

Bloodline 161

Chapter 161 - Confusing Decision

"This means the test has already begun," Gustav said before turning around.

"Let's go, Angy," Gustav said and started walking forward again.

Angy quickly caught up to him since she didn't want to be left behind.

The rest of the participants realized that Gustav and Angy must have dashed forward because of the incident.

They quickly followed in Gustav and Angy's footsteps.

At that moment, over thirty of the participants had fallen in. About thirty-three of them were left.

In a few seconds, the ground behind mended itself and closed up again.

Gustav and Angy practically led the crowd behind them. Sometimes, moving in a zig-zag-like pattern.

The talkative mixedbloods had already shut their mouths. They were now feeling tensed as they struggled to follow Gustav and Angy's every step.

-Floor 617 (Watch room)

Inside a vast room filled with screens and computer-like technology devices, about fifty people were in sitting positions tapping onto holographic keyboards.

The holographic screens in the room were split into smaller screens that showed different places.

The places displayed on the holographic screens were the different angles of the Facility.

Footages of different places around the tower were being displayed on the screens, and young people could be seen walking on every road that led to the tower.

A young-looking man dressed in an Orange military-like jacket with black stripes stood behind the large screens with his hands locked behind his back. He had long flowing yellow hair that reached his lower back.

"How many batches have come in so far?" He asked with an authoritative look.

"About six of them, sire... Each batch originally had about forty to sixty mixedbloods, bringing the total number of mixedbloods to around three hundred. However, only around sixty of the participants managed to make it to the base of the tower," One of the people tapping on the holographic keys spoke from behind him.

"Good..." The man replied while his sight moved to observe the different spots displayed on the screens.

"Hmm?" He noticed something and paused his sight on the top right corner of the screen.

"This batch seems to have the highest remaining number of participants," He muttered with an intrigued look.

On this particular screen, the participants were about thirty in number, moving speedily towards the base of the tower.

On other screens, the number of the participants ranged from twelve to fifteen, which was why he was intrigued about the number of participants retained in this batch.

"They seem to be following that boy over there," His sight closed in on a boy with dirty blonde hair, leading the crew.

Even though there was a girl with two horns following him by the side, it was apparent that the person leading was the boy.

The yellow head man stared at how the boy avoided different spots on the ground while travelling towards the tower.

"Interesting... Looks like he can see the traps," The man muttered while analyzing the boy's looks.

'Another promising candidate might have shown up, but it's too early to judge,' He said internally.

Gustav and the rest were already about seven hundred feet away from the base of the tower.

The other participants following Gustav and Angy for more than fifteen minutes now noticed that they had not faced the problematic situations they did in the past. The ground didn't blast open while they followed in his footsteps.

They were intrigued about how Gustav was able to pull this off, but they were more concerned with getting to the tower, which was the primary goal.

After a few more seconds, they crossed another hundred feet, but immediately they did, Gustav paused his footsteps.

The rest behind also paused and stared at Gustav from behind with a look of confusion.

Gustav stood there for quite a while with his irises glowing scarlet and green.

"Hey, what's going on? Why did he stop?" The participants behind were starting to get impatient after seeing that Gustav hadn't moved for about thirty seconds.

"Is something the matter?" Angy asked from his side after noticing Gustav's intense staring.

"Hmm, yes, something is up, but I need to confirm my suspicions first," Gustav said and proceeded to sit on the ground.

-"Eh?"

-"What's going on?"

-"Why is he sitting?"

The crowd behind couldn't understand Gustav's actions.

Angy also didn't understand it, but she didn't question him. Instead, she proceeded to join him in sitting on the ground.

This continued for more than two minutes. Gustav just sat down there and kept looking forward.

Due to his strange actions, everyone was scared of moving forward. Some of them even approached him and Angy to ask if anything was the matter. Gustav only smiled at them and replied, "I feel like taking a rest. You guys can move along,"

Even after hearing Gustav's statement, no one still moved.

Some of them were good at sensing vibrations due to their bloodline. However, their unique senses still failed them when the ground was caving in because they only sensed it at the last second.

"What madness is this? We can't just sit around and do nothing," A chubby boy with a bald black head walked towards Gustav and Angy while speaking.

He was already tired of standing around, so he decided to do something.

"Hey, keep leading us," He threatened after arriving behind Gustav.

"Hmm? Isn't it a little too early for me to be meeting nuisances?" Gustav sighed after hearing the chubby boy speak from behind.

"Hey, did you hear me? Either you keep leading us, or I'll..." Before he could complete his sentence, Gustav interrupted.

"Is it wise for you to cause trouble here? You know where we are, right?" Gustav said without turning around.

"Ek," The boy flinched back after hearing that.

He remembered his father warning him not to cause any problems within the MBO branch.

He moved back with a wary expression.

"Ak screw it, I'm gonna keep moving forward," One of them voiced out and activated her bloodline.

The chubby one stared at the person moving, who happened to be a girl with green skin and a brown tail.

Immediately she activated her bloodline, red aura-like energy covered her entire body, and she started moving forward.

Chapter 162 - Cannon Fodders

Everyone stared at her as she moved past Gustav and Angy's position.

After she crossed over twenty feet, the chubby boy decided to join her.

He also activated his bloodline, causing black metallic shards to cover his face, hands and legs.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

His movement caused the ground to make loud sounds.

He caught up to the girl, and they kept on moving forward together.

Seeing the way they weren't affected, everyone joined them, running forward and leaving Gustav and Angy behind.

Immediately the two at the front crossed about seventy feet, silver-coloured cannons suddenly sprouted from the ground.

Zwoon! Zwoon! Zwoon!

About seventeen cannons with two or three mini cannons sprouted out in less than five seconds, shooting blue beams towards the participants.

Bing! Bing! Bing! Bing!

Since every participant was a Zulu-ranked mixedblood, three seconds was more than enough for them to prepare to dodge the attacks. However, immediately they tried to move their body, a strange pressure suddenly descended upon the vicinity.

Thooooooooomm!

Everyone suddenly felt the weight of their bodies increase by two.

Due to this sudden change, a lot of mixedbloods were not able to move their body fast enough and were hit by the beams.

Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!

About seven people were hit in one go.

