

The Walker Of Voids

Chapter 51: Strength Comes In Many Different forms [4] - Unity Vs Void Walker

"What the hell are you?!" The void walker thought while calculating ways to escape her current situation.

"Hmm? How cute." The girl muttered with a smile before cupping the void walker's face with her hand.

The girl wore white gloves that felt soft to the touch, yet the void walker knew better than to relax in a situation like that. The girl before her, while seeming petite and small, was a monster in disguise... A monster capable of ripping her to shreds with a single flick of her wrist.

Smiling at the void walker, the girl got uncomfortably close to the woman as her hand carried its way down to her neck while caressing every inch of skin on the way down.

The void walker felt a powerful chill go down her spine. A chill that traversed both time and space, unknowingly sending a version of her outside this world into a worried frenzy.

Before the girl could do anything, she knitted and brows and moved away from the void walker while putting her hands on her hips.

Looking up, the girl's frown deepened before a smile broke out on her lips that were once pursed in curiosity.

"Hahahahahahahaha!" The girl laughed maniacally, which only made the void walker even paler.

Feeling that the girl's tight control over her body had weakened, she snapped out of her trance and used all the power she could muster to get out of her hold.

At the same time, she used most of her mana to move the stars once again, yet just as she was about to throw all of them at the little girl, pain engulfed her before the void walker let out a shrill blood-curdling scream.

She watched as her torn arms flew above her line of sight. Of course, no blood came out since she was a void walker, but the scene of her arms being cut off instantly caused her blood to freeze... Metaphorically, of course.

"You stupid child!" The girl laughed before snapping her fingers and turning the small stars into glitter.

"You don't even realize what is happening around you. I guess you were programmed that way, but still." The girl laughed further while clutching her belly.

A few minutes passed, yet those minutes felt like days to the void walker.

Wiping her eyes, the girl's laugh finally ceased, allowing her to look up and stare into the frightened eyes of the void walker that had killed her vessel's parents.

"To answer your previous question-" The girl pinched two sides of her dress and slowly lifted it while lowering her body into a humble curtsy. Yet, unlike how people usually curtsied, the girl kept looking into the void walker's eyes with a smile that extended from ear to ear.

"My name is Unity." She announced with a joyful voice as she got out of her curtsy.

"And I will be your killer!" She let out an almost demonic laugh as her aura flared even further than before.

Before the void walker could show her confusion, Unity simply tapped her temple and stated-

"I know you didn't ask for my name, but you thought of asking, didn't you?" She smiled.

"Oh well. It doesn't matter anyway since you're just a simulation. However, I do sense something on the outside world. I think I might have a new born brother. Oh well." Unity shrugged and pointed two fingers at the void walker.

"Since the real you had the gall to attack the parents of my vessel, I'm going too have to punish her a little." Unity smiled.

[Forbidden Technique]

Thump Thump

Before the woman could understand any of the words coming out of Unity's mouth, she felt her mana core pulse twice before something seemingly engraved itself into it.

[Transdimensional Curse - Hellscape]

Without prior warning, the Void Walker's eyes suddenly became white as she seemed to lose consciousness.

"A curse that puts the victim into a 1-year sleep that feels like a hundred years. Worse of all, they are sent to a hell of their own making, where they are forced to survive for over a hundred years. They can't even die, so its just torture. What a worthy curse for a deserving victim." Unity laughed.

She knew that this affected all versions of the void walker, no matter the universe they came from.

However, after laughing for a bit, she could not help but halt her laughter and look down at her body.

'This body isn't ready yet.' She sighed.

She could see several cracks on her vessel's skin, and while she could heal them right before hybernating and letting Fatima take over, she had a feeling that the wounds would open up the moment she stops being the primary consciousness.

"I should get her to the real world. No one will pester her out there since those higher-ups have no way of looking into this pocket dimension. However, she didn't complete the primary function of the trial, so I can't really leave without creating my own portal."

"That would probably cause a small problem, though, since her group won't be able to pass through the trial without completing this one..." She muttered before a light bulb appeared above her head as her eyes glowed with an idea.

Staring into the fabric of this world, she saw that it didn't extend past the moons around the planet. However, she understood one thing after looking further into the code of the universe.

'It doesn't seem to have a protocol against the destruction of this planet, so...'

With a bright childish smile on her face, Unity extended her hand toward one of the three moons in the sky before pulling with a loud "Humph."

She wasn't even close to her peak, so it took her quite a bit of effort, but after a few seconds of pulling, the moon crumbled right before her eyes and slowly moved toward the planet.

With the same smile plastered on her face, she pulled upon the other two moons, crumbling them and moving them toward the planet.

Within a few seconds, the terrifying scene of the moon crumbling and coming closer to the planet quickly turned into a scene of beautiful carnage.

The moon's pieces turned bright red as they warmed up and pushed through the atmosphere.

The symphony of screams entered Unity's ears and made her close her eyes in joy.

'That boy...' She thought to herself as the image of a violet-eyed boy entered her mind.

'I have a feeling that we're going to become very close... Mr. Void Walker.' Her smile widened while she opened her arms as if trying to embrace the incoming chaos into a warm hug.

She felt as the planet below reached temperatures that boiled the very ground and caused everything to either melt into a puddle of what it once was or sink to the depth of the lava below it.

Cars seemed to turn into hunks of whatever metal they were made of, while buildings sunk into the grounds and were engulfed in flames.

And then, the moons finally struck the ground.

...

Looking at the planet while sitting on a piece of one of the moons that she suspended in space with her telekinetic powers, she grew more worried as the portal out of this realm didn't appear yet.

She was contemplating creating her own portal before the vessel got too injured. But after a few seconds of waiting, she finally felt something happening, and in the blink of an eye, she felt as if she was being encapsulated within a white void was the world around her finally disappeared, and a portal appeared before her.

Without thinking twice, she stepped through and let go of the primary consciousness, and despite her dreadful aura still lingering around her for a few moments as she went through, the moment the body lost consciousness, the aura disappeared, and Fatima was quickly surrounded by several teammates.

[Author's note: Please send power stones and golden tickets. I will shout out those in the top 3 of the golden ticket ranking at the end of the month.

Also, tell me if you like how I split the chapter into two 1.2k chapters (like other authors) or if you want me to keep it the way it was.

Also, thank you Carlos_Bg for your generous gifts]

Chapter 52: Final Challenge [1]

Seeing that Jack had finally calmed down, Lloyd looked over at Jenna, whose eyes drooped while an aura of tiredness surrounded her.

"Can you save her?" Jack asked, his body also feeling heavy.

"No..." Lloyd muttered as Jenna fell back and lost consciousness. The moment she did so, Lloyd widened his eyes as her body glowed before disappearing in the blink of an eye.

Looking around again, he saw that Fatima and John were also glowing, and in the same second, they both disappeared from where they lay, leaving nothing but a bright flash of light as they disappeared.

"I don't think I can... Keep my self awake." Jack muttered as his body felt heavier by the second.

"Crap." Lloyd cursed and went to catch Jack, but before he could, Jack began glowing before disappearing even though he hadn't actually fallen yet.

'What will power...' Lloyd thought to himself before closing his eyes and taking in a deep breath despite not needing it.

It was something that helped him relax and feel more human, yet there was a voice at the back of his mind telling him that, no matter what he did, he would never be human again.

Dashing through the slowly opening doors, Lloyd acted like he was holding his breath.

He knew that he was being watched, and they the higher-ups would most likely ask why he stayed awake far longer than everyone else.

While he feigned being slightly tired, he shot through the small tunnel while extinguishing all the flames in his way with one strong gust of wind as he passed by.

He blitzed through almost every room with monsters while using [4-Dimensional Thought] to complete the puzzles in less than 10 seconds.

However, that's when he got an idea.

[Welcome to the gate of mysteries. I shall ask you 3 questions. If you get them wrong, you will lose. Get them right, and I will allow you to move to the next room.]

Inwardly smiling, Lloyd was waiting for a room like this.

They appeared about every 5 rooms, and since he knew that he wouldn't actually lose consciousness because of the Carbon Monoxide, this was his chance to get out.

"I can fly, but I have no wings. I can cry, but I have no eyes. What am I?" The figure asked.

"A fountain?" Lloyd answered while grabbing his head like he got hit with the worst headache of his life.

"Incorrect. The answer is cloud." The figure announced before its eyes became red.

"You have failed this test. You have been eliminated." It spoke before shooting him with a red beam that seemingly incinerated him.

Of course, he was simply sent out of the dungeon, and when he finally opened his eyes to absorb the scene around him, he could not help but wince slightly.

After using [4-Dimensional Thought], he usually got a headache and felt slightly less intelligent than the usual.

"Don't worry." Fatima's voice entered his ears, making him narrow his eyes as the image of her bloodied body entered his eyes.

"It's just phantom pain. We were all healed the moment we left the dungeon." She explained, but Lloyd couldn't help but feel like the resentment in her eyes had increased since he had last seen her. She wore a fake smile as she spoke to him, and despite it not being that long since he had last seen her, he saw a huge amount of pain in her eyes.

"I see." Lloyd nodded despite knowing that the pain he felt wasn't phantom pain.

After finishing the dungeon, they were given a few hours to rest. Lloyd, Jack, and Jenna took this time to learn about each other's cultivation techniques while not technically learning how to do it. It was as if they were giving each other snippets of the true cultivation technique, to the point where the others would understand it but not have the ability to replicate it.

John and Fatima, on the other hand, slept. While John was simply mentally tired from being chased for what felt like days, Fatima had curled herself up into a ball and slept. Her olive-colored skin looked paler than ever.

She shook and tossed in her sleep to the point where Jenna felt obligated to wake her, but she was quickly stopped by Lloyd and Jack. They both knew that this was something she had to go through on her own, and despite knowing that, Jack couldn't help but feel extremely worried alongside Jenna.

"Fatima Khan?" A man with a clipboard asked while looking around.

"There." Jenna shouted while pointing at the sleeping Fatima.

The man quickly walked over to her and woke her up from her slumber before whispering something to her that caused her to widen her eyes.

Sharpening his senses, Lloyd barely heard a few words being whispered, but he quickly formulated the most likely string of words to create several sentences. Yet even after doing so, he couldn't believe his ears.

Walking over to her group, Fatima was still wide-eyed as she muttered.

"Well, I've been kind of disqualified." She rubbed the back of her neck.

"What?!" Jenna and Jack shouted, causing John to also wake up.

"They said that I broke into the first commandment in the dungeon." She explained, but Lloyd knew that it wasn't the whole truth.

'The higher-ups have chosen to disqualify you from any further exams since the power gap will be too large. We can't have a late-stage first commandment competing against those without a commandment.' Lloyd recalled the man explaining.

They didn't know how it happened, but the higher-ups thought that something must have occurred within the pocket dimension that caused her to awaken a secret bloodline or gene within her, allowing her to jump an entire class.

Such a phenomenon was extremely rare, as Fatima's little awakening was the first case in a decade, but such an awakening would have most likely given her a golden ticket into any academy, allowing the higher-ups to disqualify her without any problems occurring.

