

Abyssal A 301

Chapter 301 - 301: Day Off

"Are... You feeling okay?" Allura asked, approaching Alice hesitantly.

Seeing how she was gesturing to herself while displaying a myriad of expressions, Allura was truly worried that she might've hit Alice a little too hard.

Even if she was expressive usually, that was only with her eyes and the occasional smile and complaint.

But this? She was fully expressive.

Turning to Allura, [Alice] was silent.

'How the hell do I talk to her like you do? Do we even want people to think we're crazy? Who just flips their personality a whole 180?'

'Don't look at me, you're the one who watched me talk to people. You know I'm not that great either! Just... Say you're okay or something.' Alice shrugged since she usually just said whatever came to her mind unless it was a tense situation.

With this advice, [Alice] forced a smile and looked up at Allura.

"Mnm... I am... sh*t, err... Feeling just fine. Thank you."

". . ." Both Alice and Allura looked at [Alice] in bewilderment and disbelief.

'How the hell are you worse than me at talking! Didn't you taunt me for being swept away by their conversations??? How is this any better?!' Alice felt as though she had just been scammed.

'S-Shuddap! I've only ever talked to people when I'm killing them dammit!'

'Look just... Act normal- No... that wouldn't work for you because you don't know what normal even means.' Alice frowned while trying to brainstorm ideas.

Meanwhile, Allura was panicking on the inside as well.

"Did I hit you too hard? Are there still injuries that haven't healed?" Allura asked, holding Alice by the shoulders while looking around for any wounds.

Except for the golden chains that manifested around her body, nothing else seemed to be wrong.

Observing the chains, Allura found them to be rather strange as they reminded her of the powers that Velouria employed. Yet at the same time, it's been modified to contain Alice's energy.

To put it simply, it's like a hybrid between both Alice and Velouria.

"Ah sorry, it's not that. I'm just a little out of it." [Alice] shook her head, taking advice from Alice to just blame it on not feeling well.

"Is that so? Well, I guess it makes sense since we did dive head first into sparring right after the abnormality that occurred with your Sigil. Maybe I was too eager." Allura sighed, patting [Alice's] head.

"Do you want to take the rest of the day off then?" Allura offered.

Thinking about it for a moment, [Alice] nodded her head enthusiastically.

"Can I look around Ayr for a bit?"

"Hm? Sure. If you want to buy anything here's some Ayrian gold coins. This should be more than enough for a full day of shopping." Allura nodded.

Reaching into her pouch, she pulled out a small wallet with a cake image stamped onto the surface before handing [Alice] 10 Ayrian gold coins.

"Will 10 be enough?" [Alice] asked curiously since if she recalled correctly from what she'd seen from Alice's journey, if she wanted to get anything nice 10 might not be enough.

"You realise that 10 gold is enough for a rich family in Ayr to last for a month right?" Allura raised an eyebrow while [Alice] froze up.

If her memory serves right, a poor common family could get by with 5 gold per week. Meanwhile, rich folk in Ayr could make do with 10 per month?

'Inflation is a b*tch.' Alice muttered while [Alice] nodded her head in agreement.

After thanking Allura, [Alice] jumped through the portal that Kaden made, leading to the centre of Ayr.

Looking at the portal, both Allura and Kaden glanced at each other before sighing.

"Do you want to watch her shopping trip?" Allura asked as Kaden thought about it for a moment.

"Sure, there's nothing else we need to do right now. Might as well see what's up with her."

###

Arriving at the centre of Ayr, the first thing that [Alice] wanted to do was try out this mead that Alice praised so much.

With how she reacted to drinking it, [Alice] wondered what it tasted like.

Naturally, Alice was praising the holy song of mead in [Alice's] mind.

Arriving at a bar, she ordered a mug of Ayrian Mead.

"Here goes nothing." [Alice] shrugged.

Upon taking a sip, [Alice] choked on the drink before spitting it out.

'What the hell are you doing?!' Alice cried out in shock, seeing her twin spit out the drink.

'What the f*ck do you mean what the hell am I doing??? You drink this sh*t? It's so damn sweet!' [Alice] shouted back while pushing the drink away.

'Urg Gods, I'm actually about to throw up from how sweet it is.' She complained while ordering some water instead of mead.

'But that's the best part! The sweetness that comes with the mead followed by the warmth in your body!' Alice pouted in annoyance.

'If you're going to waste that mead at least let me take over and finish it off!'

'Fine do whatever you want. But I'm not drinking mead after this. It's too damn sweet for my tastes.' [Alice] frowned.

Closing her eyes, the chains faded away as Alice took over.

Grabbing the mug, she downed the drink in one go before letting out a satisfied shout.

Jumping off the chair, she left the bar while giving control over to [Alice] once more.

'I'll never get you and your addiction to mead.' [Alice] sighed.

'I just like it okay? But I guess even if we share the same body with have a different preference for taste. What kind of food do you like?' Alice asked curiously.

'You realise that the only things I've eaten or tasted are blood and flesh right?' [Alice] raised an eyebrow.

Realising this, Alice coughed awkwardly.

'Do you want to take this time to find something you like then?'

'Not yet. I want to get a change of clothes first. This is way too restrictive with how much fabric and layers there are.' [Alice] shook her head while pulling at the outfit that Velouria gifted Alice.

It was light but it felt awkward for [Alice] considering the layers and trinkets attached to the clothing.

She wanted something that allowed for better movement and fewer layers.

Going to the clothing store, [Alice] couldn't help but be disappointed that there was nothing that matched her tastes. Ayrian clothing focused more on layers and intricate patterns. The complete opposite of what [Alice] wanted.

With no clothing that could match her desire, she went food shopping instead.

'You know, if you wanted specific clothing, you could always ask Velouria. She'll probably make you something you like once she gets some time for it.' Alice suggested while [Alice] vehemently shook her head.

'Hell no! You thought you were bored out of your mind while she was trying out new outfits on you? I was about to lose my mind watching her do it! I don't need to go through it again!'

'That's fair.'

Talking with one another while going to different restaurants to test out the flavours, they eventually stumbled across the flavour that interested [Alice].

The flavour being spiciness!

Looking at the blazing red skewers in front of her, [Alice] had a shine in her eyes that was never before seen. Just looking at them was enough to make her drool as she began to grab one skewer after another.

"Kyaaa! This is the best!" [Alice] laughed out despite breaking out in sweat due to the spiciness.

'Are you a masochist? I don't understand why something that hurts is enjoyable.' Alice crossed her arms in confusion. Perhaps this is how [Alice] felt seeing her enjoy mead. But at least with mead, it's understandable this sweetness is a pleasurable taste.

But spice? Pure torture.

'Hey don't judge it till you try it. I tried your mead, didn't I? Maybe you should give this a try. It's not as spicy as you think.' [Alice] smirked while fanning herself.

'Hmm... Alright. I'm sure it'll be fine.'

Closing her eyes, she switched controls with [Alice] once more.

But even without tasting the meat, Alice's pupils shrunk from the absolute pain dancing across her mouth.

Breaking out in tears, Alice immediately grabbed water nearby to drown out this taste but it persisted.

"F*ck! How can you withstand this spice???" Alice shouted out in panic, surprising the patrons at the restaurant since she said it out loud.

One moment, she's saying it's the best. The next, she's crying about how it's too hot.

'Pft hahahaha! What do you mean? It's just right. If anything, I don't think it's hot enough.' [Alice] laughed while switching controls.

Taking a mouthful of meat, she had a goofy grin on her face while enjoying the spice.

'Any hotter and you won't be tasting anything!' Alice retorted in pain.

In the brief moment where she took over, her entire body felt as though it was being tortured. The flames of hell, dancing in her stomach while her mouth was set ablaze.

Yet in this pain, [Alice] revelled in joy.

'You're a masochist!'

'Just because I like spice doesn't mean I'm a masochist. Can't I say the same to you then?' [Alice] scoffed.

'No, me enjoying my mead makes me an alcoholic. You enjoying spice makes you a masochist!'

'Just because you can't handle a teenie weenie bit of spice doesn't make me a masochist. What a wimp.' [Alice] taunted. But despite this, there was a wide smile on her face.

'Just make sure I can't taste the spice when you give back control!' Alice grumbled. Once she regained control, the first thing she wanted to do was drink mead to drown out this taste!

###

"..."

"..."

"What is going on with her???" Allura couldn't help but ask while watching [Alice's] shenanigans. The constant flip in opinions as their controls shift.

Meanwhile, Kaden wondered if she's having a schizophrenic episode. With how her opinions and mannerisms change every time the chains appear and disappear, perhaps there was something else that was going on.

Though considering how her soul wasn't fluctuating, he understood that it wasn't outside interference.

"We... Can ask her when she finishes shopping." Kaden forced a smile for now.

It was best to let Alice relax considering everything she's went through the past few days.

Chapter 302 - 302: Twin

Once she had her fill of spicy food, [Alice] took the remaining time to just wander around Ayr.

'Now that we had a moment to relax, shall we focus?' [Alice] smiled, feeling satisfied with her taste of freedom after so many years.

Naturally, there were more that she wanted to do but for now, those were things she'd rather do in the real world than in the Inverted World.

'What's on your mind?' Alice raised an eyebrow curiously.

She thought that her twin would spend more time enjoying herself considering how long she's been locked up.

'Nothing much. Just a bit of research. Remember when you first got the crown? The gate we saw leading to Terminus was far more advanced than anything the real world has produced. I can only assume that after the collapse of Ayr, a lot of its technologies were lost without Velouria and its residents around to maintain them.

'Example being the way they get Sigils and the shrine Kaden showed us. If we can understand this technology and even bring some back, we could get a huge advantage over people and even help Ria get her Sigils easily with the shrine. The key is to understand and bring back the knowledge.' [Alice] explained while Alice began to blank out.

This thought had completely slipped Alice's mind as she had focused on fighting ever since she got here.

'Don't tell me you never thought of this?' [Alice] asked in disbelief. She could see what Alice was doing from the inside but she never thought this idea completely slipped her mind.

Poking her fingers together meekly, Alice stuck out her tongue.

'I'm actually speechless. Who's the murderous one here??? You got nothing but fighting and mead on your mind!' [Alice] facepalmed, baffled by her twin's actions.

