

Bloodline 271

Chapter 271 - Collaborating With The System

God Eyes couldn't see through, but it showed him just how sturdy it was.

'What if it lets out energy? Will your senses be able to penetrate?' Gustav asked the system.

("If it lets out more energy than it already has, my senses will be able to infiltrate, and you will be presented with the option of absorbing the energy,")

The system responded to Gustav.

'Alright, prepare yourself for the moment the ritual starts. I'll try to delay my death for as long as possible while you handle the issue of absorption,' Gustav squinted his eyes as he planned with the system internally.

'And do make it quick... I don't know what your goal is, but I'm sure you wouldn't like this to be the end of me,' Gustav smirked after saying internally.

("...")

"NOW IT STARTS!"

The rock voiced out as the platform suddenly turned brighter.

The blood red runic patterns on the rock's body glowed even more with a shade of sinister dark, dying the entire area with an aura of despair.

A wave of crimson energy flowed out of the shell-like area beneath Gustav towards the rock above.

Gustav suddenly felt his energy getting sapped.

"Ugh,"

[Gravitational Displacement has been activated]

Gustav instantly barricaded himself with walls of compressed space that prevented the waves from making contact with him.

[High Energy Crystal Has Been Detected]

[Calculating Grade: ???]

[Grade Unknown]

[Does Host Wish To Absorb Energy Into The System]

[YES/NO]

Gustav saw the system notification and smiled, 'Finally,'

He groaned while struggling to keep gravitational displacement activated since the blood like waves flowing out of the platform below were smashing into the gravitational barricade repeatedly.

'How long with this take?' Gustav asked internally.

("Due to the immense energy, I am sensing, it would take at least thirty minutes to absorb completely,")

The system replied.

'What? Thirty minutes, I don't have thirty minutes,' Gustav responded while groaning as he struggled to keep gravitational displacement activated.

("That is just an estimate, it might take even longer,") The system replied again.

Other absorptions never took longer than three minutes but according to the system this particular one would take thirty minutes or longer.

Gustav knew that this meant the energy was really massive but he didn't know whether to rejoice or be sorrowful because he might not live long enough for everything to be absorbed completely.

What then would be the point of all this?

"HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU CAN KEEP THAT BARRIER UP? GIVE IN TO YOUR FATE!"

The rock shouted out as it stared at Gustav from above barricading himself within the gravitational force.

Due to this the ritual was being delayed but the rock was not worried because it knew that Gustav would run out of energy sooner or later.

'Hey system, I'll join you in absorbing the energy to make it faster... You take a portion of it and I'll take the other portion. When you absorb enough for an upgrade, leave the rest up me,' Gustav suggested internally.

("You do know that your body will never be able to hold such amount of energy without exploding from the inside out,"

The system warned.

'I know... I have a plan,' Gustav said internally.

(... Alright,"

Gustav conjured the biggest spherical orb he had ever created which was almost as large as himself.

He made some hand signs and the energy from the platform started being sucked into the sphere.

Gustav wasn't done yet. He conjured up three more and sent them towards the four corners of the platform.

Gustav's breathing was already becoming rapid at this point.

To conjure such large spherical energy and gravitational orbs, made him spend a lot of energy.

The rock stared at his actions from above with a suspicious look.

"HMM? THE ENERGY CRYSTAL JUST GAVE ME A PIECE OF INFORMATION,"

The rock voiced out.

"STOP WASTING YOUR TIME, IT'S ENERGY IS ALMOST INFINITE..." The rock seemed to have figured out what was going on already.

"Almost infinite... Well, it's not infinite, is it? And there's no such thing as almost infinite, it's either it is or it's not," Gustav smirked after he finished voicing out.

"LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN ABSORB IT'S ENERGY COMPLETELY BEFORE YOUR DEATH... INCREASE!"

The rock voiced out.

Vrrrroooouuuuiiiinnnn!

The blood red energy waves coming from the platform below suddenly increased immensely.

"Grrrrh!" Gustav groaned as he struggled to keep gravitational displacement activated.

The energy waves were slamming into the gravitational barrier he created with intensity.

'At this rate I might not be able to keep this up for too long... System, how far have you gone with the absorption?' Gustav asked internally as his forehead creased.

("Only 2% has been absorbed so far,")

The system replied.

'What the...?' Gustav exclaimed.

("You have to keep that gravitational barrier active if you want to remain alive,")

Gustav gritted his teeth and kept it up.

His stamina as well as his energy were depleting at an insane rate but this was the only way to go about it.

The waves kept pouring out and the rock above kept shouting for it to increase in intensity.

Droplets of sweats were already starting to drop from Gustav's face as the gravitational barrier surrounding him decreased in size as time passed.

"Ugh... How far have we gone I don't think I can hold this for much longer,"

("Still around 80% more to absorb,")

The system responded.

Gustav's eyebrows creased in frustration upon seeing the response.

'I have to try something else, this won't work,' Gustav's arms were already trembling at this point.

"JUST GIVE UP. IT'S FUTILE,"

The rock voiced out.

"WHATEVER ENERGY YOU ABSORB FROM THE CRYSTAL WILL BECOME MINE WHEN I BATH IN YOUR ESSENCE. STOP WASTING YOUR TIME AS WELL AS MINE BY RESISTING,"

"INCREASE!"

The rock was also getting impatient because since the start it hadn't absorbed anything from Gustav due to the barrier surrounding him. However, it wasn't worried.

Gustav's arms trembled intensely as the waves increased yet again pushing his own gravitational barrier back to him.

Gustav's body was now being sandwiched in-between.

He quickly called back one of the spherical orbs and pulled out the energy it had absorbed before leaping upwards.

A huge amount of energy gathered around Gustav's fist which had transformed again as he threw it at the barrier above.

Booommm!

An explosion went off as his fist slammed into the barrier. However, even with that amount of force, only a finger-sized hole could be seen in the barrier.

Gustav detonated the energy he had gathered so far trying to increase the hole.

Booom! Boom! Booom!

A loud blast went off in the scale like area causing a wave of blue energy to spread out.

The ground in the surroundings vibrated with intensity and cracks appeared all over.

The explosion Gustav triggered had pushed away the blood red waves coming from the podium below for a few seconds.

Gustav used that chance to leape upwards again and pushed his fingers into the small holes created from the blast.

He pulled with all his might trying to increase the hole.

The rock above was a bit disoriented at first when the explosion went off but the moment it regained its senses back it noticed Gustav below trying to forcefully increase the gap in the barrier.

"INCREASE!"

It shouted out.

Fwwwrrroooowwmmmmm!

Gustav eyes widened as he looked below him and noticed a massive amount of blood red waves headed for him.

"Arrrgghhhh!"

Chapter 272 - Unexpected Arrival

Fwwwrrroooowwmmmmm!

Gustav's eyes widened as he looked below him and noticed a massive amount of blood-red waves headed for him.

"Arrrgghhhh!"

