

《Unlimited Power – The Arcane Path (COMPLETED)》

Chapter 81

'After recovering from the surprise

the examiner approached Leon and grabbed a notebook and a pencil

and asked several questions.'

"My name is Leonard. I used a magic bow

so my mana and intelligence are quite high. I didn't share the information about how to use mana because I thought there is some kind of reason why this information wasn't revealed to the public."

"You did well; we have several mages who learned magic by chance." The thin man said. "The smart ones joined us

and those who can't keep a secret ended up disappearing... did you catch my drift?"

"... Yes." Leon answered.'

"The members of our group can use our facilities to train as much as they want

" The thing explained. "And if you discover something

we will even pay you for the information. However

you cannot share that information with anyone

not even with other members. If you discover something and want to sell the information

you have to find an examiner

and after confirming that it is something new

the examiner will send him to talk with the directors or our organization."

"I'm sorry..." Leon hesitated. "But the soldier who brought me here didn't explain anything. What organization is this?"

"... We are the Heart of the North." The thin man said after a long sigh. "Our goals are to rebuild our country

subjugate the monsters and dungeons in our territory and destroy those who threaten our peace. Our final objective is to rebuild the entire world and put all humanity under our banner and lead humanity to a new age of prosperity."

'Leon almost let out a sigh

that looked like some kind of supremacist group would do. While Leon also wanted to reunite the world

he didn't want to force others to follow his ideologies; he only wanted to treat other countries as equals and allies while respecting their differences. Leon was already sure that it was a shady organization.'

"I see... so certain soldiers are being recruited to participate in those activities." Leon said. "You can't just turn all survivors into your subordinates."

"That is right

" The thin man said. "We are only recruiting specialists and promising individuals... Anyway

if you join us as I said

you will have the chance to use our facilities to your heart's content. You will receive a salary according to your rank

and you won't have to pay taxes. Everything sold at the market of New York

you will be able to buy with a twenty percent discount. You will have your own furnished apartment with free water and power. You will also have a maid who will look after your apartment

and you will be able to 'use' her the way you like."

'Once again

Leon almost reacted to those suspicious words. Now he had no more doubt that that organization was rotten to the core

he still had to see with his own eyes the situations of those maids

but... he already had a feeling that it would be something unpleasant.'

"Can I ask one more question?" Leon asked.'

"What is it?" The thin man asked.'

"This organization... is recognized by the leaders of the Allied Forces of the North-America

right? Leon asked.'

"Of course

our organization is new

but the founder is Mr. William

" The thin man said with a face full of pride."The pillar of the Allied Forces of the North-America."

"Is that so... then I want to join." Leon showed a sweet smile.'

'After that

Leon filled out a form

and then the thin man gave a map of the city and guided him to his temporary room

which was very near to the building in which he had the test. The place was rather small

but it had a lot of small rooms. Most of those were occupied

and Leon felt a weird aura coming from them.'

"What is this place?" Leon asked.'

"This is where the new recruits stay until they become fully-fledged members of our organization." The thin man answered. "Go to this place tomorrow

and you will do the final test. If you fail

you can try one week later; if you succeed

you will become a member

and you will have access to the privileges. The final test will begin at 08:00 AM

don't be late."

'The room for the recruits was really cheap; it looked more like a cell since it only had one bed and the toilet. The door didn't even have a lock...'

"Ugh... it stinks."

'It was still early

so Leon wanted to take a walk

but gave up on the idea since that could be suspicious. He would have time for that once he joins the organization. Things were a lot more organized in New York than in Las Vegas

Leon didn't see the whole city

but it looked like it had a lot more survivors as well.'

'Regardless

since the door didn't have a lock

the wind made the door move frequently. For some reason

the other recruits passed and looked at Leon's room while staring at them. He didn't know if they were frustrated for failing so many times or if they wanted to scare him. Either way

it was a waste of time.'

'There was nothing to do

it was still early

and Leon couldn't practice his skills

and since he was alone

he ended up thinking about something he didn't want to think... about his parents' death. He tried to avoid that while he was with Amanda in order not to make her sad

and when he was playing with Maya

he could only think that life was moving on... Still

now that he was alone

he couldn't stop imagining their last moments. Amidst the sadness and his frustration

Leon promised himself one thing...'

"I will find the bastard who made those monsters appear on my planet and make him pay..."

Chapter 82

'The place where the final test would be done was an improvised stadium... no

it looked more like an arena. Leon couldn't help but wonder why something like that was built

but considering that he heard a lot of noise before he went to sleep

that place was probably being used...'

'All the recruits in the dorms headed to that place

and there they saw only three examiners

one of them was a black-headed bulky man who had a long sword on his back

another one was a slender woman who had a red bow

her hair was short and brown. The last one was a plain-looking blonde man who was carrying a magic staff.'

"My name is Paul

and I will select the new members of the defensive troop." The man carrying a sword said.'

"My name is Jess

and I will select the new members of the tactical troop

" The woman carrying the bow said.'

"My name is Arthur

and I will select the new members of the offensive troop." The blond man said.'

'That atmosphere was quite weird

but thanks to that

Leon had an idea where the spies of the Allied Forces of the North-America usually worked

it had to be in the tactical troop. It was possible that the ones involved with Makoto's son's death were spying other countries

but that a good start anyway.'

"You guys don't have to do much to pass the final test

" Paul said. " You just have to show what you can do against us. Each one of you will fight against the three of us

show us the best of you can do because that will define your rank. The first one will be..."

'Things got complicated

Leon didn't have much experience fighting against humans

he actually didn't have any experience in that aspect at all. He could end up killing them if he fights too seriously

or Leon may end up in a low rank if he holds back too much.'

