

Bloodline 1281

Chapter 1281 Processing Brain Waves Reanimation

- "The Lord is taking care of it himself. Do not engage the offspring,"

"Understood... Then we shall proceed with the plan,"

...

Gustav soon arrived before an upside down hut shaped golden structure which was around two thousand feet tall.

It had the words <AISTREN SYNOGCES> erected on its exterior and a couple of Ozis in red robes could be seen moving to and fro the structure.

Gustav knew only medical practitioners were dressed this way on Planet Ozis as it was a crime to even consider using red if you weren't a practitioner.

However, Gustav was currently dressed this way as he approached the building from up ahead.

"Mesur Couri," Two Ozis greeted him with respectful gazes as he walked into the structure.

"Mesur Couri," Gustav replied with a nod as he walked past them.

This place which was like a reception area was so tiny that it could only fit three people walking side by side. Only the higher floors were wider since the building was like a massive funnel.

Fortunately only two other people seemed to be on this floor so Gustav had no issue moving to where he needed to.

The glass like elevator area displayed the reflection of an Ozis as Gustav approached.

The face that stared back at him was a circular brown one almost twice the size of a human face. Only a line shaped mouth was visible on the entire brownish circular face along with two antennas positioned atop the head.

At the tip of both antennas were eyeballs the size of a babyfist. Gustav proceeded to walk into and got beamed up a moment later.

He arrived on one of the top floors which had a couple more Ozis Medical Practitioners moving to and fro across the place.

He proceeded down a passageway and arrived in a broad space a few moments later. This broad space had very dim lighting but was structured in such a way that steps were formed in a circular format while the center had very little space.

These steps extended across a radius of more than four hundred feet and got higher with every layer so much that the last step had reached a height of hundred feet and was also structured in a circular format across the space.

Rectangular shaped transparent encasements were lined on the circular steps, causing each step to have a couple of them hovering above them.

Within these transparent rectangular encasements were the corpses of Ozis in a preserved state. A lot of these corpses looked like they were in a state of sleep rather than snuffed of life.

The small glow emitted from the internal walls of the rectangular encasement bathed the corpses in rays that made their skins as fresh as a live Ozis would look.

From Gustav's perception he could tell that there were more than a thousand of these rectangular encasements here. Not like he wasn't aware since he already gathered information last night.

He turned to stare at the south west area of this space and began stepping forward. He moved between the spaces of the rectangular encasements as he headed in the direction of the seventy fourth step.

Gustav knew exactly where to check for the corpse of the Handler that was recently murdered.

Usually on earth, a corpse associated with crime would still be in the coroners office undergoing examination but things seem to be different on Planet Ozious. The necessary procedures were carried out very swiftly and the corpses were checked into a mortuary of sorts.

Then the families of the deceased could choose whatever they wanted to do with the corpse next.

Gustav soon arrived on the step he was headed for and moved sideways till he reached the fourteenth rectangular encasement on this step.

"Hmm... the body still seems to be in a state of repair," A shrill voice escaped Gustav's lip as he peered downwards.

The body within this encasement had a giant hole that extended from its belly to its chest area. Dark scorch marks could be spotted on different areas of the skin as well.

However, it was obvious that the body was undergoing some sort of repair as it bathed in the rays emitted from the internal walls of the encasement.

Guatav now understood that this wasn't just a preservative casket, it was also one that reversed all the damage done to the corpse. This was why the corpses look like they were in a state of sleep as opposed to being dead. However, it didn't change the fact that they couldn't be brought to life.

Eventually the corpse before him would also be void of damage but in the meantime Gustav revered at how much this handler must have lost their life in a gruesome way.

"...Time to find out how you really died," Gustav's slowly lowered his right palm as he mumbled.

"Sersir Ankunta Ipei Sadunda voli..." Two associates seemed to walk into this space at this same moment.

"Uru... Sarigot Mela vani hudija kunta hoqu," One of them voiced while waving as they spotted Gustav above.

Gustav was currently clad in a different outfit so he had left his translator tool in his storage device with the clothes he initially had on. This was the reason Ozis didn't sound like they were speaking English anymore because they never were.

Fortunately Gustav had the system. Despite listening to them speak in their native tone, Gustav perfectly understood every word coming out of their mouth.

The system also had his back so the moment he spoke to respond to them, it would be translated in their native tone.

"I'm here to do one last check... it shouldn't take too long,"

-"Oh, I thought the results have been finalised,"

"After this they will be. It shouldn't take too long,"

The dialogue between Gustav and the other two Ozis ended in a bit and they went on to focus on what they came here for while Guatav finally placed his hand on the head of the Ozis before him.

[Processing Brain Waves Reanimation]

A notification popped up in his line of sight the moment his hand made contact with the face of the Handler's corpse.

[Reanimating Brain Last Vestiges]

A transparent red glow appeared on Gustav's finger tips which were latched to the face of the Handler's corpse.

[0/100%]

[27/100%]

[45/100%]

Gustav waited for the bar that appeared above the percentage readings to fill up.

[69/100%]

[92/100%]

[100/100%]

After four minutes...

[Reanimation Complete]

[Preparing To Withdraw Data]

[Bypassing Braincells Amunocode]

[100/100%]

[Processing Data Withdrawal]

The red glow on Gustav's fingertips became brighter and strands of the glow pierced into the Handler's face, causing her skull to light up from within.

[1/100%]

Just like it happened in the situation with Boss Danzo, the data withdrawal process was considerably slower.

Fortunately, Gustav didn't seem to have arouse any suspicions like the time with Boss Danzo where his life was technically on the line.

He heaved a sigh of relief as he waited. This was a testament to how far Gustav had come since that time. It had been over a year already.

...

...

...

Within an apartment, an Ozis in undies laid within a box shaped space. He semed to have a very relaxed expression on his face as he drifted off into wonderland unaware of the presence sharing this room with him.

This box was equivalent to a bed on earth and a figure just happened to be standing right before it. This figure who hovered above the sleeping Ozis reached out to grab his head.

[Mental Manipulation Has Been Activated]

[Transferring Memories...]

The activities this figure had engaged in within the last one hour was getting transferred into the mind of the Ozis like they were using a Bluetooth connection.

A couple of memories got omitted according to the will of the figure hovering above the Ozis and after a few more seconds...

[Memory Transfer Complete]

The figure who was obviously Gustav withdrew after this notification popped up in line of sight.

He proceeded to place an invisibility button on his forehead in the next instant and vanished. A small whooshing sound rang out without disturbing the vicinity. Gustav was gone like he was never here in the first place.

The person whose memories he had just tampered with was the Ozis whose identity he made use of to infiltrate the synogces.

This Ozis worked there and was supposed to come in today to do a few inspections but Gustav had done something to him the night before.

The Ozis was currently in a state of deep sleep because of Gustav and now that he had achieved his objective, he needed to close off any loose ends. When this Ozis awoke they'd have the memories of Gustav heading to the Synogces and doing inspection as expected with a couple of cut outs.

...

"Gustav where were you?"

"We've been looking everywhere,"

"Dude you missed out,"

The group began clamoring the moment Gutav arrived back at the Zero Haven.

Chapter 1282 Show Me

The group began clamoring the moment Gutav arrived back at the Zero Haven.

"I finished the race and couldn't keep waiting for you guys so I went ahead to purchase some food... kinda got sidetracked but here you go guys," Gustav responded while tapping on his storage button.

Zing~ Zing~ Zing~ Zing~

Snacks in transparent plastic bags began to appear in everyone hands including Planet Ozious participants.

"Wow, cool man, than... what the hell is this!?" E.E yelled the last bit with an expression of horror as he noticed the contents of the snack bag in his hand.

Every earth participant except Glade had their faces drained of excitement as they stared at the snack bags with disgusted expressions.

They were filled with brown eyeballs and purplish noddle like tissues. The brown eyeballs had some unknown and thick greenish liquid splattered all over them. It was like sauce but this sauce was unlike anything that existed on earth.

The internal state of the snack bags looked extremely groggy and one might retch at the sight of it if they were an earthling.

For the Ozis on the other hand, this was a heavenly snack.

- "Thanks Gustav,"

- "These are my favourite,"

- "You got the one with the gravy flavour,"

- "Awesome,"

They appreciated Gustav's thoughtfulness and dug into the snack bag.

E.E had an expression of betrayal and indignation as he pinched his nose while holding the bag up like it was a pile of shit.

"Bruh come on," His eyes watered.

"Bottoms up," Gustav responded with a crafty smile.

The group were trying to contain their disgust but at the same time didn't want to look rude to the Ozis so they tried to make subtle gestures at Gustav to get them out of the situation.

"But where is yours?" Teemee questioned.

"I already ate," Gustav replied.

"What a coincidence, I already ate too," E.E cackled nervously while trying to return the snack.

"But you were with us all through E.E, you couldn't have possibly eaten," Vice Captain Aiel said with a concerned tone.

"I..."

"Now now don't be shy E.E, you can eat our food and enjoy it without shame," Another Ozis participant voiced from the side.

"I..."

E.E was once again interrupted but this time it was Gustav.

