

The Walker Of Voids

Chapter 21: Gaining Strength [1]

Walking a few meters from the group, Null and Osmygold have a short chat about how Null shouldn't go alone and how he should follow orders instead of making his own plan.

Osmygold explained how it is not only dangerous for Null to go out alone but also dangerous for the rest of his squad since the difference of one person could be the line between life and death.

Returning to the group, Null could not help but feel like someone was glaring at him, and after turning around and looking someone in the eyes, he knew exactly what was happening and why it was happening.

After seeing that the person glaring at him wasn't much of a threat, he did not bother with him anymore. Null was already wary of most people in the group, and despite most of them being welcoming, he did not trust them one bit. In fact, the only reason he had chosen to go with them was because he couldn't go in without a squad unless he became a D-rank adventurer.

They continued to walk for a few more hours, most of them following Osmygold since he was the only person who knew the direction of the closest human territory on this dungeon floor.

In the meantime, Null stayed wary of any creatures nearby, and whenever he would sense one, he would dash towards it and kill it in an instant by slicing it into a million pieces before it could react.

He was trying to see how strong he currently was, yet due to the lack of technology on them, he could not tell how strong he was unless he were to fight someone on the same level as him.

He knew that he was barely as strong as a half-step first commandment goblin if he were to not use any of his voidwalker abilities. However, he was also certain that his aspect of void ability was beyond impressive, since even Null as the caster felt threatened by the blade he held.

[Author's note: For those who don't know, half-step means that they only need a little nudge to become full-fledged first commandments.]

"There it is!" Trishaless pointed into the distance and let out an excited squeal as if this was the first time she had seen the place.

"It's a town?" Rosepetal asked with a raised brow.

"Yes... I grew up here for a few years you know." Osmygold chuckled while the girls looked at him with sparkling eyes, wondering how the story would go.

"Before I start boring you with my stories, let's go there and find an inn. We will stay here for the night before leaving with a few other squads tomorrow to kill the boss monster of this floor." He explained while everyone except Peacexelr nodded.

It took another 5 minutes to reach the town's gates, and when they finally got to them and were about to open the large gates, Osmygold stopped and pointed towards the walls.

"State your names and tell us your reason for coming here!" A man with a spear shouted with a straightened back and a large frown.

"Hey, Richard! It's me!" Osmygold waved and made the guard relax before finally letting out a relaxed smile.

"Look who's finally here!" He shouted while jumping down and hugging Osmygold.

"Who are these behind you?" The man asked.

"They are my team. We plan to invade that goblin village that respawns every 3 or so days. Do you happen to have a map for it?" Osmygold asked.

"You're planning on killing that first commandment bastard on your own? Hahahahaha!" The guard began to laugh while the rest of the team began to argue with the man.

"No. We plan to join a few other teams in the fight against this thing. When is the next raid?" He asked while the guard touched his chin and thought for a second before answering-

"If I'm not wrong, there should be one the day after tomorrow. They are pretty famous, so a lot of people will take part in it."

"Wait, aren't the first three floors supposed to have little to no first commandments?" Peacexelr asked.

"Well, this is the boss we are talking about. The boss for the first, second, and third floors are in the first commandment despite most of the normal monsters not being in it. The third to 10th floor are mostly the second commandment. 10th to 25th are the third commandment." Trishaless explained.

"Enough of that!" Rosepetal clapped her hands and got everyone's attention.

"How about we set up for the night and go out for some drinks? On me!" She grinned.

"I don't drink." Null replied coldly. He didn't want it to sound cold, yet despite his efforts, that's how it came out. He didn't know if the mask made his voice more monotone or if his demeanor changed after killing semi-intelligent creatures for the first time. All he knew was that he was changing; he was just hoping that he would change for the better, not for the worst.

"Oh...Sorry." She pouted.

At the same time, Null could not help but feel like someone was staring daggers at him.

He knew it was Peacexelr, or Peace for short, but he couldn't be bothered responding to people like him anymore. He knew that Peace was jealous about something; he just didn't know what it was, nor did he care for it.

After a short silence, they all decided to find an inn first before anything.

Once they entered the inn, Osmygold paid for all of them since he was their leader, and after putting all their belongings in their rooms, they all went down to one of the pubs, leaving Null behind to rest in his room.

Null placed his hand on his mask and slowly took it off.

When he once again felt light on his skin, despite it being artificial and nothing like proper sunlight, he could not help but feel refreshed.

A wave of soothing warmth traveled through his skin and made him feel energized, while simultaneously, the coldness that was taking form within his eyes for the last few hours completely melted, leaving behind an aloof and slightly ignorant 16-year-old.

"Hmm... I still don't feel anything. Maybe it's easier since I know goblins aren't humans, despite having high intellect and a natural thirst for battle... Maybe being a-..." Lloyd's voice turned into a whisper as he continued, "Maybe being a void walker makes things easier?" He muttered to himself before finally shaking his head and putting his mask aside.

When he had his mask on, Lloyd felt like he couldn't feel emotions, yet now that it was off, he felt several complicated feelings rummage around within his heart.

It was as if Null and Lloyd were slowly but surely becoming different people.

The night passed as fast as a morning breeze, and when Lloyd finally opened, he stretched his hand to the side and put on his mask, an action that caused his eyes to turn extremely cold once again.

Walking out of his room, he looked to the side and saw Rosepetal looking at him with an embarrassed expression, yet before she could voice out some kind of apology, Null stopped her with a wave of his hand and a question of his own.

"Do you want to spar, Miss Rosepetal?"

He had seen her fight earlier, and despite her not being as calculating as Trisha, he knew she was very talented with the sword and would make a much better sparring partner than everyone but Osmygold.

While he could have asked Osmygold, he still chose against it. Osmygold was older than everyone at the party and much less talented. He needed someone he could grow with side by side, and in a way, Rosepetal was the perfect permanent sparring partner for Null.

"Y-Yes!" She was completely flustered by the sudden request, but after calming herself with a few breaths, she smiled and continued-

"Please call me Rose."

"Alright, Miss Rose... I'll meet you in the gymnasium in exactly 15 minutes. Please be ready. I prefer fighting people who are wearing a more..." Null paused and looked her up and down.

"-befitting attire for a battlefield."

With an expression of confusion, Rose also looked down. In an instant, her face almost became as red as her hair, and before she knew it, his face was buried in her hand as she sprinted into her room to change.

"I have to say, I never thought I'd see that bloodthirsty girl in such cute pajamas." A familiar voice entered Null's ears and made him turn around and meet a pair of hazel eyes.

"Mr. Osmygold? I did not expect you to be awake this early." Null tilted his head a few degrees.

"Oh, come on! Do I look like an old man to you?"

"Yes." Null replied without any hesitation.

"I'm only 35!"

"That is quite old for a man who is still in the first commandment."

"Hey, man! That kinda stings..."

"I am only speaking the truth, Mr. Osmygold." Null retorted

"You can call me Osmy." Osmygold sighed while Null nodded.

"I-I'm ready..." Rose's soft voice entered Null's ears once again, and while Lloyd would have been slightly flustered by the warm breath that tickled the back of his ears, Null didn't even give her a glance despite Rose invading his private space.

