

Card Apprentice Daily Log #Chapter 260: Summons - Read Card Apprentice Daily Log Chapter 260: Summons

Chapter 260: Summons

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 11:02

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, Stadium Medic Ward

As the demigod worshipers were in chaos seeing the empty Crystal Coffin, I saw an opening and signalled Van, Fred, William and Bright family elders to take action. As I summoned all 5 of the Stone Viltronians captured in my monster orb,

“I choose you, Stone Viltronian. Transform – 2nd form: Calamity Titan form.”

As soon as the 5 giant A-rank Stone Viltronians were summoned inside the medic ward, the whole section of the card stadium where the medic ward was located started to crumble. Thankfully the section above the medic ward was the stadium power and control rooms so there were zero casualties.

“Enemy attack!” As the roof of the medic ward started to collapse one of the cross-dressing men yelled hurriedly trying to gain the attention of his comrades and focus on countering the enemies than panicking for their missing Lord Pax.

The card apprentices of the empire were already in turmoil due to missing Pax and with the roof of the medic ward falling they were caught unprepared and the chaos grew. Unknown to them, some of their comrades had already been eliminated by the enemies.

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With my signal William sprinted from the shadow, he was hiding to the side of his beloved granddaughter. Reaching Corey, William unbridled attacked all the fanatics nearby. Following his example, the Bright family elders started to eliminate the weak fanatics amidst the chaos seeing their family young miss was secured by their patriarch.

While William and his cronies were immersed in the onslaught of the demigod worshipers. I had Van and Fred secure Fatty Chou and the Whiteburn girls.

“Holy Might” soon a bright light flashed brilliantly in the collapsing medic ward and all the collapsing card stadium rubles cleared giving the fanatics and their leader a clear line of sight to spot their enemies and allies. The reason demigod worshipers were slaughtered single-sided was that there were too many of them while their enemies were in single-digit who hid among their comrades, behind the five giant stone elementals and the

collapsing floors of the stadium as they launched attacks. Cautioned that they would hurt their comrades, the demigod worshippers could only defend themselves as they watched their comrades fall one by one.

“You mongrels, you dare to betray us. Holy Smite.” Casting the holy light to take care of falling rubles, Head Cleric activated another card aiming at the five giant stone elementals, the root of this havoc.

Before I could react I saw 5 arrays of lightning falling on each of the giant stone elementals. Being bombarded with lightning the stone Viltronians stood like immovable mountains as lightning washed all over their giant stone bodies. The lightning had zero effect on the Stone Viltronians, was the Head Cleric dumb to use a lightning attack against stone elementals? No, holy smite in no ordinary lightning their true purpose is to purge the souls of the target. Had it been any other stone elemental they would have crumbled at the first strike of the holy smite. But Stone Viltronian’s are different. They have Calamity daughter core protecting their soul hence they were unaffected by the killer effect of the Holy Smite.

“Impossible! How can these lesser beings withstand the wrath of the demigod?” Seeing the stone elementals withstand one of his finishing moves the head Cleric shouted in disbelief.

While the head Cleric was busy taking care of the giant stone elementals the other demigod worshippers engaged the enemies bringing the one-sided slaughter to a halt. The 3 elders of the Bright family that Willam brought with him now had to defend against 2 card lords and a half dozen of card grandmasters each. Despite fighting against enemies 7 times their number the elders of the Bright family could still hold their ground. So to level the numbers, I yelled,

“Stone viltronian, summon minions.” Soon 50 A-rank and 300 B-rank stone viltronians appeared. With the appearance of the summoned elementals, the demigod worshipers started to panic but then the Senior Crusader yelled, “Summon: Crusaders of Light”

Soon 50 A-rank light elements shaped as humanoid knights mounted on horses similar to cavalry were summoned. Thankfully the Head cleric had obliterated the entire medic ward section with his holy might card, giving enough space for my 350 stone elementals and the Senior crusader’s 50 light elementals. Following the senior crusader, another demigod worshipper, a Senior Cleric yelled, “Summon the Sinners of Lord.”