"At the very least this looks similar to your cooking so enjoy it," Gustav patted E.E on the back twice.

"kuuukkk!" E.E nearly puked out blood upon hearing this.

"Oh does that mean E.E is a great cook?"

"His dishes must be truly wonderful,"

Ths Ozis voiced with intrigued expressions as they flocked around E.E.

'Quite the contrary!' Every earth participant yelled in their minds, deciding to keep quiet since they felt Gustav had damaged E.E enough for the day.

Eventually E.E was fed the snacks by one of the female Ozis who felt he was being shy and they all laughed and joked as the exploration continued while E.E felt like burying himself.

The group went on to a different level to partake in a new activity. They spent a couple more hours at Zero Haven before deciding to explore a different location on Planet Ozious.

The day was still very long so they decided to enjoy every bit of it before the night came.

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"Fortunately we managed to rank in the 191th place before the second disqualification in the versus battle challenge," A humanoid looking figure with cone shaped head and transparent skin voiced.

"Truly, we managed to pull it off but we need to go higher in the coming challenges or we will fail," Another one with similar body structure responded.

"By the way, Orimon, why did you keep challenging earth participants? You don't really believe you can win against them do you?" The largest in their midst questioned with a tone of bafflement.

Orimon who was on the other end of this accommodation space, could be seen twiddling a trinket of sorts. He slowly raised his face up with a disparaging expression before replying.

"Captain Illumo, just because you're scared of them doesn't mean I am. I am no coward,"

"Don't be a fool! The other time we had an encounter with one of them, we were all put down with little to no effort. It isn't cowardice to avoid them in a one versus one battle... in truth, that is the best move to make," Captain Illumo voiced with a logical tone.

"That was their captain... and he may be a freak of nature but the others aren't. You're just too fearful Captain," Orimon replied with a ridiculing tone.

"The others aren't weak either. It is foolhardy to engage when a physical battle will most definitely end in a loss. If we are going to win against the earth and take first place in IYSOP it won't be through

engaging them in a regular way. We would have to be smart about it because whether we choose to admit it or not, they are stronger than we are," Captain Illumo stated strongly without getting angry.

"Whatever you say Captain... I won't be a coward," Orimon stood to his feet at this point and began heading out.

'I will make sure i get them in the next challenge... with or without your help. They will pay,' Orimon swore as he placed the ring like trinket on his finger.

"*sigh* I hope none of you think like he does?" Captain Illumo questioned with a tone of concern.

'What a wimp,'

'I'm with Orimon,'

Nine other Xionsis had the similar thoughts in mind as they stared at Orimon heading out but they decided not to air their thoughts.

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The day soon came to an end and by the time it did, news had already spread of the fifty planets who won the disqualification stage of the battle challenge.

Planet Ruhz which became one of the spectators favourite during the battle challenge was amongst the fifty who were to proceed to the next challenge.

The spectators had overall had a good time even though the disqualification round was set to be amongst the weaker planets. The thrill of the unexpected had made things even more fun.

Now only around two hundred and fifty planets were left participating in IYSOP. This was a far cry from the nearly three thousand planets at the start.

The next major challenge would signal the beginning of the end of IYSOP.

Handler One went on to address the entire arena about the next challenge, saying it would be announced two days from now.

This meant that the main candidates for each planet had two days of rest. Although for the ones who were already in top two hundred, this would make it a total of three days.

Gustav already knew what he would spend the next two days doing. The group of course were ecstatic when they heard this news and still wanted to go out for more exploration but Gustav announced that he wouldn't be joining them.

He of course gave them an excuse mentioning that it had something to do with his bloodline channels and the group ate it up... except Endric.

Endric didn't choose to confront Gustav yet since he knew there were still things he was figuring out himself.

...

At the dead of night Gustav pulled a blueish cube out of his storage device and placed it on a platform etched to the wall of his room.

Thrrihhh~

The cube unfurled while emitting a spectrum of light before turning into a computrsised monitor.

"System, transfer the data that contains the memory here," Gustav instructed.

("Are you sure you're ready to see this?") The system inquired internally.

"Hmm? By your tone, i take it you already know the contents of the Handler's last memory and it is going to be quite the stuff to take in when i see it... am I right?" Gustav questioned.

("...Yes...") The system responded bluntly.

"I don't wanna think about it, just show me," Gustav stated while placing his hand on the monitor.

"Transfer the memory," Gustav commanded.

[Data Transfer From Archive 023524477219583 In Process]

'Hmm the numbers have increased so much since the last time... oh well, the system probably gathers universal data by the day so I guess this is normal,'

Gustav decided not to give the numbers much thought as he focused on the transfer process.

In a few minutes, a notification popped up on the computerised monitor before him.

[Video File Received]

"That felt like it took forever..." Gustav muttered as he tapped on the notification.

The display quickly transformed as the start of a footage appeared on the monitor.

"Time to find out who the culprit is..." Gustav muttered.

Tssshjsskkkkk~

The footage began with a loud noise that sounded like a mixture between claws scratching on hard surfaces and wet flesh wriggling together.

What appeared in his line of sight was a cascading darkness surrounding a figure. The point of view from the person witnessing this could be seen quaking intensely. The surroundings were obviously affected as well.

-"Hey, Hey are you okay?"

Chapter 1283 Did You Kill Handler 302?

-"Hey, Hey are you okay?"

A loud voice that seemed to have come from the one witnessing this disturbance, rang out.

What happened next caused Gustav's face to darken as the being engrossed in the enclosure of darkness was revealed.

From the looks of things, the being wasn't alone or maybe it was better to say... it wasn't a single being.

"Kyaarrhhh!"

The handler who happened to obviously be the the one witnessing this incident was yanked upwards immediately by a pair of dark arms that appeared out of nowhere.

She was struggling to free herself and activate an ability but her body began to corrode from the moment the dark arms clutched onto her body.

Gustav could see the dark marks appearing on the outstretched insect like fingers of the Handler. No matter how much she struggled, she was powerless in the face of the darkened and corrosive atmosphere.

Fwwwiiii~

Her vision quaked again causing the footage to get a little blurry and the next thing Gustav noticed was they had lifted off the ground.

The ground kept getting farther and farther away as they ascended to great heights.

Thrririhhhh~

All of a sudden they began to descend with speed as the thirty different arms of darkness wrapped around her body pulled her down with intensity towards a massive copper like mettalic rooftop with a long protrusion.

Bam!

Vision blackened as the footage turned dark for a few seconds.

"Kurrhhh! Guurrghhh!" Gustav could hear the sound of the Handler coughing as little light returned to her vision.

It was obvious that she was struggling to breathe and remain alive. The footage was currently blurry which was also a depiction of how things must have been for her in the final moments.

Gustav could see a massive copper colored pillar stained with blood, wedged right in the middle of the Handler's body.

Her face had tilted forward a bit to see the state she was in. Her arms trembled as her fingers reached out to touch the copper colored protrusion in a bid to help herself out of the current predicament.

Unfortunately she was only able to leave a bloodstained print on it. She was unable to gather any energy as her blood flowed like a busted kitchen pipe, drenching the entire rooftop in its murkiness and metallic stench.

Her vision turned even more blurry vision as she completely ran out of energy to keep her head up at this point. Her neck tilted to the back and she slowly succumbed to the claws of death dragging her into the afterlife.

In the upside down state of her blurry vision, the beings responsible for this stood at the edges of the rooftop unbothered while her life got snuffed out.

Their writhing darkness casted a gloom of negativity across the vicinity. A thorny looking crown floated above one of them whose figure had dark tattoos all over.

These dark tattoos seemed to be alive as they wriggled like worms, forming different shapes and changing positions occasionally on the skin of this being.

The thorny crown floating above the head of this figure emitted flame like dark mist, causing it to look like it was dancing erratically to a silent beat in the dead of this ominous night.

The other dark beings in the vicinity reacted oddly as the being with the crown floating above his head fell backwards, passing out on the rooftop.

The playback stopped the moment he fell unconscious but at the point where it stopped Gustav noticed that the dark beings in the vicinity were dissipating. It almost seemed like they were about to dematerialise but one couldn't tell exactly what happened next since it ended here.

"Hmm... this is truly a hard pill to swallow," Gustav muttered with a disturbed look.

("I told you...") The system voiced in response.

("Why do you think he did it?") The system questioned.

"That's the problem... From what I noticed, there doesn't seem to be a motive. I am not even sure Falco is aware of what happened here. This isn't how he uses his dark abilities and his tattoos are usually not that way... I find this whole situation to be very odd but my major suspicion falls on that crown," Gustav said while getting up.

("You've become too trusting... It might come back to bite you in the ass,") The system tried to give Gustav a reality check.

"Falco wouldn't do this in his right senses," Gustav reiterated.

("And with everything that has happened so far you still believe he is in his right senses? It might be best to put him down now before he becomes more trouble in the future,") The system suggested.

"You're starting to sound like Endric," Gustav eyes squinted.

("This might be the only time I and that little deviant will agree on something,")

"Listen... yes i do suspect him after everything that has happened so far and how Endric warned me about him but that doesn't mean I will jump to conclusions without uncovering everything that led to this as well as the motive behind it," Gustav voiced with a firm tone.

