totally overlooked that!'

'Idiot.' Asna snickered.

Felix didn't bother wasting time creating excuses when the situation they were in wasn't that favorable.

'Malak, did Samir do anything?' He asked quickly.

'Yes, he is currently going towards them, planning to intercept them in space.' Malak informed.

'That's good.' Felix was pleased by Samir's decision as he knew that the pirates shouldn't be allowed near the hole at all!

The moment they take control of it, they could get them killed easily by just sealing them inside!

The Tombscreamers would take care of the rest when the stench of the spray weakened!

The moment those two hours pass by, the oldest Tombscreamers would assault them even if they sprayed another bottle.

That's because they got adopted slightly to the smell, making them able to zerg them!

'Let's hasten our pace.' Malak informed, 'We have company outside and it wouldn't be good for us if we don't get out of here as fast as possible. I will clarify on our way.'

Everyone started moving with quicker steps after hearing the order.

While Malak was updating them, Samir was operating the spaceship to break through the atmosphere.

Such a massive movement made his spaceship get easily picked up by the pirates' radars.

"Your wish did come through Miss Kylie." The humanoid lizard said while showing a large grey dot approaching them rapidly.

"It seems like that bastard did indeed share the map before we took it." Captain Roger leaned closer and wondered, "The question is, how many parties are currently on the planet?"

"That I don't know sir, but what I do know is that our fleet is going to struggle to take down this spaceship." The spaceship operator said with a serious tone.

"Did you figure out its module?"

"No, but to take a move toward us willingly, it only meant that we were spotted first even though we had our surveillance system fully active. In addition, anyone aiming to battle a fleet with a single spaceship must have confidence in it.' The spaceship's operator clarified.

"I see." Captain Roger rested his chin on his palm and began pondering on his next move.

To defend, To attack, or To retreat?

With the little information that he had about the planet's situation and the incoming spaceship, it was only smart to not consider going on offense.

As for retreating? That wasn't really an option at this moment for those pirates.

This left only defending. But, he knew that his fleet's spaceships had been already eaten enough damage in his previous conquests.

The alloy used in most of them was just made from cheap materials meant for swift repair.

"Your order captain?" The spaceship's operator inquired while keeping a close eye on Felix's spaceship.

"Miss Kylie, tell the Invisible hurricane and madness to split from the fleet and scout the situation in the planet up close." Captain Roger looked at the spaceship's operator and ordered, "Liam, you try to get in touch with our visitor. We need to prolong the start of the battle until we get some good news from our scouts."

"On it."

"On it."

While Miss Kylie was delivering the orders, Liam was requesting the Queen to make contact with Samir.

'Sir Samir, there is a request for a call on hold by the Bloody Mary Pirates.' The Queen asked, 'Should I accept or decline?'

'Pieces of trash, think you fool me?' Samir sneered while telling the Queen to not respond now.

His spaceship's surveillance system was good enough to spot two small spaceships, splitting from the fleet with a clear aim to reach the planet.

Samir knew that he couldn't let that happen lest the hole get discovered and the pirates fleet force him to battle inside the planet near the hole!

Hence, he immediately activated the weapon system, turning the silver smooth cube into a spiky cube! Those spikes were all different types of weapons with different ammunition.

There were laser weapons, railguns powered with nuclear energy, plasma weapons., and more dreadful weapons that were installed based on Felix's orders.

Samir aimed more than seven individual weapons at those two spaceships and activated the launch sequence since he chose to start with the big guns!

He was confident that the weapons weren't showing in the fleet surveillance system since his spaceship had a better one yet it was still showing him grey dots instead of the true appearance of the fleet!

If it was like this for him then it should be worse for the fleet.

While Captain Roger was still waiting for a response from Samir, the countdown to the weapons launch had already reached the last three seconds!

'3,2,1...Die!'

Samir smiled coldly with a murderous look as he gazed at the two spaceships that had been engulfed in a massive cloud of fire!

There was no sound of contact or even the sound of an explosion.

Everything happened with an eerie silence, leaving Captain Roger and the rest of his crew stunned by the sudden bright lights of the explosions!

They didn't expect that Samir would be so swift in his offense and also brutal enough to use the big guns on small spaceships!

A second later, the cockpit was filled with Captain Roger's furious roar, "KILL THE F*CKER!"

Liam and Miss Kylie immediately relayed the orders to the rest of the fleet to go full-on offense!

For those bloodthirsty pirates, the sound of that order was the same as heavenly bells ringing by their ears!

Nine spaceships, each loaded with ten laser weapons and one modified orange plasma weapon!

As for the captain's spaceship? It was loaded with 15 weapons and two orange plasma weapons!

They might be pirates with shitty ass alloys but their weapons were overbearing enough, Declan started to believe that today was going to be his last!

