

Abyssal A 311

Chapter 311 - 311: A Talk With Nyer

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

Upon hearing her question, everyone around her paused in shock and disbelief.

"You realise that's a nine star beast right? I'm telling you in case you didn't hear Nyer properly." Alice asked with a twitching smile.

She knew that it was ironic coming from her considering her first Sigil belonged to three star, her second belonged to four star who later awakened, her third belonged to another three star and her fourth was the most outrageous. One that belonged to a six star beast.

But killing these beasts was completely different in comparison to fighting the pinnacle of life itself outside of Apostles and Gods.

A nine star beast!

Even with her authority of Severance, Allura was still a seven Sigil Abyss Lord at the end of the day, going above two levels at this stage was practically suicide.

"I know it's a nine star beast. But that's exactly why I want it." Allura grinned.

If her eight Sigil could be the power of the destruction gained from the Abyss Lord of Destruction, it would help her against the other Apostles and solve her main issue of firepower. She was able to ignore armour but her attack was still lacking.

Looking over to Kaden to see if he could talk some sense into her future adoptive mother, Alice only saw him smile with a shrug.

"Since Lua is going out of her way to do this then I'll do the same. I'll ask Master if she can designate the Abyss Lord of Waters as my eight Sigil." Kaden chuckled.

'My parents are f*cking insane.' Alice couldn't help but think to herself seeing both Allura and Kaden wanting to take on a nine star beast as their eighth Sigil.

Naturally, Alyss wanted to retort since Alice was just like them, taking on beasts that should be beyond her level. But it was funnier for her to just keep watching rather than interrupt this play.

"Don't look at me with that expression. Do you even know how worried I was when Kaden gave you a six star beast to hunt of all things?" Allura pinched Alice's nose before gently knocking her on the head.

"Arg!"

Joking around with Alice for a little while, both Allura and Kaden made their way to Velouria to get their bounties set while Alice rested.

Nyer sat down not far from her as she tried her best not to show signs of repulsion.

"So on guard again. Did something happen to change your mind?" Nyer asked with a smile.

"Ah... Sorry. I don't know." Alice replied with an awkward cough.

"It's fine. Shall we talk? I wish to ask you some questions and know of your thoughts. I'll be truthful if you are truthful towards me." Nyer chuckled as Alice was a little confused by his phrasing but nodded her head regardless.

"Do you hold someone dear to your heart? Someone who you will go out of your way to protect no matter what?"

Thinking about this, Alice pictured several faces in her mind. The people she's met on her journey to this current moment, people who've treated her well and helped her along the way.

Allura, Kaden, Ria, Gin, Alyss and so on. She would go out of her way to help them if she could.

"I do. I have a lot of them." Alice nodded.

"When I say someone dear to your heart, I mean someone with no equal. Someone who you're willing to give up everything for." Nyer shook his head.

Pausing for a moment, Alice shook her head.

She hadn't met anyone whom she could confidently say she could give up everything for. But if someone like that existed, she'd feel rather scared about it. After all, what kind of infatuation must you have to give her EVERYTHING for them.

To Alice, it felt unthinkable.

"Say you are at a junction where three choices are presented to you. Two of those choices lead to the 'bad ending' for that someone. While the third choice leads to the suffering of one person. Would you take that third choice? Or would you go with the first two?"

"Do I know the person that's suffering?" Alice asked curiously.

"Partially. But you don't know them very well. You see, in the past I had to go through this exact choice. I needed to pick between three options. I'm rather curious as to what option you'll choose." Nyer explained as Alice crossed her arms.

If it was someone who she cared about at stake and the one suffering is someone who she didn't know very well, the choice was obvious.

"Probably the third choice no?" Alice replied as Nyer nodded his head.

"Now let me change the question a little. What if your friend does not want you to cause suffering to the other person? Yet choosing the first two means that your friend dies, would you still pick the third option or go for the first two options?"

Furrowing her brows, Alice debated on the options.

"Do the first two options change how much my friend suffers?"

"Yes. The first option is a slow and painful death. The second is a fast and instantaneous death." Nyer explained.

With these choices placed before her, Alice eventually chose the third option once more on one condition.

"Does the third option mean my friend gets to live?"

"Yes, if you choose the third option, the person will suffer in the place of your friend but your friend gets to live without issue."

"Then there's only one real option then. The third one." Alice shrugged.

Naturally, she wasn't oblivious to the underlying implications of this being about her and Velouria.

Seeing Nyer reach his hand towards her, Alice was about to fight back when she paused in confusion.

His hand patted her head with a bitter smile.

"Indeed. There's only one obvious conclusion. Yet sometimes you have to look harder for a fourth path or even a fifth. We barely know one another yet we're forced to make decisions based on our own understanding and values." He sighed, standing up while looking at the war in front of him.

"I know that we're simply in a memory. Which is why I will offer you an opportunity young Alice. I do not hate you, nor do I wish to inflict harm upon you. But between you and Velouria, I'm afraid I must choose the latter. It's not personal... Simply priorities.

"Seek out the Will. If you can find a resolution that benefits us both, I will not make a single move for I do not wish to stain my hands with your blood. But if you cannot find a solution, I will take matters into my own hands, even if that means I earn the ire of Lua, Kaden and even Velouria herself." Nyer turned his gaze towards Velouria who was talking with Allura and Kaden.

"Velouria is my everything. She granted me meaning in this life and I will not allow the Will of the Abyss to rob her from me. I simply wish there is a world where Velouria gets to live how she desires. Even if it means making an enemy out of everyone.

"Which is why I presented to you a choice, successor of my Master. A final chance to turn things around." Nyer turned back to Alice.

There was an air of seriousness around him yet strangely, there was also a hint of desperation.

"So will you accept this challenge? To find a way out for the both of us?" He asked as Alice nodded her head.

"To choose between someone you barely know and someone who's your everything huh? The choice is simple. But you're still giving me a chance." Alice forced a smile despite the feeling of danger growing with every passing second.

"I give you a chance because it is unfair otherwise. Lua has opened more thanks to you, Kaden likes you and Velouria adores you as her successor. If there is an ideal path, I simply wish for you to find it so you can live with us. You can tell Velouria everything if you wish, but I don't need anyone to understand my motives or desires.

An army can stand against me but I will continue without hesitation.

"I am content with my own choices without anyone by my side. But know that if there is an opportunity, I would not mind sitting down to enjoy a drink and have some food to resolve this bad blood between us." Nyer chuckled as he patted her head one more time.

"Good luck successor. I hope you can surprise me as you have done many times before." Nyer waved his hand before turning around and leaving.

Furrowing her brows, Alice scratched her hair with a deep sigh.

"A choice huh?" Alice muttered.

'I guess now we know why Allura and Kaden doesn't mention him. He probably did something drastic in the real past in an attempt to save Velouria.' Alyss frowned.

'Yeah... But you can't blame him can you? Someone he treasures is slowly dying thanks to the Will of the Abyss. And in this memory, a successor showed up, guaranteeing this death. It's only natural that he does everything he can to avert this destiny.' Alice recalled Nyer's back as he walked away.

A sad, solitary silhouette who walks single mindedly towards one goal.

'But what can he even do? This is just a memory, nothing you do here transfers over to the real world outside of items. Saving Velouria here doesn't mean the Velouria in the real world will suddenly resurrect.' Alyss crossed her arms.

'Perhaps he found a way. That's why he was missing with Cayla for so long. As the Eyes of the Abyss, Cayla can reveal a lot of truths and information that otherwise wouldn't be accessible. He might've found a way to change this fate at the expense of me, who he barely knows.' Alice clenched her fist.

'But I prioritise my life comes first. Let's collect more blood so we can prepare for the fight to come.'

Closing her eyes, golden chains manifested around her body as Alyss took over and jumped towards the battlefield once more.

Chapter 312 - 312: Seven Days Of Execution

As Alyss descended the battlefield once more, she made sure not to attract as much attention to herself this time.

Keeping herself low to the ground, she would dash through the crowd while taking the blood sample of any beast that looked rather strong.

Meanwhile, the battle was reaching an all time high with six star beasts and six Sigil humans deploying their second resonances all around her.

After talking with Velouria, both Allura and Kaden got their wishes as they sat next to each other on a cliff overlooking the entire battlefield.

"I'm guessing we just wait to see who makes a move first right?" Allura asked as Kaden nodded his head.

"Orrr..."

"You could launch a sneak attack if you want to. But it has to be a pretty damn good one." Kaden chuckled, knowing that Allura wanted to take the initiative to start this fight.

Right now, all of the Abyss Lords and Apostles were sitting back and letting others fight. But once they make a move, it will cease to be a battle for fodder but an all out war between both sides.

"I'm like... 80%? Confident that I can land a pretty nasty hit if you can cover for me while I prepare." Allura crossed her arms while thinking about what attack would be best.

"I know. But when I say a good one, I mean one that doesn't expose your full strength while also being able to injure them. We need to be wary about them but also our allies since we don't know when they'll turn against Master." Kaden reminded.

"Master's got Commander next to her, it'll be alright, no?"

'Not really.' Kaden thought to himself. For this fight, he had left a feather for Alice similar to what he did in the future. What way, it can protect her life if she ever gets into any serious danger. However, it also served as a medium for him to see what was going on.

That conversation she had with Nyer, he heard all of it.

Recalling this, Kaden couldn't help but furrow his brows as he didn't think Nyer would go this far. He understood Nyer's sentiment but this... was too extreme. He also doesn't want Velouria to die but to endanger Alice who is their future is insanity.

'As long as she can find a solution, Nyer wouldn't make a move. So right now, it should be fine to trust him next to Master.' Kaden concluded before reassuring Allura that Velouria would be safe.

'For Alice to find the Will, she'll need to somehow get past the Reaper in the back.'

"Master would be safe but I'm worried about us and the Lords we have on our side. If the Apostles of the Three Gods turned on us all at once, even for me and you, it'll be difficult to stop them from killing others." He shrugged with a sigh.

"Then we just gotta finish it quickly. You know, after watching Alice constantly, I've been getting some ideas of my own. The way she uses her powers is rather inspiring." Allura chuckled as she stood up and gave her body a stretch.