Immediately a beam slammed into a person, they'd pass out.

Once their body collided with the ground, it would open up, and their bodies would fall into the opening.

The chubby boy was among the first to be blasted into the ground below.

The girl who had a red aura-like covering on her body could still move about unhindered by the sudden change in the gravitational force.

Sweei! Sweeei!

She dodged the cannons and dashed forward.

Shiiiiinn!

She formed a two-meter-long sickle made of red energy and swung it towards the cannon in front of her.

Swhhhii!

The cannon was smoothly divided in two.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

More participants were still being shot down. Nevertheless, some of the mixedbloods used others as coverings to prevent beams from touching them.

They also attacked the cannons even though their speed was decreased significantly.

In a few minutes, the seventeen cannons had been destroyed. However, only twenty-one participants were left.

After all the cannons were destroyed, the gravitational force returned back to normal.

"Let's go, Angy," Gustav said and proceeded to stand up.

Angy was still amazed by what she had just witnessed.

'He wanted to use them as cannon fodder... Was that why he choose to remain here?' Thinking about it made chills run down her spine.

Gustav never explained the reason for most of his actions, so she was left to speculate.

She was partially right with her thinking.

Since Gustav had a bloodline related to gravity, he already sensed that something weird up ahead.

The cannons underneath the ground were barricaded by something that prevented Gustav's eyes from seeing through it. Despite the camouflage, he still sensed that it might be a bit dangerous.

Gustav didn't want to reveal his strength this early, which was the main reason for his actions earlier.

He just needed someone to head forward so he could measure the difficulty level of whatever challenge they were going to face.

This just happened to be an unexpected bonus.

'Oh well, everything worked out just fine in the end,' Gustav said while walking side by side with Angy.

Some of the participants stared at him with a look of annoyance.

"You bastard, you knew about this but didn't tell us anything!" One of them shouted out, just as Gustav and Angy caught up to them.

Gustav, as usual, ignored them and kept walking forward with Angy.

At this point, they were about four hundred feet away from the base of the tower. They could now see the other participants heading towards the base of the tower from the different roads leading to it.

As they closed in on the base of the tower, Gustav noticed that no doors were available. There was practically no entry point to get into the MBO tower.

"Hmm?" Gustav sensed something and quickly moved towards the right.

Zwweeiiii!

He felt an invisible force brush past his face.

Bang!

The invisible force slammed into the face of the person beside him.

"Kyaahh!" Blood burst out of his face as he screamed in pain while being sent flying back by forty feet.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Three other participants also had their bodies blasted backwards by invisible forces.

"KIAARRHHH!"

"KIAARRHHH!"

Screams reverberated across the vicinity as the mixedbloods once again engaged forces that they couldn't see with their eyes.

Swerve! Swerve! Swerve!

Gustav swerved sideways repeatedly like he was dancing.

Angy also did the same while dashing forward.

If a third party was to see them from afar, they would think this group of people had run mad, having no idea that they were currently battling with strange forces.

"For these unknown forces to be invisible, they must be at least level 5... Is the MBO trying to fail people on purpose?" Gustav said while observing his surroundings. He was able to sense the form of the invisible force everyone was battling with.

They had human forms. However, Gustav could sense power crystal energy coming from them, so he figured out that they were Androids.

Gustav suddenly descended, dodging the arm of an invisible AI.

Clasp!

He clenched his fist and threw it upwards as he ascended.

Bang!

He landed a solid hit on the invisible AI, causing it to be blasted into the air while moving backwards.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

The Ai slammed into three of its kind, creating a path in front for Gustav.

On the side, Angy just finished blasting away an Ai after dodging many of them.

Swooshhh! Swooshhh!

They both dashed towards the path that was created in front of them, leaving the rest behind.

'Good thing Angy was able to master the vibration technique I taught her,' Gustav said internally as they moved towards the base of the tower together.

Chapter 163 - Reaching The Tower

The girl with green skin who had red aura-like energy covering her body also managed to forge a path for herself and dashed forward.

About fifteen more mixedbloods later managed to escape from the clutches of the invisible AIs.

Similar situations were also playing out on the different roads that led to the tower.

Other participants also had issues with fending off the AIs.

Those that succeeded in evading the AIs dashed forward at full speed.

Immediately they were within the range of fifty feet in getting to the tower's base, glowing blue circles appeared on the ground around the tower.

Trooinn! Trooinn! Trooinn! Trooinn!

More than fifty glowing circles suddenly appeared around the tower right in front of the participants close to reaching its base.

Two of these suspicious-looking circles appeared several feet ahead of Gustav and Angy.

"Angy, go into the circle," Gustav shouted out.

Swoooshhh! Swoooshhh!

Both of them dashed towards the right and left circles simultaneously.

Zing!

Immediately they got into the circles, it glowed up Intensely before disappearing along with the both of them.

The girl behind them with green skin dashed towards the circle at the right side and entered it.

Zing!

She disappeared along with the circle, and only fourteen of the participants were left within the vicinity.

These participants had to struggle frantically with one another to enter a circle.

Zing! Zing!

Gustav and Angy found themselves inside a large white space.

The ground, walls, and ceiling were colored white.

The space was so large that the size could be compared to a large street.

Both of them appeared on the south right corner of the space, and ahead of them, they could see several people seated.

The seats were positioned in a circular format, and there happened to be a vast space in between.

These were participants that had also been teleported here. They were about sixty of them, and they all had tensed-looking faces.

Even after seeing Gustav and Angy, they only stared for a few seconds before ignoring them.

Gustav and Angy walked forward and found somewhere to sit.

While they waited, other participants started appearing one after the other on the same spot they arrived.

The batch Gustav and Angy were in also arrived after a while.

As time passed, more and more participants appeared, and space was getting crowded little by little.

"Gustav," Angy called out to him as they waited.

"Hmm?" Gustav turned to face her.

"What happened back there? Why did we have to go through that?" Angy asked with a look of confusion.

"That was probably the first phase of the test..." Gustav said with a contemplative expression.

"First phase?" Angy asked with a look of bewilderment, "but the badge said registration was by eight am... The test isn't supposed to start till then," She added.

"Hmm, Angy, do you remember what I told you?" Gustav asked while placing his jaw on his fist.

