

Bloodline 261

Chapter 261 - Bumping Into An Unexpected Figure

The huge participant headed for him again from the midst of the participants.

His blazing fists were headed for Gustav's head.

Gustav swerved to the side and threw out fast jabs towards the rib area of the participants causing loud cracking sounds to ring out.

The instant the participant fell to his knees, Gustav's body had already done a 360° spin slamming his right leg into the face of the participant.

Thooom!

Gustav jumped back again dodging some more attacks before engaging the others.

Pah! Pah! Pah! Pah! Pah!

He never stopped sending out fists and kicks and the participants were never-ending, they came after him like a flood.

There were even friendly fires from some of the participants due to the multitude surrounding him.

Their attacks hit one another decreasing the amount of participants he had to battle with.

[Sprint has been activated]

[Dash has been activated]

[Palm Strike has been activated]

[Chop has been activated]

Gustav moved across the place dodging fires, electricity, energy blasts, shockwaves, toxic breath, spikes, and all sorts of attacks while also dishing out his.

This was the first time he was fighting so many opponents. Due to his perception, he was able to dodge almost every attack but he was still getting injured every two minutes.

However, that was enough time for him to heal.

Swowoooo!

A large boulder was sent hurling towards him from behind clearing participants that stood between him and it, out of the way.

Zwooshh!

Gustav did a flip and landed on the boulder before turning around and leaping forward with all his might.

He already knew who was responsible for this without even seeing the person.

'Even while being mind-controlled, you still feel the need to crush others,' Gustav said internally with a scoff as he landed in front of a beautiful girl with long black hair and massive front busts.

She looked like a real-life doll and anyone would be mesmerized the moment they laid eyes on her but not Gustav because at this moment his right palm was headed for her face.

Pah! Pah! Pah! Pah! Pah!

Gustav smacked her hard about five times in a row with immense speed causing her to blank out after taking the fifth one.

Plop!

Swoosh!

She fell to the floor but Gustav didn't wait a second before dashing out towards another participant and landing a hit on them before they could send out another attack.

Bodies fell to the ground unconscious as Gustav rampaged across the area brandishing his fists.

He didn't make use of any powerful attack to reserve energy so he had to repeatedly bash a lot of participants before they passed out.

"Huff! Huff! Huff! Huff!"

After fighting for about thirty minutes, Gustav was currently breathing in and out heavily.

He stared at the number of participants left in the surroundings that were still conscious.

There were only around twelve of them left.

Bodies were all over the place but Gustav didn't kill anyone. The entire area had been flattened due to the attacks from every direction. Large holes in the walls, cracked grounds, mini craters, and all that could be seen.

Gustav's face was smeared in blood. Even though he was still naked, it didn't really look that way because of the bloodstains all over his body that covered him like a robe.

If this had been a normal battle and the participants had been in their right senses they would have noticed he was fighting naked and think twice before engaging him but since that wasn't the case, they all fought mindlessly without taking note of this.

-Energy: 270/ 2125

Gustav checked out his energy and noticed that he was already running low.

'Time to go,' Gustav had decided not to engage the rest so he wouldn't run out of energy.

[Sprint has been activated]

Gustav dashed into their midst dodging all their attacks and kept running till he was out of range.

'Phew that was close... So many issues since the beginning of the final phase... Good thing tomorrow is the last day,' Gustav said internally with a look of relief as he dashed into one of the passageways.

At this time, it was already late in the night. Gustav still had around two hours left before his stats would return to normal.

He planned to hide out till then.

His energy points were also halved as well as his level and EXP. If not for his battle experiences, he would have been beaten up by the mob and taken away already.

Swoooooshhh!

As Gustav closed in on the exit of the passageway he suddenly sensed something.

A very sinister and dark presence coming from the distance ahead.

Fwooommm!

The next instant after he sensed that was also when he noticed a silhouette appear in front of him.

It looked like it appeared but it was actually just too fast for Gustav to fully follow it with his eyes.

By the time Gustav properly saw the figure, a palm was already headed for his chest.

It sounded like the air was being ripped apart as the palm headed with full force towards Gustav's chest.

It was way too fast and at his current speed, Gustav could only see a blur, however, due to reflex action he still placed his arms in front of his chest in an 'X' format.

Bang!

The instant the palm collided with his arms Gustav felt like he was hit with the force of two moving trains.

His figure was sent flying across the air as a light bone-cracking sound rang out.

Gustav felt a metallic liquid rushing up his throat but he instantly gulped it down and spun in the air before landing on his feet after traveling across the air for about thirty feet.

Sshhhsshhh!

Due to the remnant force, he still slid back by a few feet more before his body stabilized.

Gustav's arms felt a bit numb due to the strength behind the attack so he rotated his arms to get rid of the numbness.

A trail of blood trickled down the side of his lips but he casually cleaned it and stared at the opponent in front.

It was a youngster with white and a touch of black hair in different spots. He had dim eyes but the darkness within them was visible.

He had black tattoos that resembled runes on his face, neck, and some of his other exposed body parts.

Gustav stared at the participant with a look of contemplative look.

'I know this kid... He's the same person's whose form I took to deal with Atrihea city high school representatives,' Gustav eyebrows creased as he thought, 'What was his name again... Falco,' Gustav remembered the name of this kid who happened to be Angy's former classmate in Black rocks schools.

'This must be his alter ego that I knocked out the other time, I don't remember him being this powerful... Is he also being controlled by the rock?' Gustav prepared for a difficult fight as he stared at Falco who was slowly walking towards him.

Chapter 262 - Returning The Favor

'This must be his alter ego that I knocked out the other time. I don't remember him being this powerful... Is he also being controlled by the rock?' Gustav prepared for a difficult fight as he stared at Falco, who was slowly walking towards him.

Gustav could remember knocking Falco out twice when he met him in the bathroom. At that time, Gustav wasn't even aware of Falco's alter ego. So, it took him by surprise when he knocked Falco out repeatedly before he could attack.

In that brief time, Gustav had noticed the difference between the two. Now Gustav felt he might have just gotten lucky at that time because the alter ego hadn't stabilized himself before Gustav struck again.

Falco approached Gustav with a frown on his face.

'I could hardly see his movements earlier. His speed is almost comparable to my original,' Gustav said internally as he pushed his perception to the limit trying to capture every single movement around him.

His plan was to read the moves of Falco as they battled so he would be able to dodge them in a timely manner, even though Falco was currently faster than he was.

Falco paused his footsteps after arriving fifteen feet in front of Gustav.

He stared at Gustav angrily, like he had a personal vendetta against him.

"You... I will return the favor!" Falco voiced out before dashing forward.

Swooooooshhh!

'Return the favor?' Gustav didn't get the chance to unravel the meaning of that statement before Falco arrived in front of him with an outstretched hand.

Gustav spreading his perception to the max, already used Falco muscle movement to predict where the attack was headed and swerved to the right.

He was able to dodge Falco's thrust by only half a centimeter.

Scrrrhhh!

A small cut appeared on his right cheek due to the shockwaves from the palm.

Falco didn't waste time before thrusting out his left palm also.

Swerve!

Gustav swerved again, dodging that, and it became a game of thrust and dodge between them.

Gustav was always moving out of the way before Falco thrust his arms out. If not for that, he would have been pierced through by now.

Falco's fingers were black and two inches long, and he wasn't just thrusting out his palms. He was actually thrusting out his fingers in a piercing format.

Gustav could tell that if those fingers made contact with his body, it would pierce through his skin.

