

Bloodline 1401

Chapter 1401 Wanted Dead Or Alive?

Didn't that mean that they would have failed to capture him if they wanted to?

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In the far reaches of the galaxy, a group of assailants, clad in crimson robes and adorned with eerie fox masks, appeared on an alien planet that thrived with vibrant energy. Its towering spires and bustling streets were filled with beings from countless, different species, all living harmoniously.

The tranquillity of the city they appeared in was suddenly shattered when the sun dipped below the horizon, casting an eerie twilight upon the land. The citizens were going about their usual routines, unaware of the imminent peril that awaited them. As darkness enveloped the city, a loud explosion rang out.

Boom!

The central power station, a vital hub that controlled the city's grid was destroyed, plunging the alien city into darkness. Panic spread like wildfire as the once-illuminated city became a maze of confusion and fear.

"We are the Gustavo Alliance!"

As the citizens stumbled through the darkness, trying to make sense of what was happening, a loud voice suddenly rang out, and with it came a massive projection of a being clad in Crimson robes and wearing a mask.

While the panic was still spreading, the figure continued speaking.

"With the name of our Lord and Savior Gustav Crimson... we bring retribution upon this city!"

The moment the sentence ended, a bright yellow twinkle appeared in the north sky.

The citizens at first didn't know what to make of it until it grew larger and in the blink of an eye, they recognized what it was.

"A meteor!" The cries and panic in the city increased as they tried to make their way to safety.

The massive meteor gleaming intensely in the night sky had given them illumination but it was practically impossible to outrun it.

A bunch of similarly looking whitish species ascended across the air while giving off powerful energies in a bid to stop the descent of the meteor but in the next instant, they realized how futile it was.

ZHHIINN~ ZHHIINN~ ZHHIINN~ ZHHIINN~

Hundreds more meteors just as massive, appeared from other locations as well. Just a single one was enough to wipe out the entire city and yet a hundred more had appeared.

The Gustavo alliance had left them with no chance of survival.

"Meet your justifiable end!" The loud voice rang out once more as the first meteor hit.

Boom!

Its descent was accompanied by a cacophony of thunderous booms as if the very heavens were being rent apart. They all looked up in both awe and terror as more of the celestial bodies hurtled toward them.

Shockwaves emanated like ripples on a disturbed pond, shaking the planet and rattling everything in their path.

The force of its descent created a symphony of destruction; shattering windows, fracturing walls, and cracking the very foundations of the planet.

Their impact unleashed a cataclysmic explosion that seemed to defy the very laws of physics. Blazing flames erupted, consuming everything in their path, and reducing buildings to smoldering rubble. The shockwave, akin to a mighty tempest, reverberated outward, creating a domino effect of destruction in its wake.

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[Earth]

In a sleek and modern boardroom adorned with polished walnut furniture and floor-to-ceiling windows offering a panoramic view of the city, an important meeting was taking place. The room buzzed with anticipation as high-ranking authorities, each dressed in crisp uniforms, took their seats around a grand crystalline floating table.

At the head of the table sat General Chell, a stern and formidable MBO figure known for his outer space travels. His eyes bore the weight of his experiences, and his presence commanded respect from all those present. To his left was Grand Commander Shion and a couple of other Generals. Many high-ranking MBO officers could also be spotted in the space.

As the meeting began, the air became charged with a sense of purpose and determination. General Chell wasted no time in setting the agenda for his return to Earth. The room fell silent as he outlined the pressing matters at hand – the meeting he had with the top brass of the alliance a couple of days ago.

"The Gustavo alliance struck again... Another three million lives were lost," General Chell stated.

"The meeting with the top leaders of the alliance ended in a stalemate on whether or not to change the details of Gustav being wanted. If they eventually go through with changing the details, Gustav Crimson is as good as dead," General Chell added.

"That would be a foolhardy decision," Grand Commander Shion chimed in from the side.

"The Gustavo alliance has nothing to do with Gustav Crimson. Gustav Crimson is a loner who likes to do everything alone. The few he allowed to become his friends are all here on Earth so killing Gustav Crimson because of the Gustavo alliance would be foolhardy," He added.

"I can't entirely agree with you Grand Commander Shion... Even if the Gustav Crimson is not affiliated with the Gustavo alliance, killing him would end the workings of the alliance. Since they commit these nefarious acts in his name and claim to worship him as their god, if their god was dead surely they would no longer believe in him and put a stop to everything they have been up to," General Chell spoke from another point of view.

"And what if they don't stop? What if that just pulls a trigger which ends up worsening the situation and makes the Gustavo alliance go on a frenzy?" Grand commander Shion questioned with a distressed tone.

"I don't think that will happen," Another General voiced from the side, supporting General Chell.

"They worship him after all... no one worships a dead god," he added.

"Sirs if I may," A commander voiced from the side.

"I will suggest we remain on the side of Gustav being wanted alive and not alive or dead. We should be trying to protect our own no matter what may have happened especially when Gustav Crimson has no hand in the deaths of those extraterrestrial species.

Shouldn't the alliance focus more on bringing the Gustavo alliance to justice than arguing about whether or not to kill Gustav? Imagine a person committed a crime and claimed to do it in the name of the Grand commanders, would you advocate for the grand commanders to be slain?" The commander added.

"Aren't you the commander who is like a guardian to Gustav Crimson?" General Chell questioned.

"It matters not what he means to me. I am just giving a rational opinion. If Gustav Crimson is to meet his end, it should be at our hands and not that of the alliance."

This commander happened to be Xanatus.

He had gained enough rank to be a part of the meeting. General Chell and some others seemed to recall just how close he was to Gustav when he was still a Gradier and assumed he was speaking from a place of sentimentality.

"Commander Xanatus speaks the truth. It says a lot about us if we choose to go forth with such a decision for one of our own who has also saved this planet several times," Grand Commander Shion supported from the sides.

"It says a lot about us that one of our own is slaughtering innocents across galaxies," General Chell chimed in.

"It has been made clear to you that Gustav Crimson has no motive for engaging in such acts. I have made my decision, General Chell. At the next meeting with the alliance higher-ups, inform them that Earth is against changing the details of Gustav being wanted.

If they are truly concerned about bringing the Gustavo alliance to justice, a task force can be set up to specially go after them. We will allow some of our most decorated officers to be a part of it," Grand Commander Shion's lengthy response gave no more room for arguments.

"Understood, Grand Commander Shion," General Chell may be the MBO they had chosen to appear in most meetings for them but he was still below Grand Commander Shion in ranking.

No one was allowed to go against the commands of the Grand Commanders regardless of how high they were in the MBO.

"Now onto the next topic of the day – The death angel..."

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Perched atop a towering mountain, the view of a futuristic metropolitan city could be spotted in the distance. Its streets teeming with bustling crowds and gleaming hovering vehicles, that flew to and from

blueish rings. Some citizens on the sidewalks stepped into glowing circles stationed in multiple areas and vanished in the next instant.

The sun's golden rays danced upon the mirrored surfaces of the towering skyscrapers, casting a mesmerizing sparkle that was visible even from that great height.

The architecture itself was a sight to behold. Flashy holographic billboards adorned the sides of buildings, advertising the latest technological marvels and showcasing the artistic flair of the city's inhabitants.

The structures reached unimaginable heights, with innovative designs that defied the laws of gravity. Twisty spires melted seamlessly into curvaceous shapes, creating an otherworldly view.

A group of three who were positioned atop that mountain peered into the distance with different expressions on their faces, ranging from nostalgia to fascination.

Chapter 1402 He Is Here

A group of three who were positioned atop the mountain peered into the distance with different expressions on their faces, ranging from nostalgia to fascination.

"We're back," Endric voiced with a reminiscent look.

"Wipe that look off your face. We're not here to have a good time," Gustav reminded Endric.

"I can't see it but I can sense that it is beautiful... is this where father grew up?" Sersi questioned from the side.

"Yeah, and it is truly beautiful but don't let that fool you... underneath all of that beauty lies the ugliness of earthlings," Gustav replied while turning around.

Sersi had a slightly confused look after hearing that.

Of course, she couldn't understand the mixture of dreadful and delightful memories Gustav had harnessed from growing up in Plankton City.

"They can't detect our spacecraft right?" Endric questioned.

"I activated Incognito mode before transporting us here with the dimensional bracelet," Gustav replied while stepping into the spacecraft.

"I have to inform E.E. that we are here," He added.

Usually, Earth couldn't be infiltrated by any spacecraft due to the barrier that surrounded it unless the MBO gave access.

However, Gustav still had multiple areas on earth with his spatial marking so he could return to such places any time he wished without having to be bothered about the barrier. So long as the dimensional bracelet had enough power.

Gustav stared at his dimensional bracelet as he sat before a panel in the control room.

< Energy Levels : 0% >

'~Sigh~ It will take at least two weeks before it regains enough power for usage,' Gustav sighed inwardly while hoping a scenario wouldn't play out where he needed to use the dimensional bracelet as a means of escape.

Gustav tapped on multiple buttons before him and a small vibration rang out depicting that a call was going through.

The moment the person on the other end accepted the call, a loud yell rang out.

"Dude! I have been fucking trying to contact you for ages!"

"Erm... relax..."