"What a pain... I wanted to start close to William

but it would be weird if I show too much power and skill after 'learning' the magic just a few days ago."

'In the end

Leon decided to go with the basic version of his most common way of attacking. Anyway

just as expected

most survivors fought using melee weapons. Those guys fought quite decently against Paul

but against Jess

they barely had the chance to scratch her. As for Arthur

he just overpowered them with a spell called Earth Punch

which broke their bones easily... All in all

those recruits didn't have half of that power Ren's soldiers had. They would have a hard time fighting against slimes... obviously

they failed on the final test. The battles ended quite fast

so eventually

it was Leon's turn.'

"Leonard

it is your turn now

" Paul said. "Give it your best shot."

'Leon nodded and touched the ground; some earth started to levitate

and then eventually

the earth took the shape of two fists. Paul was already ready for the test

so Leon attacked his solar plexus with his right fist. Paul blocked

and the sound of metal colliding echoed across the stadium.'

'Leon's earth first aimed at Paul's upper body attacked a few more times

but little by little

the weight of his attacks decreased until Leon tried to hit Paul's hands

which were holding the sword. But instead of blocking

Paul jumped backward and changed his posture to block those attacks.
However

that had been a mistake. The moment Paul used his sword to block an attack
on his right knee

he felt the other earth fist on his left cheek.'

"... It is my loss." Paul said. " Why didn't you attack with both fists since the
beginning? You could have overpowered me. Why did you hold back?"

" I don't want to hurt my future co-workers

" Leon answered. "I used only one first because I wanted you to focus on
defending your lower-half of your body

and then I would surprise you."

"Hmph... quite confident

aren't you?" Paul chuckled.'

"How shameless... to lose like to someone who just learned a new trick

" Jess stepped forward. "It's my turn."

"He was an archer

so he must have a pretty decent amount of mana and magic power

" Paul said. "His accuracy is superb

so don't lower your guard."

'Jess snorted and equipped her bow

as an examiner

she would give the advantage of the first strike to Leon. He saw a few archers
when he defeated the horde in Las Vegas

their attack speed wasn't anything great

but they had a lot of power. So

Leon decided not to give her the chance to attack

he didn't know if he could react fast enough and since he couldn't show too much

it was the best option.'

'Controlling both earth fists

Leon attacked relentlessly. He attacked her front body

her sides

and even the front and her back at the same time. But as if she had eyes in every part of her body

she blocked all Leon's attacks using her bow without losing her composure. Leon also attacked from up and from below

but again

no results.'

'Leon's mana inside the fists was slowly decreasing

soon he would lose control over it

but that gave him an idea. Since it looked like Jess was underestimating him

only blocking his attacks to show the difference in skill

that was the perfect thing to do. Leon kneeled as if he was going to create another earth fist

Jess noticed that movement

but thanks to that

she didn't notice the earth of the earth fist that flew toward her face dissipating. Jess blocked the fist

only for the projectile break

and the earth fell on her face. Before she could get rid of the dirt that blinded her

she felt something hitting her legs

knocking her down. Soon after

she felt two fists pressing against her cheeks.'

Chapter 83

'Jess lost

and she was furious due to it

mostly she was furious because Leon used a cowardly trick. The problem was... none of the examiners said what they could or couldn't do that kind of thing.'

"I want a rematch!" Jess shouted.'

'Seeing a grow-up woman acting like a kid who lost in a game

Leon couldn't help but frown and scratch the back of his head. Things could have been different if she hadn't fooled around

Leon would decrease his attacks to block her arrows

making the battle last for quite a while. However

the things Leon could do using Earth Manipulation were quite a lot so that he wouldn't let a battle drag for that long.'

"It is your loss

Jess

" Paul said. "Don't embarrass yourself in front of the recruits."

'Jess clicked her tongue; it looked like she was a sore loser. Leon couldn't help but wonder how someone so careless managed to survive until now. Perhaps she was only like that against humans... either way

Paul declared that she lost

and Arthur nodded in agreement.'

'The last battle would be difficult because Arthur didn't look like someone who would hold back or underestimate any target. The test wasn't a battle to the death

but accidents could happen. To make matters worse

Leon only knew one spell of Arthur's. By the look of things

he mastered that spell since he could use a weakened version of it only to break bones. If he learned the real deal and used it for a few months

Leon was sure that he could destroy someone's limbs with ease if he wanted to.'

'The start of the battle was quite dull

Arthur cast an earth fist

and Leon used his to block the attack. Leon tried to little by little make his attacks advance

but Arthur didn't let him. Leon was forced to move and dodge those projectiles when the earth fists dissipated

and he had to create others

but aside from that

nothing happened. After five minutes

the battle ended.'

"That is enough

" Paul declared. "We don't have all day to watch you two playing like that. It is a draw. You two have similar skills

so it can't be helped."

'Leon and Arthur nodded and didn't complain

unlike Jess. Leon was pretty sure Arthur was holding back

so it was hard to measure his real power. But it was clear that he was an earth magic specialist. After the end of the battle

Paul

Jess

and Arthur discussed Leon's skills in order to determine his rank. He was the tenth guy that had been tested that day

but he was the first one who had actually passed the test. Despite that

their discussion didn't last long.'

"Congratulations

Leonard

" Paul said. "We concluded that you are worthy of being a B rank member in our organization. By the way

Jess and I are also B ranks. Arthur is a rank A member."

'Leon nodded by the look of things; it was pretty evident that Paul was stronger. He didn't use any skills

after all. Regardless

even though Leon didn't know how many ranks that organization had

he was pretty sure that he started in a pretty decent rank. However

Leon was a little bothered...'

"I wonder if those guys can't imagine spies joining their organization..."