'Ahem alright alright, I'm sorry. So what kind of technology do you want to find first?' Alice changed the subject.

'First, we need to figure out the shrine. That's the most important thing since it solves the biggest issue of Hunters in our era. Failure of a hunt. Since we're Velouria's successor, we should be able to replicate her control over this shrine to a certain extent. Of course, this is unknown since we don't know how it works.

'Even just setting aside helping Ria or Luke, if we ever want to pull favours and whatnot, we can force people to sign Laws of Agreement before using the shrine. That way we can guarantee their assistance if we ever want to go against the Zenia family.

'With how big the Zenia family is, just killing the head of the family isn't enough. They have branches everywhere and while not all of them are guilty, many of them are. We'll need lots of help to fully root them out so if we can understand the shrine, it'll be perfect to lay the foundations of our revenge.

'After the shrine, it'll have to be their way of transport through the Abyss. That gate made it far easier and safer to live here. Kaden may have teleported us around but the same can't be done for Civilians and people who travel between the layers and even to the surface.

'While we won't have the upper hand in negotiations with this as we would with the Shrine, just learning how to operate and possibly fix these gateways would make our lives a whole lot easier and give us negotiating power with the Hunter's Guild. They'll need the power to transport large amounts of people through the layers after all and even cargo to trade with the surface.

'For merchants, the gates are indispensable so it's something else that we need to focus on.'

While [Alice] was using this time to explain her plans and goals, Alice was silent.

She felt ashamed since the first thought she had after finding out that this place was Ayr was the mead!

Compared to her, [Alice] was far more reliable and sought to get as much value as she could from this trip.

'Why are you so quiet all of a sudden? Something wrong?' [Alice] frowned.

'N-nothing. So other than the Shrine and gateway, what else are you looking for?'

'What else? Well... the main things I want to find are those two since I don't think we have time to go for more. But if we get the chance then knowing how they make their clothing would also be good. Even though I hate the layers of these outfits, I can't deny their durability.' [Alice] shrugged while looking at her sleeves.

'The Hunters gear you got from Sera was also good but it's a far cry compared to what we have now.'

'True...' Indeed, while Sera's gear that she gave her was focused on functionality, it was still restrictive and not only that, but the pouch for blood vials could be easily damaged.

Maybe the more expensive outfits solved this issue by using spatial storage similar to what she has now. But just based on what she experienced, Ayr was still superior in terms of outfit durability and functionality.

'After outfits it would be...'

Listening carefully, Alice wondered what [Alice] was going to say.

'How they make their spicy skewers! Oh Gods it would be a horror if I can't taste them again once we get back. Actually, scratch that. Let me ask the chef for the recipe now, this is my top priority!' [Alice] grinned, wiping away her drool while running back to the restaurant.

Seeing this, Alice couldn't help but laugh as the two of them were different yet so very similar at the same time.

But hearing about this reminded her that she should learn about how to make mead.

'Remember to ask them on how they make their mead! Use Allura or Kaden's name if you can so we can get some leverage!'

'Ohh!!! You're right! Nice one!' [Alice] praised as they would probably be reluctant to reveal the secret behind such a delicious dish.

###

Surprisingly, it was far easier to obtain the recipes than what they had originally expected. Even without mentioning Allura or Kaden's name, the owner handed over the recipe without issue and simply patted her head afterwards.

'Do all the people just like patting each other's heads in Ayr? Why does everyone do that?' Alice frowned.

'Don't know. But we got the most important treasure so I don't mind it. We can go ask Allura and Kaden to bring us to more shrines or talk to someone who knows the functionality behind them. Same goes with the gateway.' [Alice] crossed her arms before closing her eyes.

'Do you want to take over? I don't know how to talk to them and I'm pretty sure we'll just confuse the hell out of them if we keep swapping mid conversation.'

'You need to talk to them just as much as I do you know? Since we'll be swapping more often. Plus, I'd want them to know about you too.' Alice shrugged.

'Ehh... Really?' [Alice] frowned while scratching her hair. Honestly, she preferred to just have moments to herself and pop out to help Alice during a fight rather than being there to talk to people.

But now that Alice has acknowledged her existence, knowing Alice, she'll be pushing for her to be out more often than before. Meaning this wasn't something they could avoid.

Thinking about them, [Alice] clenched her fist. Would they look upon her like Alice would? Or would they mark her down as an anomaly not meant to exist and deny her?

Realising [Alice's] fears, Alice revealed a soft smile.

'Come into the mental scape for a moment.'

'Hm? Sure, something wrong?' [Alice] nodded, as the two faced one another.

Looking at [Alice], she understood that perhaps this is what she would've looked like if Kaden never implanted Cayla into her.

Pulling [Alice] into a hug, Alice patted her back.

'Allura and Kaden won't reject you. At the end of the day, we're both in this body. I won't deny you and neither would they.'

Hesitating for a moment, [Alice] returned the hug and let out a small chuckle.

'Alright. Don't blame me for what happens okay?'

'As long as it's nothing crazy then sure.' Alice laughed.

Opening her eyes, [Alice] had a smile on her face before glancing up at the sky.

Narrowing her gaze, she could see the minute twists within the flow of energy and curled her lips into a grin.

"Kaden, Allura, can we talk for a moment." [Alice] called out, surprising Kaden.

Opening a portal, the two jumped down while [Alice] gave them a small wave.

"Yeah no this is weird. What's going on with you?" Allura asked, raising an eyebrow.

"Can we talk elsewhere first? You guys attract a lot of attention after all." [Alice] shrugged while gesturing to the crowd around them.

Nodding his head, Kaden created a portal back to their home.

Sitting around the table, Kaden was about to give [Alice] some mead when she shook her head and pulled out some spicy meat skewers she bought as take out.

"Alright now that we're alone, care to enlighten us on what's going on?" Allura crossed her arms while [Alice] nodded her head.

"Sure. Do you want the simple version or the long version?"

"Give us the simple version."

"Simple version is that there are two Alices in one body. We're both the real Alice and I'm just someone who's true to my needs and wants. The other Alice is the one you're familiar with." [Alice] shrugged while chewing on a skewer.

Blinking their eyes in confusion, [Alice] decided to prove it.

Closing her eyes, she handed control back to Alice as the chains faded away.

Assaulted by the sudden taste of the spice, Alice made a disgusted face before grabbing the mead that Kaden had offered.

"Cough! Blerg... I don't know how she can eat this crap. But setting that aside, she's telling the truth." Alice smiled while Kaden nodded his head.

"So I'm guessing she's the one that's been helping you during a fight then? Your 'Core' from the visit with the Moon Apostles." Kaden asked.

"That's... Spot on. But rather than Core, it's more like twin? We're different but also the same." Alice corrected while Allura understood that [Alice] was the one who pushed her to four and five Sigils.

"I see..." Kaden furrowed his brows. It was a lot to take in but at the same time, it wasn't the craziest thing that Alice has done.

And honestly, against Gods, Apostles and being able to defy the Abyss, having a 'Twin' in the same body was the most acceptable thing Alice has done thus far.

Chapter 303 - 303: Powers Of The Void

It took a moment for Allura to fully digest what Alice was saying but Kaden was quick to adapt. He understood that [Alice] was the source of her violet flames. An alternative conscience born from the moment she discovered her own peculiarities.

"So there are two Alices... One that likes spicy stuff, one that likes mead. One likes to wear less layers the other doesn't mind?" While Allura was muttering to herself, trying to remember the information, Kaden turned to [Alice].

"So would you like me to call you Alice? Or do you go by a different name?"

"Alice, please. In the end, we're still both Alices even if we are a little different." [Alice] shrugged since they were practically twins.

"Alright. So you mentioned that you wanted to talk about something. I'm guessing this has nothing to do with your revelation that there are two of you right?" He asked as [Alice] widened her eyes for a moment.

"Ohh! Bingo~ Yep it has nothing to do with me and twinnie. I wanted to ask about the Shrine and how it works and the gateways." [Alice] nodded with a grin. She didn't expect him to be able to realise her intentions so quickly.

"The Shrine and Gateways?" Raising an eyebrow, it didn't take Kaden long to recall the conversation he had with her by the Shrine.

How in the future, everything was locked in comparison to now.

Understanding that she must want to take the concept back and see if she could change things, Kaden nodded his head.

"The one who knows most about the Shrines is Master since she manually placed them across the Abyss when Ayr was being built. As for the gateways, I can take you to Caera since she was the one who made them." He offered as [Alice] scratched her chin.

"Alright. Velouria is busy with everything she's doing now. Getting information about the gates would be good in the meantime. Ah speaking of which, can these gates lead to the surface? Or is it only travel limited to the Abyssal layers?"

"As far as I know, these gates only work in the Abyssal layers. For travel between the surface and the Abyss, you will require something else." Kaden explained while shaking his head.

"Even with my powers, it's two different things travelling between the layers compared to visiting the surface."

"Hmm... Shall we go now then? It's better to deal with these things early." [Alice] asked as Kaden agreed.

While they were discussing between themselves, both Alice and Allura couldn't find a chance to talk as the topic they were talking about was beyond them.

For Allura, whenever talks reach this stage her mind would blank out and automatically treat it as white noise.

Alice on the other hand simply didn't understand what was going on.

"So when you travel to the surface, what you're doing with your power is essentially sling-shotting yourself and using that momentum to pierce the veil between the two right? As long as you have a general idea you can travel." [Alice] asked while Kaden contemplated for a moment.

"Similar but not really. Rather than sling-shotting, it's more a case of finding two anchor points and wrapping loose string between the two. Once that happens, I anchor down a single point in the middle and swap the two locations. What I use to anchor down the second location is usually a mote of energy unless I intend on swapping two people." Kaden corrected.

"And as for the Abyss, it's more like moving around in a house."

Nodding her head at his explanations, [Alice] was intrigued by his first use. The one he uses to travel between realms.

"So back to the first method. You said that you swap locations with a mote of energy right? How does that work specifically?"

Seeing that [Alice] was so intrigued by his work, a sparkle could be seen in Kaden's eyes as this was one of the few times he could truly go into depth regarding his own work.

As he began to explain, [Alice] was like a sponge who was absorbing all of this information without issue. Asking questions where it confused her and pointing out parts that needed further explanation.