While the entrance ceremony felt a bit like a tournament rather than a test to let candidates show off their prowess and ability, it was split into three different challenges for a reason.

While most don't see the battle royal as a true challenge, it was a clever ploy to separate the weaklings from the mediocre and strong, and it worked as a filter of sorts.

Since people are allowed to retake the entrance ceremony as long as they are below the first class and under the age of 21, the battle royal was a way of telling people that they weren't ready to enter an academy yet and should probably go to a pre-academy to get themselves prepared for year to come.

The second challenge was made to help recruiters of mid and higher levels academies choose possible candidates, while the final challenge was created to expose the hidden gems that aren't from big families, and allow the top 6 academies to select the best of the best.

After a few gasps and congratulatory hugs, Fatima waved at the group before leaving. However, the moment the large metal doors closed behind her, everyone perked their ears up as an announcement entered their ears.

"The final and simplest challenge is here, folks. All contestants that have not been disqualified, please make your way to the public stadium's center platform," The presenter ordered, causing several grunts to resound through the hall before everyone began to move towards the stadium.

In a different stadium sector, a girl with black hair and brown eyes curled up in a chair and looked through one of the private booth's windows as a man stood in the middle of a platform.

The man had white hair, yet everything else, from his eyes to his long leather trenchcoat, was black. He wore a pair of gloves while his lower face was covered in a black mask, covering everything from the bridge of his nose down to his collarbones.

Knock Knock Knock

"Mhm..." The girl hummed from between her whimpers.

Creak

As the door opened, the figure of a tall and slender man with smooth bronze skin walked through the door with a worried expression on his face.

Worry could be seen in his eyes as he looked at the girl who had rolled herself into a ball, but instead of acting hysterical like he usually would have done, he took a deep breath in and slowly walked towards his daughter with a loving smile on his face as he did so.

Sitting next to her, he placed his large hand on Fatima's back and asked with the softest voice-

"Hello, honey. What's wrong?"

"Nothing..." She replied.

"You know you could have taken part in the next activity, right? Its not like someone's commandment affects the result." He stated, yet she remained quite.

"I can tell something is wrong. So what is it?" He asked with a soft and kind voice.

However, unlike the usual shrug he would get whenever he saw Fatima in this state, he widened his eyes in surprise when the girl before him, the same girl he had thought to be the most mature out of all his children, turned into a little girl once again as she pulled him into a hug and cried her heart out.

As tears soaked his shirt, the man could not help but feel a powerful hand squeeze and crush his heart. He had taken in Fatima a year after her parents' deaths after he found her beaten and abused in one of the less privileged orphanages.

The orphanage was run by a local gang known for using violent crime, but they were also notorious for taking care of their own, and that's what they saw Fatima as... Their own.

Of course, no good deed comes from the goodness of a criminal's heart since this organization, while taking care of kids by feeding them and giving them a place to stay, also used these children to commit crimes for them, such as smuggling drugs or using them as fodder.

Yet, despite Fatima having gone through such things in the past, Mr. Khan had never seen her cry in front of him, as if she had vowed to never shed a tear before him, the moment she was released from her captives.

He had watched her as she grew into who she was today, yet despite seeing her smile and treat him like he was her real father, he could not help but remember the days when she would refuse to speak, cry or eat.

"It's okay..." He muttered just loud enough for her to hear him.

"Everything is going to be okay." He smiled and placed her head comfortably on his chest until she finally ran out of tears and fell into a deep slumber.

Looking up with a sigh, he could not help but notice that he had missed a large portion of the event... Luckily, however, just as he looked up, he saw a shirtless black-haired boy wearing a waistcoat that reached his knees. What stood out about the boy, despite not wearing a shirt, was the fact that he had been wearing sunglasses throughout the entire event and had not taken them off once ever since the start.

Of course, there was the occurrence of him beating the top 10 of his group within the span of the 10 minutes when the cameras were off, but if people were to ignore that, the only thing interesting about him would be his sunglasses.

However, something else caught his attention when Mr. Ahmed saw the boy for the first time.

'That boy... He's the one that Fatima can't affect...'

Chapter 53: Final Challenge [2]

20 minutes earlier

One thing instantly became clear as everyone walked to the stadium's main platform.

'Less than a hundred people left? Now that I think of it, I don't remember how we were graded for this. I felt a little exhausted so I just hung out with Jack the whole times and didn't speak of the results.' Lloyd thought to himself while scratching the back of his neck.

However, after looking around a little more, Lloyd finally understood what had happened.

'Everyone here is at 90% and above... Hell, some of them are literally on the brink of breaking through. All they need is a final push.' Lloyd thought to himself before continuing.

'At the same time, everyone here has a combat class-... Where the hell did Jenna go? Ah, never mind that. Where the hell is Jack going... John too? What the f*ck is happening!?' Lloyd inwardly shouted as he saw his teammates suddenly take different doors.

"Lloyd?" A familiar voice asked from behind, and when Lloyd finally looked back to see who had called him, he could not help but put on a bright smile.

"Oh, Zack! You could not imagine how good your timing is. Which door should we go through?" Lloyd asked with a tinge of excitement in his voice.

However, before Zack could answer, Lloyd quickly realized that everyone was staring at him... No... That was his ego and new looks talking on his behalf. Everyone was not staring at him; instead, they were staring at Zack.

However, despite his curiosity building, he did not ask the question on his mind since he knew that his friend would tell him if he felt comfortable. And if he wasn't... Lloyd could always search it up and find the answer to his query on the first forum he clicks on.

"Why are you asking me, dumbo. Just go to whichever one you feel most attracted to." Zack shrugged.

"These are doors, not women, Zack... Sorry but I don't swing that way." Lloyd replied deadpan.

"Ha! Swing that way, like a door. Nice one!" Zack laughed before low-fiving Lloyd and disappearing into the crowd.

"That wasn't even... Oh my god." Lloyd simply face palmed at the useless conversation he just had, but he knew he should have expected no less.

After staring at the doors for a few seconds, he quickly realized a pattern.

'Range, swordsmen, muscle...!' Lloyd simply walked behind those who wore sword sheaths and didn't think about it.

While he knew that using a sword sheath, especially the new generation ones, would increase draw speed, in a way, he couldn't be bothered carrying around his blade the same way the other did.

He always felt like he had a powerful weapon ready to be used at any moment on him, and despite him believing that it was most likely him hallucinating due to not sleeping for so long, he could not shrug off the feeling of security.

Walking through the door, Lloyd and several others found themselves standing before an arena platform, but after looking around for a second, they all saw that the arena had been split up into several sections, each with a man standing in the middle of them.

Of course, the swordsmen section was the largest, but that was to be expected since it had the most participants.

"Alright, folks! The challenge is simple! As you have probably already noticed, you have been divided into groups depending on your type of weapon and possibly even your class type. Before all of you stands a person who is a master of their weapons of choice, and your goal is to land a single scratch upon them in the 10 minutes you are given. Good luck!"* The presenter announced.

As the crowd roared out in excitement, Lloyd simply tilted his head at the man standing before them.

He had white hair, yet except for that and his skin color, everything else was black.

From the mask he wore around his lower face to the trenchcoat that reached for the ground, everything was black.

"I'll be lowering my commandment to match yours, but don't think this is me being merciful. If given the chance, I will beat you from within an inch of your life. Understood?" He asked, causing everyone to nod in sync.

After that, nothing of real interest happened.

The man simply picked people randomly and took them to the arena, where they would both take out their weapons and fight until the man beat them... Or hospitalized them. It was a bit of a gamble, but everyone at least had the balls to face him.

The man used a straight and pointed saber; however, despite his weapon and skills seeming ordinary, one thing made him a terrifying person to fight against.

"Is that some kind of sword aura? No, of course not. I've been reading too many comics lately. He's just using mana the same way Jack uses his to perfect his martial arts. I wonder what his class is." Lloyd muttered to himself while watching another person get beaten, cut, and bruised until they lost consciousness.

'Aren't all of these contestants kind of... Weak?'

'...'

'What?'

Lloyd didn't understand why that thought came to his head, but now that he looked at it, they were kind of weak, if he were to compare them to the masked man.

Of course, he could probably kill them pretty easily if he were to use all his abilities, but to do so with only the known ones would be very difficult.

Hell, he was certain that Fatima alone could stand up to him even if he used [Shadow Clones], so wouldn't these guys also do the same?

BOOM

Hearing a sound from his right, Lloyd looked in that direction just to see Zack pummeling a 7ft woman with gigantic muscles and an aura like no other.

Blood-red swords formed behind him and shot at her, but she quickly dodged those attacks before they could actually hit her.

Of course, Zack's attacks weren't hurting the woman, but Lloyd could see they had enough power to at least push the enormous figure back.

"Now that I think about it, why is Zack even here? He isn't at 70%. Sure, he increased a lot when we fought, and I saw him leave with his father to go to a dungeon or two every now and then, but there is no way that he reached 70%." Lloyd thought.

While he could tell how strong someone was from the natural aura they exuded, Zack was something different since his power always fluctuated.

The angrier he gets, the more powerful he is. The more he fights, the more powerful he is. Hell, the more he eats, the more powerful he gets.

However, before Lloyd could finish his thoughts on how he thought the match between the woman and Zack would go, he saw a stretcher and two men wearing white, and a broken boy pass before a voice entered his ears.

"Sunglasses. You're next." The man stated with his sword stuck in the ground as he fixed his wrist collars.

Not wanting to get on the man's bad side, Lloyd did not waste a second as he walked as fast as he could toward the stage before performing a stiff bow and waiting for the man to finally pick up his sword.

"Will you not take out your weapon?" The man narrowed his eyes.

"Will you not pick yours up?" Lloyd genuinely asked, yet this only made the man frown.

"Cocky I see." The man muttered, yet despite that, Lloyd heard him and instantly had a small heart attack.

'What did I do wrong!?!?!'

However, before he could complain, the man lunged forward and swung his blade down with all the power he could muster with his lowered power level.

Despite being distracted, Lloyd saw the attack coming when he saw the man reach for his blade. Of course, the first thing Lloyd tried doing was taking out his weapon from within his storage, yet that turned out to be a learning experience as he quickly understood why everyone else kept their blades in sheaths.

'Holy crap this is so slow!' Lloyd thought, his place halfway out of his watch as the man's blade grew closer.

With a side step, Lloyd avoided the blade quite easily, and while he expected the man to retreat, he quickly saw something come towards him from his right, causing him to lean back with widened eyes.

'A punch? A f*cking punch!? What is he gonna do now? Sweep my leg- Oh fu-'

Swoosh

In an instant, he felt the wind brush against his leg as the blade he had seen before was nowhere to be found.

Now that he was completely airborne, he finally felt his katana leave the storage, but it was already too late.

Holding his katana in one hand and pivoting off the other, Lloyd performed a backflip before sliding to the platform's edge.

'Despite this stage being 70 by 70 meters, we did start closer to the edge, so it kind of makes sense that I'm in this situation.' Lloyd smiled in self-mockery...

Yet no one could see his eyes, so what they saw was-

"Don't get too happy now. I'm still getting started. Don't die on me." The man chuckled and disappeared from where he stood.