Gustav screamed out as he made use of his last vestiges of energy to surround himself with a gravitational barrier again but in a few seconds...

Krrryyychh!

Like a balloon, the gravitational barrier was pierced through, and Gustav was consumed by the blood-red waves coming from below.

"Ughhh!" Gustav felt his strength being sapped from him at an insanely fast speed.

This wasn't just his energy. He also felt like he was losing everything within as he fell to his knees weakly.

His body trembled furiously as he tried moving, but it was of no use. All he could hear within the blood-red waves that blinded his entire view was the elated laughter of the rock being.

"YES! YES! YES! YOU'RE EVEN MORE AMAZING THAN I EXPECTED! YES! GIVE EVERYTHING TO ME!"

The rock kept shouting out as streams of yellowish energy floated into it from below.

The energy was phasing out of the barrier, and it was coming from Gustav.

"HAHAHA, I SHALL NOT ONLY BE FREE BUT BECOME POWERFUL ENOUGH TO MAKE THE EARTHLINGS PAY!

"YES! MY FREEDOM IS AT HAND!"

The rock voiced out again as little cracks began to appear on the rock.

Gustav groaned in pain as his face began to lose color and his body size began to slim down.

Far above the hole, a young man with yellow braided long hair and chestnut-colored eyes stared at the hole.

"The kid is in trouble. I should act now since the situation is already beyond what their power level is capable of handling," He muttered with a low tone as he prepared to jump in. Still, in the next moment, he noticed something.

"Hmm?"

Swoooosshhhh!

A trail of wind created a line across the ground on the other side. In the next moment, a silver-colored afterimage covered within massive aura-like energy could be seen bolting down the walls.

In a few, the afterimage of the silver silhouette had disappeared deep into the hole.

"I will hold on, for now, to see how this goes," The man muttered as he squatted and peered into the darkness of the hole.

'How much longer?' Gustav asked internally as his legs trembled within the waves of blood-red energy.

("About 70% left to absorb. Two percent more will be enough for an upgrade,")

The system replied.

'When you acquire enough for an upgrade, keep absorbing its energy and transfer it to me,' Gustav proposed with a groan. The system was able to absorb energy faster than Gravitational Energy Container could, which was why Gustav proposed this.

("Your body will explode to pieces because it can't contain more than 2% of the crystal's energy, how do you intend on containing the rest of the 65%?")

The system asked.

'Just do it!' Gustav screamed internally.

("Alright.... 1.9% left.")

("1.85% left.")

("1.8% left.")

The system started counting down as Gustav struggled to hold on. Gustav would have asked the system to start transferring the energy now. However, the system couldn't stop absorbing energy into itself after the process had started. Unless the energy source ran dry or it gathered enough for an upgrade.

With every passing moment, Gustav's body shrunk more and more.

"HAHAHA, THIS IS AWESOME! I HAVE NEVER FELT SO ALIVE!"

"I CAN FEEL YOUR EMOTIONS TOWARDS EARTHLINGS!"

The rock voiced out as more cracks continued to appear on it.

"YOU ALSO BEAR RESENTMENT TOWARDS THEM, AND WHY IS THIS...?"

The rock purplish glowing eyes squinted as Gustav's memories flowed into its mind.

The constant bullying and being ostracized due to having a low graded bloodline.

"AH, I SEE NOW... YOU AND I ARE NOT SO DIFFERENT AFTER ALL,"

The rock said to Gustav, who had currently shrunk in width. He was almost back to being as slim as he used to be before he got the system.

"DON'T WORRY I SHALL TAKE REVENGE FOR YOU TOO, I SHALL DRIVE THE LIVING CREATURES TO EXTINCTION," The rock voiced out with a tone of righteousness.

"W... w... we a...re n...ot the same...." Gustav struggled to get up as he spoke.

("1% left.")

"I will not sacrifice another to gain power...."

("0.95% left.")

"...and I certainly will not include people that had nothing to do with my suffering when concocting plans of evil." Gustav's legs wobbled as he stood up.

("0.90% left.")

His legs and arms had slimmed down so much that he could be mistaken for a toothpick.

Gustav raised his trembling arms up and pointed at the rock, "You are just a sick and weak piece of crap incapable of looking out for another means to gain power. Also, after gaining power, you will still end up using it for the wrong purpose and eventually meet your end after not achieving anything,"

After saying that, Gustav gave a thumbs down as his trembling arms lowered, and he fell to his knees once again.

("0.70% left.")

His eyes were already blurry, and his head was ringing so loud that he couldn't even see the system notification anymore.

"OH... BUT YOU WILL MEET YOUR END BEFORE I DO," The rock voiced out with a slightly anguished tone.

"INCREASE!" It voiced out again.

Frroooooiuiuuuummmmm!!!

The blood-red waves increased in capacity.

'I ca...n't hold on... any...more,' Gustav said internally as everything in his line of sight turned blank and his figure started falling to the ground.

("Hold on, we're almost there, 0.20% left...")

If Gustav's sight was still functioning, he would have seen the system calling out to him. However, at the moment, he had lost every bit of energy left in his body and was falling to the ground like a piece of clothing, swaying with the waves.

The cracks on the rock had already covered almost every part of its being.

'So, this is how it ends?' Gustav chuckled slightly as his body descended, 'It was really good while it lasted,'

As Gustav was about to fall unconscious when he heard a loud scream...

"Gustav!!!!"

It was a feminine voice that sounded quite familiar to him.

Chapter 273 - It's Not My Time Yet

'Angy?' The picture of a cute and innocent-looking girl with silver and pink colored hair appeared in his mind, and along with it came the sound of a loud explosion that rocked the entire vicinity.

A moment ago, a fast-moving silver-colored silhouette was running down the walls of the hole, approaching the bottom with intense speed.

It was none other than Angy.

As she closed in on the bottom, she instantly spotted the rock floating above a scale-like platform filled with red waves.

But then she also noticed someone within the reddish waves. Someone who was barely recognizable at the moment, but she still instantly figured out who he was, "Gustav!!!"

Her heart felt like it was being pricked by a million needles as she noticed his state.

She dashed with unimaginable speed towards the rock with an Immense amount of milky energy waves covering her figure.

Thhhwwwooooooooosshhhhhmmm!!!

It was like space was being split open as Angy arrived in front of the rock almost in an instant.

The rock had only managed to notice her presence when she was two feet in front of it due to her speed. Still, even at that, there was nothing it could do to counter her as the milky waves of energy surrounding her got released.

Thrrrrroooooiii! Booommmmm!

The waves spread out into the surroundings carry a heavy amount of destructive force with them.

Bang!

It slammed into the rock and sent it flying backward by many meters till it slammed into the wall behind.

A hole was created in the wall along with cracks surrounding it as the rock got buried more than twelve feet in.

The vicinity kept vibrating for several seconds as the waves spread into the surroundings, causing havoc.

After it disappeared, the ground surrounding the podium where Gustav was trapped had been leveled even more.

But even with all that, the barrier surrounding Gustav was still standing.