While Kaden may have simplified it earlier, swapping locations was not as easy as it sounds. First of all, in order to establish the mote of energy there's an inherent requirement of being able to sense the notes, spread across two realms.

But to do that, one would need to understand the space between realms. In other words, the Void.

The Void is the realm between realms, the space where all realms reside. While it may be called the Void, an alternative title would be the Sea of Worlds.

To sense the nodes between two realms, one would need to be able to navigate this sea using their senses and just this stage was enough to exhaust someone never mind being able to teleport correctly.

Once the two nodes are discovered, the next step is to establish the rough pathway. Like lights in a blizzard, these 'checkpoints' help guide the object through this Void between nodes. If the pathway is too rigid, it will get swept along the currents of the Void and the subject would be lost between realms.

Alternatively, if the pathway is too loose, the subject will never reach the destination.

There are two main methods for establishing a pathway. The first method is the straight line method where the content is fired along the checkpoints in rapid succession. Short bursts of teleportation to ensure a high success rate but place a huge strain on the body.

The second method is the swing method where the content is tethered to the centre of the path and then swung across to the other side.

The success rate is higher with less burden on the body as it's simply one move compared to countless rapid movements. However, the risk that comes with this method is the strength of the tether.

Once it snaps. . . the rest doesn't need to be said. There will always be risks that come with teleporting and what's important is minimising the risks. It's why major powers who frequent the two realms make sure there are people who gained Sigils in relation to the Void.

That way they can mount a rescue attempt if it's ever required.

"It's too much of a hassle to use either of these methods so I came up with a third method instead, using properties of both sides. It's still a work in progress right now since it can be improved but as I mentioned before, I need to establish two nodes. Once that's done, both nodes are swung while being simultaneously pulled towards the centre of the path.

"Upon reaching the centre, the node that was swung from the destination would be locked into place. The tether used to secure it to the centre would then be used to reinforce the tether connecting to the subject who is then swung towards the target of the teleportation.

"It decreases the chances of the tether snapping while placing less burden than the rapid bursts of teleportation. And the only downside is how much energy it uses and it can only withstand small groups of people rather than cargo." Kaden shrugged helplessly.

Even with his blessing and Sigils, it was still a difficult task to transport large volumes of mass across the expanse of the Void. Not only that, but the conditions need to be right as well. Otherwise the requirement of energy would be far larger due to the distance.

Through his countless experiments, this was the safest method he could use.

"I see... So I'm guessing for portals to the surface, it employs the first two methods for cargo while the third method that you created is used for people." [Alice] asked while Kaden shook his head.

"For now, they're struggling with employing my method of teleportation into the machines so they're still using the first two methods. To resolve this, they usually have someone strong teleporting with you to ensure the safety of people and the cargo. Only in rare cases would they need to mount a rescue attempt in the Void."

Hearing this, [Alice] nodded her head as ideas began to flood into her mind.

"Say, can I try something?" [Alice] asked as Kaden nodded his head.

"It's nothing dangerous right?" Kaden raised his eyebrow.

"Not really." [Alice] shrugged as her fourth Sigil manifested on her chest along with the third Sigil on her back.

Creating a small blade, she coated it with her Void powers before snapping her finger. A rift leading into the Void could be seen as she sent the blade into the portal.

Snapping her fingers once more, a portal opened opposite her, pointing towards the ground.

***BANG!!!!**

In the blind of an eye, the sword was embedded deep into the ground and only the guard and handle could be seen.

"Hou~ That's pretty interesting." [Alice] grinned while Kaden blinked his eyes for a moment before realising what she had done.

Using the idea of what he spoke about earlier, she had enveloped the sword in a protective barrier before swinging it into the Void. Once it gathered enough speed and power, she flung it out using the second opening resulting in a much faster attack than what she was capable of achieving!

A menacing grin appeared on [Alice's] face as with this, she had proven that it was possible for her to replicate it to some degree. Sending people between realms was still impossible for her but using the Void to throw attacks at people? Achievable.

"Say Kaden, do you think the structure of a Void Flux can withstand a journey into the Void and out again?" She asked with a grin as Kaden felt a chill down his back.

If she could apply this method to all of her attacks then that meant Void Flux – Cleave, an already strong attack would gain this benefit.

Of course, [Alice] had another, bigger idea which she kept silent about since the scale of which was something even she didn't know if she could pull off.

Power of the Void + Zone Stance + Void Flux – Cleaves.

If she was to employ all three of these together, she could create a zone of attacks that are continuously thrown into the Void and out again. A blender of attacks as long as she could keep track of the portals she creates and the attacks she sends into the Void.

Just thinking about this destruction and power caused [Alice] to squirm in excitement, wanting to put all of her ideas to the test.

Chapter 304 - 304: Caera

While [Alice] was testing out applications for this new power, Kaden was trying to digest the fact that Alice now had an understanding and replicated the powers of several Apostles or Lord level beings.

All in the tiny form of a four Sigil girl.

As for Allura, she noticed the look on Kaden's face and simply grinned while patting his shoulder.

With this, he had joined her in having her skills replicated.

Just as Kaden turned around, he heard a series of loud explosions behind him.

"???"

Glancing back, he watched as [Alice] began storing several attacks in the Void, ready to unleash at a moment's notice.

And with a single snap of her fingers, several portals opened up with a cascade of cleaves raining down from above.

"Hmm... This one takes a bit too much energy to use. Inefficient with no guarantee. Probably better stick with one attack than multiple." [Alice] muttered to herself.

After all, keeping the attacks in the Void took power from her, not only to stop it from dissipating but also to keep it in place so that she could summon it.

'Looks like you're having fun.' Alice chuckled seeing her twin being enamoured by the potential of their fourth Sigil.

'Somewhat. If these experiments prove to be successful, I could probably look through the beasts I have access to, replace some of the other Sigils temporarily and make an easy teleporting function similar to Kaden without the blessing.' [Alice] replied.

'Ah speaking of that, what exactly are the restrictions around swapping Sigils? How long does it take to disappear, what can I choose and can't choose?' She wanted to know the limits of this ability of theirs so she could plan accordingly.

'I'm not entirely sure but so far, as long as I can pinpoint the source of the blood that we've drank, I'll be able to overlay the abilities over your Sigils. Disguising them as a new Sigil momentarily. This usually

lasts a few hours before I can disguise it again but during that time, you won't be able to use the original powers.

'I don't know if you can choose the target though.' [Alice] shook her head since it was something instinctual for her.

For Alice, she wasn't sure how it'd work.

'Hmm... In that case, I'll be relying on you to pick the right ones when the time comes.' Alice grinned as [Alice] nodded her head.

Continuing the experiments for a little longer, she put a pause on it since the main goal was to meet the person Kaden mentioned. The one who knew most about the gateways.

Caera.

Caera lived with the research department of Ayr, a group of people focused on the study of equipment to make life in Abyss better. Their biggest breakthrough being the gates that allow easy travel between the layers.

As for their other achievements, they were negligible in comparison to the gates.

Located in central Ayr, not far from the Department of Patrols that Kaden and Allura work with, Alice had expected something far grander than what they saw.

In comparison to the buildings around them, the building belonging to the Department of Research could be considered to be run down. Each part of the building had signs of recent repair with some still damaged.

"Their... Experiments can get out of hand sometimes. That's why it's stationed near the patrol department so me and Lua can help them out quickly when needed." Kaden explained with a forced smile.

[Alice] had the same reaction as everyone who's seen the Department of Research, thinking it was a grand laboratory or something of that kind.

Instead, the reality was that they were residing in this run-down building.

"Caera, are you in?" Kaden called out, knocking on the door.

Hearing this, [Alice] glanced over in confusion.

"This is a department right?" [Alice] asked with a slight frown. If it was a department full of multiple people, wouldn't it be better to just knock rather than call out a specific person?

"Yes it is." Kaden nodded as a window was pushed open from above.

"Ah! Kaden! Are you here to increase the budget? Or are you here to fix up the damages again?" A girl's head popped out from the window as [Alice] glanced up.

She had light blue hair that faded into a pink, a pair of crimson eyes with strange circles near the pupil and wore a pair of glasses with a messy and burnt lab coat.

"Not quite. I brought a guest over this time since she's curious about how the gates work." Kaden shook his head as Caera sighed.

"Ehhh fine. Whatever, just bring them up then. Careful about the door, last one had blown it off the hinges and now rather than an open and close door, it's a remove and put it back kinda door."

Nodding his head, Kaden grabbed the door and removed it from the frame.

His smile twitched since every time he visited this place, it seemed to become more and more run down despite the increase in funds for repair costs.

Ignoring the countless strange contraptions strewn out around the building, the group made their way up the stairs and saw Caera with 3 others who were working on different tasks.

"So what do you want to know?" Caera asked while crossing her legs. Despite her posture and disposition, it was hard to take her seriously when the sofa was missing one of its legs and some machinery was used to keep it balanced.

Ignoring this, [Alice] sat opposite Caera with a serious expression.

"How does the gateways work? How do you control these gateways and how do the layers of the Abyss work? In order for you to make the gateways function between the layers, there must be a way for you to navigate the Abyss without the use of the Void." [Alice] asked as Caera was surprised that she went straight into it.

But she preferred this approach since it leaves out the pleasantries.

"Well... It's kind of like drilling a hole in your house and putting a pole there. And then wham! You punch a hole through. All that's left is to jump and then bam, seal the hole. But ya gotta make sure you leave a door behind so you can zip between the layers." Caera began to explain while [Alice] blanked out.

"The what?" [Alice] asked. But no matter how Caera tried to explain to [Alice] it was as though they were speaking two different languages.

Kaden revealed an awkward smile as was another issue regarding the research department. Caera is a genius no doubt. She had countless ideas that could manifest into groundbreaking technology.

But hardly anyone could understand her when she gets excited which hindered the development process.

Crossing her arms in frustration, Caera sighed after seeing [Alice] still clueless after several explanations.

There was no one that could really translate for her either since she was the only one that really understood how the gateways worked fundamentally.

Of course, [Alice] didn't give up, trying to bridge the gap between their understanding yet it was no use.

During this entire time, Alice was silent.

'Twinnie can you let me take control for a moment? I want to check something with her.' Alice asked as [Alice] raised an eyebrow before nodding her head.