"Alright." Null muttered before turning away and walking down the stairs and towards the gymnasium, yet before completely moving out of sight, he secretly glanced at a door that was partially cracked open with an eye glaring at him from the other side.

'Peacexelr... Let's see how far you are willing to go.' Null mused.

...

"How do you want to do this?" Rosepetal asked while standing on the other side of the platform.

While being quite small compared to the one in the academy, the gymnasium still had the capability of holding and hosting several 100x100 platforms for people to spar on, and at that very moment, both Null and Rosepetal were standing on one while Osmygold stood in the middle as a referee.

"This will be a simple spar, alright? Don't attack each other's vitals. Don't aim for the head. Don't seriously hurt your opponent. Everything else is allowed." Osmygold explained.

"Ready?" Null asked.

"Yep!" Rosepetal got into a battle stance, yet before she could fully comprehend the situation, she felt immense danger coming from her right, causing her to slash in that direction before rolling to safety.

Clang

Null took several stabs back due to the force of her slash, yet instead of reevaluating his approach, he instantly dashed towards her again while swinging his blade vertically.

Clang

Rosepetal quickly blocked the incoming attack and once again rolled to the side, yet instead of waiting for the next attack, she took the initiative and blasted out an attack of her own.

Red flames enveloped her blade and turned it into a flaming sword as she slashed at Null with all her might, yet despite the impressive flames, Null easily stopped the attack with his own and pushed back, yet instead of following up with an attack of his own, he jumped back and created some distance between the two.

"So, this is all you have, Miss Rose?" Null asked while looking at her with a raised brow behind his mask. While being a very talented swordswoman, Rosepetal was still quite inexperienced, and while Null knew that he shouldn't underestimate her, he also knew he could not let his guard down.

"You haven't even shown me your true strength," She retorted.

"Is that so?" Null muttered before stepping to the side, followed by several more as he began to circle around Rosepetal.

"Come at me then." He taunted with a cold tone.

Rosepetal was about to take the bait, yet before she could, Null suddenly disappeared from her vision and reappeared behind her.

'What the-'

She could not finish her thought as she was forced to turn around and block the incoming attack that sent her tumbling for meters.

She had no idea how Null had done it, but she was not about to question him in the middle of a battle.

She quickly got back up and was about to slash at Null with all her might, yet when she looked to the side, she noticed that Null was not there anymore.

Just as she was about to turn around, she felt a sharp pain in her stomach, and when she looked down, she saw Null's blade piercing through her flesh.

"Null!" Osmygold shouted, yet Null ignored him and retracted his blade before kicking Rosepetal in the stomach and sending her flying towards the wall.

"Null! I said don't hurt her!" Osmygold shouted again, yet Null still ignored him and dashed towards Rosepetal with his blade held high.

Just as he was about to slash down, Osmygold appeared in front of him and stopped his blade with his own.

"Null, what the hell are you doing?!" He shouted while looking at him with a stern expression.

"I am sparring with Miss Rose. What does it look like I am doing?" Null asked with a cold tone.

"You are not sparring! You are trying to kill her!" Osmygold retorted.

"No, I am not. I am merely trying to find out the limits of miss Rose's strength." Null innocently retorted.

"By trying to kill her?!" Osmygold shouted while pushing Null back.

"I was not trying to kill her. I merely wanted to find out how much she could take. I did not even use my full strength. I was merely toying with her." Null explained.

"You expect me to believe that?" Osmygold asked with a raised brow.

"It is the truth." Null shrugged.

"Fine. I will believe you this time, but I do not want to see you do that again. You understand?" Osmygold sternly said.

"Yes, Mr. Osmygold." Null nodded.

"Alright. Now, let's go check on Rose." He said before walking back to the platform where Rosepetal was still lying down.

Null followed behind him with a bored expression, and when he finally reached the platform, he saw Rosepetal slowly getting up with a hand on her stomach.

"Rose, are you alright?!" Osmygold asked with a worried expression.

"Y-Yes... I'm fine." She nodded while slowly getting up.

"What about your stomach? Let me see." He said while slowly moving her hand.

"It's fine, really. I just got the wind knocked out of me, that's all." She smiled while moving away from him.

"Are you sure? I can take you to the healer if you want." He said while following her.

"I'm fine, really." She nodded.

"Alright. If you say so." He sighed before finally giving up.

"Null, are you sure you were just toying with her?" He asked with a raised brow.

"Of course. I would never try to kill someone I am sparring with. That would be pointless." Null shrugged.

"If you say so..." Osmygold sighed before walking back to the platform and sitting down.

"So, what do you think?" Null asked while sitting down next to him.

"About what?" He asked.

"About Rose's abilities." Null shrugged.

"Well, she is quite talented with the sword, yet she is still quite inexperienced. She needs more training." He explained.

"Is that so?" Null muttered before standing up and walking back to the platform.

"Miss Rose, are you feeling any better?" He asked.

"Y-Yes, I'm fine." She nodded while looking away.

"Good. Then let's continue." He said before once again getting into a battle stance.

"W-Wait! I'm not ready yet!" She shouted.

"If you are not ready, then you will lose." He narrowed his eyes.

"B-But..." She stuttered.

"If you are not ready, then I suggest you forfeit." He said while taking a step forward.

"I-I won't forfeit!" She shouted while once again getting into a battle stance.

"Good. Then let's begin." He said before once again disappearing from her vision.

They continued to spar for the next 4 hours with Rosepetal continuously being on the losing side of the spar. Eventually, Null's void walker physique's stamina won over Rosepetal's, causing her to finally collapse in the middle of the platform out of exhaustion.

Null, who was standing in front of her with his blade above her neck, could not help but let out a long but deep sigh. He retracted his blade and sheathed it in an instant with a subtle but echoing-

Click

Chapter 22: Gaining Strength [2]

Null began to walk away from Rosepetal, yet he heard Osmygold's voice again enter his ears before he could get too far.

"Null. Let's talk." Osmygold suggested.

"What is this about, Mr. Osmygold?" Null asked.

"I'd like to talk to you about one of your abilities." Osmygold explained and immediately caught Null's attention.

"Which one?" Null asked immediately.

"The one where you attract shadows to you and enhance your body."

"Shadow Enhancement?" Null asked.

"Probably. Can you activate it real quick?" Osmygold asked before crossing his arms and taking several steps back. He had almost tripped on one of the broken tiles, but he quickly regained his balance and looked at null once again.

Despite Null's suspicions, curiosity took over, and he instantly activated the ability.

Swoosh

Suddenly, shadows from all over the room began to surround Null, making it very hard to see him. However, after a few seconds, Null's figure became clear once again, yet instead of looking like he had come out of a matrix movie due to his robe and black clothing, he now looked like an ungendered figure shrouded in shadows from head to toe.

"How does the ability work?" Osmygold asked.

Null narrowed his eyes, yet after a few seconds, he let out a sigh and explained-

"It enhances most of my physical capabilities, as well as the explosive power I can produce from my muscles alone."

Despite his suspicions, Null knew that Osmygold was a genuine man. He didn't know how he knew it, but it was as if his instincts told him he could trust Osmygold with his life if he needed to.

"So your whole body?" Osmygold scratched his chin.