"Don't fucking tell me to relax. Where the hell have you been?! You had my ass worried! Now I sound like my mama."

"Calm down, man. We ran into issues and couldn't use the communication transmission in some regions of outer space," Gustav tried to explain.

"Checks out... I left a bunch of messages though. Did you bother to check them?" E.E. inquired like a nagging wife.

"I am just realizing that you did... I was kinda in a life or death type of situation so..." Gustav said with a wry tone.

"So you didn't check them MF," It felt like E.E. wanted to strangle Gustav through the transmission.

"Why is the transmission feedback so smooth? Like you're close by or something," E.E.'s tone had a tinge of suspicion.

"Hold on... playing your messages now..." Gustav hollered for E.E. to reduce his voice.

"Yo, Gus... been trying to reach you? Where you? Get back to me ASAP!"

"Yo, Gus. It's been a week... you good? I have vital information you need to hear. Contact me as soon as possible!"

E.E. messages over the last two months continued to play out.

"It's been a month bruh! Did something happen to you out there? I have tried to contact you over and over again."

"Yo, Gus. The information I've been trying to pass is about Jack and Mack's return. The grand commanders requested his return to guard the location where the captured death angel is being held. Remember I told you something happened... turns out that the initial place was attacked.

I can't give more info over transmission since it could get traced if I speak on here for too long. Just postpone your trip to Earth. It won't be smart to come here when the world's strongest mixed blood is on the planet."

After the last message ended Gustav let out a "Oops."

"Did you listen to them all?" E.E. inquired from the other end.

"Yeah I did," Gustav replied.

"So just postpone your trip to earth, I reckon that Jack and Mack won't be here for too long. At most one or two months. They tend to go off earth a lot so after they leave, you can return," E.E. suggested with a concerned tone.

"About that... the advice kinda came in too late," Gustav voiced softly.

"What do you mean?" E.E. questioned with confusion in his voice.

"I am... here," Gustav stated.

"What do you mean by you are here... ohhhh wait... you fucker..." E.E.'s tone went from confusion to realization very quickly.

"You are on earth... what the fuck?" E.E added and one could hear the sound of objects falling to the floor from the other end. This information had left E.E. extremely flustered.

"Relax... it's not that bad," Gustav tried to calm E.E.

"Dude, how the fuck am I more worried about your safety than you are?" E.E. said in response.

"Because we probably don't have much to worry about..." Gustav stated.

"Hmm... yeah. Yeah, we probably don't have much to worry about when a universal fugitive who is at the Beta rank is on the same planet with an MBO agent who is considered the strongest at Beacon rank..." E.E. voiced with sarcasm.

"I get what you mean but I can escape his detection simply by shapeshifting... so long as he isn't within proximity, he will never be able to feel that something is off," Gustav assured E.E.

"Where the hell are you right now?" E.E. inquired.

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In the heart of a towering skyscraper, nestled high above the bustling streets below, lay a living room space with four figures seated within. The room had a breathtaking view of a futuristic metropolitan city on the left, beckoning with its shimmering lights and dazzling architecture.

From its vantage point, one could view the city humming with life. Streams of commuters rush by, their silhouettes blurring into an endless stream, while hover cars navigate through the labyrinthine streets.

"Nice place," Gustav said to E.E.

"Was only able to afford it by selling you out," E.E. replied with a wry smile.

"It is okay though. It was my plan, remember?" Gustav reminded E.E. who seemed to feel guilty.

"Yeah..."

~sigh~

E.E. slouched on the seat opposite Gustav while turning to stare at Sersi.

"Who is she?" He questioned.

"A long story," Gustav replied.

"It's been almost a year so that makes sense but tell me all about your endeavors outside of the planet," E.E. said with excitement on his face.

"Hmm, where do I start... you probably already know a couple since we were mostly in touch," Gustav decided to narrate the sequences of some major things that occurred during his time outside of Earth.

Sersi mostly listened while Gustav, E.E., and Endric caught up. Their discussion lasted hours and by the time they had narrated most of the events that transpired outside of the planet, E.E. was left awestruck.

"You fought a being like that and won?" E.E. inquired while referring to Seifiling.

At that point, he wondered if there was still any need for Gustav to keep running and hiding.

"Barely... I would have lost if the fight continued in the vessel," Gustav chipped in.

"But you didn't use your cosmic superior abilities..." E.E. reminded Gustav.

"I haven't used it in months especially after I found out they had a way of tracking cosmic superior energy," Gustav replied.

"Oh yeah... that is true but then, you could literally stop anyone with that though," E.E. felt like he was missing something.

"Perhaps... or perhaps not. Anyways did I tell you about why I had to return?" Gustav changed the subject.

"You haven't," E.E. lightly shook his head.

"I believe someone cloned my cells," Gustav stated bluntly.

"What the hell?" E.E. thought he had run out of surprises for the day till Gustav dropped the bombshell.

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In the heart of a futuristic enclave, a twelve-foot-tall figure stood amidst the amalgamation of a sleek office and a personal laboratory. The towering, young-looking man exuded an air of both sophistication and innovation as he navigated the cutting-edge space.

The walls, constructed of transparent smart glass, displayed holographic data streams and intricate blueprints, creating an immersive blend of work and creativity. Ambient lighting in shades of cool blue and pulsating white illuminated the vast expanse, casting a crystalline glow on the polished surfaces.

A colossal desk dominated the central area, its surface a combination of interactive touchscreens and holographic displays. On it, a holographic keyboard materialized when needed, complementing the advanced computer terminals embedded seamlessly into the sleek design.

Opposite him was a dirty blonde-haired figure with a patch covering his left eye.

"He is here," The dirty blonde-haired figure spoke up.

"It was inevitable... I knew he would figure it out eventually," The twelve-foot-tall giant responded calmly while pushing his glasses up slightly.

"What do we do?" The dirty blonde-haired figure inquired.

"I am close to completing the research so we have to stall as much as possible," the twelve-foot-tall giant replied.

Chapter 1403 The Clone Reveals Itself

"So... delay? Hmm several things come to mind but they may be a bit too extreme," The blonde-haired figure pointed out.

"Do it. You have jurisdiction to make your own decisions. You don't need to ask me," The tall man stated.

"Hmm... Okay," The blonde-haired figure jumped to his feet afterward and moved towards the window on the far east.

"I'm off," His figure vanished through the window in the next instant, displaying a completely different city.

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Nestled within the heart of an expansive icy terrain, where frost-kissed winds danced over a landscape that spanned hundreds of miles, there existed a clandestine research center concealed from the prying eyes of the world.

Accessed through a network of ice tunnels, the entrance was seamlessly integrated into the frozen environment, cleverly camouflaging the scientific sanctuary.

Beyond this threshold lay a labyrinth of tunnels meticulously carved into the ice. The tunnels opened into a vast cavern, revealing the research center's heart where lots of people clad in lab coats could be moving across the place.

In the sky above this location, a figure floated in place, gazing down like a divine being of protection. No one could notice his presence because he had made himself unseeable like a deity that cannot be perceived by mortals.

- "You missed the meeting," A voice sounded in his left ear through a communication device.

"Was there a need for me to attend?" He questioned with a disinterested tone.

- "Jack, you can't be this irresponsible... unlike when you were off the planet, you can't skip important meetings," The voice on the other end sounded disgruntled.

"You geezers called me back to watch over this research center, no? I am doing just that... meetings that concern killing a youngster... isn't something I should concern myself with," Jack replied.

- "So long as you are on earth, it is your business. Do well to put away sentimentality and make sure you do not miss the next meeting," The voice left no room for arguments.

"No sentimentality here. I barely know the kid but I will play no part in the alliance politics. My loyalty rests with the safety of the earth. I don't care about anything else," Jack scoffed.

- "You suddenly sound like Mack... you two haven't switched, right? It's not noon yet," The voice on the other end sounded confused.

"No, it is still me... The research center will be protected no worries," Jack ended the transmission afterwards.

"Damn geezers," He cursed under his breath while recalling the things they had made him do in the name of protecting the earth.

"If push comes to shove, I will kill Gustav Crimson myself but so long as I determine that he is not a threat to Earth, I will not engage in such foolishness," Jack swore while peering through the confines of the research center.

His eyes focused on the dark being that was being held captive beneath the surface.

'If what Dr Markle says is true, we have a way bigger threat on our hands but these geezers are focusing on the wrong thing,' Jack let out a small sigh.

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Atop a skyscraper within Plankton City, Gustav stared at the enthralling scenery before him.

'It's been too long since I did this,' He basked in the swirling winds blowing his hair backward for a few seconds while a purplish vortex appeared beside him.

E.E. walked out of the vortex in the next moment, "Endric is going to watch over her," He reported.

"Good... how long till she can see again?" Gustav inquired.

"In twenty-four hours she should be fine," E.E. replied with a look of certainty.

"That's a relief. Let's go," Gustav stated.

"You're going looking like that?" E.E. questioned while staring at Gustav who currently looked middle-aged with dark circles underneath his eyes. His hair was also a shade of red and black.

"It is an inconspicuous look," Gustav replied.

"No doubt," E.E. shook his head before conjuring another vortex.

A purplish swirling vortex appeared before them, and they proceeded to walk in.

They arrived in a different scenery completely.

