

# Void 1011

Chapter 1011 Geniuses [1]

Whoosh!

A light wind flowed from one side of Holy Light Star to the other, almost as if foreshadowing chaos with its peaceful breeze.

It took a full day for Xue'er to clear out the beasts that she'd been tasked to defeat, and even after accomplishing her goal, she wasn't allowed to rest.

She was soon introduced to her Third Aunt, who proceeded to spar with her for many hours to the point where she felt like dying!

However, her Third Aunt was like an angel, able to immediately make her feel like she'd woken up from a good night of sleep in an instant and make all of her injuries disappear.

It was helpful training for Xue'er before the true challenge that was to come, but while watching them, Damien also noticed something else.

"You're injured?" He asked Elena after she'd finished training with Xue'er.

Elena shook her head. "It's nothing much. I had to burn a good amount of blood vitality to survive my last encounter, but it only somewhat affected my strength. I just need to be mindful in the future," she responded with a shrug, severely downplaying her state.

Damien frowned. Did she really think she could keep it from him?

"Your aura has already reached the 1st revolution, but your strength has actually regressed from the last time I saw you. And you call losing this much lifespan 'nothing much?!' You practically lost half your life!"

He sighed to himself and placed his hand on her head, allowing the warm currents of [Heal] to flow through her body.

This skill that was granted to him by Alaric, the Primordial Undying Tree, was a lifesaver for him whenever he made the same suicidal move for the sake of survival.

And thankfully, it was able to keep those close to him healthy, regardless of what they faced when he wasn't with them.

Elena closed her eyes contentedly as she felt the warm power course through her again. This was the second time she'd felt the power of this trait, but it still didn't cease to amaze her.

She could sense just a trace of concept within the current that was similar to Transcended Death, yet far milder, as if it was the true path to immortal life.

She smiled to herself.

'I guess even if he's talented, Life Laws aren't his specialty.'

He was following a far more mainstream path than she was in terms of Life Laws alone, which made her somewhat happy.

After all, what would be the point of all her hard work if the path she was following could be mimicked by anyone else?

Even if that person was Damien, the fact didn't change.

As Damien healed the foolishly grinning Elena, he glanced at Xue'er with furrowed brows.

'How troublesome...'

It wasn't long ago when he said promoting Xue'er was the utmost priority, but after seeing her fight, his opinion ended up changing.

'She's not ready yet. She has a developed battle style, but she still relies extensively on spirits and only contributes physical strength and mana from her body. The actual processes are taken care of by them. If I try to push her to promote, I'd only be harming her.'

"Huu..."

Damien exhaled lightly.

He thought he was past the point where he made mistakes in judgement, but Xue'er had rapidly brought him down several pegs.

'I said I was respecting her wishes, but I was just rushing because I know how bad it is to get stuck in imbalance and cope with the consequences in the future. However...how could I forget why that imbalance exists in the first place?'

Whether it was Damien or Xue'er, the Laws they studied were far greater than those of the people around them. Their paths were more convoluted even while following the same flow as the universe's streamlined path.

'The reason my Spacetime became so profound is because I spent time slowly understanding my Law and purpose before finally grasping it for maximum results. My Baptism couldn't have been planned even if the greatest heavenly strategist tried, and Xue'er's will inevitably be the same.'

"I'm going to send her back," he finally said out loud.

"Back to the Sanctuary?" Elena asked.

"Mm," Damien responded.

"She's gotten a sufficient amount of practical experience in the past few weeks, and what she needs now is to go somewhere quiet and introspect until she finds her answer."

"And if she can't find it using that method?"

"Then time is the only answer. A constant cycle of struggling and introspecting until the answer decides it's the right time for her to understand it."

"That's quite convoluted."

"It is, which is why it's annoying."

Damien sighed and dropped his head, letting himself fall into Elena's lap.

"You've felt it, right?"

"Yeah, how could I not? Life Laws are my whole thing."

"True. Do you think she'd survive?"

"Xue'er...?"

Elena glanced at the little girl who was peacefully sleeping off her fatigue nearby.

"Probably not," she finally said.

Damien sighed. In the end, this place was meant for 4th class beings, and the strongest among them at that.

Realistically speaking, the troubles of this realm weren't challenges to Xue'er, they were true hells!

Damien kept his eyes on the sky above, enjoying the feeling of Elena's hands running through his hair.

"Are you feeling better?"

"Nonsense. With that kind of healing, why wouldn't I be feeling better?"

"Mm, but I couldn't get you back to your original lifespan. You're around 80% recovered."

"That's more than enough. You know me, I'll do the rest myself somehow."

"Mm, your plot armor looks especially beautiful in the moonlight."

"Don't forget whose lap you're resting on."

"Mmm, squishy thighs."

"Tch."

Damien smiled to himself and closed his eyes.

There was nothing particularly special about this moment, but it felt especially peaceful.

For some reason, his mood turned reminiscent. He thought about the past and the present, he thought about the people who he held dear and the enemies he'd vanquished along the way.

It was "Life."

"His" life.

He and Elena held an extreme connection to the element of Life, and unlike the rest in the realm who were soon going to experience a terrible calamity, to them, it was something else entirely.

The world was going through a cycle of creation and destruction like a beautiful microcosm representing the universe itself.

To them, it wasn't a calamity that was coming, it was a resurrection.

And the ambient mana's strange movements that foreshadowed such an event were like a serenade to them specifically, unheard by anyone else.

"What should we do after I send her back?" Damien suddenly asked.

"Hmm..." Elena muttered.

"Do we really need to divert from the original goal?"



"What do you mean?"

"I mean...the reason plundering everything became meaningless is because the competition is too weak. But, after this calamity, won't those Holy Land geniuses finally start entering the realm in droves?"

"You can't be thinking of..."

"Why can't I be thinking of that?"

"You have a really big appetite."

"Not nearly as big as yours."

"Hmph."

Damien rolled his eyes.

Holy Land geniuses...

Could they really live up to his expectations?

## Chapter 1012 Geniuses [2]

Damien sent Xue'er back to the Sanctuary after giving her a short explanation and some homework, transferring her to Elvira for further training.

The only gripe was that he had to promise to bring her back out when he saw Xiao Yue. Evidently, her rivalry with the girl had formed in full in the few minutes they'd interacted.

He also separated from Elena again. Since she wanted to continue their original plan, he also decided to go along with it.

They compiled the treasures they'd gotten until this point, which weren't many considering how Elena had been spending her time, and went in opposite directions to once again plunder the realm.

Because this time, they would hold an absolute advantage against any and everyone!

When daylight struck, the realm began to change as well.

A barely noticeable suction force emitted from the ground, funneling the ambient vitality of the realm into the earth to start the process of reconstruction.

As of now, only the atmosphere was being affected, but both Damien and Elena were well aware.

By the time the day was over, no one would be safe from the force.

At the moment, Damien stood above the realm, looking down on it without expression,

'What do I do now?'

Actually, his strange mood from last night was only partially caused by the ambient aura.

The true reason was more complex.

To put it simply...Damien didn't know what to do with himself,

He'd reached a level where he couldn't really identify with the younger generation, because 99% of them could be killed with a single movement of his finger.

He'd been fighting against the older generation, those monsters who'd lived for thousands of years, for so long that he'd forgotten what it meant to be young.

He was only 30, yet his peers were 10,000.

With this kind of disconnect, it was natural to become confused,

'I didn't think about it much before because I didn't have such a visceral comparison presented to me like now. Just when did I go from being the arrogant young genius to the old master that taught him?'

The switch into a teacher mentality happened mainly due to Astoria's existence, but it came so naturally that Damien didn't even notice how prominent it'd become.

'I'm not a damn old man yet. I want to be reckless!'

Frankly, he was pissing himself off with the pure inability to do anything.

He'd become addicted to the constant movement he'd been doing for years now. It wasn't tiring, it was fulfilling.