"Yes." Null replied straightforwardly.

"Have you tried using the ability on a single body part?" Osmygold asked.

"I do hope that my ability grows to that extent when I reach the first commandment.."

Hearing Null's reply, Osmygold showed an irritated expression.

"Here is the problem with this generation. They don't take enough time to consider how they can get stronger without breaking into another commandment.

When you became a shadow assassin, you embarked on the path of shadows. However, this does not mean that you instantly know everything about shadows because such an assumption is blatantly wrong.

While one can increase their strength and abilities by taking potions, cultivating all the time, and going out for battles every now and then, the best way to improve the power and control of one's ability is to try and comprehend the ability or the element of that ability." Osmygold explained while Null tilted his head in confusion

"Before breaking into the first commandment, try to learn more about shadows. What are they, and how do they work? For example, fire is created due to oxygen, a fuel source, and heat. While mana is your fuel source, what is heat? High energy atoms that are vibrating at a rate that would create heat? These are the questions that you should be asking yourself to improve the power of your abilities, as well as your control over them. At the same time, try to use your ability over and over again, your understanding of the ability will eventually make it stronger." Osmygold explained.

Nodding slightly, Null dispersed his ability and walked away without saying a word. While it might seem like Null didn't care about what Osmygold said, in reality, he had gone into such a deep state of thinking that he completely forgot about his surroundings and instantly went to his inn and took notes of his current thoughts.

What he learned could be a complete game changer. In fact, it could change the very foundations of his future plans as a void walker.

Sitting down in the middle of the room, he took off his mask and quickly activated [4-Dimensional Thought] before closing his eyes. A notebook rested on his lap while he held a pen in his hand, ready to write down anything the moment it enters his mind.

After entering the Void for the second time, he realized something about his shadow abilities, which was linked to the [???] racial passive ability.

At first, he thought it must have been a coincidence, but after further inspection with much thought and analysis, he understood that his shadow abilities weren't his own and had come from the Shadow Wolves instead. Of course, in that moment theory was just that. A theory. To confirm anything he would have to do several tests that had the chance of killing him.

However, what he did recognize was that [Soundless Steps] and [Shadow Nourishment] were both passive abilities all Shadow Wolves had, no matter what.

[Shadow Enhancement] and [Shadow Claw] weren't abilities that they all had, but he noticed that many of the Shadow Wolves, particularly the bigger and older ones, had these abilities and would use them expertly.

He also noticed that they were much stronger than his shadow abilities, which ties in neatly with the information he gained from Osmygold.

Shadow Wolves, in particular, were much more attuned to the shadows than Lloyd was, the prime example of this being the extremely fast and effortless execution of shadow travel performed by the alpha Shadow Wolf.

However, there was also something else that Lloyd recognized when going over these memories, and it was the fact that he was gaining these abilities as he killed more and more wolves, as well as the fact that his control and power over the abilities had grown the more he killed them.

While, at first, he had mistaken the increase in the power of his abilities for his overall increase in strength, he was gravely mistaken.

Suddenly, a thought came to mind, making him open his eyes and look at his wristwatch before opening his mouth.

"Can you show me how long I have left until I reach the first commandment." Lloyd asked, and with a chime, the watch blinked several times before a bar separated into four sections appeared in front of him.

Each section represented 25%, and while they usually had words above them to explain what they were, Lloyd hadn't broken into the first commandment, so there was no point in showing them.

[57%]

'I've already reached the 50% range despite only awakening 3 days ago... But I guess I should have expected this. What's more impressive is the fact that I can fight toe to toe with someone in the first commandment despite only being a little more than half of the way there. Osmygold might be in the very early stages of the first commandment, but he is a first commandment regardless.' Lloyd thought to himself with a subtle smile tucking up the corner of his lips.

'On the other hand, he is incredibly weak compared to most of the first commandments that I've seen on the internet and TV.'

He was becoming stronger faster than ever, which only meant that he would have a higher chance of surviving the next Void walk.

'On the other hand, he is incredibly weak compared to most of the first commandments that I've seen on the internet and TV.'

However, despite his previous thoughts, he also recognized a possibility that was becoming more and more likely when he continued thinking of it.

'There is a chance I will gain an ability after killing the alpha shadow wolf. But since I won't have anything to do after killing it, there is a chance that the void will create a new world with other beasts and monsters for me to fight. While this might mean that I might gain more abilities, the second void world would likely be a lot more dangerous than the first.' Lloyd concluded.

After contemplating everything and writing down several pages of notes, he flipped the page and began attempting to comprehend the shadows and increasing his attunement to them.

While he knew that he could simply kill more shadow wolves to increase his attunement, he still chose to increase his comprehension of the element even by a little bit. This way, his abilities might be more useful in the raid, and since he doesn't want to use all his abilities in the battle, it would be useful to have an ability he could rely on.

Unfortunately for him, the only ability he could use out in the open to deal any damage was [Shadow Claw].

Of course, shadow enhancement was also a fine choice, but it consumed too much mana, a drawback that made it impossible for Lloyd to take advantage of it all the time.

Lloyd continued to sit in the same place for over 14 hours, and despite not sleeping, when he finally opened his eyes again, he felt more rejuvenated than ever.

Putting on his mask, he quickly wore his long black coat and left his inn before walking towards the meeting place.

They had all decided to meet in front of the town gates, so Null only followed the plan they had already laid out.

After walking leisurely for almost 10 minutes, he finally saw the rest of the crew.

"Null!" Rosepetal waved at him with a bright smile, yet he did not care to reciprocate the action or excitement.

"What is the current plan, Mr. Osmygold?" Null asked.

"We're gonna join them." Osmygold pointed towards the group of luxuriously dressed individuals.

"Those 7 are known as the Seven Reapers. Its a group composed of seven individuals with immense talent, wealth, and fame who also happen to have Magic or Legendary tier classes." Rosepetal explained while a low and subtle "hmph" came out of Peacexelr's mouth.

"Can't we join another team? There are so many other teams around; what's the point of joining the most popular one?" Trishaless complained.

"Well, they were the ones that asked us to join them, and they will pay us quite a heavy sum. All in all, it's worth the hassle." Osmygold sighed.

"They're gonna live stream it to." Peacexelr snorted.

"Hm? I never understood how the live stream worked. Isn't there a time dilation?" Rosepetal tilted her head to the right.

"Since 10 seconds here is the same as 1 second on the outside, they just receive the signal through the portal at around a 10x speed. It gives them enough time to edit, compose and show what they want to show without embarrassing themselves." Osmygold explained.

Peacexelr could not help but sneer at Osmygold's remark, yet before he could follow up with a few words of his own, a melodic feminine voice entered his ears and made him stiffen instantly.

"Are you guys ready?" A girl with short black hair with the underside dyed green asked with a warm and welcoming smile on her face that would have tricked anyone into thinking that she was friendly.

"You must be Poisonlily..." Trishaless commented.

"Hey." Poisonlily waved at Trishaless before asking-

"You a fan?"

"Not really." Trisha shrugged and walked away from the woman.

'Cold...' Null inwardly thought, yet Poisonlily did not seem to have the same thoughts.