What lay ahead of them looked like an endless expanse of yellow burning sands. They couldn't even see their silhouettes despite the blistering heat due to the flaming sands.

"Your vortex brought us outside," Gustav pointed out while staring at E.E.

"Hehe, it's still burning sands city. Isn't it?" E.E. replied with a wry chuckle.

"Tsk tsk did you lose your touch?" Gustav voiced as they stepped forward.

"Come on. Give me a break man. I just lost my twenty years of virginity," E.E. blurted out.

"What?!" Gustav was immediately taken aback the moment he heard that.

E.E. realized what he just said and covered his mouth with an expression of realization.

"How? When did this happen? Tell me everything," Gustav couldn't hide his interest as he began cackling.

"Shouldn't have said that..." E.E. felt like burying himself.

"Oh come on, I knew your ass was a virgin but this is surprising. You finally did it,"

E.E. felt like burying himself even more after hearing Gustav's response.

"Tell me... Was it Elevora?" Gustav kept pestering E.E.

E.E. couldn't help but display a cheeky smile the moment he heard her name mentioned. It was the first time Gustav saw E.E. blush. He knew E.E. felt something for Elevora, but he never thought they'd summon up the courage to finally take things further, especially to the point of full intimacy.

"Well, it started when she asked me out on a date..." E.E. began narrating.

They had both forgotten or perhaps didn't care that they were currently walking on the burning sands.

In the past, the flames would have roasted them both and turned them to ash in an instant but now they were both unaffected by it.

As they walked further, the city materialized on the horizon—a futuristic metropolis rising from the arid expanse, its towering structures gleaming like mirages.

Their footsteps left faint impressions on the scorching sand.

As they drew nearer, the city's towering spires revealed intricate designs, adorned with luminescent strips that pulsed with a rhythmic energy.

They soon passed through an energy shield that shimmered like a translucent wall. The temperature instantly dropped, providing respite from the scorching heat.

The city unfolded before them, a marvel of futuristic architecture, with floating walkways connecting towering skyscrapers and sleek vehicles gliding noiselessly along levitating tracks.

This was burning sands city... The same city where Boss Danzo met his end.

Burning Sands City brought back unpleasant memories for Gustav and he would never have returned there if it wasn't of utmost urgency. He decided to throw everything to the back of his mind in the meantime and focus on the task at hand.

"A lot has changed but I still recognize the routes," Gustav said to E.E.

"You still remember the Scientist's location, right?" E.E. inquired.

"Yeah, it's in that direction..." Gustav pointed southeast but the moment he did, one of the massive screens on a skyscraper lit up.

< "Breaking News! The universal fugitive Gustav Crimson has been sighted in Aribia City!" >

A footage played out with the voice of the broadcaster causing loud gasps to ring out across the entire city.

"What the hell?" E.E. let out an expression of shock as he stared at the footage playing out on the screen of a person who looked exactly like Gustav with an eyepatch on his left eye.

"That must be it..." Gustav muttered.

E.E. turned to stare at Gustav beside him who was in the form of someone else at the moment, "He looks more Gustav than you. So much that I am beginning to doubt that you are the real one."

"I knew I was right... I will kill Zil," Anguish built up in Gustav as he tightened his fist with a bloodthirsty expression.

Watching his clone on the screen made him mad because he was looking to get what he needed and leave Earth without anyone suspecting that he was ever there. There was no doubt that the news was being broadcast all across Earth at the moment and even though it wasn't truly him, it would cause issues regardless.

"YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME... WELL, HERE I AM!" The Gustav in the footage's voice shook the skies as he floated in mid-air while lifting a skyscraper.

It was so large that it seemed like an ant was holding onto it because of his small size.

Everyone watching was even more shocked as Gustav in the live footage flung the building downwards at the people in the city who were desperately trying to flee to safety.

Chaos and pandemonium rang out as debris and dust clouded the visibility of Aribia city while loud cries rang out.

"What is that fucker doing?" E.E. immediately became enraged the moment he saw what the other Gustav did next.

That was his home city, he couldn't sit by and just watch it get destroyed so he swiftly opened up a vortex.

Before E.E. could jump into the vortex, Gustav stopped him.

"Don't."

Chapter 1404 Don't Be Silly

"Don't," He held him back and pulled him to the side.

"There is no guarantee you can win against him; we don't know his level of strength and just how many abilities of mine he possesses. I also have a feeling that this is just a diversion," Gustav pointed out.

Gustav felt like the clone's first statement, 'You were looking for me...' was directed at him and not anyone else unlike how everyone would think he was referring to being wanted.

If Scientist Zil did things right, the clone would have a lot of things in his arsenal that Gustav wasn't sure E.E. would not be able to guard against so he knew it would be a bad idea to let him go.

"So what do you suggest we do?" E.E. inquired with an unsettled expression.

Instead of responding, Gustav reached out and planted his index finger on E.E.'s forehead and activated Mental Manipulation.

[Transferring Memories]

A bunch of memories flowed into E.E.'s mind and he instantly understood what the plan was.

Without wasting any more time, Gustav stepped into the vortex that E.E. just conjured and vanished. E.E. peered southeast with a look of determination before conjuring another vortex.

He stepped into it and instantly vanished as well.

Meanwhile, the breaking news was still circulating all across the planet with the other Gustav wreaking havoc across Aribia city. Aribia city had undergone a state of chaos and near complete annihilation over a year ago so one could understand how E.E. felt seeing a similar scenario play out once more.

However, he had to trust that Gustav would take care of it.

The live footage of the ongoing collateral wreckage and destruction also displayed MBO officers arriving on the scene. The battle between the other Gustav and the deployment of MBO officers became intense in just a few seconds.

The other Gustav didn't seem to be lacking as he engaged and dealt powerful blows using atomic blades as well as many other abilities that belonged to the original Gustav. The MBO officers had difficulty keeping up as many of them got blasted away and left with grievous injuries.

Despite being accosted by several MBO officials, the cloned Gustav didn't stop wreaking havoc on the surroundings while dealing with them all at the same time.

A group of three MBO officers unleashed a joint attack of telekinesis to trap the cloned Gustav in place so other officers could finally hit him with their destructive abilities.

However, he suddenly transformed into a massive muscular beast with brownish-red skin and dark wings sprouting out of his back. With a single swift motion, he ripped through the constraints of the telekinesis and clawed forward intensely.

A slash sent forth destructive dark lines that ripped through the officers easily and continued till another skyscraper far behind got cleaved into four different parts, crumbling onto the sides. The MBO officers who unleashed a joint telekinetic attack had their body parts raining from the air with blood.

"Are you going to keep hiding or are you going to face me?!" The cloned Gustav yelled after decimating another bunch of them.

He had mercilessly dealt with almost all the officers who arrived on the scene, showing that he wasn't bothered slaughtering them like their lives were worth nothing.

A figure suddenly flickered into existence a few feet from the cloned Gustav in mid-air.

The moment that happened, the destruction in the vicinity came to a stop as the cloned Gustav stared at the being before him with slight wariness and reverence.

"You finally showed yourself," The cloned Gustav stated.

The live footage display, had everyone guessing about the identity of the person who had just arrived on scene.

"Is it an MBO officer?"

"What is going on? Who is that person?"

"Why are they wearing a mask?"

Several questions continued to permeate the despair-filled air in Aribia city, especially because the being who had just arrived was clad in a strange dark outfit and seemed to be wearing a fox-like mask.

"Hmm, what was the point of all this?" The newly arrived figure questioned with a hint of bafflement.

"You... you were the point," The cloned Gustav responded.

"I was trying to keep my presence hidden, why did you have to disturb that?" The masked figure kept speaking.

"You are the original, so you tell me," The cloned Gustav smirked, displaying a mischievous expression.

"Hmm, E.E. won't find him now, will he?" Gustav questioned with a tone of realization.

"No, he won't," The cloned Gustav responded.

"Only I know where he is, but then you could as well, which was why I made sure to drag you here. I knew you wouldn't let E.E. come face me. He is our friend," He added.

"Point of correction, he is my friend. You are just a mistake... A mistake I made by trusting a greedy scientist," The masked figure who happened to be the real Gustav turned around after speaking.

"What if I killed you... and took your place... then I'd have your life to myself," The cloned Gustav spoke with a tone of intrigue.

"You'd regret it. It's not such a great life..." The real Gustav replied with a melancholic tone.

"That is for me to decide," The cloned Gustav stated while his energy began to climb intensely.

"You were better off hiding in the shadows, why did you have to come out?" Gustav's eyes through the mask bore a look of pity.

"Do you know what it feels like living like that?" The cloned Gustav's eyes suddenly bore a look of hatred as he glared at Gustav.

"As much as I would have liked to ask you... I am pressed for time. Since you won't tell me where Zil is, I will end this as soon as possible and find him," Gustav slowly raised his right hand.

"Hahaha, I knew you wouldn't be able to leave here until you found a way to save this meaningless city... I was right," The cloned Gustav yelled before charging forward.

Fwiiiiii!

His figure blurred and he reappeared before the real Gustav with a powerful uppercut headed for his chin.

"Don't be silly," Gustav quietly voiced in ridicule before retracting his right arm and swinging it sideways.

Pah!

A heavy slap rang out as the back of Gustav's palm slammed into the cheek of the clone, sending him flying into the distance with ripples of destruction sweeping across the air from the collision.