'Leon was expecting more of the people who stole the materials from Japan

but until now

he only saw people who didn't seem to know anything. The only option was really getting close to William...'

"Here

take this document to the main building

" Paul gave Leon a brown piece of paper. "The main building is where you had the first test. There you will receive your new belongings."

'Leon nodded again and then left after offering a handshake to those three. Jess refused

but he didn't feel offended by it. Although Leon was curious about the contents of the document

he decided not to open it. From that point onward

he couldn't make a single mistake because any suspicious actions could lead to his downfall.'

'When Leon arrived at the main build and showed that document

one of the receptionists

who was a blonde who had long straight hair and talked to him the previous day

guided him to an empty room where she gave him a purple ring

a cellphone and the keys of his new home

when Leon analyzed the ring

he finally understood why everyone didn't look a bit worried about spies.'

'Cursed Ring (Servant)'

'It reveals the position of any servant to the user of the Cursed Ring (Master).'

'Once you put it

you won't be able to remove it without the order of the Master.'

'Leon didn't know how

but it looked like someone already discovered the method to make magic items. The effects were simple but quite useful. He would be tracked down day and night

so he wouldn't be able to attack anyone by surprise

and if someone who has the ring dies

immediately the master could discover if one of his minions killed it. There was some room for mistakes

but it was like a seal for slaves. Regardless

Leon put it without hesitation. He had to show that he wasn't someone suspicious.'

"This phone has the numbers of all buildings under our control that you can use

" The blond receptionist said

"You can also register the numbers of your co-workers. You can use as much as you want without worrying about the costs. Those are the keys to your apartment; you can find the building and the number of your apartment on the keys."

'Leon nodded but wanted to frown. Although that was a shady organization

it offered a lot of benefits to its employees. Putting aside the cursed ring and the maid 'services

' it looked quite a good way to operate...'

Chapter 84

"As a member of the offensive troop

you can choose between the following jobs." The blond receptionist explained. "You can work protecting the city by killing the monsters who may approach. You can also work escorting our goods like the materials we obtain from dungeons and the things we may sell or buy from other cities

and you can also work with the teams who hunt in dungeons. Speaking of which

since your rank is B

the only way to reach rank A is by participating in the subjugation of a boss monster and contribute a lot to it."

"I see..." Leon said.'

'Leon already knew the method to raise his rank

possibly

after the rank A he would become rank S

but what were the conditions to become an S rank member? Regardless

he was pretty sure that by reaching that rank

he would be contacted by William.'

"I guess clearing a dungeon alone and defeating a boss should be enough to make him notice me... However

I can't exactly do that anytime soon. While I pretend that I'm getting better at Earth Manipulation

I will look for clues of the spies who killed Makoto's son."

"I want to clear dungeons." Leon declared.'

"Very well

the monster's materials belong to the organization." The blond receptionist explained. "But we will pay you for those materials. Your monthly salary will be two thousand coins. If your team obtain weapons or the like

the item will go to the person who killed the monster. Is that clear?"

'Leon nodded. Although the salary seemed relatively small

considering that he would gain an apartment for free and a cellphone that could be used as much as he wants

it was a pretty good deal.'

"You should be at this building every day at 07:00 AM

" The blond receptionist grabbed a map and pointed at a particular place. "This is where those who clear dungeons reunite every day; you will fight until 05:00 PM. After six days of working

the seventh will be your day off. You will start tomorrow

so don't be late. Also

for whatever reason

if you don't work the days where you are supposed to work

two hundred coins will be decreased by your salary."

"Got it

" Leon said.'

"The last topic... about your maid

" The receptionist showed a slightly complicated expression. "Do you have any preferences?"

"Preferences?" Leon frowned.'

"By preferences

I mean age

gender

nationality." The blonde receptionist said.'

'This time Leon couldn't help but let his mouth hanging open. Things were way worse than he had imagined

it was unknown if spies were kidnapping survivors of other places or if they were using those who were traveling in the country when the monsters appeared... either way

it wasn't something that could be explained.'

"The people here are kidnapping people from outside?" Leon asked.'

"No... just hiring anyone who lost everyone and everything along the past four years

" The receptionist explained. "Due to many reasons

they don't have the power to fight and don't have the skills to do anything that can contribute to our current society... that is why they are working like that."

'Although Leon questioned the reality of the situation

he recalled that things were like that back in the day too. Those who didn't have the qualifications would have bad jobs

and those without any skills didn't even have homes... hell if those who had skills could even end up without a home if something unexpected happens... The world certainly became more dangerous and dark

but humans didn't change all that much.'

"I don't have... any preferences." Leon showed a slight look of disgust.'

'Leon didn't want to act suspiciously

much less when the activities of the organization were involved

but everything has a limit. He wasn't a machine who could control his feelings like that; he wasn't a spy either

Leon just wanted to avoid a war.'

"... You seem to be a good guy

" The receptionist sighed. "In times like these

the more powerful the person

the worse that person is. I wasn't supposed to say this

but... please treat the woman who will work for you well. Her previous master was rather... violent. He died a few weeks ago

even though she didn't recover mentally yet

she needs to work to eat."

"So

you look after the maids while they are not working

" Leon said.'

"That is right... I'm not brave enough to fight

but I can speak several languages

" The blond receptionist explained. "I also used to manage the supply of several stores back in the day

so I work doing miscellaneous things to this organization."

'Leon nodded and decided to shut up; in the end

he couldn't let himself get too emotional because strong emotions lead to big mistakes. Leon noticed that she was also wearing the purple ring

so he shouldn't talk with her too much

you never know when you can be betrayed for whatever reason.'

"She will start working from tomorrow onward

" The blond receptionist said. "You should meet her after your return from the dungeon

that is all."