"And who is this cute looking one?" She asked while turning her attention to Peacexelr, who instantly became beet red when he heard her words.

"He's Peace." Rosepetal butted in before continuing to introduce everyone.

"And this is Null, our newest teammate."

Looking at Null, the woman could not help but narrow her eyes for an instant before having them return to normal. This scene did not go unnoticed by Null, but just like everything else that didn't affect him in the short run, he ignored it and continued to look at her blankly, as if he was thinking about something else.

"So this is everyone. Let's go I guess." Poisonlily said before turning around and walking away. The rest of the team followed her without any hesitation, yet Null stayed in his spot for a few more seconds before following everyone else.

"Do you know the specifics of the raid?" Osmygold asked.

"Not really. Our leader probably knows a little more than we do, but he kept some of the information to himself. Ignorance is bliss after all." Lily chuckled.

While she was extremely beautiful, she blocked most of it with the gas mask she constantly wore, no matter the occasion. One could still see that she was extremely beautiful, but it was a guarantee that she looked better without the mask.

She wore a long green dress that danced in the incoming winds.

Her olive-brown skin stood out as the sun shone down upon her, while his silky black hair reflected the sun-rays with equal intensity.

"All I know is that the main boss is a Goblin in the first commandment. There is a chance that it might be a goblin chief, if not a goblin general. If we are unlucky, we might even have a Hobgoblin on the loose ready to be dealt with. Unfortunately, we aren't strong enough to fight an elite hobgoblin of the first commandment." She explained.

"Your team formation? How is it?" Null finally voiced a question.

"We only started entering dungeons a few months ago so only half of us are in the first commandment. However, none of us are far from entering the first commandment. Most of us need a little nudge, while Oracle over there is a half step first commandment so all she needs is one more push. Anyway, our leader, Damien, is the the mid stages of the first commandment and he has the highest commandment out of all of us. Grisha and I are the support mages, while OracleOfFlames is the DPS mage. Monarch and Relish are the ones that take on all the close combat, while Damien is a Warden, so he control the battlefield to a large extent." Poisonlily explained

"Didn't you say you had 7 memebers?" Trishaless asked.

"Well... Transcendent is Transcendent. Damien is our leader, but Transcendent is by far the strongest out of all of us due to his class. He is still in the early stages of the first commandment, but he is super strong." Poisonlily sighed.

"What's his class?" Rosepetal could not hold back her curiosity anymore.

"He is a...

Starforger"

Chapter 23: Killing A First Commandment Hobgoblin [1]

"Starforger? Like, from the Starforger clan?" Peacexelr gasped.

"Correct me if I'm wrong, but the Starforger class is a pseudo-mythic class," Null questioned, yet Poisonlily remained silent without any intention of saying anything. However, that was enough to confirm Null's suspicions.

Of course, he wasn't intimidated in the least. He had a Class that could only be considered as something above the mythic rank, and while it might look like a curse on the surface, he saw himself growing faster than ever, so he wasn't about to complain.

"You finally made it?" A burly man no older than 22 years old crossed his arms and looked at Null's incoming group with a curious glance.

"Sorry for the wait. Are we ready to move?" Poisonlily asked as her gaze swept past all her teammates.

"Yep. We have all our supplies on hand. Firstly, We should get into formation so as to not separate or be attacked suddenly. We can have the scouts check the areas in front of us later on if need be." Damien explained while the rest nodded.

Looking at Relish, Null nodded his head while Relish nodded back after feeling Null's gaze.

"Got it, boss." Relish nodded.

"Null and Relish will be at the front, so your main goal will be to stop the enemy from attacking the rest of us. The rest of you spread out and surround us in a semicircle formation with the mages at the back.

Monarch, you will be right behind them, so you'll have to take the brunt of the attacks in Relish's and Null's stead if they let one go on accident." Damien explained.

Null didn't mind the arrangement, so he didn't complain; however, someone else had a complaint.

"What about Trisha and me? You know, we are also close range fighters." Rosepetal voiced.

"Oh, sorry... You seem to have slipped my mind." Damien gave a charming yet apologetic smile that shut Rosepetal's mouth.

'Damn these handsome people...' many of the men thought simultaneously.

"Peacexelr... A very hard name to pronounce, but you can stay with the ladies since you're an archer, and we'll need you as support alongside Grisha and Poisonlily. The beautiful Miss Rose and Miss Trisha can stay behind Monarch guarding the sides and protecting our support, while Osmygold will guard the support from behind. Transcendent will be all over the place helping us where he can, while Oracle will be doing whatever she sees fit." Damien explained, yet his expression became serious instead of descending into silence.

"A few goblin scouts up ahead." Null announced, making Damien widen his eyes in surprise. However, his surprise did not last long as he returned to reality and ordered everyone to get into their formations.

"You've got good senses..." Relish commented while brandishing his short swords created out of black metal.

"Thank you. Your sword is quite... adequate." Null complimented, if it could even be called that.

Sching

Click

Null quickly unsheathed and sheathed, and in the blink of an eye, a goblin fell to the ground in a sequence of two thuds, one lighter than the other.

"I have to say, these ones are quite weak." Null commented while the rest looked on with widened eyes or raised brows.

Most of them didn't see the blade as it cut through the air; the only ones who did were Transcendent and Damien.

"Hey, dude... Are you sure you're not in the first commandment?" Relish chuckled, but instead of getting a reply, he saw Null enter his own shadow before appearing behind him.

Sching

Thud

"I suggest you try being a little more alert." Null sighed and stepped over the headless corpse on the ground.

Null and Relish continued to slaughter the goblins in their path easily, yet the rest of the group was not having as much fun.

"I swear, these things just keep coming!" Monarch cursed as he cut down another goblin.

"I know, right? It's like they're coming out of nowhere!" Rosepetal exclaimed as she blocked a goblin's crude sword with her shield.

"You're telling me! I just killed like 20 of them, and yet there are still so many!" Trishaless complained as she beheaded a goblin with her giant ax.

"Well, what did you expect? This is a goblin raid, after all." Poisonlily sighed as she blasted a group of goblins with a barrage of arrows created from a green poison mist.

"Yeah, but still! This is just too much!" Monarch protested.

"Hmph, you're just too weak." Grisha scoffed as he unleashed a torrent of mana blasts at the incoming goblins.

"Hey! I could say the same thing to you!" Monarch retorted, but he was interrupted by the sound of an arrow piercing through the air.

"What the-?" Monarch cursed and turned around just in time to see an arrow aimed at his face.

Thud

"Urgh! That hurt..." Monarch cursed and clutched his forehead; he had just been hit with an arrow

"You okay?" Damien asked as he stopped a goblin from attacking Monarch from behind.

"Yeah, I'll be fine. I'm just pissed that I got hit." Monarch grunted and cut down the goblin in front of him with a single slash.

Since the arrow had simply bounced off his skin, he wasn't too hurt, but his face had become extremely red. Looking at him, Null could not figure out whether he was red because of the boiling anger waiting to explode out of him due to being hit by an arrow or the pain he was feeling.

"Good. Now focus on the enemy instead of playing with them like you usually do. You are our tank after all." Damien sighed.

While the rest of the team was busy fighting off the goblins, Transcendent was nowhere to be seen.