'I hate this.' Lloyd thought before jumping to the side and barely dodging the incoming blade.

Somewhere in the crowd-

"Why do you have that perverted look on your face?" Elana asked while looking at her friend.

"What do you mean?" Delly asked, yet she did not take her eyes off the arena for a second.

"You have drool running down your chin," Ana stated in a cold and unaffectionate voice, making Delly snap out of her trance and wipe her chin.

"Hey! I don't have drool on my chin!" Delly yelled, and due to them being a private booth, the only ones who looked over were their parents

"Well, you're practically drooling." Ana sneered.

"Its not my fault he's not wearing a shirt!" Delly reasoned.

"Ugh! That's my little brother! That has to be a crime of some sort." Elana cried out in disgust.

"I'm going to beat the crap out of that bastard!" Ana swore under her breath with a clenched fist.

How dare he go out like that without a shirt? Was he trying to get all the women to fall for him? Well, at least that's what Ana thought he was doing.

Little did they all know he had simply forgotten to buy a shirt for the second time in a single day.

Swoosh

Dodging once more, Lloyd finally had enough of being on the back foot.

He had been dodging for the last 3 minutes as if he was the mouse in this cat-and-mouse game.

Seeing the sword come towards him again, he closed his eyes and took in a deep breath before-

[Flower Petal Technique + Shadow Movement + Shadow Enhancement]

As the blade finally reached him, it cut no more than a millimeter of a single strand of hair as Lloyd had already descended into the ground.

Seeing this, the man frowned and pulled his arm back, and muttered-

[Flash Step]

BOoM

Within an instant, the man was in front of Lloyd, but by the time his hand had reached Lloyd's face, there was nothing but the ground there, causing his fist to shoot into it while creating several cracks that spread across the stage.

[Black Rose]

Looking behind him, the man's eyes widened as the Lloyd's sword grew closer, yet it took him less than an instant to appear behind the boy and smash his fist into Lloyd's back while sending him flying for several dozen meters before he finally stopped himself with the use of his katana.

And that's when he felt it again.

Swoosh

Tilting his head a few degrees, Lloyd dodged a blade by the skin of his teeth, but he had actually learned something from this exchange.

'He makes a sound every time he uses that ability.'

Without skipping a beat, Lloyd pivoted on his heel and spun while coating his blade with his own shadow, making it stronger, sharper, and faster than ever before.

He had also coated his arms to support his blade's capabilities, yet even that didn't seem to be enough as the man simply disappeared before Lloyd could attack him.

'Right,' A monotone voice, unlike his own, whispered in his ear, and without wasting a moment, Lloyd reacted by slamming his foot into the ground.

Rumble

Not expecting the sudden action, the man paused for less than a second, but that was all Lloyd needed to jump a few meters away and hold his blade in front of him.

'Left, blade to shoulder.'

Clang

Lloyd defended against it with his blade.

'Up, fist to head.'

Lloyd gritted his teeth and blocked using his arms.

'Foward, upwards slash.'

Lloyd coated his sword in shadows again without thinking before slashing horizontally at the incoming blade.

Clang

'He will appear at our right and then left.' The voice spoke, yet this time it made Lloyd partially frown before going ahead with it.

Time seemed to have slowed down for that moment as he swung at his right before the man could even appear.

On the other hand, the man was an experienced warrior and knew to not underestimate his opponent. Therefore, he placed his blade where someone would most likely be hit if they were in the same situation as Lloyd.

Clang

Yet the fact that Lloyd discovered exactly where the man would appear despite his age made the man widen his eyes in shock, but he did not simply stand there.

Woosh

Seeing that boy had thrown a punch at him, the man confirmed his thoughts.

'He's reading my moves.' He thought, before closing his eyes and stepping away from the punch.

Yet he didn't...

'Below.'

Having already relaxed, Lloyd widened his eyes, but before he could react, he watched a foot uppercut him and send him into the air.

'Should I use void gaze?' Lloyd thought before shaking his head and flipping mid-air before landing on his feet while sliding a few meters back.

Lloyd was seething with anger which had been seemingly etched into his face as even the crowd could not help but go silent for a moment.

'I swear to god you would have been eating cement right now if you were fighting Null instead of me.' Lloyd sneered and quickly shot forward.

After all, angry people make stupid mistakes.

'Well, that doesn't matter anyway.' Lloyd thought with a smirk that easily aggravated the man before him.

However, the man's frown quickly turned to bewilderment as the katana the boy before him was once holding had suddenly been thrown into the air.

All it took was that single moment of confusion, as before the man could comprehend the scene before him, he saw the shadows below his feet slightly shift before a figure covered in shadows landed a devastating uppercut, sending him flying into the air.

"huh?" Was the only sound Lloyd could make when he suddenly felt something touch his back.

'A foot?' He asked himself, yet when he finally looked back, he only widened his eyes before his vision faded to black as the man's final words to him entered his ears.

"You did well, kid... Just make sure that you reign in that anger and pride of yours. It might just be the thing that dooms you in the future."

'That bastard was.. a... Clo..n..e..?' Lloyd thought before everything finally turned black.

Chapter 54: Fourth Void Walk [1] - Lightning World

"Huh..."

Opening his eyes, Lloyd saw nothing past the infinite abyss before him. He felt as if this place was familiar, but at that very moment, he found it hard for him to put a finger on the memory that was beginning to resurface.

However, he did not have to wait long since a voice immediately entered his ears and made him widen his eyes.

[Choose your weapon]

A monotone voice entered Lloyd's ears before 10 weapons appeared before him.

However, unlike the other three times, where he had several weapons to choose from, this time, he had three weapons before him, each one looking as powerful as the other despite one possibly having more firepower than the rest.

Three weapons floated in front of him, one being a katana with several purple lines flashing on and off. The lines flashed in a pattern that made it seem like energy was being transferred from the hilt's butt to the blade's tip.

Despite the katana looking almost identical to the one he used in his last void walk, he could somehow tell that this one was a lot more powerful than before.

On the katana's right floated a bow with a pitch-black arrow engraved with violet lines as if it had been enchanted in some way. The same lines could be seen on the bow itself, while the bow's string was a luminescent violet string that could be seen in the darkest abysses.

However, unlike the katana that Lloyd knew how to use after being trained in its arts for half of his life, he had no idea how good he would be with a bow and arrow, so he quickly looked away. But that's when it happened.

Blinding Lloyd, the one dark abyss around him turned bright white before it morphed to show an enormous mountain with a figure at the tip of it.

The man at the tip of the mountain had a bow in his hand with an arrow knocked on the string of it.

Despite not knowing how to use a bow, Lloyd could not help but be entranced by how perfect that man's stance was. He felt as if this very image was being burnt into his eyes, and before he knew it, his vision shifted, and he was the one holding the bow.

As if on instinct, Lloyd aimed up and let go of the arrow, allowing it to rip through the sky before descending onto a mountain in the distance.

His vision quickly shifted back, and before Lloyd could fully comprehend what had happened, he found himself before three weapons with his eyes locked on the bow.

'Did it just give me a vision on how to use a bow and arrow?' Lloyd asked himself before shaking his head and looking at the last weapon.

'A staff?' Lloyd asked himself before the same thing happened again, but this time it was a woman holding a pitch-black staff engraved with many purple lines.

A few minutes passed, and he finally returned to the selection room, and despite wanting to choose the other weapons, he could not help but hesitate.

This was a matter of life and death. If he died in a void walk, he would die in real life. On the other hand, he still didn't know what the void walk would be, so technically, one of those weapons could be more advantageous than the other.

After finally shaking his head, Lloyd stretched his hand towards the katana, but after grasping at the air for a moment, he realized-

"Damn! Are they going to force me to use a new weapon? I guess a staff, then? I like to get close a personal with my enemies." Lloyd shrugged and finally chose his weapon.

[You have chosen your weapon]

[Void Walk shall commence in 5]

[4]

[3]

[2]

[1]

[Welcome back to the void, Lloyd Walker, we have been expecting you.]

'Lloyd wha-' Before he could finish his thought, Lloyd felt his consciousness slip before it returned, this time in a completely different environment.

Lightning shot down from the skies in blue streaks that occurred every few seconds, but that was far from the thing that caught Lloyd's attention.

'Holy sh*t! I think I see a palace floating on a cloud! This is actually pretty cool.'

[Lightning World]

[Objective: The lightning world has many treasures, from weapons to artifacts, however, after thor's hammer was stolen, the world became chaotic, and so did the beings within it

Your objective is to collect the 7 lightning orbs that hold this world together and shut the lightning world down once and for all.]

Listening to the voice for a moment, Lloyd nodded before opening his eyes and looking around.

'Oh, look at me... I'm standing on a mountain range, which explains why I can even see the palace... But-' Looking down with a self-deprecating smile, Lloyd asked himself-

"Why are there goats coming towards with lightning shooting from their horns?"

Looking at the weapon in his hands, his smile became a little worse as reality finally set in.

However, before he could say anything, he saw a flash of light from the corner of his eyes, and when he finally looked in its direction, he watched as a goat charged up electricity between its horns before finally releasing it in one giant lightning bolt.

The goat's skin was light blue, while its horn was a mixture of blueish-black and light blue. Its fur, on the other hand, looked completely black, giving it an almost exotic hazardous color palette that would make the average monster run away or at least not fight it.

Stepping to the side, Lloyd barely dodged the lightning bolt by the skin of his teeth; however, despite knowing he had dodged the attack, for some weird reason he could not explain, he still didn't feel safe.

And then he realized why.

BOOM

Hitting to the ground, the lightning bolt kicked up a giant dust cloud that sent a shockwave in every direction.

As the shockwave finally hit him, he barely crossed his arms in an 'x' before feeling his skin ripple with the moment of contact. He felt as if it vibrated him to his very bones despite knowing that the feeling was likely just phantom pain from the days when he had bones.

As Lloyd felt himself being catapulted into the air, he saw several other flashes of light, and when he finally forced himself to look down, the worst situation possible seemed to have come to life.

'I'll be fried if I get hit by those lightning attacks. Hell, only one of them would kill me. Imagine what would happen to my body if all of those hit me at the same time! I'll be turned into dust!' Lloyd inwardly screamed while slowly regretting the fact that he didn't get a bow and arrow instead of a staff. However, he quickly calmed himself with a thought that came to mind.

"Wait... Since no one is watching me, I don't have to hold back anymore..." A smile stretched across his lips while his eyes began to glow purple for the first time in what felt like forever.

As the lightning bolts came closer, it felt like time had slowed to a crawl while the mana around Lloyd began to vibrate as if they were atoms in a heated object.

"Then how about I give it my all?"

BOOM

As the lightning bolts came closer, they finally exploded in a flash of blue light that sent out a powerful shockwave across the surface of the mountain, not only kicking up a large amount of dust in the process but also pushing back many of the goats that were closer to the explosion.

However, before the goats could conclude if the bipedal creature was dead, one of them felt their instincts scream at them to move out of the way, but by the time their instincts had taken notice of what was happening, it was already too late.

The goat barely had enough time to look back at its attacker, but when it did, all it saw was the butt of a fiery staff as it shot through its eye and destroyed its brain, killing it instantly.

