

## Virus 471

### Chapter 471 - The End

"Would I be able to reach the end?" Gritting his teeth, Virus wiped away some of the sweat from the temples of his forehead as he took more footsteps ahead.

By now, the coercive force was so heavy that Virus could not imagine a single person under a hundred years of age that could possibly endure it with sheer willpower alone.

True, living longer didn't always mean having stronger willpower since willpower was even more dependent on the type of person one was and the resolutions that person had in life.

As a matter of fact, when one lived for an extremely long period, it might even have a negative influence on their determination and mentality rather than a positive one since their willpower might crumble apart as they are driven to the brink of madness due to the passage of time itself!

In fact, in his past life in the future, since humanity had long achieved immortality, one falling into a state of insanity had become a daily issue, much like a common cold in today's world. Most were bound to catch it from time to time.

It happened every day all around the human race population. Fortunately, as long as you had enough credits or authority, they had their unique methods to help you avoid or even cure such circumstances.

Therefore, stating that abnormally long life in fact has the opposite influence on most people's willpower wasn't totally wrong.

However, for some unique individuals, the longer they lived, like the process of building a brick house, they would put one more brick on their construct every year as they became even more certain on the path ahead of them!

Still, willpower was an extremely messed up and incomprehensible matter that mostly had to do with one's psyche, one aspect of which was said to be related to the soul itself which even the humanity of the future was powerless in understanding.

Returning to Virus, what was making him speechless was the fact that unless one was an extremely old monster like him who had seen nearly every type of situation in life, it would be nigh impossible for anyone beneath hundred years of age to have any hope of treading to the stairs he was standing at currently.

He was putting the criterion at a minimum of hundred years just in case some kind of horrifying freak of nature shows up when it comes to willpower alone, which was a nigh-impossible feat by itself.

And considering one requirement for entering the Invisible Ancient Fortress World was that one had to be below thirty years of age, Virus just couldn't see how that was possible. 'Such a weird trial...'

'Unless it's someone ancient like me who has created a young body and entered it, or someone old probably similar to Hu Yuexin's new soul who has stolen Hu Yuexin's young physique, or some other phenomena similar to ours, I don't see how anyone could reach my current position. But even then, it's only possible if they have been successful in building a strong fortress of willpower in their life.' Frowning, Virus determined in some confidence. Still, when everything was said and done, Virus also knew anything was possible in this grand infinite world.

Simultaneously, examining his surroundings, Virus saw that he had been successful in going to even higher grounds as he was currently at the spot where only five panels of books with each one containing fifty books were displayed at.

However, checking the state of his Invisible Ancient Fortress World mark, Virus realized it was about to flicker out in the following few minutes perhaps!

'Damn it, I wanted to reach the height with one panel at least if not the top, what should I do?' Unconsciously, he concentrated even more as he picked up his pace by a negligible amount! The fire of will was so strong within his eyes that right now, nothing but the trial of staircase held meaning to him.

Soon, he was at the location of three panels, alas, based on his following calculations, the mark was about to vanish any time now!

'Hee... haa...!' At this point, Virus' t-shirt was drowning in his sweat while he could barely breathe. The exhaustion was so strange and heavy that no matter how hard he breathed, it was as if he was never going to get enough oxygen at least until the pressure ceased to exist!

Earlier, when they had been about to leave the treasury room where Henna had been killed at, while Hellarose was saying her goodbyes, she had also recalled that Henna had been carrying some of her dress in case of an emergency, therefore, at the time, she had returned Virus' t-shirt after changing up.

'Just a bit more!' Taking more steps ahead, Virus barely reached the staircase of two panels! He was even closer to his goal!

Meanwhile, soaring amongst the clouds, the shadow of a figure could be seen casually drinking a cup of tea while it sighed in utter amazement while watching Virus' struggling figure. "Confounding! Who would've thought that kid has so much willpower at such a young age. Heck, not even most of my peers have that much determination."

Putting the cup of tea on the floating table, the unknown figure began clapping while exclaiming in utter admiration. "Incredible! Incredible beyond belief! If I recall correctly, just three people around his age ever reached the staircase of the sole single panel with ten books. And they are all legendary geniuses of their own generation today..."

After briefly gazing at the second-highest stair with one panel and ten books placed beside it, the person's eyes fell upon the highest stair with just a dais and a book laid down above it next, "And as to that one... no one ever achieved it. And I don't believe anyone will ever achieve it as well, it's just impossible even if one has the willpower since the mark is bound to last at most until the one-paneled stair of ten books."

Indeed, just as the person was declaring right now, it didn't matter how bold and distinct one made the mark to be because, at the end of the day, the tattoo was adjusted in a way so it would run out of ink when the participant reaches the one-paneled stair.

Shaking his or her head in some disappointment, the unperceivable person's eyes fell upon Virus' frame once more, "Now, the question is, will you be also able to reach the one-paneled stair as well? Or is the stair with two panels the ceiling of your limit?"

As the unidentified individual was done muttering to itself, with newfound zeal and anticipation, the person continued spectating silently after picking up the cup of tea again.

In the meantime, at various locations in the panels of several staircases, Hadelia, Hellarose, the Academician, and the two cloaked people were intently watching Virus in utter stupefaction, looking forward to just when he would reach his limits and stop.

Since they had yet to pick a book as there were a lot of options laid down in front of them, they had not been teleported out of the world of clouds just yet. Thus, currently, their attention had been drawn to the figure of the shouting Virus who looked as if he might die any seconds now!

"Come on, hot face, you can do it!" Hellarose screamed, encouraging Virus to succeed from the very bottom of her heart.

Hadelia on the other hand was just quietly observing the situation.

If one looked into her eyes, however, one would detect a strong urge to fight within those eyes of hers which she was directing at Virus' physique.

The academician and the cloaked individuals, on the other hand, were gritting their teeth, asking themselves why it wasn't them that was in Virus' position right now.

Alas, all they could do was to look at Virus' image filled with envy and other emotions blended together.

"Ahhhhh!" Meanwhile, completely absorbed in the journey of advancing even higher, Virus roared in resolution, breaking through his steel hard willpower before taking another step forward!

Bam!

With the distinct feeling of his footstep touching taller grounds, Virus was at last at the one-paneled stair!

Woefully, the instant he planted his legs there, the ghost-like mark on the back of his palm which had been barely persisting so far puffed out of existence!

Chapter 472 - When You Get Greedy

The moment it was gone, having not entered the corner side of the one paneled staircase, a pressure, unlike anything he had felt so far hit Virus at once!

As it pushed him back, Virus immediately rolled back to the area of the two-paneled staircase!

Then, the third paneled staircase!

"Hahaha, that's what happens when you overestimate yourself and get greedy. Now he's not going to be able to get his hands on even an ordinary book." The academician cried in laughter and happiness. Seeing others fail at what he could not possibly hope to achieve only made him feel happy.

On the other side, both cloaked individuals heaved pronounced sighs of relief while a concerned look materialized on Hellarose's expression.

Meanwhile, as Virus had been pushed back to the area of the five paneled staircases, he suddenly landed on his feet before crying out loud, "AHHHHHHHHHHH!"