However, it was a little affected.

"Gustav!" Angy shouted out as she repeatedly ran back and forth, raining punches on the barrier.

It was futile because even with the little damage she had caused earlier, the energy from the crystal was still enough to reinforce the barrier and repair it.

It looked like Angy hadn't really helped the situation, but she actually did.

The moment the rock was blasted away from the top of the barrier, the sacrificial process was paused due to Gustav's essence not having a receiver.

The essence that hadn't been passed to the rock went back into Gustav's body, giving him a little bit of energy.

Twitch! Twitch!

Gustav's fingers twitched as his eyes opened up.

He had regained consciousness.

The red waves in the barrier were dormant at the moment, so he wasn't being sapped.

("0.01% left)

The instant Gustav opened his eyes, he noticed the system absorption status.

[System Has Absorbed Enough Energy For The Next Upgrade]

("Absorption of the Crystal energy will continue, but now it will be directly received into your body. Are you ready?")

The system asked Gustav, who just stood up from the ground.

His eyesight was still a bit blurry, but he could understand the words in his line of sight even though they weren't very clear.

He could see Angy pounding onto the barrier repeatedly with speed, trying to break through.

Zwwooooonn!

The rock also furiously shot out of the wall and started flying back towards the barrier.

Gustav gestured to Angy to move away from the barrier.

The moment Angy saw his gestures, she understood and quickly dashed forward to engage the rock.

Gusta raised his arm and stared at it. He looked extremely shrill at the moment, like a live walking skeleton.

Smirk!

Even with the sunken cheekbones and eyes, he still smirked, 'I guess this wasn't the end,'

His eyes suddenly lit up with determination as he voiced out, "Do it,"

("Crystal Energy Will Now Be Absorbed Into Host,")

Thwoooshh!

The reddish waves oozing out of the podium suddenly dispersed as Gustav being started sucking in rays of green light.

His figure glowed as his body absorbed the energy of the crystal with speed.

Gustav felt energy rushing into his being, making him feel like he could do anything.

'The system is way faster at absorbing energy than I am...' Even when Gustav was absorbing energy with four spherical orbs, it took several minutes for him to absorb the amount of energy the system was absorbing in milliseconds.

Angy was busy engaging the rock, stopping it from getting closer to the scale-like area.

The rock would hit her with mind disturbing waves repeatedly, but she would still forcefully and stubbornly disregard the pain before dashing towards it again.

Due to the disruption of the ritual, the rock powers had been slightly affected. However, its mind attacks were still as powerful as ever.

Angy was already bleeding from her nose and eyes. However, she still stubbornly rammed into the rock head-on, disregarding its mind attacks.

"CRAZY GIRL! IT IS ALL FUTILE. HE WILL MEET HIS END TODAY!"

Even when the rock shouted out, it all fell on deaf ears. Angy still attacked it furiously.

The rock was getting impatient because the sentience of the crystal kept warning him to get back immediately to continue the ritual, but Angy was making that difficult for him.

In a few seconds, Gustav could already feel his body on the verge of exploding as his veins protruded from his skin due to the immense energy filling them up.

'Compress,' Gustav said internally as he made use of his gravitational energy container bloodline.

He compressed the energy inside his body repeatedly as he absorbed energy, stopping his body from exploding.

His body was still very thin, even with the amount of energy he had absorbed due to his essence, which had been sapped.

Filling his body with just energy wouldn't be enough to recover the essence he had lost.

Nevertheless, Gustav kept absorbing energy and compressing them into his body.

("At the rate at which this is going, your body will shut down the moment you make use of that energy,")

The system warned, but Gustav ignored it.

'Compress,' He compressed the energy absorbed again and kept absorbing more.

His skin at the moment was like a light bulb. It was glowing, and pellets of his skin began to peel off, flying, scattering around, and turning into light particles.

'Compress,' Gustav once again compressed energy as he brought his palms together and closed his eyes.

[Energy Discharge Has Been Activated]

The surroundings started vibrating as Gustav's figure caused the gravity around him to twist and turn.

"Release!" Gustav suddenly opened his eyes that were brimming with immense energy.

Boooooommmmm!

The compressed energy Gustav had been storing blasted out of his body.

Bang!

The barrier surrounding him was instantly blasted into smithereens, and waves continuously spread across the surroundings, afterward slamming into Angy and the rock battling in the distance.

Wwwhhhhhooooosssshhh!

Harsh winds blew across the place, causing small tremors.

Step! Step! Step!

The heavy sounds of footsteps could be heard as Gustav's figure phased out of the waves of energy that slowly started to die down.

"Gather!" Gustav voiced out as he raised his right fist.

Trrroooiinn!

The energy from the crystal began to gather in his right hand as it slowly transformed into a large fist glowing with crazy green light.

The rock pulled itself out of the hole on the wall that was created from its body slamming into it, but the moment it did that...

Fwwwwoooosshhh!

Gustav had already arrived in front of it with an outstretched fist.

"It is not time for me to meet my end yet, so you can go ahead before me," Gustav voiced out as his fist slammed into the rock.

Crack!

A loud crack resounded in the vicinity after the collision as Gustav's fist penetrated through the rock, followed by a loud explosion.

Boooooommm!

Chapter 274 - Past Event Leading To Current Scenerio

A loud crack resounded in the vicinity after the collision. Gustav's fist penetrated through the rock, followed by a loud explosion.

Boooooommm!

Gustav had transferred the rest of the energy he absorbed to his fist, so the moment it penetrated the rock-like shell, he detonated the energy.

The rock blasted to pieces from within, and a puddle of thick yellowish substance flew out from within.

The blast affected the rock and the wall behind, causing a wide hole that was more than twenty feet deep to appear on it.

Vrrrrhhhhhhrrrr!

The wall vibrated with intensity as cracks spread all across it, and rocks began to fall to the bottom of the hole.

Greenlight engulfed the entire hole shining a blinding brightness all across the place.

The eyes of the unknown man watching from above widened in surprise as the tremors reached all the way up, making where he was also standing on vibrate.

A few minutes back, Angy and Maltida were on the path that led to the previous location of the rock and noticed the massive number of participants headed there.

They ignored Maltida and Angy totally and focused on heading to that particular place.

Angy and Maltida were unable to tell how many participants were headed there, but they estimated the number to be over three hundred.

Angy lifted Maltida and sped towards the place quickly, arriving on the path that led there in a few seconds.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Sounds of battle were heard from up ahead, along with a crowd of participants in their line of sight.

The entire place was clogged up with participants, and there was hardly any space to move forward.

Two participants were battling this crowd of participants and preventing them from going further.

The one with black and white hair along with black tattoos all over his face and body moved as fast as a phantom, knocking several participants out before they had the chance to attack.

The other, with a bushy afro hair and handsome dark look, would conjure several vortexes at the same time and send them towards the body of the participants being flung in mid-air.

The participants would disappear upon entering the vortexes.