Landing next to the goat, Lloyd yanked his staff out of it and looked at the other goats, who were now releasing a powerful torrent of bloodlust that would have made any other person fall to their knees in terror.

"Oh yeah?" Lloyd asked before releasing his own killing intent, with in turn triggered his passive skill [Monarch's Aura].

"Huh?" Lloyd muttered in surprise as the goats covered themselves in lightning, and before he could react, he watched each and everyone one of them become giant lightning bolts as they shot through the air and appeared right in front of him.

'Cra-' Lloyd couldn't even finish his thought as one of them crashed into his chest and pushed the air out of whatever he used in replacement for his lungs.

In an instant, he felt himself being catapulted through the air before slamming into the mountain and rolling up it.

Stabbing his staff into the ground, Lloyd barely stopped himself from rolling over the mountain, but the goats were far more than done with him.

As another reached him, Lloyd barely blocked the attack with the use of his staff, yet as the goat appeared once again, its weight, alongside the momentum of traveling at the speed of lightning, caught up to it.

Widening his eyes, Lloyd watched as his staff was thrown into the air before the goat slammed into his arm and ripped it off cleanly.

The amount of pain Lloyd felt at the moment could not be described in words, yet he could not tell what was worse, the uncanny feeling of no blood coming out of where his

arms were, or the fact that what he was feeling was probably the worst pain he had ever felt.

However, before he could even start getting his mind straight, a powerful bloodlust neared him once again as a ball of electricity closed the gap between him and it in a matter of milliseconds.

Electricity shot of it and scorched the mountain, but as it got closer to Lloyd, he could feel that he was slowly being scorched from the inside out.

Time slowed once again, and before Lloyd could understand what had happened, he saw the ball of lightning mere inches away from ripping a hole through his chest and killing him instantly.

However, fate did not seem to agree.

[4-Dimensional Thought]

The world around Lloyd quickly shifted into a black-and-white one, while at the same time, his eyes became listless and cold despite glowing far brighter than ever before.

His aura became as calm as a link in the spring, while his voice...

'How... Disappointing'

Had become completely monotone, without a shred of emotion in it despite his words saying otherwise.

Chapter 55: Fourth Void Walk [2] - No More

[4-Dimensional Thought]

The world around Lloyd quickly shifted into a black-and-white one, while at the same time, his eyes became listless and cold despite glowing far brighter than ever before.

His aura became as calm as a link in the spring, while his voice...

'How... Disappointing'

His voice had become completely monotone, without a shred of emotion or mercy.

Not an ounce of pain could be seen on his face, and before the monsters before him could understand what had happened-

Zhip

"Over here, morons," A voice called out, and as if they had understood what he had said, they all began to growl while charging electricity between their horns.

On the other hand, all the other lightning bolts quickly changed their trajectory.

Appearing before Lloyd in the blink of an eye, an explosion went off with the power of several lightning bolts.

Yet, past his arm being torn off, Lloyd was completely unscathed and standing on top of one of them.

Lifting his arm up and opening his hand, a black and violet staff flew into his palm in less than a second before a powerful aura exploded out of him.

The aura was suffocating... No, it was like nothing the monsters had ever felt before. Their instincts told them to run, yet their bodies didn't dare move an inch from where they stood.

After twirling the staff around his fingers, Lloyd finally got into fighting position and aimed the staff toward the largest goat.

Boom

Crack

The goats barely reacted in time as the bipedal creature flung itself at them. Barely.

Turning into lightning, the largest goat quickly appeared at Lloyd's right and prepared to ram him with lightning-coated horns.

[Void Step]

As it moved forward, it barged against thin air before losing its balance and tumbling down the mountain.

Looking back at the other dozen goats, Lloyd narrowed his eyes before an idea came to mind.

'While a staff is a defense-type weapon...' Lloyd's eyes began to glow as mana surged through his body.

On the other hand, the goats seemed to have gotten agitated at the fact that the biggest of them had been thrown down a mountain, so in response, they did what they did best.

Crackle Crackle

Lightning more powerful than any lightning they had created before shot down from the sky and revolved around their horns and hooves.

[Shadow Enhancement]

Lloyd didn't waste a second before shooting toward them at his highest speed, and seeing him do so, the goats reciprocated to their fullest content.

[Flame Control]

'Incinerate'

Swinging upwards, Lloyd created a flame that instantly engulfed the goat, but he was far from down.

Side-stepping, Lloyd averted an incoming goat, and before it could understand that Lloyd had dodged its attack, a foot covered in shadows slammed into its stomach.

As its feet left the ground, flames burst out from the foot before catapulting into the air with an explosion that pushed the closest goats back.

Yet he didn't stop there.

As Lloyd's foot reached its maximum height, Lloyd quickly turned his before creating an explosion to change the momentum in less than a second and create a devastating kick that smashed into the side of the goat's head.

The instant the kick landed, the goat's head exploded into a crimson rain of brain matter and blood.

Despite the gruesome sight, Lloyd didn't bat an eye as he created a small burst of flame near his chest to move himself away from another incoming charge.

[Void Step]

However, as the goat tried to turn around to attack Lloyd again, it suddenly saw a hand engulfed in black, and orange flames appear in front of its face before-

BOOOM

An explosion quickly turned it into ashes before spreading and turning three other goats into charred remains.

'Defense-type weapons can easily kill if underestimated.'

Flames quickly enveloped both tips of the staff before creating sharp edges.

Without thinking twice, Lloyd threw his staff right through of the goats, and just when the second one was about to dodge, he quickly used [Void Step] to appear right above the staff while grabbing it and stabbing down at its back.

A cold glint shone within Lloyd's eyes at that moment, as within the same instant, he did not hesitate to swing to the side and slice through the goat, allowing all its fried organs to slowly fall out from the non-cauterized wounds.

This carried on for a few more seconds as Lloyd slowly massacred the remaining goats, and when the largest one finally returned with a few wounds littering its body from head to toe, Lloyd decided to end it swiftly.

Boom

An explosion rang out as Lloyd appeared in front of it and thrust his staff right through its stomach before turning it and flinging it off the mountain.

As it tumbled down, Lloyd quickly used [Void Step] to appear behind it and grabbed its horns before flipping it over and slamming it into the ground.

With a few cracks and a loud thud, the goat's spine snapped like twigs as its skull caved in, instantly killing it.

Walking up to the edge of the mountain, Lloyd calmly looked down at the goats that were either twitching in pain or lying dead on the ground before finally turning around while raising his hand in the air in order to retrieve his staff.

It took less than a second for his staff to return to his hand, but he could not help but raise a brow when he felt the staff's weight change all of a sudden.

Looking at it for a moment, Lloyd thought of the staff getting heavier, and as if the density changed in a matter of a moment, he felt the staff quickly put more and more weight upon his hand until he couldn't hold it anymore.

'I see...' He thought before returning the staff to its original weight.

'If its weight can change, then it should be able to-...'

[Exapnd]

In the blink of an eye, the staff expanded to a size that matched its weight, and the more Lloyd decreased its weight, the smaller the staff got.

Nodding slightly, Lloyd's eyes quickly scanned the area around him before concluding that there were no more goats coming, yet from what he had seen so far, the largest goat within the herd he had just killed wasn't actually the boss monster, and was just an advanced monster, a bit like the half-step first commandment goblin he killed in his raid with Osmygold's group.

"To think mid-stage first commandments would fall so easily..." He muttered before leaving the mountain range.

1 Hour Later.

A man covered in both blood and gore stood in front of a cave. He had only one arm, yet despite the wound being open for anyone to see, no blood came out.

A long black and white staff could be seen attached to his back despite nothing holding it on.

ROOOOOOAAAAR

As the man stepped into the cave, a powerful roar sent a gust of wind toward him, yet despite the trees behind him almost being uprooted from the wind alone, Lloyd stood unflinchingly as his mana aura erupted in a flash of violet before taking the brunt of the wind.

With skipping a beat, Lloyd walked into the cave, and despite having his mana take the brunt of the winds and sound waves, the fact that they went on for several minutes only confirmed Lloyd's suspicions on how powerful the creature within was.

After walking for several minutes, Lloyd finally saw the first semblance of inhabitants when he looked at the cave's walls.

Blue electricity could be seen traveling up and down the cavern walls, yet despite the incredible energy that radiated off the electricity, Lloyd still moved forward.

[4-Dimensional Thought] had run out after he left the part of the mountain range he stood in, and so did the pain and the built-up emotions after replaying the gory scenes in his head.

While Lloyd knew they were just monsters and that he was simply defending himself, he could not help but feel slightly nauseated when he left his emotionless state.

For him, it almost felt like becoming Null again, but a lot more intense... As if he was a passenger in his own body.

Crackle

Lloyd focused on the goats before him, snapping himself out of his thoughts.

'They're much larger than the big one I fought before. I'd say they are about the size of a horse now, while the biggest one before barely reached my chest.' Lloyd thought to himself before wielding his staff.

While the size of the goats had changed, Lloyd also realized one or two other significantly large differences between the ones he had fought before and those before him.

"Peak first commandment and wings... Nice." He muttered in self-deprecation before slamming his foot into the ground and shooting himself toward the closest out of the two.

Swoosh

Quickly covering his arm in shadows, Lloyd enveloped his staff in flames before throwing it as hard as he could, yet unlike the last goats that simply died on impact, this one covered its horns in lightning before deflecting it upwards.

[Presence Concealment]

[Shadow Claw]

Watching Lloyd disappear from where he stood, the goat widened its and immediately became alarmed, but within the blink of an eye, it felt a powerful killing intent wash over it and paralyze it where it stood before something slashed at its side.

'No deep enough.' Lloyd frowned before using [Void Step] a moment before a lightning bolt struck where he last stood.

Due to using [Void Step] for short-distance teleports, they didn't use too much mana, but at the same time, he couldn't overdo it since he wasn't using [4-Dimensional Thought] which would have allowed him to use his abilities in a way that was much more efficient both in both speed and mana.

Appearing in front of the goat he had just attacked, Lloyd pointed his open palm toward its face.

"Incinerate." He muttered; within the blink of an eye, the goat was swimming in flames.

Zap

A flash of blue light entered Lloyd's line of vision as the other goat shot toward him in the form of a lightning ball.

'Shi-' Lloyd couldn't react in time as the ball of lightning beamed through his chest at lightning speed, leaving a scorched hole in its place.

Yet, instead of a look of pain or dread appearing on his face, it slowly morphed into a demonic smile that stretched from ear to ear...

A smile that made even monsters shudder.

[Flame Control]

[Self-Destruct]

BOOOOOOOOOM

"Well... That's 40% of my mana gone, just like that... This is why I hate [Shadow Clones]." Lloyd inwardly complained while slowly submerging out of his shadow.

"On the bright side, the cave's entrance is much bigger now." Lloyd chuckled before creating flames under his feet to fly toward the cave.

Having one arm made balancing his flight pretty hard, but after a few seconds, he got the hang of it...

"So... You must be her new toy. Am I correct?" An ancient voice echoed through the cavern and entered Lloyd's ears.