Closing her eyes, the chains began to disappear as the aura around Alice changed.

Realising that she must've swapped controls with the original Alice, Kaden observed without saying anything, curious as to what role the chains played between the two Alices.

"Caera, your gateways, do they work with reflections?" Alice asked while Caera thought about it for a moment before shrugging.

"What do you mean?"

"When you say door, is it something similar to a mirror? In order to travel across the different layers smoothly without issue, you reflect your presence to the right layer. Once that happens, the 'pole' you talk about is the pathway that's established.

"The step of punching a hole through is breaching this pathway that the mirror established. Jumping through is the reflection, sealing the hole is returning the reflection back to normal but now you're on the other side right?" Alice explained while Kaden was surprised that Alice understood any of what Caera had said.

Hearing this, a sparkle could be seen in Caera's eyes as she nodded her head.

"Ohhh!! I think it's similar to what I said, are you able to show me?" Caera asked, wanting Alice to demonstrate this interpretation of hers. If she was correct, then this marked the first time anyone had understood her!

Using blood to help her demonstrate, Alice created a 'mirror' using this blood before overlapping it with the power of the void.

Creating a dagger in front of this 'mirror' a reflection of the dagger could be observed as Alice then activated her fourth Sigil. The dagger flickered for a moment before turning into a puddle of blood.

Within the reflection, her dagger hovered without issue.

"YES!!!" Caera shouted out as she jumped from the sofa.

"That's exactly it! On my goddess, I love you! Please come to the research department immediately!" Caera grabbed Alice's hands with a wide smile on her face.

"Huh?!?!!" Recoiling in shock, Alice wasn't prepared for Caera's enthusiasm while Kaden was surprised that Alice had understood what had occurred.

"How did you do that? And where is the dagger now?" Kaden asked curiously while looking at the mirror.

"What Caera did was similar to how you do your teleports. Only modified to suit this method instead. The constraint of this teleport is strictly based on what can be or can't be reflected to establish a portal. On a larger scale, I imagine it depends on how large the contraption is.

The real swaps places with the imaginary and it's far easier to establish a target since the reflection marks down the node." Alice explained while Caera nodded her head.

"Exactly! It utilises the Void to push through even though it doesn't strictly travel through the void! You have to wham bam, kablam then you'll be on the other side!" Caera laughed while Alice could only laugh awkwardly.

She managed to piece together what Caera was trying to say earlier but it wasn't easy. And now that she was fully excited, it was even harder to understand.

However, from the pieces that she managed to piece together, Alice was in awe of Caera's ideas. She didn't even think it was possible to extract and localise the properties of the Void for a far safer method of transportation compared to even Kaden.

"So Alice!" Caera smiled while holding Alice's hands.

"Will you be mine?"

Chapter 305 - 305: [Alice's] Heart

"Will you be mine?"

Caera's question caused Alice to blank out for a moment while Kaden choked on his saliva and so did Allura.

"What now???" Alice asked, wondering if she heard her wrong.

"Will you be mine? Live with me, work with me and so on. You're the first person who ever understood what I was trying to say." Caera clarified with excitement. She could already envision their future together as countless ideas flooded into her mind.

"Erm... This... I'll have to pass." Alice forced a smile. She wasn't going to be here for long in the first place as this was just a memory.

She couldn't exactly help her out in the long run.

'Stupid. She meant marriage. I'm pretty sure she wants you to marry her so that you can help her daily.'
[Alice] smirked as Alice choked at the realisation.

Before Caera could continue, one of her assistants grabbed her from behind and pulled her away from Alice.

"I'm sorry about this, Sir. She's not usually this like." The assistant apologised towards Kaden.

"It's. . . Fine." Kaden shook his head while Caera was trying to break out of the grip to reach Alice.

"I think we're done here for now though. Unless there's something else you wanted to ask?" Kaden asked, turning to Alice who had a blush on her face after [Alice] explained what Caera was talking about.

"Huh!? Ah no, that's everything." Alice coughed while waving her hand.

Seeing the embarrassment on Alice's face, Kaden couldn't help but wonder what's going on. Reality of the situation was that [Alice] was explaining what happens during a marriage. The exercises in the bed and so on. As someone who never focused on this stuff, Alice was taken by surprise.

"Noo!! Don't take her from me! I just found someone who understood me!" Caera called out but she was being restrained.

Quickly escaping the building, Alice felt a shiver down her spine after seeing the enthusiasm behind Caera who was attempting to break out from her assistant's grip.

As they left the building, Alice noticed a strange veil manifesting in the skies of Ayr.

A web of energy weaving with one another to form a protective barrier. Each component, packed to the brim with glyphs and what seemed to be ritualistic components.

"What's going on?" Alice asked curiously.

Glancing back at Kaden and Allura, both had serious expressions on their face.

"Master has put Ayr on lockdown. This is the strongest protective barrier in the city." Allura explained as Kaden flicked his finger and created a portal to the top of the castle.

As the three of them stepped through, they saw Velouria with her hands clasped together while deploying this barrier.

"Ah you're here." Velouria glanced back with a smile.

"I'm just putting some precautions before we move out since the other Gods are ready. Has Nyer contacted you yet?"

Hearing this, both Kaden and Allura glanced at one another before shaking their head.

"The commander hasn't contacted us yet. Should we try to find him?"

"Hmm... Leave it be for now. I'm sure he's sorting something out on his end of things. He'll reach out to us when he's done. He doesn't seem to be in any danger so I'm not worried." Velouria contemplated for a moment before shaking her head.

Cayla was also missing so Velouria could only assume the two were together right now.

'Are they exploring the Void?' She wondered to herself. Knowing Cayla, Velouria was sure that she wouldn't stay away for this long unless something unexpected happened.

Nyer always had her best interest at heart so she wasn't concerned about him either.

"Kaden, Lua, I want you two to establish a defensive line around Ayr just in case the other Gods try to pull something while we're dealing with the Will. You two won't be staying behind though so make sure the defences are satisfactory." Velouria ordered while adjusting the barrier around Ayr.

Heeding her command, the two left the castle while Alice wondered what she should do in the meantime.

"Alice, do you recall why the Gods are dealing with the Will?" Velouria asked with a smile.

"Because it's expanding right? And that it's stronger than all of them so they're on guard against it."
Alice replied without pause.

"Yes, they're on guard against the Will because of its rapid expansion and power. The Gods seek safety in their own domains, but the expansion of the Abyss makes this impossible. Knowing them and the fear they hold towards the Divinity granted by the Will, they will no doubt go after me and Ayr once they achieve their original goal.

"However, I can confidently say that things won't happen like it did in history. Do you want to know why?" Velouria chuckled.

"It's because of me, right?"

"The Will has chosen this memory for a good reason. It's even gone as far as to replicate the sentience, power and thought process of everyone involved to near perfection. Even now, it's watching our every move. As beings connected to the Abyss, the Will has countless ways to observe us.

"You hold a great importance to the Will but not irreplaceable. So you need to be wary. When the fight breaks out, there's only one thing I want you to do. And that is to stay safe while reaping as many rewards as you can. Avoid the fights between the Lord level beings and Apostles." Velouria warned as Alice furrowed her brows.

"I know it doesn't feel good but it's too dangerous for now. Right now, my guess is that the Will only has one goal for you and that's to shape you into a worthy vessel for it to gain a perfected Divinity. There are three main 'objects' given to the successor.

"The Crown, The Eyes and The Heart. You've gotten two out of the three. The Will has fixed the crown while the Eyes still slumber. I can no longer feel the connection to the heart but I can sense its existence. And with each passing moment, it continues to grow stronger." Velouria narrowed her eyes.

"The Heart is the most beneficial 'object' the Will can grant to you. But at the same time, it's the most dangerous. The Heart allows you to control the flow of power into your body. It lets you consume pieces of others and store it before utilising it at will. The Crown grants you status, the Eyes grant you Knowledge and the Heart grants you power."

Upon hearing this, Alice froze up and so did [Alice]. Both of them glanced at one another in the mental realm before Alice handed over the controls.

Sensing that something was wrong, Velouria glanced back and saw her chains manifesting across Alice's body.

Wondering if it was her failsafe having issues, she was about to say something when [Alice] opened her eyes.

"This Heart. Is it similar to what I can do right now?" She asked, replacing Alice's first Sigil with the power of Tiamat. Watching the foreign Sigil manifest itself across Alice's body, disguising her contract and replacing the details, Velouria was silent.

A wave of confusion assaulted her mind as for the first time, she was completely stumped. She had no clues nor guesses. Simply observing the change within Alice's body was enough to surprise her.

"What... No... How? That's impossible..." Velouria muttered in shock.

Stumbling back by a few steps, she furrowed her brows while trying to think of an answer.

"Is something wrong?" [Alice] asked, worried by Velouria's reaction.

Turning back to [Alice] Velouria took a deep breath before sighing.

"Just a little. But considering that you're not Alice, I must ask you one question." Velouria revealed a fatigued smile, surprising [Alice] since she hadn't told Velouria yet.

But it wasn't surprising for her to know considering these chains belong to her.

"I'll... Answer as best as I can."

Hesitating for a moment, Velouria bit her lip before opening her mouth.

"When you overlay the powers of those you've taken from, what does it feel like? What kind of connection do you make? Do you establish a connection between you and the Abyss?" Velouria asked.

Thinking about it for a moment, [Alice] shook her head.

Every time she's established a connection to manifest a Sigil, it had always been with a beast she's consumed before. A mass of beasts attached to her, Alice's Spiritual Heart. There was no connection made to the Abyss that Velouria is speaking of.

Explaining the rough process to her, [Alice] watched as Velouria sighed in relief.

"Things are still bad but they're better than what I had expected. We can still salvage this."

"What can you still salvage?" [Alice] frowned, confused by Velouria's cryptic words while Alice was the same.

"Listen to me. You share similar properties to the Heart of the Abyss yet at the same time completely different. I don't know how you came across this power but that's no longer important. What's important is the fact that the three core objects are now within Alice's body. When Alice first arrived and I met her, there was a small yet faint connection to the Heart.

"That hasn't changed meaning the Will hasn't succeeded yet. However, the fact that you're able to display a similar power means the Will may not need the real heart in the end. I'm glad that you don't feel the connection to the Abyss since that means you're not a replacement for the real heart either.