"Hmm, to be ready for surprises?" Angy said with a look of uncertainty.

"That's right... Prepare yourself for surprises. Let your mind be in an active state at all times," Gustav stated.

'in other words, we have to be alert at all times,' on Angy's face, a determined look could be seen as she was in pensive thought.

"Hahaha, Bunch of useless fools! I don't understand how these idiots couldn't even get into the tower!"
A tall and slim-looking young participant with spiky orange hair shouted out while laughing.

He had just been teleported into the space a while ago.

A wide grin was plastered on his face as he placed his hand behind his head and walked towards the rest of the participants.

While walking and voicing out his disgust for those who failed to get to the tower, the other participants stared at him with weird looks.

"Huh? Why does this place look dead?" He voiced out after noticing their stares.

"Ptoi!" He spat out, "Bunch of losers, see how they all look scared,"

He said as he proceeded to sit beside the green-skinned girl that came from Gustav's batch.

- "You bastard, how dare you call us weak?"

- "You're the one who's weak, loudmouth!"

- "I'll cut that tongue off!"

Some of the participants said. They were provoked by his words and voiced their anger, but he ignored them and put one of his fingers in his left ear.

"You don't look like those weaklings," He said with a grin to the girl beside him.

"Eh? Don't talk to me so casually," The green-skinned girl voiced out with a repressed look and proceeded to ignore him.

"Uh? Don't be so prideful cos I acknowledged your strength!" He shouted out.

"Ekk, go talk to the gutter, loudmouth!" She replied and stood up.

She moved to Gustav and Ancy's position few feet towards the left and sat beside Gustav.

"Ehhh? Do you think you can get rid of me like that?" The participant with spiky orange hair stood up and moved towards them.

He sat down beside the girl again, and they started bantering.

The space that was silent earlier became noisy due to this two.

"Idiots," A new participant with short stature and a cool look said while walking towards the sitting area.

He had aqua-colored shoulder-length hair and two red lines extending from his forehead to his left eyebrow.

He found somewhere to sit and closed his eyes.

"Tch!"

The participant with spiky orange hair stared at the person who had just arrived with a wary look.

"Teemee!, Don't think you'll overshadow me in this test!" He pointed at the participant that had just arrived while speaking.

"You're not even worth standing in my shadow, Ria," Teemee replied.

"Hmph! We shall see!" The participant with spiky orange hair voiced out.

More and more participants continued to arrive. In about thirty minutes, their numbers exceeded one thousand, the total number of the people originally in the venue.

It would seem that the banter between Ria and the green-skinned girl along with the participant that later arrived, Teemee, made the tense atmosphere ease up a little.

Chapter 164 - Next Phase

The participants began to initiate conversations with one another.

One hour thirty minutes later, Gustav sensed something and looked up.

Trrooiinn!

A bright flash of light appeared in the middle of the space surrounding the participants.

When the flash of light disappeared, a man in an orange-colored military-like jacket with black stripes could be seen standing there.

He had beautiful yellow-colored long hair that reached his lower back.

The large room instantly quietened upon noticing him.

"Welcome to the MBO tower! I am Gradier Xanatus, the overseer of this batch's participants." The man voiced out with a solemn expression.

"You all should know why you're here... The MBO entrance test registration is going to begin in a few minutes. However, before it does, I'd like to say a few things. I'm sure you all are still confused about what happened on your way to the tower." He said with his hands placed behind his back.

"That was the beginning phase of the MBO entrance test put in place to test the participants' reaction to dangerous and sudden situations... Those that were unable to get to the tower failed the test and have been transported back to the facility." He narrated.

Chatter! Chatter! Chatter!

The space became a little noisy after hearing that. The participants now had looks of understanding.

Some of them already had a feeling that similar events were about to occur when they noticed that the officials in the vicinity didn't bother to help them when the grounds exploded.

Gradier Xanatus's words confirmed their suspicions.

"Expect more surprises during the test. Things will not be as they are said to be because the only thing that never changes in this world is that things hardly ever go as planned... Those who can fully understand and adapt to that thought process will be able to handle unexpected situations... Only those

who are good enough will stand the chance of getting enlisted into the MBO. So, make sure you do your best!" He stated with an authoritative tone.

"Now the registration process shall begin," He voiced out before disappearing along with a flash of light.

Trruunnnuuuu! Trruunnnuuuu! Trruunnnuuuu!

The floor in the middle of the room opened up, and several silver rectangular pillars emerged from them.

These pillars had two palm prints on each of their bodies that glowed blue.

"PLACE YOUR HAND ON THE PALM TO CONFIRM YOUR IDENTITY AND MOVE ON TO THE NEXT STAGE!"

1+++++-y

The voice of the man who had just left echoed across the large space.

The number of participants in the large space area was close to two thousand. Still, the pillars were only about twenty in number.

Lights that formed numbers begin to emit from each pillar.

Gradier Xanatus once again explained that when a pillar showed the number on their palms, it would be their turn to touch the pillar and confirm their identity.

Twenty participants stood up from their seating positions and walked towards the pillar after seeing their number.

They placed their hands on the palm print, and bright light enveloped them, scanning their body from head to toe.

After a few had been selected and their palms had been scanned, the process was completed. The participants who had undergone the process disappeared from their standing position.

Contrary to everyone's expectations, names, ranks, and bloodline grades of the participants were not displayed.

For some reason, the MBO decided to not disclose this information even though they had it.

The participants didn't know that the MBO wanted everyone to partake in the next test blindly, without having any idea of what their fellow participants' strength was.

Gustav turned his palm around to face him and stared at the number on it again.

>00126<

'The number of participants in this venue should be at least ten thousand. How is it that only about one thousand made it to this place?' Gustav wondered.

'There are probably other places in the tower where participants were teleported to,' After thinking about it for a while, he came to this conclusion.

'This place is really huge, so I'm sure it will be able to fit the ten thousand people... What could be MBO's reason for this separation?' Gustav couldn't help but think the MBO was playing at something again.

Although lots of participants had been disqualified during the first phase, they would definitely still be more than a thousand left, and they could all fit in within this large space, but they were teleported to other places within the tower.

Trooinn!