"Toy?" Lloyd tilted his head a little, but when he saw the creature that left the cave, he could not help but leave his mouth slightly agape.

While the creature was still a goat, it was enormous beyond belief.

Its wingspan reached from one side of the cave to the other despite the cave having recently been renovated by an unexpected explosion, yet that was not what caught Lloyd off-guard.

The creature before Lloyd had three different eyes. Two in the normal spots and one large one on the forehead.

"Hey. If you give me that electro orb of yours, I'll leave in peace." Lloyd waved his hands, yet all he received with a powerful glare that almost made him kneel from the pressure alone.

"If you even touch the orb of lightning, I'll make sure you leave in pieces!" It roared with enough power that it almost ripped off Lloyd's mana-formed cloak.

'Half-step second commandment... This thing is completely out of my league.'

"You void walkers always think you know best, don't you!" It roared again, this time making the entire mountain shake in its fury.

"You infiltrate our homes and steal our resources like it's nothing, and you expect us to simply watch as you massacre us?"

I have learned more things than you can ever imagine by absorbing energy from the Lightning orb.

I know things that you could never understand!

So I'll say it once and for all and send a message to that woman! For all of our fallen bredrin-" It looked towards the clouds as they began to circle around its area.

To Lloyd, it felt like everything happened in the blink of an eye.

The sky going dark.

The speech.

The clouds, the lightning, and the thunder.

Everything happening in the blink of an eye.

Even Lloyd could not help but feel a shudder go down his spine...

And then he heard it. A pair of words he felt like he had heard before, but had simply forgotten.

As if they were the two most important words in the English language, it roared-

"NO MORE!"

Crackle

BOOOOOOM

[That's a little bit of foreshadowing for you guys. Wink Wink. If you enjoyed the chapter, please vote using your power stones. I've been feeling ill all week, so I'm sorry if the chapters haven't been up to standard]

Chapter 56: Fourth Void Walk [3] - Void Channel

As lightning formed in the cloud above the three-eyed goat, it shot down and into the goat's third eye, powering it to its maximum while changing the goat's lightning from a beautiful blue to a deep crimson.

"Whatever suits you, man." Lloyd shrugged before disappearing from where he stood and appearing above the goat in a flash of violet light.

[Flame Control]

"No hard feelings. I'm just here for the orbs." Lloyd smiled while pointing a finger gun toward the goat.

[Flaming Bullet Barrage]

Hundreds of bullets created out of blue flames formed in a dome-like shape around the two of them before they all shot towards the goat simultaneously while homing towards his third eye.

While Lloyd didn't know much about the third eye, he remembered reading about it a few years before. After recollecting some of what he read, Lloyd knew that the biggest obstacle would be the third eye as it not only made its host extremely intelligent but also made it see through most deception while allowing someone to completely analyze a situation and find a way out.

Anyone of a race can awaken the third eye, but usually, awakenings wouldn't happen naturally. Instead, not only would someone have to find a powerful source of energy that can trigger the third eye gene within someone, but they would also have to be compatible with the energy source.

The chances were one in a trillion, yet those who awaken the third eye would either immediately die or become creatures with talent, intelligence, and capabilities beyond mortal understanding.

"Extinguish." A primordial voice echoed throughout the skies, and in the same instant, the flame bullets simply disappeared like they had never been there in the first place.

"Oh no, you don't." The corners of Lloyd's lips turned upwards before-

[Shadow Clone]

Creating 5 other shadow clones, each having 10% of his current mana; he made all of them use flames to rocket themselves toward the goat.

Rumble

Zap

A lightning bolt shot toward one of the clones, yet before it could hit, the clone used [Void Step] to appear behind the monster with a shadow claw covering the clone's hand.

However-

Rumble

Boom

Within an instant, a lightning bolt shot down from the clouds above, shooting through the clone's heart and forcing it to turn into shadows.

Yet instead of simply dissipating like they would have done before, the shadow slowly moved towards the shadow of another shadow clone before merging with it and making it a little stronger.

Boom

Shooting toward the goat, the ground below the clone's feet shattered before it moved so fast that it eventually broke several sound barriers in a matter of seconds.

"Explode." A primordial voice spoke before the shadow clone stopped in place.

In the next instance, the shadow clone began to bloat before it eventually exploded as lightning shot out of its center while its pieces scattered all around the mountain before turning into shadows and moving towards the remaining 3.

"Flatten."

The clone was instantly flattened as the gravity increased by several folds.

"Disintegrate."

Another clone began to erupt in lightning, and despite its [Heat Resistance], the bonds between the atoms that made the clones began to break, causing it to instantly become a pile of dark mush that eventually sunk into the ground.

"Crush."

Several boulders suddenly rose into the air while exuding with large electrical currents, and the clone was crushed in the blink of an eye.

It all happened in less than 3 seconds, yet that was all the time in the world for someone with a third eye.

Without skipping a beat, Lloyd threw his staff towards the goat's third eyes before muttering-

[Density: Increase]

"Repulse." The goat spoke, causing the staff to shoot back at Lloyd and miss him by a hair's breadth, yet narrowly cut his cheek in the process.

"How the fu-"

"Attract." The primordial voice spoke again before a powerful pulling force cut Lloyd's cursing short and yanked him towards the goat.

It took less than a second for Lloyd to appear before the third eyes, yet before he could protest the current arrangement, he heard the voice speak again, causing several shudders to go down his spine before-

"Repulse."

Swoosh

BOOM

Like a bullet, Lloyd shot into the forest below the mountain before crashing through hundreds of blue-leaved trees.

BOOM

Crashing into the mountain on the other side of the forest, Lloyd could barely open his eyes to see lightning bolts strike the trail he left behind as they slowly got closer and closer to his position.

He knew that he would be turned into nothing but ashes if he didn't move in time, yet when he tried to move, he felt a mind-rattling amount of pain that would have made any other person drop into unconsciousness.

He could barely see his body, but he knew that he was shirtless and that his body was covered in cracks that felt like they could turn into a million pieces with a single wrong move.

Boom

Boom

Boom

Lloyd could hear the lightning bolts come closer.

His breathing began to quicken, and his imaginary heart rate accelerated beyond what was humanely possible.

The desperation had begun to kick in.

He felt scared... No. He was terrified.

He couldn't see through one of his eyes, and that only served scared him more.

His mind tried to think of everything he could do to survive, but he couldn't think of anything.

His mind was blank for the first time since he became a Void Walker.

Even when he tried to activate [4-Dimensional Thought], it was as if there was a mental barrier there stopping him from doing so.

Maybe he used it too much?

Maybe he was just too scared.

Maybe it was both.

Maybe it was none of those options, but what did he know?

He was just a child, after all, and he was more than aware.

Even when he tried to grunt or roar out, yet he couldn't

Every cell in Lloyd's body screamed at him to move, yet despite his greatest efforts...

BOom

He couldn't...

He couldn't move a single muscle in his entire body.

His eyes were listless, yet somehow still filled with fear.

Fear of the unknown.

Fear of death.

BOOM

BOOM

BOOOM

He could feel the tremors. Hell, he could even see the rubble next to his shake with every explosion.

Yet, despite all that, it was the cold touch of the ground below him that caught his attention.

A sinking feeling with no return...

'Is this what they call death?'

'Is this the end?' Lloyd asked himself as his consciousness began to slip.

'You know... I always thought that my death would be a little more dramatic.' He chuckled to himself, yet it was a mask that fooled no one... Not even him.

BOOOM

BOOOOM

'Zack... You've been with me my whole life... You have helped me every step of the way, but it looks like I'll never be able to repay... You... You or your parents.'

The dread began to kick in.

BOOOOOM

Crackle

Lloyd could feel lightning shoot through the ground itself just to zap his body, but despite the pain, he should have felt from it, he didn't flinch, scream or move.

He was numb.

'Mom... Dad... I'm sorry I couldn't make you guys proud... The same way Ana and Elana did. I'm sorry I couldn't a normal son... With normal problems, and normal hobbies.'

A tear threatened to trickle down Lloyd's face, but he forced himself to suck it up and blink it out like a real man.

'Josh, Richard, Elana, Ana and Alice... I wish I could have spent more time with you, but maybe in the next life... Hahaha... Probably not, but who knows.'

He knew he would die. He felt it in his core.

'Well, if I'm going to die... Why not take a few bastards with me...'

Using the last embers of strength within him, Lloyd aimed his index and middle finger toward the goat's general direction as his life replayed before his eyes.

Space felt like it was bending around his fingers, but he didn't know if that effect was caused by his power or all the damage he had gotten over the last few minutes.

"If I'm going to die..." A croaky voice spoke while a single violet eye shone with more determination than an entire army combined.

"Why not use everything?"

[Void Channel]

Chapter 57: End Of The Entrance Ceremony [1]

[[I don't remember if I thanked you guys yet, but thank you Carlos_bg and TheVoidFox for your gifts. I really appreciate it.]

"-Think he's waking up."

"Oh, crap, he's actually waking up."

Several voices entered Lloyd's ears, and by the time he gained the ability to open his eyes, the views of several individuals looking at him with affection and worry entered his line of sight.

"Who the hell are you guys," Lloyd asked while slowly crawling away from the group of people looking at him.

For a moment, everyone looked at him in horror, yet before they could begin to panic, Lloyd let out a small smile before waving his hand nonchalantly.

"I'm kidding, guys. No need to look at me like I killed your family pet or something." Lloyd chuckled, causing everyone to glare at him menacingly.

"You can't do something like that. I almost had a heart attack." Ana held her chest while punching Lloyd's arm a little too hard.

"Next time you do that, I will kill you." Elana growled, yet Lloyd simply laughed at her threat, thinking nothing of it.

"I'm going to go to the bathroom now. It feels like I haven't pissed for days." Lloyd smiled and calmly got up without a hitch before walking towards the bathroom.

Despite the fact that she was frowning the entire time, Layla couldn't help but narrow her eyes at Lloyd's words. At first, she frowned when she felt the intense stir of emotions within him the moment he had awakened, but after he lied about needing the toilet, her suspicions only became more grounded.

"You should really talk to him." Layla whispered to Noah and Olivia.

"Did he lie again? About what." Noah asked with a worried expression.

"He isn't just lying anymore. He's keeping something from you. Remember that day he went missing?" Layla asked while making sure that their children didn't hear them.

Seeing them nod, Layla whispered-

"You know how he said he was with a girl? That was a half-truth. Not only that, but haven't you realized everything that has been happening recently?"

"For example, how strong he's been getting despite having just awakened." She glanced at Benjamin, who nodded.

"Or the fact that he had awakened before the awakening ceremony?" She looked at Lloyd's parents, who also nodded.

"What was he doing in that abandoned hospital? How is his cultivation higher than Zack's? And you guys know very well that Zack has the same physique as his father. Why do you guys never ask any questions? This is your son we are talking about." Layla complained, her words getting louder and louder to the point where Zack, Ana, Elana, and Delly could hear everything they were saying.

On the other hand, Alice and Josh were too busy playing around in the hospital to catch anything being said.