"Just because you defeated the MBO officers doesn't mean you stand a chance against me," Gustav spoke with such casualness that would cause anyone to be terrified.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The cloned Gustav blasted through multiple buildings as his body kept getting catapulted into the distance from the slap. His whole face was soon smeared in blood as he gritted his teeth and swirled his body to take advantage of the momentum.

Stamping his feet onto a mast that appeared in his line of sight, he catapulted his body forward with intensity while conjuring a massive atomic blade.

Thwwiih!

Gustav who was still floating in mid-air, spotted a red and white streak in the distance which soon appeared before him in the form of the clone who had combined beast transformation with atomic disintegration.

Slash!

The clone swung at Gustav thinking it had taken him by surprise due to its intense speed, only for the atomic blade to cleave through the wind, leaving a crescent-shaped milky line to sweep forward with intensity.

"Where are you looking," Gustav's voice rang out from behind him.

However, before he could turn around, another powerful blow rammed into his back, sending him hurling downwards.

Bang! Boom!

His figure slammed into the ground and ricocheted across it, causing spiderwebs-like cracks to appear on the roads.

Gustav's figure vanished and reappeared before the clone's figure which was still getting pushed backwards by the force of the punch.

Pah!

Another slap rang out again as the clone got sent catapulting towards the west.

Pah! Pah! Bang! Bang!

The clone was unable to follow Gustav's series of attacks as he moved like he was teleporting. One second he was on the left and the next he was on the right or behind him or before him. It was almost like he was everywhere at the same time and the clone wasn't the only one with this thought.

As the world watched who they thought was the real Gustav get beaten up, they couldn't hide their astonishment.

"Just who is that man in the fox mask?"

"For him to have the upper hand against an anomaly like Gustav Crimson he has to be alpha-ranked, right?"

"This is unbelievable. How is he winning when even the MBO officers couldn't do anything?"

The confusion continued as the cloned Gustav repeatedly received a pummeling until he was no longer able to counter in the slightest.

Every attack he used, Gustav would counter with ten times more power. The real Gustav made sure not to use an ability that might bring suspicion and fortunately, the fight was over after a few minutes.

"Hand him over!" A loud voice rang out from the side.

Chapter 1405 I Cannot Let You Take Him

The real Gustav made sure not to use an ability that might bring suspicion and fortunately, the fight was over after a few minutes. Since he primarily used physical prowess to overwhelm his clone, the spectators around the globe were unable to tell what his actual abilities were and as such they couldn't identify who he was.

Fwwhhiii~

Gustav descended from the air into the midst of the destruction and desecration on the surface.

The air hung heavy with dust and the acrid scent of smoke, remnants of the devastation that had befallen the urban landscape.

Some skyscrapers had crumbled to the ground, with shattered windows and twisted metal poking out from multiple areas of the landscape.

The streets, once bustling with the vibrant energy of city life, were now navigable only through a labyrinth of debris remnants of vehicles littered across the place.

Residential and commercial structures lay collapsed or partially demolished, their interiors exposed like open wounds. The once-intact roads now bore the scars of explosive impacts.

The scenery reminded Gustav of his fight with the Genxodus. It had taken a lot for the city to recover after its near destruction the last time and now, its scars had been reopened.

'This is on me,' Gustav said internally.

He felt it would never have happened had he been more careful. All the more reason to never trust anyone... they could go behind your back at any given opportunity.

He could only imagine how E.E. would feel after watching everything.

"Hand him over!" A loud voice rang out from the side.

Without turning around Gustav already knew what was going on.

He stared at the unconscious clone in his grasp the moment he heard that.

'I can't let anyone have him...' He said internally knowing that his clone possessed a lot of his cells. He would practically be handing himself over if he agreed to give them the clone.

"I cannot do that," Gustav voiced while turning around to face the newly arrived MBO officers.

"Listen here, I don't know who you are but you did well stopping that maniac but now you have to leave the rest to the actual authorities," One of the officers voiced.

Gustav could sense that the MBO officer was more powerful than the others who had arrived. There was no doubt that he was more high ranking too.

"I cannot do that," Gustav stated once more, "This one comes with me."

The newly arrived officer squinted his eyes, "Who even are you? Why do you hide your face behind that mask?" He inquired.

"How ironic to ask a masked man about his identity... If I wanted it revealed, I wouldn't have picked up a mask. Just view me as a person cleaning up a mess," Gustav replied while levitating.

Fwwhiisshhhh~

His figure ascended into the sky in the next instant with incredible speed, drifting out of view in less than a second.

"Don't let him get away!" The officer yelled as everyone swiftly moved and jumped into the vehicles parked around the corner.

"Lock onto him quickly," The leading officer yelled with a tone of urgency the moment they arrived at the floating vehicles.

An operator could be spotted frantically tapping on buttons on the panel before them.

The hovercraft lifted into the air and began to fly while loud beeping sounds rang out as the vehicle tried to lock onto Gustav.

Despite its many attempts as multiple hovercraft drifted across the air, it was unable to pinpoint Gustav's location.

After some time, the operator began to feel like they were just chasing the wind. The systems were unable to lock onto Gustav's figure even after he made use of the MBO satellites to try to trace his movement.

Unfortunately, Gustav was too quick for them.

"He is gone," The operator informed.

"He cannot be gone! Use all the satellites we have!"

The MBO officers yelled in indignation.

"I have... I checked everything that I could but his speed pattern is just too unpredictable and he already orbited around the earth twenty-six times to throw us off... and it worked," The MBO operator explained.

"What the hell? Just how fast is he?" The MBO officer was even more in awe.

....

....

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"General Chell, Jack must have told you, I am here based on instructions to guard the research center... anything else is outside of my jurisdiction," A handsome figure with yellow hair, voiced while floating above a terrain of ice.

- "This is a planet-wide situation... no... a universal-wide situation, get Gustav Crimson from that unknown assailant, right now!" A loud masculine voice could be heard from the other end.

"Nah," Mack responded with an unbothered look.

- "YOU... do you know this could be considered treason?"

"I am performing my duties. Now piss off," Mack stated before ending the transmission.

There was no doubt that General Chell had more to say but Mack just didn't care. Mack was a lot different from Jack.

Jack tended to follow the higher-ups' every instruction in the MBO, mostly without questioning them since he was a very patriotic person by nature. So long as it was a mission that benefitted or kept the earth safe, he would swing into action.

As for his counterpart Mack, he was more rebellious.

If Mack had been in control when Jack was asked to subdue Miss Aimee in the past, the fight would never have happened because he was fond of her.

He envied how she could do whatever she pleased whereas he was more obedient because of Jack, his patriotic counterpart.

Mack floated in place silently for some time till a vibration rang out.

~Sigh~

"Why won't these geezers just leave me alone?" Mack lamented as a holographic call appeared in his line of sight.

< Transmission From Grand Commander Shion >

"What is it again geezer?" Mack questioned with a tone of annoyance after picking up.

Grand Commander Shion appeared in view and began speaking.

"Did you..."

"If this is about the kid getting snatched out of y'all hands, I don't care," Mack interrupted before Grand Commander Shion could complete his sentence.

-"It is," Grand Commander Shion admitted.

- "Your help is needed to retrieve the universal fugitive, are you going to ignore a potential threat to the peace of earth and the alliance as a whole?" He proceeded to ask.

"Why would I help a bunch of losers that needed the help of an outsider to subdue the kid? Last I checked, they were not able to contend with him in the slightest so whose fault is it that Gustav Crimson was unable to be retrieved?" Mack questioned.

"So you watched the fight..." Grand Commander Shion was a bit surprised but then he was the strongest Mixed-blood in existence so there was no reason why he wouldn't be able to perceive a battle ongoing over ten thousand miles away.

"That also means you know where the assailant currently is," Grand Commander Shion pointed out.

"Who cares," Mack said before bringing out a lollipop from a multiple triangular star-shaped glow.

He proceeded to place it in between his lips with an uncaring expression.

"Mackintosh!"

"I don't like it when you call me that name..."

....

....

....

In the heart of an eerie forest, where shadows clung to twisted branches, a person dressed in disheveled clothing, lay sprawled on the damp forest floor.

Leaves and twigs clung to their attire, which hinted at the unknown struggle they may have gone through.

Beside the unconscious figure was a person seated on a small piece of rock. He had a devil fox-like mask covering his face and was clad in a long black outfit.

He glanced at the unconscious figure a few times while seemingly on a call with someone.

"Yeah, he is right here."

"Glad you're safe."

"He doesn't have all of my abilities and as you must have seen during the broadcast, his power level is below Beta rank..."

- "Maybe I should have just gone to face him myself and left the search of that scientist to you."

"Hmm... He did mention that you wouldn't find him. This whole endeavor was a distraction and it served its purpose."

"What will you do now?"

"I have to..."

The figure in a demon fox-like mask who was Gustav, suddenly paused as he sensed something.

He swiftly ended the transmission and looked up.

'Damn it I forgot about him...' He cursed internally as a whooshing wind began to blow the trees in the vicinity sideways.

As the trees along with their branches gave way, it revealed the illumination of the skies above along with a figure that seemed to be floating in place majestically.

"You know why I am here," The voice of a yellow-haired figure floating in the distance rang loudly.