"The only conclusion I can come up with right now is that there are now two Hearts of the Abyss. One is incomplete and disconnected from the Abyss, you, while the other is missing yet barely connected to Alice. Which then begs my biggest question and worry." Velouria frowned while massaging her eyes.

"Who made the second Heart?"

Chapter 306 - 306: Faux Heart

"Who made the second heart?" Velouria asked while scratching her hair.

"I'm guessing that's a huge issue right?" [Alice] furrowed her brows as her hands clutched her chest.

"It goes beyond being a huge issue but yes, you're right. Having two Hearts of the Abyss means that there could be potentially two Goddesses of the Abyss. Perhaps, there might already be one. The Crown was broken and Cayla was split in half.

"And if you have another heart then the real heart is out there somewhere along with the other fragments of the Crown and the other half of Cayla. Given the situation, it's very likely that just like how the Will is placing the burden of expansion on me, the burden of authority may be redirected to you if someone else collects all three." Velouria explained with a frown.

She had always thought that Alice was the only successor, even if the Eye and the Crown were damaged. But upon discovering the faux-Heart, she knew that this was done intentionally.

Either Kaden and Allura couldn't recover the complete Eye and Crown due to the final battle, or someone deliberately took shards before making the second Heart.

'But why would the Will be so happy with Alice then? If there are two successors, why Alice?' Velouria thought to herself. Perhaps it was because Alice had great adaptability? Even if the Heart grants the power of storing abilities from the Abyss, using it and remaining unchanged was something else.

Her own Divinity allowed her to remain unchanged in the face of the full power of the Abyss. But Alice? She lacked this divinity.

'Then... Is it because of [Alice]? The other self of Alice acts as her Spiritual Heart. She acts as an anchor for Alice, stopping the Abyss Blood from reshaping her outline and preventing the Will from bending her to its desires.

'Then the faux-Heart doesn't only act as the core of the three key objects but also a protective net for Alice who doesn't have my blessing.'

But even with this realisation, Velouria understood that she lacked the information to make an accurate guess at the truth of the matter. The only thing she could do was help Alice along this path of hers and ensure that she was as safe as possible.

"A slight change of plans. When the fight breaks out, try and take as many 'souls' as you can. Since your access to powers is limited by what you've consumed rather than the Abyss, you'll need to work on expanding your 'collection' of abilities.

"Another thing, when you entered this memory, what was it like? Don't leave anything out, even the smallest detail might be able to give me a clue on what's happening." Velouria asked as [Alice] handed control back to Alice.

"Hmm... When I came into the Inverted World, I heard a heartbeat. Originally, I was meant to be transported to a different area, a place where it was being monitored by the Academy. But after hearing this heartbeat next to my ear, I was sent to this place instead." Alice recalled as Velouria crossed her arms.

Despite having a faux Heart, Alice still heard the true heartbeat of the Abyss?

'Could it be that her heart isn't complete? Is the Will trying to push the true Heart to the next level using Alice's faux Heart? If she was to gain the real Heart as well, Alice would become a perfected vessel. A being capable of withstanding the powers of all three objects despite not being a God, giving her more room to grow.

'Perhaps the Will could even plant more Abyssal Objects in her body outside of just the Crown, Eyes and Heart.' Velouria thought with a frown.

When the Abyss made her a Goddess, these three became the core objects of her being. They were also the only three that she could wield to their full potential.

But if Alice's faux Heart allows her to withstand all of this without needing to establish a Divinity then all the Will needed to do was to let her find more objects of the Abyss on her own. To let Alice shape herself into a perfect vessel without interference.

Smiling bitterly, Velouria understood why the Will was in such a good mood now. This memory, it was to see what kind of vessel Alice could become in comparison to the original. By constructing everything to perfection and even allowing these memory fragments to think and act on their own, the Will has given Alice an environment where she could grow however she pleased.

This world of memory is an archive of information and treasure for her, a place to learn, grow and adapt. To see the truth of the matter and for her to gain an improved understanding of the objects granted by the Abyss by the only one who was able to use them at their full potential.

'No wonder it didn't care if we go off script. No matter what happens, Alice will reap rewards beyond what is possible in her time and perhaps even more if the Will allows us to do whatever we want. The end result will not change. I will die, Ayr will fall. Kaden and Lua will be heartbroken, Nyer will hate the other Gods and so will Alice.

'This predestined end will not change, though the path taken may shift, we cannot avoid what's already been confirmed in the past.' Velouria sighed softly.

Then there's only one choice for her.

"Alice, when the time comes, will you listen to one request of mine?" Velouria smiled.

"What request?" Alice tilted her head in confusion.

"It'll be no fun if I told you now. But you know what else is fun? The other version of you. Are you both called Alice?" Velouria asked while Alice nodded her head before explaining the reasoning behind it.

"I see... You are the same yet also very different. Wouldn't it be better to reflect that in your name? Alice and Alyss that's spelt A L Y S S. Sounds the same yet different, doesn't that suit you perfectly?" Velouria suggested as Alyss's eyes glimmered in surprise and satisfaction.

'She's not wrong, I do like this. This way I'm still 'Alice' but different.' Alyss crossed her arms with a grin. She was fine with just being called [Alice] but this? This was just as if not better.

"She says she likes it." Alice chuckled.

"That's good to hear. Now, can you swap places with her for a moment, I got something to ask her."

Nodding her head, Alice swapped controls with Alyss as the chains manifested once more.

"I assume you have a different taste in outfits compared to Alice right?" Velouria narrowed her eyes while Alyss felt a chill run down her spine.

Before she could even give back control to Alice, the golden chains tightened around her limbs.

"You can't run. Let's get you something that suits you." Velouria grinned.

###

While making Alyss's outfit, Velouria was asking them questions such as what kind of style she liked along with any functions she desired.

Since they didn't have much time, Velouria went all out from the beginning, only making one outfit for them.

For Alyss, she preferred to have a pair of short shorts, a pair of boots, a crop top and a long-sleeved long jacket. But unlike Alice who preferred the baggy sleeves, Alyss liked the standard sleeves.

The jacket reached all the way down to thighs as Alyss gave herself a twirl in the mirror and smiled in satisfaction. She thought that Velouria would've taken much longer to create this but it was over in the blink of an eye.

If it was always like this, she wouldn't mind a few more of these sessions.

Naturally, she didn't say it out loud since that'll just be inviting trouble.

"What do you think?" Velouria crossed her arms with a satisfied smile.

"I love it." Alyss nodded with a wide smile. Like before, there was the crest of Ayr but this time it was on the shoulder of the jacket.

'Isn't it too revealing for the legs?' Alice asked, seeing how much Alyss was revealing with the short shorts that barely covered her butt and the shoes, leaving her legs entirely exposed. And when paired with the crop top and lightness of the material, it was even more embarrassing than before.

'It's going to be covered in blood anyway. So what if we reveal them a bit? And plus, if anyone does get distracted looking at them isn't it perfect for us anyways? Use the chance to gauge their eyes out or cut their throat.' Alyss grinned menacingly.

Forcefully swapping controls with Alice, Alyss laughed seeing her twin squirm from the lack of fabric and exposed legs.

Biting her lips from the embarrassment, Alice activated her fourth Sigil and snapped her finger.

A swirl of blood gathered towards her, covering her body before disappearing.

Once the blood faded away, the new outfit prepared for Alyss was nowhere to be seen and instead was replaced by Alice's original outfit. Meanwhile, the new outfit was now placed on the side where her old outfit was originally.

'Did you just use your newly discovered teleport skill on swapping clothes?' Alyss's smile twitched as this felt like such a waste of potential.

Wrestling back the control, Alyss refused to get beaten and attempted to do the same.

However, she didn't quite understand the theory behind the teleport like Alice did and nothing happened.

Seeing that Alyss was bad at using the teleport, Alice had a smug grin on her face.

'What's wrong? Struggling with the teleport?' Alice taunted while Alyss could only gnash her teeth in annoyance as she repeatedly tried to replicate Alice's teleport to no avail.

Watching from the side, Velouria had a smile on her face seeing Alyss trying to replicate Alice's trick. Both of them had their strong points and weak points. While Alyss may be the faux Heart, Alice treated her as a person rather than a source of power.

Velouria wished she could talk to the Will like this but knowing what they're like, this was impossible. They will forever be enemies.

With Alyss's outfit now sorted, Velouria finished off the step of the barrier and now it was time to meet the other gods.

Chapter 307 - 307: Armies Of The Gods

The meeting area was right on the cusp of expansion. Where the Abyss was weakest and just below the realm of the Surface.

A domain of fractured void, expanding with ease pulse as though it was a pair of lungs, breathing life into the Abyss. Mirrored reflections of the surface world forming a kaleidoscope of scenes in the sky above them.

Through the gaps, a sea of stars, colours and weaves of colour belonging to the void. Towers of energy reached towards the sky, attempting to fix these tears but the Abyss's expansion outpaced the repairs.

Beneath this radiant sky, an army of Hunters, each with a minimum of six Sigils while the Lord level beings stood beside the Apostles.

Just seeing the seriousness in their expressions was enough to cause Alice to swallow her saliva nervously.

'Once a fight breaks out, even if we take the blood of a Lord you need to be careful. We can't replicate their Resonances since it's a manifestation of their contract and powers. The most I can do is to give you their Sigils.' Alyss warned as she knew that Alice planned on fighting Lords if the situation called for it.

However, they have the benefit of two resonances while Alice only had one. Even with the increase in Sigils, she'll need a way to defeat their second Resonance.

'I know. The plan right now is to get as many useful beast bloods as I can. Since we're going against the Will, it's safe to say that it'll summon an army of beasts. We can't interfere between the battle of Gods and Apostles.' Alice agreed.

Even on her best day, she wouldn't imagine herself fighting in this kind of battle.

'Good. However, there's another issue isn't there.' Alyss narrowed her eyes as the two of them glanced towards Nyer who was now standing beside Velouria.

###

After making the outfit for Alyss, Velouria called Kaden and Allura back from their jobs of setting up the defences. They gathered all of the six Sigil bearers from Ayr along with any Abyss Lord level beings.

On Ayr's side, they had 4 Lords aside from Kaden and Allura.

Abyss Lord of Inferno, Illusion, Puppetry and Curses.