("And now you're just being biased. If it was a different person you'd waste no time in putting them down first,") The system made a low chortle.

"I never said I was a good person... I will figure out whatever is going on in full details first before acting," Gustav stated.

("Falco has committed a crime on alien soil. A grave one at that, your duty as an MBO officer would be to take him in and ask questions later,")

"I'm not doing that," Gustav replied while walking towards the door.

("Are you thinking about the consequences this will bring? Or are you just making decisions from a place of emotions?")

"Nobody knows he is responsible yet,"

("For now...")

"More like forever... No footage was found... nobody managed to witness the incident despite it happening in the open and even if they were able to access the Handler's last memories like I did, they would only see dark figures. They won't be able to tell that it is Falco since his face wasn't shown and his entire body was also black. The lighting in the vicinity as well. We only know it's Falco because we've seen the crown before. Even his tattoos were different," Gustav explained his reasoning behind why no one would ever discover that Falco was the culprit.

("Even at that... this time it was a Handler who you bear no emotional attachment to... do you know who's gonna be next? Do you know if Angy would be the next person on a pike? Or E.E dying in such a gruesome way? Think Gustav... think...") The system kept at it.

"Shush... I'm going to him now," Gustav walked out of his room in the next instant, choosing not to further engage the system.

He soon arrived at the passageway that led to the other rooms and strode forward till he arrived before the fourth door.

Ko! Kom!

He knocked gently on this door a couple of times before speaking, "Falco... you there?"

Ko! Kom!

He knocked a few more times before a low timid voice replied from within.

"Yeah...?"

"It's Gustav, open up,"

The door slid open in the next instant and Gustav walked into to meet Falco cooped up on his bed in a cross-legged format with a massive duvet wrapped around his body like a cloak.

His facial expression made it seem like he was a little scared as his body twitched repeatedly while he rocked forward and backwards nervously.

"What's wrong?" Gustav inquired.

"Nothing... just having sleeping troubles," Falco responded with a slightly shaky tone.

"Oh? Still having those nightmares?" Gustav asked.

"Hehe it's fine... Why are you here?" Falco inquired with a wry smile.

Gustav proceeded to step forward with a straight face and stopped when he arrived before Falco's bed.

[Activating Sound Space]

Gustav's eyes twinkled with a blueish glow as a transparent spherical blueish barrier appeared around the both of them.

"Hmm? What are you d..."

"I want you to tell me the truth Falco..." Gustav cut him off before he could question what was going on.

"Did you kill Handler 302?" The moment Gustav spat this question out, Falco's face turned full panicky.

His body began trembling as tension permeated the sound space Gustav had just conjured.

"How did you... what di... ho..." He stuttered repeatedly, unable to form a single coherent sentence as his mind sank to the depths of fear.

Gustav's current expression made things no better as he stared Falco directly in the eyes.

"Think carefully before you reply and tell me nothing but the truth... did you kill Handler 302?" Gustav's voice grew even several degrees colder as he questioned once more.

The place turned very silent with only Falco's breathing growing louder and increasing in pace by the second.

The silence was getting almost too much to bear at this point as they Falco felt chills run down his spine. He drew in a breath of confidence and defeat before finally speaking.

"I think so..."

Chapter 1284 You Are Going To Accept The Crown!

"I think so..."

"What do you mean by that? It is a yes or no question Falco," Gustav said with a calm but threatening tone.

"I can't answer with a yes or no... because I don't recall what happened," Falco responded with a fearful tone.

"I saw you Falco..."

Falco's breathing turned even more hurried as Gustav said this.

"What do you mean by you saw me? I really can't remember what happened... When i came to she was already dead... I swear!" Falco stuttered a couple of times but managed to voice the last part with a look of certainty .

"Hmm? Tell me everything that happened without mincing any words," Gustav demanded.

"Every... thing?" Falco's mind reeled back to the incident.

"Everything... don't skip anything," Gustav reiterated.

"...I was asleep..."

Falco began narrating how he had another nightmare on that day. He explained to Gustav that in his nightmares there was always a person that claimed to be his father advising him to take the crown.

How he would get threatened with insanity and the so called voice always telling him his loved ones would be put in danger if he keeps declining the crown.

He went on to mention how in the last nightmare everyone was killed. Angy, E.E, Endric, Aildris, Teemee, Ria, Elevora, Glade and even Gustav.

The voice mentioning how they would be in danger but not from the voice, rather from him. Then he awakened to find himself on the rooftop with the corpse of the Handler behind him.

"How long has this been happening... the voice... how long has it been appearing in your dreams?" Gustav inquired with a worried tone.

"Since the nightmares began... since Darko's disappearance...." Falco answered with a low tone.

"This has been happening since that time? I thought you said they were just nightmares," Gustav had a slightly shocked expression on his face as he voiced out.

"I couldn't... tell anyone. At first I thought they were normal nightmares but then it started getting worse... I couldn't go to sleep without the voice appearing in my dreams and everytime I would watch you guys die by my hands... hahaha... I think I'm going crazy... maybe you should just put me away Gus," Tears welled at the corner of Falco eyes as voice.

He looked like he was starting to lose it.

"Hold on, work with me here Falco... The voice claims to be your father, right?" Gustav questioned.

"Yes,"

"Have you ever found your father suspicious? Is this something he could get involved with? Think," Gustav kept questioning.

"No, my father is a very simple mixedblood who only has eyes for business. Also, he is very weak. I am currently the highest in bloodline rank within my entire immediate family. Big brother followed in father's footsteps and went into business while father made me join the MBO especially because of Darko. They believe I'd be able to learn how to control my bloodline better if I joined the MBO camp," Falco explained. It looked like he already thought about it as well and concluded his father could never be behind this.

"Hmm the voice... the crown... Falco... did you ever stop to think you might be adopted?" Gustav inquired.

It hit Falco like a train the moment Gustav pointed this out. It was a possibility that never crossed his mind most especially because right from a young age people had mentioned he was a splitting image of his father.

"That can't be right... oh wait, you've never seen my father," Falco shook his head.

"There's always a possibility..." Gustav pointed out.

"In this case I don't think there is... I really am a splitting image of my father," Falco seemed to be in denial regardless.

"Either way, we need to get to the bottom of this and we have two focal points. Your father and the crown," Gustav listed.

"I think the crown may just be showing me these nightmares so I can accept it," Falco said.

"That is a possibility as well but we can't have you out here killing people Falco... At the moment you are a danger to everyone and even yourself," Gustav decided to lay it down straight.

"...I know... That's why I don't wanna join the next challenge... What are you going to do to me now? Are you going to hand me over to Planet Ozious authorities?" Falco inquired with a sigh of defeat.

"No... We need to find out what... who you are. Beyond all of this... there is something. Your true identity, we need to discover everything and the motive behind all of this," Gustav responded while stepping closer.

"How are we going to do that?" Falco questioned.

"You are going to accept the crown," Gustav stated.

"Right I'm going to accept the... Wait! What? No!" Falco immediately shook his head, declining.

"We need to know what we're dealing with. You need to know who you are," For some reason Gustav was starting to suspect that Falco had some identity crisis.

"I cannot do that... I feel I would lose myself," Falco shook his head repeatedly, shuddering at the thought of accepting the power.

Pat!

Gustav placed his hand on Falco shoulder and stared down at him.

"Listen to me Falco... Do you wanna know who you are and why all of this is happening?" Gustav inquired.

"I want to but its too risky... who knows what might happen. I don't want to harm any of you," Falco kept shaking his head.

"If you remain this way, the chances of harming everyone is higher. If you accept it at the very least we'll know what exactly we're dealing with instead of being on the fence," Gustav reiterated.

"But..."

"Its your power isn't it? Dominate it and control it instead of letting things go the other way around. Falco will be Falco... it is your power..." Gustav stated with a tone of certainty.

"Hmm... maybe you're right... maybe I'll be able to get Darko back faster too..." Falco was starting to consider it.

"That's the spirit. It is your power! It should answer to you. Its time to claim it," Gustav responded.

Falco took in a mouthful of breath as he gathered courage.

"Okay, I'll do it," He said while letting go of the duvet covering his body.

"Good... I'll be here for you the whole time if you need me," Gustav smile with a comforting gaze.

Falco nodded before shutting his eyes and activating his bloodline.

Shhrroouuuuhhhhhh~

His body began emitting dark mist in the next instant and the image of the thorny crown appeared in his mind.

Zzhrrrrhhhhh~

In the next moment, half of the thorny crown appeared in the room, hovering few inches above Falco's head.

"Phew~ I'll begin the process of accepting the power now..." Falco voiced as he opened his eyes.

"Hmm?" His facial expression displayed a look of confoundment as he stared at Gustav before him.

"HAHAHAHAHA GOOD JOB MY SON! GOOD JOB! I KNEW YOU HAD A DEEP RESPECT FOR THIS PERSON AND IT WORKED,"

The voice that plagued Falco's nightmare was ringing out from in between Gustav's lips.

"What...? Wha..." Falco couldn't believe his eyes as the realisation dawned on him.