However, he didn't cower behind a chair but actually rolled his sleeves up with a genuinely excited smile.

Then, he said to Samir confidently, "Don't worry about the damages, just go all out and bring them to their knees."

The moment he said so, Declan jumped from his seat and walked away while requesting, "Queen, please awaken all the repair bots in the spaceship and give me their exact location so as the spaceship's holographic blueprint."

Knowing that experienced repairmen was behind his back sure put Samir at ease.

He knew that the spaceship was going to be damaged badly and even get destroyed if he made a fatal mistake.

But, with the existence of Declan and those bots, the damages should be kept at a minimum!

'I can't let my hatred affect my judgment.' Samir thought calmly, 'My job is to delay them until the squad leaves the ruins not destroy the fleet.'

The instant he got control over his emotions, his first order wasn't to prepare to fire like the pirates' brightened weapons but to actually activate the defensive system!

Immediately after it got activated, the spaceship had projected an anti-plasma shield in front of it, just as the pirates' weapons had fired everything at once, creating a blinding rainbow towards the shield!

Samir closed his eyes to avoid the light affecting his vision and braced himself for impact.

With those energy weapons, the impact always comes quicker than one could blink his eyes!

RUMBLE!!

The spaceship rocked back and forth after the beams had collided with the shield!

Just like a piece of glass, the shield had cracked from the center, sending long fissures throughout its gigantic body.

Since this was an energy-based shield, the cracks had disappeared immediately but the energy had been lowered by a whopping 60%!

Samir knew that he couldn't take another one like this. Thus, he swiftly requested the Queen to prepare for a counter-attack!

It was common knowledge that high-damaging weapons always need time to cool off after each shot.

While big guns like Felix's Divine Judgement take 30 minutes, the ones that were just fired by the pirates should take a minute or two minutes to load again!

"I can't believe it didn't even break the spaceship's shield." Captain Roger drew a cold breath and thought, 'Who the f*ck are we dealing with here? Their spaceship must cost at least one billion SC without mentioning its modifications.'

'Are there any more spaceships on the planet? Sh*t, this lack of information is killing me.' Captain Roger felt torn between continuing the battle and retreat due to the lack of information.

He wanted the treasures dearly but it didn't mean that he would risk erasing himself and his pirate crew for them.

Alas, he wasn't given much time to consider as the weapons on Felix's spaceship had begun brightening up one by one akin to a decorated Christmas tree!

By the time it was done, more than 40 gleaming weapons were pointing at the fleet, expressing a clear intent of fierce aggressiveness!

Chapter 567: The Three Gates!

"SPREAD OUT!" Captain Roger shouted an order for his entire fleet, forcing them to break the formation and retreat as far as possible!

Since those spaceships were quite small and their alloys were light, their mobility was their greatest strength!

Hence, only a few spaceships had ended up joining the celebration with big explosions, happening in the middle of space.

Captain Roger's spaceship and the rest managed to evade the rainbow beams just barely.

"Who did we lose?!" Furious, Captain Roger asked while banging his fist against the armchair.

The sight of his fellowmen's spaceships turning into giant balls of flames was too painful to watch.

"We lost the Falcon-9, Silly Billy, and Mother Load." Liam reported the spaceships' names.

Captain Roger tightened his fists, feeling like his heart was going to explode in anger. Two of those spaceships carried the most pirates in the fleet, numbering a total of 45.

if he added the other 10 pirates in the last spaceship and the 18 pirates inside the first two scouting spaceships, then he had lost 73 pirates from merely two attacks!

This was the biggest loss he had ever experienced in his life!

"Captain, should we continue retreating?" Liam inquired.

During their small talk, their spaceship had already crossed hundreds of kilometers away from Felix's spaceship and the planet.

The other pirates' spaceship was also still retreating with no intentions of stopping.

Captain Roger narrowed his eyes at the hologram that was showing him Felix's spaceship and admitted with suppressed fury, "We can't destroy it face to face with its shields and overwhelming weapons."

"So?"

Captain Roger glanced at Miss Kylie and said, "So, we keep splitting like this and go around it to scout the planet."

"Why the planet now?" She asked again.

"Because they are not chasing after us." Captain Roger sneered, "If they had a feud with every pirate crew they see then they should have chased us even if we are split up."

"Since they remained in the same place, it only meant that there is something below there that needed to be guarded by them from any intruders!"

Liam and Miss Kylie raised their eyebrows in surprise at his thought process but when they revisited the facts, it did make sense!

"That's why they killed our two scouting spaceships immediately after getting close to the planet." Miss Kylie exclaimed.

Captain Roger nodded his head and stressed, "We need to reach the planet at all cost."

"Orders?" Liam inquired.

"Relay the order to the others, tell them to pick a unique direction to enter the planet. We will do it all at once to confuse that guard dog." Captain Roger informed.