He would also conjure a huge vortex and send it to the area where attacks were being sent out. Those attacks would be transported to the back of the attackers, knocking them out.

The crowd of participants was hardly any match for these two.

However, even though these two were handling the participants right now, it was obvious that they were being worn out due to high numbers.

Sweats could be seen on their foreheads as they ran about the place using their power repeatedly.

Angy cleared up a path with her speed as she dashed towards the front while carrying Maltida.

E.E up ahead thought she was another mind-controlled participant and moved out to attack her when Falco's alter ego stopped him.

"She's an ally of this dweeb," Falco's alter ego said after stopping E.E.

"Maltida let's assist them," Angy voiced out after dropping Maltida.

Swoooooshhh!

Angy dashed out towards the participants with Maltida, who transformed into her liquid silver form.

They started helping out in dealing with the mind-controlled participants.

"Where's Gustav?" Angy asked while bringing some knocked-out participants towards E.E.

"He's dealing with that rock creature... He tasked us with preventing the participants under its mind-controlled from going beyond this point. He didn't want to be disturbed while handling it," E.E explained while conjuring and sending out vortexes one after the other.

'I never thought he'd ask for help,' Angy knew Gustav liked to do things on his own, so this came as a kind of surprise to her.

But after thinking about it, she understood that the opponent wasn't the run-of-the-mill kind of opponent. They weren't battling with unintelligent mixedbreed this time.

"Wait, does he know about the sacrifice?" Angy asked.

"What sacrifice?" E.E. voiced out with a look of confusion.

Angy eyes widened as she realized that Gustav was battling with the rock being without being aware of its intention to turn him into a sacrifice.

"Where are they?" Angy asked.

"He said he didn't want to be distracted while handling the rock creature, and I should stop anyone from getting to their battle site... Anyone... So, I can't give you that information," E.E turned down her request as he threw his fist into one of the vortexes he conjured, which ended up slamming into the jaw of a participant, a hundred feet away.

"Tell me where he is! If he doesn't know this, there's a high chance that he would be caught off guard," Angy said with a pleading expression.

"You won't be able to handle the mind attacks of the rock being... According to Gustav, anyone that comes there with the intention of helping him out will only worsen the situation when they fall to its mind control," E.E was adamant about giving in to Angy due to Gustav's instructions.

"I'll manage. You can see how quick I am. His life is in danger," Angy said with a look of urgency.

E.E finally decided to give in after thinking about it.

Gustav and the rock being had been gone for more than an hour, and there was no sign of the participants being released from the mind control, which meant he was still battling with the rock.

E.E opened a vortex for Angy.

"They are within the hole. They should be battling at the bottom now, be careful,"

Angy nodded and told Maltida to keep assisting them with the participants till she was back.

After entering the vortex, Angy found herself a few hundred feet away from the wide hole.

'Didn't Maltida mention something about a hole she saw when she was still under the rock being's mind control?' Angy recalled this and stared at the hole in the front with a look of suspicion.

She suddenly felt a sense of foreboding, and another horn started growing out of her forehead as she dashed forward at full speed.

This previous scenario was what led to the current beneath the hole.

Chapter 275 - A Kiss?

Boom! Crumble! Crumble! Crumble!

Rocks were still sliding downwards across the cracked walls at the bottom of the hole.

A puddle of thick yellowish substance could be seen within the hole on the wall created from the energy blast.

The yellowish substance had splattered all across the place, but few feet in front of Gustav was the biggest part.

It was wriggling continuously, trying to form a shape.

"Sshhrrrkkyhhh!"

Shrill shrieks could be heard from the puddle of thick yellowish substance over and over again.

Gustav stared at the yellowish puddle with a cold expression, "You are filth inside out," He voiced out before turning around.

Angy, who was blasted back earlier, had gotten back up on her feet.

Tears could be seen in her eyes as she walked towards Gustav.

Gustav was still looking shrill and thin. He looked as if a gust of wind would be able to knock him down.

Gustav's skin was still glowing, but it was slowly dimming.

Glowing pellets continued to fall from his skin, turning into light particles few moments after floating in the air.

Angy walked till she was only a few feet away from Gustav.

A wry smile appeared on Gustav's face before...

Plop!

He fell to the ground weakly.

"Gustav!"

Angy shouted out in fear and dashed towards him.

Swwoooooosshh!

She grabbed hold of him before he fell to the ground completely and placed his head on her lap.

"What's happening?" She could see Gustav's skin molting more and more and disintegrating into light particles.

Gustav raised his right hand and stared at it. Now that the system was no longer absorbing the left-over energy of the crystal into him, he felt extremely weak.

("Part of your essence that was taken included your regeneration. Due to the immense amount of energy your body absorbed, it is shutting down... Unless you get it back, you will die in a few seconds,")

The system announced.

'Oh, so that's why,' Gustav laughed weakly as he stared at it, 'And I thought... I guess this is gonna be it,'

Angy was still screaming her lungs out and rubbing Gustav's face with tears in her eyes.

"What do I do? What's happening to you?" She shouted out.

"I'm dying..." Gustav muttered weakly while coughing.

"Dying? Why? How? What can I do?" Angy asked frantically with a look of urgency.

She already sensed this as she saw Gustav's body slowly reducing.

"You can't do anything," Gustav answered bluntly.

Tears seeped out of Angy's eyes even more as she heard this.

She wasn't willing to accept this.

Sniff! Sniff!

"There must be something I can do," Angy said with a teary face.

"There's is something you can do," Gustav said while coughing.

"Stop being so heroic all the time and think about your well-being sometimes. It's okay to be selfish," Gustav said while raising his hand and cleaning the tears on her cheek.

"It's okay to love helping others but love yourself more because, in the end, it's everyone for themselves... This world doesn't deserve your love, neither do they deserve your kindness. If you're protecting them, do it on your own terms," As Gustav advised her, more tears began to fall from her eyes onto his face.

She couldn't help but think, 'This is all my fault,'

She remembered that Gustav saving her got him into the situation. She felt if she had been selfish enough to let go of the teammate that got missing, Gustav wouldn't have been tangled in the event that led to this moment.

"Can I be selfish now?" Angy asked as she placed her hand on Gustav's chin.

"Hmm? What do you mean?" Gustav asked.

But instead of a reply, what he got was Angy bringing her face down to the front of his.

Her face was only a few inches from his, and she stared into his eyes with an expression of desire.

'Is she...?' Gustav's eyes widened as he stared at hers, 'She can't be thinking of doing that, can she?' As these thoughts appeared in Gustav's mind, his heart rate went up.

This was the first time in almost seven months that his heart was beating this fast. Even when he was excited about something, it never beat this fast.

She kept moving her face closer to his as she closed her eyes.

Just when her lips were only a few millimeters away from his, a loud sound was heard behind them.

Bang!

Angy immediately opened her eyes and turned her face around to check what was happening.

"Gradier Xanatus?" She voiced out with a look of surprise as she saw the yellow braided-haired man walking towards them.