'Leon nodded and offered a handshake

he couldn't trust in strangers too much

but that didn't mean he couldn't build up an amicable relationship with them. After leaving the main building

Leon decided to familiarize himself with new buildings of the new New York. That being said

pretty much everything was the same. Aside from the main building

everything else was training fields

apartment complexes

and warehouses. There was also the market

but aside from that

everything looked dull and lifeless.'

'Just as Leon had expected

there was nothing particularly good being sold at the market. At that point in time

he was getting tired of seeing that scene repeating itself. Leon's apartment was quite neat

but even though the furniture was brand new

it also looked lifeless. It wasn't his real room... and he would never see his room ever again.'

Chapter 85

'The next morning

Leon headed to the building

where he would reunite with his teammates. Since the more they worked

the more coins they would get; everyone was already outside of the building and ready to leave at 06:50 AM.'

'The number of soldiers was quite high

but Leon was aware that a few dungeons were nearby so that those survivors would be divided into several groups. Although Leon was quite the average Joe

he was standing out in the group because he had no equipment whatsoever.'

"Whatever

it would be weird if I had bought something in the market after telling me that I lost everything when the horde ambushed my group."

'The number of warriors was high; sixty percent of the soldiers were warriors. While thirty-five percent were archers... aside from those

there were only four mages

Leon was one of them. Although magic was supposed to be hard to learn and tomes rarely dropped

it wasn't impossible to find them.'

'Surprisingly

Paul and Jess were two of the four who would lead the one hundred soldiers there. Jess clicked her tongue when she saw Leon

but Paul immediately selected him to his team.'

"Hey

welcome aboard." Paul approached Leon after selecting the twenty-four soldiers who would work with him that day. "Usually

newcomers tend to relax for a while before looking for challenges."

"Is that so?" Leon asked. "Well

I want to practice my magic

and I also want to raise my rank as soon as possible. So

I chose this job."

'Paul frowned when he heard that

he couldn't understand why Leon was in a hurry. Although the organization was only a few months old and had big goals

no one was in a hurry. Regardless

Paul knew very well how skillful and talented Leon was.'

'Several trucks were parked near that building

and the soldiers would be transported in them. There was no traffic

so the trip was quite smooth while they were inside the city

but after they left

things got quite bumpy since they didn't have the means to repair roads. They could use earth magic

but it wasn't worth the hassle since they didn't have the ways to fix

not even the path until the dungeons.'

"Today

we will fight in the Desert Wolves' dungeon

" Paul explained. "They are fast and strong

so don't separate from each other. If they bite you in the wrong place

you will die. Everyone who had a melee weapon will accompany me and block the monsters' advance

we will attack

but we will mostly focus on defense. Archers and the mage will be the ones who will cause damage."

'There was only one mage

and he didn't look that reliable. Although Leon was feeling bothered by the stares

it was quite troublesome since he wanted to be friendly in order to get information. Regardless

Paul looked to be friendly enough

and it seems like he was one of the first members of the organization so that he could obtain information from him.'

"Hey

Leonard

" Paul said while driving the truck. "Can you make something sharper to attack? You have the power to stun them

but it would be better if you could kill them as soon as possible."

"I can don't worry

" Leon said.'

'There were four dungeons nearby New York

and all of them appeared when earthquakes occurred and opened holes in the ground. Looking at the hole and the perfect ramp that led to an underground cave

Leon couldn't help but think that the earthquake had been human-made. However

such an idea was beyond ridiculous. How could someone make earthquakes happen? How could perfect dungeons be formed thanks to the destruction of such a phenomenon?'

'Regardless

like the other dungeons

the survivors installed those stones that absorbed mana from the ambient and illuminated the dungeon. As soon as they arrived

they saw the group that worked during the night. Surprisingly

their numbers were quite small

and they only fought against the monsters that tried to leave the dungeon.'

'Like the Frost Dire Wolves' hide

the Desert Wolves' hide could be used to manufacture defensive gear. But unlike those ice type monsters

the desert wolves' hid decreased the power of earth-based attacks. It would be a pain to transport those

but Leon noticed several carts that would be used to that kind of work.'

"All right

guys

" Paul said. "We have a few new members today

so let's just hunt nearby the entrance in order to make them gain some combat experience."

'Some people clicked her tongues

and some nodded in agreement. Some extra coins never bothered anyone

but Leon was sure that greed made many die. According to what he heard yesterday from the blonde receptionist

the jobs weren't easy; the danger would always be there. But unfortunately

some people couldn't understand that the more the newcomers get used to the combat

the chances of anyone dying would decrease. Thus

giving them more opportunities to fight and obtain more coins.'

'Regardless

Desert Wolves weren't that much of a threat. They had the power

the weight

and the speed to overwhelm any of the warriors

but when Leon attacked their eyes with his fake Earth Arrows
the monsters became quite meek and an easy target. For some reason
the wolves were smaller than the ones Leon saw in Japan
and their fangs were longer.'

"Perhaps they are wolves from a different world?"

'It was a bit surreal that the monster's world would have a single climate
so those wolves might have been from a different species that lived in the
same world. However
considering that Leon saw a world that had only slimes and harpies
it wasn't that improbable.'

Chapter 86

'In the end

with the exception of a few scratches

nothing major happened. Leon was quite bored because he was helping the
from the backline while blinding the wolves

and thanks to it

the front line didn't let anything attack Leon and the archers. Noticing that even
without having any equipment

Leon was still very useful

his co-workers stopped looking at him so unpleasantly.'

"This is a waste of time..."