When the order was sent, Samir was left in a great panic after seeing through his radar, all pirate spaceships splitting even further instead of grouping up.

Before long, most of them had exited the premise of his radar, turning them into ghosts!

'Leader Malak, the pirates have decided to split up.' Samir immediately reported with an agitated tone, 'I believe they might bypass me and enter the planet.'

Malak stiffened in her place after hearing this message, forcing the others to stop as well.

They were still in the labyrinth and they had just experienced two nasty traps, almost killing Nicci and Khodri. So, they really didn't want to hear any more bad news.

'We need to speed up even more. The pirates had chosen to go around Samir.' Malak stressed while increasing her speed.

'We can't go any faster.' Pualani shook his head, 'We barely reacted to the previous traps. If we went any faster than this, then we are definitely going to lose a member or god forbid end up with a wipeout.'

'But...'

'He is right Malak.'

Before Malak could argue back, Felix interrupted her.

'Sigh, I know.' Malak rubbed her temples, 'But if the pirates found out about the hole, then we will be either way.'

She was saying so because she knew that pirates were operating by one policy! If they can't have something, destroy it!

So the moment they find out that it was impossible to get the treasures with Samir guarding the hole, they wouldn't hesitate to level the entire area above the underground world then bounce!

'Just focus on the treasures.' Felix said, 'I will be taking care of the other matter as well.'

Upon hearing so, the squad calmed themselves and continued walking onward cautiously.

In their eyes, If Felix said he would take care of it, then he would take of it. They had that much trust in him, especially Erik and Malak.

'Queen, please use Samir's link for the ghosting feature.' Felix requested.

The Queen asked for permission from Samir, who gladly accepted it.

The moment Felix's holographic body manifested in the cockpit, Samir bowed his head deeply and apologized, 'I have failed you.'

'What are you talking about?' Felix smiled faintly, 'You almost got rid of half the fleet on your own. That's already an achievement to feel proud of.'

'It's not enough.' Samir was a bit happy with the praise but his hatred towards the pirates took over again, making him unsatisfied by his results.

'Don't worry, we will get most of them.' Felix smirked and said, 'Start the main engines, we are going back to the exosphere of the planet.'

'Are we going to protect the hole?' Samir inquired.

'No, we are going for a hunt.' Felix clarified, 'If we remained near the hole, we will be leading them straight to it. This means bringing the fight to us. But what we need to do is bring the fight to them.'

'But...If they had a map or something to take them to the ruins, then we would be leaving the squad unprotected.' Samir opposed.

'Don't worry, I am certain that they don't have a map to the exact ruins.' Felix said, 'If they had it, they would have ignored you and went straight to it.'

This was just a bullshit excuse. In reality, Felix figured out that the Bloody Mary Pirates didn't possess a map due to their editing in the documentary!

When he watched the documentary, he saw them go straight to the ruins without any detours.

That's what fooled him previously, but now that he started to believe that was an edited part, it only meant that the pirates had reached the ruins a month earlier and took a long time to find it.

After all, they were buried under the desert, and without the exact coordinates, it was only natural to take a month or even more to find them. Naturally, due to the hole sticking out in the desert, it wouldn't take the pirates that long to find it.

Still, they would take at least an hour or two to find it if they were lucky.

One should never forget that this was still a planet. It might be only three times bigger than the moon but it was still a planet.

'We better get started then.' Samir smiled coldly, 'We have a lot of hunting to do.'

The moment he said so, the radar managed to pick up a grey dot at the edges of the glass screen.

'I will let you take care of the rest.' Felix nodded his head slightly at him and said, 'The squad needs me down there.'

'If there are any other complications, I will make sure to inform you.' Samir ensured.

Felix exploded into light particles after hearing so. Then, he reconstructed above Malak and the rest and continued on their way.

He knew that the 2nd treasury was nearby and he couldn't leave them alone to it since this one was going to be pretty dangerous compared to the last one.

As expected, the squad spent two more minutes walking before reaching a triple path cross.

This would have been perfectly normal for the squad if they didn't notice that the paths were leading to three different colored gates!

Black, golden, and white. This time, each gate had one unique hieroglyphics riddle written in the center!

'What are we looking at?' Erik asked.

'A test, maybe?' Khodri replied.

Everyone was smart enough to guess that only one gate was leading to the 2nd treasury.

As for the other two? They would rather be pessimistic and believe that they would get killed inside of them.

'Boss, what gate did the other squad pick?' Erik inquired.

No one looked too nervous due to Felix's Intel that hadn't failed them so far.

In their eyes, just copy what the other squad did and they would be out of here with plenty of riches in no time.

Alas, what they didn't know was that Felix had absolutely no f*cking clue, which door did the pirates had chosen!!

Chapter 568: The Three Gates II

'Hehehe, that's what you get for your shitty habit of fast skipping movies.' Asna laughed in pure delight, enjoying the sight of him facing his Karma.