"First off, I always assumed that it was the technique I taught him that allowed such explosive growth. He's been routinely doing the technique every day for the last decade or so, it makes sense that his cultivation would explode so quickly." Noah shrugged, evidently feeling slightly aggravated that Layla would accuse them of never asking questions.

"Mom, Dad... I know you guys get a little defensive when it comes to Lloyd, but let's think about it like this-" Ana cut in making sure to de-escalate the situation before continuing-

"We all know that Aunty's ability to sense the emotions of others has always been reliable. Hell, I've seen the royal army beg for her services before. The real question we should be asking is why Lloyd is hiding something even though we made it obvious throughout his entire life that he could trust every one of us." Ana argued.

"That's true. Lloyd tells us about almost everything... A little too much, in fact. Nowadays, he's been a little too quiet if you ask me." Elana commented.

"Then it's either something he knows we will adamantly disapprove of, or something that he thinks that even we can't deal with." Benjamin finally spoke, causing the mood to instantly become solemn.

Lying on the floor of the bathroom, Lloyd barely got himself to the toilet, where he began to puke his guts out.

Surprisingly enough, despite Lloyd thinking that nothing would come out, he watched as a black substance left his body and entered the toilet water, instantly turning it black before beginning to fizz.

'I died... No, I'm certain of it... I'm 100% sure I died.' Lloyd inwardly screamed before puking again.

Every time he closed his eyes, he felt as if the pain had returned... The pain of being scorched alive by your own power as it begins to destroy you from the inside out.

The pain of runes burning themselves into his skin and soul, before puncturing him and sending purple mana through his non-existent blood vessels, causing them to glow purple.

Every time Lloyd blinked, he felt as if molten magma was running through his veins.

Looking at his hands, he watched as they shook uncontrollably. He didn't know if it was because of the pain or the fact he was slowly losing his mind, yet he didn't like either option.

He couldn't remember anything after that... It was as if his mind was suppressing the memory...

A few minutes passed a Lloyd finally regained his composure just enough to look at his watch that had been blinking ever since he had woken up.

From the way everyone around him was acting, he could tell that he was the only person seeing the flashing, meaning that it could only be a notification about his stats.

"Open stat screen." Lloyd muttered with a croaky voice before a screen appeared before him.

[Name: Lloyd Elrod]

[Commandment: 99.999%]

[Race: Void Walker]

[Class: Walker of Voids]

[Talent: 2-Star]

[Affinity: Shadows]

[Passive Ability: Night Vision - Shadow Sustenance - Soundless Steps - Heat Resistance]

[Abilities: 4-Dimensional Thought [Lvl 3] - Shadow Enhancement [Lvl 2] - Shadow Claw - Shadow Movement - Presence Concealment - Shadow Clone - Flame Control [Lvl 2] - Basic Lightning Control -]

[Passive Race Ability: Monarch's Aura, ???]

[Race Abilities: Aspect of Void - Void Channel [Locked] - Void Gaze - Void Step]

[4-Dimensional Thought has reached Lvl 2]

[Shadow Enhancement has reached level Lvl 2]

[Flame Control has reached Lvl 2]

[1 Lightning Orb has been stored]

[You gained the Ability: Basic Lightning Control]

[Void Channel Cooldown: 3M 29D 18Hr 28Min 41S]

[4-Dimensional Thought has absorbed the remaining essence of The Third Eye of Wisdom]

[4-Dimensional Thought has reached Lvl 3]

Chapter 58: End Of The Entrance Ceremony [2]

Click

The sound of a bathroom door unlocking caused everyone in the room to go silent, and the moment Lloyd walked back into the room, he could not help but feel like something had changed.

"You took awfully long in there. What were you doing?" Layla asked with narrowed eyes.

"You know you shouldn't ask a teenager that question without giving them context, right?" Lloyd asked, causing Layla to contemplate his words until-

"Oh you little- Mmmmmhmmm." Before she could mutter another word, she felt a hand seal her mouth before someone else spoke on her behalf.

"Lloyd, we know..." Benjamin spoke before a tense silence fell on the room, causing everyone to hold their breath for a moment, waiting to hear Lloyd's answer.

"You know?" Lloyd asked with a solemn expression.

Seeing this as a sign of Lloyd being guilty of something he did, Benjamin carried on-

"Hey... don't worry. You're not in trouble, and we're not judging you.

We just want you to talk to us. Tell us your troubles so we can help or even fix them for you..." Benjamin spoke in a soft and caring voice, one that would have made most trust them with their life the same way a group of adventurers trusted their captain.

"Really?" Lloyd asked with a look of hope on his face.

"Yes! Of course. I am your uncle Ben, remember? You used to tell me... You used to tell us everything, and now we feel like you're keeping your distance." Benjamin explained, making tears well up in Lloyd's eyes.

"You can trust everyone here. Noah and Olivia are your parents and will love you no matter what. Ana and Elana are your older sisters and, despite their harshness, love you just as much as your parents do." Benjamin looked at them, causing them to all nod with a smile. However, before he could continue, Zack quickly stepped forward.

"You might not think the same, but you are my best friend and like a brother to me. We might fight here and there, but that's what brothers do." Zack smiled, making a warm feeling go through Lloyd's heart.

Zack is his best friend... Hell, Zack is like a twin brother Lloyd never had. He's always been there for him, so Lloyd has always done the same and been there for Zack.

Turning around, Benjamin looked at Layla so she could say something, yet all she did was stare at Lloyd with narrowed eyes, as if she was eyeing her prey.

Her eye did seem to twitch when she heard Zack, but Benjamin felt that it wasn't the words themselves that caused the reaction...

Her expression seemed to morph into one mixed with guilt, pity, and confusion... And even though her husband couldn't understand why she would make such an expression, he continued to watch as everything unfolded, waiting for Lloyd to finally confess.

"Is this room sound-proofed?" Lloyd questioned.

"Now it is." Lloyd's father snapped his fingers before giving his son a warm and encouraging smile.

"Uhm... Well..." Lloyd scratched the back of his neck before finally closing his eyes and blurting out-

"I've been secretly going to dungeons with this girl I met!"

"..."

"..."

"..."

"..."

"..."

"Wow... It feels so good to finally say it out loud. Well, I guess you guys already knew..." Lloyd looked around with an aloof expression before a look of suspicion washed over his face.

"Hey, wait. Why do you guys seem surprised?" Lloyd asked.

"Is that it?" Elana couldn't help but blurt out, causing everyone but Layla and Lloyd to glare at her.

"Well, I expected something a little more... How do I say this?" Ana scratched her chin.

"Life changing?" Elana rolled her eyes.

"Well, thank god it was only that. For a second there, I thought he was about to tell us he swings the other way." Delly sighed in relief, making everyone look at her suspiciously.

"I can't believe I was tricked into telling you guys..." Lloyd muttered before finally deciding to turn around and walk out of the room.

"So when do I get to meet this girl? Don't worry, I'll try to hold all this charm back so she doesn't fall for me or anything." Zack snickered while everyone other than his mother rolled their eyes at his comment.

"Now that you're talking about it, how about we invite her over? Maybe we can get to know her better." Ana smiled, yet that only made Lloyd more terrified of what Ana would do if he had actually gotten a girlfriend behind their backs.

The killing intent laced behind her words almost killed him sixfold already, so what would happen if they actually met her?

'Well, it's not like this girl is real anyway. I kind of just thought of rosepetal so it wouldn't come out as a lie to Mrs. Glade.' Lloyd inwardly facepalmed before facing his sister-

"I don't think that would be a good idea. We're not a couple or anything, so you don't have to worry about me. We just kinda have a squad of our own, and we have been conquering dungeons here and there." Lloyd explained.

"So why did you single her out, huh?" Elana asked, this time with a smug smile on her face as if she was trying to get him in trouble.

"Ooh? So you like her? That's my guy!" Zack let out a vibrant smile before wrapping his arm around Lloyd and walking out of the room.

The moment Lloyd left, they all let out a collective sigh of relief. Everyone but Layla...

"What's wrong now? Did he lie again... Please don't tell me he lied again!" Olivia asked as a look of exhaustion washed over her face before tears filled her eyes.

"He didn't lie... Everything he said was the truth." Layla explained, yet despite her words, they all felt like something was wrong with the way she was saying them.

"Mom. Why are you making that face?" Delly asked.

Layla wasn't stupid, but she was more of a true neutral than someone who would actively fix things whenever they saw them. That was simply her personality, and despite wanting to get to the end of the situation with Lloyd, the urge to sit back and watch everything unfold was much greater.

She knew that Lloyd was hiding much more... She could see it in his eyes, and she could feel it in the hurricane that he called his emotions.

She felt his heart switch from a calculating one to one filled with warmth when he heard everyone speak...

Yet, it also meant that she felt as his heart change instantly, morphing from a warm and fuzzy sensation that would shine hope of everything around it, to one filled with guilt, sadness, and acceptance.

She felt as if she had watched a boy's heartbreak right before her before that same heart formed once again as it accepted the hand it had been dealt...

"Because despite that fact that I know he was telling the truth...

I have a feeling that he fooled us all."

It had been almost a week since the entrance ceremony, and Lloyd had learned many things since then.

Firstly, Zack did not forget to show off the fact that he had gotten first on the second exam, yet when Lloyd heard the information, he made sure to promptly explain to Zack that the only reason that he had gotten 1st had been because he had the perfect team...

A [Berzerker] with an [Anti-debuff] passive, a healer with a lot more brains than brawns, a third person capable of taking care of a mini-boss on their own, and two fodder to throw at the bosses whenever they needed. Who could ask for more?

Anyway, besides that, there was something else Lloyd found much more fascinating than Zack's little win.

Secondly, apparently his performance had been good enough to wow the hearts of 5 of the top 6 academies, one of them being both the Royal Elizabeth Academy, run by Principal Windsor.

Of course, Lloyd also got invitations from higher academies, such as Discordia University, run by no other than Principal Relworth, as well as the Crimson Lightsinger Academy, the Caraxes academy, and the Crow Academy.

However, there was one application that caught Lloyd's attention before the rest, literally because they had come several days before the rest had come in, including Relworth's.

[Military Academy - Special Invitation]

[We would like to invite you to join the military academy. This is not only a way to reach new heights, but it's also a way for the youth to find a way to serve the human race while accomplishing their goals.]

[We do not look at your political power, nor do we look at your family background. While anyone past the initial stages of the first commandment is allowed to join the academy, after watching your spectacular performance at the entrance ceremony, you have decided to send you a special invitation where you will be taught by the best of the best and groomed into a powerful warrior.]

The invitation went on and on for a bit about all the resources they could give and all the important people who graduated from the academy, mainly 7-star Generals and above.

Since Lloyd was reading all this on his watch, he quickly swiped past a lot of the information he deemed unreasonable and promptly reached the images and thoroughly analyzed them, looking through pictures of the facilities, teachers, and prizes for being the top student of the year.

For several days, Lloyd looked through the list of academies that invited him, yet by the 7th day, he could not help but sigh with restlessness.

He had practically done nothing for an entire week.

He had been struggling with the trauma of basically dying, but over the last seven days, it had been getting better and better. Of course, he knew that sitting around and doing nothing wouldn't help him get over the trauma, but what could he do.