"Uhm... You guys can do that later," Gradier Xanatus voiced out as he walked towards the wall area that had a huge hole in it.

Angy's face instantly turned beet red as she raised her face back up and coughed twice.

"What are you doing here?" Gustav asked with a confused look.

Gradier Xanatus was currently putting on a prisoner's outfit as he stood in front of the wall.

"There's no time to explain," Gradier Xanatus said as he reached out for the yellowish puddle.

Thhrroooooiinnn!

The yellowish puddle was still wriggling, and parts of it were still splattered across the place, but when Gradier Xanatus reached out for it, every single drop joined together and flew towards him.

Gradier Xanatus's eyes glowed blue as he created a circular-shaped barrier around it and snapped his fingers.

Pah!

The circular-shaped barrier instantly shrank completely with the puddle within it and transformed into something else.

A small glowing red light.

Gradier Xanatus walked back towards Gustav with the red light floating above his palm and squatted.

"Your essence should still be within. I have compressed it," Gradier Xanatus said while placing the small red light in front of Gustav.

"Consume it," He instructed while moving it towards Gustav's mouth.

Gustav opened his mouth, and the red dot flew in.

Zrrrrrhhhhhiiiiii!

A few moments after consuming it, Gustav's glowing body changed color from white to red and stopped disintegrating.

Right before their very eyes, Gradier Xanatus and Angy watched as Gustav's body rapidly began to transform.

Chapter 276 - Regaining Sense

Zrrrrrhhhhhiiiiii!

A few moments after consuming it, Gustav's glowing body changed color from white to red and stopped disintegrating.

Right before their very eyes, Gradier Xanatus and Angy watched as Gustav's body rapidly began to transform.

His body increased in size and was rapidly turning back to its original form.

His arms, legs, and face regained their initial size and color. In a few seconds, Gustav rose to his feet and raised his arms to check them.

Swooshhh!

He dashed across the place, testing his speed also.

("Your essence has been recovered, and your body is currently healing the internal injuries you suffered,")

The system notified Gustav.

'Oh, look, you're still talking to me,' Gustav said internally with a smirk.

("...")

Gustav turned to face Gradier Xanatus, "Thank you," He voiced out with a look of appreciation.

Gustav turned to stare at Angy and voiced out, "You too," his smile became wider after saying.

"Uh, you don't have to mention," Angy faced turned redder as she turned to the side to avoid Gustav's eyes while speaking.

"So, why are you here, Gradier Xanatus, and dressed like that?" Gustav asked with a look of suspicion while scrutinizing Gradier Xanatus from head to toe.

"Hmm, I'm here on a mission issued out by the superiors, and your mentor included," Gradier Xanatus said while moving towards the podium where Gustav was almost turned into a sacrifice.

"That prisoner's outfit just ruined the image I have of you," Gustav laughed lightly as he spoke. Even though it had only been two weeks, he was already used to seeing Gradier Xanatus in his dignified uniform.

"Wait, did you just mention my mentor?" Gustav realized that in Gradier Xanatus's statement earlier, he mentioned mentor.

"Miss Aimee sent you?" Gustav asked.

"Yes, she specifically recommended me for this observation mission, and the higher-ups agreed. Hmm, who knew you were affiliated with the demon queen of the MBO...." Gradier Xanatus had a surprised expression on his face as he stared at Gustav.

"Observation? Demon queen?" Gustav voiced out with a confounded look.

"I have been watching your battle with that rock being, so you don't need to explain the situation to me... I was sent here for the precise purpose of observing the situation within the ruins since there were places that footage couldn't be transmitted," Gradier Xanatus explained.

'So, he was watching the whole time... that means he saw me using different abilities,' Gustav stared at Gradier Xanatus with a suspicious look after realizing this.

Gradier Xanatus stared back at him with a smile like he could read his thoughts.

Gradier Xanatus went on to explain everything that had gone down in the facility where the higher-ups were gathered.

-A few Minutes Ago

Back up in the previous location of the rock, E.E, Falco's alter ego, and Maltida was almost overwhelmed by the number of participants attacking them when the participants lost the purplish glow in their eyes and fell unconscious.

After a few seconds, the participants regained consciousness and started rubbing their eyes and holding their heads with a confused expression displayed on their faces.

"They did it," E.E voiced out after seeing all the participants regaining consciousness without purplish glowing eyes.

They were nearly worn out by the attackers and had all gained injuries from the long two hours battle, so they were glad it was over now.

Falco regained control of his body functions and went back to normal since his alter ego, too, was worn out.

"Let's go check on them," Maltida suggested while transforming back to her normal form.

E.E and Falco nodded in agreement, and the three of them turned around to head towards the hole.

The rock had initially gained control of over four hundred participants in the last two days, and now those participants had regained control of their minds with fuzzy memories.

They checked themselves and wondered what they spent the last two days doing after noticing they had no grandstones in their possession.

As their memories returned to them gradually, they had looks of bitterness on their faces after realizing they had been spending the last two days as a puppet, gathering grandstones for an unknown entity.

There were over three thousand participants in total that made it to the final stage. Now about thirty percent of them started looking for grandstones all over again since the rock being had absorbed everything that was initially in their possession.

What they didn't know was that if Gustav, Angy, and the others had not succeeded in taking down the rock being, not only would a great calamity be born, but they would also end up dead. This because the rock planned to discard them the moment it had successfully been reborn.

As they regained their memories, they also realized that this day was the last day of the test phase, which meant they had less than twenty-four hours to gather grandstones before the test phase ended.

The participants that were under mind control earlier began to travel to different parts of the ruins with looks of urgency on their faces. They had to make sure they found something since no one wanted their efforts to be wasted after getting to this stage.

Back underneath the hole, Gradier Xanatus had finished inspecting the shell-like area where the energy of the crystal was said to be hidden underneath.

E.E, Falco, and Maltida had arrived a while ago using E.E's Vortex, and Angy was bringing them up to speed on what had happened so far.

"What? He almost died?" Even Falco was surprised since he knew of Gustav's strength.

Maltida and E.E were just as surprised and stared at Gustav, who was currently several feet away conversing with Gradier Xanatus.

Gustav still had an unbothered expression as he spoke with Gradier Xanatus. He didn't even look like someone who was about to die a while ago.

The only obvious sign that he was in a battle was his tattered clothes.

The space at the bottom of the hole had a radius of over four thousand feet, but the signs of destruction were visible even with such space.

Rocks piled on top of one another in different spots, as well as craters and holes on the walls.

As Angy explained the past situation to them, they could picture just how crazy the battle must have been.

Chapter 277 - You Have A Voice?

"So, why isn't it burrowing itself deeper into the ground again... isn't that what it does when someone is close to discovering it?" Gradier Xanatus asked as he inspected the shell-like area.

"The Vindruella probably used up its energy for the ritual," Gustav answered with a contemplative look.

Gradier Xanatus stretched out his hand towards the podium, and a blue glow surrounded it, "Looks like you're right... I can hardly sense any energy left," He said while retracting his arms.