Every time she watched a movie with him, the f*cker keep irritating her with 10seconds skips to jump straight to the juicy parts.

In Felix's previous life, he was watching those live documentaries merely for the action and seeing the pirates get killed.

Unbothered by her mockery, Felix kept rubbing his chin, thinking deeply about a solution to this dilemma.

He understood that with the pirates, looking for them, his time was limited.

'Why is there only a riddle for each door? What's going to happen if we solved all three of them?' Felix requested, 'Asna, read them separately for me please.'

'A part of a tree holds everything to someone who lost everything.' Asna read the riddle on the black gate first.

'How can a legless, armless, wingless person, swim, fly, and walk to a single distention?' She read the riddle on the white door.

'Dreams will be reached only if someone....them.' Asna clarified weirdly, 'There is an empty space between someone and them.'

'Hmm? So the puzzle is to figure out the word that fits in the sentence?' Felix was slightly confused as well as he thought that he would be dealing with the same riddles.

But so far, those puzzles were getting more peculiar.

'Whatever, I will know what to do next after solving them all.'

Felix decided to start with the riddle on the black gate. He repeated the puzzle three times in his mind then split the riddle into two parts.

At the start, he thought that 'A part of a tree' meant a branch, leaf, root, or something like this, but after connecting it with the other half of the riddle, he found out that it didn't make sense.

How could they hold everything to someone who lost everything?

But after this elimination process, he realized that he was left with fewer options.

Crown, fruits, twigs, trunk, and foliage. However, he also failed to see the connection they had with the 2nd part of the riddle.

Now, that he had eliminated almost everything that was in the box, he started thinking outside of it.

The first thing that came to his mind was a Paper!

The moment he thought of it, the answer just surfaced on its own due to its simplicity!

'A will!' Felix said firmly.

'Makes sense.' Asna agreed with him while doing her nails.

Paper comes from trees and a person who lost everything simply implied that he died and wrote a will to give everything that he owned.

So it was indeed a part of a tree that holds everything to someone who lost everything!

'Let's see the second one.' Felix didn't want to go check on his answer now but solve all three of them together first.

'How can a legless, armless, wingless person, swim, fly, and walk to a single destination.' Felix pondered deeply on it for a few seconds before snapping his finger with a brightened look.

'It's got to be by traveling! If one can't walk, swim, or fly, then simply travel by boat, a plane, and a car.' Felix reasoned.

He didn't know if he was right or not but if he was in his consciousness space, he would have seen that Lady Sphinx was nodding her head slightly.

Though, he was quite confident in his answer. For now, he held onto it and moved to the last puzzle.

'This is probably the easiest and also the hardest of them all.' Felix narrowed his eyes and thought, 'Dreams will be reached only if someone wants them. Or tries hard for them, Or desires them, Or seeks them...There are plenty of correct answers.'

This is what dreaded Felix the most. He would rather have a unique difficult riddle than an easy one with a broad range of answers.

That's because he had no clue if he had multiple attempts to open the gates or only one. So, he needed to choose the perfect answer lest he screws his squad over.

In this situation, it was best to seek help from others to narrow down the answer.

'Guys, what do you think would fit best in this puzzle, Dreams will be reached only if someone...them.'

He asked his squadmates who were busy watching a hologram that was showing Samir's chase on the pirates.

At the start, they were confused by his question as they thought that he was contacting the Organization or someone for Intel.

But, Malak soon explained to them that Felix was the one opening up the gates by solving those riddles.

'Are you serious?'

'Boss, you can read that language?!'

'Do you...'

'Alright, I don't have time for your questions now.' Felix interrupted their ruckus and repeated the same puzzle.

This time, everyone behaved and started thinking about the most fitting term and why they picked it.

'It must be desire.' Malissa clarified, 'Without desire, you can't work hard for your dreams.'

'Yeah, desire trample 'want' as well.' Malak supported.

'Desire is not the word for it.' Pualani said with a wistful tone, 'We all desire and want things, but do we work hard to get them? No, desire is a simple emotion that is not enough to make someone do his best for his dreams.'

Malissa and Malak thought about it for a second and realized that he was right. Everyone desired to be something or reach somewhere.

But, when it comes to putting the effort into it, we start making excuses or distracting ourselves from getting it just to laze around for another day.

When we finally make up our minds to seek our dreams and goals, we realize that it was already too late and stop ever desiring them.

However, in reality, it's never too late to chase your dreams. That's just another excuse to make yourself feel slightly better about not working your hardest to achieve your dreams.

'The word you are looking for is, seek or strive.' Pualani said to Felix with a look filled with regrets, 'I didn't truly seek my dreams, now I am paying the price.'