"I'm going to give them a quick wake up call. But don't worry, I won't be using all of my power. It'll be a brand new attack none of them have seen before." She cracked her knuckle as Kaden chuckled before standing up.

"I know I said it before but be careful alright? I'll be a little preoccupied with dealing with the Abyss Lord of Waters so I won't be able to cover for you as well as I could before." Kaden reminded as Allura nodded her head.

Closing her eyes, she began to focus as Kaden flicked his wrist and created a barrier of shadow around them.

Out of all the Apostles, only War and Famine took notice as the other four were too busy instructing their soldiers.

For the members belonging to the Cult, dying in war was the highest honour they could receive so neither War or Famine were bothered.

"Allura is making a move." War narrowed his eyes while Famine licked her lips.

"Has the Lord made a decision yet? We've agreed to Velouria's terms but does that limit our targets?"

"Patience. Slaughter will come in due time, even if it is not now. For now, simply let us bask in the radiance of War, our Lord will choose what is right." War crossed his arms while glancing over to Enris who was chatting with Velouria with a grin on her face.

Enris has naturally told them of her decision to help Velouria as it would cause the most amount of chaos. But she never said what they would do afterwards.

Meaning, that once the first goal had been achieved, they were free to target whoever they wanted.

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Compared to the other Abyss Lords and Apostles, Allura's Sigils were simple minded to put it bluntly. Her first Sigil granted her fire control, her second allowed her to coat her body in flames to reinforce her physical power and her third allowed her to condense her fire into attacks.

She was made into an Apostle rather early and using the blessing, she moulded the rest of her Sigils to suit her needs with the blessing.

Her fourth being an example of this, creating invisible blades to stop healing. Her fifth allowed her to further enhance her strength. Her sixth Sigil allowed her to skip the 'travel' process of her slashes, letting them hit her target immediately and sundering the soul, allowing her to hunt even the incorporeal beings such as Immortality and Spirituality.

It was this Sigil that allowed her to kill the previous owner of the Spirituality blessing.

And finally, her seventh Sigil.

The Sigil she gained to become a Lord and served as a basis for her title.

Unlike others, Allura does not own a personal realm to serve as her second Resonance. Rather, her second resonance has been fused with her seventh Sigil.

If Alice was here to see Allura, she would see the Sigils above her head begin to change as Allura tapped into her power as an Abyss Lord rather than an Apostle.

[Abyss Lord of Execution: Allura - ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆]

However, her goal was not to go all out in this strike. No, it was to refine her understanding of her current Sigils without tapping into the seventh.

A goal of pushing each ability she gained to its absolute limit!

Within the darkness of the cocoon, the flames around Allura began to crackle and spark. An aura of flames radiated around her, threatening to dispel the shadow as Kaden put his entire focus on hiding Allura's aura from the outside world until she was ready.

Allura recalled Alice's movements as she used Bloodline Release along with her Resonance to boost her power.

Knowing her own Sigil, Allura was confident that she could push her flames to the next level. To use her body as an engine of destruction while the flames combust within, granting her a boost in power.

Her first, second and third Sigil began to twist across her body, bursting with a bright golden red. It was a state similar to her Resonance yet very different at the same time. A new technique!

She doesn't need the invisible blades to strike out. She merely needs it to follow her every action, coating her attacks and her body. To enhance her flames so that each attack was one that could hinder the power of healing.

Her fifth Sigil, Berserker's flame, one that would grant her a boost in power the closer she got to death. Using her first three Sigils and her body as an engine, she was in a constant state of death and rebirth! Thus allowing the Berserker's flame to continuously climb in strength!

*BANG!!!!

Tearing apart Kaden's barrier, Allura's aura skyrocketed as a pillar of power erupted into the sky, attracting everyone's attention.

With his barrier being broken, Kaden was flung back from the power as he barely managed to stabilise himself.

'Like mother like daughter.' Kaden smiled, shielding his eyes from the light.

Both of them wanted to impress the other, not wanting to get left behind and both were competitive without equal.

Much like how Alice could surpass her constraints and kill beasts stronger than her with the help of her body, Allura was now finding ways to surpass her power as a seven Sigil Abyss Lord!

Her aura continued to climb as her form changed to match her power.

Allura's hair had turned into a flickering mass of white flames as glowing Sigils could be seen across her body.

Her target? Only one!

Abyss Lord of Destruction: Shura!

Taking a single step forward, Allura's body disappeared.

*BANG!!!!

Lagging behind her speed, the sound of her movement erupted as the skies were torn in half by a single flaming slash!

Not even the Gods had seen what happened before noticing the end result of her attack.

A sea of clouds parted, the skies split and a single line of destruction.

In one movement, Allura breached the defences of the opposing army and arrived in front of the Abyss Lord of Destruction. Her slash tore through the glass like material that acted as her body as the fabric of reality around them began to twist.

Shura glared at Allura with a pair of widened eyes as she did not expect a sudden attack like this.

"Seven Days of Execution: First Day." Allura muttered before stomping down with her foot. Grabbing Shura by the face, she twisted her body and threw the Abyss Lord into the air as both the Abyss Lord of Waters and Metamorphosis tried to stop her.

However, Thalassa found herself sinking into her shadow while Morpheus was unable to move his body.

Kaden and Nyer!

Seven Days of Execution: Second Day!

The world darkened as this realm had now become part of Allura's personal realm!

A new technique born from her observation of Alice.

The Seven Days of Execution.

With each passing 'day', her power will grow without stop. Upon reaching the Seventh day, she will carry out her task as the Executioner where her power reaches its apex.

A power separate from her Authority of severance.

While Alice may not realise it, her presence has allowed this memory of Allura to surpass her real self at this moment in time.

Right now, this was Allura at her strongest!

Chapter 313 - 313: Allura Vs Shura

Seeing all three of Velouria's closest aides make a move against the Abyss Lords around the Reaper, Enris couldn't help but whistle in admiration.

She admired Allura's guts to go head first into battle like this. Truly, if she wasn't part of Velouria's group, Enris wanted to recruit Allura for herself.

"Veli~ Why do you get all the gutsy ones? I want some on my side too~" Enris complained while resting her arm on Velouria's shoulder.

"The two you've chosen as your Apostles are plenty gutsy are they not? They have the moniker of War and Famine after all." Velouria raised an eyebrow while Enris simply shrugged.

"Yeah, but they're not like Allura or the gal Alice. They don't push each other to new heights. Do you have a secret to picking followers or something? Can you share?" Enris grinned.

Truly, she wanted to know if Velouria had a secret in picking followers. If she had people like Alice and Allura around, she wouldn't need to go out of her way to find excitement and chaos like she does now.

War and Famine entertained her which is why she granted them her blessing. But at the same time, they've become lacklustre for her. Neither of them granted her surprises nor did they surpass her expectations.

Alice and Allura on the other hand... were simply delectable.

"The grass is always greener on the other side. War and Famine fit you just fine, don't greed over Lua and Alice." Velouria sighed as she gave Enris a side glare.

Realising that she was tip-toeing on the edge of annoying Velouria, Enris raised her hands in surrender.

"What a shame. But alright. But don't you think we should deal with that Reaper over there? With your aides making a move, on the chance that they beat these Abyss Lords, that Reaper won't leave them alone." She asked while crossing her arms.

"If it comes to that, then I'll step in. Otherwise, I have full faith that Lua can take care of this." Velouria replied while watching Allura jump up and catch the Abyss Lord of Destruction.

Creating a spear of black and red energy, Shura twisted her body and slashed towards Allura but she was prepared.

Her hands, coated with the surging white flame that represented the peak of her power smashed into the blade head as the power of the Executioner and Destruction clashed.

A storm of lighting and flames erupted as unfortunate beasts that were caught in their clash were reduced to nothing but dust in a mere instant.

Grabbing the spear shaft with her bare hands, Allura grinned as she pulled her left arm back and activated her sixth Sigil.

Ignoring the travel time, she slammed her fist into Shura's chest!

*CRACK!!!

Her obsidian body cracked open once more as the Abyss Lord of Destruction narrowed her eyes at the woman in front of her.

In this short exchange, she understood one thing. Her opponent is strong!

A bloodthirsty aura exploded from Shura's body as Allura instinctively took a step back, giving Shura the space she needed at this moment.

Twisting her body, the entire world seemed to revolve around the Abyss Lord as her wounds began to heal. In contrast, her surroundings began to dry up and flake away, as though their vitality was transferred to her.

Realising that she couldn't let this continue, Allura activated Nova Core as a single spark of pure destruction was created in front of Shura.

But to Allura's surprise, her attack didn't detonate.

In the moment her attack manifested, Shura reached out and crushed her attack to nothingness.

"So this is the Abyss Lord of Destruction." Allura forced a smile as she realised the monster that she was up against.

A being whose power focused on nullifying and destroying everything thrown at her.

In one aspect, it was not unlike Alice who nullified attacks using her flames. Only this one was far more potent and threatening.

Rolling her shoulders back to relax her muscles, Allura took a deep breath in before breathing out.

Seven Days of Slaughter – Third Day.

A burst of speed that even surpassed her initial surprise strike against the Lord. Yet a barrier of red and black energy manifested around Shura, absorbing the impact before converging it into a single orb of energy.

Widening her eyes, Allura bent her body back, narrowly dodging a beam of raw unbridled force of destruction that tore through the realm, shattering the boundaries of reality and forcing a pathway into the Void.

'How the f*ck am I supposed to kill this b*tch???' Allura thought to herself. She had an ability to nullify attacks, a barrier to absorb attacks before sending them back and other abilities she didn't know about.

Her surprise attack was a good start but she had healed it all up in an instant!

But Shura wasn't done.

Reaching beside her, she plunged her fist into the Void and began to pull out a weapon. The blade was slowly being constructed by the same destructive energy that was present around her body.

Upon the full manifestation of the sword, the surrounding world was blocked off. A cage, forcing Allura into a one on one confrontation with this beast of destruction as her aura continued to climb.

And in revenge for Allura's surprise attack, Shura struck out.

