

## The Crafts 324

### Chapter 324: Stolen

As soon as the Aión source had matured, the environment visibly changed as a multitude of colours appeared and the stellar energy concentration rose vividly. The cavern suddenly became a perfect training spot for stellar practitioners. A day's worth of training here would be equivalent to three days outside.

However, none of these —the physical or energy changes— piqued the interests of William or the Satcthalle.

At the moment the phenomenon occurred, William was temporarily drawn towards it. It was the first time he had witnessed the birth of an Aión source, and although he had his suspicions, he was unable to predict the scale of the phenomenon. On the other hand, the Satcthalle had already experienced this once before, so its attention wasn't diverted.

Thanks to a lapse in concentration for a single second, the Satcthalle was able to turn around the standstill by taking advantage of that second.

Rather than going for the Aión source which was closer, it decided to take care of William first. Like an experienced hunter who has been lurking for a while, suddenly making a move on its prey, the Satcthalle lunged at William with its mouth wide open.

"Shit."

William hurriedly brandished his purple sword, creating a net of sword lights between him and the monster.

The Satcthalle shut its mouth and crashed into the sword net with its horns, tearing through the attacks and reaching for William.

\*Clang\*

William's purple sword connected with the horns following which he was sent flying backwards.

It wasn't until William had flown back over ten metres, and skidded on the ground for an extra four metres, did he finally regain his composure, albeit barely doing so.

William's face frowned a bit as he felt that he had pulled a muscle from that collision. Even so, he held back the pain to face the monster before him, otherwise, death would be his next companion.

"Roar!"

The Satcthalle followed up with a sound attack; a roar much different compared to the previous ones as this was imbued with stellar energy.

William gritted his teeth as he did his best to endure the sonic attack even as his vision began to turn blurry. If it weren't for the fact that he had hurriedly shielded his ears using stellar energy, they would have been bleeding by now.

Seeing the attack not producing the expected results, the Satcthalle went mute as it charged at William. Its front right hoof stuck out and smashed towards William with the intent to turn him into paste.

"Ha!"

William yelled as he swung his Grade 3 vestige, clashing head-on with the two metres wide hoof.

\*Clang\*

Sparks flew out as a blast of air was released from the point of collision. Dust blew into the air and there were fissures around William's feet, but unlike the previous clash, he wasn't flung away this time around. This was all thanks to his ultimate trump card which had also saved him and his bodyguard from the Satcthalle's AoE attack from earlier.

William's clothes had been damaged and hidden beneath them was a piece of armour; this was the Grade 4 vestige and his secret weapon.

As the only heir of the deputy city lord of Blue Springs City, it was only natural for his most powerful vestige to be a defensive type. However, William went one step and opted for a battle suit instead. This way, not only would his safety be secured, but also his survivability would rise as well.

Battle suits differed from armour in that they were capable of improving one's physical attributes similar to an exoskeleton suit. With a Grade 4 battle suit, it was possible to contend with a sixth level desolate beast in terms of physical abilities alone. It was thanks to this vestige that William was able to block the attack of the Satcthalle without being forced back.

"You'll need to hit harder if you want to take me down." William grinned.

The Satcthalle was unable to see him as its hoof blocked William's profile, but it could sense the scorn in his words.

"Roar!"

William's provocation clearly worked as the Satcthalle was incensed. It took back its hoof and lifted it once again to land a devastating strike, aiming to end things.

But just then, William happened to be staring behind the monster in shock. It looked as if there was something unbelievable taking place behind the monster.

"Hey you! What are you doing over there?! Stop it!"

William shouted.

The Satcthalle was taken aback by this and suddenly filled with worry.

Preoccupied with its battle with William, it was unable to keep its attention on the Aión source. Since William, his bodyguard and Cassie had survived the earth tsunami attack, who was to say that no one else did.

Seeing William's reaction, it was quite possible that there was another party who had laid low and decided to seize this chance to take the Aión source.

This conclusion made the Satcthalle's blood boil in fury as it ignored William and turned around to face the Aión source. However, there was nobody there and the Aión source remained intact.

Suddenly, an intense sensation of pain invaded the Satcthalle's senses as it groaned.

William was grinning as he brought his sword down.

"A beast will always be a beast."

There was never anybody there from the start; it was all just a ruse to force the Satcthalle to expose an opening that he would capitalise on.

In a life or death battle, all was fair. The Satcthalle had also taken advantage of his distraction earlier to sabotage him and deal an injury. Hence, it was only right for William to respond in the same fashion.

A gaping wound had formed on the left hind leg of the Satcthalle, wide and long enough to fit a sedan inside vertically upright. The Satcthalle was bleeding horrendously from the injury. However, it wasn't enough to be classified as a heavy wound and was more of a flesh wound for a creature this big and strong. But for William, that wasn't a problem. The wound now presented itself to be a weakness to the monster, and as long as he kept targeting the same spot, it would eventually lose this fight.

The Satcthalle roared once again in anger, and this time around, even its eyes were covered in rage. It had entered what most freelancers called a berserk mode as it ignored the existence of the Aión source and only went after William.

Even though he was quite strong and experienced, facing a Satcthalle was a first time for William; in fact, this was the first time he faced a monster stronger than the fifth level all on his own.

Even though the Satcthalle was injured and couldn't use its full strength, under the sway of its berserk state, it became an even more dangerous opponent for William. All he could do was to barely hold out and make amends to his plans. William decided to wait it out until his bodyguard was done with Cassie, then he would take the Aión source and they would escape.

However, a minute into the battle, just after the two were separated and William had some breathing space, he happened to catch a glimpse of the Aión source. His eyes suddenly locked in that direction as a speechless look appeared on his face once again.

"You fucking bastard! Don't touch that!" William roared as he cursed.

It looked as if William was watching his woman being stolen in front of him as fury was evident on his face. Even his veins seemed to be bursting out from his neck as he yelled out once again.

"You fucking thief! Hold it!"

A victim of William's schemes before, the enraged Satcthalle ignored his tantrums and engaged William into battle once again.

"You dumb animal. The fucking rock is being stolen!"

William cursed at the Satcthalle, but it didn't pay attention to him.

He became increasingly irritated and roared as he upped the intensity of his attacks. As such, the fight between became even more violent and deadly.

Half a minute later, the stellar energy concentration noticeably dropped and the mesmerising glow disappeared.

These changes forced the Satcthalle out of its berserk state as it came to realise something.

It abruptly unleashed a big attack which forced William back. Taking that opportunity, it glanced in the direction where the Aión source was supposed to be, only to be shocked by what it saw.

The Aión source was missing.

"Roar!"