He was putting so much pressure on himself that the bloodshot vessels inside his eyes were dumbfoundingly about to explode!

And indeed, the next moment, many of those veins within his eyes did indeed burst apart as blood started covering the whites of his eyes!

It was indeed a shocking sight to look at as the whites of his eyeballs became entirely red and bloody as a demonic countenance exhibited itself on his face.

And yet, even that kind of forceful resistance proved to be futile soon as Virus was about to be pushed back even harder next!

All that struggle had resulted in was a brief period of stillness that lasted for less than a single split-second!

By now, Virus had long felt something tear apart within his eyes as a stinging pain overwhelmed them.

Then, in that bloody world of redness, an even more horrifying and unstoppable force descended upon him.

HUAAA~

It was at this moment when the other tattoo which had the mark of a tree suddenly seemed to have been awakened out of its slumber as it began to shine in clear green!

This was the tree mark he had received at the Bridge to Heaven from the living root that was the bridge itself.

At the same time, a green aura covered Virus' entire body, instantly healing his wounded eyes and even pushing away all the pressure!

Seeing the coercive pressure of willpower unable to do anything to him or even affect him in the slightest unlike before, a strange gleam of eagerness began to burn in Virus' pupils as he charged forward to the fourth panel at once!

Almost instantaneously, Virus was upon the fourth-panel stair as he shot toward the third!!!

Up to this point, Virus could sense that nearly fifty percent of the mark of the tree was gone. However, that made him realize he needed to rush even faster as he stormed at the second-panel staircase while the mark was gone by eighty percent!

Subsequently, victoriously reaching the first-panel area for the second time, which was the peak height he had been at before, Virus had no intentions of wanting to stop at all as he pushed forward to the highest peak!

To the dais that had never once seen a visitor!

92%

95%

97%

Promptly, only the last three percent of the green aura was covering Virus' corporeal body now as it was doomed to disappear the following instant.

'Unnamed Virus Technique, First Form – Impulse!'

'Unnamed Virus Technique, Second Form – Friction!'

As lightning and wind surrounded Virus' figure, he pushed forward one last time as he put one foot on the highest summit perceivable!

1%

Alas, by now, the last spark of the tree mark was about to die out!

"AHHHHH!"

Gathering every ounce of strength all over his muscles, body, and the core of his being, at lightning speed, Virus thrust his other leg ahead as well!

Shockingly, Virus realized he was now standing on the same level as the dais itself!

Unfortunately, it was at this point when the tree mark hit zero percent and was gone completely!

With that, the indomitable expulsion pressure was about to just descend upon Virus again when two lines went through his mind since he wasn't willing to give up just yet.

'Unnamed Virus Technique, First Form – Impulse!'

'Unnamed Virus Technique, Second Form – Friction!'

Simultaneously, he threw his body to the corner side as he dived toward the dais!

Boom!

The compulsive force had just descended and hit Virus' stomach when he ingeniously utilized the force of coercion to barely propel himself to the dais even faster as he landed in front of the dais at last!

All coercive force was gone swiftly while to his utter shock and stupefaction, Virus realized he had made it to the summit that was the dais!

"YESSSSS!" Releasing a roar of joy, Virus celebrated his victory!

In the meantime, the eyes of all the participants had long gone so big and wide that they had even forgotten to breathe!

One second, Virus was being expelled from the staircase completely!

But the next instant, he was already charging to the front again and mind-blowingly reached the furthest dais!

'W-what the fuck! How is that even possible?!' That was the first line of deliberation that materialized within the participants' minds when they started feeling their own existence again.

Pfffft!

Meanwhile, amongst the clouds, the unidentified figure spat out all of the tea it was just about to swallow.

That sudden one hundred and eighty degrees change and development had taken it so off-guard that even with its strong mentality, the shock made the individual lose control of its actions shortly.

"H-how is this possible?!"

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Down below, beside the ancient dais, the wheezing Virus gradually regained his breath as his attention was fully drawn to the book above the dais.

Right there, in front of him, there was an ancient-looking book, which despite all the years it had been left to eat dust, was still shining as brilliantly as the day it had been put over the dais. The cover of the book seemed to have been made out of some kind of metal as beautiful carvings of gold circulated all around it!

#### Chapter 473 - The Book

The book had no name, no description, and not a single hint as to what it could possibly contain.

Nonetheless, just by looking at it and feeling that suppressive might of it, Virus could guarantee it was nothing ordinary.

'Do I just grab it?' Pondering that, Virus just reached out and touched the book.

The instant his middle finger touched the book, however, the book seemed to have vaporized as it became a golden fog that launched into his forehead and disappeared!

"Huh? That's it?" Subsequently, Virus muttered in confusion. Even though the book seemed to have entered his being, for some reason, he could not sense any knowledge or difference anywhere in his body.

While he was feeling lost and uncertain as to what was going on, a line, at last, revealed itself.

'The book shall materialize itself once during the time of breaking through to Sublimity Emergence.'

That was the only piece of information that was dumped straight into his head. Afterward, there was nothing at all.

To be truthful, now Virus felt even more lost, albeit, there wasn't really anything he could do except wait for the right time when he reaches the peak of Liberation and breaks through to the next stage.

Soon, Virus' silhouette started to dematerialize since he had chosen a book.

However, when he was about to fade completely, a voice directly traversed to his brain, "Return once you think you're strong enough to at least defeat the Sphinx from your trial. This place might surprise you even more. At that time, I may even consider telling you about the Emissary Flesh you offended earlier. So long."

Virus quickly figured out that it was the archaic being transmitting a message straightly into his brain. He recognized it since the tone was just like the archaic voice itself.

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When Virus's sight was restored, the first thing he discerned was that he was already outside the Invisible Ancient Fortress World.

Following that, he was about to decide his next course of action when someone else took shape beside him.

It was Hellarose.

"Hmm? You're out? Did you pick a book?" Virus inquired coolly.

"Yep. I had long targeted a book but didn't touch it since I wanted to see how you do in the staircase test first. Then, seeing you vanish, I also selected my book." With fluttering eyelashes filled with excitement, Hellarose elaborated.

"I see..." Meanwhile, looking around in some expectation and suspense, Virus searched for any barbarian that may be around.

"Congratulations, by the way! I can't believe you reached the top, hot face! Damn, you're the hottest guy ever!" With her eyes slightly narrowed, she voiced flirtatiously.

"Thanks." Albeit, Virus was too busy to pay her cheekiness any attention.



Unfortunately, no matter how hard he examined the area, other than the party of the cloaked individuals, the monstrous beasts, and the academicians, there was no one else around.

"Hahaha, he must've fled with his tail between his legs." Virus uttered at Hellarose.

Listening to him, Hellarose knew exactly who he was talking about, however, her focus had been locked on the monstrous beasts for a few seconds now.

"Look at the monstrous beasts... they are glaring at us with unusually hostile eyes, hot face." She notified while throwing sideways glances at the beasts.

Indeed, currently, all the monstrous beasts were staring in Hellarose and Virus' way while some were growling even like they would lunge at them any moment now.

