

## The Crafts 323

### Chapter 323: Face-Off

'Thirty seconds.'

William had a strange look on his face. His original plan was that at this, he would make his move. His surviving teammates would attack the survivors from the opponent's side while his bodyguard would hold down Cassie. As for Canza, he would have been injured or preoccupied with the Satcthalle.

So far, things didn't play out exactly as he wanted, but it was still in high favour. Although William's teammates were dead, so were Canza's teammates. Canza himself has already been severely injured by the Satcthalle and knocked out. After the previous attack, his current situation was unknown, but he was most likely dead. As for Cassie, she would be held back by his bodyguard as planned. Having incurred injuries from the Satcthalle's retaliation, chances were that she would even lose her life at his hands.

The only one who stood in William's way now was the Satcthalle.

Having reached that conclusion, William briefly glanced at his bodyguard who also happened to be looking at him. The bodyguard's communicator also has the same timer rigged into it, and he was notified earlier on about the plan. After the two made eye contact, William turned towards Cassie.

Cassie, despite the ten metres gap between them, seemed to sense something as she looked in William's direction.

When her eyes made contact with his, a hair-raising sensation swept across her body. With no hesitation or consideration for her injuries, Cassie turned and ran as fast as she could.

"Get her." William's cold voice sounded like that of a grim reaper while he gazed at the fleeing silhouette.

His bodyguard chased after Cassie without a word, leaving behind William to confront the Satcthalle. He wasn't worried about William's safety. Canza was most likely dead and so were the other survivors. Even if there was someone who managed to survive, they were no match for William.

As for the Satcthalle, it wasn't so much of a threat now. The previous attack had surely drained a lot out of it and worsened its internal injuries. Unless it truly wanted to die, the desolate beast wouldn't be using such a powerful attack again. In fact, its current fighting abilities should have even worsened compared to before.

If at the start of the fight, its attack power was bordering the peak of the sixth level and the seventh level, at the moment, it might even find it difficult to contend with a slightly strong sixth level desolate beast. Against William, who wielded a Grade 4 vestige, the Satcthalle was no longer a big threat.

Killing it might still be impossible for William, but all he needed to do was to get past it, retrieve the Aión source, and flee. That wasn't a problem, hence why the bodyguard chased after Cassie without any questions.

"It's just me and you now." William grinned as he stared at the beast.

"Roar."

The Satcthalle let out a low monstrous roar, sounding out a warning towards William. But the latter was unaffected by this. His gaze was instead set on the Aión source.

'Twenty seconds.' William thought as he stretched his arms a bit.

Both sides didn't make a move yet as they waited for the Aión source to achieve maturity, which would then signal the start of the final battle. There was no meaning in duking it out right now, so they decided to gather their strength and gauge the enemy.

Currently, the Satcthalle was the closest to the Aión source and only a mere six metres away. For the ten metres tall creature, this was a gap it could easily reach with one step. However, as it was backing the Heart of Silver, it couldn't retrieve it.

William, on the other hand, was at least thirty metres away. At this distance, it would be difficult for him to reach the Aión source faster than the monster, but he wasn't bothered.

The second the Satcthalle made a turn, William would attack with all his might and deal a devastating injury to it. Even if the beast somehow tolerated his attack and gobbled up the Aión source, with a new severe injury, its fighting ability would be drastically reduced. It wouldn't be difficult for William to then cut it open and retrieve the Aión source. After all, such a powerful essence, filled with a concentration of world source, wasn't something that could be digested quickly or easily, even for a tenth level stellar practitioner or desolate beast.

As for the Satcthalle, it was aware of the possible risk involved once it turned around. However, it couldn't just engage in a battle with William. If it took too long, his partner might arrive or some other newcomers would show up. This was because, once an Aión source matured, it was usually accompanied by a phenomenon.

The Satcthalle was once lucky to witness the maturity of an Aión source a couple of decades ago, when it was much younger. It knew how bloody and intense the battle for the Aión source was. Many desolate beasts, much stronger than it, fell there. In the end, a certain powerful human showed up and defeated the survivors before running away with it.

With an opportunity in front of the Satcthalle now, it didn't want to repeat those past mistakes.

As long as the Aión source was within its hands, it could forcefully suppress the phenomenon. After that, all it would need to do was wait in hiding somewhere until its evolution was completed. Not only would it heal, but it would also ascend to the next level, or maybe even experience a double level up.

But that future was at risk and largely depended on whether or not it could deal with the little creature in front of it.

Ten...

Nine...

Eight...

Seven...

Six...

Five...

Four...

Three...

Two...

One...

A sudden burst of energy erupted from the Aión source as the glow exuded from it thickened. The entire cavern was suddenly wrapped in a mesmerising glow that was ethereal and enchanting. The stellar energy concentration within the cavern also abruptly rose, and everyone inside, including the monster, felt rejuvenated just by being here.

However, an event like this which was supposed to be enjoyed and taken in with appreciation, abruptly turned deadly.