----SS

Endric could tell that Gustav had truly forgiven him now and it was a great feeling for him. He felt all his hardwork to prove himself had paid off.

The battles continued and soon the batch ended. Endric and Muvierd's battle along with four others had been the highlight of this batch.

To say the spectators were stunned would be an understatement. Things were getting more interesting as weaker planets lost all of their points and got automatically disqualified.

Soon the planets challenging weaker ones to easily gain points would be unable to do so anymore once every single one of them was gone.

"Yuhuko, are you ready?" Gustav voiced while approaching the black haired beauty with a doll like face.

"Huh? Eh? What do you mean?" Yuhiko questioned with an expression of confoundment.

"We've lost 1200 points from declining the other challenges after our three tries," Gustav voiced.

Yuhiko nodded while maintaining an expression of intrigue wondering where Gustav was going with this.

"It's time to regain everything and add a little more to that," Gustav added.

"Huh? How? What d... do you mean?" Yuhiko stuttered.

Gustav stood before her and gave her a small finger twack on her forehead.

"You're going next dummy," He voiced.

Yuhiko looked up at the screens displaying the one hundred fifty participants selected for the next batch.

"I am not amongst," She voiced with confusion still.

"Yes but one of these participants are going to challenge you and its going to be someone with a high number of points," Gustav responded.

"Are you saying I should accept... a challenge?" Yuhiko eyes widened with an expression of surprise.

"Yes... don't be slow," Gustav responded.

"But I thought..." Yuhiko still couldn't hide the look of surprise on her face.

"Whatever you thought was wrong. I was letting everyone bear a stereotypical thought about you in their minds. It's gonna pay off now," A smirk appeared on Gustav's face as he closed in further on Yuhiko.

"You go out there, take them by surprise and win," After voicing this out Gustav turned around and moved back to his initial spot.

Yuhiko's body trembled slightly in both excitement and anticipation as she stared in Gustav's expression.

Chapter 1285 The Heaven Monolith Challenge

However, the sharp outburst of intense dark energy only lasted a moment. It vanished as quickly as it appeared.

Gustav met Falco laying on the bed peacefully with nearly nothing out of place within the room. The loud crash from the door getting kicked down had alerted the others who were now making their way towards Falco's room as well.

Gustav stepped forward and looked around but really couldn't find anything. Falco who was laying on the bed sleeping on the other hand had ropes of dark mist floating out of his mouth which was a bit ajar.

"What is this?" Gustav could barely sense Falco's presence despite standing before him.

It was almost like his existence was fickle. Gustav wondered if this would be the same for the others.

"Falco..." Gustav reached out to touch him.

"Wake u..." The moment his hand made contact with Falco's body he quickly retracted it.

"What the...." He stared at his hand after the retraction. A couple of fingers had webs of darkness climbing up like they were alive.

Cold... Deep and icy coldness...

This was what Gustav felt when he made contact with Falco's body. Falco's body looked absolutely normal except for the rope of darkness his slightly ajar mouth emitted, yet his body was extremely cold to touch and corrosive.

[Regeneration Has Been Activated]

Even with regeneration, it took more than a few seconds for the corrosive darkness to vanish from Gustav's fingertips.

"What is it!?"

"I heard the noise what happened?"

"Is Falco alright?"

Everyone was arriving together and could see Gustav standing before Falco's bed with a concerning look.

"Is he...?" Angy reached out to touch Falco.

Pah!

Gustav grabbed her hand before she could make contact with his skin.

"What is it?" She questioned.

"Don't touch him... his body is corrosive," Gustav answered.

Angy slowly retracted with a bothered look as well.

"Something is wrong with Falco... I don't know what it is but... I can tell it is serious," Gustav stated with a serious tone.

"Is his body only corrosive to the touch of living beings? His bed seems to still be okay," Aildris asked while furrowing his eyebrows despite his eyes still being closed.

"No... that is because..." Gustav slightly crouched as he reached out to touch the bed.

Fwwhwiii~

He pulled the bed from underneath Falco's body, sweeping it to the other side of the room.

"Wooooa..." E.E exclaimed as everyone stared at Falco's body levitating in place.

It turned out that Falco's body was floating less than an inch above the bed all this time so it was easy to think he was laying on it.

"What do we do now?"

"How do we figure out exactly what is wrong with him?"

E.E and Angy questioned in successions.

"Maybe we should try to wake him up," Teemee suggested.

"Falco!" Almost everyone began to yell his name at this point.

Some of them threw things at his levitating body while some conjured non lethal abilities to use on him.

No matter how much they tried, they were unable to wake Falco. Everything that came into contact with him corroded before their very eyes.

Gustav wasn't the only one that had issues sensing Falco's presence. For the others it was like Falco wasn't here at all. They could only confirm Falco's presence with their eyes but not their senses.

"This is serious... I think we should inform Grand Commander Shion," Aildris suggested.

There wasn't much they could do anyways since this predicament seemed to be too much for them right now. If things were normal Falco would have awoken since but this was obviously not in anyway normal.

While all of this was causing a ruckus, Gustav was unaware that Falco was currently in the process of accepting the crown because of him.

The voice had mimicked Gustav's appearance and showed up to Falco in a realistic dream earlier, advising him to accept the power of the crown. Everything had been extremely realistic as the voice had mirrored Gustav's character almost perfectly from Falco's memories.

Grand Commander Shion, Miss Aimee and the other MBO officers on Planet Ozious soon arrived at the accomodation area.

They had been briefed about the situation through communication channels but when they arrived, they realised that things were worse than they had expected. Not even Grand Commander Shion could touch Falco without suffering the corrosive effect.

Miss Aimee had to create something to move Falco in so he could be studied better in a place with proper equipments. At the moment, they had no idea what was wrong with him but Gustav already had his suspicions.

Time went by in a flash and the night before the next challenge arrived.

During the last two days, Gustav had spent his time trying to figure out what happened with Falco and what Endric was hiding from him.

Both endeavours ended up not being fruitful.

Falco had been in the same state for the last two days with everyone unable to figure out exactly what was wrong with him while Endric repeated the same thing about being unable to decipher if what he saw was for Gustav.

For Falco's situation, Gustav's major suspicion was linked to the crown he was supposed to accept. Still, despite the fact that he had this suspicion he really couldn't do anything.

Gustav felt extremely powerless at the moment and finally decided to tell Miss Aimee about what happened in Aribia city and how he felt it was linked to this.

"Are you saying that kid might not be a mixedblood?" Miss Aimee questioned after hearing Gustav narrate the occurrences so far.

"I don't know but I feel he has a different identity like how the system and that other being Husarius says I'm the outworldly... whatever that means," Gustav responded while holding his chin.

"Hmm this is more complex than I expected... That crown, you said the kid would change if he accepted it, right?" Miss Aimee inquired.

"That is what his alter ego mentioned... although I don't think that was his alter ego now. I think he was there to protect him," Gustav replied.

"If the kid is truly in the process of accepting the crown like you think, there are only two options left," Miss Aimee voiced.

"Which are?" Gustav's eyes shone with curiosity.

"We either stop the process or we kill him," Miss Aimee stated with an undisturbed tone.

"I prefer the former to the latter," Gustav immediately pointed out.

"And what if the former doesn't work?" Miss Aimee asked.

"We'll keep trying I guess," Gustav voiced.

"No... If the former doesn't work we move to the latter," Miss Aimee stated.

"Now now Miss Aimee, don't be like that. Let's just try to stop the process if it is ongoing," Gustav voiced with a pleading tone.

"Hmm... I'll reach out to an old friend with power mental abilities. They should be able to reach into the subconscious of the kid and find a way to help him," Miss Aimee came to a decision.

"Really? Phew~ That would be great," Gustav let out a breath of relief upon hearing that.

"I don't know how fast they can arrive on the planet so let's hope your friend doesn't become something else before that time. The moment he becomes a threat especially to you, I'll end him myself," Miss Aimee pointed out before turning around to leave.

"Miss Aimee... Thank you," Gustav voiced from behind.

She paused and slowly turned around with a beautiful smile on her face, "Anything for you,"

Thwwiwihhh~

Her figure blurred in the next instant and she vanished.

Gustav looked a little relieved after this conversation but he recalled something.

"Two days left on the timer... It's time I found out if these guys are linked to it," Gustav tapped on his left wrist in the next instant.

The dimensional bracelet beamed up and in the next few moments it emitted a flash of blue light and Gustav vanished.

#####

The next morning everyone was gathered in the arena once more.

Cheers~ Chatter! Cheers~

The entire place was noisy as usual with the millions of spectators gathered around this magnificent structured location.

The number of IYSOP participants had reduced to five thousand but the spectators were still as many as ever.

Handler One's podium rose once more as he prepared to address the entire arena. The place slowly quietened the moment he began speaking.

"The next major challenge will begin soon..." Handler One pointed at the screens which went on to display the wheel.

The wheel had only a few parts that were marked undone at this point so the spectators as well as participants could count with one hand the options left.

Zhrrriihhh~

The wheel began spinning and after a couple of moments, the arrow was positioned on the image of a tower of sorts.