Her form, flickering into mist and appeared before Allura mid slash.

Allura wanted to counter with a punch yet the sword began to shimmer. Like a spectre, the blade phased through her fist as energy surged into its body, causing the speed to suddenly increase!

Feeling the blade begin to cut into her cheek, Allura gritted her teeth and twisted her body, countering with a kick against Shura's head, slamming her into the ground.

*BANG!!!

Watching the figure of the Abyss Lord disappear into the smoke and debris, Allura refined her senses as she wiped away the blood from her cheek.

'Somethings interfering with my ability to stop her healing. Is it because she's draining vitality from her surroundings? That sword is weird too. It definitely 'stole' some of my fire.' Allura narrowed her eyes.

Within the dust, a flickering light began to manifest as Shura's body was now coated in a familiar flame. A flame that has been beside Allura since the start of her journey.

Behind her, three pairs of flaming wings unfurled as Shura glanced up at Allura with a taunting gaze.

"Cheeky little sh*t." Allura felt as though a vein was about to pop.

It felt similar to fighting Alice as she too would siphon her abilities and throw it back at her. Only this time the one doing it was a nine star Abyss Lord, the pinnacle of power outside of Gods and Apostles.

'I should thank Alice when I get the chance.' She mused to herself. If it wasn't for the spars with Alice, she might've struggled more with an opponent who could steal her power to some extent.

But now? She had ways to deal with it.

As the flames around her continue to flicker violently, Allura gathered all of her fire into a single mote of power within her body and detonated it!

All of the fire around her disappeared as she fell silent. Yet the air continued to warp around her.

Feeling a sense of danger, Shura tried her best to turn around but Allura was faster! Grabbing Shura by the head with both of her hands, Allura slammed her knee into Shura's head, forcing her to stumble back before launching two jabs on her right rib.

A quick punch to the stomach before grabbing Shura's collar and pulling her into a shoulder slam.

*CRACK!!

Once more, the obsidian material began to crack but Allura wasn't going to make the mistake of letting her regenerate.

A convergence of flames gathered around her fist as she stomped down and released an instantaneous punch against Shura's chest, plunging her fist deep into the Abyss Lords body before detonating into an Armageddon of flames that rushed to consume the target.

"Tenacious b*stard..." Allura muttered, realising her attack failed to kill and wanted to pull back.

But a single slash tore through the flames. A slash of pure darkness that consumed everything in its path and struck against Allura's left arm.

Widening her eyes in pain and shock, she did not hesitate to create a flaming blade with her right hand and cut off her arm by the elbow before jumping back.

Watching what remained of her left arm explode into a mass of destructive energy, she didn't even want to imagine what that could've done to her body if she didn't cut it off.

'As expected, this isn't going to be an easy fight.' Allura forced a smile.

Her left arm was gone and the healing is being hindered. She had four more steps to go before reaching the full power of her new technique and her target was getting scarier by the second.

But what's worst was that the flames that Shura stole from her had an adverse effect on her real flames. Her output had dropped slightly in the brief contact they had, meaning unlike Alice who was mimicking her powers, Shura was directly taking them from her!

Little by little, Allura was figuring out the abilities of Shura. And with each discovery, it only served to prove the powerful existence that is known as the Abyss Lord of Destruction.

Had Alice not given her inspiration, it would truly be an uphill battle of impossibilities.

'I can't go and disappoint Kaden and Alice after the boastful talking I did earlier.' Allura laughed to herself.

Wiping the smile from her face, she took a step forward as her aura exploded forth once more. Flames converged towards her missing limb and took its place.

As the two stepped towards one another, the battle resumed as a dance of fire and destruction stormed the battlefield.

Cries of retreat screamed out from their Allies while Kaden had a smile on his face upon seeing the aftermath of Allura's attacks.

But his attention couldn't be diverted for long as he had to focus on the target in front of him.

The Abyss Lord of Waters.

"Lua doesn't like it when I spend a lot of time with other women. Let's keep this short so she doesn't get jealous."

Chapter 314 - 314: Kaden Vs Thalassa

Narrowing her eyes at the man in front of her, Thalassa frowned in displeasure. His nonchalance and relaxed nature annoyed her.

Perfect food for her 'family'.

Without warning, the ground beneath Kaden started to twist as he glanced down and saw a pair of red eyes staring up at him.

*BANG!!!

Crashing through the ground as though it were a layer of water, a large underwater leviathan burst out with two sets of jaws and prepared to crush Kaden.

"Oh~ Seems like you're in a rush just like me. That'll certainly make things easier for us wouldn't it?" Kaden laughed.

From his shadow, a replica of the beast shot out, crushing the throat of Thalassa's beast.

Flipping through the air, he landed on the shadow beast's head and crossed his arms at Thalassa.

Even though he was joking around with her right now, he was actually taking this fight rather seriously. That beast just now was to test his reaction and power.

"So is that your gimmick? Summoning beasts from the ground as though it's water? Because if so, this should be a rather easy fight for me." Kaden narrowed his eyes.

Slamming his hand down, countless shadow tendrils shot out blades burst out from the darkness and cleaved towards Thalassa.

Gritting her teeth out of anger, Thalassa stomped her foot down as the ground around her transformed into the Abyss Waters.

From these depths, tentacles ruptured the surface and crushed the blades without any issue.

Glaring at Kaden, she silently commanded her family to rush towards him as he simply laughed and dived back into his shadow.

Just as he jumped away, an army of underwater beasts dragged his shadow beast into the depths and tore it apart with brutal efficiency.

*Whistle~

"That would've been pretty dangerous if I didn't get away huh? What now girl? Seems like I'm a bad match for you." Kaden smirked as he flicked his finger.

Similar to Thalassa, the ground beneath began to twist and change before transforming into a sea of shadows. Snapping his fingers, his beasts lunged forth and started to tear apart at Thalassa's 'family'. Blood began to leak into the water as the colour was dyed beast blood.

Seeing Kaden constantly bring out these unholy copies of her family, the Abyss Lord of Waters trembled with anger as she raised her arm and opened her mouth filled with sharp teeth.

Raising an eyebrow, Kaden paused in shock and surprise as she began to tear away at her own flash.

Muscles, tendons, bones. She tore through everything before throwing her arm into the water.

*RUMBLE!!!

Stumbling to his feet, Kaden furrowed his brows as his senses were warning him of danger from below.

Realising that Thalassa wasn't going to hold back anymore, Kaden created a surge of shadows around her before clenching his fist, instructing the shadows to crush whatever was within its grasp.

Yet a cage of bones burst out of the ground around her, protecting her from shadow and the dangers that would befall her.

From the gaps of the bones, Kaden could see her eyes shimmering with an ethereal glow while curling the corners of her mouth into a sadistic grin, revealing her sharp teeth.

*BANG!!!

Jumping up out of instinct, Kaden furrowed his brows as he watched nine skeletal heads tear through the ground while glaring at him. Each head looked draconic in nature with fractured horns and scales while mixed with gills and fins.

Judging by the reflection against the 'water', Kaden could assume that it's full size was comparable to some of the largest old Abyss Lords that the Will had sealed before.

Lining the side of its head were countless eyes that all glared at Kaden.

Feeling his vision waver, he realised that the beast must be one that hindered the senses of a person and immediately counter attacked.

Large spikes pierced up from its shadow against the water's surface, skewering it in the neck before detonating.

But as one dead was torn off, two more manifested with a devious grin.

'So it's that kind of beast.' Kaden frowned.

Snapping his finger, a cage of shadows twisted around the beast, forming thin threads that cut into its skin. From the wounds, countless small heads began to regenerate, fusing themselves with the shadow. But Kaden didn't stop, he continued to inflict countless small wounds upon the beast until it was nothing but a mass of writhing flesh, unable to move.

'Did Thalassa summon this to stall?'

Glancing over to the bone cage that Thalassa had created, Kaden tried to break it open several times to no avail.

With the beast before him now mutated beyond recognition, he focused his power into a single spear of shadows that floated beside him.

Narrowing his gaze, he commanded the spear to stab towards the cage!

A clash of power but to Kaden's shock, his shadow was repelled! Like a stream of water against a wall, his spear was unable to penetrate into the cage at all.

Furrowing his brows, Kaden wanted to continue his attack when the shell began to crack.

In a single blink of the eye, Kaden noticed a large cavity within the shell.

'She's out!'

Immediately scanning the area around her, Kaden tried to find his target to no avail.

Yet the moment he came to this conclusion, he felt a pair of hands wrap around his neck. Reacting immediately and turning into a mass of shadows, Kaden jumped away from Thalassa while clutching his neck.

Upon exiting her shell, Thalassa's form had changed. From the pale skinned girl to an underwater beast with large fins on either side of her face. A pair of large fish like eyes that shimmered with a menacing red.

Spikes and fins decorated her back as her skin was coated in a layer of scales.

Curling her lips into a grin, Thalassa opened her hands and revealed the spikes decorating her palms.

In the moment where she grabbed Kaden by the neck, she was able to inject Abyss Water directly into his body.

"Is that your plan? To inject the water into me so I get corrupted?" Kaden smiled as he moved his hand aside, revealing the wound around his neck.

In response to her excited expression, Kaden simply snapped his fingers and a layer of shadow wrapped around his neck.

Gritting his teeth, he quarantined the injected Abyss Water before tearing out a chunk of his flesh!

Shadows began to weave, repairing the damage.

"You may be the ruler of Waters, but my body is entirely shadow. What can you do?" Kaden grinned.

Little by little, his body began to break down and disappear while Thalassa began to sense her target all around her.

In every shadow, there was a piece of Kaden!

"My offensive abilities are weaker than most Lords. But my casting ability is top notch. Which is why casters have a tough time against me as I simply replicate whatever they do. And while casting is my strong suit, it's not what defines my abilities as an Abyss Lord." Kaden's voice echoed out while countless attacks erupted from the shadows.

Revealing a deep frown, Thalassa began to tear away at the attacks with overwhelming speed yet no matter how she tried to target Kaden, he was no where to be seen.

"What I'm known for is being hard to kill." His voice rang out behind her.