Gustav's mind was constantly thinking of ways to deal with Falco without having to use too much energy or reveal more of his abilities.

They were currently engaging each other in a passageway, so the harmful energy from the mining crystal was not too dense.

Gustav could tell that the MBO would be able to see this particular location with hidden cameras since there won't be transmission interference.

'Why did he say that, though? it doesn't look like he's being controlled by the rock,' Gustav wondered internally as he kept dodging the thrusts.

Every thrust from Falco was done with the intent to inflict severe injuries. A weaker mixedblood would find themselves at death's door if they were pierced once.

It wasn't the same as the participants that were attacking him earlier due to mind control.

They weren't attacking with the intention to kill Gustav or seriously injure him, unlike Falco here.

Swooooooshhh!

Falco dashed towards the left and sent out a kick towards Gustav's neck.

Gustav bent backwards causing, Falco's leg to sweep over his body.

He placed his hands on the ground and used them to push himself backwards.

Thoom! Thoom!

Gustav jumped backwards twice to distance himself from Falco.

'I don't have time for this,' Gustav was trying to get as far away from this place as possible, but due to this, he was being delayed.

Now that he knew Falco's alter ego wasn't being controlled, he decided to try and reason with him.

"Why are you doing this?" Gustav asked just as Falco was about to dash out again.

"Are you trying to play dumb right now? Did you think I wouldn't be able to recognize you again because you've changed a little?" Falco said with a tone of annoyance.

"Hmm?" Gustav exclaimed.

"This is payback! I will not accept being knocked out by a lesser being!" Falco voiced out before dashing out once again.

This time he moved faster than before.

He arrived in front of Gustav again and swung out his fingers.

Gustav swerved to the side, but suddenly dark energy resembling a scythe's blade was created from the swing.

Thrrrhii!

Gustav wasn't able to escape the full range of the dark scythe blade and his left arm was slashed by the edge of the blade.

Bang!

The dark energy blade slammed into the ground behind Gustav and a three meters wide crevice was created with cracks surrounding it.

A three inches gash appeared on Gustav's left arm with blood dripping out.

"Ugh!" Gustav growled with a look of pain as he spun and swung out his feet in response.

However, Falco was quick to dodge and swerved towards Gustav back to send out another attack.

Krrhhkkkk!

Icicle-like covering appeared on Gustav's back as the attack connected, slamming into his back.

Gustav was sent flying due to the force. However, he wasn't injured.

Falco dashed forward and appeared in front of him again.

Swing!

Falco swung his foot towards Gustav's face.

Grab!

Gustav grabbed onto Falco's feet tightly but was still thrown to the side by the force of Falco's kick.

He lost his balance and was falling towards the ground, but it would seem that Falco still wasn't done with him.

Sweeiii!

Two fingers were headed for his eyes.

"You will lose your eyes for making a fool out of me!" Falco voiced.

Gustav gritted his teeth as he noticed the fingers two centimeters away from his eyes.

[Gravitational displacement has been activated]

[100 EP]

'Damn it, I had to resort to this,' Gustav said as he activated gravitational displacement.

The force of gravity around Gustav suddenly changed, and his body descended faster, causing Falco's fingers to pierce into his hair.

Scruffles of Gustav's hair were sliced off due to that

Chapter 263 - Close Call

Scruffles of Gustav's hair were sliced off due to that.

Gustav slapped his left palm on the ground, throwing himself back up before swinging his right leg towards Falco's face.

Grab!

Falco grabbed his leg with ease. Gustav tried retracting it.

Hiss!

Fangs grew out of Falco's mouth, and he quickly took a bite at Gustav's leg.

Krrhhkkkk!

A small icicle-like covering appeared on Gustav's leg, protecting him from the bite.

However, Gustav still felt the pain as Falco's fangs pressed intensely against his leg.

Fwooommm!

Gustav threw out a punch towards Falco's face again, but he dislodged his fangs from Gustav's leg to dodge the punch. Instantly, Gustav used this opportunity to pull himself from Falco's grasp.

[Warning!!! Low Energy!!!]

[Warning!!! Energy points are below 200!!!]

The system kept warning Gustav of his energy points that were currently below two hundred points.

Gustav couldn't keep up the fight for too long, so he started thinking of a way out.

Gustav jumped backwards with speed.

"Hey, you're still in there, right? Don't let him control you like this... Are you really going to watch him kill a friend of Ancy?" Gustav voiced out.

"I don't care about that," Falco voiced out before dashing forward again, but just as he wanted to thrust out his fingers, his arm started trembling.

"Hey, what are you doing, idiot? Why are you trying to regain control?" Falco's arms trembled while being stretched out halfway as he spoke to himself.

Falco's face suddenly turned a bit lighter.

"Did you just say, Angy?" Falco asked with a light masculine voice different from the dark and sinister tone that he had been using to speak earlier.

'Looks like it worked. I triggered the awakening of the original consciousness,' Gustav was glad internally, but before he could reply, Falco spoke again.

"What are you doing, idiot? Let me avenge my pride! This bastard knocked you out too," His mind went back to being dark and sinister.

"Yes, but if you harm him, Angy will be sad. You've done enough already," Falco's voice went back to being light and gentle.

"You soft idiot, that's why you and that girl are meant for one another! Let's kill this bastard right here!"

Gustav watched with a look of astonishment as Falco exchanged a conversation with himself.

'So, this is how two different consciousness in the same body communicate,' It was as if Gustav was adding new knowledge to his collection.

[Sprint has been activated]

Swooooooshhh!

While they were arguing, Gustav suddenly dashed to the back of Falco and locked his neck in a tight grip.

His arms transformed as he used the bull's strength to squeeze Falco's throat.

"Yo..u... Chea..ting bas...tard fig...ht me li..ke a man do..n't use the...se ch..eap tact...ics," Falco's alter ego was taken by surprise, so before he could act, Gustav, had locked him in a grip he couldn't get out of.

"On the battlefield, the only thing that counts is victory," Gustav voiced out as he kept squeezing.

In a few more seconds, Falco's eyes blanked out, and the dark tattoos on his body and face retracted back into his skin.

Plop!

He fell to the ground unconscious.

Gustav also fell to the ground and sat on his butt with a tired expression.

'Petty idiot, how could you try to kill someone just because he knocked you out,' Gustav wondered as he breathed in and out profusely.

He was glad he already put on clothes after leaving the previous battle scene. If not, it would have been an awkward meeting since Falco's alter ego wasn't being mind-controlled.

'I only have a little over hundred energy points left. I need to get out of here,' Gustav said internally as he proceeded to stand up, but then a thought came to his mind, which made him halt his movement.

Gustav brought out a rope and tied Falco tightly before lifting him and placing him on his shoulders.

'It would be a pain in the butt if this guy is taken and ends up being a puppet of that rock being later on,' Gustav thought as he activated dash.

Swooooooshhh!

In a few minutes, Gustav had arrived in a small settlement of inmates.

These ones also happened to be aliens, but unlike most, they weren't hostile.

He found somewhere to settle down with Falco and started making plans to deal with the rock.

'I have to wait till I have regained my original stats back,' Gustav calculated that only about an hour was left for his stats to return to normal.

Currently, it was midnight, but somehow a lot of participants were awake.

It was mostly due to the fact that groups were being ambushed by participants with purplish glowing eyes all over the ruins.

The groups had to stay awake to battle these participants that ambushed them at unexpected times to steal their gathered stones.