"The Heaven Monolith Challenge," Handler One's voice reverberated across the arena.

"The heaven what now?" E.E eyebrows twitched as he voiced out.

Chapter 1286 Host Vitality Is Increasing

"In this challenge, the participants are tasked with reaching the top of the monolith or rather specifically their captains. There are two hundred slots available at the top of the monolith and to successfully pass this challenge, a Captain must make sure to acquire one of the two hundred slots. It goes without saying that the fifty who fail to acquire a slot at the top of the monolith will be disqualified..." Handler One explained lengthily.

"Does this mean only the captains will be participating?" Teemee wondered out loud.

"I don't think that is the case, listen," Gustav responded.

"The captains are required to take a slot upon arrival at the top of the monolith because it will not be counted if a normal member of the team or a Vice Captain does so in their stead. Everyone in the team is required to do their best to get their captain to the top before the others.

There is no time limit. The challenge comes to an end when all slots have been taken," Handler One went on to say.

"This challenge will be over very quickly," Yonda shook his head.

Most people felt so too. It was practically just a climbing exercise or so they thought...

Trrrooiinnn~

The screens went on to display a life footage of the monolith they were meant to scale.

"What the...?" Everyone displayed looks of bafflement as whatever camera that seemed to be recording this, slowly tilted to show how large it was.

The monolith was like a pillar with very smooth surface that extended so high, the footage couldn't display all of it from below.

The display of the footage was currently ascending along with the massive monolith. The bottom area seemed to cover a radius of more than four thousand feet but as it seemed to be getting thinner the higher the footage covered.

In a bit the spectators could see that it had pierced through the conducive atmosphere of Planet Ozious and extended into outer space.

"Well damn, this must be why it is called the heaven monolith," Teemee voiced.

"But none of us is capable of breathing in outer space without a space suit," Matilda stated with a baffled tone.

"They'll probably provide us with gear," E.E said.

"Outerspace gear will not be provided. Participants are expected to be resilient enough to deal with the arduous situation using their abilities alone," Handler One loud voice instantly dashed their hopes.

- "What the hell? How are we supposed to survive?"

- "Some planetary species can breath in space because of their geenes this is unfair to those of us who weren't born that way,"

- "This is totally unfair!"

A lot of participants began to yelled loud in protest.

Handler One paused for a bit before speaking, "There is no unfairness in this. It is simply a part of their ability if they were born that way. No changes shall be made in regards to this," The Handler stated without a shred of sympathy.

Some participants still kept chattering on and voicing out their dissatisfaction but Handler One continued regardless.

"The monolith has five layers and a person from a group has to be sacrificed at each layer to allow the continued movement of the others. There will be multiple challenges in climbing to the apex of the monolith but I wish you all Goodluck in this endeavour," Handler One explained with an optimistic tone.

"Sacrificed? What does that mean?" Angry eyebrows furrowed.

Handler One went on to explain that by sacrifice, he meant one person would have to stay behind for the others to have access to continue climbing the monolith.

Flight abilities were the only restrictions in this challenge. Participants were given a height jump limit as well. Everything else went.

They could attack each other if they wanted and use every other thing at their discretion to reach the top of the monolith.

"This challenge will be held on the first disk..." Handler One ended the briefing with this. The first disk was the largest disk in the entirety of Planet Ozious.

However, it was surprisingly the least populated out of all the disks. The atmosphere there was said to be incredibly rich, making all living inhabitants there naturally evolve quicker than any other species.

According to rumors, one was closer to immortality the longer they stayed there and the true ancients of Planet Ozious who said to be some of the most powerful beings in existence resided on the first layer.

Gustav hadn't paid any heed to this since they arrived here because he didn't care about immortality.

He wasn't looking to live forever. However, being on the first disk would be pretty interesting even if it was for a brief period.

"The outerspace thing shouldn't be much of a problem," Gustav voiced to the others who were still worried.

"It just depends on how long you can hold your breath," He added.

"The challenge doesn't end till all two hundred slots are filled if I recall correctly..." Aildris began speaking with a troubled expression.

"You're worried because we have no idea how long it would take for the two hundred slots to be filled," Gustav pointed out.

"Yeah... what if its longer than our ability to hold our breath?" Aildris questioned.

"Let's focus on getting to the top first... Since only captains are required to get the slot, it should be fine," Gustav assured them but internally he also knew that Aildris concern was not one to scoff out.

The only option at the moment was to wing things. It was difficult to tell how things would turn out.

Besides this, one had to also look out for those who would try to target captains. Since without captains a slot couldn't be acquired, captains were both the strength and weaknesses of a group.

However, it went without a saying that some participants would definitely think twice before messing with a Captain. They were captains for a reason.

Zing~ Zing~ Zing~ Zing~ Zing~

The participants were teleported in successions to the first disk and soon the middle of the arena was completely empty.

The screens above displayed the participants who had appeared before the Monolith.

"The monolith is really very high..." E.E bent his neck to the limit, trying to see the top but it was impossible.

It covered a height of more than two hundred thousand feet which was why it had pierced through the atmospheric layers above into space.

Under normal circumstances people like Gustav and Angy could scale this height in a short duration but this wasn't normal circumstances.

The stairs strapped to the sides of the monolith was more visible in person and it was just as smooth as the rocky pillar itself.

The width of the stairs could contain twenty people moving side by side and they happened to curve around the monolith like snakes wrapping around their prey.

At some areas on the monolith, the two stairways on the right and left, intersected.

"A golden monolith... never thought I'd see one in my lifetime," Matilda voiced with a tone of astonishment.

"Just imagine the price this would sell for on earth hehe," E.E said, nearly drooling from his mouth.

"We're here to climb not rob an entire structure dumbass," Teemee slapped E.E at the back of his head.

"Ouch just food for thoughts man," E.E winced lightly.

Gustav could feel the atmosphere of the first disk. It was truly unlike anything he had felt before and the others felt this as well.

They could feel their bloods pumping and circulating at a much higher rate... the pores of their skin taking in the magical air of the vicinity.

[Host Vitality Is Increasing]

[Host Vitality Is Increasing]

[Host Vitality Is Increasing]

Gustav stared at the notifications at the corner of his sight.

("If things keep going this way you may unlock a new ability,") The system voiced.

'Hmm? Does the atmosphere really have that much effect on living creatures?' Gustav couldn't help but be astonished by this.

("Yes... but not just living creatures... even non living things are affected,")

The skies here were green and whitish. Constellations could be spotted in the distance but there wasn't much anyone could see from this part of the first disk.

Elevora placed her hand on the barrier that prevented them from going further. Every single participant currently waited while staring at the massive monolith

"I declare the start of the Heaven Monolith Challenge!" Handler One's voice suddenly rang out loudly.

The instant the barrier vanished everyone charged forward with intensity.

"Yaaaahhhhhh!"

"Let's gooooooooo!!!"

They were like angry mobs as they made their way across the golden planted grounds to the monolith up front.

Since two different stairs were constructed on the right and left sides of the monolith respectively, the mob soon split as they arrived before it.

Gustav and the others immediately went right as they clustered together upon reaching the stairs.

Fwwhiii~

Gustav grabbed a green faced alien on the right and flung him away the moment they arrived on the first stair.

Chapter 1287 Scaling The First Layer

Gustav grabbed a green faced alien on the right and flung him away the moment they arrived on the first stair.

"Go!" They moved forward together, pushing through the crowd to get further ahead.

It was really a sight to behold as the participants began attacking one another due to the spaces on the stairs not being enough for everyone to move through at the same time.

It was really a sight to behold as the participants began attacking one another due to the spaces on the stairs not being enough for everyone to move through at the same time.

Everyone wanted to be ahead but they also needed to make sure they didn't separate from their captains.

Some groups moved towards the smooth surface of the monolith and began climbing with their limbs attached to it instead of using the stairs.

Some other planetary species tried to climb as well but they soon realised it wasn't as easy as it looked.

Its surface was incredibly smooth so only species who knew how to stick their body to things or excrete liquid from their skins that would help them stick to the monolith could successfully climb.

Gustav already canceled the thought of climbing before the challenge began. He knew it would be incredibly difficult and time taking so the stairs were the best option especially if they were going to stick together.

With the start of the new challenge, the entire arena was once more in a state of uproar.

Lots of participants had already gotten kicked off the stairs from the very beginning and some were still getting kicked off after making a bit of progress.

If one got pushed off the stairs, they had to start again since flying wasn't allowed. This was even more frustrating for species with wings, it made their wings look useless.

"Out of my way!" A massive Klaxosape swung a giant thirty foot long club as he charged forward.

Sweeeeeiiiihhh~

The club cleared a bunch of participants on before them, sending a whole group of twenty flying.

The Klaxosapes followed him closely from behind, letting their teammate clear the path.

Fwwhiii~

He swung the massive club forward once more at a bunch ahead, but the moment it arrived before the humanoid figure on the right it was stopped.

Bam!

A hand had reached out to stop the massive club.

"Hnnghh!" The Klaxosape groaned as he realised he was unable to pull his club backwards but the moment the person who stopped the club turned to face him, he froze.