And another 500 undead type monsters were summoned but these monsters were weak and their strength varied between D-rank and B-rank but their numbers were enough to make up for the lack of their strength and bring the fight to an equilibrium.

While the Bright family elders led by William and the demigod worshippers focused on massacring each other I had 4 A-rank Stone Viltronian’s build a stone dome to cover me, fatty and the girls. That’s what appeared on the surface but I had each of the stone

elementals dig four different underground tunnels in 4 different directions to escape from this hell hole and get to a safe place, preferably the VIP box. While the other 3 tunnels served as a decoy if my plans were seen through, the girls, fatty and I took the shortest tunnel to the VIP section of the stadium. Why the VIP section of all places? The VIP section currently housed 1/5th of the strongest card apprentices of the city who could buy us some time if needed.

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Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 11:02

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box No.2

Boom with a loud sound the stadium shook.

“What the fuq is happening! Report damn it! Report!” Hearing the disturbance stem from the medic section of the stadium the skin old man jumped in distress. Not knowing what was going on he yelled at his subordinates for information regarding the sound.

“Reporting Master, the medic ward section of the stadium has collapsed. The cause seems to be the appearance of 5 giant stone elementals.” One of the cronies next to the skinny old man reported hurriedly.

“You fool, can’t I see that from here! Report what is going on there on the ground... that’s Holy Might, the head Cleric’s card. Go, find out who the demigod worshipers are fighting with. Wait, contact the clown mask and ask her to eliminate all the demigod worshipers. Not one of those fanatics should be captured alive, kill them all. If they were to speak then it’s over for us. Go! Hurry, go!” The skinny old man frantically yelled at his subordinates. The Circle may rule the sky blossom city but the southern region was another matter. Even the small children of the southern region knew colluding with the demigod worshipers was a crime punishable by death. Though so many decades after the war it may appear that both sides are trying to mend the relationship with each other, the people of both regions still hated the other side and blamed each other for the atrocities committed by each side on the other side during the war.

If it was known that the Circle had colluded with the demigod worshipers then it was the end for the skinny old man as the Circle would use him as the scapegoat to calm the public anger and escape any backlash coming their way. Knowing this the skinny old man grew frantic.

“Haha! Weren’t you high and mighty a while ago what happened you creep?” Corey, who was seated in one of the corners of the VIP box, laughed watching the skinny old man suffer.

"Shut up, you cheap slut. If I die I will take you, your mother and everyone else with me. If you hold your life and your mother's life dear then leave and make sure that not even one of the demigod worshipers is captured alive."

'Fuq me and my big mouth' thought Corey hearing the Skinny old man's threat and orders.

Chapter 261: Duties

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 11:10

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Section Lobby

"Where are you taking us? We should be searching for Pax right now." Amy asked me as I hurried towards the VIP balcony. As two of my Stone Viltronians carried half dead Fatty Chou and Seriously injured Eliza.

"To the Chou family VIP section. If you have any clue to where Pax is you can go find him. As for me, I will get these two treated. Fatty looks like he is already half step in death's doorstep. And even though your sister is putting on a brave face, a point-blank attack from a peak Card Lord is deadly even for a peak Card Master such as her." Getting this fatty and Eliza treated was my priority and also I do not want to fight the demigod worshipers trying to find Pax.

If Pax is as important to them as the demigod worshipers portrayed earlier then there is no way that the empire would have sent just a bunch of Card Lords and Card grandmasters to kidnap him. There have to be a few stronger card apprentices hiding in the shadows, it's about time they made their debut seeing how all the plans of the empire failed.

"Fine, I will do that..." as Amy was about to argue Eliza interpreted her with her weak and nearly audible voice, " Amy, stop it. I have already informed our father about the situation here. The family has put the city under martial order, so do not worry about Pax, we will find him soon."

"Amy, let's get big sis healed first. Then we can go to find Pax together." Beth persuaded Amy with red and teary eyes. Beth also wanted to find her brother as soon as possible but she did not want to see her other siblings get injured in the process.