He couldn't just sit still and teach people anymore, acting as a background character in the universe.

That wasn't what he wanted at all!

'My true stage is the conference that'll happen in a month, but I don't want to just idle here for another month. I thought they'd close the realm down and create new challenges after reassessing our strength, but instead, they just increased the difficulty of the realm itself.'

Now, the only two who didn't really have a place on Holy Light Star were Damien and Su Ren.

'Should I go find him...?'

His senses suddenly tingled. His head snapped in a certain direction, where he saw a group of five geniuses traversing the realm.

'Holy Land geniuses?' He thought to himself as he felt their aura and peered through their treasures.

'Maybe I should have some fun...'

Damien still had several goals to accomplish on Holy Light Star, so he couldn't just leave, but acting normally would just bore him to death!

Was it Xue'er's influence? Or did that peaceful night have a more profound effect than he expected?

"I feel like I've been having mood swings or something. This feeling isn't fun."

Despite what he said, Damien felt the playful spirit of his past reawakening.

'Well, it doesn't hurt to try, right? Let's see how they react.'

He threw on a disguise with Void Mana just in case, and—

Bang!

An explosion blanketed the air.

"Keuk...!"

Damien coughed a mouthful of blood as his body shot out of the explosive cloud.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Three more explosions rang out, throwing him around the air like a rag doll before finally slamming him towards the ground below.

BOOOOOOOM!

His body crashed into the earth and blew a massive crater into its surface.

And coincidentally enough, the crater wasn't too far from the group he observed earlier.

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"Hm? Senior sister, something seems to have landed over there," a woman said.

"I noticed. I don't care, but if you want to go check it, you can," her Senior Sister responded.

"Senior sister, you're always so cold!"

"Just go already, don't whine here."

"Hmph, fine."

The woman approached the edge of the crater, her eyes slightly widening once she saw its contents.

"It's actually...a person?"

"Senior sister, there's a corpse over here!" She yelled back towards the group.

"Just a corpse? Leave it and let's move on. We have much to do," the senior sister said without much interest at all,

However, just as the first woman shrugged and stood up to return...

"It moved!"

...the unknown corpse twitched.

"Senior sister, come over here!" She exclaimed, motioning the whole group to come over.

"Look at this man's wounds. Isn't it surprising that the mystic realm didn't expel him?" She said as her sisters approached.

The one at their head was a woman named Pandora, the same woman referred to as "senior sister" by the rest.



She looked at the body, her cold eyes containing the slightest glimmer of interest.

"The mystic realm expels anyone who takes fatal damage, but that also varies according to what is truly fatal for the genius in question. Since this man is still here, and breathing at that, it is clear that he isn't some minor character," she muttered.

"What should we do with him?" One of the women asked.

"What else? Let's just leave him here and move on," another one chimed in.

"Senior sister, what's your opinion?" The first woman, the youngest of the group, asked.

Pandora furrowed her brow in thought.

Finally, she made a decision.

"Save him."

Their goals this time didn't have anything to do with Holy Light Star, but rather a few of the people on it.

Now that the endless killing had concluded, what they needed most was information.

And who better to provide it than this man, who had obviously been through hell and back?

Damien's body was lifted into the air with mana and transported to a shelter only a few kilometers away that was built by this group.

The explosions that hit him were powerful. He made sure to leave countless lacerations and internal injuries on his body that couldn't be healed with normal means, and now that he'd met these women that obviously came from an extremely powerful force, he was curious.

Would they save him or abandon him?

However, much to his surprise, he soon felt a pill entering his mouth and spreading its nourishing energy through his body.

'This pill...is far above the level of any medicine I've seen before.' He thought to himself.

He had to say...

His first impression of the Prismatic Sun Holy Land was an incredibly positive one.

The only question was: how would they act from this point forth?

Chapter 1013 Invitation [1]

Damien wasn't a stranger to the rumors about Prismatic Sun Holy Land.

Many experts he devoured had memories related to this place, making it clear just how much of an unsolved mystery its existence was in the universe.

The Laws they studied were mysterious, and while most of the time the disciples used Fire Laws, their specific version of the Law was far more complex than one would expect from a basic element.

On the other hand, their most powerful disciples and the majority of their elders wielded a different Law that nobody in the universe had been able to decipher yet.

Damien, as someone who'd never had contact with the Holy Land, was one of these people.

However, he knew a bit more about them than ordinary people.

Because the Prismatic Sun Holy Land had a connection with the universe's Primal Sovereigns.

The Fifth Primal Sovereign's memories had several moments where he had contact with the Holy Land, but he was an independent thinker and set his sights on the Void early, so the amount of available information wasn't much.

'All I know is that the higher Primal Sovereigns are much more in touch with them than he was, and their Holy Master is...'

Damien couldn't put his finger on what it was about that woman, but she gave off an extremely dangerous scent.

And her contact with the Primal Sovereigns was incredibly significant, as these beings were quite literally some of the oldest entities in the universe.

The secrets they held were unimaginable.

When Damien realized that the Holy Land group he came in contact with was actually from Prismatic Sun Holy Land, his mind whirled.

It simply couldn't be a coincidence, right?

Many hours had passed since they first "saved" him, and with the help of their miraculous pill, the grievous wounds on his body had long since recovered.

'It's about time.'

Damien scanned with his awareness first to prevent a situation like the last time he was saved from a crater before allowing his eyes to flutter open, revealing the dry rocky ceiling of the cave to his gaze.

"Mmgh..."

He moaned lightly and hazily sat up, rubbing his head groggily.

"Hm?"

A voice came from the side.

"Senior sister, he's awake!"

Damien immediately shot up and made distance, flaring his mana warily.

"Who are you, and where the hell am I?" He growled at the veiled woman a few meters in front of him.

"E-eh?! Why are you panicking? We saved your life, you know!" The girl exclaimed angrily.

"My life is my own to control. Who told you to save me?" He responded with an arrogant expression on his face.

"You...you...!" The girl pointed at him angrily, clearly fuming, but before she could make any hasty moves, another woman walked into the cave.

"Dalia, relax. Leave here, you can't deal with him," the woman said, staring at Damien.

"Do not be wary. We are disciples of Prismatic Sun Holy Land. I'm sure you've heard of us?" She continued after her junior sister exited the room.

"Prismatic Sun Holy Land...?" Damien echoed.

"I see, so that mysterious force has come here too. Since you're such an esteemed character, there must be a reason you saved me, right?"

"Straight to the point, I see. Indeed, there is a reason we saved you. There are some people we're looking for, and I was hoping you could help."

"Why me?"

"Anyone who can survive an impact like that is not normal. I'm sure you have been in this realm for quite some time and seen most there is to be seen."

"Your flattery skill is higher than expected."

"I practiced it well."

The woman flicked her sleeve and sent two scrolls at Damien, which he caught and opened.

His eyes didn't change, but his mind went alert.

There were many individuals on the list, all of which were the most prominent geniuses of the universe.

Naturally, Su Ren's face was much larger than the rest and placed at the top of the first scroll, but what Damien didn't expect...

...was that his own face held the same position on the second one!

'I should've been unknown to most of the universe before I showed up here. Why are they putting me on the same level as Su Ren?'

"Most of these geniuses are from Holy Lands, and there isn't anybody in the universe who doesn't know of the Blade God, but who is this man?" He asked, gesturing to his own face while inwardly praising his disguise.

The woman nodded in understanding. "It's normal if you haven't seen him. He is one of the most elusive geniuses in our Grand Heavens Boundary, but our Prismatic Sun Holy Land has been following his movements for a long time. If you have seen him or the others, please tell us their locations. We will be sure to reward you."

"Why are you looking for them?"

The woman's eyes abruptly sharpened. A highly contained yet extremely sharp aura surrounded her body, giving Damien a feeling like his throat was on the edge of countless blades.