"Captain Crimson?" His eyes widened as Gustav let go of the club, causing him to stagger backwards and lose his footing.

He rolled down the stairs for a couple of feet before the other Klaxosapes caught him. They were about to question what the issue was when they spotted Gustav and the others ahead.

"Watch where you're pointing that thing," Gustav voiced before running ahead to catch up with the others.

The stairs were even more crowded at the bottom at this moment as lots of participants had been sent off.

Bang! Bang! Boom!

All sorts of attacks were sent forth as participants attacked one another while trying to reascend the stairs.

At this point Gustav and the others had scaled more than two thousand stairs and were heading further upwards.

Gustav would occasionally leap across a hundred feet in a go with the others. They were extremely quick but made sure not to cross the height limit when leaping.

E.E did the same as he conjured vortexes to cover short distances since it would be against the rule if he used it to the fullest.

Zhrrriihhh~

He conjured another vortex and stepped forward.

The moment he arrived another one hundred steps away, he sensed something.

"Uh oh," He muttered as he looked down to see a white glowing circle appear around his foot.

Gustav and the others arrived a step behind E.E with conflicted expressions as a bright white glow surrounded the entire group.

Zing~

They all vanished in the next instant.

"Hmm? The earthlings are gone," Captain Kriv voiced with a surprised expression.

"Hahaha, that's what they get for being so prideful," The one who attacked Gustav earlier laughed.

"It doesn't, matter let's go!" Captain Kriv voiced as he increased his pace.

"Be careful here, this is where they dissapeared," The vice captain voiced as they made their way forward carefully and quickly.

The others behind also quickened their pace, carefully crossing the area earth participants had vanished from.

Zing~

Earth participants reappeared at the bottom of the monolith.

"What the hell!?"

"E.E what did you do!?"

The group yelled in fury as they realised what just happened.

"I don't know..." E.E had a baffled expression as he voiced.

"It's not his fault. Anyone would have fallen into that," Gustav stopped the others from berating him.

"Indeed... even though handler one mentioned that we'd meet different obstacles, there was no way to know what to expect," Aildris chimed in.

"Let's get back up there," Gustav stated while turning towards the start of the stairs on the right.

It was still crowded with loads of participants and now they were behind everyone.

Gustav charged forward in the next instant, speeding through the midst of two participants that were in a heated battle.

Fwhoosshhh~

The wind generated from his speed was like a slap to their faces as they just realised what happened.

"Hey!" They both yelled out at the same time and turned to face the direction Gustav headed in only for three others to sped past them as well.

Fwwhoosshhh~ Fwwhoosshhh~ Fwwhoosshhh~

Elevora and Sheila leapt over them, causing the two to look up in bafflement but at this point didn't even know who to focus on.

Up ahead Gustav could see that they were more than four hundred participants in heated battles, crowding where the stairs began.

There was not even a bit of space to pass through as attacks dispersed across the vicinity powerfully.

"E.E," Gustav uttered calmly as he approached the crowd.

"Got it," E.E voiced in response as he raised his right hand and twirled his index and middle together.

Sweeeiiiihhhh~

A massive vortex suddenly opened up below, covering the entirety of the beginning stairway.

"Waaaaahhhh!"

Every single participant crowding the place, fell into the vortex which closed up after swallowing them all.

"What the hell!?" The other participants behind who were battling with one another stopped after witnessing this.

Without wasting a second more, they charged forward. Now that the stairways were free, this was a great opportunity to climb.

Zhrrrihhhh~

A massive vortex opened up hundreds of feet behind the monolith, vomiting over four hundred participants upon its appearance.

"Those bastard earthlings!"

"Damn it!"

"Get to the stairway hurry!"

They all quickly collected themselves with tones of annoyances as they charged at the monolith ahead.

At the moment, Gustav and the others were making their way across the stairs once more. They moved very quickly and since they already covered this area earlier, they were not worried about activating any traps.

Angy of course had to move slower due to everyone else being slow. They had to scale the monolith as a group.

They soon crossed the distance of more than five thousand stairs and began closing in on the area where E.E had activated the trap earlier.

"Be careful of where you step and follow my footing," Gustava announced as he scaled another three hundred stairs in an instant.

The group made sure to always land where he is. Since their speed wasn't hindered the group could move very quickly in a single step.

Crossing a thousand stairs wasn't a problem but doing so without your feet touching a single stair in the process would result in disqualification.

The restrictions for this challenge, ultimately caused everyone's speed to be reduced.

Gustav leapt past the area where E.E initially triggered the trap and kept moving. God Eyes was currently activated to look out for traps but Gustav wasn't very confident in its abilities at the moment.

The way the trap was activated made Gustav suspicious about being unable to tell if a step had a trap before hand.

On the brightside, he could see the footsteps of the other participants who had gone before them through God Eyes so he made sure to follow these footsteps.

Since the others ahead hadn't encountered the same situation yet it meant following their steps wouldn't be a problem.

After a couple more minutes they had scaled more than fifty thousand stairs.

Gustav was still following the footsteps when he suddenly paused.

"Stop!" Gustav voiced.

The group behind instantly came to a pause as they looked up ahead and stared at Gustav with questioning gazes.

'The footsteps are no longer visible... something happened,' Gustav said internally as he looked upwards.

His sight zoomed across a distance of five thousand feet and he soon understood why this was the case.

"We just finished scaling the first layer," Gustav announced.

Chapter 1288 Crossing The Second Layer

"We just finished scaling the first layer," Gustav announced.

"Oh sweet,"

"That was easier than I expected,"

The group faces shown with a bit of relief after hearing this.

"Once we move up ahead, we'll arrive at the bridge before the first and second layer and one person would have to stay at the entry point of the second layer for everyone else to get past," Gustav explained.

"Oh how do we get there now?" Teemee asked.

"We just do this i guess..." Gustav stated while stepping forward.

Thrrrihhhh~

In the next moment the stairway before them completely flattened, turning steep. A rectangular opening appeared before them and the group proceeded to walk in.

Within this opening was a small space were smoothened out walls at the west and east corner.

Up ahead was a golden glowing pathway which led further forward. The group wasted no time in stepping forward and walked till they arrived at the end of the golden glowing pathway.

At what was presumed to be the end of the pathway was a cave like opening on the left and a glowing doorway on the right.

Two signs could be spotted on the right and left top corners.

< Sacrifice > < Access >

Gustav interpreted the meaning of the signs and everyone immediately understood that the cave like dark opening was the path that belonged to the teammate who was supposed to stay behind to provide access for the rest of the group.

Teemee reached out to touch the glowing doorway that had the access sign but couldn't get through. An invisible barrier stopped everyone from going through and as Handler One mentioned, they wouldn't get access till a teammate sacrificed themselves.

"Abestos you're up," Gustav stated.

Abestos nodded with any arguments and turned towards the left.

Everyone watched as he approached the dimly lit cave like opening and walked through a moment later.

ZZHRRRIUHH~

Reddish rays scanned across his body the moment he walked through and everyone waited.

"Its still sealed," Teemee stated after sticking his hand out to touch the glowing doorway up ahead.

[Mental Manipulation Has Been Activated]

Gustav decided to send Abestos a mind message after waiting for a couple of seconds more.

'Any issues?'

-'Yeah just a little but I took care of them already,'

-'Oh?'

-'I've gotten to the end, the barrier should be lifted for you guys soon,'

'Alright, good job,'

-'Thanks Captain,'

- 'What caused the delay though...'

Gustav and Abestos ended communication after a few and now he was aware of a new information.

"Handler One is pretty sneaky," Gustav chuckled.

"What's that?" E.E questioned.

"Let's go," Gustav voiced before stepping forward.

Everyone had looks of surprise when he stepped through the glowing doorway undisturbed.

They didn't realise the barrier was already lifted. They wasted no time in following after Gustav. When the last person was about walking through, two groups were arriving behind.

When they noticed Gustav teammates moving into the glowing doorway they sped forward with intensity.

"Huh?" Shirama noticed them and furrowed her eyebrows as they arrived at the doorway.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

She didn't even bother attacking them. The groups slammed into a barrier before they could reach the doorway.

"Looks like it's selective and knows who to keep out so long as the conditions have not been met," Shirama scoffed before stepping through the glowing doorway undisturbed.

Gustav walked out of the light and noticed he had arrived at the base of next layer of the monolith. This place was more than forty thousand feet above the ground but it was leveled and rounded around the monolith like a floor.

Just like the bottom of the monolith, the beginning of two stairways could he spotted on the right and left. One couldn't go back because a barrier was set in place that prevented such.

If anyone fell off the stairs after climbing for a bit, they would only start from the base of the second layer again instead of the bottom of the monolith.

"Arrrghhhh!" A series of loud screams were heard from above as a massive mettalic looking ball came cascading down the left stairway.

Thrrroiuuuhhh~

It pushed an entire group of participants with Grasscutter like faces and thorny looking silver hairs that grew out of their back and spleen.

Bam!

Soon they arrived back at the base of the second layer as the massive mettalic ball rolled off the edge after achieving its objective.