"Okay, fine. But once his sister gets healed we will search for Pax." Seeing the concern in her twin's eyes and the barely conscious elder sister Amy decided to stick with her sisters for now.

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Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 11:11

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Balcony, Chou family

“Matriarch, young master Kindle is not responding to our calls. I worry that he is stuck in the medic ward. Shall I send a few of our family experts to secure the young master?” A formally dressed Chou family head maid reported to the Chou family Matriarch Misha Chou.

“No need, Chou family experts’ time is too precious to be wasted on that worthless son of mine. He can’t die anyway. Let this be a lesson for him.” Hearing the Matriarch the head maid sighed in desperation. As Kindle was the only direct line heir of the Chou family, if anything were to happen to him Kindle did not have any siblings to fill his position. Meaning, the Chou family main bloodline would end with Kindle Chou death as the matriarch was already too old to bear any more heirs for the family. Though normal means cannot kill the young master as he is practically immortal, there are obvious side effects to the young master’s origin card which a keen eye can easily exploit.

“Yes, Madam. Then I will ask the elders to find and assist the young master.” The current head maid used to serve as the nanny of the Matriarch during her young age. And she knew Misha Chou very well. Despite her stone-cold exterior and cruel words, she has a needle-sized soft spot in her heart for very few special people in her life. And her only son Kindle Chou was the top one among them. But the Matriarch and the young master despite being mother and son both were opposite to each other. To put it in layman’s terms Matriarch was an achiever and the young master was a pushover. The only thing they both had in common was their stubborn and obstinate opinions. Which made it so that the Matriarch would not openly show any kind of concern for the young master, her precious and only disappointment.

“Whatever” the Matriarch replied nonchalantly while in her mind she thought, ‘ family experts! You want to send people who can barely protect themselves to protect my son. You must be kidding me. Send those old geezers, all they do is sit on their ass and boss around the family juniors with their elder title. Fuq, if there is even a single screech on my son’s body I will cut their one month’s salary and incentives for every scratch.’

Just as the head maid was about to relay the orders of the Matriarch to the elders she saw a boy accompanied by two girls and two stone elementals carrying two injured bodies. Upon inspecting closely, the head maid realised that one of the injured figures carried by the stone elementals was her versatile young master.

“Young Master!” The head maid screamed in panic seeing the bloodied young master. Being a professional maid for more than 5 decades it was unlike the head maid to scream and behave so unprofessionally. The head maid could not control herself

because in her eyes the Matriarch and the Young master were like her daughter and grandchild.

Hearing the head maid's panicked scream the whole balcony turned to find the source of the scream, especially the Chou family members as they recognised the scream as the scream of their family head maid.

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"Young master!" As we neared the Chou family I saw an old lady look at unconscious bloodied Fatty and scream in panic. Her scream attracted a lot of curious gazes on me and the girls.

"Why are you being so dramatic aunt? He is alive, isn't he? Rejuvenating Cloud " The head maid was the only servant in the Chou family worthy to be addressed as aunt by the family Matriarch. The Matriarch nonchalantly glanced at her half-dead Son and activated a card summoning her grimoire.

Hearing the Matriarch's emotionless words I was shocked. I never thought that a mother could be so indifferent to her son who was half step in the death's doorstep. My shock died as I saw a green cloud cover Fatty Chou and Eliza as it rapidly healed their wounds. Right now I was speechless and a little awkward, not knowing what to do now as the Chou family Matriarch healed Eliza and Chou without an explanation.

"The Demigod Worshipers are attacking the city. Please help, our brother is missing." Beth shouted looking at the Chou Family matriarch and begged for her help. Okay, I did not know we could do that. It seems knowing when to ask for help and whom to ask for help is an important lesson I still have to learn.

"Matriarch, where are you going? Young master he..." the head maid called out to the Matriarch who was heading out of the VIP balcony but was interrupted by the Matriarch midway.