"There is no need for you to know this, yes?"

"Hmm, feisty...I do know where quite a few of them are, but I have a condition if you want me to tell you," Damien responded, putting his hands up innocently.

"And that is?" The woman questioned coldly.

Damien grinned without care.



"Let me come with you."

The woman's eyes slightly widened at his request.

"For what reason should I grant your request?"

Damien shrugged. "I don't know. You want information and I want entertainment. Won't we both win if we do it this way?"

"Hmm..."

The woman glanced him up and down and even scanned him with her awareness.

From their interaction, she could tell that he was strong, but he wasn't stronger than her.

'I am confident I can protect my junior sisters if this man turns out to be a pervert, but is it truly worth the effort...?'

Preferably, such a thing wouldn't be done. However, they were currently in need of this man's help.

'It would be far easier to find someone else to procure information from, but this man is strange. Disregarding his strength, his aura almost reminds me of...'

"Fine. We will do as you say," she finally said, making her decision.

The people on the list were important targets, but they weren't the only targets. If she had stumbled upon a hidden gem in this man, she couldn't waste the opportunity.

"Then, it's a pleasure working with you," Damien responded with a smile.

"Ah, by the way, my name is Long Chen, and you?"

The woman glanced at him indifferently and turned around.

"Pandora. We will leave when the sun rises tomorrow. Please prepare your information before then."

"Mm, no problem."

Damien watched as the woman left, and when her figure finally vanished from his sight...

"Oh, by the way, pay attention to your stamina in the coming days."

He muttered some words of advice.

In the distance, Pandora's head turned in his direction, a frown forming on her face as she turned around and continued walking.

As for Damien, he laid back on the rocky floor and placed his hands behind his head.

'This should be fun...'

Chapter 1014 Invitation [2]

Dawn arrived relatively quickly.

The suction force from the earth increased, just barely manifesting itself to Su Ren's senses.

Damien stood up off the cave floor and stretched his body, cracking his joints and refreshing himself after a long day of laying on the rocky floor.

He walked out of the cave and was soon greeted by the group of five women from Prismatic Sun Holy Land.

"Good morning, ladies," Damien said with a smile.

"There is no need to make small talk," Pandora responded uninvitingly.

"Before we set off, there is one more thing we must do."

She raised her hand and, on the spot, made a Mana Oath.

The terms were simple.

As long as Damien didn't target the Prismatic Sun Holy Land disciples and provided the information he promised, he would be able to travel with them and share their resources.

Damien shook his head wryly and made his side of the oath easily.

'Though, I don't know why you're so worried when all of you are draped in God-rank artifacts.'

When the procedure was finally finished, the atmosphere cleared up considerably.

Pandora's tone was no longer obviously hostile as she continued the conversation.

"Have you prepared your side of the agreement?"

"Haha, of course, I have. Do you think I'd be dumb enough to sign a Mana Oath if I hadn't?"

"Fair argument. Then...?"

Damien handed over a small jade slip, on which he recorded the locations of almost 80% of the geniuses on Pandora's list.

It only took a quick sweep of his awareness to estimate their positions, and anything too specific would've been suspicious, so that was enough.

Nevertheless, these geniuses were only low and mid-level targets on the list, nothing too spectacular.

"With the way you were talking, I assumed you knew the location of a top-level target," Pandora muttered.

Damien raised his brow.

"Oh? But I do," he said, "only, I can't really put his information on the same level as the rest, right? If you want me to take you to him, you have to pay up."

Pandora looked at him for a second before closing her eyes.

"Very well, name your price."

"Haha, we can talk about that later. Just consider it as owing me a favor."

"A favor from me is worth more than you can imagine."

"Then isn't that the perfect reward?"

"Hmm..."

Damien smiled and shrugged, knowing she'd already conceded.

"Since it's settled, let's not waste any time. Instead of boring ourselves with weaklings, why don't we go see the universe's number one first?"

"H-huh?"

Pandora's junior sisters finally showed a reaction. They truly hadn't been able to understand the conversation until this point, and they were even more confused about why their senior sister was allowing this hooligan to travel with them.

But as if laughing at their childish thoughts, Damien's response was absolutely shocking.

"Didn't you want to see the Blade God? Give me a second and I'll call him over."

""C-call him over?!""

The group of four exclaimed it as one, unable to process what he just said.

And even Pandora shared their next thought.

Just who was this man who dared to speak so arrogantly???

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At this point, with the first month already passing, the forces gathered actually added up to an immense amount.

The experts from these forces already filled up the first and second banquet halls, and the third was starting to reach that point as well.

Other forces from the Infernal Realm finally made their way to Luxurion, their speed no match for their leader. The Giant Domain and Soul World and also sent many more forces, showing their sincerity.

The Beast Domain was a bit further away, so their clans were still on the way, and many forces from Soul World and Hephaestus were missing, but the congregation of experts at this moment had reached an unprecedented degree.

And their geniuses all entered Holy Light Star in the most dangerous circumstances they weren't even aware of.

Luciel didn't greet all of them, as most of that was work was allocated to lesser angels, but he was keeping a close eye on each and every force that entered.

More specifically, their geniuses.

He watched thousands upon thousands of them entering Holy Light Star, and indiscernibly, he sighed.



'It is time. I didn't expect it to come at this time, but it cannot be helped. Instead, I can only pray they survive the coming days.'

His attention shifted to a nearby Angel, who nodded in acknowledgment and left, following unknown orders.

Meanwhile, events in the mystic realm were about to get far, far more chaotic.

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Unlike Luciel's bleak prediction, nothing much changed in the mystic realm, at least not at this time.

It had been around two hours since Damien and the Prismatic Sun Holy Land group set off to meet Su Ren, and they were approaching the given destination.

Yet, despite the closeness of the meeting, those accompanying Damien still couldn't believe what he said.

"Your name is Long Chen, right? I've never heard of you. How can you know the Blade God?"

"Yeah, like Junior sister said. How can we be sure you aren't leading us into a trap?"

Two of them were specifically chatty, standing on both sides of Damien and barraging him with questions.

He could only shrug and smile wryly. What kind of answer could he give them?

"I've already told you a million times. Since I've signed a Mana Oath with your senior sister, is it even possible for me to lie? Anyway, we're almost there. If you still can't believe me, just come and see for yourself."

He didn't know how many times he'd repeated the same line, but he was extremely thankful that this would likely be the last.

The group stepped into a valley between two mountains in the northernmost part of Holy Light Star, and Damien led them to shade from the sun under an isolated tree that somehow managed to grow alone in the valley.

"We're here," he said, sitting down and leaning against its trunk.

"Here?" Pandora said suspiciously, looking around at the desolate scenery.

"Don't judge it so quickly. After the firestorm, everywhere in the realm looks this barren."

Damien suddenly glanced up at the peak of one of the two mountains around them.

"Looks like he's arrived as well."

From that peak, a small shadow drifted down, becoming bigger and a man and a little girl.

bigger in their eyes until it finally cleared, turning into the figures of a man and a little girl.

"Da—"

"Hey, my good friend! It's been a while!"

Damien immediately interrupted Su Ren before he could say anything and walked over, using sound transmission to give Su Ren a quick rundown of the situation.

Su Ren's eyes narrowed in scrutiny for a second before he turned to the Prismatic Sun Holy Land group.

"You wanted to talk to me?"

"Yes."

Pandora stepped up and pulled an envelope out of her sleeve.

"Sir Blade God, we've been specially tasked to invite you to our Holy Land," she said, handing him the envelope.

Su Ren took it out of courtesy, but didn't hesitate to offer an immediate rejection.

"I am unaffiliated, and it will stay that way. Thank you for the offer, but I will have to decline."

However, Pandora immediately shook her head.