"Shit, that fucking Ra must've already notified them of everything before taking off." Virus inferred effortlessly. It didn't take a genius to figure out what was happening.

"You need to leave as swiftly as possible then! They're probably waiting for backup, that's why they're not directly stampeding in our way!" Hellarose warned with a bad premonition alerting her heart.

"Hmm, what about you, then? Won't you be in danger?"

"Don't worry about me, there's someone around that will protect me, furthermore, they won't target me since I'm not the true culprit. Go!" Declaring anxiously, Hellarose urged Virus to leave.

Quite casual, however, locking gazes with Hellarose's, a grin covered Virus' countenance. "I guess this is goodbye then?"

"Y-yeah..." As if Hellarose finally understood what that signified and how they were about to be separated from one another, there was a slight tremble in her tone. After going through all the life and death situations together with Virus, Hellarose didn't want to truly leave his side anymore.

Since the day she came to be acquainted with Virus, she knew this moment of separation was bound to come, it's just that she didn't expect it to be here already.

Although she had this slight urge to leave everything else behind and just tag along with him for a while at least. Still, being conscious enough, after taking her responsibilities and life into account, she knew she had to go back asap.

"Can't you just come with me?" Abruptly, before she had even realized, she spat that question out loud.

"Huh? With you? Nah, I have a matter I need to take care of." With a wave of his palm, Virus rejected the invitation.

"Ah, right? Of course, you wouldn't want to come with me, you must have your own life waiting for your return, that was so silly of me."

"Anyway, you saved my life and I need to repay-" Before she could even finish, however, Virus put his index finger on her lips from over the veil and reminded her, "Did you forget how we met in the first place? You also saved my life at the time. I was just repaying the favor by saving you in the treasure room. So, don't talk about payback again since we couldn't be more even."

"Ah, is that so... so this is really goodbye." A lopsided grimace was visible on her face as she said that.

"Yeah, see you when I see you, bye." Patting her head once, Virus turned around and was just about to leave when his hand was grabbed, stopping him in his tracks.

"What is it? Did you forget about something?" Looking at Hellarose's expression, Virus queried.

"W-where are you going to next?" While tilting her head downward, the veiled Hellarose's clench became harder.

After a little deliberation regarding his next plan of action, Virus opened his mouth and stated, "Before I tell you that... by any chance, do know where the Poison Deity Clan's situated at?"

A contemplative light exuded from her pupils before she put a question of her own doubtfully, "Poison Deity Clan? Are you talking about that clan that controls one of the islands in the wild islands area?"

"Hmm, that should be it." Nodding, Virus affirmed.

"You should head north if you wanna get there. I believe it's in a city called Ricando on that same island they control. Why are you asking though? Are you going there? Why?" Full of curiosity, Hellarose was dying to know more details about what was up.

"Is that so? Okay, and yeah, I'm going there to gather some intel before deciding any further on my next course of action." With a gentle rub of his jaw, Virus pointed out his puzzlement, "But why are you so curious about where I'm going, woman?"

Chapter 474 - Hohoho

"Hot face, that..." The question immediately made Hellarose hesitant but she still replied nonetheless, "If I have the time in the future, I'll try visiting you some time! Who knows

what kind of messed up trouble a weakling damsel in distress like you will get himself into if I'm not around to save the day?"

That answer, unfortunately, only forced Virus to rub his forehead in frustration. "Sorry I even asked."

"It's okay. Then, guess I will see you when I find the time to visit." Clasping her hands behind herself while fidgeting with them rather nervously, with breathy giggles, Hellarose called his name out loud, "Stay safe, Vee."

Turning around, Virus began walking to the distance. Without looking back, he merely raised and waved his left arm while announcing, "I'm running away before you start acting any more like a normal woman. So long."

Watching his back, many complex emotions were passing through Hellarose's heart as she released a pronounced sigh.

When she was on the way to the Invisible Ancient Fortress World, she had reached out a hand to someone in need and saved a random man being attacked by a group of barbarians.

Experiencing everything that occurred afterward, frankly, not even in her wildest dreams had Hellarose expected that that one act of kindness would save her own life so quickly.

If she had not stepped up that day and thus, wasn't acquainted with him, Hellarose couldn't even imagine what would've happened to her in the Invisible Ancient Fortress World after Henna's betrayal.

'That's why kindness matters, goddess bless us all. One day it might all come back to us in the same or a different form. Thank you, my goddess, for putting him in my path.' By now, an expression full of grace had replaced her earlier cheeky behavior as if she was showing her other true self to a being that was always watching over her.

Meanwhile, various notions such as where should he board his spaceship was going through Virus' head, when abruptly, a foreboding feeling of alarm, something that he had developed over the course of countless years, went off in his head.

Someone was directing killing intent in his direction!

Despite not understanding what was happening yet, Virus didn't hesitate to activate his time-freeze perception while also spreading his sense of awareness all around himself!

The instant the time-freeze was turned on, however, much to his startlement, Virus spotted a person already materializing in front of him as an extremely terrifying punch was about to connect to his stomach.

In fact, this sneak attacker was so fast that Virus' current physique could not even hope to keep up with the individual!

Still, understanding the urgency and deadliness of the situation, Virus chanted two commands.

'Unnamed Virus Technique, First Form – Impulse!'

'Unnamed Virus Technique, Second Form – Friction!'

Even though the two forms were activating quite slowly due to his monstrous perception slowing down everything, Virus predicted that by the time the punch was about to hit him, they would be successfully activated.

Indeed, after a lot of time passed in his time-freeze perception, just as the fist of the unknown man was about to smash into him, both lightning and wind came to his aid.

Of course, even with these two at his beck and call, Virus calculated that his movement speed was nowhere close to the opponent. Thus, he was powerless in dodging it.

Fortunately, that wasn't his aim from the beginning.

As a matter of fact, the two water turbines of the second form had not even been triggered at the front side of his body, rather, they were operating at his back as they pushed aside any air particles that may hinder his retreat.

What Virus did after that was to forcefully propel himself to the back.

**BOOM!**

At the same time, the punch made contact with his stomach, sending him flying away into the far distance.

Subsequently, like an arrow that had been released from the string, Virus' figure was thrust backward as it penetrated through one tree after another!

Only when the fourth tree was cut off and he smashed into the fifth one did all the force behind the punch cease as Virus threw up blood before falling on the ground with his broken body!

On the other side, watching this unexpected development and turn of events, Hellarose's pupils dilated as she stared at the spot where Virus had been standing earlier!

It was a few moments later, when, finally having enough time to react, Hellarose screeched while veins were pulsing in her neck, "Hot face!!!"

Meanwhile, the unknown cultivator that was done attacking Virus raised his fist and whispered in some surprise, "Hmm, I guess I couldn't land my fist on him as good as I thought I did."

At the same time, remaining fallen on the ground, every part of Virus' body hurt like hell!

'Ah, that was a close one. Good thing my bones were barely able to endure the damage.' Simultaneously, like a zombie that was impossible to keep on the ground forever unless its brain was penetrated, Virus' frame began to move as he stood up.