Gustav smiled internally on hearing that as he stared at the system notification in his line of sight.

[System Upgrade Completed]

Even though the crystal still had a lot of energy left after Gustav and the system absorbed from it, at the moment, everything had almost been absorbed completely. The sentience that the crystal awoke due to its massive energy had also been absorbed. This was why it couldn't burrow itself into the ground anymore, even after sensing Gustav and Gradier Xanatus's presence along with the others.

The reason this was so was that, several minutes ago, after Gustav regained his essence back, the system notified him of some things.

[Quest Completed: Defeat The Vindruella]

[Side Quest Completed: Survive]

Rewards>>

<+500,000 EXP>

<All skills level up>

<+2 All stats>

<Atomic Manipulation Level Up - Grade C>

<+20,000 Credits>

<+1 Bloodline Received>

[Goal Completed: Possess up to a total of thirty bloodlines]

Reward>>

<Host Has Leveled Up>

While Gustav was talking to Gradier Xanatus, he was also checking out the system, and he was very much delighted by what he saw, but it didn't show on his face. He disguised well.

[System Is Ready To Upgrade]

'Will this take another two or three days?' Gustav asked.

("If I make use of the Crystal Energy, I can speed up the Upgrade and even store up more energy for the next)

'Alright, make use of the energy crystal. Who knows when next we'll get an opportunity like this,' Gustav agreed to the system's decision.

Currently, Gradier Xanatus thought the Vindruella was responsible, but he had no idea that the system was actually the culprit.

Although he was now aware of Gustav being able to use several abilities, just like Miss Aimee, he didn't know about the system.

Gradier Xanatus asked Gustav to keep what had happened here a secret in the meantime, and he would explain to the higher-ups what transpired.

"I'm sure you will be rewarded for this act of heroism," Gradier Xanatus said to Gustav.

"Pfft, what act of heroism? I didn't do this for anyone. I did it for myself. The Vindruella was gonna come after me, so I went after it first," Gustav stated after laughing slightly.

"Oh, but still, you saved your fellow participants by winning the battle here," Gradier Xanatus added.

"Even if I failed, you have been watching the whole time so I'm sure you'd have swooped in to save the day. My acts don't count," Gustav waved it off.

"Hmm, true, but it was still your actions as well as that of your group that saved the day so that can't be brushed off," Gradier Xanatus voiced out with a smile.

"If that's the case, then make sure the reward is good enough. Do I get to choose what I want?" Gustav asked.

Gustav's sudden change shocked Gradier Xanatus. He stared at Gustav, wondering when he became so shameless.

"Cough cough, I don't know yet. I guess we shall see after I give them the report," Gradier Xanatus replied.

("I have regained some of my memories... I have visuals of some stars I passed through before arriving here,")

Gustav's eyes widened slightly as he heard this.

Yes, this time, it wasn't a message, instead, it was a smooth feminine voice.

'Hey, you have a voice now?' Gustav asked internally.

Gustav and the rest were later brought out of the hole by Gradier Xanatus.

He decided to bring them out himself to make it faster since it would take more time for them to get to the top by themselves.

Gradier Xanatus went on to keep pretending to be a prisoner. They moved to other parts of the ruins to continue his observation.

As for Gustav, Angy, Maltida, E.E, and Falco, they moved together to a safe part of the ruins to recuperate.

They met Glade along the way, who had also regained her senses.

Glade was feeling embarrassed as she apologized to Gustav and Angy.

Angy dismissed her apology saying it wasn't her fault.

Just like that, twelve hours went by, and the day was coming to an end.

It was already evening time, and Gustav and the others were in a settlement of prisoners who didn't participate in disturbing or obstructing the participants in any way.

This part of the ruins was peaceful, and most of the participants that knew about it came over here to sleep for the night.

Gustav was in a makeshift tent at the moment alone.

He had asked the rest for some time alone, hiding under the guise of wanting to recuperate, but the truth was he had been conversing with the system for the past hour.

Angy and the rest still wanted to gather more grandstones before the day came to an end, so they set out after enough rest.

The next morning would be when every participant that survived would be brought out of the ruins.

It would also mark the end of the test phase, and everyone will be graded. Tomorrow was when they would figure out whether they would be enlisted in the MBO camp or not.

"Who knew you'd have a feminine voice... That of a kid for that matter," Gustav mocked the system.

("The sound of my voice is just a representation of what the host desires...")

"What? Why would I desire to hear the voice of a little girl?" Gustav asked with a weird look on his face.

("Your inner pervertedness has been exposed,")

It was now the system's turn to mock Gustav.

"Shut it, I have no such desires," Gustav said with a look of certainty.

"Anyways... Show me the footages you mentioned earlier," Gustav requested.

("Alright, but you can't see them all because, from my calculations, I must have been drifting through space for at least five hundred years, so I will only display some parts to you,") The system responded.

Gustav had a surprised look on his face as he heard that.

"Five hundred years?"

Chapter 278 - The System's Journey

Gustav had a surprised look on his face as he heard that.

"Five hundred years?!" Gustav exclaimed.

("From the memories I have recovered, that is precisely my estimation,")

Gustav had a solemn look on his face as he heard that, "That means you can't remember where you came from," He voiced out with a look of understanding.

'Maybe this was why it didn't speak to me all this time,' Gustav said internally with a look of realization.

("Do not flatter yourself. I do not like to bother myself with unintelligent species such as yourself,") The system replied to Gustav's thought with a scoff.

'Can't a guy have a little privacy? Do not intrude into my inner thoughts,' Gustav reprimanded the system with a slightly annoyed tone.

("Hmph! If not for my will to survive, I will not be here,") The system replied.

"Hmm? Survive?" Gustav thought about what the system was hinting at.

"Show me the footage," Gustav demanded.

("...Alright,") The system agreed.

Gustav's eyes suddenly glowed red as a system notification popped up in his line of sight.

[Displaying Galaxies Travel footages]

Trroooooiiiiinnnn!

'Huh? I'm floating...through space,' Gustav's line of sight had changed completely.

The scenery before him was endless darkness filled with light dots in many places.

Small, round and spherical objects with different colors could be seen in the distance.

'Those are planets,' Gustav recognized these structures.

He could also see stars of different sizes and asteroids as his line of sight travelled through space.

He already understood that this was the footage being displayed.

("This was when I was traveling through the Empbitha galaxy,") The system spoke in Gustav's mind.

Gustav pulled himself out of whatever was making them soar through space and what appeared in his line of sight was a silver ball, moving at super speed.

The silver ball was glowing so bright that it was like a beacon of light in the darkness of space.

Gustav couldn't retract his mind from the system for too long, so he was pulled back into the ball in a few seconds.

He could only see from the system point of view while his mind was inside the ball.

The galaxy the system mentioned was one that Gustav had never heard of.

He wasn't well-versed in intergalactic travels since good information on that wasn't generalized.

He knew some things, but his knowledge was still very lacking in this subject.