***BANG!!!**

A beast lunged up from the waters below in an attempt to kill Kaden but he only laughed as his figure disappeared once more.

Without knowing it, Thalassa had already entered Kaden's second Resonance!

The key to a strong second resonance was for the opponent to not realise it. With this in mind, they would be hesitant to use their own resonance in fear of revealing too much information. But by the time they realised what had occurred, they would've fallen for Kaden's trap!

Watching Thalassa fight off his clones within his resonance, Kaden was about to shatter the realm when a chill went down his spine.

Widening his eyes, he glanced back and froze up in shock.

A beast far larger than even the biggest Abyss Lord that he's ever laid eyes on. A singular leviathan head surrounded by a mass of tendrils, teeth and limbs.

With a single movement, the gargantuan beast wrapped its tendrils around the boundary of the resonance.

*CRACK!!!

Shattering the realm in an instant, Kaden jumped back with a deep frown on his face. Seeing Thalassa jump onto the head of this beast, he forced a smile.

"Well this isn't exactly fair is it? A two verses one. What a hassle."

However, it was still within his expectations. After all, casters who focus on summons at this calibre will no doubt have a summon that acts as the anchor of their abilities. For Thalassa, it would be this gargantuan leviathan.

Taking a deep breath, Kaden pulled his hair back so that the strands wouldn't get in his eyes. It was time for him to focus if he wanted to kill this Lord and take her as his eighth Sigil.

###

"Kaden and Lua have improved a lot since I last saw them. Do you think it's because of Alice? Her presence has changed many things within this memory. Lua's innovation being one of them." Nyer chuckled while sitting on a boulder.

Behind him, the Abyss Lord of Metamorphosis coughed up a mouthful of blood while being suspended in space.

All of his limbs were torn off and sealed with blades while Nyer was relaxed in front of him.

"Then again, I suppose her presence has also changed how I would do things. Yet it doesn't matter if she can't cross the final line. And unfortunately for you, you are not required in the final scenario." Nyer sighed as he turned his gaze to the beast in front of him.

"M-monste-"

Not letting the beast finish his sentence, Nyer flicked his finger and a myriad of tears in space erupted around the beast, shredding his body as he let out one final silent scream before being erased.

The Abyss Lord of Metamorphosis – Eliminated.

Chapter 315 - 315: Peaking Into Second Resonance

Now that Kaden, Allura and Nyer took the initiative to begin their fight against the other Lords, the rhythm of war began to change. The armies fell back as Lord level beings took to the battlefield.

Naturally, it meant that Alyss took this moment to retreat as well. She wanted to drink Lord level blood but it was far too dangerous to do so right now. A stray fireball or slash would instantly eradicate her with nothing left behind.

She may be addicted to fighting and killing but there was still logic behind her insanity.

Landing on the cliff where she was sitting with Kaden and Allura not long ago, Alyss dangled her legs off the side of the cliff while watching the Lords begin to fight.

Their battles mostly consisted of who could force the other to use their Resonance first. Once the Resonance was deployed, they'd exit out of sight as the battle would continue in their personal realms.

Some would exit sooner than the others while some continued to fight in their realm.

Crossing her arms in annoyance, Alyss frowned as most of the fights, techniques and powers were all hidden away from sight.

'Are you able to see what's going on in there using your fourth Sigil?' She asked, hoping that Alice had a solution.

'I can certainly try. But the second Resonance is a pocket in the Void wrapped in the powers of each person. I can look into the Void but I'm not sure how I can look past this barrier.' Alice furrowed her brows.

It was one thing to look into the Void and another to peek into someone's personal realm within the Void.

'Well do you want to give it a try?' Alyss offered as Alice nodded her head.

Flipping controls, Alice massaged her neck before taking a deep breath.

Closing her eyes, she sensed the Void around her as her fourth Sigil stretched across her skin.

Between the two of them she was the most perceptive to the changes to the Void along with manipulating it using her fourth Sigil.

As it stands, countless sealed off realms could be sensed within the world. Each shaking from the violet exchanges held within and peeking into what was happening inside was impossible unless she tore down the barriers.

But if she were to do that, it would be no different to sabotaging whoever had deployed the Second Resonance and turning herself into an enemy.

Recalling all of the lessons she's learnt up to this stage, Alice calmed her mind and broke down her ability and things she needed to overcome.

By breaking down her basic understanding and usage of her ability, she'll be able to figure out another method to peer into the Second Resonance.

First of all, in order to peer into the Void with her fourth Sigil, she attaches her sense of 'self' to the Void. In essence, her 'eyes' and mind begin to float within this boundless darkness and observed the changes in the surroundings.

If she wanted to peer into a personal realm without breaking it, she'd have to fuse this 'eye' with the barrier of their realm. Preferably without them realising what was happening.

The only other instance of observation without people noticing that Alice remembers was Velouria's observation using Cayla.

To do that, she would tap into the countless strands of energy that filled the Abyss. Using Cayla as a medium to link with these strands and see what was going on.

Using this as a basis, Alice had a theory.

First, even the Void had strands of energy that attached to the Abyss itself. If she could locate and tap into this energy, it would allow her to blanket her senses on the outside of the barriers as though she was the Void herself.

And once she achieves this, all it takes is for her to 'corrupt' the barrier and allow herself to merge with it to some extent in order to peer into the secrets within.

But there was one thing that made this possible.

Second Resonance was part of the powers granted by the Abyss!

As the successor and current owner of Cayla, she was able to affect the abilities given by the Abyss to some extent. Whether that be the strands of energy, activation of powers or even using Alyss to cancel it out, Alice had control over these powers.

Using her fourth Sigil as a basis and her current foundations to manipulate the Abyss, merging with the barrier should be relatively easy for her.

While Alice was experimenting with her abilities as both the successor and the possessor of the Seraphim of the Void Sigil, the Will of the Abyss observed her with a grin.

He could see the changes within Alice's body.

Every time she exerted the power of Cayla, the Crown or the mimicry of the Heart, her body would change to become a more suitable vessel.

However, what he didn't expect was the pace of her development. Her arrival in this memory within the Abyss was only for her to gain a link to the Heart. Yet due to her own actions and choices, the growth far exceeded its original expectations.

Another reason why he did not mind the current scenario going off script. If allowing Alice to do whatever she wanted achieved this kind of result, why should it stop her? If anything, he should encourage her to continue.

To keep growing and to keep developing her abilities.

Of course, there were things it could do to encourage her as well.

So far, the Abyss Lords have moved and so have the Apostles. But the Will knew that with Lua and Kaden taking the charge, the strongest Lords would fall eventually, even the reaper with enough teamwork.

He didn't bring them out simply to win this war but rather to stall.

The longer it takes for the Gods to move, the better. Because by stalling, Velouria's condition would continue to deteriorate.

She may be acting tough for the others, but the Will could see it. Her insides were a mess and the fact that she looked as though she was standing without issue was commendable as each breath would grant upon her searing pain.

Smirking to himself, the Will was about to turn his attention away when a pair of eyes locked onto him.

'?'

Raising an eyebrow in confusion, he noticed that it wasn't just one pair but rather two! Two pairs of eyes with very similar aura.

One belonged to the Eyes within Velouria, the current Cayla.

And the other? The damaged Eye of the Abyss belonging to Alice.

Her gaze was full of bloodlust, anger and raw unfiltered hatred.

However, it was brief, her moment of awakening was fleeting as the gaze soon closed once more. Even now, she was trying her best to repair herself as soon as possible, even if the other Eye was missing.

Thinking of this, an idea manifested in the Will's mind as a cruel smile appeared on his face.

The moment Velouria dies, what if he was to merge the pieces of her corpse with Alice?

What kind of amalgamation would that create?

Would the Eye be able to repair itself with a false copy? Would the fake heart become a better replica using Velouria's heart?

So many questions and plenty of time to contemplate on what he should do.

But for now, he simply had one request to the countless fighting amidst the battlefield.

And that was for them to entertain him until the end of this memory.

###

Searching through the countless strands of energy that filled the Abyss and the Void, Alice tested out her control by trying to merge her senses with the different strands of energy. Naturally, it was hard to tell the difference since the Void was mostly empty, especially at their current location.

With so many Lord level beings, Apostles and even Gods gathered in one location, not even the beasts that lurked in the Void dared to enter this area in fear of dying as collateral.

But little by little, Alice began to tell the difference between each of the strands through using second resonances as a landmark to understand where she was.

She wasn't quite confident in using it against the barrier of the second resonance just yet but so far, she's gotten used to utilising Cayla's ability to gather information.

During this, she felt Cayla stir momentarily which kindled hope in her heart yet this moment didn't last as she fell silent once more.

Noticing Alice's worry regarding Cayla, Alyss comforted her.

'Maybe the scenario is bad for her since there's another Cayla here. I'm sure once we get back to the real Abyss, she'll wake up for a talk. Even if it's brief.' Alyss reassured as Alice nodded her head.

'I know don't worry. Setting that aside, are you ready? I'm confident enough to try merge my senses with the barrier now but I don't know how long I can keep it up for. So when I'm merging my senses, try to copy as much as you can from the lord okay? Or at least memorise it so we can work to replicate it.' Alice grinned.

When they get out to the real Abyss, she wanted to see the surprises upon Ria and Luke's faces when she reveals several Abyss Lord level skills that she's learned during her time away.

Not only that, she also wanted to surprise Kaden and Allura. Seeing how they are right now, it felt bitter for Alice to see how far apart they were in reality.

'Who do you think I am? I'll copy so much you won't even be able to digest it.' Alyss laughed as Alice began to merge her senses with the barrier belonging to an Abyss Lord from their side.

Abyss Lord of Inferno.

Chapter 316 - 316: Berserker's Gambit

Watching the Abyss Lord of Inferno fight, Alice couldn't help but notice the similarities between him and Allura.

Only he focuses more on the fire aspect compared to Allura who began to focus more on her blessings.

Golden flames wreathed around his body as he slammed his fist into the ground, causing the earth to crack and spew forth a hellscape of inferno while his opponent countered using ice.