Above one of the pillars on the left, the number on Gustav's palm was displayed.

One participant was teleported a moment ago from that spot.

Angy was still seated, waiting for her number to be shown. When she saw Gustav getting up, she felt a wave of uneasiness and disappointment hit her.

She knew a time like this would eventually come when they would have to be separated during the test. Despite knowing that their separation was coming, she still wasn't happy about it.

She could only try to do her possible best to get enlisted so she could accompany him.

"Goodluck Gustav," She voiced out with a smile.

"Hnm," Gustav nodded while staring at her.

"Try your best," Gustav added before moving forward.

"I will," Angy muttered with a look of determination.

Gustav walked majestically towards the second to the last pillar on the left side.

His bearing and vibe of confidence, along with his handsome looks, dragged a lot of people's attention towards him.

Especially the batch he came in with earlier.

Some of them still had a grudge against him due to what happened earlier. However, at this moment, they could tell that his bearing wasn't that of an ordinary person.

'I wonder what grade he is,' These were the thoughts of almost every mixed-blood in the vicinity.

Gustav arrived in front of the pillar and stretched out his hand to touch it.

Trooinn!

Lights reflected from the pillar and scanned his entire figure.

In a few seconds, he disappeared from his spot.

Zing!

Gustav's eyes regained it's clarity after the blinding light disappeared, and he found himself in a different place.

Chapter 165 - Throwback

After Gustav disappeared, Angy sat and waited for her turn.

'I hope I get teleported somewhere close to him,' She said internally.

After a few minutes more of waiting, it was her turn, and she proceeded to walk towards the front.

Gustav walked around after arriving at the new place.

Unlike the former space, this one had no walls. The entire space was white and bright except for the ground, which had patches of green grass on it.

The space was vast, and it was impossible to see the beginning of the end since it extended as far as the eyes could see.

In the air, a large holographic image of numbers counting down could be seen high above.

>>15:04<<

Gustav could tell that the next phase was probably going to begin after the holographic timer's countdown was complete.

Gustav was sure that he wasn't the only participant in the space and that the others were probably too far apart for him to sense their presence.

'Hopefully, they'll give us a heads up on what the next phase is about,' Gustav said Internally and proceeded to sit on the ground.

The past weeks' events drifted into his mind as he sat.

After Boss Danzo left six weeks back, Gustav was enraged, and he promised to deal with the teachers in the disciplinary committee.

He hatched plans and plotted some things secretly. Gustav didn't just want to do something that they could recover from easily. He wanted to get proof that will show that they had a hand in the incident. Gustav wanted solid evidence that will put the teachers in a precarious situation without him feeling any form of repression.

Gustav impersonated a school cleaner and infiltrated all their offices one after the other to search for clues.

There were about four teachers on the disciplinary committee: three men and one woman.

Mr. Lon was the person who personally demanded that Gustav's workload should be increased. The rest were Mr. Butch, Mr. Sun, and Mrs. Grace.

Gustav went into their offices one after the other to search for clues.

After searching about four of their offices, Gustav couldn't find anything that linked to the incident.

He entered Mr. Lon's office last to search for clues. However, like the others, he couldn't find anything.

He even hacked their schedule tablet, but nothing critical came up.

Gustav was about to leave when he noticed something on Mr. Lon's schedule tablet.

The schedule tablet was a circular device where Mr. Lon's daily schedules were placed.

Gustav had checked the schedule tablets of other teachers from the disciplinary committee. Still, he couldn't find a lead of any sort. By contrast, something on Mr. Lon's tablet caught his attention.

"Delta Labs?" Gustav voiced out what he saw on the schedule tablet.

On the tablet, it was displayed that Mr. Lon had some kind of appointment in a certain lab the next day.

This particular lab caught his attention because this was one of the labs that Gustav sold corpses of mixed-breeds to. The location wasn't far from his neighborhood, and it happened to be a lower-rated lab compared to the other labs in the city. Gustav began to wonder why Mr. Lon would want to visit such a lab that wasn't befitting of his standard.

Gustav was also supposed to visit the lab the next day to sell some mixed-breed corpses.

It was the perfect opportunity for him to see what Mr. Lon was up to.

Flicker!

Gustav opened his eyes after hearing a beeping sound within the space.

>>03:59<<

He looked up and noticed that the time left was less than four minutes already.

The holographic projection of the timer displayed had turned red, and the beeping sound increased the tension in the hearts of the participants.

"Welcome once again, everyone!" A loud voice boomed across the space.

Every participant in different parts of the space could hear the voice.

"This is Gradier Xanatus speaking,"

"The second phase of the entrance test shall begin in a few minutes," He added with a vibrant tone.

"This phase is based on a single skill..." Gradier Xanatus paused for a few seconds causing the tension in the air to rise.

"ENDURANCE!" He said with a loud voice.

'Oh,' Gustav said. He expected this phase to be more complex, but it turned out to be an endurance test.

"Now, I will brief you on this phase," Gradier Xanatus said before proceeding to explain what was required to pass the test.

"You only need to do one thing during the duration of the test. Follow the light,"

'Follow the light?'

Everyone was dumbfounded at his statement.

They only needed to follow a light to pass the test? No matter how they tried seeing it, it seemed very simple to them.

'This is definitely not going to be as simple as he says,' Gustav said internally upon hearing Gradier Xanatus's words.

Gustav wasn't the only participant who had this thought. Some of them remembered the ordeal they went through while trying to get to the tower. This made them raise their guards up because they felt that the test might not be as simple as it was being made out to be.

Gradier Xanatus explained some other things for a few more minutes.

>>00:30<<

When only thirty seconds were left on the holographic timer, Gradier Xanatus ended his briefing and wished all the participants good luck before his voice disappeared.

After his voice disappeared, a massive ball of green light appeared in the distance.

It looked so far away, but everyone could see it clearly.

Nobody needed to be reminded that the light was what they needed to follow because, according to Gradier Xanatus's words, they had to keep moving until they got to the light.

Also, Gradier Xanatus mentioned a hidden scoreboard where participants would receive points based on their performances during each test phase.

This hidden scoreboard would not be revealed until the end of the MBO entrance test.