"W-who are you?" Glaring at the unidentified assaulter with his chilly eyes, Virus interrogated. Although he didn't recognize the other person's face, that didn't stop him from memorizing it. 'One more face on the list.'

"Me? Hmm, well, I kind of feel bad for killing you even though there is no hostility whatsoever between us, so I shall at least introduce myself before sending you off to the afterlife, Vee." The golden-robed mature man said in a relaxed manner. He talked in a way as if he had already killed Virus. There was not a single ounce of doubt in his tone that he may fail today in his assassination attempt. He truly believed the instant he had targeted Virus, that was the moment his fate had been sealed.

"I'm prince Elijah, remember, that's the name of the person who sent you on your eternal journey." Holding his head high, Elijah introduced himself.

"Prince Elijah, huh? I'll remember that. And by the way, you're wrong about there not being any bad blood between us." Glowering at the target of his hostility, Virus declared.

"Huh? What do you mean?" Narrowing his eyes, Elijah was lost. For an instant, he even wondered if he had come across this person before in his life, but then shaking his head, he denied that possibility. There was no way he would forget such a handsome face.

"I mean, the second you took a strike at me and tried murdering me, was the moment animosity was planted between us." Virus clarified at once.

"Oh, now that I think about it, you're right! I suppose I don't need to feel sorry for killing you then, wonderful, hahaha..." Maintaining eye contact between them, Elijah started cracking up. 'What an amusing target.'

"But, since I don't even recognize you, will you tell me who sent you to take my life?" In spite of being uncertain about the response he may receive in return, Virus threw this doubt of his into the conversation.

"Um, I wonder if I should be telling you that or not?" Touching the base of his neck, Elijah shortly deliberated.

After a few seconds of contemplation, showing a contorted grin, Elijah concluded. "Well, I guess he would be happier and appreciate it even if you were aware of the mastermind behind your death, so let me elaborate a bit."

"The culprit who sent me to take your life is no one but," pausing, he started making noise of suspense before revealing the truth, "Adept Falcon!"

The moment those two words left Elijah's mouth, he suddenly felt as if he was choking for some reason. It took him an entire second before realizing that the source of the suffocating killing intent was in fact Virus himself!

"I see, it's that fucktard, huh? So, he survived that night. What a cockroach. But it's better this way..." By the end of his sentence, Virus was grinning as if he had been just notified of some good news. Now, he was looking forward to the day he was strong enough to go looking for that bastard and disintegrate him into nothingness for possibly daring to go after his life and even harm the golden beauty.

'Impossible, did he just oppress me with his killing intent alone. No, more than that, what kind of murderous intent is that? It looks like it's not even intended for me but it's still so heavy!'

'Ridiculous, I, prince Elijah, was shaken by the murderous intent of a youngling at the Liberation Stage?' The further he pondered the question, the angrier it made Elijah. Therefore, grinding his teeth together, Elijah felt as if his pride as both a cultivator and a prince had been just trampled.

As a result, blood began to gather in his eyes as he charged in Virus' direction like a madman, wanting to end him for real this time.

In the meantime, seeing Elijah's frame vanish out of nowhere, without further ado, Virus' time-freeze and the two forms of his Peak-Human movement technique were called upon!

Crackle~

Simultaneously, a shriek of terror resounded some distance away from Virus and Elijah. "Priestess, please save him!"

The anxious voice belonged to Hellarose who was apparently calling for someone's help.

Albeit, even after her scream, no one magically materialized to save Virus.

As Elijah was upon Virus once again, this time around, he reached out with his leg and unleashed a side kick toward his chest.

"Die!"

BOOM!

While raising his arms to block the strength behind the kick, Virus could only powerlessly endure and try his best in order to lower the damage by simultaneously jumping back just as the attack was about to make direct contact with his hands.

Crack~

Alas, the noise of his bone shattering reverberated in the surrounding area as Virus was sent flying away like a broken kite!

"Hot face!" Screaming in utter horror, Hellarose no longer cared about anything as she charged toward the place Virus had been sent flying to just now.

When she reached him at last, however, Hellarose could only cover her mouth while some traces of tears forced their way out of her eyes. That was because she saw that one arm of Virus was currently in an extremely sorry state.

A bone was sticking out of his flesh followed by the considerable flow of blood!

Meanwhile, determining Virus to be still breathing and alive, truthfully, Elijah was now feeling awestruck!

Virus' endurance had already gone way beyond anything he had expected. This opponent of his was oddly resilient.

"Well, guess I just need to hit you until you die." Muttering that, Elijah vanished again. Elijah's current philosophy was that if once wasn't enough, he would go at him twice, and if that wasn't enough as well, he would continue to do so until Virus draws his last breath.

Opposite to Elijah, perceiving his movement and upcoming attack that was guaranteed to deal a fatal blow to Virus, without even considering the possibility of her own death if she tried to interfere, Hellarose stood in front of Virus like an immovable mountain and spread both her arms. Next, closing her eyes shut, she screamed, "Stop!"

"Like hell, I will! You die as well!" Obviously annoyed very much by Hellarose's interruption, Elijah was just about to dash into her and end her swiftly before proceeding on his next target, when, without anyone's notice, an old woman materialized in the space between the two of them!

The old woman had been so fast that neither Elijah nor Hellarose were capable of discerning or reacting to it in the least!

"Hohoho! Young miss, is he really worth that much to you for you to risk your life so carelessly for his sake?" Laughing weirdly, the old woman ignored the petrified Elijah entirely as she simply gazed into Hellarose's pupils and questioned.

#### Chapter 475 - Priestess

"Priestess, he's my savior. I'll tell you the details later on, but please don't let any harm befall him for the moment. I shall be greatly indebted to you if you grant me this huge favor." Hellarose requested humbly while the inside corners of her eyebrows were slanting upward. It was obvious she was truly worried about Virus' fate.

"Hooh? Is that so? Okay, don't forget your promise. I'll save him from this eejit right there, however, I already heard about him killing the Purple-Maned Ancient Lion, sadly, even I can't do anything about it when the monstrous beasts' backup gets here." Indeed, having listened to the description of Ra from the shadows, the old lady had a rough picture of what had happened in the Invisible Ancient Fortress World.

"I understand." Although she had difficulty accepting that the old lady would not step up to protect Virus in case the monstrous beasts caught up, honestly, she knew that the priestess indeed would be incapable of interjecting even if she tried. Hence, she wasn't going to pointlessly ask her to risk her life for Virus' sake.

True, it was Hellarose's own choice to whether risk her life for his sake, but just as much as it was her right to make that decision, it also wasn't her place to ask someone else to risk their life for the sake of another. She considered that an extremely selfish act that deserved to be denounced and reviled.

Furthermore, since the monstrous beasts weren't even there right now, first, she wanted to deal with the current issue at hand.

"Alright." Turning toward Elijah at once, the old woman grinned gently and advised him like a kind grandma, "Young'un, the goddess condemns violence without a just cause, vengeance and grudges are the evil of your soul that needs suppression, not feeding."