"Hey, where's Transcendent?" Poisonlily asked as she scanned the surroundings.

"He's probably doing something... Transcendent-like." Damien shrugged.

"I don't see him anywhere." Poisonlily insisted.

"Well, he's not with us, so he's probably scouting ahead or something." Damien shrugged again.

"You're telling me that he's scouting ahead by himself? That's way too dangerous!" Poisonlily exclaimed.

Null, however, could not help but raise a brow. Wasn't it his job to go ahead and report on anything he could see? However, he did not blame them for not allowing him to go ahead; after all, who wants someone who hasn't reached the first commandment to scout out the enemy forces?

"Relax. Transcendent can take care of himself." Damien assured.

"But still..." Poisonlily sighed.

"Are you worried about him?" Damien asked with a raised eyebrow.

"Of course not! I'm just worried about the team's safety, that's all." Poisonlily denied.

"Yeah, I'm sure you are." Damien chuckled.

The group continued to fight their way towards the boss's location, yet they were stopped in their tracks by the sudden appearance of a Goblin that emanated an aura much stronger than the rest.

"What the hell? Where did this guy come from?" Monarch cursed and blocked a powerful slash from the goblin's greatsword.

"I don't know, but we need to take him down quickly, or we're all dead." Damien growled and stabbed the goblin in the side with his spear.

"No shit! You think we don't know that?" Relish scoffed and slashed at the goblin's other side, but his swords were stopped by the goblin's greatsword.

"Oof!" Relish grunted as he was forced to take a few steps back.

"This guy is way too strong!" Monarch exclaimed as he was forced to take a few steps back as well.

"Yeah, I noticed." Damien sighed.

While the rest of the group was busy fighting the goblin, Null and Transcendent were nowhere to be seen.

In fact, they were having a problem of their own.

"I seem to be prone to trouble these days." Null sighed.

"Oh really? I think calling this situation 'trouble' is putting it lightly." Transcendent chuckled.

"Hmm... You might be right. That goblin we passed was in the initial stage of the first commandment, meaning this thing is..." Null halted his words and narrowed his eyes at the pot-bellied 15-foot-tall goblin. However, what distinguished him from the other goblins was his size, power, and equipment, which was clearly much better than all of the other goblins.

"Are you thinking of what I'm thinking?" Transcendent asked.

"If you think this is a hobgoblin, I believe you are mistaken." Null stepped forward.

"What are you doing!" Transcendent roared and tried to do something to push him back, but he could not reach him in time.

BOOM

An enormous bat slammed Null into the ground, or it at least seemed like it.

"You said you were live streaming this, am I correct?" Null's cold voice entered Transcendent's ears while simultaneously confusing the giant goblin.

"If yes, then let's make sure to give the audience a spectacle they will remember for the rest of their lives." Null declared as he appeared behind the enormous goblin's head, covered from head to toe in shadows with his leg stretched back, ready to let out a devastating kick.

[Shadow Enhancement]

Null's leg was engulfed in a black aura as he put all his strength into the kick.

BOOOOM

The impact sent the enormous goblin flying through the air, crashing into a nearby tree with such force that it was obliterated into pieces.

"That was... impressive." Transcendent murmured.

"Was it?" Null asked as he looked at the broken tree.

"Well, for someone who's not even in the first commandment yet, it was." Transcendent chuckled.

"Hmm... I see. Thank you for the compliment." Null nodded.

ROOOOAAAR

The goblin let out a devastating roar that uprooted most of the trees in the area while sending both Null and Transcendent several steps back.

"Are you sure this thing isn't a hobgoblin?" Transcendent asked with an ounce of worry. At the same time, he was trying his best to not tumble over and crash into the trees behind him.

"I am certain. Do not worry; this thing is far too weak to be a hobgoblin. If I'm right, this must be a goblin chief. The one we left behind was a goblin general." Null explained as he slowly slid back due to the shockwave created by the roar.

"Oh, crap... So this thing is an early stage first commandment?" Transcendent frowned.

"Unfortunately. I am surprised that I am still alive, especially since my attack didn't even leave a scratch despite flinging him away." Null finally stopped sliding.

"Ugh... Don't worry, I have this under control." Transcendent narrowed his eyes and let out a deep and long sigh before clasping his hands together and parting his mouth.

"Fabrication: Blade of a Collapsing Star!" Transcendent roared at the top of his voice, causing a shockwave to shoot out in every direction and pushing Null a few steps back.

The winds stopped moving, and everything became quiet for a split second, yet that was just the calm before the storm. The winds began to increase in speed and intensity before also changing the direction of their trajectory.

Woosh

The wind began to focus in the middle of Transcendent's outstretched hand, and before anyone knew it, a bright light began to shine upon the lands, almost scorching them with its sheer intensity.

'How interesting...' Null mused before beginning to grin behind the mask.

Fabrication was a well-known ability used by those from the Starforger clan. It was an ability that allowed someone to recreate, or in better terms, fabricate, an item the user had seen and touched before. However, this does not mean that the user of this ability can fabricate any item, as items of higher commandments of one's own will take longer to analyze to fabricate, while some might not even work.

The Blade of a Collapsing star is a blade considered a 7th commandment weapon, capable of being wielded by anyone of the Starforger clan... The one twist, however, is that it will fall to the level of the person wielding it, making it the perfect weapon to use the fabrication ability on.

Suddenly, the light disappeared while the wind was sucked into the forming blade, and before anyone could react, a pitch-black long sword with bright white outlines appeared within Transcendent's hand.

The blade was beautiful as the pitch-black void it was created out of seemed to be decorated by thousands of small white stars glimmering in the vast infinite void. On the

other hand, the white outlines looked like they were an event horizon, ready to bend the fabric of space and rip apart every atom that came within its reach.

"That was quite an impressive display... Are you showing off for the cameras?" Null asked with a chuckle after appearing at Transcendent's right.

"I don't think showing off is the correct terminology here." Transcendent retorted before lowering himself into a fighting stance.

"Is that so?" Null sighed while twirling his katana in a relaxed stance. He didn't look like a man who was about to take on a goblin chief in the early stages of the first commandment, but Transcendent didn't seem to care since he had his own problems to deal with.

ROOOOOAAAAR

As if trying to taunt the duo, the Goblin chief let out a sky-shaking roar, yet when it was about to touch Transcendent and Null, they moved in sync and did something no one would have expected them to do.

Taking a step to the right, Null used Transcendent to shield himself from the incoming shockwave while Transcendent slashed down to slice and open within it.

Boom

As if having rehearsed this battle hundreds of times, the two moved in complete fluidity, both moving in a different pattern yet somehow completely in sync with one another.

While Null moved in a semi-circular pattern to attack the goblin from the right, Transcendent shot in a straight line without any intention of moving out of the way despite an enormous bat being swung at him.

Null's katana cut through the air with such speed and force that it created an invisible shockwave that nudged the enormous bat to the side while Transcendent's blade of a collapsing star ripped through the bat as if it were paper, almost as if it were a hot knife through butter.

The goblin chief was momentarily stunned by the sudden turn of events, but he quickly regained his composure and charged at the duo with all his might.

Null and Transcendent didn't even bat an eye as they calmly side-stepped the charge and slashed at the goblin's back.