Chapter 166 - Follow The Light

This hidden scoreboard would not be revealed until the end of the MBO entrance test.

>>00:19<<

Everyone looked ready from their various positions. They stared at the green ball of light ahead with a look of determination.

[God Eyes has been activated]

Gustav stared at the ball of light from his position but couldn't find any energy points on them, which surprised him a little.

Even when he tried zooming in on sighting the ball of light, it was still extremely far away from his current position.

'The distance must be the reason why I can't see its energy points... From the previous rumors I heard, the MBO entrance test takes longer than a day to be finished... If the rumors are true, it might take more than a day to get to the light... Is this why this is an endurance test?'

Gustav wondered as he stared at the countdown.

>>00:03<<

>>00:02<<

>>00:01<<

>>00:00<<

>>SECOND PHASE WILL NOW COMMENCE<<

Immediately the countdown was up, everyone started racing towards the green ball of light.

Some conserved their energy and moved at a fair pace because they remembered Gradier Xanatus mentioning that the test was related to endurance. They had no idea of the situations they would be facing. To be on the safe side, they decided to conserve their energy for any unforeseen circumstances that may arise.

Some felt that getting to the light first would be good because of the hidden scoreboard that was mentioned by Gradier Xanatus.

They were sure that being the first to get to the light would give them a good number of points.

Gustav stood in the same position after the countdown had started and looked around.

'I still can't use my full abilities because there are invisible cameras everywhere... They must be watching from a secret room or something... It's not the time to reveal any of my abilities even though they probably know my grade by now,' Gustav said and proceeded to squat slightly.

Thwoooooommm!

He dashed forward with speed, crossing over two hundred feet in a single body movement.

Gustav was currently moving at his average speed. However, his speed was still much faster than many mixedbloods taking part in the test.

His hair blew backward as his body traveled with speed across the patch of grass.

-Floor 617 (Watchroom)

Inside the room filled with screens that displayed different participants within the white space, Gradier Xanatus stood in front as usual. They watched as the participants moved towards the light.

'There are some really promising candidates with unique bloodlines this year,' His eyes moved from place to place across the screens.

One of the participants with electric green scales on his face zapped across the place in a particular screen, moving at a fair pace.

His movement was like teleportation. Electricity would appear several feet in front of him, and he would transform into it.

This kept happening throughout.

'He can move faster, but he seems to be one of those conserving their energy,' Gradier Xanatus thought.

"Bring up the information on this participant," Gradier Xanatus Voiced out while pointing at that part of the screen.

One of the officials behind nodded and tapped on the holographic keyboards several times.

Trooinn!

A new holographic screen appeared out of thin air in front of Gradier Xanatus.

He stared at the information and nodded, 'B-grade, not bad,' He said internally and proceeded to wave his hand.

The holographic screens disappeared, and he stared at the other screens.

On another screen, he noticed a short girl with black ram horns and the lower part of a Serpent squirming across the ground with speed.

As she was moving across the ground, the green patches of grass were turning into a trail of ashes with the outline of her body displayed on it.

'Her bloodline ability doesn't make her very mobile, but there's a chance that she might surprise us when the real challenges come,'

Inside the room, a large number of screens that were over a thousand showed all the participants' movement. Despite the number of screens, Gradier Xanatus was able to watch every single one of them at the same time and notice the promising participants.

'These three are really good too...' Gradier Xanatus commented and had three enlarged holographic screens appear in front of him.

The first one was a five-foot tall boy with aqua-colored shoulder-length hair and two red lines extending from his forehead to his left eyebrow. He was moving across the patch of grass with Intense speed, causing a red streak to blaze across the place. Although his bloodline had not been revealed yet, Gradier Xanatus felt he was promising enough from what he had seen.

The second was a green-skinned girl with a brown whip-like tail that had red aura-like energy cover her entire body.

She was currently on a red four feet sickle made out of energy. The sickle flew above the patch of grasses giving her enough mobility to move as she pleased.

The third person on the screen was a tall boy with spiky orange hair. Surprisingly, this boy wasn't walking or running above the plain fields like everyone else. Instead, he was moving underground.

How he arrived underneath the ground was unknown, but he stood in one spot and folded his arms with a wide grin on his face.

The ground was moving him forward without him having to do anything.

'This three should be the most promising candidates here except for that boy that led the other batch here... His information shows that his bloodline has something to do with transformation. Still, he hasn't made use of that,' Gradier Xanatus said while staring forward with a look of contemplation.

'I guess we shall soon see how they perform when they meet the first challenges,' He said internally while waving his hand.

The participants kept moving towards the green ball of light for the next three hours.

Some of them noticed that the ball wasn't getting any closer even after increasing their speed.

They had been expecting some kind of challenge, but even after moving for another hour, nothing happened.

Some of them were already running out of stamina after six hours passed by.

The green ball of light was still very far away.

Some of them decided to rest while others kept moving forward.

'Looks like some of them have let down their guards now,' Gradier Xanatus said internally while watching the participants on the screens.

"RELEASE THE MOBICLES!" He commanded with a loud voice.

Chapter 167 - Landscape Transformation

"It looks like some of them have let down their guard" Gradier Xanatus said internally while watching the participants on the screens.

"RELEASE THE MOBICLES!" He commanded with a loud voice.

Within the test location, the participants suddenly paused whatever they were doing when they sensed something.

Vrrrrmmmm! Vrrrrmmmm! Vrrrrmmmm!

Openings were formed high above the ground.

It looked like the space was torn open, forming circular blue tunnels in the air.

Swweeii! Swweeii! Swweeii! Swweeii!

Baby palm-sized blue machines started raining down from above.

These small machines were spherical and had very smooth surfaces. Thousands of them were dropping from the sky.

Everyone was surprised at the sudden development.

The group of participants that sat down to rest were about to jump to their feet when the ground started quaking.

Dhmmm! Ghrmmm!

Most mixedbloods lost their footing, but surprisingly they didn't fall.

They didn't fall because the grass below their feet had grown in length and coiled around their legs without most participants realizing what was going on.

When this was happening, some participants noticed it and found a way to protect themselves while others didn't.

The participants that the plants grabbed made use of their bloodline abilities to free themselves from the grip of the plants. However, in the process of doing that, the weird spherical machines falling from above made contact with the ground.