"Feed the good of your soul today, not the poisonous one." Preaching at him up to this point, she also added in an even warmer manner, "The goddess will look favorably upon you if you oppress that evil urge inside yourself and leave, if not, you may face the wrath of the goddess. Heed this advice from this experienced old lady."

On the other side, listening to everything the old lady was saying, a great deal of sweat was already showering Elijah's forehead who wondered to himself, 'Isn't that just a nice way of saying fuck off or I'll cut you into a thousand tiny pieces?'

Indeed, looking into her unusually focused eyes which were currently locked on his figure, Elijah was quite certain he would die in case he insisted on taking Virus' life any longer, 'Damn it, there's no way I'll let this scary old lady here kill me today. I'm leaving!'



But just in case, I'll continue keeping my eyes on this place, who knows, maybe I got an opportunity when they go their separate ways.'

With that, smiling broadly, Elijah uttered in sheer respect, "Elder, you are correct indeed, I've been enlightened by your magnanimous advice today and it may change my life forever. I thank you for imparting such a valuable listen to me, what great wisdom you have! I shall take my leave now, farewell."

Afterward, not wanting to linger around a second longer, Elijah's silhouette retreated until further notice.

"Hmph, that was the most sincere fake speech I've heard in a long time." Letting out a harrumph, the old lady no longer bothered herself with Elijah's fleeing figure.

Meanwhile, Virus finally sat on his hips before proceeding to put back the bone that was sticking out of his flesh back into his arm without even showing the slightest sign of being in pain.

Crack!

Beside him, witnessing that scene, Hellarose's face went pale in fright. She could not imagine how much it must've hurt to do that, but Virus had done it without a single yelp of pain.

"Are you okay, hot face?" Sitting beside Virus, Hellarose inquired concernedly. Seeing him get hurt was making her heart ache.

"Yeah, I'm fine. It's just that the bleeding is rather serious and it's not stopping." Indeed, even though his bone was at least temporarily moved to a better position, the cut that it had made on his arm was making him bleed nonstop. If it was the Technological Earth, Virus had various methods of stopping the bleeding and even healing the injury swiftly, unfortunately, he was not.

Listening to that, Hellarose made puppy dog eyes as she gazed at the priestess pitifully, "Priestess... please help him."

Looking into those eyes, the old lady could only scratch her head in frustration as she took out a medicine pill from somewhere and threw it at her, "Geez, that's a precious pill of mine, can't believe I'm using it on someone I don't even know."

"Thanks!" With her eyes shining brilliantly, Hellarose took it out of its container before extending it right in front of Virus' mouth, "Hot face, say 'ahhhh'."

That instantly forced a tic on Virus' forehead. Unfortunately, there wasn't anything else he could do to heal himself at the moment, thus, he opened his mouth helplessly.

Alas, squinting her eyes, Hellarose didn't seem to be satisfied just yet. "No... don't just open your mouth. You have to say 'ahhhh'."

"I would rather die!" More veins were popping on his neck and forehead as Virus rejected stubbornly. He also confirmed for the zillionth time that she was crazy! 'How can someone continue behaving so cheekily in all kinds of grim situations?'

Afterward, as she put the pill within his mouth herself, Virus swallowed it. Soon, a strange yet soothing type of energy began transmitting itself from his stomach to his arm area. Then, at a pace visible to the naked eye, the wound started taking effect.

Frankly, the pill wasn't supposed to be working that quick.. The reason why it was like that mainly had to do with the fact that Virus' body had a special attribute that made it possible for him to absorb the full extent of a pill's potency.

#### Chapter 476 - Fault

When it came to the efficiency of the pills on other people, some would only absorb twenty percent of the potency of the pills while some better ones may take in more. Overall, it was dependent on the type of talent the said person's gene had in that regard.

However, for Virus, one of the characteristics of the top-notch DNA core he had implanted within his biological body made it so that his stomach would behave like an insatiable sponge that could suck up a full one hundred percent potency of any pills.

Although that sounded like a dream come true feature for a cultivator to have as it was bound to make the path of cultivation much easier for the said person, that, in fact, was not the case at all since there was a major flaw to that kind of physique, a kind of defect that would immediately turn the dream into a nightmare.

The flaw had to do with the fact that each pill had a certain percentage of impurities within itself that were harmful to the body. Since that type of body was bound to absorb everything about a pill, it was also destined to merge with the bad parts of the pill just as well as the good parts. Hence, all things considered, at the end of the day, it was better for a cultivator to not have that kind of body, to begin with.

On the plus side, however, that wasn't really an issue for Virus anymore since he had completely immunized his body to all impurities when he finished the Purifying pre-stage of cultivation.

Thus, Virus had already negated that weakness and had no worries regarding it. As a matter of fact, that was one of the reasons why he was so adamant about completing the purifying stage as it was destined to be of great assistance to him during his entire journey of cultivation.

Now, only the positive potency of the pills could influence his body while the negative influences were bound to be unable to affect, accumulate, or gather within his body.

As the bleeding gradually scabbed, Virus raised his head and told Hellarose unceremoniously, "Guess I'm in your debt again. And here I was just saying we're even now."

Smiling in a friendly manner, Virus felt nothing but grateful to this woman that had been warm-hearted enough to extend her hand and aid him. 'I won't forget about this, I promise to return this to you a ten-fold at least.'

With a simpering smirk, Hellarose reminded him, "Geez, didn't I just tell you you're a powerless damsel in distress that can't last without me? I had just voiced it and you're proving it true already!" Holding her head high, Hellarose claimed full of pride in herself.

"Sigh..." Letting out a pronounced sigh, with a simple shake of his head, the only response Virus had to that was, "You're probably the only person to ever think that. But... you're right, I'm still too weak, I need more strength."

Virus consoled himself by envisioning how Hellarose would react if she was aware of his background and back story about the terrifying [Virus] that nearly led to the fall of a humongous civilization.

However, he was also aware that he was not that Virus anymore. That Virus was a nigh-unkillable being.

On the other hand, a stronger cultivator was all that was required to finish him off right now. Or at least that is the case until he's strong enough to be even nigher unkillable than before, perhaps even remove the 'nigh' part and only leave the 'unkillable' part this time.

Ultimately, that was also why cultivation was so much fun and worth it since it was the path that led to true power that uniquely belonged to its wielder alone.

"Right." Confirming mercilessly, Hellarose rushed him up, "Anyway if you're feeling better now, you better escape before the arrival of the monstrous beasts, you'll be in big trouble if they get to you!"

"Hmm, alright." Rising to his feet, Virus was just about to say goodbye again before leaving when a yelp from Hellarose stopped him in his track.

"Ahh, I almost forgot earlier since I was so worried about the monstrous beasts... do you know the way out of Chao Mundi, by the way? It would be too dangerous if you just wander around aimlessly here."

"Don't worry, I still recall the route we came from." Although Virus was vocalizing that out loud, internally, he had another idea, 'No worries, my spaceship will get me out of here pretty safely.'

Then, after exchanging a few words of farewell, Virus finally charged toward the path they had originally come from.

Soon, when there was no one around, out of nowhere, a door briefly opened up in front of Virus as he vanished inside!

In the meantime, Virus was just gone when the old lady abruptly materialized in his previous position.