Boom

However, before their attacks could land, something unexpected occurred, something they had not put into their calculations when fighting the goblin chief all on their own.

The goblin chief was suddenly engulfed in orange and blue flames while its eyes slowly became red.

Simultaneously, its power began to skyrocket while its rage could be felt in the paralyzing bloodlust that was flooding out of it.

"I believe this is what we call a slight miscalculation." Null commented.

"A slight miscalculation?! We just allowed this thing to break through!" Transcendent roared, his eyes slightly fearful as he looked at the dreadful creature before them.

Truly a force to be reckoned with.

Chapter 24: Killing A First Commandment Hobgoblin [2]

Planet Deroxa, Elrod Household.

"What are you watching?" Delly, Zack's older sister, asked while looking at Elana, who was looking at the holographic screen on the living room wall.

"Those look like the Seven Reapers. Why didn't you tell me they were live streaming?" Ana suddenly asked after appearing behind Delly and startling her.

"You almost gave me a heart attack!" Delly let out a deep and exhausting breath.

After regaining her breath, Delly finally asked-

"Who are the seven reapers? Are they some big shot adventurers?"

"No. They are pretty weak. Right now, they are walking toward the area of the first floor's boss. I believe they are fighting the goblin general this time since the second and third floors have the goblin chief and hobgoblin." Elana explained without taking her eyes off the screen.

"Really? Why are you watching them when they are so weak?" Delly asked.

While Delly was Elana's best friend, she sometimes found it hard to understand her behaviors. Elana could sometimes be the most predictable person in the world or the

most unpredictable person in the world. It is what made her such a fearsome opponent while also making it hard for her to find friends she could connect with.

However, since Delly was a daughter of the Glade family and also the same age as Elana, they became good friends over the years.

Yet, despite their closeness, there was a lot that Delly didn't know about, and it seemed like TV shows that Elana liked were just another thing Delly had no idea about.

"I mean, it's nice to see someone weak for a change. Secondly, they are prodigies that started entering dungeons a few months ago. More than half of them are first commandments, and even then, they are pretty strong for their commandment. They only started coming to the labyrinth recently." Elana explained before describing all the members to Ana and Delly, despite Ana already knowing all of them

"Who are the rest then?" Delly pointed

"Well, most of them are newbies." Elana shrugged.

"Newbies, huh... That one with a mask is fighting pretty well, though. And he is pretty attractive too." Delly snickered.

"Stop ogling him. Anyway, I think his name is Null or something. What a crappy name." Elana sneered.

"Ogling? You are one to speak." Ana let out a soft chuckle; however, before Elana could retort, Delly suddenly pointed toward the TV and exclaimed-

"Masked guy and the boy from the starforger clan are leaving the formation. I think they're running away." Delly laughed.

"I don't think so..." Ana narrowed her eyes, and when her words reached the girl's ears, they also saw something on the screen.

"Wait, isn't that a goblin chief?" Elana exclaimed.

"I think it is..." Delly muttered.

"Holy crap the comments are going crazy! Did you see what happen with the seven reapers?" Zack asked as he descended the stairs.

"Yeah, we are watching it right now." Ana replied.

"Do you think they will send a squad to save them?" Delly asked.

"Maybe, but you know how the labyrinth is. Unless you go with a complete newcomer, you start on the floor you finished on. Its hard to find that many newcomers nowadays. You just gotta hope that there are still people on the first floor." Ana frowned.

"Hey guys, that aside, doesn't that masked dude look like Lloyd?" Zack asked while everyone else's eyes brightened in both horror and realization.

They all looked at the screen simultaneously, yet after seeing Null kick an early first commandment goblin into a tree, they all shook their heads and felt the urge to slap themselves for thinking about something stupid.

???, Labyrinth 1st floor.

"Who knew goblins had elemental abilities too..." Null scratched his chin in interest.

"They don't... Only hobgoblins do." Transcendent gnashed his teeth in frustration.

"I see... Then how should we-" Null words halted as his instincts kicked in, and he quickly moved to the side.

Boom

An enormous fist slammed down on the ground, creating a small crater.

Null and Transcendent quickly retreated a few steps back, now surrounded by a ring of flames.

Roar

The goblin chief let out another roar, this time accompanied by a hurricane-force wind that sent Null and Transcendent flying away.

Null crashed into the trunk of a large tree, while Transcendent crashed into the trunk of a slightly smaller tree.

Cough

Transcendent coughed up a mouthful of blood while Null felt several cracks slowly crawl up his back and reach the sides of his neck. He was very close to being knocked out unconscious, but he kept himself awake despite not having any adrenaline to wake him up

Boom

A bright light began to shine on the duo as the goblin chief approached them.

'This is bad...!' Null thought.

'We're going to die...!' Transcendent thought.

However, instead of panicking, both of their minds ran at 100 miles an hour, trying to figure out a solution on how to not be incinerated by the incoming fireball.

"Trans! Wall!" Null roared, and Transcendent knew exactly what to do.

Despite his body begging him to sit down and rest, Transcendent ignored the pain coming from coursing through his body and quickly shouted-

"Creation: Steel wall!"

Out of seemingly thin air, a powerful steel wall formed in less than a second, and despite it being 2-meters thick, the steel wall began to melt, and within seconds, it had become molten steel.

However, a few seconds was more than enough time for both Null and Transcendent to move out of harm's way and allow the fireball to pass them.

The fireball collided with the wall of molten steel, instantly vaporizing it and continuing onward, eventually disappearing into the horizon.

Null and Transcendent both breathed a sigh of relief, now that they had bought themselves some time.

"Null! You okay?" Transcendent asked as he approached Null.

"Yeah, I'm fine. Just a few bruises and some cracked ribs. You?" Null lied as he stood up.

"I'll be fine. Just some bruises." Transcendent smiled.

"We need to find a way to kill this thing. Even if we can hold out for a while, we can't keep this up forever." Null sighed.

"I know, but... What can we do? We don't have anything to counter fire magic." Transcendent sighed.

Just as Null was about to reply, they both heard a loud boom, and when they turned to look, they saw a large fireball hurtling toward them.

"Shit! Move!" Transcendent roared as he quickly moved to the side.

Null quickly followed suit and the duo narrowly avoided being hit by the fireball.

"What the hell is this thing?!" Transcendent roared in frustration.

However, instead of feeling anger or frustration, Null could not help but smile as he thought of what he would get when he finally killed the creature before them. Not only would there be a lot of loot to get, but there was a chance that he might get the fire ability the hobgoblin has.

'If I can get that ability, maybe I can learn how to use fire magic too.' Null mused.

However, before he could continue thinking, the duo heard another boom, and when they looked up, they saw another fireball hurtling toward them.

'This has to stop.' Null narrowed his eyes and tightened his grip around his blade, but instead of doing something potentially reckless, he moved out of the way as an idea popped into his mind.

"I need you to distract the Goblin chief for 7 seconds." Null asked while Transcendent frowned but still complied by nodding and creating a spear.

Swoosh

As a fireball came towards him, he hurtled it through the flames and towards the goblin chief's eye, and despite the goblin chief dodging, the spear still hit, yet not its intended target.