Today was the last day of the final test phase, and it would seem that everyone would be awake for the next twenty-four hours.

'Why would that rock being need me and the stones to be free... I have a feeling that the MBO doesn't know about this. It is well above the level that kids my age can handle, but I think I've seen that location before,' Gustav thought about the location of the rock existence and brought out his virtual map.

Using the remnant energy from Life Signs Tracking, Gustav traced the location on the map and figured out the place.

'So, this is why,' Gustav noticed that the location was on the other side of the hole he spent night and day in.

If he could jump over the hole, he would only need to go through one passageway before turning to the left and arriving at the location.

While Gustav was planning, he heard someone call out to him from the front.

"Hey Gustav, you're here too," A dark-skinned kid with a handsome face and bushy afro hair voiced out as he approached Gustav.

"E.E?" Gustav remembered working with this participant to deal with the first mixedbreed they met after arriving here on the first day.

"What's up? How is it going?" E.E asked with a smile as he arrived in front of Gustav.

"Huh? Why do you look so tattered and bloody?"

Chapter 264 - Original Strength Regained

"What's up? How is it going?" E.E asked with a smile as he arrived in front of Gustav.

"Huh? Why do you look so tattered and bloody?" E.E asked as he noticed the bloodstains all over Gustav.

"Don't bother about that," Gustav replied with a dismissive expression.

"Were you perhaps in a battle? Are you injured, man?" E.E squatted and placed his hand on Gustav's shoulders as he asked.

Gustav wanted to reply that it was nothing serious since all of his injuries were already healed, and he was only feeling fatigued.

However, something came to his mind.

"E.E, can you tell me how your bloodline abilities work?" Gustav asked with a contemplative expression.

"Hmm?" E.E wondered why Gustav would ask that, but he decided to explain anyways.

E.E explained that he could open different kinds of vortexes to either teleport himself or rip something to shreds if he wanted to.

He could also teleport objects and other people to his desired destination, which could only be about four to five hundred meters away from himself. If he decided to make something travel a longer distance with his vortex, he would have to expend more energy.

Gustav proceeded to ask if there was any place, he couldn't open a vortex. Whether there was some kind of limit or something.

E.E replied that as long as it is within his range, he could open vortexes anywhere, even inside a person, as long as the right conditions are met.

"Inside a person? You can do that?" Gustav asked with a look of astonishment.

"Yes, but the requirement to do that is too hefty of a price to pay. It also needs extreme concentration because I and my vortexes share links with whatever area they appear in," E.E explained with a weird look on his face.

He seemed to be disgusted while talking about this.

'That's really powerful... if only he was a bad guy or someone that did wrong by me....' This was the first time Gustav was lamenting about meeting a good person.

He always felt there were not enough good people, but now that he met another one, he started wishing he was a bad guy.

"Why do you ask?" E.E inquired.

"I need your help with something, will you..." Before Gustav could complete his statement, E.E interrupted.

"I'm in." He voiced out.

"But you haven't even heard what I was gonna say," Gustav was surprised at his sudden agreement.

"I don't care, count me in on the adventure... remember I said I'd still like for us to work together in the future. I wasn't messing around," E.E said while stretching out his right hand for a shake.

Gustav stared at E.E's hand and then his face, 'He doesn't seem to be the type that hides evil intentions underneath a bright face,' Gustav could tell that there was no ulterior motive behind E.E wanting to team up with him.

Although it had waned a bit after spending time with Miss Aimee, Boss Danzo, and Angy, he still had trust issues. So, Gustav found people that showed good intentions suspicious.

Gustav also secretly wanted this since the first time they worked together to defeat that mixed-breed. He felt a kind of vibe with E.E that he didn't feel with others that he had met so far.

Grab!

Gustav reached out and returned E.E's handshake.

They shook hands for the second time, and E.E proceeded to sit beside him afterward.

"Even though there is the danger of death, are you still going to be willing to work together?" Gustav asked.

"Hehe, look around you. Since the first day we arrived here, we have been facing life-threatening issues," E.E said while bringing out the comb in his bushy afro hair.

"That was there all these times?" Gustav voiced out with an astonished look as he stared at the comb in E.E's hand.

"Haha yeah," E.E laughed lightly as he combed his hair for a few seconds before pushing it back into his hair.

His bushy afro hair covered the entire comb up, and there was not even a sign that something was placed in his hair.

"Now, are you gonna tell me about the situation and why that unconscious guy is tied up over there," E.E said while pointing at the still unconscious Falco tied up three feet behind them on the left.

Gustav nodded and started narrating the train of events to E.E as well as what his role in dealing with the situation was going to be.

They talked at length for about an hour, making various plans and thinking of the best possible method to handle the situation.

E.E felt the situation was indeed very dangerous. 'What if these participants remain mind-controlled after the final phase had ended and they go on to join the MBO and become leading forces in the future,' E.E was thinking far ahead, 'Also for it to want him because of its freedom makes it even more dangerous if such a being escaped this place,'

After another thirty minutes had gone by, they had decided on a plan they were going with.

Gustav found a spot to change his outfit and check on the system.

[Recreation Complete]

[Host has acquired C-grade bloodline Sticky Pus]

Gustav smiled as he saw the notifications, 'Finally, I'm back to full strength,' Gustav felt his increase in strength and his body becoming lighter, signifying that he had regained his original strength.

[Goal Completed: Combine a total of ten bloodlines]

<+50,000 EXP>

<+3000 Credits>

Gustav saw the completion of another goal and felt elated once again. He decided to check his stats to confirm his recovery.

[Host Attributes]

-Name: Gustav Crimson

-Level: 21

-Class: Sub-Parallel Being

-Exp: 637,800/3,360,000

-Hp: 9590/9600

-Energy: 4250/4250

{Attributes}

»Strength: 67

»Perception: 64

»Mental Fortitude: 64

»Agility: 64

»Speed: 66

»Bravery: 64

»Intelligence: 65

»Charm: 64

»Defence: 64

»Vitality: 66

»Endurance: 69

{Attributes points: 23}

'Good, everything is back to normal... now I wonder how many EXP I'll get if I manage to kill the rock being,' Gustav held his chin as he thought.

[Quest Has Been Issued]

Chapter 265 - Making A Deal With The Alter Ego

[Quest Has Been Issued]

A system notification suddenly appeared in his line of sight.

'Perfect timing,' Gustav said internally as he proceeded to check out the quest.

"Hey, do you mind untying me?"

A voice was heard from behind just as Gustav was checking out the quest.

Gustav turned around to see.

It was Falco who had spoken. He had regained consciousness.

Gustav slowly walked back towards him after changing his clothes and squatted in front of him.

"You'll have to stay here, the way you are," Gustav said.

"Hey, no fair, I saved you earlier," Falco said while trying to sit up.

It was proving difficult for him since he was tied up. He could only wriggle around like a worm.

"You put me in danger first... If I didn't mention Angy, maybe my eyes wouldn't be intact by now. From the looks of things, you're not in charge," Gustav said while proceeding to stand up.

"Yo, the guy has woken up," E.E approached from the side after seeing the wriggling Falco.

"Yeah, are you ready?" Gustav asked.

"Hmm, " E.E nodded in response, "Are we leaving him here?" He proceeded to ask.

"Yes," Gustav said with an unbothered expression while turning around to start walking forward.

"Hey! Hey! Don't leave me here, hmph! hmph!" Falco shouted out as he struggled to free himself.

Gustav ignored him and kept walking forward.