The group cursed as they realised they had returned to the start of the second layer. It seemed like they triggered a trap like E.E did on the first layer.

"Right it is," Gustav voiced as he turned towards the right stairway.

The others who had appeared beside him, followed in line. They began making their way upwards with speed.

Swwoosshhhh~

"There are at least fifty groups ahead of us but we can't assume were safe since we don't what to expect yet," Gustav voiced as all nineteen participants ascended across the stairway.

At this point, they were starting to reach the upper atmosphere of Planet Ozious first disk. The cold wind circulating across the area was a little intense but the group could handle it.

For reasons unknown to the rest, the gravitational force remained the same even though they were closing on space at this height.

Gustav had God Eyes activated so could see that the reasons there were no changes to the gravitational state was due to the gigantic monolith.

It seemed to be negating the effects space would usually have.

As the group climbed further, the fog gathering around them increased. At this point, no one could see the lower parts of the monolith anymore since they had reached a height of nearly hundred feet.

The fog was becoming denser like its aim was to separate teammates from each other. Fortunately, God Eyes made this impossible as Gustav could see his teammates easily and even without God Eyes his perception made it so no one was able to escape his range of detection.

"Hmm?" Gustav sensed something the moment he scaled ninety three thousand steps.

Pah!

He reached towards the left and pushed Angy away.

The moment he did so, Angy slipped and tumbled backwards for a couple of feet.

Endric who was a few steps behind caught her before she tumbled further. The moment her feet stabilised she noticed Gustav up ahead gesturing for everyone to stop.

"Some footsteps dissapeared and some are all the way up there instead..." Gustav announced.

"Traps?" E.E inquired.

"Most likely... probably got a couple of groups but not all were activated... some are still in place. You nearly triggered on Angy," Gustav responded.

It turned out that where you stepped on a particular stair mattered. Gustav didn't trigger any but if Angy had managed to step beside him, she would have.

Thankfully she watered down her speed from the start.

Gustav raised his arm and waved it around forcefully.

Wwhosshhh~

A strong wind was generated from his arm which immediately cleared the fog covering a distance of more than two thousand feet.

"We'll go one after the other here... wait and follow after the next person exacts footsteps which should follow mine," Gustav instructed.

He proceeded to leap across three hundred steps in the next instant since this was the furthest they could go with it.

He carefully navigated his way forward as he leapt further again, arriving at the far right of the next three hundred stairs.

E.E immediately followed behind, pacing himself properly to Gustav's speed. Elevora followed behind E.E and Sheila followed behind her.

Going up one after the other was of course taking a bit of time but Gustav felt this was better than having to trigger any trap and he could tell there were traps all across the next three thousand steps so he was trying to be as careful as possible.

Aildris waited until everyone else had stepped forward before he did. However, since it had taken some time, a couple of groups were arriving from behind.

One of them sped forward with an unhinged condescending expression as they passed by Aildris side.

Aldris was going to warn the participant as well as the group behind him when...

THRRRAAIHHHHH!

A massive stroke of lightning descended from above.

"Arrrghhhh!" The participant screamed in agony as the smell of cooked flesh permeated the air.

Unfortunately this wasn't the end, as two more lightning streaks descended on this participant before they disappeared.

A cloud above streaked with red lightning streaks and Aldris saw this as his cue to leave before he was mistaken for the teammate of the victimised participant.

Swwwooshhh~

He crossed three hundred steps in an instant but paused the next moment.

"Where did they...? Oh mine..."

Aildris could sense that whoever left before him was long gone so he had no idea where exactly he was supposed to land next since he had been paying attention to the participant that was getting struck by lightning earlier.

#####

On the other side of the monolith stairs, the Draconets, made their way forward undisturbed.

Pah! Pah! Pah! Pah! Pah!

The sound of their giant feet stamping heavily against the stairs reverberated across the vicinity.

Chapter 1289 Reaching The Second Layer

Pah! Pah! Pah! Pah! Pah!

The sound of their giant feet stamping heavily against the stair reverberated across the vicinity.

One of them stepped on a trap but the group seemed unconcerned as a white glow appeared around all of them.

"Absolute cancel," Captain Ostril voice rang out as a massive shadowy figure hovered above her.

The whitish glows surrounding them instantly dissappeared while the group continued to charge forward.

"We shall be the first to arrive ay the summit!" Captain Ostril stated.

"Osu!" The group chanted powerfully.

'I will show the Midelies that I am fit to lead,' She swore internally with a determined expression.

The group of Dracons made their way forward with nothing managing to hinder them at the moment since they had Captain Ostril.

Groups they had left behind couldn't help but notice they were missing a pivotal figure... Strum.

It seemed as though Strum didn't join them to partake in this challenge. Regardless, the Dracons were one of the fastest groups scaling the monolith. They were already at the third layer while many other groups lagged behind them.

Planet Wildreck were currently the fastest group scaling the monolith. Due to their speed, they had surpassed a bunch of groups from the very start and unlike Angy who had to slow down due to the other earth participants, every teammate on Planet Wildreck was very fast.

Planet Ozious participants were one of the most fortunate groups due to their ability to redirect energy so long as they were quick enough to imprint on it.

Captain Vilax who was the best in the use of their signature abilities, managed to prevent his subordinates from the effects of triggering a trap. However, unlike Captain Ostril absolute cancel, he had to redirect the energy elsewhere and unfortunately, the groups around them had to suffer the effects of the redirection.

At this point, groups were trying their bests to stay far away from Planet Ozious group so as not to have the fate of a planet Ozious participant who triggered a trap, transfered onto them.

Other planets that had managed to reach the third layer as well included, Oxlrk, Tribetes, Xillion, Klaxosapes and a few others.

A lot of planets that were initially ahead of earth were still struggling to get to the third layer after getting sent downwards multiple times.

The second layer was no doubt a little trickier than the first. While there wasn't much difference, multiple groups had restarted from the base of the second layer a few times after triggering traps.

Surprisingly Gustav and the rest hadn't gotten to the bridge before the second and third layer yet due to some complications.

Aldris hadn't been spotted since they reached the 97,000th step.

"Did he get lost?" One of them questioned.

Gustav made use of God Eyes to stare downwards, zooming past more than fifty thousand feet as his sight phased through the fog.

"He's at the base of the second layer," Gustav stated.

"What? How did he get there?"

"He's just dragging us back now,"

"What happened?"

The group was very surprised to hear this but they didn't realise that this wasn't all.

"He's surrounded too," Gustav added.

"Surrounded?" E.E voiced with a tone of confoundment.

"Yes... a group is trying to attack him," Gustav could more or less tell how this must have played out.

Aldris must have triggered a trap and got sent to the start of the second layer along with a group of participants. Whatever grievances they bore, they must have felt they could gang up against him since he's like the blind guy of earth group and the only one down there at the moment.

"This should end fairly quickly," Gustav mumbled while watching.

At the base of the second layer, the group surrounding Aldris charged at him while shooting out flaming spikes from their mouths.

Pah! Pah! Pah!

Aldris moved like a phantom despite his eyes being closed and swept his hand in a circular motion.

He caught every single one of these flaming spikes and they instantly turned to black and white existences.

Aldris proceeded to stab all six he grabbed into the shoulder of the closest alien participant.

"Kurrrrh!" Blood trickled out as Aildris flung the participant towards another one of his teammates in the next instant.

- "Damn it! He is fast!"

The others missed as they swung out attacks, while Aildris reappeared behind another one of them, kicking him forward.

The participant body traveled across the air and slammed heavily into the barrier at the edge of the second layer base.

Every single one of them moved to attack at the same time and at this point it was getting a little tough since they were warrier of him now.

They initially thought that even though Aildris was atrong they'd be able to win since he was surrounded and this made them conceited. They were no longer conceited so their attacks were more precise and they moved with more caution while engaging him.

Aildris took a few hits as the battle continued for a few minutes but he managed to remain calm and stayed ontop of the situation as he took them down one after the other.

Other group participants were arriving at the base of the second layer as this fight ensued between Aildris and the Sifiwl but of course most of these groups didn't pay heed to them.

Battles were occurring on different places all through the monolith so this looked like a normal view to them.

"We can't keep staying here we'll get delayed," Yonda voiced out with a tone of satisfaction.

"As much as I hate it, I agree with this dude," Matilda voiced from the side.

"The captain is the only person that needs to reach the peak so we don't really need Aildris. We should keep going," Yonda added with a strong tone.

"He is kinda right... we're still up to eighteen so even if we have to sacrifice four more people to access the other layers, we have enough," Matilda buttressed the point.

"Finally someone with common sense," Yonda smiled.

"Don't push your luck," Matilda rolled her eyes.

"While you two are making a lot of sense, there is one vital information are unaware of. I will be needing Aildris due to this vital information as he is one of the few I trust to be capable of handling the task when it comes in the future," Gustav responded.

"Uh? What can he do that the rest of us can't?" Yonda questioned with a dissatisfied glare.

"A lot," Gustav replied before jumping downwards.

Fwwwiiiiii~

His body descended with speed as the wind brushed his hair upwards. Leaping further than a particular number of feet or stairs was prohibited but since Gustav was descending, there was no problem.