With its ear ripped cleanly off, the goblin let out a powerful earth-shaking roar that sounded throughout the forest and alerted the rest of the group of Null and Transcendent's location.

'Good... Going for the ear means that the goblin chief will have balancing issues, and I knew Transcendent knows that, so he will be trying to get the goblin chief to trip over and accidentally impale himself with something that just happened to be on the ground in that very moment.' Null concluded as the world around him began to turn black, white, and surprisingly, red. Only the color of blood could be seen, not the color of anything else, yet Null was not in the state of mind to question anything that was happening.

[4-Dimensional Thought]

He had one goal in mind, and despite it being more gruesome than anything he had ever done before, he was willing to go the extra mile to make sure he was the one who got the final hit.

3...

Everything for the last hit...

2...

Anything to get the power of flames.

1...

Null was now standing several meters behind the goblin chief as he watched it continuously attack transcendent with both flames and fists.

"YOU!" Null roared at the top of his lungs while slashing down, and due to the power behind it, an arch of wind pressure tore through the air and hit the goblin chief in the back, successfully grabbing its attention and almost tripping it over.

Without hesitation, the goblin threw a fire blast towards Null, one much stronger than the rest, yet it did not stop him from doing what he was planning.

"Hey! We heard the commotion." Damien stated as he and the rest of the team left the forest's shadows and entered the burning landscape.

Despite hearing the voices of Damien and the others, Null still waited... Waiting for the right moment... The moment the goblin makes the mistake of making eye contact with him.

He knew that a fire blast was coming toward him, but he didn't care.

He had one goal in mind and would do anything to complete it.

Every second felt like an eternity...

Yet he waited-

Until it finally happened.

[Void Gaze]

[Monarch's Aura]

[Shadow Enhancement]

Boom

DOOM

Dread.

Absolute Dread...

That was the best way to describe the feeling everyone felt despite it not being directed at them.

They all knelt even though they knew they didn't have to.

They knelt out of instinct, yet they did not dare stand up again when their knees touched the ground.

They knew they were outmatched, but their minds could not comprehend why.

It almost felt like they were in the presence of an absolute sovereign...

A ruler... the king of kings.

The moment Null made eye contact with the goblin, he released the full power of his killing intent that was thick enough to create a literal cloud created out of darkness, shadows, and mysterious purple energy that made it close to impossible to see from within it.

And the goblin chief had taken a direct hit...

'Their minds are so... Weak?' Null thought to himself with mockery in his voice.

However, he snapped out of his thoughts and tried to dodge the fire blade, yet it was too late.

BOOM

Before he could move out of the way, the fire blast erupted into a cyclone of flames that Null found himself trapped in. Yet, such a thing was a part of his plan...

He knew that it would go like this. In fact, he knew everything that would happen from the moment he saw the goblin chief for the first time... All of it was leading up to this. The final attack.

Closing his eyes, Null took a step forward, and the instant before his foot touched the ground, he felt the very world around him freeze.

Opening his eyes again, he no longer saw the blazing flames nor the molten magma he was standing on. Instead, he saw nothing but purple lines...

They looked like arcs of violet lightning going to several places, and for some reason, he felt like he had a connection to them... As if he touching them could grant his wish and complete his plan.

Without wasting another second, Null looked at all the arches of lightning and took a step forward, and within that moment, everything turned black.

Several seconds passed, and before he knew it, he found himself above one of the drone cameras, his foot slowly descending upon it to find a stable foothold.

[Void Step]

[The user of his ability can step into the void and reappear anywhere you can see within range. The user can use this ability once per minute as long as the user has enough mana to reuse this ability.]

Null narrowed his eyes as he saw the goblin chief that was regaining his senses.

His hand quickly moved to the base of his blade, using his finger to slowly trace it to the top of the blade as violet runes gradually etched themselves onto it.

When the final runes were created, the steel blade became pitch-black while the runes glowed even brighter.

'Time to end this.'

[Aspect of Void]

Chapter 25: Killing A First Commandment Hobgoblin

[3]

[Aspect of Void]

The purple runes on Null's blade suddenly started seeping out a purple light that gradually covered the entire blade, yet before that could happen, Null had already jumped off the drone and began to shoot down toward the stunned goblin chief.

Before the goblin chief could regain its senses, pain surged from its right side before an audible thud entered its ears.

Looking toward the pain, it was forced to clench its teeth while watching blood spurt out of the open wound where its arm was supposed to be.

The cut was completely clean and silent as if a blazing hot knife cut through butter.

The goblin chief let out an ear-piercing roar that traveled throughout the entire floor, causing the entire forest to tremble as if a magnitude 7 earthquake had hit it, yet this did not seem to affect Null, who had already entered a zone of his own.

His violet eyes were cold, while his aura was as calm as an unperturbed lake.

Suddenly, Transcendent shot through the air and slammed his foot into the goblin's torso, making it blast backward before being forced to slide and take several steps back.

Using shadow movement, Null appeared by its side, sliced its calves, and disappeared before the goblin could turn around in time.

Null knew that taking a hit from the goblin chief would mean instant death, but now that he had [Aspect of Void] on his blade, he felt like he could take on anything and everything the goblin chief had in store for him.

He felt like he could cut through time and space itself, yet he chose against it since his instincts told him it was best if he avoided doing so at his current level, especially in front of so many cameras.

Before the goblin chief could fully turn around and meet Null's eyes as he submerged himself in his own shadow, Transcendent appeared again and swung his blade in an arch to decapitate his enemy.

The goblin, however, had other things in mind. Without thinking twice, it shrouded itself in flames and forced Transcendent to leap back.

When Null finally left his shadow, the duo looked into each other's eyes for less than a split second before nodding and dashing in two different directions.

The goblin chief found itself forced to only focus its attention on one thing at a time, as due to Null being the one who sliced its arm off, it turned to him with the conclusion that he was a much more dangerous opponent than the one who kept kicking it every now and then.

However...

Boom

A green arrow shot through the air and hit the goblin on the torso, yet it exploded and released a poisonous green mist instead of penetrating or bouncing off the skin.

Simultaneously, several arcane spells were created purely from mana shots and curved in the air like mana missiles homing towards their target.

The goblin raised its hand and made a wall of orange flames, yet those flames froze alongside every ember and flame on the battlefield, as if time itself froze.

Without a wall of flames to stop the incoming attacks, the mana missiles barraged the goblin chief, causing several explosions to go off while kicking up a dust cloud in its wake.

When the dust cloud finally dissipated, one could see a severely injured goblin being ravaged by blue flames and screaming out in pain and terror, yet when its eyes fell upon a figure that had appeared in front of it, the fear within its eyes only increase in intensity while the terror in its screams became more audible.

The goblin chief, who had already become a hobgoblin, looked into Null's eyes with visible rage before lifting its fist and shooting it directly toward Null's face.

The fist's power rippled the air around it, and despite seeing that, Null still took a step forward.

Sching

In an instant, the blade transformed into a purple light arch that tore through the air and sliced the incoming fist into two pieces.

The goblin opened its mouth to let out another roar, yet what came out were muffled screams as Null shoved its fist into its mouth while stabbing it through the stomach, causing blood to spurt out from the other side.