"Huh? What was that? Where did he go to?" Albeit, no matter how hard the priestess contemplated the question, there wasn't a single clue that was going to enlighten her.

After returning to Hellarose's side again, the priestess exclaimed in some amazement, "Young miss, that guy is not a simple man. He just vanished into thin air. Just now, some gate cracked open in the fabric of space as he walked into it, and then poof—he was gone!"

Listening to that description, however, Hellarose didn't seem to be shocked or even that surprised since she had already deemed Virus to be a mystery, an enigma, with a lot of secrets.

"Is that so? I'm just glad that he's safe." With sparkling eyes, Hellarose began humming a happy tune. She was genuinely feeling relieved now.

...

On the other side, after Virus was gone, another person adorned in a golden robe started cursing out loud, "Where did he go? Fuck!!!"

That was Elijah.

...

Quake~

Precisely a quarter of an hour later, around the region Virus had vanished at, an earthquake was felt as it was soon followed by the appearance of tens of thousands of one- and two-meters ants that swarmed everywhere!

Furthermore, it was followed by a titanic ant that cast a terrifying shadow over the trees of Chao Mundi itself!

## Chapter 477 - Where Is He?

"Where is he?" Following afterward, shockingly, the titanic ant moved its mandibles and talked in human language to no one in particular, "Find him!" it declared while the smaller ants dispersed in every direction!

In case Virus didn't have his spacecraft, without the shadow of a doubt, he would've been tracked down and slaughtered before he had the opportunity to escape very far.

Meanwhile, inside his spaceship that was heading north, Virus commanded the spaceship to fly as high as possible in its invisible mode.

Even though he could guarantee no one on this Earth would be capable of seeing past the invisibility of his spaceship, it never hurt to be more cautious.

'Now, until I reach my destination, I better rest and recuperate.' Examining the wound that was already mending itself, Virus decided.

After inspecting the open injury and the state of his broken bone with his sense of awareness, Virus was confident that the pill he had taken was strong enough to gradually heal his bones over time.

The only downside was that healing the bone was going to take a few days at least and during that period, it was advised that he doesn't use his arm and just sleeps and rests.

...

Eight days flew by at the snap of a finger. During these eight days, Virus did nothing but rest in hopes of getting better faster.

And today, he was just stretching his hand out when the spaceship's basic Artificial Intelligence notified him of their arrival at the destination.

That immediately attracted Virus' undivided attention as he stood up and looked out of the spaceship at the scenery below him.

Currently, Virus could see a large ancient city beneath himself surrounded by nothing but desert in all directions. It was clearly noisy, energetic, and cheerful as people were walking around in all directions.

"So, this is Ricardo. The city inhabited by the Poison Deity Clan." Virus voiced coldly while glimpsing at the boisterous city down below.

Ricardo was surrounded by two layers of gigantic walls in the shape of rings that accommodated the city within themselves.

The first ring wall that was covering the larger outer segment of the city was called the outer wall and it naturally lodged the outer area of the city.

In order to enter the Outer Ricando, one had to pass through the gates of the outer wall.

Moreover, deep into the city itself, there was a layer of another wall that had given rise to the Inner Ricando.

As he was done inspecting the general picture of the city, Virus commanded the basic A.I. to descend.

Afterward, landing some distance away from one of the four gates that were pasted to the outer wall, Virus got off his spaceship and ambled toward the closest gate.

While strolling in that direction, he also continuously tested the functionality of his restored arm, making sure it had healed up to a perfect state.

Swish!

Also brandishing his sword around a little, Virus guaranteed that there was no problem with his arm anymore, the bones had been reverted to the state they were prior to the injury.

'Hmm, that must've been a valuable pill.' He ascertained with a relaxed brow free of frown lines. He felt truly grateful, not for the priestess that had given him the pill, but rather Hellarose who had persuaded the old lady to step up by promising her probably something extremely valuable.

Just as the thought flashed through his mind, Virus realized that he was already near the entrance.

Inspecting the surroundings, Virus spotted a short line of people waiting to legally pass into the city.

Virus as well, entered the orderly line as he bided his time until the people in front of him were gone.

Around fifteen minutes later, when it was finally his turn, Virus was stopped by one of the city guards who shouted, "Who are you? Show me your Identification that's been issued by the Ricando state."

"Identification Stone? I don't have that. It's my first time visiting this place." Since there was no need to lie, Virus simply told them the truth.

Learning that he was a foreigner, the guard's treatment and tone worsened by a level. Apparently, the foreigners weren't perceived the same as the native ones. Therefore, he

said dismissively, "Huh? Then you need to pay ten Qi Ingots of the first grade so as to certify your identity by the Ricando governor's office."

Honestly, Virus was unbothered by the guard's tone and felt it was beneath him to even consider the idea of retaliating against the man since barking back at a barking dog only lowers one's own worth.

Rubbing his chin, he casually answered, "Hmm, but I don't have any Qi Ingots with me right now... can't I enter the city and make some quick money before paying the city-state?"

Sadly yet, hearing that Virus had nothing to pay for, the city guard's behavior experienced an even sharper turn for the worse. "If you have no money, then get the hell out of the line and stop bothering us!"

Even though the way he was treating Virus before wasn't that nice, to begin with, after hearing Virus was a poor person with nothing to offer, his gaze transformed entirely. Now, it was as if he was looking at nothing but a disgusting homeless peasant.

On the other side, Virus calmly carved the other person's face while putting on his warmest smile, he may not bark back at the dog, but he can always kill it some time in order to stop the annoying noise.

'I suppose I can only hop over to the outer wall using my spaceship.' As that thought popped into his brain, Virus quickly returned to his spaceship.

Then, the spaceship stealthily moved toward the open space above the outer wall.

Bam!

Suddenly, the spaceship crashed into something, sending intense tremors within the interior.. That immediately garnered Virus' focus as he looked outside to see what was up.

Chapter 478 - Ricando

Currently, outside the spacecraft, surrounding the entirety of Ricando, a silver shield had been activated while the invisible spaceship had directly collided with it, unable to break through inside.

"Damn, seems like they have some kind of defensive line to stop the intruders." Exhibiting a half-smile filled with frustration, Virus discovered first-hand.

Simultaneously, all around Ricando, figures of authority began to move as they started searching for the source of the intrusion or possibly attack attempt. Apparently, the activation of the city shield was a big deal.

Fortunately, they were incapable of locating him.

While the city went into a temporary state of chaos amongst its upper echelons, Virus landed the spacecraft on the ground once again.

'Guess I can only somehow earn some money before being allowed into the city.'

In the meantime, getting off the spaceship, Virus discerned that covering the entire surface of the outer wall, various engravings were shining on them while they produced the sphere boundary that had prevented his entry earlier. 'Well, I reckon the only option left is to go through one of the gate entrances.'

Returning to the gate once more, Virus began studying and inspecting the people passing by while wondering how he should earn some quick buck.

'Maybe I should beg?' Making this suggestion internally, a grin crept over Virus' face. Of course, he was merely joking when he was proposing that idea since it was just his way of pointing out the irony of how poor he was right now.