It seemed like Gustav had been falling forever since the distance between his initial location and the base of the second layer was more than fifty thousand feet down.

Gustav flipped his body in mid air, nose diving to move faster as he cut across more distance within a couple of seconds in this posture.

After about one more minute...

BAM!

He landed between Aildris and the last opponent.

Gustav's right fist drove into jaw of the shocked participant before him.

Bang!

The body of the red faced alien traveled across the air and slammed into the barrier on the edge of the second layer base.

Crash~

It broke through the barrier and the body of the extraterrestrial being began to plummet downwards uncontrollably.

"Overkill... I had him," A smile appeared on Aildris face as pulled out a flaming four feet spike from his shoulder.

"No doubt..." Gustav responded before passing a med pill to Aildris.

"What happened?" He proceeded to ask Aildris.

Aildris went on to explain how he got distracted by this bunch who were climbing the stairs without caring about traps. He was unable to warn them and they all ended up getting sent to the base of the second layer.

However, he had no idea how to pinpoint exactly where the last person who went before him stepped. Everyone was already far ahead.

He managed to scale about six hundred feet without triggering a trap when he touched the monolith in relief and triggered one unknowingly.

He had no idea that the monolith walls had traps on them. Gustav was also quite surprised since he wasn't aware of this as well.

They just subconsciously refrained from touching the monolith while climbing the stairways. When he thought more about it, he felt it made sense since some participants directly climbed the monolith walls.

The Handlers must have already suspected this was possible and placed traps on them as well.

"Don't get distracted this time," Gustav voiced while charging towards the right stairway.

"Sure," Aildris replied while following closely behind.

-Four Hours Later

At this point, Gustav and the others were currently scaling the second layer.

They had managed to go through the third layer without too much issues but the moment they reached the second layer, everything changed.

Not only were they now in outerspace, the stairways no longer existed.

Chapter 1290 Fourth Layer Obstacles

Not only were they now in outerspace, the stairways no longer existed.

The sight before them wasn't just the endless expanse of darkness with clusters of tiny lights in the distance. The stairway had turned completely panned out. It was smoothened and looked more like a path that extended upwards.

This would have made things a lot easier but now one could not even tell where the traps would be situated and if everyone would be affected should a person trigger one.

Another issue was, there happened to be areas where the pathways were missing. The participants would have to leap towards wherever the sloppy pathways resumed when they reached places like this.

Leaping wasn't much of a problem but doing all of these while trying to fend off the illusionary maniacs with long whitish gown and paper box covered faces would certainly make things a lot more difficult.

These illusionary figured all had massive purplish scythes in their possession and to make things worse, it's was impossible to physically touch them. So one could only evade their strikes while they appeared randomly.

Occasionally, the broken off pathways that were laden across the monolith would vanish and reappear after some time. If someone was to leap towards a separated pathway and they vanished at that moment, they would fall straight down to the start of the fourth layer.

The second Layer happened to be around a hundred thousand feet in height. With all the mechanisms in place, everyone had obstacles that would make them slower than normal so starting again was something no one wanted.

The group were currently holding their breathe as they made their way forward as quickly as they could. At this moment, no group had successfully made it to the fifth layer yet.

The second layer had too many obstacles in place.

Gustav and the group were successful in crossing about fifteen thousand feet in just a few minutes but once they arrived at a broken off pathway, things started to get tricky.

E.E conjured a vortex and was about to step in when Gustav grabbed his shoulder to pull him back.

The pathway seven hundred feet above where his vortex led to suddenly vanished.

"Yo what the hell?" E.E eyes widened as he noticed this.

The group were initially unaware of the vanishing pathways that would appear and reappear randomly. They were not allowed to leap past seven hundred feet so they had to wait for the pathway to reappear before getting on it.

The pathway above soon reappeared and everyone turned towards Gustav waiting for his signal.

"Not yet," Gustav voiced.

"Out of my way earthlings!" A group of white scaled beastly looking figures with massive horns approached from behind at full speed.

fwwwihiii~

They all leapt together towards the platform above which only extended for about ten feet. They had to leap again towards the next platform which was further above but the moment they did...

Thrrriihh~

The platform above vanished while they were still in mid air.

"Hngghh!" One of them ripped one of his horns from his head which proceeded to emit a blinding red glow and stabbed it at the monolith to prevent fall.

Taaannggg!

The pointy tip of the horn slammed onto the monolith's smooth surface but failed to scratch it in the slightest, talk more of penetrating.

("It would take your strongest attack to cause a dent in the monolith... it has one of the toughest surfaces in the universe,") The system voiced in Gustav's mind.

'Yeah I noticed its pretty dense,' Gustav was still astonished even till now.

Bboiiinnnggg~

A small ripple of energy burst forth from the monolith's wall and pushed the group further away as they plummeted downwards.

"Arrrrrggghhhh!"

The screams soon faded as the group disappeared into the clouds below.

Yonda who was about to speak earlier, swallowed his words.

The platform above vanished once more and earth participants as well as other groups that witnessed what had just happened, waited for a bit.

When it reappeared everyone stared at Gustav once more.

"Not yet," Gustav stated again.

No one tried to question him and they all just waited.

"Why are you guys also waiting?" Fildhor asked the group behind.

"We're not trying to end up like those guys," One of them voiced, obviously referring to the group that plummeted to the bottom earlier.

"These guys..." Fildhor had a stiff expression as he didn't want any of the groups following them.

After waiting two more times for the pathway to vanish and reappear, there were already more than a hundred participants behind the earth group.

"Now!" Gustav yelled while leaping forward.

Thooooommm~

The moment he ascended across the air, the others followed in suit. They didn't waste a single second as the pathway below soon turned empty.

"Yosshhh!"

They instantly landed on the next platform and leapt once more, approaching the second.

Fwwwiiii~

The numbers ascending across the air at quick pace, caused the air to whoosh loudly like a whip lashing out.

The groups soon realised that there were about ten different platforms separated from each other with seven hundred feet distances each.

Their timing of choosing to jump had to be impeccable or one of the platforms would vanish even after they had gotten past some and they would eventually end up at the bottom.

Gustav arrived at the ninth platform before everyone as expected but the moment he did, the tenth platform vanished.

The tenth platform would have been the last they would need to leap from before arriving at a consistent pathway that led further ahead without separation but now it was gone.

"Connect," Gustav yelled as he turned to stretch his hand out.

The group grabbed each other's palm immediately as Gustav leapt sideways.

[Sprint Has Been Activated]

Twwwwhoosshhh~

His figure sped across the smooth surface of the monolith walls as the others dangled from him, all holding onto each other.

Gustav crossed a distance of seven hundred feet in an instant but he could already feel his feet slipping off the extremely smoothened surface.

Fwewhiiii~

He swung his right arm forward, causing the entire group to sway upwards while still holding onto each other. Now Gustav was the last person while Angy was at the forefront with their hands still connected to each other.

Pah!

Angy's feet touched on the surface of the smoothened wall and now it was her turn...

Fwwwwhoosshhh~

A burst of wind spread forth across the vicinity as Angy sped upwards at an extremely bizarre speed, dragging the rest of the group with her.

Gustav's feet had already slid off the monolith walls at this point but due to the hand connection and Angy's speed, he didn't fall off.

Angy dragged everyone with her to the next pathway and they arrived on it in the blink of an eye, leaving the other groups behind to cater for themselves.

"Phew~ That was intense," E.E voiced as they peered forward.

"I thought we would fall," Teemee and the others also had a look of relief on their faces.

"Let's go," Gustav said to everyone, unbothered about the fates of the groups behind them initially.

Fortunately, a few of them managed to make it but the others... not so much..

Gustav and the others spent a whole hour scaling fifty thousand feet due to the many obstacles along the way.

Gustav had to be very calculating to avoid a lot of issues that could send them back, not just to the base of the fourth layer but to the very start of the monolith.

It already happened to some groups.

Right now they were crossing another separated pathway, following after Gustav's lead.

Fwwhoosshh~

The moment Gustav leapt towards the consistent pathway that would lead further ahead without vanishing, a massive purplish scythe appeared before him.

Bang!

It had been completely unexpected and Gustav had raised his left arm at the last moment to block the attack but it was still powerful enough to change his trajectory in mid air.

Next thing everyone knew, Gustav's body was sweeping towards the right, off the direction to the pathway.

"Gustav!"

Angy yelled as the illusionary figure responsible for this attack, retrieved his massive scythe and swung it towards the others.

Wwwhrrroohhh~

A vortex suddenly appeared before them, and swallowed the whole group.

They reappeared on the pathway ahead in the next instant and found Gustav standing up ahead as well.

"Thanks E.E," Gustav voiced in appreciation.

"I don't think that guy is too happy about this," E.E responded while pointing at the illusionary figured with a robe, a paper box covered face and massive glowing purplish scythe.

The figure turned around and charged towards them swiftly.

"No, I don't think he is, go!"

The group sped forward in the next instant while Gustav explained to them that it is impossible to physically damage these illusionary beings.

They had to do their best to evade them especially since these beings had very powerful attacks.