Once everyone was gathered, Velouria was still worried about Nyer and Cayla when a portal opened up thanks to the item that Kaden gave to Nyer.

Seeing the two step through the portal, Alice immediately froze up as a deep rooted fear was now stronger than ever.

It was to the point where her entire body was shivering uncontrollably.

"You're back, are you okay? Did something happen?" Velouria asked curiously, feeling glad that the two were back safely.

"We're okay your Majesty. I'm sorry for taking away Cayla without permission. There was a slight issue we needed to resolve and I needed her help. However, the issue has been dealt with and I'm back in time." Nyer reported while kneeling in front of Velouria.

"I'm just glad you're safe. Same with you Cayla." Velouria nodded with a smile.

Hearing this, Cayla bowed before unravelling into energy that entered Velouria's body, giving her back full control over the Eyes of the Abyss.

As he stood up, Nyer glanced over to Alice before giving her a smile and looked away towards the army.

That one look was enough to send Alice into a fight or flight response as she had to hold herself back from doing anything.

###

'He's bad news. Every part of my being is telling us to avoid him as much as possible.' Alyss crossed her arms.

'Something must've changed in the time he was gone and it was not good.'

Regardless, he was on the side of Ayr so they couldn't say anything about it. When the fight begins, Alice and Alyss just need to avoid him as much as possible.

'Alright, I'll be careful. But he was fine before, what happened?' Alice furrowed her brows. The kindness that Nyer showed her wasn't one that was faked. He was indeed trying his best for her in their short training session.

'Not sure. But we can't assume everyone is like Kaden and Allura so maybe he has some grievances with us that we don't know about.' Alyss shook her head.

Agreeing with Alyss, Alice glanced over to the other Gods.

They've all taken different forms now that their followers are with them.

For Solaris, his form grew many times larger than normal. He sat on a golden throne while holding his spear. Behind him, a halo of gold radiance shone brightly as his radiant golden eyes swept across the battlefield.

Lumiria sat upon a crescent moon above the battlefield. A graceful figure draped in silken cloth and silver accessories. Like a lone moon on a midnight sky, she sat aloof above the masses, eyes closed.

Enris became a figure of terror. A shrouded armoured being with countless weapons piercing out from her back. A dark hood obscured her face while a malevolent red aura wrapped around her. Anyone whose gaze lingered upon the God of Eclipse's body for too long felt as though they would be killed at a moment's notice.

With these three Gods standing by their armies, Velouria felt pale in comparison but no one dared to belittle her in any of the armies.

After all, she was the Goddess of the Abyss. One snap of her finger could turn the Abyss Blood within your body against you or so the rumours go.

The army only knew one thing and that being this was a crusade against the Will of the Abyss. A being who desired power of the surface so much that even the Goddess of the Abyss arrived to deal with them.

Within the silence of the battlefield, tension grew. No one knew when it was about to begin and all they could do was look towards their Gods for guidance.

Creating a portal for herself, Velouria appeared before the three as they did the same.

"Seems like everyone has gathered. No one has been left behind." Velouria smiled while Solaris simply kept his arms crossed.

"Are you sure you're okay? I believe that staying away from the castle too long is bad for you is it not?" Lumiria asked with concern. Even if they were enemies at the end of the day, Lumiria still preferred to be a neutral party if she could help it.

"It's a little taxing but I've already made my preparations. It would be unbecoming of me if I was to miss this fight now wouldn't it?" Velouria dismissed with a wave of her hand.

To them, she was here to help them deal with the Will so that she could be free from its shackles.

Little did they know, things were already set in stone and her successor was here to witness the end of Ayr.

Whatever happens today will act as a foundation for Alice's understanding and actions as the next Goddess of the Abyss.

"Let me know if you ever need covering." Enris grinned.

Naturally, this was just an act for the others without them knowing that they'd already come to an agreement. Right now, it simply sounded like Enris was going to backstab Velouria the moment she showed any weakness.

"Don't worry, even if I do feel weak I don't need you to cover for me. I got others that are more capable of doing that." Velouria narrowed her eyes with hostility.

'Yikes Veli~ I know we're acting but do you have to be that harsh?' Enris thought to herself but made sure not to show it on the outside.

She simply raised her hand in surrender.

"So how do we find the Will? I hope you didn't call everyone here without a proper method." Velouria asked as Solaris stepped forward.

"I have it covered. I'm not someone who'll waste time calling everyone here." He scoffed.

Clearing his throat, he turned towards his army.

"Casters step forth! Prepare the formation!" He shouted out as his army began to move all at once.

From the centre, a group of casters began to activate their Sigils one after another while overlaying a ritual to their cast.

Around them, the others stood as guards, protecting them from outside interference.

*CRACK!!!

Above them, the sky began to fracture. It was a different wound compared to the wound caused by expansion.

It did not lead to the Void but rather somewhere far sinister, twisted even.

"Would you please? They need your help if they want to track down the Will properly." Solaris gestured to Velouria as she nodded her head.

Taking a step forward, she activated her divinity as a purple and black aura erupted around her. Her eyes transformed while the Crown manifested above her head.

Snapping her finger, a pillar of darkness burst forth in the middle of the formation. Using her power as a reference point, several strands of golden energy shot into the tear in search of a similar source of power. The Will of the Abyss.

Not long after the golden energy shot into the tear, the entire world began to tremble.

The ground cracked from the rumbling as strange ink like fluid began to splash through the cracks.

"Avoid it! It's the Waters of the Abyss! One touch and you'll be corrupted!" Velouria shouted out as each army began to deploy their own countermeasures from sealing the cracks to fighting it back using a myriad of abilities.

Above them, the tear grew larger as slender fingers grabbed the edge of the tear before ripping it apart in one go!

Countless tendrils, soaked in the same black fluid, crawled out of the tear as a sea of eyes snapped open, glaring at the army below.

The sounds of mountains falling served as a choir of the end as beasts began to spill out from the rupture.

Yet despite the size, Alice could see that it wasn't the will itself but rather a proxy.

Now that she had gained her fourth Sigil, she was able to see how many stars a beast had. And for this beast?

Nine.

[Reaper of the Abyss - ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆]

Chapter 308 - 308: Start Of The Battle

'Nine stars...' Alice thought with a forced smile.

Even though she'd only just begun to see the stars belonging to Abyss Lords, this was the highest that she'd seen to date.

Even Kaden and Allura were only on 7 Sigils right now while Nyer had 8.

But this beast was at 9 stars!

'I kinda want to drink its blood. But I'm pretty sure if it looks over at us, we'll die.' Alyss frowned.

Even for her, this was getting a little out of hand.

'No kidding. We need to get some of the stragglers first or else I won't be able to keep up.' Alice agreed.

Right now, on this battlefield, she was the weakest with just four Sigils. Even if her power is substantial compared to others, the main issue was still Resonance.

While the first Resonance wasn't much of an issue, the second Resonance drags the target into their personal realm. If a beast similar to Tiamat targets her then it'll be difficult for Alice to survive unless she finds a chance to drink their blood.

'We can swap Sigils one and three. Switching out two would give up too much of our power. Four lets you shred defence so unless we go for something similar, we'll always be keeping these two.'

'Not only that, but you won't be able to fight as efficiently with new Sigils as you would with something you're familiar with.' Alyss explained. She wanted to give Alice as much information as she could before the fight. That way, she wouldn't make mistakes that would put her in danger.

'What if I drink blood to raise me to 6 Sigils or possibly into the Abyss Lord levels. Would you be able to swap the Sigils to something else?' Alice asked curiously. If she could curate the Sigils she could access after drinking blood, it would prove to be extremely useful.

'Hmm... I'm not sure since we've never tried it. I can give it a try when the time comes.'

Observing the battlefield, Alice could roughly split it into four zones around the tear in space where the Reaper was residing.

The centre where the beasts were crawling out from.

Inner Ring filled with a constantly growing army of beasts, many of the Abyss Lords brought forth by the Will were stationed there.

The Outer Ring where the 'fodder' stood. Despite their status as fodder, everything that Alice could see there had a minimum of five stars. Not only that, but their numbers far surpass their army of the four Gods.

After the Outer Ring was the flood of Abyss Waters that impeded their advance but did not affect the Abyss Beasts.

With this kind of set up, it was hard to attack the Abyss Beasts without getting caught by the Waters.

Right now, all they could do was to simply defend against the attack while casters held back the Waters.

'The Abyss Lords aren't moving just yet, seems like they're feeling out the situation and see what the Will has in store.' Alyss frowned while observing this situation.

On their side, they had 13 Abyss Lords in total. Four belong to Ayr, three for each of the Religions.

To Alice's surprise, there was someone else who held the title of Death and it belonged to the Eclipse of all religions!

Gin, the current holder of Death hated the Eclipse yet in the past, Death belonged to the Eclipse.

As for how Alice found out, after the upgrade of Cayla thanks to her obtaining her fourth Sigil, she could see more information about the 'contracts' imprinted onto each Hunter and Beast. Meaning she can see how many Sigils, Stars and even the Abyss Lord titles granted to them by the Abyss.

'How do you want to jump into this?' Alyss asked curiously as running head first into everything would be insanity.

If she gets hit by the Abyss Waters, her special property would be discovered by the other Gods.

'Simple, we go ranged.' Alice smiled as she glanced towards Kaden and Allura.

Seeing that Alice was eager to begin, they nodded with a smile and gave her a thumbs up.

Getting permission to start attacking, Alice looked for some high ground before turning Void Fang into a bow.

'Sending it straight to the heart of the inner ring?' Alyss asked curiously as Alice nodded her head.

'If I don't, I risk dragging our allies into the range. What I want to do right now is to let your fire run rampant within their backlines. It'll act as a good disruption while casters on our side fire their attacks.' Alice grinned.

Taking a deep breath, she snapped her finger and manifested a metal arrow in her hand.

'Plus, this gives me a chance to test out something else.'

*BANG!!!

The ground cracked around Alice as she pulled the arrow back, a purple aura bursting forth from her body surprising the people around her.

Violet flames burst out from her body, wrapping around her arrow as the air around her began to warp.

Alice was silent. Her mind fully focused on her attack as flickers of sparks danced around her. The cloth of her outfit fluttered from the eruption of energy as she continued to pull back on the arrow.