Falco turned to stare at E.E with a pleading expression.

E.E smiled wryly and turned around, "I don't want him to rip my head off. You have business with him, not me,"

E.E kept walking forward and caught up with Gustav.

"Erm, I don't know what you got with him, but is it okay to leave him like that?" E.E asked while walking beside Gustav.

"He'll be fine. He's almost as strong as I am," Gustav replied with a dismissive look.

"Oh, he is? Alright then," E.E decided to overlook it, but he was a little surprised.

'That weak-looking guy is almost as strong as he is?' E.E felt this was why they say never judge a book by its cover.

Falco stared at Gustav and E.Es's back as they got further and further away.

"This is all your fault. Why are you so petty?" Falco shouted out.

"Shut up, you weak idiot, always going soft, ptoi!" Falco still replied himself and spat out. However, his voice sounded quite different.

"Always going hard, and guess what? You lost, and he knocked you out again!" Falco voiced out with a burst of light laughter.

"You little..."

Step! Step! Step!

"Huh?" Falco heard the footsteps and raised his head to stare at who was approaching.

"Put him on, let me speak to him,"

The person approaching happened to be Gustav.

"Hmm?" Falco wondered what Gustav was playing at, 'I thought he already left, so why did he come back?' Falco wondered.

"Let me speak to him if you want to be freed," Gustav demanded once again and squatted in front of Falco.

"Hmm, alright," Falco said and closed his eyes.

Zwwooooonn!

When next he opened them, they became pitch black.

"You bastard, let's go again! Fight me like a man this time! Cheater!" Falco's alter ego shouted out the moment he gained total control of Falco's body.

"I will not accept such defeat! You'll never defeat me in a fair fight! Cheater! Wimp! Pussy!"

Gustav stared at him and patiently waited for him to finish shouting out all manner of vulgar words before replying.

"Okay," Gustav stated.

"Huh?" Falco's alter ego was confused by Gustav's reply.

"I said okay. I'll fight you fairly," Gustav added.

"What? No cheating this time..." Before Falco's alter ego could complete his statement, Gustav spoke again.

"I'll fight you fairly," Gustav stated while staring into Falco's eyes.

'Such confidence... He would have lost the last time if not for that meddling idiot. Where does this confidence come from?' Falco's alter ego wondered, however in the next second, he scoffed.

"Who are you trying to scare with that confident expression, this time you..." Falco's alter ego was once again interrupted by Gustav.

"I'll fight you again on one condition," Gustav stated.

"What condition is that?" Falco asked with a suspicious look.

Smirk!

A mischievous smirk suddenly appeared on Gustav's face.

In a particular part of the ruins, a handsome-looking man in prison wears walked silently across the passageways.

He had long yellow braided hair that reached his lower back and sharp slanted eyes.

His movement was like that of a shadow. One step he took covered several feet.

"There's another battle going on there... Candidates facing one another," He muttered with a confounded look.

"I must find out what is responsible for this. However, taking one of them hostage is not an option... Revealing myself to whoever is responsible won't grant me any gains," He said to himself as he arrived at an intersection.

He placed his back against the wall and turned his face to the right to observe what was happening.

"I must keep observing for now,"

In another part of the ruins, two young girls were conversing with each other.

One with silver and pink colored hair and the other with long white hair.

"Are you saying I attacked Gustav?" The girl with white hair asked with a crestfallen look.

"Are you saying you don't remember?" The silver and pink-haired girl asked in response.

"I only remember... Bits and pieces. Oh my God, I did attack him. He's never going to trust me now," The white-haired girl voiced out as her eyes turned watery.

The girls conversing were obviously Angy and Maltida. Maltida seemed to have regained consciousness but couldn't remember everything that happened when she was mind-controlled.

"It's alright, Gustav knows that you didn't mean it," Angy placed her hand on Maltida's shoulder while comforting her.

Maltida brightened a little after hearing that, but she still felt down knowing that she fought with him. She was worried about Glade at the moment, but she couldn't come up with any way of dealing with that rock existence due to its mind control power.

"What is more important at the moment is, do you remember the location of the place you fell under the creature's mind control?" Angy asked.

"Hmm, yes, I remember the location... And I also remember that It wasn't a person, it was a rock," Maltida said with a look of contemplation.

"A rock?" Angy was surprised by this discovery.

"You must be delusional. I guess that mind control effect is still there," Angy sighed while speaking.

"No, I'm serious, it was truly a rock... It looked strange and has some weird drawings all over it... Glade and I thought it was just a normal rock at first, but the moment it opened its eyes, we figured out how wrong we were. We couldn't resist its voice, it was so compelling, and our bodies would do exactly as the creature instructed," Maltida explained lengthily with a look of fear on her face.

"Calm down... Are you telling me the truth? Did everything you're saying right now truly happen?" Angy asked while holding tighter onto Maltida's shoulders.

"Yes, it wasn't just Glade and I... I remember many others being under its mind control too," Maltida added.

"Then, why did it want Gustav and I?" Angy asked.

"It could see our memories, so it checked for participants with abilities that would be useful for it... It saw your abilities as well as Gustav's from our memories," Maltida paused for a brief moment before continuing, "It wanted to control you due to your speed so you could gather many grand stones for him while it wanted Gustav because..." Maltida paused at this point.

"Because?" Angy asked with a look of urgency as she noticed the look of fear on Maltida's face increasing.

"A strong mixed-breed is needed as a sacrifice as well as a gargantuan amount of grandstones for its freedom... It wants to use Gustav as the sacrifice after noticing that he is the strongest among the participants," Maltida revealed.

Angy stepped backwards twice with a look of fear on her face.

"Sacrifice? That means it wants to kill Gustav?" Her face turned dark as she asked.

"Y... Yes, Gustav will die if he faces the rock being," Maltida voiced out.

Hiss!

Angy's face turned darker after hearing that. She stared at the ground as an aura of rage started to gather around her.

"Lead the way," She demanded while turning around.

"What? You can't go there, you won't be able to do anything. It will make no difference," Maltida said with a dissuasive expression.

Only she and Glade understood the horrors of being mind-controlled by the rock. They were also able to see inside of his mind as he searched their memories, and all she recalled was darkness.

"Did I stutter? Lead the way! There's no way I'm letting him face that thing by himself," Angy voiced out.

"Oh, alright," Maltida answered and started moving. 'Looks like she's sure that Gustav would have figured out the location... I hope he truly has because even with him there, we hardly stand a chance of defeating the rock. If he isn't there, our chances are zero,' Maltida prayed internally.

In another part of the ruins, two youngsters stood in front of a large hole.

They were like a grain of sand before it.

These two were E.E and Falco.

"Why do we have to pass this place when that bastard is going in from the front?" Falco's alter ego stared at the land after the large hole and voiced out.

The land was thousands of feet ahead. The hole looked uncrossable.

"Stop sulking, man, or are you afraid of falling in?" E.E asked while chuckling.

"Hmph! Afraid of this, don't make me laugh. This is nothing," Falco's alter ego replied while folding his arms with an arrogant expression displayed on his face.

"Alright then, this is all part of the plan so let's do our best to work according to it," E.E said while sinking into the vortex he conjured on the ground.

Swooonn!

He appeared on the other side, thousands of feet away.

"Hmph, show off!" Falco's alter ego voiced out before dashing towards the wall.

"I can perform better," He voiced out while dashing across the wall towards the direction of the other side.

In another part of the ruins, a group of participants with purplish glowing eyes could be seen moving across a passageway.