"In fact, our goal this time is not to recruit you, but to invite you. Our Holy Master has prepared a gift for the universe's top geniuses, and we hope you will graciously accept it."

Su Ren suspiciously looked her up and down before turning to Damien, who could only shrug.

After all, it was his first time hearing it as well!

But...a hidden Holy Land that never showed itself to outsiders was suddenly opening its doors?

Wasn't this quite interesting?

Chapter 1015 Attack [1]

Both Damien and Su Ren's eyes landed on Pandora with evident confusion and intrigue, however, she didn't seem to have any plan to answer them.

"Our Holy Master has explicitly stated that we must not reveal any information prematurely. Even if you are the Blade God, please trust our word for now and consider attending the event. It will only take place after the Grand Assembly ends, so you do not have to rush."

Her words were succinct and her stance was clear, so the duo didn't ask any more questions, but each had their own thoughts on the matter.

Damien had a slight frown on his face.

It was incredibly suspicious timing, and since Prismatic Sun Holy Land itself was so mysterious, there was no way to tell what their actual intentions were.

However, he didn't think it'd be a bad idea to go. He was also curious about them, after all.

As Damien watched Su Ren and Pandora continue their conversation, changes took place in different parts of the mystic realm.

Many of the newly entered geniuses had gathered together in groups of ten to fifteen and spread across the realm, showing no interest in its treasures whatsoever.

Their movements were already suspicious, and it seemed...

...they never planned to hide their intentions.

"Brothers, it's time!" A man said at the head of one of these groups.

He faced his fellows and raised his fist into the air.

"Let us show this universe our power!"

RAAAAAAAAAAH!

A loud cheer, louder than possible from such a small crowd, erupted from their bodies.

And following that cheer, they began to morph.

Their skin greyed, their eyes became feral, and their bodies expanded into massive hulking forms.

BANG!

The first man slammed his foot into the ground once his transformation ended and grinned.

"For freedom! For power! Kill!"

""KILL!""

The crowd spread out, their newly transformed bodies acting as tanks with their pure strength, and only worsened by the addition of mana.

They weren't the only ones either.

Countless groups, adding up to over 10,000 geniuses in total, completed the same transformation and made their advent on the realm.

They didn't allow their presence to go unknown.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

"Everyone be careful! There are beasts approaching!"

A man spoke to the four disciples behind him. His name was Alex, and the group he led was from a smaller sect called the Ice King Sect.

They survived through the first two calamities with a mixture of luck and skill that had landed them the attention of a few experts watching from the outside world, and though the second calamity was over, they stayed alert in preparation for the next one.

Alex stood at their head and raised his sword, facing the direction of the noise.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

It sounded like explosions, but his perception wasn't so weak. He could hear the trees cracking and exploding, he could hear the ground shattering at the furious steps of those creatures.

Bang!

The trees in front of them finally exploded, and the beasts were revealed.



They were terrifying abominations that looked like massive humanoid gorillas. Their eyes were dyed black and their teeth were framed with two massive fangs that seemed to have no purpose but to rip enemies to shreds.

"T-that...what is that?!" A young genius exclaimed, taking a step back as he shakily gripped his sword.

Alex's eyes narrowed.

"I...don't know."

He gritted his teeth. He could feel how powerful these beasts were, but he didn't want to be eliminated like this!

Firming his will, he stepped forward and slashed his sword, entering combat with the—

'Did it just...grin?'

His sword raced through the air and slammed into the creature's side.

Clang!

Sparks flew like two metals clashed, but the sword wasn't able to pierce the beast's defense at all.

Alex looked up. It was an instinctual movement.

And he saw it.

The mad grin that decorated that beast's face.

Bang!

His vision went dark.

Alex's junior siblings watched in terror as their senior brother was turned into meatpaste in a single slap.

And his body...

...why wasn't his body disappearing?

"Run!"

"Hahahaha! Brothers, let's go!"

The beast's words were jolting. The beasts in this mystic realm weren't supposed to have any intelligence!

But before any of the four could think further about it, they met the same fate as their senior brother.

Five puddles of blood were left among the destroyed remains of a forest that had just regrown.

These five geniuses from the Ice King Sect wouldn't have the same pleasure of life as those who died in this realm before them.

No, they met their true ends at the hands of those beasts.

Holy Light Star became a slaughterhouse.

Those transformed geniuses ran amok and killed without care, bringing true death to tens of geniuses every minute.

BOOM!

Damien and Su Ren's group all turned their heads at once as an explosion rang out nearby.

The same beasts entered their eyes, only, their number was over twenty.

They were almost ten kilometers away, but they were approaching at a rapid pace and would surely arrive within a minute.

"So, what's happening now?" Su Ren asked, somewhat confused.

"Fuck..." Damien said at the same time.

He sighed.

'This is why we can't fucking have nice things.'

"Su Ren, let me put Xiao Yue where Xue'er is, and get ready for battle," he said solemnly.

Su Ren raised his brow but didn't refuse. Without explaining anything to the girl herself, Damien sent her to the Sanctuary.

"Haa..." he sighed.

"Instead of sighing, can you tell us what's going on?" Pandora said, looking at him slightly angrily.

Damien smiled wryly, knowing she definitely didn't believe his disguise.

'Now that this has happened, there's no point in keeping it on anyway.'

He wanted to have fun with the Prismatic Sun Holy Land geniuses for a bit longer, but it couldn't be helped.

"Those beasts have a strong scent of Nox Mana on them. It looks like some traitors couldn't wait any longer," he finally said, revealing his true face.

Pandora's eyes widened slightly, and her junior sisters reacted far more violently, but now wasn't the time to care about them.

"How sure are you?" Pandora asked again.

"According to you, you've been tracking my movements for a while now. How sure do you think I am?"

"Hmm..."

Pandora hummed, slightly embarrassed, but soon turned to face the approaching beasts.

"We can discuss things further when this is dealt with. For now, let us slay these scum."

Damien and Su Ren joined her and drew their weapons.

The Nox Worshipers arrived, stopping to face the group.

And the battle on the horizon started with Damien.

Bang!

He dug his foot into the ground and shot forward like a bullet, leaving only a few words as he rapidly approached the enemies.

"By the way, the weakest ones are level 399!"

'Void Sword Art Fourth Form: Spatial Collapse'

BOOM!

Space bent and twisted into a beautiful piece of conceptual art, and three of the Nox Worshipers were directly sucked into its grasp.

The rest immediately roared and began their attack, charging both into the spatial storm and at the remaining six geniuses.

Su Ren clutched his blade firmly and smiled.

"Well then, let us get to work."

Chapter 1016 Attack [2]

Damien, Su Ren, and Pandora were all geniuses with force surpassing what was common in the mystic realm, and the rest of the Prismatic Sun Holy Land geniuses weren't weaklings either.

The first thing they did upon entering battle was separate the enemy into smaller groups.

Damien took six Nox Worshipers for himself, Su Ren took another six, Pandora took three, and the remaining geniuses handled the rest together.

Damien fought zealously. As Mirage sliced through the hardened bodies of the Nox Worshipers, he realized that the defensive strength of the enemy was far higher than expected.

Bang!

A bullet shot out of Freya's barrel, slamming into a Nox Worshiper's body, however, the mana actually splashed off like water instead of penetrating.

Damien couldn't stop himself from grinning.

'How interesting! The Nox had something like this?'

The Nox Worshipers he'd fought until this point had extremely unstable power and their bodies were more similar to Lesser Nox.

These guys, on the other hand, retained their intelligence and had the signature ashen grey skin of the Higher Nox!



It was quite curious.

'Is this what those guys on the Cloud Plane were chasing back then?' He wondered as he dodged a furious claw.

His body flipped backward and Mirage slashed in tandem with his movements.

The blade couldn't pierce the enemy's defense on its own, but since when was Mirage meant to be used like that?