"To reap a harvest from another man's plant?" Gustav maintained a calm tone as he questioned.

"Meh, I know you did all the work which is why I am sorry about this. Under normal circumstances, I wouldn't do this," Mack said while pointing at the body of the unconscious cloned Gustav.

"I cannot let you take him," Gustav stated while grabbing the unconscious clone.

Chapter 1406 Gustav Vs The World Strongest

"I cannot let you take him," Gustav stated while grabbing the unconscious clone.

However, in the next moment, a star-patterned construct appeared around the body, causing it to vanish.

"Sorry but you can't stop me," Mack responded while the unconscious body appeared beside him in mid-air.

'Damn it!' Gustav gritted his teeth before leaping into the air.

Thwwoosshhh~

Heavy wind blasted in every direction as the ground of the forest cracked and trees swayed to the side from the intensity of Gustav's speed.

Mack who had already turned away to leave was taken by surprise as the figure in the fox-like mask who he didn't know was the real Gustav, appeared beside him in just a split second.

Gustav immediately reached out to grab the clone protected by the triangular star-shaped construct and from the corner of his eye he caught the slight astonishment on Mack's face.

However, Mack was much faster as he pulled the floating unconscious clone away and thrust his right palm forward.

Bang!

Gustav was met with a violent clash as his entire body was sent flying across the air upon collision.

"Don't push me," Mack warned after attacking with no intent to inflict gracious injuries.

He turned around and flew forward with the floating unconscious body beside him but didn't get very far before a red streak blazed across the sky.

'Looks like I might need to knock him out...' Mack decided while turning around swiftly.

Gustav's figure appeared right before him with his arm outstretched once more.

"Space construct"

Mack chimed before Gustav could make contact.

Triangular star-shaped enclosures suddenly appeared around Gustav's figure and he instantly found himself unable to move.

'Damn it...' The space left Gustav completely incapacitated.

There was only one way he knew he could get out of it but he couldn't go through with it because he would be risking exposing his identity.

"Chaos construct..." Mack voiced while pointing at the sky.

A massive, glowing, purplish circle with multiple triangular shapes covered the sky and blotted the view of the entire sun.

Gustav was frozen in place but he could sense the incredible pressure from the sky. In the next instant, a powerful torrent of purplish energy rained from the sky like a waterfall.

It charged downwards with immense speed and power, slamming into Gustav's frozen figure.

Bang!

it rained down upon the forest which was as large as a town, racing everything in view to the ground.

The fire was unable to breed because, in just a second, the entire vicinity was turned into a charred wasteland.

The trees were gone along with rocks, grasses, highlands, mountains, and almost every atom in view.

All that remained in view was a massive, darkened surface with molten lava in some areas.

"Judging by your strength, that won't be enough to kill you but at the very least you won't be a nuisance anymore," Mack said before turning away once more and flying into the distance.

"Those geezers better not complain about the destruction, tch," He grumbled.

Down beneath the pile of ash and molten liquid, a figure sprouted out of the surface with a sizzling cooked flesh.

Reddish marks could be seen all over his burnt skin and hair as he raised his face to stare at the sky.

"Powerful indeed..." The figure voiced with a tone of aspiration.

"You've done it now," He added while his body began to visibly regenerate at very insane speed.

Silver scales started appearing all over his body as the space around him twisted and violent winds stirred.

Horns protruded from his head as energy gathered around him and he ascended from the surface of the decimated environment.

Thrrihhhh~

His figure suddenly vanished like he teleported and in the next instant, a loud ripping sound rang out heavily.

Grrrrhhhhhh~

The surroundings quaked with intensity as a massive line was torn in the skies. People across multiple cities in the world looked up to the sky and could see the line that cut across it.

Their faces were fraught with clueless expressions but the sound wave that came next, made them cover their ears in horror.

THRRRAAHHHHHHHH!

It sounded like a thousand thunderbolts merged into one, ringing before each person's ear. Some of them already had blood leaking from their eardrums.

They didn't know that what was coming next would be even worse.

~A few seconds earlier~

"Huh?" Mack turned in mid-air as he sensed something.

"Nature cons..." Before he could complete his sentence, the skies ripped open with rifts appearing all over.

BOM!

It sounded like thousands of loud explosions went off as an incredibly quick streak rammed heavily into Mack.

Both figures tore across the sky at such insane speed, that more rifts appeared in their wake.

Mack was completely astounded as he tried to free himself from the figure that clung to him with unprecedented grip.

"How are you still conscious?" Mack voiced as he held onto Gustav's arms and began slowly spreading them.

When he noticed he was losing hold, Gustav spun repeatedly and flung Mack away.

Fwwhhiiii!

Mack found himself catapulting downwards at a speed that not a single mixed blood would be able to follow. Before he could try to stabilize himself, he slammed into the surface of an ocean, causing a massive torrent to blast upwards.

Boooomm~

It was as though another explosion had gone off as Mack hit the bottom of the ocean instantly. A cyclone was generated as a radius of more than fifty thousand feet was cleared of water and walls of ocean waves spread to other areas.

Mack broke through the ocean bed and continuously kept falling further underground from the force of the throw.

The clone's unconscious body which still had triangular-shaped star constructs around it was flying toward the ocean when Gustav grabbed it forcefully.

"Gotta put this in my personal space," He voiced with a struggling tone as he tightened his hand around the construct in a bid to break through it and retrieve the clone's body.

Unfortunately, the construct seemed unbreakable despite the amount of pressure Gustav inflicted on it.

'I have no choice but to use it,' Gustav could only pray that it didn't get noticed as a stack of multicolored rhombuses phased out of his left palm area.

Trrrihh~

"Just the construct," Gustav instructed.

In the next instant, the construct was consumed by Cohilia, leaving Gustav's unconscious clone untouched.

Gustav reached out to grab the clone before it could fall but before he made contact with it...

Fwwiii~

A yellow streak came out of nowhere and snatched the clone from him.

'Damn it... I wasn't fast enough,' Gustav gritted his teeth.

Mack had the clone in his grasp as he appeared hundreds of feet away from Gustav.

"You... I cannot ignore your level of strength even though it is beneath mine. Someone as powerful as you are will not be able to go unnoticed since there are not a lot of mixed-bloods on this level of strength... who are you?" Mack questioned with a perceptible tone of interest.

Although Gustav's demon fox-like mask had been disintegrated when Mack attacked earlier, one still couldn't tell how he looked at the moment. This was because Gustav activated Ultimate Combination, which had completely altered his human look.

"I am nobody," Gustav answered with the same fake middle-aged voice he had been using all this time.

"Who knows... I might just leave the kid to you if you revealed who you are," Mack grinned lightly while proposing.

'No you wouldn't,' Gustav said internally and he was right.

Who in their right senses would let go of the original and a clone at the same time?

"I will no longer take your acts lightly if you keep this up," Knowing he couldn't get Gustav to spill the beans, Mack warned heavily.

"Just give him back and I will be out of your way," Gustav remained unyielding as well.

"I can't do that," Mack stated.

"Spac..." Before he could completely cast any ability, Gustav moved like a lightning bolt.

Thrraazzhh!

He arrived before Mack in an instant while throwing out a glowing icy fist.

'This will be very damaging if I don't evade or counter,' Mack was a bit faster but he knew he only had two choices at this moment since complete evasion while holding onto the clone was impossible.

Fwhiii!

He let go of the clone and raised his right arm to block Gustav's attack while arching his left arm backward to thrust a counter-palm strike at Gustav's gut.

Booom!

A loud crash that reverberated across the entirety of the earth rang out as Gustav's fists collided with Mack's arm. Mack's face barely displayed an affected look as his palm rammed into Gustav's knee at the same moment.

Gustav had raised his knee to block the palm strike and now they had both hit each other with enough force to split the earth in two.

BOM!

The entirety of the earth quaked intensely as they were both sent catapulting backward.

'He tricked me... that attack was much more powerful than I sensed.'

Chapter 1407 Absolute Death

'He tricked me... that attack was much more powerful than I sensed,' Mack forcefully swallowed the blood threatening to shoot out of his mouth as he flew uncontrollably into the distance.

Gustav wasn't any better as his left leg could be seen missing from the knee downwards. His figure left a trail of blood across the air as the force from their collision sent him spiraling backward much harder than Mack.

"Bruh!" Gustav vomited out a mouthful of blood as the attack had truly rocked him to his core.

Now he understood what it was like to go against the strongest mixedblood of their age.

'The clone...' Gustav struggled to breathe as his perception picked on the falling body in the distance.

The clash had driven them thousands upon thousands of feet away from each another and it had also left the body of the clone falling from the air.

Mack had regained control of his drifting body before Gustav could. The moment he came to a stop, he peered forward in the direction of the falling body.

Fwwhhooshh!

His figure drove forward at a much faster speed than Gustav's crossing a distance of more than ten thousand feet in milliseconds.

Pah!

Gustav slapped his face in mid-air to jolt his body back to a functional state as he sensed that Mack was about to grab the body.

Twhiih~

Space contrasted, turning into a tunnel that led straight to the unconscious clone the moment Gustav charged forward.