"Didn't you hear the girl the demigod worshipers are attacking the city? What are you guys waiting for? An invitation! Have you forgotten your duty towards the city and its people?" The Matriarch yelled at the nearby prominent families who were watching a show despite knowing what was happening while neglecting their duties towards the city.

Chapter 262: Damned Arena

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 11:13

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, Somewhere in the sky

“How long are you planning to stay hidden? All of your subordinates will be slaughtered soon.” Anna leisurely stood 1700 meters above the Card stadium in the sky.

“...”

“Old geezer, come out I can smell your rotten cunt all the way up here” Anna yelled at the empty sky.

“My My it seems the rumours about the southern emperor lacking proper manners due to a lack of father figure is true. Let me teach you some manners in your father’s stead.” A mysterious husky voice sounded in the sky in response to Anna’s taunt.

“Oh really! Then you won’t mind me calling you daddy, right daddy!” Anna playfully called the mysterious voice, daddy.

“Haha! Your voice is more seducing than a siren’s. Come baby girl let daddy teach you some grown-up stuff.” The mysterious voice sounded more excited and louder as a figure of an old man dressed in a white cassock revealed himself seated on a throne made of clouds.

“I’m coming daddy! Damned Arena!” Reaching within a 1km radius of the old man, Anna activated a card. And the next second Anna and the old man vanished from the sky above the Card stadium.

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“Fuq! Where is this goddamn place? I cannot feel an ounce of soul energy in the atmosphere.” The old man in a white cassock yelled in anger seeing his surroundings change to a gladiator arena from a beautiful serene sky.

“Daddy, this is one of my field card’s Damned Arena. Here neither you nor I can make use of our grimoire or soul energy.” Anna answered the Old man.

“Fuq! I really can’t summon my grimoire or feel soul energy in here. You crazy bitch why would you do this? How do I get out of this forsaken place?” The old man did not believe Anna’s words so tried summoning his memoir and mobilizing his soul energy. Realising what Anna said was true and understanding the dangerous situation he was in the old man finally lost his composure and grew frantic.

“What happened daddy? I thought you were going to teach me some grown-up stuff. So I found a place where nobody would interrupt us.” Anna teased the agitated old man.

“Shut up you cheap slut, I command you to send me out of this place right now.” The old man tried various ways to mobilize his soul energy or call upon his grimoire but all his efforts yielded no results. The old man finally became desperate and no longer knew what he was saying.

Right now the old man felt like a fish out of water. Having spent his entire life leading and mastering soul energy, soul energy has become more like addiction to the old man. The old man was so dependent on soul energy, cards and grimoire that right now he was showcasing withdrawal symptoms similar to a drug addict.

Though both Anna and the old man were of card emperor realm. Anna was young and had a few more centuries to live while the old man was nearing his final years. This is why the appearance of Anna looked as if she was in her 20's and the old man looked like he was at least 80 years old. Having lived centuries dependent on soul energy and cards right now the old man was desperate and grew hysterical like a junkie who was denied his last smoke.

"Send me out of here! Send me out of her you bitch! Send me out of here." The old man was no longer sane. He completely lost his reason and common sense as he ran towards Anna trying to attack her.

*Bang**Thud**Cough**Cough*

Anna balled her fist and slammed into the face of the incoming old geezer's throat, knocking him to the ground. The old geezer coughed uncontrollably, finding it hard to breathe and gasped to breathe in as much air as possible.

"Daddy, have patients! Do ruin my fun by dying so easily." Anna walked to the walls of the arena where different kinds of weapons were stacked for the gladiators to use. Picking up a sword and a hammer. Anna returned next to the trembling old man, who just kept mumbling, "send me back! Send me back! Send me back!"

"Here, take this sword daddy. As long as one of us is dead the other person can leave this place, daddy. Now pick up the sword and kill me if you want to go back." Anna finally showed the old man the way to leave this Damned Arena.

The old man who seemed to have lost all reasoning finally found some hope hearing Anna's words. His eyes glowed fiercely as he picked up the sword and sang it at Anna. Anna dodged all the old man's advances easily. Swinging his sword 16 times, the old man was exhausted. Losing connection to soul energy and grimoire Old man was now a mortal and his strength was right now equal to an 80 years old human male. The sword was about 5.5 kgs it was already so prestigious that the old man was able to swing it 16 times continuously.