An arc of transparent mana traced its blade and cut outward, phasing into the diamond-like exterior of the nearest Nox Worshipper.

'Void Sword Art Second Form: Horizon Break, Unrestrained'

A modification of the original Horizon Break that allowed its concept to act fluidly, turning any move into a defense-piercing attack.

Spurt!

Blood spurted from the thick gash that formed in the Nox Worshipper's chest.

Before he could react, Damien dug his arm into that gash and directly grabbed the man's heart.

Bang!

He clenched his fist and crushed it before teleporting away, avoiding the attacks of the other five enemies that surrounded him.

'Nice! Good fight!' He exclaimed inwardly, but now wasn't the time to have fun.

Since there was a method, who was he to not exploit it?

He teleported between the five Nox Worshippers like a fly who always managed to avoid being caught. His sword slashed out furiously, each move infused with the concept of Distance within Horizon Break.

Black blood painted the air, and the Nox dissolved one by one into puddles of ink that wriggled across the ground.

Damien didn't stop them. Once all five were dead and their inky remains combined in normal Nox fashion, though...

'Devour.'

Thin black smoke wisps entered the muck and secretly consumed it and banished it to nothingness.

Damien glanced at the others. Su Ren was almost done with his group, and Pandora was the same. The only ones struggling were her junior disciples.

Damien shrugged helplessly and sent a few arcs of sword light into the Nox they faced, injuring them and creating openings for the geniuses to take advantage of.

Once he was done, he turned his attention to the horizon once again with a slight smile.

"Oh? Are we perhaps targets?" He muttered.

There was another group approaching, but this one only had two members.

The problem was...

'Where the hell did they find these powerful Nox Worshipers, and why the hell were they allowed into the assembly?'

The auras of the approaching enemies were far too domineering. Damien would expect Nox like these in a place like Eien, but never in a gathering of geniuses!

'Looks like it's not just young geniuses who entered the realm. Have the Nox found a way to subvert the realm laws?'

There was only one way to know...

Devouring them and reading their memories.

"Su Ren, how's it looking?" He asked without turning his head.

"I have finished," Su Ren responded from not far away.

Damien glanced back and saw the puddle of ink left by him and nodded.

'A blade that can prevent me from regenerating naturally has the capability to thoroughly kill a Nox being.'

"We're fighting them?" Su Ren asked, arriving beside Damien.

Damien nodded. "Yeah, they'll give us a good fight."

"Oh? You're certain?"

"I am."

"That is concerning..."

Damien nodded and stepped forward.

"Kill first ask questions later. If anyone knows what's going on, it's those Angels outside."

"Right, there has never been another answer."

Damien checked one more time to make sure the Prismatic Sun geniuses were fine, and without hesitation, he flashed forward.

He met the approaching enemies in a second, and immediately used Horizon Break to cut through their defenses.

"Haha, human, you think you can kill us?" One of them shouted boisterously.

"I don't know, let's find out!" Damien responded with gritted teeth.

His sword blade scraped against the Nox Worshipper's chest, and the transparent blade of mana clashed against his body as well.

However, it didn't pierce him.

Damien's eyes sharpened as he teleported away.

BANG!

The air exploded fiercely at the force of the Nox Worshipper's terrifying claw.

In the same moment, the second Nox Worshipper shot forward, his claws aimed at where Damien had reappeared.

Shing!

A blade swept through the air, countering the claw and pushing it down.

Su Ren turned his body, placed his feet on the Nox Worshipper's chest, and kicked out, using the force to push both him and the enemy backward.

"Hmm, strong," he muttered.

Just as Damien said, these two beings would give them a good fight.

They weren't like the rest of the regular Nox Worshipers.

"State your names," Su Ren said, pointing his blade at the two.

And unexpectedly, the Nox Worshipers grinned.

"I am called Huo Xuan..."

"...and I am called Huo Dong!"

They spoke together as one, and though Damien had no reaction to their names, Su Ren was different.

The Huo Twins...he'd heard of these people before.

"Damien, this is more complicated than expected," he said.

Damien looked at him casually and shrugged. "Does that change the plan?"

Su Ren shook his head with a smile. "I guess not."

"Then, what's the use of talking about it? Let's fight!"

Damien and Su Ren moved as one.

Damien took Huo Xuan, while Su Ren set his sights on his brother.

And as if they had known each other for years and years, they attacked in sync.

BOOOOOOOOM!



Four forces collided, and a massive explosion swept the realm.

Countless eyes turned in that direction, but only for a few moments.

There were over ten thousand Nox Worshipers polluting Holy Light Star at the moment, and barely anyone had the time to pay attention to other things.

If they wanted to do that, they first needed to survive!

As if the situation wasn't already bad enough...

Blood pooled in the earth, sending rivers of corrupted vitality into the world's surface.

And the world which had been slowly savoring the taste of vitality as it regenerated itself suddenly tasted the joys of blood.

Its desire grew, and subsequently, the suction force it emitted grew as well.

VOOM!

An air of suppression filled the entire realm.

At the worst possible time, the Third Calamity erupted in full force.

Chapter 1017 Attack [3]

The Third Calamity's eruption was the start of absolute chaos.

Terrifying suction force from the earth pulled the vitality of all things into it, and in return, it gave birth to flora dyed red in the blood of those who contributed to its growth.

The only safe spaces in Holy Light Star now were the high in the sky and deep underground, as these locations were outside the force's reach.

Nevertheless, this wasn't something widely known, and not many were able to capitalize on it.

The only plus side was that the Nox Worshippers were also being affected by it, yet their regeneration abilities made it far less of a threat to them.

The geniuses on Holy Light Star would have to do everything in their power to escape, lest they die true deaths in the mystic realm!

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On the other hand, on Damien's side, it was like the vitality calamity didn't exist at all.

Damien's sword was like a flurry of light. Mirage swung out with ferocity it had hidden for many years, sending gashes and ruptures of space flying across the lands as it slashed into Huo Xuan's armored skin.

However, whether it was Bladeless, Dance of the Void, Horizon Break, or any other move designed to chip away at the enemy without paying attention to their defense, they couldn't penetrate the armor!

Bang!

'This is insane!' Damien thought to himself as he twisted his body and dodged Huo Xuan's massive claw.

'His strength is around the same as mine, but his defense is at least at the level of a High Commander! I can't pierce it!'

"Human, take my move!" Huo Xuan shouted, swiping his claw through the air.

A cage of Nox Mana appeared around Damien, and beams of dark light like a laser field manifested with Damien at their center.

Bzzzzzt!

Pshhhhhh!

Countless holes were burned through Damien's body before he had the chance to move.

"Khh...!" He hissed in pain as he teleported out of the trap and charged at Huo Xuan again.

As he approached...

BANG!

Huo Xuan clapped his palms together and generated a terrifying air burst that pushed against Damien and sent him backward towards the laser field.

Damien wanted to teleport away again, but Huo Xuan was already coming at him.

He changed his plan immediately, twisting his body in the air as Huo Xuan arrived before him and latching his calves around the man's head.

He slammed his body backward, empowering himself with mana and flipping Huo Xuan over him into his own cage!

"Foolish human, my own mana cannot hurt me!" He exclaimed mockingly as the laser field vanished behind him.

"When did I ever say it could?" Damien responded with the same cockiness as he appeared above Huo Xuan.

'Void Sword Art Fifth Form: Dimensional Severance'

Shiiiiing!

The thin black line that sliced the dimension itself slammed into Huo Xuan.

Skreeeeeeee!

Sparks flew from the section of Huo Xuan's body that was hit, but Dimensional Severance couldn't cut through him.

Instead, after it made it roughly an inch into Huo Xuan's defense, he managed to cover himself in his own mana and use a strange phasing technique similar to teleportation.

With no target, the black sword light sliced into the ground and created a several-kilometer-long gash before dispersing.

Damien grinned.