The system journeyed through space at a very fast speed, passing by the sides of different planets. Journeying in the midst of asteroids and surviving through different levels of solar flares in different corners of space.

"That galaxy you mentioned earlier, Empbitha, is that the farthest your memory can recall?" Gustav asked as they kept moving.

("Yes, that is the farthest my memory can take me. However, I feel it isn't too far from where my journey began,") The system replied.

"Hmm, and how far is that from the milky way," Gustav asked.

"Should be over forty-seven galaxies away," The system replied with an assured tone.

"What? Over forty-seven galaxies away?" Gustav voiced out with a tone of disbelief, "That should be tens of billions of light-years away... Even five hundred years will not be enough to travel that far," Gustav calculated and voiced out.

("Because we're in space, you're unable to see how fast we're travelling... I travelled at over a million light-years in a single month,")

The system stated.

Gustav was once again shocked. The system was traveling that fast without a fuel source and went on for up to five hundred years.

"That's really fast. Hmm, what were you looking for that made you travel this far?... I mean, there must be a reason, right?" Gustav asked.

("I don't remember what exactly it's supposed to be, but yes, I was looking for something or rather somewhere,") The girly voice of the system sounded conflicted at this point.

While they travelled through the galaxy, it wasn't always smooth sailing for the system.

There were times it was almost taken away by space pirates. However, due to its speed, it managed to outmanoeuvre its pursuers. There were places in the universe where it was met with strange spatial interferences that teleported it off course, which also caused its journey to delay a bit.

The system was fast-forwarding the footage and could only show Gustav places that seemed important.

Gustav wanted to ask where exactly the system was headed when the system spoke.

("This was where I started losing energy... I had almost infinite energy, but after the ordeals, I went through, it had nearly diminished completely when I was three galaxies away from the milky way,") The system voiced out.

Gustav looked ahead and noticed the weird wavy fluctuations in front.

It covered their entire line of sight, and when the system tried to turn around so it could make a turn around it, the system was suddenly pulled in against its will.

Within was the turbulence of energy that the system explained came from a dying star.

The system had to make use of a lot of energy to surpass that and eventually sacrificed its part of itself to gain energy.

The system kept going and eventually managed to surpass that area, but it was already on its last energy supply.

[Parasite Program Has Been Activated]

[Scanning For Suitable Lifeforms]

Gustav noticed these notifications in its line of sight just like it used to be when using the system.

The problem was that the system energy storage had been damaged in the process, so it wouldn't store any energy.

Which meant it would eventually run out of energy and shut down, which was why it activated this program.

Gustav didn't know that it would have been unable to absorb any energy for an upgrade without the system being within a person.

This was also when he realized that what he considers upgrades weren't actually "upgrades." There were only returning the system back to its original power.

Chapter 279 - MBO Final Test Phase Comes To A Finish

Gustav watched as the system made its way across the galaxies towards the milky way. Another notification rang out once again the moment it arrived above Earth.

[Suitable Lifeform Located]

Swooooooshhh!

It dived down into the Earth's stratosphere, using what was left of its energy to bypass Earth's infiltration security system.

It dived down across the dark of night, and beneath was a lit-up metropolitan city.

Gustav watched as the system closed in on a mountain range within a forest where a boy standing at the edge of a cliff could be seen.

[Suitable Lifeform Spotted]

Bang!

The glowing silver ball slammed into the mountain, halving it in the process.

Shhrroouummm!

It shrunk into a small glowing red light and flew into the mouth of the unconscious blonde-haired kid who was falling from the mountain.

"Hmm, so this was how you found me," Gustav voiced out with a look of contemplation as his vision returned back to normal.

He could see the inside of the tent again. The footage didn't feel like a "footage." It felt more like he lived through that experience.

'500 years, hmm,' Gustav couldn't even begin to imagine how lonely that would feel for a person to experience. However, the system wasn't a person, so he didn't think it was affected by that.

"What exactly are you? And how are you able to grant me abilities," Gustav asked.

("It's part of my program as a parasitic creature... I need to find that place,") The system replied without going into detail.

"Where were you going?" Gustav asked.

("You'll find out the day after tomorrow. My program currently has a quest pending for you,") The system replied.

"A quest? What quest?" Gustav asked, but the system didn't reply.

He called out to the system repeatedly, but it didn't bother trying to reply.

It finally went back to ignoring Gustav.

'So, a quest... It definitely has to do with the place it was looking for,' Gustav said internally.

'I guess I just have to be patient till the day after tomorrow,' Gustav stated internally as he began to analyze everything he had seen today.

Everything that had happened since the beginning of the MBO test phase was very much unexpected.

Gustav didn't think he would get so many rewards and also nearly meet his end here.

This was a more practical place for him to put his abilities to use since he hardly used every bit of his power.

He had never displayed all of his abilities before in a battle, but here he had to do that more than once.

Currently, it was almost midnight, and the rest also arrived back.

They had managed to acquire a few grandstones during their six hours search.

Gustav was unbothered about the issue of grandstones. He didn't have so many with him, but he remembered the number of points he already amassed so he decided not to sweat. Instead, he spent the rest of the time channeling his bloodline and analysing his current strength.

'I still don't know how to use Yarki. I don't have enough information about the system. I don't know how the quest it's preparing will clash with my goals... Too many unknowns,' Gustav had a lot on his mind.

"Hey Gustav, let's have dinner together," Angy arrived in front of his tent and called out.

"Is this everything you have to report from the time you spent there?"

Within the room where the higher-ups gathered, Great commander Shion asked Gradier Xanatus, who was currently standing on the opposite side of the table.

"Yes, great commander," Gradier Xanatus stated with a look of certainty.

"It would seem the research team sent there didn't conduct a proper investigation leading to this blunder," Great commander Shion's voice suddenly became very deep, and the entire atmosphere was plunged into silence.

They knew that whenever he started talking like this, it meant he was already pissed off.

The other commanders who were against sending an officer to the ruins shrunk back in fear. Great commander Shion wasn't one to forget situations like this, so they knew he would definitely find a suitable punishment for them later.

"Had the other four been here, some of you would have lost your rank already," Great commander Shion voiced out.

He didn't need to mention names since those who were against it knew themselves.

Great commander Shion sighed in relief before leaning against his chair.

"Who knew the energy that was lost fifty years back had already grown a sentience and empowered a being that hated earthlings," Grand commander Shion stated.

"According to your report, had this thing been successful in hatching its power level, would it have shot straight past the serial rank?" Great Commander Shion asked.

"Yes, according to what I sensed, this is so... It made use of the crystal energy to achieve this. This is why there is barely any energy left within the crystal," Gradier Xanatus answered.

"If this is so, that means those candidates are saviours not only to themselves but to the rest of the promising candidates participating in the final phase," Great commander Shion said with a pleased tone.

"We have to reward them properly," He added.

By the side, the rest of the commanders nodded. No one dared to refute Great commander Shion's statement after what had happened so far.

Yung Jo and miss Aimee were also sitting on opposite ends of each other.