His pride wouldn't let him beg. He would steal, but not beg.

On the Technology Earth, he was so rich that whatever he desired was procured for him at the shortest notice. And yet, absurdly enough, the initial capitals for that wealth had been gathered through stealing from nearly everyone in the world!

On this planet, however, he was ironically piss poor to the point that even gaining access to a single city was proving difficult. And yet, he was unwilling to beg.

'Should I display some of my cultivation and offer to work for a rich person as a bodyguard for a while?' This new idea had just gone through Virus' head when he noticed someone approaching him.

It was a disguised figure hiding her face beneath a cloak. Still, that meant nothing to Virus as he merely released her sense of awareness and received a perfect image of the woman in his mindscape.

Previously, when Virus was participating in the trial of the staircase, Virus had also released his awareness in order to figure out the identities of the two cloaked people, unfortunately, they seemed to be wearing special types of cloaks or something similar that prevented any kind of probing.

And about the veil hiding Hellarose's countenance, to be honest, Virus hadn't even tried looking past it since he was unwilling to do that to his savior. In case she was ever intent on showing herself voluntarily, Virus may take a look just to see exactly what kind of person possesses such a cheeky attitude, but if not, he didn't really care.



And of course, neither of those mentioned above was the case with this woman in front of him who was wearing a cheap common cloak.

She seemed to be in her thirties while there was an extremely wild air about her that Virus discerned at once. Her tan skin together with the pronounced body parts also added further to that quality.

"Hey, do you need help getting into the city?" She said in the most tempting tone she could possibly make, just like a creepy uncle offering a kid a lollipop.

"Hmm? Who are you?" Furrowed in a frown, Virus queried.

"I just saw you were unable to enter Outer Ricardo since you don't have any money. But I think I felt some cultivation qi in your body, which stage are you at?" Clearly excited at the notion of coming across someone with a good level of cultivation, the woman interrogated.

"Why would I tell you that?" Staring with half-lidded eyes, Virus could already anticipate her answer.

"I'll pay for your identity certification process plus ten more Qi Ingots as extra payment." She said as expected.

"And what's the catch?" Since nothing was free in the world, Virus wanted to know just how expensive she was selling those twenty first-grade Qi Ingots to him.

"You will know when we get there, you just need to follow me. Anyway, I'll leave if you don't want to, it's not like I'm trying to force you or anything."

However, those words only made Virus smile in mirth, 'Huh, using that strategy, eh?'

"Alright, leave." Grinning from ear to ear, Virus didn't hesitate to tell her off.

However, as he predicted, the woman did not leave, "You sure? You're losing a great opportunity, you know?"

"I'm sure. Go away now."

"Wait... I'll give you fifteen first-grade Qi Ingots." Her voice was reeking of anxiety at this point.

"Hmm? Is that so?" Obviously, Virus could see there was something fishy about this entire situation, but that only urged him to want to do it more, "It sounds fun, I couldn't possibly say no to fifteen first-grade Qi Ingots, right? Alright, let's go!"

'Let's see where this little trip guides me to.'

"What? Are you sure? I can always just find another person if-"

Speechless that she was still proceeding with that nonsense strategy of hers despite it failing once, Virus exclaimed, "Cut the bullshit! I've seen through that little trick of yours already. Why do you even keep saying that? I told you to leave if you wanna leave!"

'Is she perhaps slow in the head?' Virus deliberated, truly suspicious now.

That response, however, abruptly startled the woman as her pupils dilated beneath the cloak.

"A-alright, let's go."

Subsequently, they set foot in the line until it was finally their turn. Seeing him return, the guard that had chased Virus away before started to get pissed off, "Damn it! Didn't I tell you to fuck off? Do I have to beat you up before you understand?"

Virus' countenance remained expressionless much like a buddha that could not be angered at all.

Alas, that made the guard even angrier. Therefore, he was about to get his weapon and start beating up this peasant that didn't comprehend his place when the cloaked woman stepped up at last.

"I'll pay for him, here." Offering him the ten Qi Ingots of the first grade, the cloaked woman declared.

"Huh? So, you found yourself a sugar mommy to pay for you, huh? Well, looking at your face, it's not a surprise." Throwing another gaze full of contempt, the guard demanded next, "What's your name, by the way?"

Seeing Virus remain silent without introducing himself, the cloaked woman clarified the process, "Your name will be carved on your identification plaque, so it's essential. Moreover, they need to make sure you're not an enemy of Ricardo."

"I'm Vee. Simply Vee with no last names."

"I see. Vee, it is then. What's the purpose of your visit?"

"Probably to live here."

"Where are you from originally?"

"I used to live alone in a hut amongst the mountains, so nowhere really."

"Just as I assumed, a country bumpkin with nothing at all. Okay, you two wait here and don't move until I return." After jotting down every one of his replies, the guard vanished off to somewhere.

In the meantime, Virus merely watched him leave his line of sight quietly.

## Chapter 479 - Two

Although he continued looking down on Virus, he was still very clear about his duties and knew there would be unnecessary trouble in case he didn't properly do the paperwork for the newcomers.

While they were left cooling their heels, the cloaked woman started mouthing all of a sudden, "You know, a single first grade Qi Ingot is too much already for a common citizen, so don't mistakenly assume you would've been able to find someone else to help you out if you had rejected me."

"Is that so?"

"Yes."

A few minutes later, the guard returned with a plaque and threw it at him rudely.

Two things were engraved on the plaque. The first one was his name, Vee and below that, there was a certain number that represented his identity.

"You two are permitted into the city, now go away." With a wave of his hand, the guard shooed them away.

...

After entering the city, the first view Virus met with was a large river. Thinking back, it was in fact another significant detail Virus had witnessed earlier when he was looking down from inside the spacecraft.

The river ran across the entire Ricando itself as it separated the city into two equal half parts.

It was the water source of the entire city. As a matter of course, one of the reasons why Ricando had even formed in this location was supposedly due to the existence of this river in the middle of the dead desert which became the water source for everyone!

Along the two sides of the river, there was a never-ending bazaar on both sides while a busy crowd was raucously commuting around.

Noticing Virus' inquisitive gaze wandering around, the cloaked woman voluntarily stepped up and introduced, "This is the main and the biggest market of Ricando."

The brief introduction seemed to only intensify Virus' thirst for more information. "Hooh? Is that so? Tell me more."

Pointing at the river, she presented. "Do you see that river? It separates both Outer and Inner Ricando into two equal parts. What you need to know about these parts, however, is that each of them is controlled by one of the two factions of the Poison Deity clan."

"So, the Poison Deity clan consists of two factions, eh? What are they called?" An utterly sharp and serious glint was gleaming through his pupils. Since an opportunity to gather some rudimentary data had provided itself, Virus wasn't going to miss it.

"You don't even know that much and you came to live here? They are the Poison and the Deity factions obviously." Without stopping there, she continued, "The side we're at right now is the Poison-Half which is naturally controlled by the Poison faction while the other side is the Deity-Half controlled by the Deity faction."

"I see... and even Inner Ricando is managed like that?"