He arrived before Mack and threw an uppercut at his face. Mack once more had to let go of the clone to defend himself, causing both of them to clash thousands of times in just a few milliseconds.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

They both repeatedly threw out extremely quick strikes with even more caution and precision than before, causing waves upon waves of energy to disperse in every direction.

The ocean beneath them had been disturbed to the point where its waves had moved to another location entirely. Beneath them, the ocean waves that were displaced still hadn't returned, giving them a view of the ocean floor.

Shores were being flooded due to their battle and the weather conditions in the sky had undergone a complete change.

Even though Gustav managed to block a lot of Mack's attacks, he was still receiving grievous injuries. Mack was more cautious than before so he had hardly taken damage from Gustav's attack but he knew they couldn't keep it up...

From the corner of their eyes, they saw that the body was about to collide with the ocean floor.

Fwwhiii!

The moment they both realized this, Gustav and Mack dashed downwards with incredible speed.

Gustav reached out to grab the clone's unconscious body before it could strike the ground when Mack threw out a purplish blast that sent him flying into the distance.

Bang!

Mack caught the clone just inches away from hitting the surface but before he could even relish the feeling of relief, a red bolt tore through the air and slammed into his chest.

He subconsciously let go of the clone's body as a bloody hole appeared in the middle of his chest from the attack while his figure got blasted backward.

Gustav reached the clone which was now resting on a rock protruding from the ocean bed and swiftly drew a rectangular line in mid-air with his index finger.

A glowing doorway appeared in view and Gustav swiftly threw the clone into it. However, before he could close the doorway to the space he created, Mack's figure rammed into him from the side.

He was sent flying as loud cracking sounds rang out while Gustav spat out blood profusely.

'I've never been beaten to this point before while Ultimate Combination is activated... he isn't the strongest for nothing,' Gustav grumbled internally as he felt his organs shifting out of place from Mack's continuous hits.

He couldn't help but curse at the fact that the dimensional bracelet was currently out of power. He would have gotten out of here with the body a long time ago if it wasn't the case.

As Mack reached out to grab the clone's unconscious body within Gustav's conjured space an orb suddenly appeared beside him.

"Hmm?" The moment he turned to the side in surprise, a burst of reddish and purplish energy swept out from the orb.

BOOOOMM!

Mack was sent flying with intensity as the immensely destructive energy raged forth like a force of death.

Gustav willed the space to close at the moment of the blast so as not to end up incinerating the clone by mistake.

However, the torrent of destructive energy had swept him away as well and was currently consuming the ocean.

"Contain," Gustav yelled while slapping his palms together and gritting his teeth forcefully.

The energy sweeping forth suddenly stopped while sweat began to dribble down Gustav's face.

He had only let the energy rage for half a second and yet the entire ocean was nearly dried out.

A look of regret could be seen on his face as the energy began to rescind. His body got charred due to this but he had enough power to retract the attack.

The torrent of energy continued to withdraw until it got contained in an orb like before, except that this one happened to give off a weaker energy compared to the previous one.

If Gustav had let the energy fully sweep out, the entire earth would have been consumed.

No one would know that he was responsible for it, but he would have really become a real planet destroyer had such happened.

Mack's upper body had a few scalds and most of his clothes had been chalked away but he still seemed very much vibrant.

This was an attack that would usually disintegrate everything in sight and yet it only managed to send Mack some distance away with barely any injuries.

He picked himself up and observed the destruction around him.

It was like being at the edge of the world where endless waves once danced. What lay before him now was a desolate expanse bearing the scars of a cataclysmic event. The once-majestic ocean had been brought to the brink of desiccation, its waters reduced abysmally. The seabed, now exposed and cracked, told a silent tale of devastation. The ocean's floor, once hidden beneath a vibrant mosaic of

marine life, lay barren and desolate. Aquatic mixed breeds that once darted through the vast blue ocean had vanished, leaving behind a haunting emptiness.

'He is an Alpha Ranked Mixedblood capable of such and yet I have never met him before this...' Mack knew that Alpha Ranked mixedbloods were capable of bringing the earth to a state of devastation.

However, it was a different case when they were not only capable of that, but could also exchange more than a couple of blows with him.

The last person he recalled was able to do this was Miss Aimee and there had not been anyone else since. This made him even more interested in the identity of the person he was battling against but there was only one choice left.

'It is dangerous to keep this up for the sake of the earth. I must eradicate him in one fell swoop and retrieve the kid,' Mack decided while levitating.

Gustav had successfully managed to put the clone away in the space he conjured but he couldn't come up with ways to escape Mack at the moment.

He had already expended a lot of energy due to constant regeneration. Just being around someone as powerful as Mack who unleashed most of his energy was causing him damage.

There was no doubt that he was still far from reaching Mack's level but he couldn't have asked for a better situation since Jack was said to be more powerful than Mack. It made sense since people mostly mentioned Jack whenever a discussion about the strongest Mixed-blood was brought up.

Gustav couldn't imagine how much crazier it would have been if he had to face Jack.

"Ugh?" Gustav suddenly paused as he felt something...

Something inexplicable...

He turned to the southwest as he sensed it and spotted the darkening clouds up ahead.

Mack had his finger pointed in Gustav's direction as triangular star-shaped patterns appeared in reddish form.

'As much as I would like to continue this, I can't. With the activation of Absolute Death... this fellow will meet his end. When his space ruptures, I will retrieve the boy,' Mack decided internally while the darkening clouds increased.

'I'm going to die... I can feel it,' Gustav said internally as the fear that he had never felt in ages gripped his heart.

("Don't let him complete that attack... you have the means to end the world's strongest Mixedblood right now,") The system suddenly chimed in.

'Stop...'

("I know you don't want to do it, but it is his life or yours,") The system added.

'Stop, let me think...' Gustav yelled internally.

("You do not have time to think...")

The moment the system replied, a massive jaw of darkness appeared beneath the area where Gustav was situated. "Cohilia!" Gustav roared, causing rhombuses of multicolored lights to burst out from his being.

Chapter 1408 Reappearance Of The Otherworld Being

The moment the system replied, a massive jaw of darkness appeared beneath the area where Gustav was situated.

"Cohilia!" Gustav roared, causing rhombuses of multicolored lights to burst out from his being.

"Master..." A loud and domineering baritone voice rang out as Cohilia was being summoned in full power.

The atmosphere became extremely tense because of the frightening aura the both of them were giving off. As the tension rose to its apex, Mack's face suddenly scrunched up with a disturbed expression.

Gustav was about to devour everything within a particular radius when he sensed the energy from Mack's side thinning.

'Something is wrong,' Gustav said internally.

("I think you're right,") The system agreed.

At that moment, Mack suddenly deactivated his attack and blasted off into the sky at unprecedented speed.

"Huh?" Gustav paused in bafflement.

"What is going on?" He wondered out loud.

It made no sense for Mack to just suddenly leave since he wasn't losing the battle. Gustav only had a lot of tricks up his sleeves. Anyone who had witnessed the battle would have known that Gustav was still a level beneath Mack so why would he suddenly leave?

"Whatever happened... is none of my concern since it helps. Time to leave," Gustav couldn't help but let out a sigh of relief as he turned and commanded Cohilia to retract.

("Aren't you at least curious about what came up that made the world's strongest halt the process of retrieving a universally known fugitive?") The system questioned internally.

"Has to be something more important... probably life or planet-threatening," Gustav assumed and then suddenly paused.

"You know what it is, don't you?" Gustav questioned with a tone of realization.

(Minutes Earlier)

At the icy research center, Grand Commander Shion stood before the underground space where the Death Angel was being kept.

He was glad that at the very least he was there to watch after the research center or Mack would never have agreed to leave in pursuit of Gustav. It had taken a lot of convincing, but since Mack had felt the grand commander was capable enough, he decided that it wouldn't hurt to leave the protection of the research center to him for twenty seconds.

Twenty seconds was the amount of time he had assumed it would take him to get Gustav's clone — who he thought was the original — and return to the research center. His calculation was done on account of the resistance of the party who was holding onto the clone, the real Gustav. No one would have expected that the mixed blood assumed to be at the alpha rank would give Mack so much trouble.

....

Behind Grand Commander Shion was a group of scientists working on a dark cube-like box that kept generating yellow sparks of electricity.

"Almost fully calibrated..." Dr Markle who was the leading scientist there, gave occasional feedback to Grand Commander Shion.

Holographic imagery gave them visuals of a percentage currently at 99.30% slowly moving upwards. "It is still far from what I requested of you," Grand Commander Shion voiced while turning away from the Death Angel who was completely trapped in the space ahead.

"One step at a time... if we can first bring it to a point where mixed bloods will be able to exist in the other dimension without weakening, it will be a great achievement that will take us a level further to the goal we're aiming at," Dr. Markle stated with a tone of assurance.

As the values before the percentage increased, so did the anticipation within the room. "Almost there..." Dr Markle stated as the dark cube throbbed violently and the yellow sparks swimming around it increased.

< 99.80%... >

"Almost there.... Steady her..." He instructed the other scientists who tapped on multiple holographic buttons to control the tubes attached to the cube.

< 99.90%... >

< 99.99%... >

At the moment, it was like time had come to a pause as the scientists and Dr Markle watched the holographic display with keen eyes. All of a sudden, cracks began to appear on the surface...