[Abyss Lord of Inferno: Dion - ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆]

[Abyss Lord of Ice: Sherry - ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆]

'They're both seven Sigil Lords. Lord of Ice seems to be holding back for now.' Alice thought to herself as the current Second Resonance belonged to the Lord of Inferno.

The Lord of Ice has yet to make a move.

The Lord of Inferno looked as though he was a flaming demon. Lava and flames created the foundation of his body while obsidian armour wrapped around his forearms and shoulders.

He wore a torn and burnt leather jacket and pants with a pair of boots.

On the other hand, the Lord of Ice looked far more composed and relaxed. A simple white suit with a large coat hung off her shoulders and attached using two silver clips. Despite wearing a pair of heels, she didn't seem to have any issues with her movement while parts of her body would transform into ice in order to deal with the Lord of Inferno's attacks.

'Dion is going to lose this.' Alyss concluded while Alice raised an eyebrow.

'Sherry is not struggling at all. She's using the bare minimum needed to deal with Dion's attacks. While Dion is aggressive, a lot of his attacks are meaningless and serve only to waste his energy. Its inefficient and he only knows how to keep attacking. Despite his proactiveness, he's already lost the initiative in this fight.

Everything is going to Sherry's beat and she determines when it should end.' Alyss explained.

However, Alice didn't think so.

Dion may seem reckless and on the back foot right now, but everyone has a plan until they get punched in the face. As the Lord of Inferno, Alice believes that he's not someone who would go down easily.

She may be biased towards people who belong to Ayr, but either way, Alice was cheering for Dion's success.

"Is that all you can do?! Run?!" Dion shouted as the flames around him grew in intensity.

Raising his hands, he grabbed the air in front of him before dragging it down with all his might.

At that moment, the skies turned dark as an array of meteors rained down from the sky, threatening to destroy anything and everything within the vicinity.

With Sherry's attention drawn by the rain of destruction, Dion grinned widely and ran forth without care.

"Are you not afraid of being hit by your own attack?" Sherry asked calmly as ice stabbed up from the ground in an attempt to skewer Dion but he simply twisted his body and slammed his foot into the pillar.

The sudden impact of the heat against the ice caused it to bubble from within before exploding. And tearing through this mist, Dion arrived in front of Sherry with his fist pulled back.

There was no need to be afraid of his attack. If he died to it then so be it. It simply means his body wasn't strong enough.

Clicking her tongue at this battle maniac in front of her, Sherry took a light step back as a pillar of ice appeared where she was just standing.

***BANG!!!**

Shattering the pillar to pieces, Dion jumped up into the air and dodged one of the meteors before activating one of his Sigils.

An array of flames exploded on his back, propelling him forward as he slammed his heel into the meteor, shattering it and causing a show of fire and destruction to rain down upon Sherry.

Feeling as though she's put up with his long enough, Sherry narrowed her eyes as she clasped her hands together. An orb of unfiltered frozen energy gathered between her hands as she raised it to her face and gave it a gentle blow towards the apocalypse above.

*KRRR!!!

Everything within the realm was frozen over in an instant and suspended in the space above.

Breathing out a mouthful of cold air, Sherry sighed as the ice began to disappear from her body.

'Seems like I was right twinnie.' Alyss chuckled as he prepared to reflect on what she's seen so far but Alice simply kept watching.

Finding this a little weird, Alyss turned her attention back to the fight.

*Tzzz....

"!!!"

Widening her eyes, Sherry turned her head towards the source of the sound and saw that the ice around Dion was beginning to melt.

A faint echo of his laugh cough be heard before the ice shattered into countless pieces.

The instant he was released from his prison of ice, the temperature of the realm sky rocketed as Sherry took a step back in shock.

Just by standing in this realm, her skin was beginning to catch on fire.

"Come on! Kill me if you can! Let the fire of my life burn!" Dion screamed out as the realm responded to his passion. Pillars of fire erupted around the area as Sherry was forced to use her first Resonance to survive within this hostile world.

Amour of ice wrapped around her body as a silver silken veil draped in front of her face and hair.

Kicking off the meteor, Dion rushed towards Sherry who created an array of attacks towards him.

Yet the moment these attacks reached his vicinity, they were evaporated in an instant! A swirling inferno danced around Dion as he rushed forth without care.

He is an unstoppable force, ready to eradicate anything and everything.

Seeing this, Sherry gritted her teeth before resolving herself.

Jumping back, an array manifested behind her as Sigils began to appear across her body.

Second Resonance!

With a single flash of white, a wave of frozen energy pulsed out in an instant. At that moment, within this world of white that clashed with the inferno, only silent remained.

A wave of cold mist that froze even the air they breathed!

Landing on the ground softly, Sherry collapsed on her knee as her Second Resonance was unstable. A personal domain capable of freezing even the Abyssal Energy that flowed through their bodies in order to activate their abilities.

For her opponent, this was an instant death. But for her? It was just as dangerous. The backlash of activating her Second Resonance was one that threatened to pull her into death's embrace.

She could hear the beating of her heart slowing down as she laid in the blanket of snow. How quickly the senses leave the body upon being assaulted by the unrelenting cold air that belonged to her Second Resonance.

Her personal hell.

Her eyelids grew heavy and her mind hazy.

*Ba-dum...

Sherry's vision began to blur but she managed to gather what remained of her strength to look up.

*Ba-dum.... Ba-dum....

'Impossible.'

That's what Sherry wanted to say yet no words left her mouth.

Within the frozen confines where even the Abyss cannot help him, a pulse of glowing hot crimson began to spread from his chest.

*Ba-dum! Ba-dum! Ba-dum!

In this world of white, Dion's fire refused to get extinguished as his heart pounded against his chest. The flames across his body reignited in tandem with his heart beat and at that moment, his eyes locked onto Sherry.

"!!!"

Fear invaded her heart as she wanted to push this demon away from her, but her ice could not reach him.

Taking a step forward, the ice shattered from his body as blood poured from his wounds. Yet the flames around him evaporated this blood just as quickly as it appeared.

Taking a punching stance, Dion grinned towards Sherry.

His idol and target, the Executioner, would not be put down by such an attack. She would break through with everything she's got in one focused strike using everything she's got!

The air around him began to crackle and pop as the air around him warped from the heat. The flames that make up his body slowed down until they disappeared. Yet the temperature continued to grow.

The ground beneath him bubbled and steam coiled around him from the airflow.

Ignition!

With a single spark, his entire body erupted with a roaring flame manifesting into the shape of a malevolent demon.

*BANG!!!!

Neither Alice nor Alyss could see Dion's movement as he disappeared from their view, reappearing in front of Sherry with his fist inches away from her chest.

An eruption of power first forth as the entire world was basked in surging hot fire and Sherry was no exception. As the target of the attack, flames clawed away at her body while Dion's arm was charred by his attack.

As the flames faded away from his arm, it broke into countless cinders while he collapsed on one knee. The boundaries of his person realm disappearing as the flames faded from his body.

Returning back to his usual form, he collapsed on the floor with a smile on his face.

The Abyss Lord of Ice- Eliminated.

With Dion managing to turn the tides using one final attack with everything he's got, Alice turned to Alyss with a smug grin.

*PUCHI!!!

Feeling as though a vein was about to pop, Alyss clicked her tongue, crossed her arms and looked away in annoyance.

Of course, she managed to understand and 'replicate' a few things that she saw during the fight. But there was two that stood out to her.

First, was Dion's overwhelming vitality. The way the fire acted as a medium to replenish Dion's lifeforce after the last attack was something Alyss wanted to replicate for Alice.

If she could find a way to do this, they'll have another safety net for when Alice runs into strong opponents.

But the second was something Alyss wasn't sure if she should divulge or not. An all out attack in a split second, mustering all of the energy within the body and amassing lifeforce for a single explosive strike.

Replicating it wasn't hard for Alyss. In fact, she could even make it stronger through the connections tied to her spiritual heart. But Alice would not be able to withstand that. And for her, Alice took priority.

If she had to give this attack a name, there could only be one.

Berserker's Gambit.

Chapter 317 - 317: Abyss Lord Of Duality

'Anything you think we can use from their fight?' Alice asked curiously as she separated her senses from the rapidly dissolving barrier of the Second Resonance.

'Yes though I'm not sure how well it fits your fighting style. It fits mine but not exactly yours.' Alyss shrugged.

Between the two of them, she was the one that focused on regeneration and power in close quarters combat. Alice thrived more on keeping people at bay and cancelling out attacks.

'Hmm, which of the Abyss Lords do you think would be a good match for my style?'

'Maybe puppetry? But setting that aside, it's such a shame that Dion charred the sh*t outta Sherry. There's not even a drop of blood that we can taste from what remains of her.' Alyss sighed in regret.

If they could've gotten Sherry's blood, she could've worked on replacing more Sigils so that Alice could fight more freely on the battlefield.

With her senses now separated from the barrier, Alice began to explore the other Resonances that had been established. Yet she wasn't able to find a skill that suited her.

Going from what Allura had taught before, Alice wasn't greedily amassing countless to pick from but rather finding one that suited her the best and learning to perfect that technique for herself before finding something else.

If she was to stretch her attention thin from all of the skills she's chosen to copy, none of them would reach the proficiency required to go ahead to head with her opponents.

A jack of all trades master of none.

Of course, this didn't mean she was going to give up on the skills. Rather, she would use the time to memorise them so should the situation call for it, she'll be able to utilise them.

It would be a big waste to forget all of the skills used by the Abyss Lords after all.

When is she going to get another opportunity like this?

Merging her senses with the barrier belonging to the Abyss Lord of Duality, Alice was surprised to see her realm being split into two halves horizontally.

[Abyss Lord of Duality : Esse – ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆]

Similar to Alice, Esse had black and white hair. But rather than being split down the middle, the other colour was a hue. From black hair fading to a white hue to white hair fading into a black hue.

Every time they 'jumped' to the other side, the colours would be inverted.

Of course, it wasn't limited to just their hair. From clothing colour to even their abilities, everything would be flipped.

Esse is an Abyss Lord that belonged to the church of the moon and all of her attacks target the soul. Her opponent, the Abyss Lord of Corrosion was struggling with landing an attack against her.