'Leon understood that espionage work didn't suit him

even though he wasn't really one

he wanted to collect intel like one. However

joining and climbing the ranks of an organization to do that while holding back his power wasn't something Leon liked to do. In a world where he had to his best to survive

holding back made his back feel itchy. Regardless

since the focus was to make the newcomers obtain experience

Paul decided to retreat several times to rest.'

"Did you get better controlling earth?" Paul asked. "It looks like your attacks are faster today."

"Thanks to the soldiers protecting the city

I have a lot of free time in my hands

" Leon said the sentence he prepared beforehand. "I spent the last two days training

and I have a feeling that I will obtain the power to become a rank A member pretty soon."

"Why are you in such a hurry?" Paul asked. "Of course

you will have more benefits by raising your rank

but the jobs aren't that easy

you know."

'Paul seemed to be the type of leader who was good at looking after his underlings

but knowing that he was working for an organization that makes use of cursed rings

spies

and maids

it wasn't a good idea to talk with him that much. However

that was a good opportunity.'

"What kind of work rank A members do?" Leon dodged the question by making another.'

"Well... most rank A members spend days and sometimes week outside the city doing their jobs." Paul explained. "Some of them help in dungeon breaks

others protect our borders

and some try to obtain materials from high-levelled dungeons."

'It wasn't an easy job

but it was clear that that would make Leon get close to the principal activities under the command of William. Speaking of which

the easiest way to talk with William would be buying or selling information about magic

skills

and other useful things. But then again

Leonard spent all his coins in Chicago and lost his belonging when he escaped from the monsters' horde... so Leon couldn't interact with him or the other directors anytime soon without making them suspicious of him.'

'Anyway

as one could expect

the day passed rather slowly while Leon was working in the dungeon. He couldn't train

nor could he show his skills

so that was only obvious. Around 04:00 PM

a new group arrived to hunt at the dungeon. So

Paul's group returned to New York.'

"Good job guys

let's keep up the good work tomorrow

" Paul said. "To the newcomers

we will all receive the payment for the wolves' hide at the end of the week

so don't bother the people who are working in the warehouses and the main building."

'After that

the soldiers dissipated

and Leon didn't move at all. He was feeling way too weird; he felt like he just lived a filler episode in his own life. Putting aside the fact that he and the others hunted monsters

he felt like he lived a day of an ordinary salaryman. It was a really weird feeling... However

things were about to become even weirder.'

'While trying to rid of that weird feeling

Leon headed to his new home. His apartment was a relatively new building

and since the soldiers worked in three turns

most of the time

the place was quite empty. Thus

he didn't see anyone while climbing the stairs and after crossing the corridor that led to his apartment. However

when he opened the door

he saw a blonde young woman kneeling in front of the door

and she was wearing maid clothes.'

"Welcome back

master." The blond woman said.'

'Leon couldn't help but frown; he thought the word maid was just a figure of speech... not that the person who would take care of his apartment would actually wear maid clothes.'

"It is a pleasure to meet you

master

" The blonde woman said. "My name is Gisela

but you can call me whatever you want."

"Hello... my name is Leonard." Leon hesitated. "Gisela... why are you kneeling in front of the door?"

"I've been waiting for you

master Leonard

" Gisela answered.'

"That doesn't answer anything

" Leon said. "Is this like the people from the Hearth of the North said you should work?"

"No

this is how my previous master wanted me to greet him

" Gisela explained.'

"Well

I'm not your previous master

so you can act normally

" Leon said.'

"How do you want me to greet you

master Leonard?" Gisela asked

still kneeling.'

"Well

by not calling me master and not kneeling would be enough

" Leon said.'

"... Understood. I apologize in advance

Leonard." Gisela said and slowly got up.'

"Why are you apologizing?" Leon asked.'

'Instead of receiving an answer

Leon just realized that Gisela slightly trembled. Although she got up

she didn't raise her head

so Leon got suspicious.'

"Raise your head

" Leon said with a strong tone.'

'It wasn't his intention

but Leon ended up giving her an order

and his harsh tone made her tremble a little more. Gisela raised her head

revealing the beautiful face of a girl who probably hadn't been raised in America. Her skin was pale like the people who lived in an extremely cold areas of North Europe

and her eyes were light blue like crystal water... not eyes

her eye. She had lost her right eye

Chapter 87

'Leon received a shock since it was the first time he saw a person who had that kind of wound. However

it was because he didn't pay enough attention. Leon was focused on his own problems that he didn't notice when people without arms

legs

or ears passed by him. Leon only recovered when he saw Gisela sweating bullets and trembling.'

"'I'm... if you are feeling unwell

you can sit and rest." Leon corrected himself. "There is nothing to do here

so you can rest.'"

'Leon said that he was sorry

but he stopped midway because he had no right to pity her. Leon sighed because he had been too naïve... Leon worked hard to escape from the island

but he felt like he took everything for granted. He didn't consider that he couldn't regenerate lost limbs

and Leon didn't consider that he could have lost his eyes in the middle of a battle... he only thought that his wounds recover no matter what.'

"'I'm fine

Leonard

you don't have to worry about me

" Gisela said. "What are your orders?"

"'My orders? I don't have any

" Leon said. "Will you be punished if you don't work or something?"

"'No

the only person who can punish me is Leonard

" Gisela said.'

"... Please don't say that again

" Leon frowned. "It makes my back feel itchy."

"Understood." Gisela nodded. "The bath is already ready

please take your clothes and let me wash them."

"... I think I can do that myself." Leon sighed. "If you really want to do something

why don't you buy something for dinner. I don't have anything to make a meal; I don't even have spoons. I want some hot dogs

what do you want to eat?"

"Anything is fine

what do you want me to eat

Leonard?" Gisela asked.'