'I agree with your answer but I disagree with your other statement...Paying the price?' Felix laughed a bit and said, 'Your journey with me had just begun. It's too soon to feel regretful about your life.'

Malak smiled after hearing so as they knew that Felix wasn't bullshitting or trying to lift Pualani's spirits.

She was in the same spot as Pualani. Feeling regretful of her decision in life that led her to end up as a slave.

But after spending months under Felix, she realized that she was extremely fortunate. There goes not a single day that she didn't feel grateful for her sudden change in life.

'Give it time Sir Pualani, just give it time.' Malak said, smiling.

Pualani didn't understand what she meant but he was a veteran fighter who could control his emotions easily.

Hence, he nodded his head to her and Felix and didn't bring this matter anymore.

'Now that we have the three answers, let's see how it goes.' Felix took a deep breath and hovered towards the black gate first.

'Retreat.' Malak extended her hand while walking backward. The rest listened obediently but didn't remove their eyes from Felix, who started coughing to alleviate his dried throat.

Then, he spelled 'Will' with the hieroglyphics language and held his breaths in anticipation just like the others.

A split second later, the gate started rumbling loudly, marking its successful opening!

'Haha, we are so lucky!' Erik laughed in delight while watching the gate continue to slide from the left to the right until it submerged itself fully with the wall.

This exposed a breathtaking well-lighted glass garden that appeared as it came straight out of heaven!

The flowers were colorful and had distinctive beautiful shapes while the grass was as green as life itself, emitting waves of refreshing vitality in this forsaken death box.

Even the herbs and the insects were unified with this heavenly environment, making everyone look at them with dazed and allured expressions.

They didn't even care that most insects were almost the same as the Tombscreamers but bigger in size.

They were just too hooked by the sight to care.

'This is it.' Felix smiled widely while flying through the gate, 'This is the same Herbal garden that the pirates had cleaned thoroughly in the documentary.'

Felix might not remember the riddles but he does remember the treasures, the places, and the battles.

He was absolutely certain that this garden was the same as the one he saw. Hell, even the glass door leading inside the garden was in the same position.

Since he was a hologram made of light, he easily penetrated the glass and emerged inside the garden.

'Uhhh? What is this smell?' Felix's widened smile stiffened after his nose took a whiff of a nasty stench.

A stench that shouldn't have been in such a heavenly garden that is filled with rare natural treasures.

This stench was all it took for Felix to expel the greed that was moving him and start using his reason.

'Why bother to make three riddles and three gates if it's going to be this easy to access the herbal garden?'

'Haha, Sir Felix, is it as good as it appears from here?'

Felix's thought process was stopped after hearing Erik's joyful voice a tad too close to him.

'Oh no!' Agitated, Felix turned around and saw that most of his party was waiting before the glass door!

All of them seemed quite excited while glancing at the riches inside the garden. Erik even had his hand placed on the glass doorknob, planning to open it for them!

"LEAAAAVE NOW!!!" Felix could only shout with a horrified expression!

Chapter 569: Troubles in Paradise.

Erik's hand got frozen on the glass doorknob after hearing Felix's loud scream.

He didn't spend even a split second to think why did Felix warn them to leave as he simply let go of the handle then bolted as quickly as possible towards the gate.

Malak who had absolute trust in Felix's judgment also did the same the instant she broke out of her daze.

Since Khodri and Malissa were half-lings, their instincts to danger were more enhanced than humans. So, the moment they started tingling, they were already preparing to move.

However, the moment they turned around, they were shocked to see that the gate was slowly closing down while Erik and Malak had just made it outside!

Scared shitless, Malissa unfolded her wings and flew rapidly towards the exit.

Meanwhile, Khodri had morphed into a four-legged dog amidst his running!

No one looked back or bothered to spend a single moment thinking of other squadmates!

Who are we kidding here? They barely spent three months together!

So, they might look chummy and friendly, they would absolutely not endanger themselves to save their squadmates!

'SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT!!'

The instant Jones broke out of his daze, he entered a cursing frenzy while his heartbeats were accelerating through the roof.

He could see that the last one to run away was Pualani as he was right behind Khodri. They were quite close to the gate that was 50% closed already!

He realized that they might barely make it but for him? Even if he moved now, it was already too late.

Although he didn't know what going to happen to him, he understood that it wasn't going to be pretty if the gate got locked on him.

Since his abilities were absolutely worthless in this situation, Jones could only look at Felix with a pleading expression.

He didn't even bother to glance at Nicci and Momo who were still with him.

That's because he knew that Momo was useless and Nicci was probably about to piss herself from fright.

Alas, he was completely mistaken about Nicci.

Her head that was almost always lowered from shyness was lifted high above akin to a proud queen ready to declare her next conquest!

Whoosh!! Whoosh!!

Abruptly, Nicci fired off two green vines at the gate that was 60% closed and detached one of them from her palm! Then, she slapped it on Jones' chest and held on the other vine tightly!