[Abyss Lord of Corrosion : Asur – ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆]

Streaks of neon pink tinged with a deep red and purple tore through the realm yet the attacks would miss Esse.

'It's not just the abilities being flipped. So are the motor controls.' Alyss muttered in realisation as she noticed Asur stumbling from movement, causing his attacks to miss.

Hearing this, Alice raised an eyebrow and imagined herself fighting Esse. If her motor controls continuously flipped every time they 'jumped' worlds, using her techniques would be near impossible without harming herself.

As the fight continued, both Alice and Alyss began to see just how outclassed Asur was despite the fact that he had eight Sigils and Esse only had seven.

Esse focused on close quarters combat despite the danger of the corrosion and her gameplan was simple.

Hit Asur, swap controls. Repeat.

Whenever Asur looked as though he was about to get used to the inverted controls, Esse would flip it back. And when Asur wanted to activate his Second Resonance, the flipped controls would disrupt his focus and motion, causing his Resonance to not activate.

His first mistake was allowing Esse her Second Resonance that allowed her to affect his controls!

Unlike the other fights that both Alice and Alyss had seen, this one was a slow methodical breakdown as Asur was not allowed a moment to fight back.

And little by little, he was whittled down by Esse who landed attack after attack.

'I want her power.' Was the conclusion Alice arrived at. She wanted Esse's blood and Sigil power.

If she was able to mix the power to invert controls and her teleportation with the blood mirrors, she'll be extremely hard to hit while Alyss had most of their offensive power.

Alice was defensive and Alyss was offensive. A perfect mix during battle.

'Same here. I want the method she uses to flip the realm. Imagine the applications if she could swap our control instantly without needing to focus heavily?' Alyss reminded. Right now, it was a rather time consuming process for them to swap controls and the signs of which is very evident.

That being the golden chains around her arms, ankles and neck.

Naturally, Alice wanted to suggest lifting the seal and restrictions but Alyss rejected it simply due to the nature of her power and the beasts connected to her.

Undoing it all at once could very easily make Alice lose herself in the bloodlust and desire to cause destruction.

But if they could smoothly switch controls between the two of them during a fight like what the Lord of Duality was doing with her control flipping, they would become a menace to adapt to.

'Let's do it. Once Asur dies, we'll take his power through the blood and surprise attack Esse.' Alice suggested as Alyss curled her mouth into a grin.

'Sure. But you have to do it within this Resonance otherwise the Moon Goddess will notice that you've gone and killed her follower.'

It was a risky plan and could possibly spark the battle between the alliances.

But there was more than one path to achieve the same result.

Alternatively, they could let Asur win.

'Sabotage Esse once Asur is on the verge of dying. I'm sure his anger will allow him to land a fatal blow on Esse at that moment. Once both Lords kill each other, it's just a matter of collecting loot is it not? No one can blame us either since Asur was the one who killed Esse.' Alyss grinned deviously.

They simply needed to be the unknown third variable to allow Asur the victory before they could reap their rewards.

". . ." Staring at Alyss for a moment, Alice contemplated before revealing a similar grin.

'Alright, let's do this. How should we help Asur? Esse will flip the controls once she realises it's dangerous and his attack will miss.

'We need to get rid of her ability to flip Asur's controls.'

'That's simple. Remember what Dion did? We just need to use Asur as a proxy for my flames. If I allow my flames to wrap around him like a protective barrier to ward off the attack, he'll be able to turn the tides against Esse.' Alyss reminded.

'Can you even do that?'

'Dunno. But it wouldn't hurt to try. We just need to give him one chance to land a hit. If he can seize that chance, he wins.'

Alyss had two approaches to this. First was to grant him the power of the Violet Flame through blood mist. But this way would allow Esse to cancel it out since this was still her realm.

Which meant she had to go with the secondary option.

###

Gritting his teeth, Asur glared at the girl in front of him. The annoyance of not being able to land a single attack as his body refused to listen to his commands. How she took joy in inflicting constant small wounds so his suffering was prolonged.

Taking a deep breath in resignation, he turned to Esse once more.

But this time, there was a strange shadow behind her.

A split haired girl with a grin that sent a chill down his spine.

'Is it Esse? No... It's someone different.'

[Do you desire power? Power to cancel out her abilities?]

Her voice echoed through Asur's mind as he furrowed his brows.

In a blink of an eye, the girl disappeared and reappeared beside him.

Her voice, whispering in his ear.

[Do you want to take the life of the girl in front of you? To pay her back for the humiliation you felt?]

[I can give you that power.]

Her voice, dipped in honey reverberated in his ear. The temptation of her offer, the whispers of a devil.

'What do you want?'

Nothing in this world was free. Not his power gained by selling his soul to the Will and neither was this.

[I want you to kill her and offer her to me. If you do, I will give you the power to kill her.]

A simple desire.

Asur had doubts in his mind but at the current state of things, he couldn't afford to be picky. Either he takes this offer now or he dies by Esse's hands.

'Fine, I will do it. I will offer you the corpse of an Abyss Lord for the power you wish to grant upon me!'

With his confirmation, Alyss's smile widened as invisible blades began to carve across Asur's body.

A ritual!

Feeling a foreign power flood through his body, Asur felt himself being attached to something far bigger than him but it was too late to dwell on this feeling. He had to take the initiative to kill Esse first!

Just as Esse was about to land the finishing blow, a burst of power erupted from Asur's body.

Violent and far more menacing than his power of Corrosion.

Wanting to protect herself, Esse prepared to flip the world once more yet found it impossible to effect Asur.

Widening her eyes in shock, she wanted to run away when Asur lunged forward with a blade of pink energy overlayed by the violet flames.

*KRRRK!!!!

At that moment, her world was turned upside down.

A single moment of weakness was all it took for Asur to sever her head from her shoulders.

Black hands erupted from the ground, grabbing and tearing away at her body while violet flames burned her from the inside out. Chains latching onto her soul as pieces of it was torn from Lumira's embrace.

And then, silence.

In the darkness of the Void, Esse saw the being she was about to be consumed by. A mass of beasts crying out for salvation as a single warden looked down upon her with a devilish grin. Licking her lips, Alyss grabbed Esse by the chin as the girl paled in fear.

"Thanks for the meal~"

Chapter 318 - 318: Stealing Souls

Waiting by the side while Velouria, Solaris and Enris took the lead in commanding their armies, Lumiria simply smiled and watched.

After all, her army is not afraid of death as death is not the end. Once they die, they'll enter her embrace and live a life of eternity after death.

The longevity that they longed for was within arms reach, why would they be afraid of battle?

Even now, her soldiers were the most 'insane' on the battlefield.

Laughing with each stab they receive, fighting back harder than ever with each wound.

Just when everything is going as planned, Lumiria paused. Her face contorted in a mix of anger and confusion as she stood up in shock.

One of her Lords had been killed and their connection to her severed. She will not enter her embrace and Lumiria couldn't do anything about it. It happened too fast and by the time she noticed, her subordinate was gone.

'Impossible... Who is it? Who stole my child from me!?' Lumiria gritted her teeth as for the first time in a long while, the Goddess of the Moon showed a face of pure anger.

The moon that hung above the battlefield began to shimmer as its lustre was dyed in a deep red, unbefitting the gentle moonlight that used to coat its surface.

Beneath this crimson moon, her followers gained a dark aura as they lunged at their opponents without fear!

"Lumi, what's wrong?" Velouria frowned, seeing Lumiria taking action.

"Some b*stard has just stolen one of my children." Lumiria hissed out as all three Gods shivered for a moment seeing the veins on Lumiria's neck.

'She's pissed.' Is what all three of them thought.

"Veli, can you check who did it for me, please? I wish to personally tear their f*cking head off their shoulder and drink wine from their f*cking skull!" Lumiria asked as Velouria scratched her cheek before nodding her head.

Closing her eyes, she began to read the 'history' of the battlefield using Cayla.

Scanning through the fight, she soon saw what had transpired and an awkward expression appeared on her face.

'Aliceeeeeee!!!' Velouria cried out in her mind. If Alice had simply killed the Abyss Lord of Duality that belonged to Lumiria, Velouria wouldn't care and in fact would even cheer it on.

But the fact that Alice had 'devoured' her of all things!

"Seems like your Abyss Lord lost her life fighting another Lord. The Will probably interfered and dragged her away." Velouria lied as Lumiria's aura burst forth.

"Is that so? Alright. It wasn't personal before but now it is." She squeezed out through gritted teeth as Velouria could only sigh and massage her eyes.

Each of the Gods didn't care that contracts were made with the Abyss because in the end, faith still flowed towards them. When their followers died, they still 'belonged' to their religion.

But Alice stepped over the line by stealing what belonged to Lumiria.

Devouring a small piece of their soul through blood and so on was fine. Yet Alice chose to devour the Abyss Lord entirely.

Standing by the side, Enris scratched her chin while glancing at Velouria and Lumiria.

Narrowing her gaze, the corners of her lips curled up into a wide grin as a realization appeared in her mind, causing her to burst out in laughter.

"Oi, what are you laughing about you crazy b*tch." Solaris clicked his tongue.

"It's none of your concern sunny boy. I'm going to enjoy myself a little~" Enris waved her hand as she gave an order to all of her followers.

It was a simple command, one that everyone understood clearly.

While Enris may have agreed to help Velouria, so long as it achieved the same desired result, the process in which she reached that result didn't matter.

Therefore, she issued the following order.

[Go wild my children. Let your desires be known, let all falsehoods be stripped away. Show the world your truth.]

Lumiria's wrath, Enris's chaos. With these two issuing orders, the battlefield descended into a bloodbath once more.

Meanwhile, the one who caused all of this was observing Asur who was shocked by the manner in which Esse died. The gruesome violet flames that consumed everything still lingered on his sword.

The foreign feeling that permeated his body remained as it seemed to have taken root within his body.

"Ah~ Delicious. Thank you, if it wasn't for you I wouldn't have been able to feel this full after so long." Alyss grinned as Alice had teleported them next to Asur.