His every move was being watched, and he couldn't leave the house without supervision or everyone panicking whenever he was gone for a single second.

On the other hand, he was not about to mope around and cry himself to sleep, so he did the only thing he could.

Of course, he trained with Benjamin, Zack, his sisters, and even his parents at times, but they all always had their own things to do, and none of them stayed awake the entire night.

Lloyd could feel his progress stagnating, and now that he once again found himself doing nothing but looking at the ceiling, he finally made a decision...

'Zack and his father have been going to dungeons basically every day... Why shouldn't I do the same? They might be watching me, but...'

A smile extended across Lloyd's face before his shadow extended and an exact replica of Lloyd began to come out of the ground.

'What if I never left?'

Deep within a world held together by lightning, a bare-chested man floated in the sky with golden lightning crackling around his body, and shooting into the sky and ground depending on which is closer.

The man's aura was that of a king's. No... It was that of a monarch, capable of destroying planets with a single swipe of his hands. Yet, from a single glance, one could

tell that he was a warrior as his body was littered in scars, each one telling a different story about a worthy enemy who had forced the man to fight to his heart's desire.

However, in that very moment, one could not see his warrior spirit, nor could they feel his powerful aura that would have made most kneel...

After all, how could they feel the man's aura when its being squashed by the sheer presence of another figure?

"Eris! What is the meaning of this!" The man roared, causing the winds around him to pick up while the sound of thunder echoed around them.

"Calm yourself, Thor." The woman spoke, instantly silencing the rumbling clouds with the sound of her voice alone.

"Calm myself?! Have you gone mad?! How could you give a newborn so much power!?" Thor's voice was filled with malice as it thundered through the skies, yet, despite the rage boiling within his veins, he couldn't help but take a step back as a pair of violet eyes stared into his soul.

"You would never understand..." She smiled wickedly, making a shiver go down Thor's spine the moment he saw it.

"One day... One day the universe will bathe in chaos..."

"And my weapon will be in the center of it all." Eris spoke while turning around and opening her arms wide, revealing the sight of the once tall lightning mountains that spanned for dozens of miles, now reduced to nothing but scorched rubble with the burned corpse of a three eyed goat laying in the middle of it all.

Looking at his watch, Lloyd stared at the purple blinking light before looking up at the portal spanning at 3 meters in radius, between a forest of trees in the middle of one of the bigger parks in the city.

After having walked in circles for half an hour, he had finally found it, and despite expecting a crowd to be outside it, waiting for the officials to let them in, Lloyd was surprised to see absolutely no one there, which was one of the reasons Lloyd found it so hard to find the place.

His map wasn't very reliable when it came to areas without buildings.

"Oh yeah... Purple meant unauthorized, didn't it..." Lloyd smiled before placing his hand a few inches away from the spacial tear before closing his eyes. Of course, the scene of his body being scorched by his own mana entered his mind straight away, yet despite

not being used to it, he forced himself to put it to the back of his mind as he absorbed some of the mana from the spacial tear to see how strong it was.

"Mid-Stage First Commandment... So most monsters will be around the initial stages of the first commandment, and the boss will be at the late stages of the first commandment... Which I think I can deal with? I'm not sure if that wasp counted as a boss-level late first commandment..." Lloyd scratched his chin before simply shrugging and walking into the spacial tear, completely oblivious to the fact that this would be a turning point in his life...

Unaware of the fact that this very dungeon would change everything up until this point.

[End of Volume 1]

Chapter 59: Eternal Autumn [1]

When did it all go so wrong?

Why?

Why did everything fall apart, just when I thought I had put everything back together?

Those were the questions that entered Lloyd's mind in that moment, yet he knew better than anyone else that...

That the only person who could answer that question was him.

Standing up with a pitch-black Katana in his hands, Lloyd pushed mana through the blade, causing its purple runes to shine brighter than ever before, burning the red blood that stained it.

"Remember..." Lloyd muttered to himself while taking a step forward, blood staining his face and clothes while several corpses lay around him, every single one of their eyes frozen in fear as death took them.

Of course, not all of them looked dead, but what did Lloyd know?

While some were scorched beyond recognition, others were mutilated beyond belief as claw marks tainted their bodies, showing how they were quickly ripped apart without mercy... As if a monster had finally gotten to them, seeing them more as prey than enemy warriors.

"You did this..." An emotionless voice finished Lloyd's sentence as a man wearing a black mask appeared in a flash of purple light a few meters behind Lloyd, making his presence known by the sheer aura he exuded, followed by the glint of violet within his eyes as he analyzed Lloyd from top to bottom...

"No..." Lloyd whispered, his teeth grinding onto one another as a vein on his forehead looked like it was about to burst.

Pointing his blade at the masked man, Lloyd parted his lips and muttered with a voice filled with pure rage-

"You did this!"

FWOOOOOHHM

DOOM

Earlier

Opening his eyes, Lloyd could not help but drop his jaw at the Gartic-shattering beauty before him. [Meaning of the term at the end of the chap]

The entire scenery could be described in two words.

Eternal Autumn.

A range of orange leaves could be seen littering the ground for miles, causing even the mountains in the distance to reflect an orange glow that was only representative of the autumn season.

"Even the grass is orange." Lloyd couldn't help but mutter aloud while crouching to brush his hand upon the orangey-red grass.

Looking up, Lloyd stared at the distant sun that was beginning to disappear behind one of the mountains and estimated that it would take an hour or two for the sun to set at the speed it was going at.

Rustle

Without a second of thought, Lloyd's instincts took over, and before he knew it, a flame bullet had traveled through the skull of the creature coming out of the bush, causing its

brain to melt in an instant before it fell onto the ground with brain matter dripping out of the hole in its head.

"Oh... My bad." Lloyd laughed awkwardly while scratching the back of his head, but he could not help but feel as if another problem was emerging.

"I may or may not have a little trauma left in me..." Lloyd muttered while remembering how his instincts were the first time he almost died

"Squeak."

"Hm?" Raising a brow, Lloyd quickly turned around and looked at the orange-furred bunny. Its fur had the texture of leaves, while its ears were brown and slightly spiky, camouflaging as twigs.

However, what caught Lloyd's attention was not that its fur was orange or its ears looked like twigs, but instead, it was that its eyes had become a deep red, unlike the eyes of the last rabbit Lloyd killed.

"Oh, hey, little rabbit." Lloyd smiled, not thinking of the rabbit as much of a threat since the last one had died in an instant, completely forgetting that he had recently upgraded his [Flame Control] ability.

"Squeak."

However, before Lloyd could get closer to the rabbit, another squeak entered his ears, and when he turned around, it was an identical rabbit, looking at him with the same red eyes.

'What's that feeling?' Lloyd asked himself while looking into the eyes of the rabbit, but after thinking about it for a moment, he shrugged it off since the feeling wasn't strong enough for him to analyze.

"Squeak."

And then he heard another...

"Squeak."

and another

"Squeak."

The feeling was becoming more prominent, as if every rabbit was amplifying the signature, making its transmittance more powerful by the second.

"Squeak."

"Squeak."

"Squeak."

"Squeak."

"Squeak."

"Squeak."

"Squeak."

And in less than a second, the squeaks became plenty, and the aura exploded in strength, immediately making Lloyd's hairs stand on their ends as a magnificent bloodlust washed over him.

"Oh, crap..." And with those words leaving his mouth, Lloyd did not wait for another second as he launched himself out of that situation, shooting at about 150 kmh.

While the rabbits didn't appear powerful alone, Lloyd had played enough video games to understand that a colony of rabbits with red eyes was the most dangerous thing a man could stumble upon.

Looking back, Lloyd's eyes widened in horror as the colony seemed to only grow larger, making it look as if hundreds of rabbits were running towards him. Their eyes shone in rage, and their aura flared in bloodlust, creating a deep red fog in the area that would make most feel as if they were suffocating.

'Damn it, instincts! Why did you have to kill that first rabbit! He meant no harm!' Lloyd inwardly cried while running as fast as he could while dodging both rabbits and trees that happened to be in the way.

Creak

"Huh?" Those were the last words that came out of Lloyd's mouth as a tree branch wrapped around him and picked him into the sky.

'Don't tell me...!' Lloyd's eyes shone slightly as the tree before him gained three slits that slowly opened to show two eyes and a large mouth lined with razor-sharp teeth as if it were a shark's maw.

If that wasn't bad enough, the lines of teeth also began spinning, making the maw feel more like a blender, waiting to turn Lloyd into soup the moment he fell in.

'A treant...' Lloyd gritted his teeth before breathing in and calming himself.

He remembered reading about treants in the past. According to the mythology of Elves, who relied more on religion, legends, and 'witchcraft' than science, treants were simply trees blessed by the almighty tree, Yggdrasil, with the semblance of life by connecting it to its own will.

Treants are considered passive creatures that only fight back when someone attacks them or the forest they inhabit.

'It must have seen the rabbit's aggression as a sign that I attacked the forest or its inhabitants, meaning that the rabbits were also peaceful creatures before I decided to kill one of them.' Lloyd thought as he finally decided on what his next course of action should be.

[Flame Control]

Touching the branch that held him, Lloyd's eyes shone even brighter as orange and blue flames engulfed his hands as he pointed his other hand towards the maw.

"Incinerate."

*FWOOOOOHHM"

In an instant, flames exploded out of Lloyd's hands, covering the branches around him in flames, and allowing him to escape from its iron-clad grip while turning the tree into a flaming spectacle as a ball of fire engulfed it from the inside out.

Dropping to the ground without even making a thud due to his [Soundless Steps] passive ability, Lloyd turned towards the massive colony of rabbits and had an idea.

"How about he try something?" Lloyd muttered before raising his foot off the ground and releasing the full power of his killing intent combined with [Monarch's Aura].

Feeling a powerful killing intent wash over them, the rabbits froze in place for a quarter of a second, yet that was all Lloyd needed to-

[Basic Lightning Control]

Lowering his foot, he slammed it into the ground, kicking up a dust cloud a little less than a dozen meters tall.

Crackle

With the dust now blocking the rabbit colony's vision of Lloyd, they were quickly forced to use their other senses, yet when they tried that, they could only pick up the strong smell of wood burning to ashes as well as the sound of several of their kind either squeaking in terror or pain.

[Electricity Chain]

The moment Lloyd slammed his foot into the ground, he had activated [Basic Lightning Control] and coated his foot in it. The electricity quickly moved through the soil and zapped the closest bunny, yet due to the constant surge of electricity that Lloyd was outputting, the electricity became too much for one rabbit, causing the rabbit next to it to be zapped.

This quickly created a chain of rabbits turning into charcoal, but due to the fact that the ability was only the basic version of Lightning Control, he quickly found that he could only zap 10 rabbits at a time, compared to the hundreds that were just about to attack him.

Stopping the output of electricity, Lloyd quickly created 4 shadow clones of himself that left the already-settling dust cloud with hands covered in flames.

[Flame Control]

Pointing his hands toward the sky, Lloyd immediately created several dozen flame bullets before swiping his hand down and causing the bullets to float in the air in a position that would have allowed them to shower the battlefield, yet that was not all.