Kryychh~

There was no glass or structure affected in the vicinity by the unexpected and inexplicable phenomenon and yet it seemed like the air itself had cracks on them; almost like reality was being shattered before their very eyes.

Grand Commander Shion who had noticed it before anyone else, moved with speed and precision, grabbing Dr Markle by the collar before the phenomenon could completely unfold into an unexpected disaster.

"Watch out!" His voice rang out loudly as he instantly jumped backward with Dr Markle in his grasp.

The moment their bodies arrived at the end of the space, a soft but deadly slash shimmering with both light and darkness sliced through the air.

Every single scientist besides Dr Markle, had their bodies cleaved in two in an instant. Blood gushed out and spread across the place as the dark cube wasn't spared as well. The slash had divided it into two halves, causing the experiment to immediately come to a halt.

"~What a waste..." The instant Grand Commander Shion spotted the arm protruding from the middle of the crack that had spread across the air like spiderwebs, he recognized it, "It's that thing from before."

Grand Commander Shion didn't need to be told before he knew that everyone within the facility was in danger so he instant activated the warning alarms.

"Go!" He yelled at Dr Markle while the being responsible for the attack slowly pushed the rest of its body out of the cracks.

"But..." Dr Markle was about to mention the Death Angel in bondage when Grand Commander Shion cut him off.

"Go now!" He yelled while gracefully swinging his arm sideways.

Bang!

A hole was instantly blasted through the walls behind which connected to an icy tunnelway. Dr Markle had no choice but to swallow his complaints and flee the vicinity. Grand Commander Shion recalling how things went the last time had to admit that he dug a hole for himself by asking Mack to go after Gustav.

It had been over three months since the being's last appearance. He didn't win against it then and he was certain that he would be able to contend with its strength now.

Understanding the situation, Grand Commander Shion charged forward with speed.

Swhhiii!

He sped past the cracking area and blasted straight through the reinforced glass that housed the captive Death Angel. "Let's see if you will be able to take it with you after I keep it inside of me again," The diamond-like shard embedded in the Grand Commander's forehead gleamed brightly as he arrived before the Death Angel.

The Death Angel instantly turned illusory and began to shrink while drifting towards the position of the shard embedded in Grand Commander Shion's forehead.

"KAKAKAKA VOI ERI TU JVA AL," The Death Angel who seemed to be conscious at the time, spat out a bunch of incoherent words, or so they seemed.

To an ordinary person, those words... if they could even be called words, were incoherent but to Grand Commander Shion, he knew they held meaning.

The problem was that there was no way to decipher the meaning at that instant because of the perilous situation he was in.

Grand Commander Shion's face turned even more serious as he sped up the rate of absorption.

All of a sudden, the air shimmered and vibrated with incredible intensity and Grand Commander Shion spat out a mouthful of blood.

"Gurrhh!" He fell to his knees weakly as his vision grew heavy with every passing millisecond.

Behind him was a massive gash that had cut so deep, that one could see Grand Commander Shion's internal organs from the back. Blood tried to seep out but was disintegrated by the dark corrosive light surrounding the edges of the gash.

Grand Commander Shion couldn't recall the last time anyone had managed to bring his body to that state. It had never happened before and to make matters worse, he didn't even sense the attack until it hit.

It meant the attack must have transcended his perceptive speed and hit like it had been teleported.
Step~ Step~ Step~

He could faintly hear the sound of footsteps behind him announcing that his end was nigh. He tried to summon strength and planted his palm on the floor for support when a sharp line suddenly appeared on his elbow region. Cruukkk~

Half of Grand Commander Shion's right arm was instantly lopped off, causing him to fall over.

"Ugh!" Blood seeped out intensely as the footsteps grew closer.

The figure currently standing behind him had a feminine structure. She had a line that separated the two contrasting colors that her skin possessed. The half-white of her face twisted a little as the darkness in the eye positioned on that half seemed to spread a little.

The blade in her right hand gleamed dangerously as she raised it ever so slightly. The entire facility trembled in the wake of the energy that surrounded her figure, causing Grand Commander Shion to struggle even harder with breathing.

Chapter 1409 Unsettling Casualties

'The strength of this thing... it's... higher than the last time...' Grand Commander Shion could barely collect his thoughts at the moment.

Despite the incredible power of the being upon its first appearance, it was still known to be weaker than the world's strongest mixedblood, Jack, in terms of strength, but at the moment Grand Commander Shion wasn't sure anymore.

With the energy it generated, he felt like it could destroy the earth ten times over with ease if that was its objective.

The Death Angel laughed repeatedly as it watched the scene play out with immense excitement. It continuously repeated the same words it had spoken to Grand Commander Shion's face repeatedly.

The feminine humanoid raised its blade and casually cut a line across the air... a line that could cut through any surface no matter how dense. There was no doubt that the casual attack would end Grand Commander Shion and since it was instantaneous, the old man knew that he was as good as dead.

TWHHHIIII!

A line that severed the entire underground icy structure from the bottom up to the surface, ripped forward with intensity, causing its collapse. The scientists who had managed to make it to the surface were being carted away in emergency vehicles when the immense energy radiating from the casual attack blasted everyone into the distance.

They all felt the heat of the attack even though they weren't physically hit. Time had come to a stop as they watched the bodies of their colleagues disintegrate from the powerful shock waves.

As the environment was plunged into utter chaos, a loud voice rang loudly across the vicinity. "Space constructs," It was both soft and extremely loud at the same time.

A rhythmic energy pulsated as stars with triangular patterns formed an enclosure around the figures of the scientists who were currently still in mid-air from the blast of energy.

The moment the constructs were formed, the scientists were safe from the destructive energy that thrashed around.

Not a single one of them had noticed when Mack arrived. The speed at which he had activated his bloodline ability to protect them had been incredibly quick. Swwwhiii~

Loud whooshing sounds rang out as the twenty-seven in mid-air vanished briefly before threads of sizzling dark light blasted forth from below.

Boooooommm!

Everything within a radius of seven hundred miles instantly disintegrated, leaving a massive charred hole on the surface of the earth.

The sudden discharge had consumed everything in sight, Mack included.

It seemed like nothing would be able to survive within it. However, thirty seconds later, Mack remained in mid-air without any new injuries. The only injuries on his body were the few scalds and bruises he received from fighting Gustav but it was barely noticeable. Mack had successfully gotten everyone out of range except for Grand Commander Shion who was still underground when this happened.

Unfortunately, there was nothing left...

The research center along with the ice land that spanned for a couple of hundred miles was completely gone. It solidified the status quo... Grand Commander Shion was gone.

The only visible outline in the vicinity was an all-black creature with wings and horns who looked no different from the depiction of demons from children's fairy-tale, alongside a feminine white and black figure with a single inverted horn protruding out of her forehead. 'The death angel has been freed... and that creature beside it... that must be the creature I returned to earth for,' Mack's face retained a calm expression as he analyzed the situation. He now understood why they had him return... no one on earth would have been able to handle such a creature.

- 'Mack... let's switch. You can have some of my time later.'

'Usually, I would say no but the situation does seem troublesome. You can take over,' Mack responded while letting out a small sigh.

While the conversation was ongoing in Mack's head the Death Angel below had pointed in Mack's direction.

It seemed like the Death Angel was complaining about his existence and possibly asking the feminine-looking being beside it why Mack was still alive.

The attack was immensely powerful after all and comparable to Gustav's Planet Decimating Orbs. They didn't seem to be aware that this was the strongest Mixedblood in existence.

The half dark and white feminine being reacted by raising the blade in her grasp to Mack who was still floating in mid-air.

Her blade emitted such powerful energy that caused the air around them to begin cracking like glass. It spread forth from her being as she drew a line across the air again.

It seemed like the world was going to split in two at that moment as the line surged forth with unparalleled intensity.

At that moment, the scenery around them suddenly changed.

Zzhiihhhhh~

The Death Angel and half dark and white being were left baffled upon realizing that they were now in an environment that possessed no physical matter.

They found themselves suspended in a surreal ballet of existence. The surroundings defied the very fabric of reality, a place where the concepts of land and water dissolved into the intangible embrace of air and vapor.

The air around them bore a translucence that hinted at the intangible nature of their surroundings. There was no up or down, neither was there any discernible orientation in the mesmerizing expanse.

Whispers of unseen forces resonated through the air, a haunting symphony that transcended audible sound.

Space itself seemed to fold and contort, creating optical illusions that challenged the very nature of perception.

They tried to pinpoint Mack's location in that realm but it brought them even more confusion to see a different humanoid being floating ahead of them in that space.

He looked to be around his twenties with jet-black hair and a charismatic-looking expression on his face. He gave off an overbearing aura that caused the realm to pulse as if in reverence to his dignified presence.

"I transferred us here because if we were to fight on earth... the world would come to an end," The voice of the entity rippled across the space like a newly arrived deity.

The Death Angel's hollow grey eyes widened in realization... it looked like a different person but it was the being that had manifested from the one that remained after the attack on the research center...

It was JACK.

...

"They were here just now... where did they go?" Gustav wondered with a conflicted look as he arrived above a space huddled with destruction. "Kyaaahhh!"

"Kiriko!"

"Raahh!"

"Father... Mother... ~sniff sniff~"

"~Waaahhh~"

"My legs... kiaahhh! My legs are gone!"