"You're quite good," he said.

"And you're not so bad yourself!" Huo Xuan responded.

Damien didn't know what technique the enemy used to escape, but since he knew it existed, he wouldn't allow it to work again.

Damien and Huo Xuan charged at each other without a hint of mana surrounding their bodies.

BANG!

Their fists clashed heavily, sending shockwaves spreading through the earth and breaking its integrity.

Crack!

Damien's bones shattered instantly, and even Huo Xuan felt the impact reverberating through his body.

Damien didn't waste any time, using his free hand to punch out again, this time with far more intention.

'Seven Stars Encircling The Moon'

3 Life Stars, 3 Death Stars, and one Elemental Star surrounded a moon of Spacetime in a chaotic orbit. As Damien's fist slammed forward, their paths destabilized fiercely until—

BOOOOOOOM!

—the final impact totally disrupted their peace. They crashed against each other in distorted bursts that combined into a huge flash of mana that enveloped both Damien and Huo Xuan.

Bang!

Whoosh!

Huo Xuan's body flew out from the explosion, riddled with small cuts and bruises, and Damien followed with the speed of a racing comet.

BANG!

Suddenly, another huge noise rang out from nearby.

Another body flew out of an explosive cloud, belonging to Huo Dong. Su Ren chased after him with both blades drawn and covered in mysterious clouds of grey mana.

Compared to Huo Xuan, Huo Dong's wounds were more severe. There was a simple reason behind it. While Su Ren also couldn't pierce the enemy's armor, his unique mana was directly opposed to regeneration and other healing-like elements.

Every inch-thick cut he made could draw blood, even if it was in small amounts.

Nevertheless, both Nox were still in relatively good shape, but the longer the battle continued, the more disadvantaged they would be.

Su Ren slashed his black blade powerfully and followed with an intricate and elegant stab of the white blade.

Huo Dong was pushed further and further back without any opportunity to attack, which meant he couldn't do a single thing to Su Ren, just as the latter could to him!



Su Ren was confident that enough of the same would eventually kill the enemy, and he was constantly watching for an opportunity to end the fight early.

His swords flurried enough to change the weather, and he entered a hyper-focused state where nothing existed except him and the enemy.

"Su Ren, watch out!"

Damien's voice awakened him, and he instantly spread his awareness.

His eyes widened. He rapidly broke his flow and shifted his body to the side, pushing his foot into Huo Dong's side heavily.

BOOM!

The Nox Worshipper was shot to the side by the force, just in time to evade the worst-case scenario.

"Phew..."

Damien let out a breath of relief.

Before he and Su Ren had noticed, they'd fought back to where they started, the same place where Pandora and her junior sisters were taking care of the weaker Nox Worshipers that had come to attack them!

Just then, Su Ren almost drove Huo Dong into the crowd of four Prismatic Sun Holy Land geniuses, but he was luckily able to save it.

The problem was, could Damien do the same?!

He twisted his body to avoid Huo Xuan's claws, which were now infused with the terrifying corruptive force of Nox Laws.

Every time the claws scratched Damien's skin, they entered his blood like a virus and fought directly against the energy of Transcendent Regeneration.

Damien couldn't interfere in that collision, and until he removed the virus, he had to be careful about getting injured.

'Dammit, what is the Void Physique doing?!' He wondered inwardly, slamming Freya's trigger thousands of times.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Countless mana bullets blasted against Huo Xuan's body and pushed him away.

In that single instant, Damien consciously controlled his Void Mana to eliminate the inner scourge and checked on Pandora's position.

'I need to drive him away from here. If he keeps the momentum, we'll end up over there soon enough, and she'll die without a word.'

Damien frowned as he flared his mana and prepared to re-enter combat, when abruptly...

Huo Xuan grinned.

"Human, let's do something fun!"

BANG!

He crashed his foot against the ground, widening the cracks that already existed.

"Are we pretending to be gorillas? What's the fun part?" Damien asked back, warily watching the man's movements.

"Hmm, let's find out!"

Huo Xuan roared and sent his foot powerfully into the ground one more time.

BANG!

RUMBLE!

The ground shook.

Damien's eyes widened as he looked down.

'Holy sh— it's hollow?!'

As Damien had the thought, the massive cracks in the earth suddenly turned to gashes, and a several-meter-long portion of it came loose.

Finally...

BOOOOOOOOOM!

The earth collapsed, dragging those surface dwellers into its maw.

Chapter 1018 Attack [4]

Damien, Huo Xuan, Pandora, and the two Nox Worshipers she was fighting were all dragged into the sinkhole.

"Shit!" Damien exclaimed. "Su Ren, handle it up here! I'll be right back!" He shouted as he fell.

"Do not worry!" Su Ren shouted back.

Damien nodded without a word and looked down into the abyss below, where the other three were falling.

Pandora and the Nox Worshipers were still engaged in combat as they fell, and while there was panic in her eyes, she didn't look like she would lose.

The problem was elsewhere.

The expression on Huo Xuan's face wasn't right. It was like he had no intention of flying back up and was certain he'd survive the fall.

If that was the case, he needed to be killed before he reached the ground!

'And I need to save Pandora too, so let's make this quick.'

Damien angled his body as straight as possible and shot down with all his power, catching up to Huo Xuan in seconds.

Before the man could sense his presence, he wrapped his arm around the Nox Worshipper's head and slammed it into the nearby wall, dragging it against the rocky surface.

BANG!

He pushed into the wall with such force that he tore the jagged edges off with Huo Xuan's head.

"DAMN...HUMAN...!"

Huo Xuan roared as his hair was torn off and the skin on the back of his head was reddened.

While the severe pain made its way through his nerves, he reached both of his arms out and grabbed Damien's head, using his weight to reverse their position and slam Damien's head into the wall.

"That's...my...fucking...move!" Damien shouted as he was put in the same situation as Huo Xuan, the wall carving up his face.

'Fuck!' He exclaimed again inwardly. This wasn't enough to pierce his defenses, it still hurt a lot!

The duo was traveling hundreds of kilometers every minute as they plummeted through the abyssal sinkhole, and they'd both felt the immense pain of having their skin ripped apart by the wall as they moved at such a pace.

To put it simply, Damien wasn't willing to suffer this humiliation any longer!

'Dammit, I'm ending this!'

Damien reached back and grabbed Huo Xuan's arm, gripping down on it.

"Don't think you can escape!" Huo Xuan exclaimed. Spikes of Nox Mana rose from his skin and pierced Damien's arm, but this only made him grin.

'Nice grip!'

In that moment, Damien slammed his foot into the wall and sent a pulse of mana into the rock. The pulse erupted as his torso passed by the spot and exploded the rock wall into a rain of debris, pushing Damien and Huo Xuan away from it.

Crack! Crack! Crack! Crack!

Damien disregarded human body mechanics and popped his shoulders out of their sockets to grab Huo Xuan's neck with both hands, ripping his right arm off the spikes in the process.

He tightened his grip before Huo Xuan could react and twisted his body to face the enemy.

CRACK!

His neck snapped, as his head was still in Huo Xuan's grip, but Damien was unfazed.

HONG! HONG! HONG!

Damien sent constant pulses of Death Mana into Huo Xuan's neck, forcing him to experience extreme pain and loosen his grip.

The opportunity didn't go to waste.



Snap!

Damien's head snapped back to its rightful place, a grin lighting up his face.

"Didn't think I could do that, did you?" He said tauntingly.

He pushed his knee down into Huo Xuan's chest, using his weight to maneuver them away from the sinkhole's walls and towards its center.

"Human, you can regenerate for now, but let's see how long it lasts!"

Huo Xuan flapped his arms around until he found something to grab, Damien's sides. He clenched down with his claws and started tearing Damien's body apart, but Transcendent Regeneration worked equally fast.

"Khhhhhhh...!!!"