'While my proficiency over my flames isn't high enough for me to control the bullets in more than three batches without putting a strain on my mind and mana, let alone control them individually, right now, I don't need it... I just need to make sure they keep their form.'

Lloyd smiled while gritting his teeth as he used all his willpower to move the bullets in a way where they looked like they were skipping rocks rather than dozens of artillery bullets showering the sky.

Swerving the bullets, it looked like they were dozens of stars being swung behind Lloyd to build momentum, just for him to finally swing his hand towards the rabbits with everything he had.

ZOOM

As if time had paused, nothing moved for a moment, yet in an instant, a spectacle of orange and cyan lights entered Lloyd's vision as the bullets shot past him at lightning speed as Lloyd tried his best to keep the bullets from breaking.

Shooting past him, the bullets pierced through several rabbits before destabilizing enough to explode and incinerate everything within a half-meter radius.

They shot through everything from trees to even Lloyd's clones, and in the blink of an eye, the battle was over, with Lloyd standing victorious in a once beautiful autumn forest replaced with a hellscape of charred carcasses and burning trees.

(Author's Note: The word Earth-shattering had become slightly insignificant due to the increase of universal exploration.

Now that the galaxy IC 1101 (the largest galaxy in the universe) now no longer out of reach, they chose to rename it to the Gartia galaxy, which comes from the mixture of the words "Gargantuan" and the greek word "Terastia."]

[Huge thanks to NotGRE3D, TheWallOfFantasy, Clapdatbooty and Daemoncles_000 for all your gifts. It is greatly appreciated.]

Chapter 60: Eternal Autumn [2]

Panting heavily, Lloyd felt the increasing desire to drop to the ground and rest of hours, yet he knew that doing so would be a mistake since he had no way of knowing that all the monsters had died or that no more monsters would be coming.

To make the situation worse, Lloyd had an inkling that the night would be much worse than the day, yet after going through the ordeal of killing hundreds of rabbits due to his instincts, he could not help but feel like he might be wrong.

'Behind you.' A voice entered his ears as every hair on his body stood up.

Without skipping a beat, Lloyd barely summoned his blade in time for him to spin on his heel and flick his wrist to slice an incoming arrow in two.

'Good thing I got my parents to buy me a new katana.' Lloyd couldn't help but think as his eyes flickered with a Void Walker's signature violet.

"State your name and class." A feminine voice entered Lloyds' ears, and despite Lloyd being certain that there were no tracks of humans entering before he had entered, he could not help but second guess his ears.

"Who's there?" Lloyd asked with a voice laced with killing intent, yet despite this, the woman's voice did not falter as she replied-

"You are in no position to be asking the questions, boy..." The woman growled while releasing her own killing intent, yet just like her, the killing intent had no effect on Lloyd.

"My name is..." Lloyd paused, thinking of what name to use, yet since he didn't have his mask on, he knew he shouldn't use Null.

"Lloyd. My name is Lloyd." Lloyd told the truth.

BOOM

A figure clad in black dropped from the top of one of the hills Lloyd was looking at, and despite the fact that normal humans at Lloyd's level would have had difficulty seeing the figure from so far away, Lloyd didn't have much difficulty.

All he had to do was squint a little, yet even a bat would have been capable of seeing the dust cloud she kicked up the moment she touched the ground.

"Class?" Her voice boomed from behind the dust cloud as her footsteps echoed through the burning forest.

"You expect me to tell you?" Lloyd sneered.

"You're not even a first commandment. Yet, you're pretty strong, but that's it."

"You stand no chance." She spoke with a powerful and dominant voice that almost made Lloyd kneel...

"C'mon Hime... Let the kid relax."

Yet just when the pressure would have gotten to him, another voice entered his ears, causing him to look up and see two figures leaving the dust cloud, both of them wearing ankle-length trench coats.

While one of them was a slightly skinny man with short straight black hair who wore glasses over his somewhat pale skin, the other was a 6ft 5 woman with grey hair.

She had light bronze skin, only further amplified by her perfect feminine yet muscular physique that could not be hidden behind her trench coat.

Her eyes were like a pair of Topazes, shining behind the hood she wore that hid most of her face behind a shadow that Lloyd had no problem seeing through.

However, what caught Lloyd's attention was not the color of her eyes, but her pupils.

'Slit slash serpent-like pupils, fangs... She must be a beastkin... Holy crap, I haven't seen a beastkin before. What should I say! What should I do? Is she a feline? Ooh! Maybe she's a furred beastkin, or maybe even a rabbit! Holy sh*t, I can't believe I'm meeting with a beastkin!' Lloyd inwardly fangirled while looking at the woman before him.

Looking up, he could not help but see that there was a small bulge in her hood, making Lloyd's eyes widen in delight while a smile he could not control spread across his face.

"Ew... You can do whatever you want with him now. I don't care anymore." The man with straight black hair and spectacles made a slightly disgusted expression while waving his hand at Lloyd as if he was trying to wave him away.

"Really?" Hime's eyes brightened slightly to the point where Lloyd was certain he could see a sparkle in her eyes, yet that could have been his imagination.

"Wait, wait!" Lloyd screamed out while standing up and bowing to both of them, making them each take a step back with raised brows.

They both knew that Lloyd was way too weak to do anything to hurt them, but for some reason, they felt as if being near him was dangerous.

'Maybe he has a pseudo-mythic class? No... Pseudo-mythics are usually a lot stronger unless they are using suppressants. Maybe he's from a big family?' The woman questioned before turning towards her human companion.

As if he knew exactly what she was thinking, he narrowed his eyes at Lloyd as if he was trying to decipher his family background, yet even after a few moments of looking with one of his optical abilities, he could not see anything, causing him to quickly shake his head at his companion.

Their suspicions only rose when they saw the genuine smile on Lloyd's face as he got out of the bow, but the words that came out of his mouth afterward only served to confuse them.

"Sorry, I got a little excited since it's the first time I've ever seen a beastkin..." Lloyd rubbed the back of his neck before his eyes widened in horror, and he bowed again.

"Oh, sorry. You don't mind being called a beastkin, right? I can't really tell what race you're from because of your hood and trenchcoat." Lloyd apologized, yet even though Hime was still on guard and suspicious of Lloyd, the man beside her chuckled, making her raise a brow.

"Where are you from, child?" The man asked with a welcoming smile.

Looking up, Lloyd looked the man up and down before widening his eyes.

The man might have seemed skinny and slightly fragile, but his presence alone was something else.

'Human?' Lloyd asked himself as another his smile widened.

"My name is Lloyd Elrod," Lloyd replied despite feeling slightly stiff. He didn't know if he should stretch out his hand for a handshake or if he should bow again. Yet if he bowed again, it might seem excessive and maybe even rude, while shaking the hand of someone so much stronger than he might also have the same effect.

Of course, he could always salute the man, but what kind of mana salutes at their first meeting? A soldier would... But he wasn't a soldier...

Before Lloyd could start panicking further in the presence of a beastkin, the man placed his hand on Lloyd's soldier and gave the brightest smile he could.

"Stop panicking, we won't do anything to you." The man laughed before taking a step back and stretching his hand out.

"My name is Roderick Porter. I am a part of the Human Frontier for the Human Army. May I ask you how you got here?" The man asked.

Stretching his hand out, Lloyd shook the man's hand and scratched the back of his neck.

"Well, I went through a spacial tear." Lloyd replied.

"Why would the army let someone who had not reached the first commandment go through?" Roderick questioned.

"Army? Well, they weren't there..." Lloyd answered with guilt written all over his face, knowing fully well that him telling them his real name would be his downfall. On the other hand, there was a good chance that they would have found out he lied about his name in the first place, so who knows if his decision was the right one.

"They would never abandon their base. I made sure there would be at least 4 people outside at all times." The man narrowed his eyes while releasing a little bit of killing intent, yet before he could go further-

"He's not lying..." Hime crossed her arms, a little perplexed at her own assumption.

"I'm the lie detector, Hime." Roderick frowned.

"Well you should have used your skill..."

"We both know that you are more than aware that it had a cooldown." He replied deadpan.

"Then trust me." She let out a wry smile.

"Wait, guys... Unless these guards were floating the entire time, there was no trace of anyone having entered the dungeon before me." Lloyd interrupted.

"Oh no..." Hime muttered.

"Interplanetary dungeon..." Roderick's expression switched to one of dread as he closed his eyes to think of all the possibilities.

"I thought that could only happen in permanent dungeons." Lloyd commented, but the man quickly cut him off.

"Yes, well, it can happen in temporary dungeons too. If we beat the temporary dungeon, we get a few permanent portals to other planets... If we don't, though..." The man grimaced at the thought.

"A dungeon break?" Lloyd muttered.

"Worse. A large portion of the planets is corrupted by the environment within the dungeon itself, making a permanent dungeon of sorts on the outside. That's how we get monster planets." The man replied, making it all click in Lloyd's head, except for one thing that was beginning to bug him.

"How could a single mid-stage first commandment dungeon cause so much chaos?" Lloyd asked.

"That's only during the day. During the night, the dungeon becomes a Topaz-level dungeon.

Looking back, Lloyd quickly recalled the ranking system past the first commandment.

For most species, the second commandment was split into seals and was considered the affinity awakening commandment.

Every seal was represented by a different gem, and every gem represented an advancement in one's affinity. This is also the reason why those with common classes found it difficult to move past the second commandment, yet at the same time, people

like Jack, who have specialized cultivation techniques, could find easier ways to advance without relying on an affinity to do so.

Every seal is considered to be worlds above the one before it, making the disparity in strength between the Topaz and half step much larger than the initial first commandment and half step second commandment.

"So, point us toward the portal you came out of. We must warn the Adventurer's Association and the army to ensure they take precautions. We also need several teams to come inside and help us clear the dungeon." Roderick asked before his voice became quieter and quieter until it finally became a whisper as if he was muttering his plans to only himself.

"Well, if you follow the trail of destruction-" Lloyd pointed, yet before he could even finish his sentence, he watched as Roderick blasted past him, shooting across the burning forest and towards the portal.

"I'm Hime Re, by the way. Nice meeting you." The woman smiled warmly at Lloyd, causing a tingly feeling to go down his spine while his breathing seemed to increase despite the fact that his chest wasn't moving in the least.

"And to answer your previous question, I'm a feline beastkin." She commented while wagging her long black tail at Lloyd from under her coat before walking past Lloyd and shooting behind Roderick.

While Lloyd's excitement only increased alongside his breathing rate, he was clear-minded enough to follow by using [Shadow Movement], and since the sun was already setting, there were plenty of shadows to conserve his mana and to increase his speed within his shadow several folds.

When he finally left his shadow, he felt a little perplexed by how the two were simply standing completely frozen in place, yet when he finally looked around for a moment, he could not help but take another glance at what was before them.

"What happened to the spacial tear?" Lloyd tilted his head while looking at the tear, but he had used his space affinity ability enough to know that there was something horribly wrong, yet instead of having to figure it out himself, Hime was there to tell him the bad news herself.

"The portal to the outside..."

It's broken."

[Thank you, Thevoidfox, for your generous gift]

[Official Artwork of Roderick in the comments]