As Gustav's perception traveled across the globe, he could hear the cries of many innocents.

The destruction that had ensued from his fight with Jack was one thing but the energy that erupted from the attack of the half-dark and white being had wreaked more havoc than they realized.

Perhaps that was the reason Jack immediately transferred the fight to a different location but Gustav was unaware that this was the case.

All he knew at the moment was the fact that both his battle with Jack and the attack from the half-dark and white being had brought about a casualty of millions.

Gustav couldn't help but feel guilty as his perception continuously picked up on more destruction across the globe. Millions were confirmed to have perished already but even more were left with grievous injuries.

Alarms were going off all across the world as health practitioners moved to work despite having suffered casualties themselves.

The injured who were getting treatment at the moment weren't healing. It turned out that the attack from the half-dark and white being brought irrevocable damage that could not be reversed by even the best healing meds.

Gustav was feeling a bit guilty as he picked up on everything going on at the moment. Earth was on fire.

"Grand Commander Shion was here... I can't sense him anywhere on the entire earth," Gustav knew what that meant.

Grand Commander Shion was someone he had always respected. Not to mention the fact that E.E. informed Gustav of the Grand Commander standing up for him several times during his absence from Earth.

Grrrttz~

E.E. appeared in holographic format with a deadbeat look on his face, "Plankton City was affected too... Angy's brother is..."

After the call ended Gustav's remained in place silently for a few seconds as E.E.'s report echoed in his mind, mixing with the cries of earthlings.

~sigh~

"How unlucky can one person be... I just arrived on this planet yesterday and everything has gone to shit," Gustav lamented with a soft but slightly frustrated expression.

"I can't let things be..."

A glowing hourglass appeared in Gustav's grasp.

("What did I tell you about constantly using that?") The system instantly nagged.

"I will be fine," Gustav voiced while imbuing the Ancient Hourglass with his essence.

The item emitted an even brighter glow as its golden sands pulsated with mythical energy.

("You don't ever listen until something seriously bad happens,") The system stated with a dissatisfied tone.

"There is no other way... it is for the best that this battle never happens," Gustav voiced while turning the hourglass upside down.

Chapter 1410 I Warned You

"There is no other way... it is for the best that this battle never happens," Gustav voiced while turning the hourglass upside down.

A golden energy thronged, spreading across the fabric of existence in an instant. Planets and Galaxies were once more covered by the spread of the golden glow unaware that this wasn't the first time such a scenario was taking place.

As the sands began to pour, time-reversed on a universal scale.

Within the realm that Jack pulled the Death Angel and the white and dark powerful being, an incredibly destructive battle was ongoing.

The battle wreaked chaotic waves of destruction that would long have destroyed the earth had they remained there to face off. It would have caused great peril even across the galaxy. Jack was facing off against the half-contrasting color alongside the Death Angel who had gotten weaker than both of them after being dragged into Jack's dimension.

Jack was holding his own against both of them and had even managed to inflict injuries on them. However, he wasn't without damage himself. He couldn't help but wonder why the half-white and dark being wasn't affected by the same weakening laws that put the Death Angel in its current state.

As their battle raged on, a mythical golden energy suddenly invaded the realm.

All three of them were instantly bathed in the golden waves and found their actions reversing.

'Someone is reversing time,' Jack immediately realized and tried to free himself from the universal laws of time.

Jack and the two other entities were beyond time so they were supposed to be immune to time-related abilities even if the entire world was affected. Unfortunately, this time it wasn't so...

Jack found himself shackled by the power of the force driving the time reversal and was unable to free himself. The same applied to the Death Angel and half dark and white being.

They all seemed to be baffled by the power of time affecting them and erasing their memories as all of existence reversed.

Jack turned to the side and peered through the yellow wave of energy, only to spot a silhouette existing outside of the wave.

He recognized this silhouette.

"You?!" A moment after he voiced with a tone of realization, his memories were erased as he turned illusionary. Minutes later, Gustav stood in mid-air with the hourglass in his grasp. His perception spread across the entire planet and to his relief, the world wasn't on fire.

Mack was still floating above the icy terrain that housed the secret research underground center. In Gustav's left hand was the unconscious corpse of his clone. It turned out that he had just finished beating him up and flown to an area above a large forest space.

Gustav wasted no time and swiftly conjured up a blueish space to keep the clone. A moment after he did this, he let out a sigh of relief.

'What would I have told Angy if she had returned to meet her little brother dead?' He said internally.

Gustav turned to a direction in mid-air and was just about to fly away when...

Kruukk!

Blood began gushing out of his nose.

"Huh?" Gustav reached out to cover his nose in confusion. ("I warned you,") The system voice chimed.

"What is..." Gustav suddenly coughed out a mouthful of blood before he could form a coherent sentence.

"KURRKK!" His vision faded very quickly and he fell from the air.

Fwwwiiii! Bang!

His body crashed into a tree, causing it to split in two as he got wedged in between since it didn't separate all the way.

Gustav completely passed out. Zhrrhhhh~

A teenage girl with crimson hair and a gown phased out of him in the next instant.

"Such a fool," She uttered with a look of distaste.

"What will be the point of reversing time if you not only get yourself killed but also fail to prevent the same situation from playing out again?" The system questioned with a tone of annoyance.

"Grrrrhhhhhh!" A loud growl rang out with intensity, causing the surroundings to quake.

"A level 98 Worthog..." The system said with a wary tone after identifying the mixed breed that had let out the loud growl.

She instantly became afraid.

When Gustav had arrived there before reversing time, the beast had been docile. Despite being the Lord of the territory, the beast didn't dare bother Gustav at that time because of the presence he gave off.

Now that Gustav was unconscious, his presence had weakened significantly. Which put him in danger.

"I don't have the power to fight a beast... you better not die!" The system proceeded to grab Gustav's arm and began pulling him towards a nearby rock with a small cave within.

She groaned multiple times because of Gustav's weight but managed to pull it off after a minute. The cave was dimly illuminated, making them barely visible within. The system put Gustav behind a small block and stared at the entry point with a look of wariness.

She grabbed a bunch of leaves and broken branches to block the entrance which wasn't very wide.

Another loud growl rang out and it sounded even closer than the last.

'Did it notice us already?' The system wondered.

Bam!

She grew increasingly worried as loud collisions from limbs striking the ground began to cause the cave to vibrate. It was obvious that a large creature was strolling around nearby.

Bam!

With every strike, the tension in the air increased.

Bam! Bam! The system squinted her eyes as she noticed some more leaves shudder outside of the cave's entrance like something was passing by.

'Looks like it knows we are here,' She uttered internally as the leaves and branches she placed at the entrance brushed to the side.

Fwwwihii!

In the next moment, a being appeared at the entry point.

The growls and loud collisions instantly came to a stop. "Oh, it's you," The system stated with a slight tone of relief.

"Do I know you, youngling?" A human voice rang out.

'Youngling? Even the strongest is quite ignorant,' The system maintained a look of pride as the person before them who happened to be Mack, stepped forward.

"What does it matter? Anyways, if you're here for him, I'd advise you to head back. You need to be prepared for what is coming before it arrives," The system blurted out.

"What is a little girl doing out here and with that man... what happened to him?" Mack questioned after realizing that Gustav was unconscious.

"You don't have time for this," The system voiced while a red holographic screen shot out of her eyes.

"Watch this," She said to Mack.

Footage of destruction played out, causing Mack's eyes to constrict in confusion.

"What is this?" He questioned with a grave tone.

"It is what will happen... unless you listen to my instructions and choose not to repeat the same mistake," The system answered like an all-knowing being.

"What do you mean?" Mack inquired with a concerned look.

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{ Two Days Later }

Gustav's eyes flickered open and he found himself staring at the crystalline ceilings of a room. He instantly recognized this place to be E.E.'s crib.

"How did I...?" Gustav suddenly jumped to his feet as he held his face. He couldn't feel blood on his face and even his clothes were a new pair.

Sshhhhshh~

The room door slid to the side and E.E. walked in alongside Endric.

"Welcome back to the land of the living," E.E. voiced with a smile.

~Sigh~

"You overdid it this time big brother," Endric stated while softly stroking his hair as they walked in.

"How long have I been... out?" Gustav questioned with a tone of urgency.

"Two Days," E.E. answered candidly.

"Two days?!" Gustav yelled and jumped to his feet.

"Relax," Endric immediately placed his hand on Gustav's chest and pushed him back to the bed.

Gustav fell weakly with a puzzled look on his face.

"First off, I know," Endric said to Gustav.

"I still have the memory," He hinted at the time rewinding, causing Gustav to recall that he was a time candidate.

"I know too... he told me," E.E. chimed in from the side.

"Then... what happened?" Gustav questioned as he regained his calm look.

"The thing living in you managed to convince Mack to focus on preventing that being from freeing the Death Angel and wreaking havoc," Endric proceeded to narrate everything that had happened to Gustav.

It turned out that after the system had successfully convinced Mack, he got everyone out of the facility before the arrival of the half-white and dark being. Except for the Death Angel.

According to what they knew, the half-white and dark being only appeared because of the Death Angel so moving it would pretty much be the same as moving chaos to another location. Jack and Mack also stopped the experiments the scientists were conducting to make sure things would not repeat themselves.