Damien let out broken breaths as he coped with the pain, but he didn't let go of Huo Xuan. He sent pulse after pulse of mana into the traitor's body, using Death Mana's properties to force him to experience pain even though his defenses couldn't be penetrated.

And perhaps Huo Xuan was powerful, but he wasn't unfeeling!

"ROOOAAAAA— kkkgghh..."

"Fuck you!"

Huo Xuan opened his mouth and roared in pain, but before he could finish, Damien shoved his arm down the Nox Worshipper's throat!

CRUNCH!

Huo Xuan bit down without hesitation and tore Damien's arm apart, separating his forearm from his elbow entirely.

Spurt!

Damien's stub spurted a fountain of blood, but he did nothing but wince.

Instead, he jumped off Huo Xuan and made significant distance.

Huo Xuan grinned with bloodied teeth, taunting Damien for retreating in fear.

And Damien...

Damien grinned back.

"Bye-bye, traitor scum."

Huo Xuan's eyes widened.

As Damien's arm was reshaped by Transcendent Regeneration...

BOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

The arm he left in Huo Xuan's body exploded violently in a mixture of countless powerful Law auras.

In the end, despite their transformed appearances, they were still humans on the inside!

Huo Xuan's head burst into tiny bits of brain matter and skull shards that flew into the sinkhole walls and fell into the abyss.

With his brain exploding, even someone with Huo Xuan's regenerative power and defense couldn't survive.

'...but could I?' Damien wondered to himself as he silently celebrated the victory.

The combined regenerative power of Transcendent Regeneration, his new Samsara Blood, and the [Heal] trait was astonishing, but Damien definitely wasn't willing to test its upper limits!

Damien shot down and collected what was left of Huo Xuan's body before scanning the area to find Pandora.

'Hm? What's she doing?'

She was several thousand meters below where he was, but despite already finishing her battle, she wasn't flying back up.

'Is she injured?'

Damien flew down into the abyss rapidly and caught up to her falling body. Without hesitation, he grabbed her and flew—

'Eh?'

He tried to fly up.

Flash!

'What the hell?'

He tried to teleport, but he couldn't go up.

Instead, he found himself displaced several hundred meters to the left.

He immediately understood the situation.

'It's a restriction.'

His expression became dignified.

It wasn't a restriction on flight like the ones he'd seen before. This restriction quite literally disallowed one from going "up" past a certain point, regardless of means.

There were two things this meant.

The first was that Damien was in for an extremely painful fall.

And the second...

'There is something powerful enough to restrict even my Dimensional Magic.'

It seemed that, as he guessed when he first entered Holy Light Star, the greatest mysteries were left in the subterranean world.

He held Pandora tightly and shifted his body so she was on top of him and his back faced the abyss below.

'This is going to suck. Prismatic Sun Holy Land definitely has to compensate me for the trouble.' He thought wryly.

And with nothing to do but fall until he felt pain, Damien began to wonder...

How were those on the surface doing?

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Shiiiiing!

A beautiful display of blade light illuminated the world, and the body of a terrible beast was split in four.

Su Ren swept the blood off his swords and made sure the ink puddle was thoroughly extinguished before turning back to the four women from Prismatic Sun Holy Land.

While he couldn't see their appearances through their veils and clothes, he could see slight peeks of the skin around their eyes and on their extremities.

And though they stood relatively straight, Su Ren frowned when he saw them.

'They look...awfully pale...'

Chapter 1019 Gather [1]

'They look...awfully pale...'

Both because he'd been fighting so intensely and because he himself was powerful enough to avoid it, Su Ren had completely forgotten about the early signs of calamity he'd sensed days earlier.

Now, seeing these girls walking as if they were drunk, it dawned on him.

'It has already started!'

He sent his senses into the earth, immediately coming in contact with the powerful suction force.

'This isn't good. The natural aura is being corrupted by evil, and the realm's nature is changing. Is this the doing of those Nox Worshippers?' He wondered.

While they didn't cause the world's situation, they were some of the main contributors to it. If it wasn't for their skirting of the realm laws that led to such a massive accumulation of blood, the change couldn't have taken place.

Yet, on the other hand, this change only displayed another face of the Holy Light Realm. If it was truly the realm of purity it was advertised as, it wouldn't have had the capability to exhibit such a change in the first place!

"Can you fight?" Su Ren asked the girls.



They had seen how the previous course of events panned out, and Su Ren was currently both their savior and protector.

Looking at each other, they came to a collective decision.

Now wasn't the time to act tough.

"We may not be able to fight on our own, but we will still be able to provide support," the eldest among them stepped forward and responded.

"Have you taken into account the mana you need to use to protect your vitality?" Su Ren asked again.

The woman nodded in affirmation.

"Good," Su Ren said, "then let us begin immediately. We must regroup with the rest of the geniuses and form a united front against this enemy."

He took off after gaining the girls' approval, supporting their movement with his mana so they could focus on survival.

As they made it several tens of kilometers away from their starting position, they were finally greeted by the bloody flora spawned by the corrupted world.

"Hmm..." Su Ren muttered as he sent his awareness sweeping through the space in front of him.

In this large stretch of bloody forest that covered a good portion of Holy Light Star, thousands of Nox Worshippers lurked and prowled on the hunt for prey.

There were several geniuses spread through the area, either hidden or fighting against the enemies, but none of their situations was good.

'First I must establish a base camp, and the next most important step is to find the geniuses from Pill Emperor Holy Land.'

The top disciples of the universe's leading alchemy sect were known to have excellent qualifications. To make pills that could contain and replenish vitality shouldn't be a hard task for them as long as they had the materials.

'As for finding materials...that can be handled at a later date.'

"Wait here and protect yourselves. If trouble comes, use this Sacred Heart Mirror to hide until I come back," he said to the girls, passing them the mirror and rushing into the forest before they could respond.

The four watched his back with complex expressions, unknowing of how they should treat this man, but the only reaction they could let out was a collective sigh.

In the current situation, their power wasn't useful to him at all.

As he thought, the best they could do was survive, using all their mana to protect their internal bodies.

For these Holy Land geniuses who always held themselves in high regard...

...this kind of "damsel in distress" status was extremely humiliating!

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After leaving the Prismatic Sun Holy Land geniuses, Su Ren was able to act much more freely, using his strength to plow through the bloody forest and save the geniuses he came across.

At this time, there was only one concern he had.

'Xiao Yue is with Damien...'

He didn't doubt Damien's character, so he was sure Xiao Yue was safe, but he didn't know how Damien was doing at the moment.

Since he didn't come back from the sinkhole after falling, it meant he either found something down there or he was trapped, with both being situations where Su Ren couldn't know when the next time he'd see Xiao Yue was.

'Is this what Master was talking about? You truly never know the value of something until you lose it.'

He sighed as he realized that the little girl had managed to carve herself a place in his heart before he even realized it, but he couldn't help it.

As someone whose only family was his master, Su Ren was a bit weak to affection like Xiao Yue's.

'Nevertheless, if I wish for her to be safe, I must clear this scourge from the realm.'

It was just as Damien said.

Was there ever a route that wasn't to kill until there were no enemies remaining?

Su Ren showed power, power that inspired the geniuses who watched him cleave through the thick bodies of those Nox Worshipers and provoked them to join him in his tirade.

The crowd behind him started small, with only a few people willing to come out of their safe hiding places, but once they realized the threat of vitality, more and more geniuses joined his ranks.

Perhaps the Nox were trying to scare these geniuses into submission, or perhaps their goal was something entirely different.

But none of that mattered anymore.

Because before they could accomplish anything, they would be slaughtered!

This was the oath made by each and every member of Su Ren's group.

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The bloody forest Su Ren attacked actually took up almost half of Holy Light Star, so it wasn't a stretch to say many important battles were taking place there, but it wasn't the only place of importance.

Whoosh!