They were about thirty of them, and when they got to the end of the passageway, they turned left at an intersection heading towards a dead end.

Hiding within the group, a youngster with green hair and pale white skin looked around the place.

'Looks like I was right... Time to end this,' He said internally as they arrived at the dead end.

Zwwwooooonnnn!

A pair of purplish eyes appeared within the hole on the wall.

Chapter 266 - He's Right In Front Of You

Looks like I was right... Time to end this,' He said internally as they arrived at the dead end.

Zwwwooooonnnn!

A pair of purplish eyes appeared within the hole on the wall.

The boy avoided making eye contact with the eyes that appeared within the wall. However, he was sneakily observing the entire vicinity.

"YOU IDIOTS! WHY HAVEN'T YOU STILL FOUND GUSTAV!"

Chatter! Chatter! Chatter!

Some of the participants started trying to explain themselves, stating the part of the ruins they visited in search of Gustav.

"YOU ARE ALL USELESS! I WILL NOT SETTLE FOR A WEAKLING THAT MIGHT END UP MAKING THE SACRIFICE UNSUCCESSFUL!"

"I MIGHT HAVE TO DO THIS MYSELF!"

The rock voiced out and started floating.

The green-haired boy within the crowd stared at the floating rock with a suspicious gaze, 'Who knew that the rock could fly... well anyways this doesn't change anything,'

"RELINQUISH THE STONES YOU HAVE GATHERED SO FAR!"

The rock voiced out.

The participants started walking forward one after the other and dropping some orange-colored stones in front of the rock creature.

Zwwooooonnn!

Orange-like streams of energy started phasing out of the stones, entering the rock being.

When the energy from the grandstones was absorbed entirely by the rock, the runic patterns on its body turned brighter.

After that was done, the next participant went over to drop the grandstones they had gathered.

"WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GO FIND GUSTAV FOR ME AND BRING HIM HERE!"

The rock being commanded after noticing that the other participant was still standing there after dropping the grandstones he had gathered.

The participant quickly left the place with an expression of fear visible on his face.

After the next participants dropped theirs, they also left the area to go look for Gustav.

They were all spreading out to different parts of the ruins, but no one ever took the path on the left. Unlike other places in the area that had one or two participants with purplish glowing eyes standing around to observe the area, that route was empty.

The participants went one after the other to drop the stones they had gathered. The rectangular rock absorbed these stones making the golden runic circles on its body turn brighter and brighter.

In a few minutes, only about five participants were left, and the green-haired boy happened to be among them.

He had been changing positions all through, moving himself to the back of the crowd to make sure he wasn't spotted.

Now that there were only around five participants left, his figure was as visible as day.

He was still positioned at the side, so it seemed like he would be the last to drop the stones he had acquired among all of them.

'Hmm,' the rock stared at the green-haired boy in particular at the side and stared at the rest.

Unlike the rest, he was the only one who didn't make eye contact. However, his eyes were glowing purple like the rest.

After the next participant dropped the number of stones she had, she moved out of the area, and only four participants were left.

The rock absorbed the energy from the seventeen grandstones in front of it.

At this moment, the runic patterns on its body had become so bright that the entire place was lit up due to it.

"NOW I'M READY! I NEED THAT BOY!"

"YOU'RE ALL USELESS!"

The rock voiced out as it moved forward.

"LOOKS LIKE I HAVE TO GET HIM MYSELF!"

The rock suddenly stopped moving when it got to the entrance area and turned around to stare at the green-haired boy.

"HEY YOU, COME CLOSER!"

The voice of the rock boomed in the mind of the green-haired boy who complied with the demand.

He walked forward and stood two feet in front of the floating rock.

"WHY IS YOUR MIND BLOCKED FROM MY REACH, UNLIKE THE REST?" The rock asked as the eyes on its body squinted in suspicion.

'Thirty seconds more, it won't be ready yet,' The boy said internally before replying to the rock.

"My Lord, I don't understand what you mean," He voiced out.

"YOU MUST HAVE BEEN AMONG THOSE WHO REGAINED CONTROL OF THEIR SENSES. I WILL PUT YOU UNDERNEATH MY CONTROL ONCE AGAIN!"

"KNEEL!"

The green-haired boy knelt and looked up with a blank expression.

"NOW SUBMIT TO ME!"

[Host Brain Waves are being manipulated by external forces]

[Mental Fortitude needed for blocking Brain Manipulation: 60]

[Host has acquired enough mental fortitude to hindering Brain Manipulation]

[Brain Manipulation has been successfully hindered]

'An entire 60 points? His mind control must be really powerful,' The boy who was obviously Gustav disguised as another thought.

"HMM, WHY ISN'T IT WORKING? WHY CAN'T I SEE INTO YOUR MIND?"

The voice of the rock could still be heard in his mind. However, it couldn't successfully manipulate it as it will.

"I don't know, my lord, you should try harder," Gustav suggested with a blank look.

"WHAT DID YOU SAY? ARE YOU MOCKING ME?"

"No, that wasn't what I meant, my lord... Maybe you're just tired," Gustav replied.

"WHAT NONSENSE! I AM AS ENERGIZED AS I HAVE EVER BEEN. I JUST NEED GUSTAV TO COMPLETE MY TASK!"

The rock responded with a slightly annoyed tone.

'Thirty seconds countdown met,'

The rock suddenly noticed the green-haired kid's smirk.

"He's right in front of you," Gustav voiced out while standing up from his knees.

"WHAT?" The rock exclaimed with a confused expression, but a large vortex suddenly appeared in front of the entrance in the next moment.

Thhhrrrikkkk!

It was so massive that it covered the entire entrance up, trapping everyone within it.

The rock was still in confusion when the green-haired kid's skin tone, hair color, and height started transforming right in front of it.

Tgrrooomm!

A 5'9 teenage boy with dirty blonde hair and superbly handsome looks was now standing in front of it with outstretched arms.

"GUSTA..."

[Sprint has been activated]

Zwoooshh!

Gustav grabbed it and dashed forward with immense speed, entering into the massive vortex in the blink of an eye.

Chapter 267 - Gustav Vs The Rock

The instant he disappeared into the vortex with the rock, the remaining three participants in the area also dashed towards it.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

They slammed into it, and for some unknown reason, they were unable to phase through.

It was as if there was a barrier preventing them from going through.

They were now trapped within the dead-end and the entrance that led to it.

On the other side of the Vortex, E.E and Falco stood side by side in between the intersection that led to the back and the dead-end area.

E.E's left hand was pointed towards the large vortex covering up the entrance.

A group of mixedblood participants that were up ahead suddenly started running towards the end of the passageway.

"He should have taken him in by now," E.E said while pulling his left arm backward.

The large vortex suddenly started moving away from the entrance.

E.E and Falco moved backward, towards the path that led to the right on the intersection.

The participants in the area were still running towards them with full force and intensity.

The ones inside the dead-end area also came out.

E.E moved his left arm towards the front, and the vortex was placed in front of himself and Falco.

Zwwooooo!

The massive vortex was divided into smaller parts and numbered around twelve in total.

Each mini vortex was the size of a full-grown person.

"Remember, we have to contain them until he is done, no killing allowed, but you can knock them out. We cannot allow them to go through this way," E.E reminded Falco before dashing forward and sending out his vortexes.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

His vortex would consume the participants before they were able to attack and teleport them to another location.

"Hmph! No killing? Weaklings without the strength to protect their minds all deserve to die," Falco's alter ego voiced out.