Skrryhh!

The ground split open in different places, immediately contact was made.

"KIAARRHHH!"

Screams rang out as several participants fell into the openings on the ground after they finished escaping from the entanglement of the plants.

Some were unable to free themselves from the entanglement and were thrown into the plants' openings.

Due to the unique chain of events, more mixedbloods were disqualified at this point.

Those who could escape the cracks and opening points on the floor moved to a safer spot.

They stared at the landscape ahead with a look of bewilderment.

The spherical machines glowed green before burrowing into the ground and disappearing.

Right before their very eyes, the structure of the entire landscape started changing.

Small golden-coloured rivers began to appear ahead, along with mountains and trees.

Some grass patches became bigger and taller. The grasses with sentience started thrashing around all in a bid to grab the nearby participants.

A sky also suddenly appeared high above.

The participants could see clouds with their blue colour, but the yellow sun was missing. In place of the sun, the participants could only see the green ball of light they were supposed to follow.

Everything in the space looked so real that it could be compared to normal outdoors. The only differences that the participants could spot were the golden rivers and the green ball of light that replaced the sun.

The outlook of the entire landscape had gone through an unbelievable transformation.

"I knew getting to the green light wasn't going to be as easy as they were making it out to be," Gustav muttered while observing his surroundings.

He stood at the top of a small thirty-meter-tall rock and stared at the landscape ahead while activating God's eyes.

"The changes were caused by those machines. Such immense energy... Able to transform the environment to whatever the MBO wishes for it to be," Gustav said as he furrowed his eyebrows.

The rock he was currently standing on wasn't there at first. It also came into existence after the spherical machines rained down from the sky.

Gustav was also surrounded by plants that tried to hold him down, but he destroyed them easily.

When the rock sprouted out of the ground, he leaped onto it to check the vicinity from a higher point.

He was able to see the high amount of energy points each machine had, and he determined after an observation that the little machines caused the change.

"Hmm? It looks like it was not only the surface structure that changed... Things just got a little more interesting," Gustav said with a smile on his face.

Several thousand meters ahead of his standing point, Gustav could see a small forest that had blue and yellow trees.

"What a good cover-up," Gustav said while staring ahead.

They were still very far from his position, but he was able to see the trees and what awaited within.

Gustav jumped down from the rock and dashed forward with speed.

He had no intention of avoiding the forest.

If Gustav wanted to travel around the forest, he would have to turn left or right, but since the start of the second phase, he hadn't changed trajectory as everyone did.

Everyone travelled in a straight line because they felt that changing trajectory would increase the time it would take for them to reach the green ball of light.

Gustav felt that everyone was probably transported to positions where they only had to keep moving forward to get to the ball.

Turning towards the left or right would mean you were travelling in the wrong direction, but that didn't mean you couldn't get back on track by simply turning to face the large glowing ball in the distance.

Swooshhh!

Gustav arrived within the forest in a few seconds and streaked past the yellow and blue trees.

The forest was so dense that the leaves from different trees formed large canopies that covered the entire region, causing the vicinity to look dark blue and yellow due to the colour of the trees.

Swhhhii!

A circular blade with numerous spikes on its edges suddenly flew across the air towards Guatav's chest from up a tree thirteen feet away. Due to the number of leaves covering the tree, this blade was well concealed and wouldn't be noticed until it was about three feet away from making contact.

Swerve~

Gustav moved his body towards the side immediately the blade was sent out, dodging it with ease.

As the blade travelled past him, it was in fairly slow motion from his point of view.

He could see it clearly as it travelled forward. It was as big as a person's head, blue with a yellow light beeping on its surface.

Gustav stretched out his hand and grabbed the blade, hindering its movement.

Grip!

His strong grip on the blade stopped its spinning immediately.

Gustav quickly spun around and flung the blade back to the direction it was sent from.

Chapter 168 - Level Six

His firm grip on the blade stopped its spinning immediately.

Gustav quickly spun around and flung the blade back in the direction it was sent.

Skrrrrhhh!

A loud metallic screeching sound rang out from up ahead.

Booom!

A small explosion rocked the trees a few feet ahead.

A big branch of a tree was severed in two, and it fell to the ground along with a blue humanoid-looking machine.

The left shoulder area down to the chest and the sides of its rib melted off.

Gustav dashed out in a bid to finish it off the moment it landed on the ground. However, the instant he moved forward, he heard the sound of air being sliced apart due to objects moving at high speed across it.

Gustav turned around and noticed three out of four similar-looking blades heading towards him

from the left, right and center.

Thoom!

Gustav immediately leaped upwards to dodge all the projectiles.

As his body ascended into the air, the spinning blades passed below him, but to his surprise, they stopped moving forward. The blades turned and headed for his body while he was still in mid-air.

Gustav noticed another one headed for him from behind, bringing the total count of the blades to five.

Swirl!

Gustav suddenly spun his body repeatedly in mid-air and swung out his leg towards the first three blades that arrived in front of him.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Gustav's leg accurately slammed into the body of the three blades. His leg made contact with the surface of the blades sending them flying into the distance again.

As they moved through the air, several branches were cleaved in two before the blades embedded themselves into three different trees up ahead.

Due to the swinging of his leg, his body still spun towards the back, and he reached out his hand to grab the remaining two blades flying towards him.

Clench! Clench!

He landed with both blades in his hands and wanted to swing them out again when he noticed the blinking of yellow light speed up.

Beep! Beep!

Booom!

Both of them exploded together, causing a radius of over sixteen feet to be engulfed in fire.

Smoke spread across the environment, but the silhouettes of five humanoid-looking blue machines could be seen walking towards the point of explosion.

They had glowing yellow lines on their arms and looked menacing.

Earlier on, their arms had been stretched out towards Gustav's position. Still, after the explosion, they didn't seem to be on guard anymore.

"SCANNING ENVIRONMENT FOR SIGNS OF LIFE!"

A robotic voice was heard from one of them as rays of red and green light in the form of a net shot out.

But immediately that happened, a silhouette dashed out of the smoke towards it.

"SIGNS OF LIFE, DIS..." Before the robotic voice could complete its sentence, a tightly clenched fist drilled into the middle of its chest.