Veins could be seen on the back of her hands from the strength required to pull this arrow.

Gritting her teeth, Alice stomped down with her foot as she activated her partial Bloodline Release. The illusion of Alyss's beast form manifested behind her as she cracked her jaw open.

A gathering of energy swirled around them, focusing on the tip of the arrow.

'Now!' Alyss shouted as their energy reached its peak.

*BOOM!!!!

Letting go of the arrow, Alice was flung back by the force as she created a wall of metal to catch herself from being blown away.

Watching the arrow of violet rush towards the battlefield, its colour began to shift from a purple to a pure white spark, transforming into a Void Flux!

But throwing a Void Flux into the inner ring was not Alice's goal. Rather, it was the space above it!

Lightning up the sunless skies of the Abyss in a radiant white and purple light, the orb of destruction detonated into a sea of sparks and blood.

Snapping her finger, Alice allowed the blood to spread as each droplet transformed into a mirror like surface and exploded with the energy of a Void Flux – Cleave!

Tearing the space apart, countless gateways into the Void were opened as this was now the curtain call of Alice's attack.

Curling her lips into a menacing grin, a waterfall of violet flames spewed forth from these tears, raining down hellfire upon the Beasts as howls of pain rang out through the battlefield! Hell had descended and Alice was its conductor. Each wave of her hand created a new wave of flames that crashed down upon the Beasts.

These flames only had one goal, consume!

Watching the destruction spread from the centre of her attack, Alice let out a whistle as she felt rather proud of her attack.

'Shall we go collect some blood now?' Alice asked as Alyss agreed. The sooner they can collect blood from the battlefield, the safer they'll become. And now that they were distracted by these flames, this was the best moment to do so.

Transforming Void Fang into a blade, Alice had a grin on her face as she closed her eyes.

Since she was the opening act, it'd be selfish of her not to let Alyss have some fun.

A swirl of blood gathered around her as her outfit began to change. A manifestation of golden chains appeared around her rest, ankles and neck.

"Aw you shouldn't have." Alyss let out a laugh while massaging her neck.

'Go wild twinnie.' Alice gave her a thumbs up.

"Naturally!" Crouching down, Alyss activated partial Bloodline release and shot towards the battlefield like a comet of slaughter.

Creating footholds to help her get there faster, she rushed towards the closest beast that she could see.

It was about to bring down its blade on an unsuspecting soldier who was preoccupied with another beast.

*BANG!!!!

Slashing down with Void Flux – Cleave that was enhanced by her fourth Sigil, Alyss, grinned towards the beast as her slash had cut off its arm!

[Blood Crescent General - ♦♦♦♦♦]

"Just five? That'll do for now!" Manifesting metal around her arm and turning it into a claw, she stabbed the nails into the beast's neck before pulling herself onto its shoulder.

In one swift move, she turned Void Fang into a dagger before slashing down with Void Flux – Cleave once more!

Releasing two slashes against its back, Alyss revealed an ecstatic grin and stabbed the blade between the spine and the skull. Her two slashes flanked either side of the spine meaning...

"I can peel you like a f*cking fruit!"

Dragging her arm down, Alyss pulled the head back along with the spine, away from the body as the beast collapsed on its knees before it could do anything. Lifting the head above her, Alyss opened her mouth and drank the blood as she could feel a manifestation of the fifth Sigil.

But she didn't desire whatever this General could give her as she already had a target in mind.

Tiamat!

Crimson scales manifested on her body as Tiamat's power flooded through her limbs.

Raising her hand, the world seemed to lose its colour as it gathered into a single orb above her palm.

Slamming her hand down, an array of blood exploded forth beneath her while a storm of slashes erupted from this array, attacking any beast within range.

And when paired with her fourth Sigil, it easily slashed through their armour!

Raising her hands as though addressing a crowd, Alyss did a bow while blood and guts poured down around her and licked her lips.

'What a drama queen.' Alice laughed in her mental scape while Alyss slaughtered her way through the army of beasts.

Meanwhile, Enris had an uncontrollable grin beneath her veil that obscured her face.

'Oh I like her. I really like her now.' She thought to herself.

Even though she had an agreement with Velouria, she couldn't help but have second thoughts after seeing Alice run rampant. But even with this thought, she ignored it since Velouria had something better planned and it would be a shame to miss it.

Chapter 309 - 309: Lightning Lord

With Alyss running rampant across the battlefield, disrupting their formation and keeping them distracted with her flames, it wasn't long until the beasts began turning their attention to the split haired girl laughing while killing beasts.

Gathering energy into her palm, she activated Tiamat's power and slammed her fist into the chest of an ogre like beast, imploding it from the inside out as a large hole was created through its chest.

Using this ogre as cover, she snapped her finger and overlayed her Violet Flames over Void Fang.

Void Flux – Cleave!

Releasing a horizontal slash, she cut through the group of beasts running towards her while jumping back to dodge the ranged attacks.

'Seems like you're enjoying yourself.' Alice smiled as she could sense Alyss's jubilation. Her excitement as she danced on the edge of life and death. The rapid heartbeats in her chest while figuring out new ways to use her ability.

'Naturally! How often do I get to go all out like this?' Alyss laughed.

Creating a pair of metal claws, she slammed her hand against the ground as countless blades pierced up, stabbing through the legs and into the bodies of the approaching beasts.

Clenching her fist, each of these blades transformed into a Void Flux that detonated within them as she sensed danger from above and immediately created a swirling storm of blood and fire to protect herself.

*BANG!!!!

A torrent of lightning struck down, clashing violently against this barrier but Alyss's flames managed to hold on and began to consume the lightning in an attempt to protect its master.

Sliding back from the impact, Alyss narrowed her eyes at the armoured beast who stood at the source of this lightning.

Scaled obsidian armour coated every inch of its body. A skull with two large horns and a pair of crimson eyes. Beneath the bones, crimson energy acted as the core of its behind as a large mane of white hair fluttered behind him.

[Lightning Lord - ◆◆◆◆◆◆]

'Six stars... Boundary of becoming an Abyss Lord.' Alyss frowned.

In his hand, he held a lightning blade that constantly crackled with energy.

Even with the fact that she's drank five star blood and gained the power of Tiamat, just looking at the sword gave Alyss chills.

'Are you worried?' Alice asked but Alyss simply grinned.

'Not really. It's just going to be a little difficult to kill this b*stard.'

However, her thought was cut short when the Lightning Lord clasped its hands together. A burst of golden aura erupted from his body as Alyss's pupils shrunk in shock.

'Sh*t! Second Resonance!'

Unable to escape the range, Alyss watched as her body was dragged into the personal realm of the Lightning Lord.

From darkness, countless lightning strikes illuminated the space. A sea of clouds with a web of lightning crackling around them.

And in the centre, a castle floating in the sky hung proudly, absorbing all of the lightning around it.

Lightning Lord Second Resonance – Castle of Striking Lightning.

Gritting her teeth, Alyss tried her best to dodge or block the lightning but each strike would manifest in front of her, rendering her unable to react in time.

*BANG!!!

Each crackle would tear off chunks of her body and even with her regeneration, Alyss found herself at the back foot.

Meanwhile, the Lightning Lord stood in front of its castle, unphased by what was happening and simply stared at her without emotion.

'We can't keep defending like this.' Alice frowned.

This was the first time she's seen her twin struggle this hard. Even against Tiamat's Second Resonance, she was able to react but with the Lightning Lord? All she could do was defend to the best of her abilities.

She wasn't given a single chance to approach nor was she allowed time to gather her strength to attack.

Any opening she revealed would be followed up by several lightning strikes.

"F*ck!" Alyss shouted out in annoyance as she activated her partial Bloodline Release out of anger.

Slamming her hand down, violet flames roared around her in defiance but it couldn't push back the lightning.

Seeing this, the Lightning Lord took a step forward and raised his hands towards Alyss.

Framing Alyss with his hands above and below her, the Lightning Lord narrowed its eyes before clasping his hands together.

*RUMBLE!!!!

The clouds were parted in an instant as Alyss widened her eyes in shock. Blades of lightning crashed down from above and pierced up from below while a cage of lightning prevented her from running.

*BANG!!!!

Feeling the lightning rush through her body, Alyss let out a silent cry as she tried her best to heal her wounds and dissipate the damage by flooding her own body with Violet Flames. But these flames did little to soothe her pain as the feeling of flesh being seared, stripped and regenerated constantly repeated itself.

The barrage of lightning lingered for a moment before fading away and Alyss could barely stand straight while the smell of charred flesh flooded her senses.

With Alyss in danger, Alice didn't hesitate to take matters into her own hands.

'Let me take over for a bit.' Alice frowned while Alyss gritted her teeth.

'I... I can handle this!' She retorted but anyone could see that this was a poor match up for her.

'This isn't the time to be stubborn!'

Biting her lip, Alyss spat in annoyance before handing control back to Alice.

As the chains faded away, Alice glared at the Lightning Lord who seemed shocked by her recovery.

Most beasts and humans would've perished under that strike, yet she stood firm.

Taking a deep breath, Alice glanced down at her own body and gritted her teeth.

Killing intent burst forth from her small body as she activated Resonance without hesitation.

Seeing that Alice still had fight left in her, the Lightning Lord raised his hands and called forth a storm of lightning to crash down on her.

But this wasn't the same opponent as earlier.

Entering her Zone Stance, Alice turned Void Fang into a blade before holding her breath.

Absolute Zone!

Unleashing a wave of cleaves into the sky above her, the slashes erupted into a pool of blood and absorbed the lightning.

Aiming her hand at the Lightning Lord, Alice narrowed her eyes and snapped her finger.

*BANG!!!!

A barrage of lightning crashed down upon the Lightning Lord as he was shocked to find that his own attack was redirected back to him!

How? When? What happened?

Confusion filled his mind and despite the lack of damage, this was the first time he's seen such an ability. Even beasts with the singular focus on mastering the Void couldn't redirect his attacks like this.

This precision and speed, it was unbelievable!

Holding her blade by her waist, Alice stomped down with her foot before slashing the air in front of her, creating a tear in space before jumping in.

Thinking that Alice was trying to escape his Resonance via the Void, he wanted to interfere when he felt a chill behind him.