Feeling the strength of an Abyss Lord enter her body, Alyss breathed out in satisfaction. Licking her fingers, she tapped her foot against the ground and all traces of Esse disappeared into a mass of shadowy hands.

Across Alyss's body, Sigils started to manifest one by one.

"Now... What to do with you. I did give you a ritual and we've both fulfilled our terms."

Hearing this, a chill went down Asur's spine as he realised his mistake.

She was someone whom he should never have made an agreement with!

Without hesitation, he flooded his body with the power of Corrosion once more as his figure disappeared and slashed down towards Alyss.

*CLANG!!!!

Widening his eyes, he watched as Alyss caught his blade between her fingers while still being relaxed.

*Sigh~

"You know, when I offered you the ritual to kill Esse, what made you think I didn't prepare for you to turn against me?" Alyss asked as she flung Asur away with ease.

"But since you want to fight, we might as well have a little fun."

*BANG!!!

Before Asur could react, Alyss slammed her elbow into his sternum before grabbing him by his hair.

Twisting her body, she slammed his head into the ground and then stomped down with her heel against his head.

A flood of corrosive energy erupted from him in an attempt to devour Alyss but she simply grinned.

The golden chains around her body disappeared in an instant as her aura flipped.

Snapping her finger, Alice created a wall of mirrors that redirected his attack before summoning Void Fang!

Void Flux – Cleave!

"ARG!!!"

A sword slash carved deep into his body as Violet Flames erupted inside him.

Watching his body getting consumed by the very same flames that consumed Esse, fear rooted itself in his heart as he reached out with his hand towards Alice to beg for help.

Yet this time, no voice called out to him.

'It feels a little weird to use but it's not bad. Definitely disorientating though.' Alice frowned as they practised the new type of switch.

It's similar to suddenly being passed a sword and asked to react to 4 different attacks that were thrown at her.

'Well, it needs some work. But obviously, if we keep swapping, we'll get used to it.' Alyss shrugged. She was taking her time to relax after two rather hefty meals.

'Actually, that reminds me. How did you even give them a ritual contract?'

With how Alyss was able to offer Asur a contract so that they could interfere, Alice wanted to know if there were ways where she could do the same. Example being letting Ria use her Violet Flames if the situation calls for it.

'It's instinctual I'll be honest. I just think about it and it happens. It's like... trying to explain what having a tail feels like to someone who's never had a tail. They wouldn't even know where to begin with the sensation.' Alyss frowned.

'Is that so? Oh well. Let's get out of here before someone sees us.' Alice shrugged as she repaired to open a portal back to the cliff.

But just as she was about to do that, her alarm bells went crazy as she immediately jumped to the side.

***BANG!!!**

Several pillars of light rained down from above, obliterating everything in its path!

As the beams disappeared, all that remained was charred ground.

Turning her head up, she saw the source of the attack.

'Reaper!' Alyss shouted out in shock.

Creating a rift in the space above them, the Reaper looked down from above as its countless eyes glared at Alice, each ready to fire a beam of pure destruction at her.

Gritting her teeth, Alice created an array of mirrors while running away.

*BANG!!!

Unable to contain the force of the attack, her mirrors shattered apart as Alice was flung against the wall.

'Why the hell is he making a move now?!' Alice shouted out in her mind as she slammed her hand down and created a swirling barrier of Violet Flames to counteract the attack momentarily as she tried to teleport away.

But the Reaper was observing the Void around them so the moment Alice opened a portal, an attack would go her way immediately!

'...'

Seeing that Alyss was being silent, Alice clicked her tongue in annoyance.

Several arms rushed down from above as she twisted her body and gathered all of her power into Void Fang.

Void Flux – Cleave!

Creating a myriad of slashes to ward off the arms, Alice found her strength lacking even with the boost of Abyss Lord level blood.

'It... might be my fault.' Alyss muttered meekly as Alice widened her eyes in confusion.

'What do you mean?'

Dodging another grab, Alice activated Tiamat's power along with her own as the colour of the world faded away momentarily.

Gathering into a single spark, Alice fired a Void Flux towards the head of the Reaper who only swatted the strike away as though it was nothing.

'When I... Burned the Abyss Lord of Corrosion. I might've... stolen him away from the Will of the Abyss. As in... most of his soul is with me rather than the Will.' Alyss explained with an awkward cough.

At that moment, Alice understood why the Reaper was angry.

Not only has Alyss pissed off Lumiria, the Goddess of the Moon due to Duality, which Alice doesn't know about just yet. But she had also pissed off the Reaper of the Abyss as its master's belonging was stolen as well!

In one fight, Alyss had angered two god like entities and now Alice had to clean up the mess.

"You've got to be sh*tting me..."

Chapter 319 - 319: Fighting The Reaper

With a constant array of attacks raining down on her, Alice tried her best to redirect the attacks using her blood mirrors while taking cover when she could.

However, the Reaper was akin to a Lord of the Void, it was able to open up rifts to rain down attacks no matter the angle.

An all seeing beast who was out to kill her.

'Why did you have to take their entire soul!!!' Alice cried out in her mind while using Void Flux – Cleave to cancel out one of the beams that was about to hit her.

'I'm sorry! I got hungry!' Alyss cried back as she couldn't do anything in this situation. It was entirely up to Alice to survive this as the Void was sealed off thanks to the reaper.

'If you got hungry eat some spicy skewers! Why the hell did you piss him off like this!?' Alice complained as she took a deep breath and activated her partial Bloodline release.

Gritting her teeth, she could feel a bigger surge of power greater than before due to the fact that she now owned the body of an Abyss Lord!

Alyss's beast form manifested behind her as dark hands exploded out from the ground around her.

Clashing with the pillars of energy, the hands grabbed hold and began to corrupt!

Dark spots appeared along the energy that travelled towards the source.

Seeing this, the Reaper narrowed its countless eyes and cut off the connection before raining down another barrage of attacks.

'Got any ideas to help us out of this? Any Sigils I can replace?' Alice asked as one of the beams bore into her shoulder.

Gritting her teeth to stop herself from letting out a scream, violet flames burned across her wound as flesh began to twitch and stitch itself together.

'I'm looking! It's not exactly easy to find one since he's blocked off the Void. It's either we kill it or we stall, pick your poison.' Alyss frowned as she was currently filtering through the countless beasts they've consumed during their time in the Zenia family.

Even though she hoped there was a strong beast that could come to their rescue, the highest quality blood they got was still just six stars. For the current era, six stars represented the pinnacle except the outliers who were able to reach lord level.

The Zenia family was no exception. If they had Lord level blood, they wouldn't waste it on feeding Alice. No, they would use it for themselves rather than in an experiment.

Letting Alyss filter through the beasts, Alice twisted her body and released an upward slash. Using this gap, she activated her Resonance.

As the crown manifested above her head, Alice could feel a strange power, just beyond her reach. So close yet so far.

'Is it because a passage was opened to the Will?' Alice thought to herself but didn't want to experiment.

Right now, her main goal was to survive!

Creating a mirror in front of her, she threw Void Fang into the Void as the exit appeared above the beast.

Snapping her fingers, she traded places with her blade and then teleported it back into her hand.

She needed to 'blind' its eyes if she wanted an easier time. And right now, all of the beams come from one source. The eyes!

Transforming her blade into a spear, Alice jumped towards the Reaper's back in an attempt to stab the eyes.

But just as she landed, a giant maw erupted from its skin, biting down on Alice's right side as she could feel her bones being crushed between its teeth.

Glaring at the maw with bloodshot eyes, Alice erupted in a mass of violet flames.

Gathering countless motes of light towards her palm that was inside the beast, she fired a Void Flux within the beast and created a hole through the maw.

As the extension of the Reaper fell limp, Alice dragged her mangled arm and leg out from the beast as her flesh began to regenerate.

'So... Any ideas?'

'Sorry, the best we've got are the Abyss Lords we've killed recently and Tiamat. And even if we turn them into Sigils, I don't know what kind of abilities they have aside from what they've shown.' Alyss apologized as their access to Abyss Blood was limited right now.

There was the option of Null but they were already using its powers.

Hearing this, Alice frowned before widening her eyes.

There was someone.

'I have a target in mind and we've seen them fight a bunch.' Alice spoke as her lips curled up into a grin.

'Who- Wait... How did I not think of that. The fragment is small so I'm not sure how much of her power we can emulate. But... It's definitely possible.' Alyss furrowed her brows before realising who Alice was talking about.

'Replace my first, sixth and seventh Sigils. We can't replace Tiamat for my fifth since it's already locked in.' Alice laughed as the Sigils across her body began to glow.

'You got it twinnie. Remember, finish it quickly since I don't know how long we can keep it up for. Once it disappears, you'll be back to having just four Sigils.' Alyss warned.

Nodding her head, Alice could feel countless knives carving across her body, imprinting the power of the one who's been guiding her all this time.

Allura! Executioner of the Abyss!

*BANG!!!

A radiant flame erupted from her body as it began to merge with her Violet Flames.

Taking a deep breath, Alice twisted her body and gathered her energy into her fist.

Sparks of fire melded together as she slammed her fist into the flesh of the Reaper.

A shrill cry erupted from the beast as its muscles began to tear apart.

Blood oozed out while countless rays of light erupted from its body in panic.

Trying her best to dodge the attack, Alice jumped up into the air before closing her eyes.

She could feel it.

Allura's Sigils radiated a pure refined path of destruction. A power to breach and sever everything in its path.

Opening her eyes, Alice could see the strands of energy connecting the Reaper with the Will of the Abyss.

*BANG!!!

Unlike the phenomenon caused by her Void Flux, the impact of Nova Core was far greater! A swirl of power, beyond what Alice could accomplish on her own.

The fabric of space surrounding her, warped from the gathering of energy as flames danced across her blade to form a single edge radiating with power.

Nova Core – Cleave!

Twisting her body, Alice released the slash downwards as Void Fang screamed out from the power coursing through its obsidian form.

Allura's sixth Sigil exploded with power on Alice's body.

The slash, transcending space to reach its target without a chance of missing.

And at that moment, the realm was split in two. A single line, bisecting the land and sky at the same time.