Phew, Phew!

Before Felix or Jones could comprehend what's going on, the vines started contracting swiftly in direction of the gate!

Nicci and Jones ended up getting pulled with the contraction as well!

While Nicci had prepared for it, making her fly two meters above ground in a straight form, Jones was getting the beat down of his life as his body was being smashed against the ground like a doll.

The moment Nicci saw that she was merely a few meters away from the gate, she canceled her ability to make her regain control of her body but still have the same momentum!

Whoosh!!

That allowed her to go through the 70% closed gate somewhat smoothly!

However, in the case of Jones? He ended up having his body smash against the gate, making him somewhat dizzy from the impact!

But, he quickly got his shit together after sensing that the gate was about to get closed!

He detached the vine from his chest roughly and tried to squeeze through the remaining space between the gate and the wall.

His face was terrified alright but he kept wiggling through like a worm until his left arm made it through.

The moment it got out, Erik and Pualani clutched it tightly and dragged him outside just barely before the gate closed shut.

Thud!

Jones fell on his knees while trying to take deep breaths but the helmet had been broken after his impact with the gate.

"Use this!"

Malak beamed her emergency helmet and wore it on his head after seeing that he wasn't thinking straight to beam his own.

Cough Cough!

He started coughing while clutching his beating heart, feeling like he had escaped from the jaws of death.

"You feeling better?" Malak asked while checking on him.

"Than..k you, thank you." Jones spoke while trying to catch his breaths.

After he finally regulated his breathing, he stood up with some difficulty and bowed deeply towards Nicci, "Thank you for saving my life. I will never forget your help!"

"Don't thank me." Nicci shook her head and said, "We all need to thank Sir Felix. If it wasn't for his timely warning, we would have all been wiped out."

It was a bit strange to see the shy Nicci talk with such confidence and with her head lifted.

Everyone started to have some doubts about her true personality but they knew that it wasn't time to address it.

"Where is Sir Felix now? Wait, where is Momo as well?" Khodri asked while checking around him. When the others heard him, they quickly looked for Momo but realized that he was gone!

"I think he is still inside..." Malissa said speechlessly.

Sure enough, Momo was currently standing on the opposite side of the gate with a composed expression and a bit of dejection?

He was staring at a giant fleshy red sphere that had golden vines mapped out on its skin!

There was no garden, no glass dome, no natural treasures...Just this creepy and nasty giant flashy ball.

'Momo, you alright back there?'

Abruptly, the Queen delivered Malak's message.

'Not dead.' Momo replied calmly.

Just as Malak wanted to continue her questioning, she received a request for permission from Felix.

She agreed instantly and a newer version of Felix had been manifested above the pack. The moment the door got closed shut, his holographic image had been destroyed.

When he appeared before them, he seemed quite pissed off, making the squad withdrew all of their prepared questions on what happened inside.

'This is the first time I see the boss being this angry.' Erik gulped a mouthful and asked Malak telepathically, 'What do you think is the reason?'

'Don't know.' Malak said, 'But we are about to find out.'

"Malak, get me Momo on your suit's speaker.' Felix requested with a suppressed tone.

Malak nodded her head and sent a message to Momo, letting him know that everyone was hearing him.

'Why didn't you warn us that we are stepping into an illusionary trap?' Felix interrogated with a cold tone.

'Illusion?!'

'What the hell?'

Everyone expressed their shock at his inquiry as they didn't think that the garden was a sham!

They believed that the trap was hidden inside the garden or in the ceiling, or something like that.

That's because they weren't worried at all by illusionary traps when Momo was in their team.

After all, slimes were immune to illusions!!

This entailed that Momo had seen the real danger inside and willingly allowed them to enter an illusionary trap!

'Motherf*cker! He was trying to cause a squad to wipe out!' Jones cursed with bloodshot eyes.

He was the most affected since he had the least chance of survival.

Before the others could get riled up, Felix gestured with his hand for them to quieten down.

'Momo, answer now.' Felix stressed.

'That's because I didn't know what you guys were seeing isn't what I was seeing.' Momo explained himself with a neutral tone.

'Then synchronize your eyes with the Queen and let her show us exactly what your eyes are feeding you currently.' Felix ordered.

Felix didn't know exactly what was underneath the illusion since he was just a hologram. Whatever Malak sees, he sees as well.

So, he didn't want to assume that Momo wanted to harm his squad before getting the facts straightened up.

Maybe what lays underneath the illusion wasn't worth warning them about?

Alas, this thought had been removed from Felix's mind the instant Momo synchronized his eyes with the Queen.

The image of that giant nasty-looking flashy sphere was an obvious red flag that should have been reported!

'No wonder I smelt something nasty when I approached the glass.' Malak thought with a squinted eyes at the flesh sphere.