"... Why don't you buy some hot dogs for you and something sweet to eat?" Leon asked. "You look a bit underweight

so a parfait or a cake should help you."

'Leon touched Gisela's hands to pass the coins only to see her trembling slightly; for some reason

she was afraid of males

but that didn't bother him. Leon transferred the coins

and Gisela left to buy dinner.'

"What the hell is going on..."

'Leon wasn't that dirty or sweaty but hurried to clean himself and wash his clothes. It has been a long while since the last time Leon saw himself alone

with a girl in his room. Although Leon wasn't interested in doing anything at the moment

he recalled the memories of the days when he brought his girlfriend to his room—always making sure that he was clean and not smelling bad.'

"It looks like my life here will be a lot more tiresome than I thought..."

'Much sooner than Leon thought

Gisela returned

by the look of her tired face

she went to the market running and returned while running as well. Fortunately

she didn't arrive on time to see Leon changing; he was already meditating in the corner of the apartment to calm his nerves and relax his body.'

"... You can go ahead and eat; I'm not hungry." Leon said.'

"I'm not hungry

Leonard

" Gisela said. "What are your next orders?"

'Leon sighed

it looked Gisela became a person who had a single reason to live

and that was to obey orders. Although some people could think that as normal in a world like that

Leon couldn't help but feel troubled

first of all

he didn't need a maid; he survived alone for four years

after all. Still

looking at the tense expression in Gisela's face

it was possible that she would collapse if Leon doesn't give her any orders.'

"... Sit in the armchair... I didn't want to talk about it

but since it is like this

I have no other choice

" Leon said in a harsh tone. "I will tell you how you should behave here in order to avoid headaches since I already have too much in my head... but first

I want to hear for how long you worked as a maid and how did you served the other guys."

"... Understood." Gisela said and then lowered her heard but then suddenly raised again.'

"You don't have to look at me

just tell me how you worked

" Leon said.'

'Gisela lowered her head again and then started to describe her life in that past four years. Although Leon didn't ask for that

she said because she concluded it would be necessary.'

'Four years ago

Gisela was an exchange student from Germany when the monsters appeared; she was in the first year of college. In fact

she had been for New York for two weeks when the monsters appeared. Her family was away

and she didn't have any friends yet

so she had no one to help her. Despite the odds

she managed to escape the city alive and unscathed.'

"Wait... didn't you lost your eye when the monsters attacked?" Leon asked.'

"No..." Gisela answered.'

'Unfortunately

after escaping

Gisela ended up joining a group of thugs. She wasn't alone

several people were with her

and eventually

everyone discovered how to get stronger by learning skills. The thugs had weapons

but the weapons they had barely could compare to the power a person could obtain by practicing a few hours. The more people that could fight

the better. But those thugs weren't thinking among those lines; they wanted to keep the power for themselves. So

every time they saw someone who could threaten their hegemony

they would beat that person to death. Fearing for her life

Gisela decided to obey... but that had been a mistake. Without the power to protect themselves

she and several others became playthings to those who were using the system and strengthening themselves... Gisela's nightmare started there.'

Chapter 88

'Although she was suffering the second-worst thing that could happen in someone's life

Gisela didn't give up hope. She wanted to survive to one day return to her hometown and family. However

things wouldn't be so simple. Since those thugs didn't want to live seriously

they didn't consider the things they would need to survive. They lost their chance to create a camp and to scavenge food and water. Due to the fact that they were scumbags

not a single survivors' camp accepted them. However

not a single person stood up to free Gisela and several other girls from the claws of those men. Without shelter

food

and water

those guys only did the only thing they could do to survive... they attacked survivors' camps.'

'For a while

they managed to survive doing that

but eventually

they bite more than they could chew. The thugs died after fighting against powerful soldiers of another camp. Unfortunately

Gisela and the others didn't become free... the big cities hadn't been recovered yet. So

the only thing one could to survive was to fight. Gisela didn't have the power to fight... in the end

to be able not to die of hunger

she sold her body.'

'At that point in time

history only repeated itself. Gisela didn't have weapons

and she couldn't use magic

so

kept doing the only thing she could to survive. It was a vicious circle

without weapons or magic

one could obtain coins; without coins

one couldn't buy things to eat or hire guards to protect themselves

without strength she couldn't fight or obtain weapons.'

'Eventually

cities like New York were recovered. However

people like Gisela were ostracized from society. Even while the new society was slowly being rebuilt

her options didn't change. Things only got a little better when William created his organization

to stimulate his future subordinates

he contracted young and pretty people like Gisela and trained them to become maids to serve his subordinates. While she was taught

Gisela wasn't mistreated. However

things changed when she found her first master.'

'For some reason

maybe because he had a great physique and became a little famous before the monsters appeared

Gisela's first master was a very prideful person. Although he wasn't that strong in terms of skills and stats

he treated himself like a big deal. So

every single of his problems

he tried to solve with violence

and when he got his ass kicked

he used Gisela to relieve his stress. Punches

kicks

sometimes he even used his sword to torture Gisela and at night...'

"You didn't have to say that..." Leon said.'

'Gisela nodded. Although she was trying to hold back

Leon could see her trembling like a leaf. Leon thought it couldn't get worse

but it got worse. One day

Gisela's master didn't get just his ass kicked; he also got humiliated in front of a crowd. Like always

he unleashed his frustration on her

but that time... he went too far and destroyed her eye with his sword. After that

she almost died of blood loss.'

"... What did the people in Hearth of the North do?" Leon asked.'

"They bought potions to heal my wounds and discounted the price of those from his salary

" Gisela answered.'

"Only that?" Leon asked.'

"Yes

" Gisela said.'

"... How did your previous master react?" Leon asked.'

"... He tormented me where the others couldn't see." Gisela answered.'