Turning his head, he saw a pair of murderous eyes as Alice's figure was emerging from a pool of blood behind him!

'When was the pool here?' He thought in shock as he attempted to counter.

Jumping back, he conjured a cascade of lightning bolts towards Alice.

However, motes of blood manifested above her, turning into mirrors that accurately teleported his attack elsewhere.

Void Flux – Cleave!

Unleashing a slash towards the beast's neck, Alice frowned upon seeing him turn into a mass of lightning to run away.

"Where do you think you're going?" Gathering flames towards her finger, she condensed it into a single spark before firing a Void Flux towards the Lightning Lord.

However, she wasn't done.

Once again, using the power of her fourth Sigil, Alice sent the attack into the Void before teleporting it behind the beast!

Imploding into a surge of Violet Flames that latched onto the beast's body, Alice prepared her next strike.

Having enough of this farce, the Lightning Lord let out a roar before enveloping his body in a mass of lightning.

Towering above Alice in the golden radiance of lightning, he created a blade and slashed towards Alice.

*BANG!!!

His attack was halted mid swing as a mass of metal blades erupted from his body.

This entire time, Alice had been filling this realm with her blood mist and finally put the idea that Nyer suggested to the test.

And the instant he created his enlarged form, the Lightning Lord unknowingly gathered the blood mist into the body of lightning which allowed her to manifest the metal within its body.

Yet this was far from over.

From each of the blades, violet flames burst forth with the assistance of Tiamat's power, consuming the power around them as Alice tensed her grip around Void Fang.

Partial Bloodline Release!

Gritting her teeth, she released a horizontal slash towards the beast. It was similar to her Void Flux – Cleave yet different. The power of the void radiated from the slash, tearing the Resonance apart as it travelled towards its target.

*CRACK!!!

Colliding against the beast's chest, the sound of glass shattering could be heard as the attack shredded through its form with ease! With his defences already weakened, it was a simple task for her attack to break through.

A single line of brilliant violet stretched across the sea of lightning and clouds, ripping the Resonance apart as the beast coughed up a mouthful of blood. A single slash could be seen, bisecting him diagonally from the shoulder to his waist.

Lightning squirmed in a futile attempt to heal his wounds but the Violet Flames hindered his regeneration.

Appearing in front of the beast from a blood mirror, Alice unleashed the final attack to snuff out the existence known as the Lightning Lord.

Chapter 310 - 310: Destruction, Metamorphosis And Waters

After Alyss was dragged into the Second Resonance of the Lightning Lord, Allura was worried and wanted to make a move but Kaden held her back.

He had one of his eyes closed and monitored the situation between Alyss and the beast while reassuring her that Alyss didn't need their help.

"We can't interfere with every little thing she gets herself into. Otherwise, she won't grow properly." Kaden smiled while seeing Alice take over and reflect the lightning using what she learned at the Research Department.

"I know. But this is still a beast on the border of becoming an Abyss Lord. Alice should be fighting the other four Sigil beasts rather than something like this." Allura sighed while crossing her arms.

"I can't help but worry about her ya know?"

Patting Allura's head with a laugh, Kaden focused his mind on Alice's fight and watched her cleave apart the barrier holding the Second Resonance together.

Her final attack that decapitated the beast.

With nothing else to see, he opened his eyes and watched a bloody red slash manifest in the sky of the battlefield while Alice clawed her way out of the void, Lightning Lord's head in her hand and threw it towards the beasts.

While a six star beast may have failed to kill her, Alice didn't let this victory get to her head.

She knew that she got lucky this time and if it was a beast with a far more annoying skillset and Resonance, then she may as well forget about getting out alive.

Creating a blood mirror behind her, Alice leaned back into it and teleported next to Allura and Kaden with an exhausted sigh.

"Did you have fun?" Kaden chuckled while Alice could only shrug her shoulder.

"A little stressful, a little lightning storm and vengeance with a side of anger. Think I'm going to rest for a bit since I attracted quite a bit of attention to myself. If they send any Abyss Lords or another six star beast at me I don't think I'll be able to survive." She grumbled while lying down on the floor.

Despite her regeneration, there were still signs of burns across her body that was mending itself.

"You're not wrong about attracting attention. But it also raised morale on our side quite a bit. The others don't want to fall behind in terms of contributions." Kaden gestured to the army of crusaders who have gained a renewed vigour thanks to Alice's actions.

She looked small enough to be one of their daughters back home. As soldiers of God, they couldn't let her do all the work and risk herself.

Right now, the fracture in the space above continuously poured out Abyss Beasts of different variants and qualities while the Reaper continued to observe from above.

None of the Abyss Lords or Apostles wanted to make a move just yet while the Gods were waiting for the Will of the Abyss.

Even for the Apostles, they sensed an air of danger around the Reaper. One wrong move could spell death for them.

Even Griselda and Nanna, the Apostles of Spirituality and Immortality felt a chill from the Reaper. As immortal beings, this was the first time they sensed such levels of danger.

"So we have any information on whatever that thing is over there? Or is that something new?" Alice asked curiously.

"It's something new. We have no information on this being and Master doesn't seem to have new information for us either. My best assumption is that the Will created this beast just for today." Kaden shook his head.

Right now, it was akin to an arms race. The Reaper was their commander while on their side, the Gods commanded the army.

The moment either side sends out an Abyss Lord level being or an Apostle, all hell would break loose and it will cease to be a battlefield belonging to the fodder.

And to put it bluntly, having fodder fight first was simply their way of figuring out what the enemy had planned and their general power.

In a battle between the strongest beings, information was key and the purpose of fodder was to gain information.

"Seems like you weren't slacking on your training in the time I was gone." Nyer's voice rang out as Alice tensed up and forced a smile.

"She managed to get her fourth Sigil that helps her with her fighting style." Kaden nodded with a small laugh.

"Hou? What kind of Sigil is it?" Nyer raised an eyebrow in surprise. He didn't think they would go for a fourth Sigil in the little time they had before this battle broke out.

"A six winged Seraphim of the Void." Allura boasted with a proud smile.

Hearing this, Nyer couldn't help but blink his eyes in surprise as he turned towards Alice who gave him a small wave.

'How did she do it? Could it be... No, she hasn't formed a proper connection to the heart yet. It'll be impossible for her to use its powers.' Nyer thought to himself before dismissing the idea.

"Impressive, to be able to hunt a beast on the boundary of becoming a Lord. It's no wonder you could kill the Lightning Lord without any help from the outside." He praised as Alice simply smiled, not wanting to say anything for now.

'Seems like she's wary of me again. Does she know my plans? Is that why she was on guard the first time we met? No... If that was the case she wouldn't have tried to get close to me.' Nyer narrowed his eyes as several theories came to mind.

But the most likely theory was that Cayla must've influenced her in some capacity! She came from a future where Cayla was already split and damaged. It would not be surprising for the host of Cayla to sense a subconscious disgust or hate towards him.

'No matter. It simply means my original plan succeeded.'

Discussing a few potential dangers from the side of the Abyss, Nyer let them know that thus far, there were 3 targets they needed to be wary of excluding the Reaper.

First, Abyss Lord of Destruction. Much like Allura, the Abyss Lord of Destruction focuses heavily on offensive moves that aim to kill their opponent as fast as possible.

She stood next to the reaper, draped in a purple aura with a black rosary cross behind her. Her body seemingly made from this strange black glass like material that reflected countless stars upon its surface.

Silver energy weaved together to form her hair as the Lord of Destruction passively radiated killing intent that chilled the air around her.

Second, Abyss Lord of Metamorphosis. A Lord who changes his body based on what he has eaten before to match the situation. A dangerous beast who fights with his body and life on the line.

Unlike the Abyss Lord of Destruction, the Lord of Metamorphosis was a mass of writhing hands, constantly piecing his body together and breaking it apart. Once the hands calmed down, he revealed his humanoid form. A man with greying hair and a pair of blood red eyes. A fractured mask hung off the side of his head while he wore a suit.

Between the layers of fabric, the same writhing hands could be seen.

And lastly, Abyss Lord of Waters. One might assume that she has power over water but that was incorrect. Her power was one that resembled summoning beasts and dragging others into her realm, deep below the surface and in the darkness of the sea.

Each move of hers can conjure a beast of the deep to attack her enemies and her powers focus on utilising the corruptive nature of Abyss Waters in tandem with her summons.

The form of the Abyss Lord of Waters was that of a pale blue skinned girl with a row of sharp teeth. A pair of cold blue eyes and hair that matched her skin. She wore a large jacket with extremely large sleeves that draped along the ground, a tattered dress with broken belts that seemed to have restrained her arms before being broken and a pair of sea captain boots.

While there were other Abyss Lords on the side of the Will, these three posed the most danger to the extent that even Nyer felt wary of their presence.

"Since the Abyss Lord of Waters focuses on summons and using the Abyss Water, is it safe to assume that she's a caster?" Kaden asked as if they were a caster, he'll be the best opponent for them.

"Most likely. Lua can fight against the Abyss Lord of Destruction since I'm a poor match against her. My space locking abilities will get shattered if she focuses heavily on offensive power." Nyer smiled bitterly as his opponent will be the Abyss Lord of Metamorphosis.

"So a race to see who kills who first huh? Alright, my kind of fight." Allura grinned while cracking her knuckles but Kaden knocked her on the head.

"Don't go into this fight carelessly. Your authority is Severance which is good against armour but her power is that of raw Destruction. Try not to get hit if you can since we don't know the extent of her power." He warned as Allura pouted for a moment before nodding her head.

They may be strong but these were Abyss Lords that even freaks out the commander. They weren't opponents she could take lightly unless she had a death wish.

While Nyer was explaining the identities of the Abyss Lords, Alice had taken the liberty to see how many stars they had.

[Abyss Lord of Destruction: Shura - ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦]

[Abyss Lord of Metamorphosis: Morpheus - ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦]

[Abyss Lord of Waters: Thalassa - ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦]

Seeing this, Alice's smile twitched.

'Holy f*ck they're all at nine stars.' She couldn't help but cry out in her mind as she began to worry about Allura and Kaden's safety.

After all, both of them were at 7 Sigils each.

However, Allura's next words caused Alice to choke on her saliva from the mere suggestion.

"Do you think I can ask Master to designate that Abyss Lord of Destruction as my eight Sigil?"