Krrycchh!

A small circular object blasted out from the back of the hole created in the machine's chest.

Trrooiinn!

The glowing lines on its body dimmed immediately.

The smoke cleared up, and Gustav's straight-looking face was revealed.

He neither had injuries, nor did he look ruffled in any way.

Swooshhh!

Gustav withdrew his fist from the chest of the humanoid machine and dashed towards the left, dodging a green energy beam that was shot towards him from behind.

He arched his arm backwards as he arrived in front of the humanoid machine on the left and threw it upwards.

Bang!

His fist collided with its jaw, causing it to be flung into the air. Gustav didn't wait for a single second before swinging out his fist repeatedly.

Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!

While still being suspended in mid-air Gustav's fist rained down upon the body of the humanoid machine blasting apart several of its metallic body parts.

Bang!

The humanoid machine slammed into a tree on the other side, causing its body to break into bits and pieces.

Gustav had already dashed towards the side again after successfully launching that attack.

Swerve! Swerve! Swerve! Swerve!

Gustav was moving at two hundred feet per second, so dodging the shots of the humanoid machines was really easy for him.

His body moved across the place in a zig-zag manner. He arrived in front of another humanoid machine and rained down barrages of punches on it.

Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!

In about a minute, Gustav was done dealing with every single humanoid except for the first one.

All the AIs that fought with Gustav either lost one of their body parts or had their cores taken from their body, so their functions had shut down.

Gustav gathered the cores and placed them in his storage device.

'Extra energy is always appreciated,' He said internally as he walked towards the AI he didn't finish off.

"PARTICIPANT 00126 CAN PROCEED!"

A robotic voice boomed out from the AI that Gustav hadn't killed.

"Hmm," Gustav nodded and dashed forward while throwing his arm out.

Bang!

His arm tore through the chest of the AI, and he grabbed onto its core before pulling it out with force.

'I won't pass up on free energy,' He said internally as the glow on the AI's body dimmed as it fell to the ground.

'When the system absorbs the cores, the energy needed for the next upgrade will be reduced to a quarter,' Gustav thought while storing the core in his storage device.

Swooshhh!

He dashed forward after all was said and done, leaving the AIs in scraps.

Gustav leaped to the top of a tree and started jumping from tree to tree after crossing a distance of seven hundred feet.

-Floor 617 (Watchroom)

Gradier Xanatus stared at a particular screen at the top left corner of the holographic split screens.

His eyes were laced with a look of disbelief and uncertainty.

"Did that candidate just casually deal with a bunch of level six AIs without even activating his bloodline?"

The shock in his voice was evident.

Chapter 169 - Pride Of A Special Class

"Did that candidate just casually deal with a bunch of level six AIs without even activating his bloodline?"

The shock in his voice was evident.

He stared at other holographic screens, trying to see if he missed any other candidate that may have displayed the same prowess Gustav did. However, after checking for a long time, he couldn't find anything of sorts.

Most participants on the screen were struggling to deal with the AIs with their bloodline being activated. Contrary to other participants, Gustav dealt with five AI's by only using brute force.

Level six AIs were comparable to step two Zulu rank mixedbloods. So, it was understandable that the mixedbloods were having problems defeating them.

Although, most mixedbloods participating had surpassed the step two rank. Still, it would be challenging to defeat multiple Level six AIs within a specific period without taking damage.

'According to the scans, his bloodline should be related to transformation... How is he able to use this level of strength without transforming,' Gradier Xanatus thought.

"Bring up the information on that candidate," Gradier Xanatus pointed at the screen that showed Gustav dashing across the forest.

Trooinn!

Another holographic screen appeared in front of him that displayed Gustav's personal information.

His name, address, date of birth, and so many other things were displayed.

"Hmm... Gustav Crimson..." Gradier Xanatus muttered with a weird look on his face wondering why something about this name felt familiar to him.

His eyes suddenly widened as he noticed a piece of information.

"His birth parents are the Oslovs?" He voiced out with a look of disbelief and confusion.

'Another prodigy from the Oslov family. Do they have three kids? Because Endric big brother was said to have a low-grade bloodline. I wonder why this one didn't catch the eyes of the inspectors... A mixedblood of this caliber should have passed the special test...' Gradier Xanatus thought while being puzzled at the new information he uncovered.

'Why does he bear the name "Crimson" if his original family is the Oslovs?'

A giant screen was placed in front of a hall, and several young people dressed in pure white uniform-like outfits sat on chairs opposite the screen.

Most of these youngsters gave off a confident and prideful vibe as they all watched the screen in front with contemplative looks.

A glass wall could be seen on the right side of the hall. Through the glass wall, clouds could be seen, which depicted that the current altitude of this location was very high.

On the front seat, a boy with curly black hair dressed like the others sat with his legs crossed.

Among all the others, he seemed to be the youngest because of his looks.

He had a conflicted look on his face as he stared at the screen ahead.

"What's the problem, Endric? You've been acting weird since we arrived at the hall. Are you sick?" A girl with long blonde hair beside him voiced out with a concerned look on her face while stretching out her hand to touch his face.

Pah!

"Don't touch me," he voiced out with a repressed look while slapping her hand away from his face.

She withdrew her hand immediately but still kept facing him.

Endric kept gritting his teeth as he stared at a particular part of the screen.

She noticed this and followed his line of sight to check out what he was staring at.

On a particular part of the screen, a tall boy with dirty blonde hair had just exited a small forest and was now headed towards the mountain pass up ahead.

"Hmm? Why do you two look so identical?" She asked with a suspicious gaze.

"None of your bus..." Before Endric could complete his sentence, someone interrupted from the side.

"Isn't that your big brother?" A boy sporting short brown hair asked while pointing at the screen.

"Uh? Endric's big brother?" The girl voiced out with a surprised look and turned back to stare at the screen.

'No wonder,' she said internally.

"What do you mean by big brother?!" Endric's face suddenly twisted in rage as he stared at the person on his right-hand side.

The space around Endric suddenly warped and twisted.

"Ugh!" The boy beside him suddenly fell to the ground on his knees.

"Wh-at a-re yo-u doing?" He stuttered while asking as his body trembled.