When she saw Felix stepping inside the glass with an excited expression, she believed that it was safe for them to get inside since he wouldn't show such an expression if he wasn't certain about the room's safety.

Just like the rest, she was extremely eager to get inside the garden and harvest those high-graded natural treasures.

However, the instant she got closer to the glass dome, she got hit by a peculiar stench. Before she could think thoroughly about it, Felix had shouted that warning for them to bail.

She believed that since their senses were synchronized, Felix had smelt the same stench while inside the glass, making him realize that was an impossibility.

After all, he shouldn't sense what she couldn't sense. The glass should have been blocking their synchronization!

'So you saw this and didn't think for a second that it might be a trap?'

'No.'

'Even when you saw us as happy as a kite when we were looking at it?' Felix sneered coldly, 'You think of me as a fool?'

'No sir.' Momo was still replying calmly, appearing not affected by either the environment or Felix's interrogation that wasn't going well for him.

By now, everyone was certain that he wanted them dead, and nothing that he said would change this fact.

If it wasn't for Felix's timely realization, they would have been doomed and he would be the last survivor.

Just like his previous squad that had gotten wiped out...

At the start, no one saw anything wrong with it since slimes were knowing for being the last to survive in most expeditions, but now?

They began to believe that the previous squad was a victim of Momo's scheme as well!

Chapter 570: Failure After Failure.

Why did he do it? Maybe he wanted the riches to his own or simply to regain his freedom.

That's what Felix couldn't understand. If he was here with them in his flesh, he would understand Momo's attempt to bury them and free himself from the slavery's chains.

But, Felix was merely a hologram. Even if the party was wiped out, Momo would still be a slave of his.

After such a betrayal, Momo wouldn't be able to live for long.

'What's your gain from wiping my squad?'

'I already told you that wasn't my intention.' Momo refused to admit it, making everyone livid.

'Queen, is he telling the truth?' Malak decided to help.

'Based on his thought process, my conclusion is that he is indeed telling the truth.' The Queen shocked them with her proclaim.

They understood that since he had signed a slavery contract, this meant his thought process was under strict scrutiny by the Queen.

So, the moment he thought of trying to wipe them out or had terrible future agendas, she would relay the information to the master.

It was easy to fool others but it was difficult to fool oneself by doing exactly the opposite of one's thoughts.

This left them with two choices.

Either they were mistaken and that Momo truly made an honest mistake or the f*cker was a sociopath who had such astounding control over his mind, it's petrifying!

'Since the Queen cleared you out, I apologize for the accusation.' Felix brought down his tone a notch by saying, 'However, you still messed up badly by not telling us about that nasty thing.'

'I am sorry.' Momo apologized collectedly, 'It won't happen again.'

'That's what I want to hear.' Felix said while looking at his squad members' dumbfounded expressions.

They must have been shocked that Felix didn't press on him even more and just decided to buy his bullshit even though the facts support Momo's ill intentions towards them.

'Malak, keep them under control. It's not the time to lose Momo since we need his other copy to get find us the exit of the pyramid's ventilation system.' Felix informed.

He wasn't stupid to think that Momo was innocent but he understood that Momo was still a valuable asset in these ruins.

It was best to take advantage of him fully before getting rid of him.

Most importantly, he was locked inside that gate without any way to group up with them. So, he couldn't lead his squad to another illusory trap.

In future explorations, he would be making the slimes use their synchronization feature to not get blindsided again.

He was done trusting slimes.

Now that he dealt with the traitor, it was time to check what the hell was that thing.

'Go inspect that fleshy thingy.' Felix ordered Momo.

Obedient, Momo had split his arm from his shoulder and sent it to touch that nasty thingy.

The rest of the squad stopped their private telepathic discussion about Momo and focused on the screen, wanting to figure out their fate if they had ever touched it.

After the arm reached a golden vein, it reached out to it and touched it slightly. However, there was no sudden movement or noise.

This made Momo get ballsy and control his arm to climb up on the thingy's skin.

The arm kept climbing and climbing yet nothing much changed.

'Go punch it.' Felix ordered calmly.

'Alright.'

Without an ounce of hesitation, Momo left behind him a small part of his body then went with his main body to the thingy.

After reaching it, he punched the golden vein as hard as he could!

They had received the reaction they wanted this time as the nasty thingy started to tremble slightly from its base.

Meanwhile, the golden blood could be seen coursing rapidly through the veins, appearing like someone experiencing a blood rush!

Shsshshs...

Out of nowhere, the flesh started separating from the middle akin to a monster, trying to open its mouth after a long period of time.

The moment it opened up fully, everyone felt like their heart was about to leap out of their chest at such a horrific image.

Who could blame them?

The insides of that thing were packed with millions of yellow eggs and larvas. There were also millions of Tombscreamers that were bigger in size than the previous ones!