"So

the reason why you greeted me while kneeling and always keep your head down is..." Leon said.'

"He said that he didn't want to see something so ugly

"Gisela said. "He also said that I should stay in that position while he was away."

"While he was away... that means that my apartment is also your apartment?" Leon asked.'

"No

Leonard." Gisela shook her head. "I just sleep here

the apartment is yours

but if that idea displeases you

I can sleep in the corridor."

"I'm not so heartless to make you do that..." Leon sighed. "But still... frankly speaking

I don't want to sleep in the same place as you. You lived a hard life

much harder than mine. So

it wouldn't surprise me if someday you snaps and decides to kill me while I sleep."

"I swear Master! I will never do that!" Gisela raised her voice but soon lowered her head in apology.'

"I'm not your master... I will ask you a question

and I'm giving the order not to lie." Leon said. "What do you want to do from now on besides survive?"

'For a moment

Gisela didn't understand the meaning behind Leon's question. Rather

she didn't understand because Leon asked what she wanted to do

and her will and opinions became irrelevant in the previous four years. He wanted to hear what she wanted to do if she had the opportunity to do whatever she wants.'

'Gisela had a ready answer for that

but she gave up on the idea of saying it when she saw the look in Leon's eyes

he didn't want to hear a lie. In the end

Gisela didn't have to think all that much

his choices always tormented her

so if he had the chance to do something besides only surviving...'

"... I want to obtain the power to protect my own life." Gisela said

looking at Leon in the eye and showing her determination.'

"Very well

it seems you didn't give up on hope yet; I will help you with that." Leon declared. "However

if you try to screw with me or reveal anything that I will do in this room

I will kill you. Do you hear me?"

"Yes!" Gisela said

still overflowing with determination.'

'Leon created one steel knife and then gave it to Gisela

the process looked so surreal that she hesitated in receiving it. When she accepted it and felt the weight of the knife

she understood what Leon wanted her to do.'

"I will only give you three more orders

" Leon declared. "Don't try to kill me

don't reveal what I can do to anyone and train here until you obtain the power you want."

"Yes!" Gisela answered.'

Chapter 89

'After making the steel knife

Leon created a sword

an ax

a spear

a staff

a club

a bow

a flail

a hammer

a crossbow

and many more weapons for Gisela. It would take more than a few weeks for her to master those

but at least she would grow stronger while learning how to use them at the same time. Although she hesitated

in the beginning

she trained until she couldn't move her arms.'

'For a few days

Leon stayed wary of her. He decided to help her because Gisela kind of reminded him of himself

even though she suffered far more. Leon was alone

but Gisela was surrounded by people who didn't care about her or only wanted to use her for their own selfish desires.'

'Regardless

she trained and kept training until she would collapse of exhaustion. After she woke up

she would eat something and do the same thing over and over again. In the end

Leon was the one who became the 'maid' of the house. He had to buy food

and he even bought new clothes for Gisela since training in her uniform wasn't that practical. He also had to wash both of their clothes

but since he only used magic

it wasn't that troublesome

and it was quite fast too.'

'When Leon was bored with meditating

he also decided to learn how to wield the weapons he created.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Ax Mastery.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Hammer Mastery.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Whip Mastery.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Before Leon went to work in the dungeons

he slightly dirtied the entrance of his apartment with magic to confirm if the door was opened while he was away. After one week of doing that and not noticing any movements

Leon confirmed that Gisela didn't leave the apartment a single time and kept training single-mindedly the whole time.'

'''I guess I can trust her... she doesn't have the cursed ring

so I guess everything is fine."

'Things also progressed on Leon's side

while faking his progress of the Earth Manipulation

some rumors about him started to spread when he killed a desert wolf alone. Knowing that they could trust Leon to watch their backs

several survivors began to relax around Leon and eventually giving him pieces of information. Some talked about how Japan was too quiet as of late even after the death of the prince

and some spoke about how the conflicts in Europe were intensifying.'

'The most interesting that Leon heard was the fact that Paul hadn't seen a single rank S member in the organization. With the sole exception of Arthur

he didn't see any rank A members either. It was really surprising since Paul was an examiner since the very beginning and didn't see anyone reaching rank A.'

"I guess six months it is not enough for a person to reach a high rank in such organization... unless that person obtains a powerful tome or something."

'It was possible that William and the other directors chose the rank A and S members based on the skills and the power they obtained along those four years. It was also possible that members like Paul and Jess would never even reach rank A because they were too busy working and protecting the new employees of the organization.'

"Regardless

they will be forced to promote me if I show the results. If I clear a dungeon alone and still don't get promoted

the other members of the organization will get suspicious of the organization itself."

'That being said

Leon had to show his progress little by little and everyday while working. However

he was getting impatient. Holding back his powers was starting to get on his nerves. He was even thinking about clearing the dungeon after one month...
Anyway

one week had passed

and that day was his first day off

and since Leon had nothing better to do

he decided to learn a few more spells. Surprisingly

Gisela

who always stayed concentrated on her training

decided to strike a conversation.'

"Master

why don't you sleep in the bed?" Gisela asked soon after she ended one of her sessions of training.'

"I'm not your master... the bed is too comfy for me

" Leon said while he was trying to replicate Arthur's skill

the Earth Punch.'

"The bed is too comfy?" Gisela frowned.'

'Gisela was so traumatized to the point where the only emotion she could show before was fear

but after working hard for one week

her body slowly started to remember how to act like an ordinary person.'

"It is kind of a pain for me to say this

but..." Leon scratched the back of his head. "Since you told me about your past

I guess I also should tell you about mine. When the monsters appeared

I was on an airplane. Like you

I was also an exchange student

but the airplane fell and ended up stuck on an island for four years. That is why I decided to help you because I can relate to the feeling of returning home and reunite with your family."