"Yes, actually, the clan itself resides in Inner Ricando while Outer Ricando is mostly inhabited by other people and cultivators that are not related to the clan."

'Hmm, what an interesting city.' Deliberating shortly, Virus asked another question. "Who are the nobles of this city?"

"Naturally, as long as they are at least an inner disciple, every member of the Poison Deity clan is considered nobility." Lowering her eyebrows, she announced.

"I see. That makes sense if they are in total control of the city." Nodding his head, Virus was satisfied for now.

"Yes, anyway, just remember this is the Poison-Half of Outer Ricando and our destination is also in this section of the town." Afterward, a long silence descended upon the two until they decided to focus on the rowdy market and people instead.

Subsequently, half an hour passed when the two finally arrived in front of a large colosseum.

"Huh? Why are we here?" Tugging on an earlobe, Virus squinted at the annoyingly secretive woman that refused to notify him of the services he had been hired for.

"This arena is called the Recreation Training Center. One of the major events of Ricando occurs in this place. Let's go, I'll explain everything else when we get there."

Next, Virus and the disguised woman sauntered into the colosseum together.

"You stay here. I'll be back soon." Telling Virus to wait when they reached an empty reception, the woman left in a hurry.

A few minutes later, she returned with a buffed-up middle-aged man who was exuding a strong qi from all over himself, he was clearly at least at the Sublimity Emergence stage. Virus was unsure whether he could defeat the newcomer if he went against him.

"Is this him?" Yawning, while half-closing his eyes, the man questioned.

"Yes." Unusually respectful, the woman confirmed.

"I see, okay. You there, since you agreed to take her place in exchange for the identity plaque, follow me." Picking his nose, the man urged Virus.

"Hmm? Where to?" Pursing his lips, Virus requested further clarification since he was still baffled about almost everything.

"Please just follow him, Vee, you'll understand the rest very soon. I'll stay here until you return." She proclaimed with the saddest smile she could form.

Although Virus knew this entire circumstance was too suspicious, having already made up his mind to see through this little ploy to the very end, he accompanied the man.

Furthermore, analyzing where he was and how the situation had progressed so far, Virus had a rough picture of the most likely possibilities that were going to take place subsequently.

What he could say for sure, however, was that accompanying the man was the sole option he had at hand right now.

In case he tried retaliating and killing the middle-aged guy, the entire city would probably be after his head and that will prevent him from accomplishing the main purpose of his visit to this place.

Moreover, he wasn't confident about escaping if things escalated that far ahead since his spacecraft couldn't even enter Ricardo.. So, the most logical course of action was to go along with the person.

Chapter 480 - Senior Citizen

'Ahh, I blame my poverty for this. Hope it's something fun though...' Grinning helplessly, Virus concluded. Indeed, not having the money to enter this big town was the sole reason why he was in his current quandary in the first place.

'Well, let's see what's up before coming up with a logical plan of action.'

'If I only had foreknowledge about getting stuck on this planet or some news about the destruction of Silver Sky sect, I would have made many preparations.' Precisely as Virus was claiming, in case he was aware that his spaceship would be assaulted and nearly rendered wrecked and useless, he would have taken and procured a lot of precautions and essential materials. Even the news of the annihilation of the Silver Sky sect would've led to the same result.

For example, there were many precious materials and minerals on Earth that he could easily buy and bring with him to exchange with some of the currency of the planet, and that would have solved the earlier issue at the gate.

Unfortunately, despite being extremely intelligent with the ability to calculate and even predict a lot of possible events, he was still incapable of foretelling something he had no prior clues or knowledge about.

All he could have done was to uselessly prepare for every type of situation that may or may not occur in his short visit to the cultivation planet, which was simply countless!

If Virus truly did take that route, the list would be nearly endless while the devices and the other materials he required would not even fit into the small spacecraft, not even close.

No, considering the level of technology he had available right now, his calculations advised him to not even ponder the idea of going to any type of multiversal and even universal trips at least until he achieves huge advancements in technology which was probably going to take decades if not centuries to develop.

Furthermore, that wouldn't be just a one-time thing, rather, every time he wants to go on a journey, he would be coerced to keep arranging a lot of gadgets, instruments, items, materials, etc. which would be an extremely time-consuming and boring affair which was against Virus' current motivations.

And yet, even with that infinite list of planning, the danger wouldn't be gone in a true sense, at least not until he was unkillable. Up to that point, there was always going to be a meager percentage of some random planet-destroying cultivator showing up one day and destroying the entire planet he was on with the snap of his fingers!

Therefore, there wasn't really a point in coming up with a lot of futile arrangements for unknown situations.

Hence, everything considered, all Virus could do was to perform a basic calculation of the possible situations that may arise based on the 'available information' he had at hand while presuming everything else he was 'left in the dark' about as irrelevant.

Thus, the foundation of his calculations was always the 'available data' and not 'every possibility' which was basically asking for infinity itself.

Frankly though, in case Virus changed the set data of his calculations from 'available data' to 'every possibility', the level of obsession in his judgment will be so high that he may even assume going to the toilet as dangerous, ignoring the fact that he would definitely wipe out the entire human population since they were an unpredictable race in their very essence.

So, ending his futile pondering, Virus merely chased after the middle-aged man quietly.

After striding behind him for a while, they finally reached a room as the man exclaimed, "Go in."

Examining the interior of the room, Virus spotted a few people sitting in there silently.

Furthermore, all over the room, there were various weapons such as swords, axes, spears, etc. attached to the walls, but they were all common mortal weapons that couldn't really be effective against cultivators.

"When everything's ready, the other door will be unlocked on its own." The instant Virus stepped inside the room, leaving that vague sentence behind, the middle-aged guy shut the door close and left. By 'the other door', he was talking about a second door that existed on the opposite wall within the small space of the chamber.

"What do you mean-"

Click~

Thud!

Attempting to open the doorway, Virus realized it had been tightly locked.

Bam!

The door didn't budge in the least despite him kicking it using all his might.

"Don't bother. The door is specially fortified to last against strong cultivators. You won't be able to break it open." Suddenly, one of the people that was sitting in a corner notified Virus.

Turning toward the source of the voice, Virus spotted an old man, however, not lingering on him alone, he quickly inspected the faces of everyone present in the room.

Right now, other than him, four varying people were sitting on the seats of the chamber. Two of them were old people while the other two were teenagers.

However, what garnered Virus' attention was the fact that all four of them had extremely dark and ashen white expressions as if they were in an extreme state of despair. Those blank and hopeless eyes of theirs were clearly waiting for the death reaper to come and reap their lives.

"Hmm, I see. But who are you guys? What's this place?" Putting on a rigid expression, Virus asked.

That question of his, however, made the old man dumbfounded, "You don't know where you are?"

"No? I know it's an arena and it's called the Recreation Training Center, but nothing more to be truthful. I just..." Afterward, Virus elaborated everything that had occurred so far about how he had been brought over by that cloaked woman here in exchange for paying for his identity plaque.

When he was done explaining, the old man started laughing uproariously like he had gone crazy. "Hahahaha..."

"What's so funny, old man?" Virus said with a squint.