The goblin's screams echoed in the air as its eyes started to bulge out, and with a flick of his wrist, Null pulled out the blade.

It continued to struggle, and right before an attack fast enough to land on Null came his way, A man with a white and gold shield appeared in front of Null before slamming his hammer down and creating an illusory, much larger ethereal form of himself to block the incoming attack.

Another man with a shield shot through the air and slammed into the goblin from out of nowhere, and while this might have only made it take a few steps back to regain its balance, it was enough for Null to enact the final step of his plan.

From the beginning to the end, he had already calculated and thought of all the observable possibilities and therefore had planned everything for it to go in his favor.

Submerging into his own shadow again while using most of his remaining mana, Null appeared behind the struggling goblin and swung his blade in an arch.

His blade flashed purple as the aura covering it sharpened and made the blade more powerful than ever before.

For some reason, Null felt like he was holding a blade of the second commandment, yet instead of focusing on that, his eyes flashed with the coldness of a frozen tundra as his blade tore through the goblin chief's neck, beheading it in the process.

The headless corpse fell to the ground with a thud, and as the blood pooled around it while the purple light on the blade gradually started to fade.

Null jumped up and landed on the headless corpse as he looked down at it with a hint of disdain.

"I must say..." Null breathed out as power began to surge into his body, making him feel a million times stronger than before.

"This experience has been a disappointment from start to finish."

"Disappointment, my ass! We almost died on several occasions!" Transcendent complained while falling onto his backside and unsummoning his blade.

"Are you two okay?" OracleOfFlames landed right beside the two and asked with a tilt of her head. Her expression didn't display any worry, nor did her tone of voice, making it seem like she was simply asking out of respect rather than worry.

"Yeah. The fight was mediocre at best." Null shrugged.

"I want to punch you in the face so bad. The only thing stopping is your injuries, so... Oracle, can you heal him, please." Transcendent asked with a seemingly innocent smile, yet Null could see that hidden petty intention behind it.

"I would, but I can barely stay standing myself." OracleOfFlames complained while ruffling her orange hair.

"Why is that?" Null asked out of curiosity, yet this did not overshadow the cold tone in his voice from the first time the group met him.

While OracleOfFlames was slightly taken aback by Null's commanding tone, when looking into his eyes, she knew that he meant no harm, making her conclude that the mask he was wearing must have changed his voice slightly in order to keep his identity secret.

She wasn't completely wrong since the mask did change Lloyd's voice slightly, but it was not to the extent that it would make him sound could. It would only make his voice slightly deeper.

While this would have been a small measure to keep his identity secret, another factor came into play in hiding his identity, and one that he had not planned in the least.

"Well, despite what you saw, it is not easy to control the flames of a hobgoblin even if it just awakened its elemental affinity and barely became a hobgoblin." She breathed out in exhaustion.

"I can try healing you if you want." A familiar voice entered their ears and made them turn around just to see Grisha shyly smiling at them, her long blonde hair reaching her midsection, while her piercing pale blue eyes looked away when their eyes landed on her.

"You are an Arcane Master. Am I correct?" Null asked dismissively.

"Yeah, but I know a few healing runes I learned a few years ago... Before I awakened, they taught us all the basic runes that we might need to use to ensure that we are ahead of all the other kids when we awaken." She explained.

Null slightly nodded before quickly looking towards his blade that had corroded and weathered beyond recognition.

'I knew that using Aspect of Void would damage my blade, but I had no idea it would be to this extent.' Null was shocked, and his eyes refused to leave the blade in his hand. However, what shocked him most was not only the state of the blade, but the fact that it had gotten to this stage without using the ability's full capabilities.

He knew that the ability had much more than simply increasing the level and quality of the weapon he wields. All he had done so far was using the base features of the ability.

The reasons he had not gone further were both because of the cameras that were being pointed at him, and the fact that he knew that the base abilities of Aspect of Void were enough for the likes of the hobgoblin.

While he was certain that increasing his attack output would have secured his life and made the fight much easier, he also knew that he had already done too much to catch the eyes of the public, and doing any more would only hurt him in the long run.

"I can try fixing your blade too if you want, but I'm no blacksmith or starforger, so I most likely won't have the ability to fully replenish it." Grisha asked while fumbling with the wand in her hands.

"I would be most thankful if you do me this favor." Null bowed slightly before walking to her and handing her the blade, yet instead of looking at the thing that she was being given, Grisha was transfixed by the pair of violet stars that were staring at her from behind the mask.

"You have violet eyes..." Grisha muttered unconsciously while the other two raised a brow.

While Transcendent had seen Null's eyes before, he didn't think much of it since they were in the middle of a battle, and it almost made sense for the guy with shadow abilities to have black or purple eyes. However, now that he thought of it, Null's feats in this battle and his abilities felt slightly off. As if there was something that didn't make sense about him anymore.

'How can he take on a mid-stage first commandment despite not being a first commandment himself?'

'Why does he have so many abilities?'

'Why are his eyes violet?'

'Why was his killing intent so powerful?'

'How did he get on top of the drone so quickly?'

OracleOfFlames had many of the same questions, but since she had only seen Null fight once, she was more close-minded about the ideas entering her mind.

After all, why would she be worried? Because he is a void walker? What a joke.

Everyone knew that the chances of a Void Walker reappearing were slim to null. And even if they were to reappear, the government had put so many procedures in place to ensure they would be immediately spotted and killed.

Everything from the Awakening Ceremony and the Adventurer's Association exam to portals and IDs are used to scan if someone is a Void walker or not.

And who would believe some weak boy without a commandment would be a Void Walker? Throughout history, Void Walkers have been seen as forces of nature. Literal walking calamities capable of destroying entire governments with a single attack.

Many believe that Void Walkers are born at the top of the food chain and don't have to work their way up there, so why OracleOfFlames believe something as stupid as Null being a Void Walker?

"Do you not like it?" Null asked, his voice feeling much more chilling this time than his usual neutral-cold voice.

"N-No! I just thought that they were beautiful, that's all... It's just so rare to see someone with violet eyes nowadays so I was slightly stunned." Grisha waved her hands frantically while his eyes began tearing up, making her look like she was on the verge of crying.

The scene would have been considered extremely cute by anyone watching, yet Null simply nodded and turned around before strolling back to his teammates.

"Ophelia..." Transcendent narrowed his eyes at Null, who was getting further and further away before turning his head to the orange-haired beauty beside him.

"Didn't I tell you to not call me that when we are in public? You're lucky we turned the cameras off after killing the big guy." OracleOfFlames shook her head, but she could not help but let out a sigh when she saw Transcendent glare at her.

"I know what you are thinking, but your thoughts are illogical. Just try to think of the chances of him being what you think he is, and if you aren't convinced by then, you can try finding the files on his awakening ceremony. I am more than certain that you have the political power to find his true identity, or am I wrong?" She asked while Transcendent nodded slightly before shaking his head and the thoughts plaguing it.

'If he really is one of those monsters, then it will show in due time. If he is one of them, then he will eventually lose to his bloodlust and lose control of himself. That is when I will end it all for him.' Transcendent glared at Null, his golden eyes flickering for a moment before returning to their previous calmness.