"Are they in New York?" Gisela asked.'

"No

my parents passed away on the very first day... my little sister is alive in Las Vegas

" Leon answered.'

'As Leon had expected

he wasn't suitable to do that kind of job. Although his libido was still weak

Leon couldn't help but answer all the questions of a pretty lady. It was troublesome

but Leon didn't learn on the island how to become a charismatic person who could fool everyone while collecting the information he wanted. In the end

he could only do that the hard way.'

Chapter 90

'The next month passed rather slowly

but at least things progressed a little. Obviously

in a single month

Gisela didn't manage to close the gap between her and survivors who fought and trained over the last four years. Leveling up skills worked better when one had a target

the more powerful the target

the faster the skills would level up. Despite that

Leon was almost sure that in a single month

she obtained the strength of a person who fought and trained for six months... but that was because she didn't have to worry about anything aside from training. In fact

while swinging a large weapon

she could make the apartment tremble. To avoid any trouble

she suspended her strength training and was focusing on increasing her skill with smaller weapons.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Earth Punch.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Mana: 10'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Ice Punch.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Mana: 12'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Fire Punch.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Mana: 14'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Wind Punch.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Mana: 14'

'Leon progressed just a little in comparison with the time he had to train. While he was training to learn Wind Punch

he had the idea to create an invisible attack using wind magic. However

while using wind magic

the projectiles would eventually become visible to some extent

probably due to the mana. Leon tried to create projectiles of wind

but he failed. Besides

even when he created something like a wind needle

the sound of the wind would always reveal the projectile's position.'

"Master

do you intend to teach me magic?" Gisela asked.'

"For the thousandth time... I'm not your master." Leon sighed. "I could teach you

but it can take months for you to understand and master the basics. But I guess it is worth a try... To make things progress faster

you must meditate at least four hours a day. After your mana and intelligence reach a decent level

I will teach you."

"Yes

master." Gisela nodded.'

"Like I said..." Leon massaged his eyebrows.'

'Gisela would probably return home first before her magic reaches a practical level. Although it wasn't a waste of time learning magic

Leon was very aware of the fact that martial arts suited Gisela. Without a teacher

she reached a level of mastery over the weapons which Leon couldn't help but frown while looking at it. Her movements were fluid

but at the same time fast and sharp. Maybe she always had the talent

but since she didn't have the mindset

she never noticed.'

'Regardless

the fact that Gisela was still stubbornly acting like Leon was her master troubled him. Mostly because her complexion changed for the better in the last month

she wasn't underweight anymore

and even though she had that scar on the face

she still could be considered a world-class beauty. Since her muscles weren't that big

she could have easily become a top-model if the monsters hadn't appeared.'

"Come to think of it... I played a game with such a plot in the past. A random guy suddenly hires a pretty maid and eventually starts to 'play' with her... Ah

now I can understand how come Hector was my best friend in high school

I also was a scumbag..."

'After getting rid of those shameful memories

Leon headed to work. He really was feeling like a salaryman. However

Leon soon became aware that things would change. When Leon and the others arrived at the dungeon

he saw several survivors wounded. Paul talked with those survivors and discovered that they messed up.'

"The boss of the dungeon defeated them

" Paul explained. "It looks like the previous team also failed in defeating the monster. So

it is up to us to kill it."

'That was quite surprising

Leon was aware of the fact that the guys who fought at night weren't ordinary survivors. Thanks to that

he had no idea why they would suddenly fail. Either way

it was his chance to get promoted to the next rank.'

'Although Paul and his team reached the end of that dungeon several times

it was the first time they would challenge a boss. Paul was the cautious type

and even though he was working for a shady organization

he didn't want to see his underlings dying. So

he decided to check their conditions before going to the dungeon. That took quite a while since the group now had thirty members since a few newcomers joined the team in the last month.'

"Leonard

try to conserve your strength

" Paul said. "When we find the boss

I want you to go all out

all right? You are the one who can cause the most damage of my team

and we can defeat the ordinary monsters without your help."

"Roger

" Leon nodded.'

'Leon showed them that he could control five Earth Arrows

he faked tiredness sometimes

but in fact

he could use those forever without running out of mana. Regardless

there was a reason why the survivors failed. So

he wouldn't drop his guard.'

'Health: 25 +'

'Mana: 1698 +'

'Stamina: 70 +'

'Strength: 66 +'

'Dexterity: 10 +'

'Speed: 42 +'

'Intelligence: 276 +'

'Endurance: 84 +'

'Control: 115 +'

'Mentality: 97 +'

'Luck: 01 +'

'Recovery: 600 +'

'Willpower: 75 +'

'Coins: 464213'

'Status: 00'

'Skill List'

'Active Skills: Earth Manipulation Lv 59

Water Manipulation Lv 34

Wind Manipulation Lv 31

Fire Manipulation Lv 31

Earth Transformation Lv 35

Water Transformation Lv 25

Wind Transformation Lv 30

Fire Transformation Lv 29

Earth Creation Lv 38

Water Creation Lv 34

Wind Creation Lv 27

Fire Creation Lv 33

,

'Mana Reinforcement Lv 33

Ice Arrow Lv 11

Earth Arrow Lv 11

Wind Arrow Lv 11

Earth Punch Lv 06

Ice Punch Lv 06

Fire Punch Lv 06

Wind Punch Lv 06

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'Passive Skills: Craft Lv 54

Meditation Lv 53

Blacksmith Lv 43

Ax Mastery Lv 6

Hammer Mastery Lv 6

Whip Mastery Lv 6

Wind Resistance Lv 09

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