"No killing," Falco's normal self took control and reminded.

"Hmph, alright," Falco's Alter ego had to compromise since he didn't want control to be taken from him.

Swooooooshhh!

He also dashed forward to assist E.E.

Pah!

Each of his punches would knock out a participant regardless of their size, strength, or whatever form they had taken.

Once he knocked out a participant, he would fling their unconscious body towards E.E, who would throw out a vortex that would consume that participant and send them to another location.

The participants within the passageway continued to increase in number as time passed. It would seem like they were aware that the rock had been taken.

They all looked crazed as they struggled to get to the route that E.E and Falco were preventing them from going to.

Gustav and the rock being passed through the vortex appeared above the large hole that Gustav had spent the night in.

Gustav was still holding onto the rock being as they started falling into the large hole.

"Release!" Gustav shouted out as he kicked the rock, pushing his body away from it.

Booommm!

A loud explosion rocked their surroundings as they fell, and a cloud of blue energy was created around them.

Bang!

Gustav was affected by the shockwaves causing his body to slam into the other side of the hole as they fell.

His body created long cracks along the walls of the hole as he rolled down it.

Gustav balanced himself after a few seconds of rolling down the wall and pushed himself outwards again.

"GUSTAV! HAHA, YOU HAVE BROUGHT YOURSELF TO ME!"

"YOU HAVE BROUGHT YOURSELF TO YOUR DOOM!"

He heard a loud voice in his mind as blinding gold light dazzled from within the blue cloud of energy surrounding them.

Swooooooshhh!

The rock bolted downwards from the range of the cloud of blue energy.

The glowing runic patterns on its body glowed even more as it approached Gustav.

'It's unaffected,' Gustav was surprised to see that there was not a single scratch on the body of the rock after the explosion.

Bang!

The rock was about to slam into his body when Gustav reached out his right arm.

[Size Manipulation Has Been Activated]

Grrrkouunnnn!

Gustav's right arm extended and grabbed onto the small tree branch on the side of the wall.

Swoooooshhh!

Using it to pull himself backward, he dodged the rock's lunge.

"So what if you're unaffected? I'll just keep pummelling you till you're smashed to pieces," Gustav voiced out before placing his legs on the wall and pushing his entire body forward with intensity.

Boom!

As his figure dashed across the air, towards the rock within the dark hole, pieces of rocks were blasted apart from the intensity of his jump.

"NO, YOU SHALL BECOME MY SACRIFICE TODAY!" The rock also voiced out as it sent out waves from its body.

Gustav broke through the waves with his intense body speed and threw out an enlarged fist towards the body of the rock.

Bam!

Gustav's fist slammed into the body of the rock, sending it hurling backward as it fell deeper into the dark hole.

Swwisshusshushhus!

The rock rotated rapidly as it descended.

'What? Did this kid become more powerful since the last time I saw him?' The rock wondered after seeing Gustav break through the waves he sent out and land a hit on its body.

It wasn't damaged by Gustav's intense punch. However, he could feel that there was a difference in strength between now and the last time.

Gustav didn't waste time before extending his arm and pulling himself to the left side of the hole wall.

He instantly jumped out the moment his legs made contact with the wall.

Gustav's body travelled across the air in a diagonal format towards the right side of the hole.

Thoom!

Zwinnng! Zwinnng! Zwinnng! Zwiinnng!

He started leaping from side to side in a zig-zag format as they descended, trying to catch up to the rapidly spinning rock.

Swoon!

Gustav jumped out again after descending to a particular depth and threw out his leg; his body travelled towards the rock with speed.

"DID YOU THINK I WOULD BE LEFT DEFENSELESS JUST BECAUSE I CANNOT ACCESS MY PUPPETS?"

The rock voiced out as it suddenly stopped spinning and stared at the approaching Gustav.

Chapter 268 - Reaching The Ground

"DID YOU THINK I WOULD BE LEFT DEFENSELESS JUST BECAUSE I CANNOT ACCESS MY PUPPETS?"

The rock voiced out as it suddenly stopped spinning and stared at the approaching Gustav.

Gustav's outstretched leg was only a few feet away from making contact with the rock when its purplish glowing eyes shot out a ripple of milky-colored waves.

"I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL YOUR MIND, BUT I CAN STILL DO THIS!"

"MIND RIP!"

The rock voiced out like the ripples spread from his position to the surroundings.

"Huh?" The instant Gustav was hit with these waves, a loud screech reverberated inside his mind.

Ssskkkyyrrhhhhhcchhh!

"Ugh!" Gustav held his head as his brain was hit with intense sound waves.

It felt so painful that his skull felt like it was about to crack open.

'My mental state is supposed to be protected, so why?' Gustav wondered as he held his head from the pain.

Bam!

The rock slammed its body into Gustav, sending him flying backward.

Bang!

Gustav slammed back into the wall he jumped out from, creating a man-sized hole with his body.

Gustav slowly climbed out of the hole with a rough look and reddened eyes.

He stared at the rock, which was about a hundred feet below with a slightly wary look.

Just like the rock said earlier, he had truly told E.E and Falco's alter ego to make sure they stopped the participants that were being mind-controlled from coming here.

Gustav couldn't handle battling with the rock and also dealing with the numerous amounts of participants under its control at the same time.

Falco's alter ego also wanted to be a part of the battle with the rock. However, Gustav turned the idea down, saying how only he would be able to handle the mental attacks of the rock.

Another problem will be added to the table if Falco's alter ego ended up being under the control of the rock and joined it to battle Gustav. This was why he decided to battle the rock alone.

Now that even he was being affected by the mental attacks of the rock, he couldn't imagine how much worse it would have been if one of them were to have joined him.

"YOU MUST BE WONDERING HOW THIS IS POSSIBLE!"

"EVEN IF YOU KNEW, THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT!"

"ACCEPT YOUR FATE AND BECOME THE SACRIFICE FOR MY FREE..."

Before the rock could complete its statement, Gustav suddenly dashed out again.

[Combination has been activated]

[Sprint + Dash]

Swwooooosshh!

The rock only saw a blur before Gustav appeared in front of it with two massive hands covered in red skin and black scales. Knuckles covered in icicle-like rock fragments and an entire arm coated in silver-like energy.

'Too fast... Did he increase in strength again?' The rock wondered as Gustav appeared in front of him like a phantom.

Gustav had made use of size Manipulation to increase his arm size.

"You talk too much," Gustav said with a cold look as his massive muscular arm descended with speed and slammed into the head of the rock.

Booom!

It was like an explosion went off as the rock was sent tumbling further downwards once again.

Swweeii!

It repeatedly spun while spiraling downwards.

Gustav conjured massive icicle-like spears from his body and started flinging them out as he descended.

Thoom! Thoom! Thoom! Thoom!

They slammed into the walls on the right and left, drilling into them.

Gustav landed on the one on the left side and used it to leap towards the one on the right side below.

Twoosshh! Twoosshh! Twoosshh!

Gustav leaped in a zig-zag format downwards, making use of the icicle-like spears he drilled into the walls of the hole.

In no time, Gustav was closing in on the spiraling rock again.

Twoosshh!

He leaped out once again before the rock could balance itself and landed another massive punch on it.

Bang!

Gustav placed his hand by his side, causing his body to descend faster again, and started closing in on the rock that was still spiralling downwards.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Gustav kept landing hits on it, causing it to descend further into the hole.

At this point, Gustav had no idea how low they had descended, but he wasn't bothered about that. He never stopped raining down punches on the rock as they descended.