Yung Jo had a smile of defeat on his face while miss Aimee kept staring at him with an aloof expression.

"Aimee, you have truly trained a talent," Great commander Shion turned to face miss Aimee and voiced out.

Miss Aimee didn't respond to his words. Her poker face was still on.

"With this, the Test phase comes to an end. I want every single candidate evacuated from the ruins and brought back to base in the next thirty minutes. I will have a talk with the other four, so we can make plans to deal with the mess the research team caused." Great commander Shion voiced out and stood to his feet.

The other commanders also stood to their feet and gave a kind of military salute since this showed respect.

All, except miss Aimee. Even Yung Jo had to do it since he was literally a part of them.

Miss Aimee just stood to her feet and walked out along with Commander Shion.

The rest of the commanders weren't surprised. She was well known for not giving a crap about anyone regardless of their standing.

Yung Jo watched as Miss Aimee disappeared through the door with Commander Shion.

'She really ruined my plan,' Hung Jo said internally.

'Let's see if I can get him to release some more detailed information,' Hung Jo turned to stare at Gradier Xanatus, who was conversing with some other commanders.

It was already midnight within the ruins.

However, the participants were being guided out of the ruins by armed MBO officials.

The test phase had officially come to an end now, so they were being transported to a safe lodge.

Apart from MBO officials in uniforms, some officials were also equipped with some technological device that scanned each of the participants as they left through the entrance.

More officials in laboratory outfits and research devices kept arriving within the ruins.

Most of the participants wondered why there would be a need for all these, but only Gustav knew precisely why.

Gustav arrived outside the ruins with Angy and the rest, where numerous aircraft could be seen.

'Finally, it ends,' Gustav said internally with a sigh of relief.

They had only spent four days within the ruins, but it felt way longer to a lot of people.

"Gustav, Angy, E.E, Falco, Maltida and Glade, this way please," An official dressed in orange and black uniform like the supervisors they met within the tower walked up to them while speaking.

"A special aircraft has been prepared for you six," She said with a smile while gesturing at them and pointing towards a silver and blue coloured aircraft by the side.

Angy and the others stared at each other in confusion while Gustav wasted no time following behind her.

Chapter 280 - So The Demon Queen Smiles?

"A seperate aircraft has been prepared for you six," She said with a smile while gesturing at them and pointing towards a silver and blue coloured aircraft by the side.

Angy and the others stared at each other in confusion while Gustav wasted no time following behind her.

The others followed after Gustav and went into the aircraft.

The aircraft was smaller than the ones taking the rest of the participants, but it was more luxurious and less crowded since it was just the six of them.

"To what do we owe this awesome treatment," E.E voiced out with a delighted look as he sat behind Gustav.

"Your deeds have been heard of by the higher-ups who took it upon themselves to prepare a better place for you to rest in the base," The female MBO officer explained.

"Great Commander Shion asked me to also pass a message across to you six... You have officially passed the MBO entrance test regardless of your scores or the number of stones you gathered. You will only be required to attend the enlistment ceremony," She added.

This was when the others fully understood that the special treatment must be based on the rock creature's situation within the ruins.

Glade started wondering why she was here since she didn't participate in the battle and proceeded to ask. The female MBO officer said her orders were to bring the six of them, herself included.

"So, you're Gustav?" The female officer turned around to strike a conversation with Gustav. The latter was currently seated on the second chair towards the left.

"Hmm, why?" Gustav said while turning towards her.

"You're just as they described you to be... I'm sure you'll make a fine officer in the future," She said with a smile.

"They?" Gustav said with a look of suspicion, 'Was I wrong about Gradier Xanatus? Did he mention something about my abilities?' Gustav stared at the female officer as he thought, trying to read her expression.

'She knows nothing... This is just an expression of admiration,' Gustav sighed in relief internally.

"When will the enlistment ceremony be holding?" Gustav asked.

"It will be held two weeks from now. After the participants who passed the entrance test have been announced today, they will be free to do whatever they want for two weeks. Most times, it is used to say goodbye to loved ones and prepare yourselves to leave home since the camp goes on for four years. After those two weeks have gone by, you all are required to arrive back here for the enlistment ceremony. After the enlistment ceremony, you all will be transported to the training camp." The female MBO officer explained lengthily.

The six within the aircraft had looks of understanding after hearing that. It turned out they were exempted from the results announcement that would be held during the daytime since they had been given an automatic pass.

Gustav scoffed internally at the MBO's act to hide what truly happened by indirectly isolating them.

'They better have a good reward waiting,' Gustav said internally as he stared at the monitor that showed footage of the places they were flying over.

It was currently around 2am and they had been flying over a dark sandy area the whole time. However, Gustav could now see the outline of a brightly lit city in the distance.

Gustav and the others asked questions about the city and were informed that this was not a city but an MBO base of operations. It was located within the borders of two cities above the tallest mountain region on the earth.

Gustav's initial reaction and thoughts weren't wrong since it did look like a city. Highrise and technologically advanced-looking buildings, as well as strongholds, could be seen.

A massive crystalline round structure could be seen floating above tens of thousands of feet above the base.

The base had operatives moving around in troops even though it was midnight. It was as if sleep wasn't a thing here.

There were no walls surrounding the base, but Gustav could guess that security measures have been put in place.

Even if security measures weren't put in place, one would have to think twice before trying to attack an MBO base full of numerous powerful mixedbloods.

The multiple aircraft carrying the mixedblood candidates moved towards the public hangar area to land. The aircraft transporting Gustav and the others moved towards a private area where only a few operatives could be seen moving in.

In a few, they could see a massive mansion in the distance with a wide landing space behind it.

The mansion was silver and green in color, with fences surrounding it and MBO scouts standing guard around it.

It was among the most exotic buildings in the entire base. Gustav could see the outline of a familiar silhouette close to the landing spot as their aircraft descended.

A small smile appeared on his face. Angy, who was sitting beside him all this time, had been wanting to strike a conversation during their journey here but was feeling shy for a lot of reasons. She was about to say something when she saw the smile on his face.

"Huh?" She followed his line of sight and noticed the person he was staring at within the monitor.

'Who is that?' Angy wondered, but as they landed, she noticed it was a lady but couldn't see her facial features well.

Shhhhsshhhhh!

The aircraft doors slid open, and everyone moved out of it.

"Um? Who's that?" Everyone besides Angy and Maltida wondered as they stared at the beautiful lady with ash-colored hair approaching.

Gustav, Angy and Maltida recognized this lady.

The female officer who was their guide during the trip had widened eyes upon noticing this lady.

"Demo... Young miss," She bowed with respect as she voiced out.

The rest except for Angy had looks of confusion, wondering who this lady was.

Gustav walked forward with a smile and stood in front of her, "Miss Aimee, it's been a while," He voiced out.

The officer who greeted earlier had widened eyes as she noticed the smile on Miss Aimee's face, 'She's smiling..? just who is this kid?' She wondered with a look of disbelief.