Other people in the hall were confounded by the sudden turn of events and stared at the front with a dumbfounded look.

"He is no brother of mine!" Endric voiced out loudly, causing the space to twist even more.

The boy felt heavy pressure descend upon him causing his entire body to be forcefully pinned to the ground.

Plop!

"Endric stop it," The girl on his left voiced out.

"Shut up! Just because you managed to pass the special test doesn't mean you're on the same level with me!" Endric Voiced out with a prideful look causing the girl to flinch back, speechless.

He turned to face the boy who was struggling to move on the ground.

"Watch your words next time, fool!" He said before turning around to leave the hall.

The boy on the ground felt the air return to normal, and his body lightened up again.

He slowly stood up while gasping for breath with a look of embarrassment visible on his face.

Chatter! Chatter! Chatter!

- "Tch, He's so full of pride at such a young age,"

- "He is a special class, that's to be expected,"

- "None of the special class showed up here to watch the test except for him,"

- "I can't believe he has a brother,"

The silent hall became a little noisy after what had happened.

The girl who tried stopping Endric earlier helped the other boy up.

"I can't believe Endric did that to me. I was his senior for years," He voiced out after sitting down.

"Gurg, don't be mad at him," She said with a pleading look.

"You're always supporting him, Paula, yet he treated you like shit," Gurg said with a look of pity.

"I... Don't..." She stuttered, not knowing what to say.

Chapter 170 - Challenging Mountain Region

"Gurg, don't be mad at him," She said with a pleading look.

"You're always supporting him, Paula, yet he treated you like shit," Gurg said with a look of pity on his face.

"I... Don't..." She stuttered, not knowing what to say.

"I can't believe Gustav is participating in the test. He seems to be doing well also... What's going on?" Gurg asked while staring at the screen.

-

Endric stood on a corridor with a sliding floor surface. The floor was moving him forward across the corridor.

'This time, Gustav, I promise to finish you off for the humiliation you brought me,' He said Internally with a look of rage.

Eight hours had already gone by since the second phase of the test started.

The participants were still following the green light, which looked as far as ever. However, those that had traveled farther than others could tell that they had closed the distance a little.

More than a hundred participants had been eliminated by AIs that suddenly spawned all around the place.

Another thing was, the AIs within each area were different.

To pass a particular location, a participant would have to go through one trouble or the other. Nevertheless, whenever they managed to surpass such obstacles and travel past that region successfully, they would notice a specific change. The green ball of light had become a little closer than it was earlier.

In a region of large mountains, Gustav was currently running along a mountain pass.

The current mountain Gustav scaled through was huge, and on the right side, the mountain pass was located.

At the edge, several spiky large bones could be seen at the bottom, pointing upwards.

The large spiky bones were lined up at the bottom of the mountain, densely packed together.

If one was to fall off the edge of the mountain pass, they would meet with a disastrous end.

The mountain pass was about sixteen feet wide.

Gustav ran across the mountain pass with his eyes glowing a bright green and scarlet color.

He furrowed his eyebrows as he noticed something nine hundred feet away.

Swooshhh!

He crossed over seven hundred feet in about three seconds and leaped upwards once he crossed eight hundred feet.

Thoom!

His body was lifted into the air by more than a hundred feet while moving forward like a rocket.

Gbam!

He landed several hundred feet ahead and kept running forward.

'Thanks to God eyes, I have avoided many traps within this mountain pass,' Gustav said internally while running.

When he first got to the mountain pass after moving through the forest, he activated a trap mechanism by mistake. He was nearly pushed to the bottom of the mountain because of that error.

Since then, he had been making use of God eyes while passing through.

He had been running for about two hours and had successfully crossed three mountain ranges.

His energy was depleting at a fast rate due to the continuous use of God's eyes. Still, he wanted to make sure he crossed the mountain region before deactivating it.

Gustav could already see the end of this mountain pass from his current location.

'One more mountain region to go,' Gustav said internally.

He could already see the next mountain in the distance, which was way taller than the mountain he was currently scaling through.

'I wonder if it will also get dark in this artificial space when the day comes to an end,' Gustav said internally as he kept traveling forward.

He could tell that it was getting close to evening in the real world.

Just as he had guessed, the test was going to take more than a day.

After a few more minutes of running, Gustav was closing in on the end of the mountain pass when he noticed something again.

Gburu~ Gburu~ Gburu~ Gburu~

Massive boulders suddenly started rolling down from the top-left area of the mountain with intense speed.

Unlike the last time he encountered a trap, his reaction time was slow because he didn't activate the current trap.

More than thirty of them, each the size of a truck, rolled down with intensity causing tremors across the mountain range.

Parts of the mountain crumbled and slid down the mountain pass.

Due to the intense vibrations, the large boulders generated as they rolled down, Gustav's speed was affected slightly.

The boulders were all rolling down simultaneously, but the first one was about a hundred feet away from Gustav, while the last one was more than six thousand feet away.

The boulders were over thirty in number. Their sheer sizes were more than enough to destroy the path ahead and hinder Gustav's progress.

[sprint has been activated]

Gustav activated sprint, and his speed instantly doubled.

The boulders rolling down decreased in speed from his point of view as he threw his body forward with force.

Fwwwoommsshh!

Afterimages were created from his body movement as he crossed over five hundred feet in a second, surpassing the first seven boulders before they smashed into the route behind him.

In the next second, he crossed a thousand feet.

The thirteen boulders left in front of him were several feet away from making contact with the mountain pass ahead.

Gustav's eyebrows furrowed as he leaped upwards and landed on top of the boulder seventy feet away from him.

Thoom!

He pushed his knees upwards the instant he landed on it, propelling his body forward once again.

Bang!

Due to the force his legs generated, the upper part of the boulder blasted apart as Gustav leaped off it.

Gustav's body traveled in mid-air, leaping past seven more boulders.

He dodged a particular one that nearly slammed into his head since it was still rolling down from above.

Unfortunately, as Gustav's momentum was coming to an end, the last five boulders were already making contact with the mountain pass ahead.

Gustav landed back on the route the same time the five boulders ahead smashed into the mountain pass.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

It sounded like a nuclear explosion as the boulders slammed vigorously into the road ahead.