A figure broke through the edge of the forest and ran through the flat barren land outside its reach.

BOOOOOOM!

The red organ-like trees exploded as tens of Nox Worshippers tore through the barrier they created and chased that figure.

The Nox Worshippers were fast, but they weren't nearly fast enough to catch their target.

She weaved from left to right, jumped up in the air and flew behind them just to taunt them, and maneuvered the flat land as if it was a complex terrain of hills and valleys.

The bulky Nox Worshippers were built for strength and defense, so their speed suffered. They could, at most, barely keep her at the edge of their eye line!

As they became more and more furious, the figure suddenly came to a stop in the distance, kicking up a cloud of dust as she abruptly broke her flow.

The Nox Worshippers didn't plan to miss the chance. They flared their mana and leaped into the sky, arcing through the air and slamming down in front of the woman.

Yet...

All she did was smile.

"Thanks for the extra force. I thought we were going to have to fight a bit first, but you did the hard work early."

Rumble!

The earth rumbled, following her words at the most perfect timing.

And as had happened several times already in the mystic realm, the ground collapsed.

The woman and the Nox Worshippers who chased her were dragged into the depths of the subterranean world.

Chapter 1020 Gather [2]

'Nice. All according to plan.' Elena thought to herself as she fell through the darkness.

Originally, this was supposed to be a fun event for her, a time for her to happily abuse her Life Laws to loot and plunder while the rest suffered from the vitality calamity, but these damn Nox Worshippers had to come in and ruin it for her!

The original vitality calamity would've been a breeze for her, but this corrupted version was the complete opposite.

As someone who chased the purest and most powerful form of Life Laws, she held an aura that the corrupted world saw as a threat, which made it target her much more fiercely than any of the other geniuses!

As if that wasn't enough, she was chased by a horde of Nox Worshipers that didn't give her a single second to plan forward.

Therefore, there was only one thing to do: drag them into the subterranean world!

'It's easy for a Life practitioner to sense it, so I was able to act quickly. I wonder if the rest can be so lucky...'

The origin of the suction force was the earth itself, which made the underground and the sky the only safe locations in the world.

And even then, "safe" only meant the suction force was weak, not that it wholly disappeared.

BANG!



Elena's body slammed into the ground and formed a crater in the underground tunnel. The first thing she did was send her awareness into the earth, so she could—

"Ah..."

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

The Nox Worshipers slammed into the ground around her, and the tunnel's bottom fell through, sending the group tumbling through the air again.

'The fall isn't too long this time. I can see the bottom.'

Elena immediately took action, moving towards the nearest Nox Worshiper.

Transcended Death was similar to Su Ren's grey mana in its ability to harm the Nox Worshipers despite their strong exteriors.

Why? Because Nox Mana inherently contained extreme similarities to Death Mana, and Transcended Death was a concept that specifically suppressed this breed of mana!

Elena wrapped her legs around the Nox Worshiper's throat and spun her body, sending blades of Transcended Death Mana into its neck as it twisted at an impossible angle.

The Nox Worshipper was stunned as Elena's body entered its body and froze its systems. Instead of killing it, she jumped off and moved to the next one, repeating a similar process of stunning the enemy while evading the various claws and jaws that assailed her as she went about her task.

BANG!

Crack!

She soon slammed into the next portion of ground. Her leg broke upon impact, but she quickly moved to heal it as her enemies fell around her.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

Despite reaching solid ground again, the Nox Worshippers didn't move. They struggled and attempted, but it was impossible to rid themselves of her bindings so easily.

Using the chance she'd made for herself, Elena sat down in the middle of their collapsed bodies and entered a meditative posture.

'Siphon.'

Their vitality flowed into the atmosphere like rivers, guided by Elena's mana inside of them, and entered her body.

"Thankfully you guys are weak. Who knows what would have happened if a stronger one came," she said as their bodies wilted.

BOOM!

Elena flinched.

'No way it's instant karma, right?'

She turned her head robotically to look at the being that just crashed through the tunnel wall.

It was indeed a Nox Worshipper, far bigger and more daunting than the ones she'd just faced, and with a far stronger aura as well...

...however, it already had a massive hole in its chest where its heart should've been.

"Eh?"

Elena peered into the dusty opening in the tunnel wall, her eyes barely making out the figures of a group of people.

She raised Yggdrasil's Branch warily.

"Friend or foe?" She asked.

It was a bit arbitrary, but she felt the need to make her presence known.

As she watched, four people stepped through the smoke and entered her tunnel.

She looked at them and they looked at him.

"Pink and white..." Elena muttered.

"That blue..." Rose and Ruyue said together.

Three women suddenly felt like an explosion went off in their minds.

In this nondescript tunnel, with no witnesses but two men who awkwardly took steps back with no place in this moment at all, Damien's three wives reunited.

It truly was a spectacular coincidence!

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BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

It was silent before the explosion, and it was silent after.

Like a tree falling in the middle of a secluded forest, none noticed the unfortunate fate of the man who hit the ground.

When the dust cleared, he didn't move. He lay there on his back, letting out pained gasps as he turned his gaze over to check on the woman who'd fallen with him.

'It looks like...she's okay...haa...fuuuuuuck...!'

To say he was in extreme pain would be an understatement!

He'd fallen at least several hundred kilometers after hitting the restriction. When he landed, he felt like he broke every single bone in his body!

'Ngggh...dammit, if I could just control teleportation...'

He found as he fell that the restriction didn't just prohibit one from escaping to the surface, it confused one's senses and mana.

Whenever he teleported, the direction he ended up in was random. He couldn't even hover in the air without being randomly displaced several meters.

Damien let out another moan of pain as he felt and heard his bones snapping back into place.

Within a minute or so, he was sitting upright again, scanning the surroundings.

'This place definitely holds a supreme treasure. That's what the confusion effect of the restriction is hiding. There's no other explanation for putting something like that in a secret realm.'

He gritted his teeth and stood up, cracking his joints and readjusting to his body for the second time in recent days.

'Also, the Angels are definitely spouting a load of bullshit. They definitely didn't build this damn world. Hell, I don't think they've even explored it properly!'

The Angels likely just built the surface to match the height where the two tombs were located. It was like they put a wrap on a car and said they built the car from scratch, when, in fact, even the wrap was filled with air pockets and tears!

"It has to be that damn Luciel guy. He was staring at me all creepy before I came in, that's definitely some foreshadowing right there...shit, did my nightmare of meeting a trickster god finally come true...? Damn Angels..."

Damien muttered a load of complaints to nobody in particular, which happened to wake Pandora up as well.

"Hm? Where is this?" She murmured as she opened her eyes.

However, she immediately went alert and flared her mana.

"Hey, hey, relax. Maybe spread your awareness first instead of making a commotion and letting everyone know your location?" Damien said, suppressing her aura with his own.

"You are...Damien Void...?" Pandora questioned.

"We've been over this already. Did you lose your memory during the fall?"

"Nonsense. You saying 'Oh, by the way, I'm the one you've been looking for' isn't quite the explanation I was looking for."

"Wow, I didn't know you had it in you to talk so casually. It's almost creepy."

"I should kill you here."

"You don't have the ability."

Pandora sighed in concession and spread her awareness to see the same scene Damien viewed moments ago.

Currently, the duo stood in the middle of a massive amphitheater-like area.

There were 16 tunnels leading out of the large cavern they were in, spaced precisely and intentionally, unlike the natural formations that populated most of the realm.

Damien turned to Pandora and grinned.

"You good for an adventure?"



Pandora glanced back at him, unamused.

"I am not."

"That's not your line. Follow the script."

"Haa, stop with your joking. Let us first understand the situation and then discuss how to proceed."

It couldn't be stressed just how deadpan Damien's expression was as he stared at her.

With this kind of person...

Could he really survive going on an adventure with this kind of person?!