As for the Reaper, the front half of its head was cut off cleanly as it didn't even realise it had been cut. Once the head hit the ground, blood poured out from its wounds as it released a shrill cry once more.

But it was alive.

Gritting her teeth, Alice pulled her blade back for a second attack.

*KRRK!!!

As she gathered energy once more, Alice widened her eyes. The flesh along her arm was torn apart as she could feel her body teetering on the edge of destruction.

One slash was all it took for her body to break down from the influx of power!

'How the hell does Allura keep up with this?!' Alice cried out in her mind.

Even with her insane regeneration, it struggled to keep up with the damage.

Seeing the gathering of energy in front of the Reaper, Alice understood that it wanted to finish her off in one go. Yet she had no strength to move her body. Alyss wanted to take over to get them to safety but it was too late.

***BANG!!!!**

A ball of flames appeared beside the Reaper,

With a single bunch, the beast was sent crashing to the ground as the mountains collapsed from its side.

"That was reckless Alice! My Sigils aren't something you can brute force a battle with!" Allura shouted out as she ran away from her fight to cover for Alice.

Twisting her body, she released a slash to block Shura's attack before catching Alice who was falling towards the ground.

"Sorry... Kind of didn't have a choice." Alice forced out a laugh as more wounds kept opening up despite her healing.

The rampant energy from the attack was shredding through her flesh with each passing moment. Thankfully, she was able to balance the destruction with her healing. But as it stands, she wouldn't be able to rejoin the fight any time soon.

"Reckless girl. And here I thought I was the bad one." Allura sighed.

Focusing on getting Alice out of the area, Allura dodged the attacks sent by Shura while the Reaper was recovering from her sneak attack.

"But... With everything said and done, I'm proud of you. That was a hell of an attack." Allura smiled as she patted Alice on the head.

"Now leave the rest to me okay? Just take this time to rest up. You've done plenty."

Nodding her head, Alice enjoyed the head pat as Allura set her down by the same cliff.

Wrapping them in a barrier of flames, she blocked the onslaught of attacks released by both the Reaper and the Abyss Lord of Destruction.

Each of Shura's attacks would destroy her flames but new embers would take their place.

Taking a deep breath, Allura stood up and massaged her neck.

"Now let me show you how you should fight against Abyss Lords." Allura grinned.

Seven Days of Execution – Sixth Day!

Chapter 320 - 320: Allura Vs Reaper And Shura

Even though Allura said what she said to Alice, she wasn't entirely confident in fighting against both the Reaper and the Lord of Destruction.

The wounds that Alice inflicted on the Reaper had healed already and she was losing against the Lord of Destruction.

Shura had an aura around her that would destroy everything it touched. Naturally, the same aura coated her attack. As for the Reaper, Allura only knew that it blocked off space and fired off concentrated beams of energy.

The rest were all unknown to her.

However, Alice was injured and couldn't fight anymore. As her teacher, even if it's brief, Allura had a responsibility to keep the young sapling safe. That's her job as a teacher!

Stomping down, her aura exploded out as she rushed towards the Reaper.

Since Shura was annoying to kill, she should focus on killing the Reaper first!

But Shura wasn't going to let Allura have her way as the giant cross was thrown towards Allura. Breaking into countless shards that transformed into blades, a malevolent aura coated each piece before swarming around Allura.

"F*ck off!" Allura shouted, slamming her fist downwards. A burst of flames pulsed out as invisible blades of her own slashed towards the blades sent by Shura, clashing violently in the sky while the Reaper fired off countless beams of energy towards Allura.

Twisting her body, she unleashed a flurry of punches, each coated with the power of her Nova Core.

Watching all of this happen, Alice was awestruck. Each attack was enough to kill her in one go yet they were firing them off as though it was nothing.

With each punch, the grounds trembled. With each slash, the mountains vanished. This is the pinnacle of power within the realm of the Abyss.

"ARGGGG!!!!" Letting out a shout of anger, Allura slammed her heel into the face of the Reaper before digging her hands into its head.

Seeing the gathering of energy around its eyes to fire off another attack towards her, Allura took a deep breath before gritting her teeth.

Her flames created a shroud of protection around her as she clenched her fist around the Reaper's skull.

Realising what Allura was about to do, the Reaper's pupil shrunk in shock as she ripped the beast in half!

Its flesh twitched in an attempt to mend itself but Allura wasn't about to let it regenerate.

Pulling her arm back, she was about to release another attack when a deep sense of danger manifested behind her. Trusting her instincts, she turned her body and gathered her energy into a single punch.

Sparks of fire crackled around her fist as she punched towards Shura who had fired an orb of destruction towards her.

As the two attacks collided, two vastly different sources of destructive energy exploded out as it combust into an array of colours, lighting up the dark sky. A cosmic array of falling motes of energy rained down.

Despite their beauty, each mote held the power of two Abyss Lords and was capable of killing anything and everything it touched!

But their clash didn't end.

***BANG!!!**

Clashing blade against fist in the air, Allura gritted her teeth as she could feel the aura of destruction seeping through her flames and toward her.

Against this kind of power, her defences were practically useless.

On the other hand, Shura had a wide grin on her face as her eyes glared at Allura with a mix of excitement and insanity.

Aiming her palm towards Allura's head, destructive energy gathered in the blink of an eye before firing towards her.

With her fast reaction, Allura managed to duck under the beam and launch a counterkick against Shura but it was blocked easily.

Glancing back, even the Reaper that was almost dead a moment ago had healed up fully and was now preparing more attacks towards her.

Even now, her senses were telling her that the Reaper was the most dangerous yet all it's done so far was lock down the space around them and fire off concentrated beams of energy. It wasn't doing anything else which raised Allura's suspicion.

However, the fact of the matter was that the Lord of Destruction gave her the most pressure. If she didn't deal with the Lord of Destruction, she could forget about killing the Reaper.

'What a pain!' Allura thought to herself in annoyance as she coated her hand in a protective coating before grabbing Shura by the collar. Turning around, she threw the Lord towards the Reaper before gathering her energy into a single spark.

Nova Core!

A spark of destruction that contained the power granted to her by the sixth Day of Execution. The realm trembled at its creation as the spark of pure power rushed towards Shura and the Reaper.

Seeing this, Shura simply grinned as she had seen this move too many times now.

Creating several arrays, around the attack that was moving towards them, Shura clenched her fist and the space around the Nova Core collapsed in on itself. The target of her attack being eradicated without a chance to detonate.

"Tch, what a pain in this ass." Allura spat out in annoyance as she panted heavily from the fatigue of trying to kill two nine star beasts.

Seeing the situation that she was in, she couldn't help but think that she bit off more than what she could chew. But to save Alice, this was a necessity.

'Enough b*tching about these two. I need to focus up. Just a little more than it'll be the Seventh Day, That'll be my chance to turn things around.' Allura thought to herself.

Her Seven Days of Execution was a skill she thought up of after getting inspired by Alice and it's a type of self imposed Ritual. Once she fulfils certain conditions that she sets for herself, she'd be able to exchange it for power beyond her limits for a brief period of time.

In this case, she was to fight without her Blessing and at half strength for an extended period of time. Once enough energy has gathered to progress the ritual to the seventh day, she'd be allowed to tap into a new reserve of power beyond her usual strength.

However, if she was forced to use her blessing or full strength during this charging period, the Ritual would be rendered null and the energy she'd been amassing would be lost.

A high risk high reward gamble.

'Just a little more.'

Even now, her aura was beginning to fluctuate as she approached the apex of her power.

Breathing out a mouthful of air, she calmed her mind and focused on stalling for now. With her being this close to fulfilling her ritual, rushing into things would make it worse.

But this proved to be a mistake.

Noticing her chance in stance and defensive posture, Shura understood that Allura was stalling. And the only reason an Abyss Lord would stall was to buy time to turn things around!

Immediately, destructive energy erupted around her body as she flickered out of view and reappeared behind Allura.

"!!!"

Slashing down with her blade, Shura manifested 3 clones of herself, each in the process of unleashing the same move.

Unable to tell the difference between any of them, Allura was forced to either face it head on or try her best to retreat. She knew that facing it head on would require her to tap into more power as there was a newfound lethality within Shura's attacks.

'Sh*t! I messed up!' Allura cried out in her mind as she created an explosion beneath her feet, launching her body up and away from the encirclement.

But as she flung herself higher into the air, the Reaper was ready. Several beams were mere inches away from hitting her.

"Lua, can you stop getting yourself into trouble the moment I look away?"

"Kaden!" Allura's expression brightened up as she heard a family voice.

A barrier of shadows wrapped around her and blocked the Reaper's attack as Kaden breached through Reaper's space lock and teleported next to Allura.

His attire was damaged and his body was wounded. However, his aura was far stronger than before.

"And here I thought you would be able to take care of your target before I killed mine." Kaden chuckled, patting Allura on the head as she stuck her tongue out in playfulness.

"I had to cover for Alice annoying the Reaper for some reason. But for the most dangerous feeling thing on the battlefield, it's only using one attack and regenerating." Allura explained as Kaden narrowed his eyes at the beast.

"Should I help you lighten the burden then? I'm feeling pretty energetic after getting my eight Sigil." Kaden grinned.

[Abyss Lord of Shadows : Kaden - ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆]

"Wait how quick did you even kill her???" Allura blinked her eyes in surprise and confusion since there would be a period of time when the body would be reshaped to accept the new Sigil. If Kaden was here after killing his target then...

"What do you think? But let me even out the playing field first since I'm not a good frontline fighter." Kaden chuckled.

A large inky shadow expanded beneath him as the countless cries of beasts could be heard. However, there was one that caught the attention of the Reaper.

A being of countless eyes and a size that dwarfed the battlefield.

Bursting out of the shadows, a single twitching limb could be seen. From one followed two. From two followed four. From four, came countless as a twitching mass of shadows clawed itself out from the darkness and stood before the Reaper.

As though looking into a twisted mirror, the Reaper came face to face with its own reflection.

"Isn't this a bit better? Now then, shall we go for round 2?" Kaden smirked as eight Sigils lit up on his body.