It was as if he could fly with the way they kept falling.

However he knew very well that hitting the ground at this moment would cause immense damage for him.

The rock kept spinning due to the force behind the hit, which affected its senses, preventing it from attacking Gustav.

However, even with the heavy punches, Gustav had been throwing it, there was hardly any effect on its rocky body.

Nevertheless, Gustav kept pummeling it with punches and explosive attacks while thinking of how to properly deal with the situation.

Gustav hadn't expected the rock to be nearly indestructible, so this was something he didn't plan for. Right now, his body was in autopilot mode as he kept attacking while his mind was bringing up tons of schemes, plots, and methods to get rid of the rock.

'There it is... the mark,' Gustav said internally as he noticed a '#' mark on the stem of a small branch thousands of feet on the left wall of the hole.

The mark was barely noticeable, but with Gustav's perception, he was able to notice it the instant it entered into his range.

Gustav gave the rock one last punch, making use of the force to catapult himself towards the right side of the hole, which he and the falling rock were formerly closer to when falling.

Krrhhkkkk!

He created another icicle-like spear and stabbed it into the right wall of the hole.

Ggrruuuhhhrruhhhh!

Rock fragments flew in all directions as the icicle-like spear pierced into the wall and kept sliding down for a few more feet before coming to a stop.

Boom!

The rock slammed into the ground below, creating a cloud of dust and debris.

Gustav hanged from the icicle-like spear he stabbed into the wall and stared at the ground below that was only six feet away from his legs.

Chapter 269 - Trapped

'That was close,' He said internally before letting go of the spear.

Blam!

Gustav landed on the ground.

They had reached the bottom of the massive hole.

Although Gustav couldn't tell the exact number of feet they descended before getting here, he estimated it was over twenty thousand.

The underground ruins were already in-depth. Now they were reaching a deeper spot within the already deep Caskia ruins.

Gustav could already feel that the temperature here was higher, and there was only a little oxygen.

He took a step forward and stopped.

'Huh?' He looked down after noticing that the ground felt weird.

[God Eyes Have Been Activated]

Gustav's sight suddenly regained color as he activated God Eyes at the bottom of the dark hole.

Gustav had only been making use of perception all this time, so he couldn't really see his environment. He could only sense it.

He decided not to activate God Eyes while they were descending to save energy, but now, he decided to activate it because of how weird the texture of the ground felt.

'Hmm, why does this look like a shell?' Gustav wondered.

The part of the ground he was stepping on was dark green, and parts of it looked similar to a mosaic.

It was looking like a tortoiseshell with another color, and it covered a radius of six hundred feet.

The stone had fallen to the ground about a thousand feet away, so it wasn't in the range.

Gustav would have studied it more, but the current situation didn't give him the time for that.

As the dust settled, a small crater could be seen in the middle of the ground.

The walls of the hole served as a barricade, creating a space that covered ten thousand feet within.

Gustav dashed forward again the moment he noticed the rock. However, the rock seemed to have stabilized itself now.

Shiiiiinnnn!

It sent out a silver-like wave from its being.

Gustav leaped upwards, trying to dodge the ripple of waves.

However, when his body was only ten feet away, the same screech as before reverberated inside his head.

Ssskkkyyrrhhhhcchhh!

Gustav held his head in pain as his body descended from the air.

The rock sent out another wave, this time purplish in color.

Bam!

It slammed into Gustav, sending him flying backward.

Gustav slammed his head into the shell-like area he landed on previously.

A trail of blood flowed down his head as he struggled to get on his feet.

"YOU STILL DON'T KNOW, DO YOU?"

The rock voiced out while slowly floating towards Gustav.

Gustav stood up and stared at the rock with a fierce look while cleaning the bead of blood rolling down the side of his head.

"YOU BROUGHT ME RIGHT BACK TO WHERE IT ALL STARTED!"

The rock added.

"Huh?" Gustav was confused by its words when the shell-like area he was standing on suddenly lit up.

Trroooiiinnnn!

Outlines of purplish glowing arrows appeared all over the edges of the shell-like area, encircling Gustav.

The entire space on the ground within the hole was lit up.

The shell-like area seemed to resonate with the rock. The runic patterns on the rock started to change color as it moved closer to the shell-like area.

From golden color to silver and from silver to white.

Currently, it was slowly turning to a blood-red color.

Swoooooshhh!

Gustav dashed forward after sensing how off this area was. However, the instant he got to the edge of a shell-like area, he collided with a barrier that suddenly appeared out of nowhere.

Bam!

He got blasted backward due to that.

The barrier became invisible once again after he was blasted backward.

"THANK YOU FOR SPILLING THAT DROP OF BLOOD WHERE I WANTED IT!"

The rock voiced out as it approached the edge of the shell-like area.

Gustav stared at the ground and noticed that his blood really did drop onto the shell-like area.

And now, it was floating a few inches above the ground in the middle of the shell-like area.

"NOW THE SACRIFICE CAN BEGIN,"

The rock laughed lightly as it spoke with a tone of victory.

Gustav squinted his eyes upon hearing that and dashed forward.

Bam!

He was sent flying backward again by the invisible barrier.

'Hmm, this doesn't look good,' Even though Gustav knew he was in a kind of dilemma, he was still calm and collected.

He thought of a way out while deciding to engage the rock in a conversation.

"What sacrifice?" Gustav asked.

"HAHA, DO YOU NOT KNOW? FOR ME TO BE FREE, I NEED TO BE BATHED IN THE ESSENCE OF A POWERFUL MIXEDBLOOD!"

"ALL THE OTHERS IN THIS HOLE HAVE PROVEN TO BE WEAKER THAN YOU ARE, AND I WANT THE HIGHEST CHANCE OF SUCCESS, SO I CHOOSE YOU!"

"REJOICE!"

"THIS SACRIFICE WILL EXTRACT THE VERY ESSENCE OF YOUR BEING, WHICH WILL BE ABSORBED BY ME! FREEING ME FROM MY SHELL!"

"MY FREEDOM IS AT HAND!"

The rock voiced out.

"That means I'll die after all this is done?" Gustav asked again.

"OF COURSE, YOU'LL DIE! YOU WILL BECOME AN EMPTY VESSEL WITHOUT YOUR ESSENCE, SO TYPICALLY, YOU WILL BE DEAD!"

The rock answered.

"Oh, I see," Gustav nodded while holding his chin.

'Why does this kid still look so calm? Other kids his age will be freaking out by now?' The rock was somehow concerned about Gustav's calmness.

"So, you mentioned that I brought you back to where it all began. What did you mean by that?" Gustav asked with a look of curiosity.

"SEE IF YOU'RE PLANNING ANYTHING, IT WON'T WORK!"

"YOU CAN NEVER ESCAPE FROM THAT ENTRAPMENT,"

The rock voiced out with a tone of suspicion.

"Hmm, since I can't escape and will end up eventually dying, why don't you just tell me about it. At least I can die with closure. It won't be bad to understand some things since I have gonna die," Gustav stated.

'For someone who is about to die, he seems awfully calm,' The rock thought, but then he also saw meaning in Gustav's words.

"HMM, I WILL START FROM HOW I ENDED UP HERE," The rock voiced out.

"I AM A VINDRUELLA SPECIES FROM THE NORTHERN STAR GALAXY..."

Chapter 270 - The Rock's Background

"HMM, I WILL START FROM HOW I ENDED UP HERE," The rock voiced out.