'Is it a hive or just the birthplace of those Tombscreamers?' Malak wondered while trying to calm her heartbeats down.

'Shit, I can't image what would have happened to us if we got stuck with it.' Erik said.

'You are about to find out.'

Sshshshs!

The Tombscreamers inside the hive all emerged at once, creating a golden cloud.

Then, they actually engulfed Momo even though he was wearing the spray!

This just scared the squad even further as the only defensive measure they had was clearly useless against those bigger versions of Tombscreamers.

In a few seconds, the golden cloud had withdrawn back inside the hive, leaving behind it absolutely nothing!

Momo had been utterly wiped out from existence, making the squad quite shocked by the implications!

'Aren't Tombscreamers meant to use their fangs to break our shields then send mental affecting signals?' Malak asked.

'I guess this newer variety simply goes for the kill.' Felix knitted his eyebrows and said, 'We need to leave this place as quick as possible and leave. There is so much Intel that hasn't been given to me.'

Everyone agreed at once.

'Check on Momo by using the camera on his copy.' Felix said, 'His consciousness would automatically take that copy as his main body from now on.'

This is how slimes refuse to die. They just need to keep one piece detached from them and their consciousness would always have a body to inhabit.

Since Momo's bracelet was destroyed, the Queen would have to rely on the signal from other nearby AP bracelets to keep her connection with his consciousness.

This way, Momo couldn't escape from the slavery contract.

While Malak was checking on Momo, Felix went to the white gate on the right and started pondering, 'Without Momo, it's going to be hard to differentiate between illusion or reality behind this door. If I using my real eyes, then I could have noticed the differences with my truth eyes or simply used Asna who is immune to illusions.'

'If only I was here, things would have been much different.' Felix sighed, feeling quite hopeless in this holographic form.

He hated this feeling of having the ability to do something but couldn't due to the circumstances.

'You can leave the witch empire when I succeed in making you host lightning manipulation.' lady Sphinx proposed to him.

'Really? What about the other manipulations?' Felix asked a bit bewildered.

He thought that Lady Sphinx would keep him near her until he hosts at least five manipulations or so.

'It's already hard enough to create the perfect method to help you host two manipulations, don't even mention three or more.' Lady Sphinx said calmly, 'It will take me years of research to make it happen. There is no point keeping you beside me that long.'

'True, you need to go out and experience true danger in the real universe.' Thor took a big gulp of wine and scoffed, 'The games might be dangerous but you still have surrender coupon and many other ways to escape death, unlike the real-world.'

'Indeed, I have lost the sense of fighting in life and death battles, the moment I got that surrender coupon.'

Although Felix agreed that didn't mean that he wasn't appreciative of the fact that he owned that coupon.

However, he knew that if he relied too much on it backing him up, he wouldn't feel courageous enough to fight without it anymore.

'I will be here in the exploration of the next ruins no matter what. I can't be just a spectator.' Felix nodded his head firmly then he approached the white gate.

After clearing his throat he uttered the answer to the riddle and watched how the gate slowly opened itself for him.

The others gathered in front of it and felt dreadful after seeing the same breathtaking glass garden behind it.

This time, everyone took a step back instead of rushing inside.

'Sir Felix, you think it's another illusion?' Malak inquired.

'Without Momo, there is only one way to find out.' Felix pointed at himself and said, 'I will go inside the glass and see if our synchronization is blocked or not.'

'Okay, it's better for me to go inside to make it easier.' Malak suggested while walking carefully behind him.

'Wait, use this.' Nicci stopped her and created a green vine from her palm. Then, she rolled it around Malak's waist and backed off.

In case shit hit the fan, she could easily get pulled to safety.

Felix quickly flew inside the garden and gestured for Malak to get closer as he couldn't smell anything.

Malak complied by increasing her pace. When she reached the glass door, she stiffened in her place as her nose got assaulted by the same nasty stench.

'Pull her away now!' Felix yelled at Nicci after getting hit by the same smell!

Whoosh!

Nicci swiftly ordered for the vine to withdraw the moment she saw that the gate was starting to close down.

Since they acted quite fast, Malak got outside unharmed before the gate closed shut on Felix.

Soon, he manifested above them and said with an irked expression, 'No wonder these ruins are flooded with those insects.'

Felix didn't know what researcher owned this lab and why did he create those hives. He wasn't planning to spend more time here to find out.

He quickly went to the golden gate in the middle and uttered the term 'Seek' with the hieroglyphics language.

The others lined up before it with a bit of anticipation in their eyes, hoping that real treasures would be behind instead of another hive.

Alas, they waited and waited yet the gate remained closed shut!

This had never happened before, making them somewhat distressed and concerned that the answer wasn't the right one.

When more than half a minute had gone by yet the gate still didn't budge, it became obvious to them that the riddle answer wasn't 'Seek'!