"I AM A VINDRUELLA SPECIES FROM THE NORTHERN STAR GALAXY..."

The rock started explaining.

Gustav already knew this since the system always notified him of alien lifeforms he came into contact with.

"MY PLANET WAS CONQUERED BY EARTHLINGS YEARS BACK, AND I HAPPENED TO BE AMONG THE REBELLION SQUAD THAT WAS FORMED TO FIGHT BACK!"

"IT WAS A LOSING WAR BETWEEN THE EARTHLINGS AND THE VINDRUELLA REBELLION FORCE. THE FORCES FROM EARTH WERE POWERFUL BEYOND WHAT WE COULD HANDLE, AND EVENTUALLY, WE WERE ALL CAPTURED AND SENT TO DIFFERENT PRISONS ACROSS THE EARTH BASED ON OUR STRENGTH,"

"I WAS SENT HERE WITH FOUR OF MY KINSMEN, BUT NOW I AM THE ONLY ONE LEFT,"

The tone of the rock became a bit low at this point.

"DURING OUR YEARS OF REBELLION, WE HAD TRIED INVADING EARTH ALSO AND EVEN SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED ASSAULTS... THE MOMENT WE ARRIVED ON EARTH, WE WERE RECOGNIZED BY OTHER MIXEDBLOOD INMATES, AND COINCIDENTALLY SOME OF THEM HAD LOST FAMILIES IN SOME OF OUR ASSAULTS,"

"WE WERE OSTRACIZED, BUT THAT WASN'T ALL... DAY IN DAY OUT, THEY WOULD BULLY ME AND MY KINSMEN. ONE DAY THEY DECIDED TO KILL US SINCE THEY WERE GETTING SICK OF BREATHING THE SAME AIR AS WE,"

The rock looked up as it got to this point.

"WE WERE BROUGHT TO THE TOP OF THIS HOLE AND KICKED IN!"

"I AND MY KINSMEN WERE LEFT TO ROT WITHIN THIS HOLE, WITHOUT FOOD, WATER, OR LIGHT,"

"WE TRIED LEAVING HERE THROUGH DIFFERENT METHODS, BUT IT WAS OF NO USE,"

"ONE BY ONE, MY KINSMEN BEGAN TO DIE OF HUNGER. UNTIL I WAS THE ONLY ONE LEFT!"

"I AND MY KINSMEN INITIALLY DUG DIFFERENT SPOTS WITH OUR HANDS OUT OF DESPERATION, ONE OF WHICH HAPPENS TO BE THAT SPOT YOU CURRENTLY STAND ON!"

"AFTER ALL MY KINSMEN WERE GONE, I WAS ALSO ON THE VERGE OF DEATH. I CRAWLED TO THE SPOT YOU CURRENTLY STAND ON AND WAS ON MY LAST BREATH WHEN I STARTED HEARING A VOICE INSIDE MY HEAD!"

"AT FIRST, I HAD THOUGHT I WAS HALLUCINATING DUE TO BEING ON THE VERGE OF DEATH. HOWEVER, THE VOICE BECAME CLEARER AND CLEARER... DO YOU WANT POWER? DO YOU WANT POWER? DO YOU WANT POWER? DO YOU WANT TO LIVE?"

The rock stared at the spot Gustav was standing on as it spoke.

"BEING ON THE VERGE OF DEATH, I SAID YES, ALTHOUGH I EXPECTED NOTHING. SUDDENLY, THE ENTIRE PLACE GLOWED UP, AND I SENSED WAVES OF ENERGY GATHERING AROUND ME,"

"THOSE WAVES OF ENERGY CREATED A COCOON THAT ENGAGED ME WITHIN WHICH EVENTUALLY TRANSFORMED INTO THE SHELL THAT I CURRENTLY INHABIT,"

When the rock got to this point, he understood a bit, 'So that isn't a rock... It's actually a shell, and the real him is within,'

"ENERGY FLOWED INTO MY BEING AS MY BODY INHABITED THE SHELL, PUTTING ME INTO A STATE OF DEEP SLUMBER FOR YEARS.

DURING THOSE YEARS, WHILE I WAS IN A STATE OF SLEEP, MY BODY CHANGED. THE VOICE GAVE ME INFORMATION, AND I FOUND OUT THAT IT WAS THE SENTIENCE OF AN IMMENSELY POWERFUL ENERGY CRYSTAL BURIED UNDERNEATH!

IT TOLD ME OF HOW THE EARTHLINGS TRIED HARVESTING IT UPON FIGURING OUT THAT IT WAS VERY POWERFUL. HOWEVER, TO SAVE ITSELF FROM THE GREEDY EARTHLINGS, IT TRAPPED ITSELF FURTHER UNDERGROUND AND BUILT AN IMPENETRABLE SHELL AROUND ITSELF.

THE MORE THE EARTHLINGS DUG, THE MORE IT WENT DEEPER TO HIDE ITSELF. IT ONLY REVEALED ITSELF AFTER SEEING I AND MY KINSMEN ON THE BRINK OF DEATH.

UNFORTUNATELY, IT COULD ONLY SAVE ME.

THE SENTIENCE OF THE ENERGY CRYSTAL

I HAVE RETURNED BACK TO BEING A FETUS WITHIN THIS SHELL AND TO BREAK FREE... YOU ARE THE SACRIFICE NEEDED FOR ME TO SURVIVE THE HATCHING PROCESS. IF I HATCH IN THIS STATE, MY LIFE WILL BE LOST."

The rock voiced out with a profound tone.

"YOU SEE, THE SENTIENCE OF THE ENERGY CRUSTAL HARBORS HATRED FOR THE EARTHLINGS JUST AS MUCH AS I DO. THIS WAS WHY IT LENT ME ITS POWER! THE MOMENT I AM FREE, THE EARTH SHALL KNOW CHAOS,"

Listening up to this point, a lot of missing pieces had been filled up in Gustav's mind.

He now understood a lot of things.

'There's a powerful energy crystal beneath me, but the fact that the system hasn't detected it yet means it's able to hide from even the senses of the system,' Gustav was surprised at this fact since he already saw the system as a godly creation.

'Hey, system... You truly can't sense anything?' Gustav asked internally with a slightly mocking tone.

("...")

Gustav saw this appear in his line of sight and chuckled, 'I guess you're not as great as I thought,'

"WHAT'S SO FUNNY? HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND FROM THE FEAR OF DEATH?" The rock asked as it floated few inches in front of the barrier holding Gustav back.

"Hehe, nothing, I'm just laughing at someone's incompetence," Gustav said with a burst of light laughter.

"HMPH! WHO ARE YOU CALLING INCOMPETENT? DO YOU THINK YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE FROM HERE TODAY? WE SHALL SEE,"

The rock voiced out before floating higher, flying above the platform Gustav was currently standing on.

Gustav also tried jumping upwards, but he would slam into the barrier again when he reached a particular height, which proved that he was trapped in a box format.

The rock hovered a few inches above the barrier at the top.

Gustav looked up and asked the system, 'Still can't sense it?'

("The shell covering up the energy crystal is restricting my senses,")

The system replied.

"THE RITUAL WILL BE STARTING SOON. PREPARE YOURSELF,"

The rock voiced out.

("I just need to find a kind of opening,")

Gustav stared at the ground again and tapped his feet on it repeatedly.

'No matter what attack I throw at this thing, I'm sure it won't be damaged in the slightest,' Gustav said after analyzing the composition of the shell-like area with both his leg and God Eyes.