"Daddy, why are you so weak? Are you one of those domesticated card apprentices and a range type at that? Sigh such a letdown. No wonder you acted like a fish out of water losing contact with the grimoire. And here I was expecting to have a true duel between us." Anna sighed in disappointment realising that the Old man was a domesticated Card apprentice.

“Southern Emperor, I am sorry. Please let me go. I will give you all of my possessions in return for my life, please forgive my sin and leave a way for me to live.” Slowly adapting to his new environment the old man chained some reasoning and started begging for his life, realising that he could never defeat Anna in this damned arena.

“That’s not possible daddy! All the people who visited this arena are dead.... Oh! Looks like more guests have arrived. Daddy, I have to go welcome them. So I will make this quick.” Anna started to hammer the old man into a meat patty sensing the arrival of the new foe’s outside in the real world.

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“How dare you capital garbage step in my territory? Wasn’t I clear last time!” Coming out of the damned arena Anna thundered at the incoming hovercar

Hearing Anna’s voice the hovercar came to a halt. And within the hovercar Brandon and his uncle’s face became unsightly. “What the fuq is she doing here? Was our mission leaked?” Brandon asked his uncle in distress.

Chapter 263: Baylor

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 11:30

Location- Baylor Mansion, Capital City

“Lady Sansa, not good! not good!” A middle-aged maid rushed into an elegant and grandiose library whose walls were lined with countless vintage and precious books.

“Kim, how many times do I have to warn you about disturbing me while I am in the library? I guess it has become a habit. Not something a little punishment can’t fix.” A graceful middle-aged lady with youthful charm and a curvaceous body warned the maid who rushed into the library.

“I am sorry miss, I wouldn’t have been so audacious if the situation did not warrant it.” Hearing her master’s threat the maid bowed and apologised.

“I see, let’s hear your reason for your behaviour and then I will decide on your punishment.” The glamorous lady hearing the maid’s plea decided to give the maid a chance at redemption.

“Madam, I visit the Hera’s card boutique to collect your armour card for tonight’s hunting banquet. There I ran into one of the maids from the Duskborn family, we got to talking and I was able to extract some information from her mouth.” The maid overemphasised

her role in getting the news from the Duskborn family maid to escape the punishment her master spoke of.

“Stop exaggerating and get to the point.” The maid’s little thoughts did not escape Sansa’s eyes.

“Yes madam, I was getting there. According to the Duskborn family maid, the Duskborn family is planning on bringing Ellen’s only son back home, not only that if everything goes according to their plan they also plan on adding Ellen, her husband and son to the Duskborn family Ancestry book. And give her son the right to use the Duskborn family name.

She said that young master Brandon and Fire Fist emperor have left to the southern region to bring back Ellen’s son a few hours ago.” Reporting the information the maid humbly stood for her master’s instruction.

“Good job Kim. I heard your son has graduated from the card university and has applied to serve as Baylor family guard. Here take this Golden Grimoire to increase his chances of getting recruited. Now leave.” Handing the maid the Golden Grimoire, Sansa asked her to leave.

“Thank you, Madam! Thank you!” Thanking her master, the maid excused herself.

Seeing the maid leave, Sansa summoned her grimoire and made a call,

“Your Highness, how can this slave be of service?” And a deep male voice answered the call.

“What happened to getting rid of the boy! It’s been two months since I handed you the mission. And you had the gall to demand full payment for a half-finished sloppy job.” Sansa yelled at the deep voice blaming him for collecting full payment and not delivering what was promised.

“That bitch you asked us to assassinate had stolen something of ours and hid it. With her and her husband dead, the boy was our only clue left, so we did not kill him.

Now that we have confirmed that the boy is in possession of our goods. We were about to handle him for good despite the things getting complicated right now due to the involvement of the southern emperor we will complete the task we have taken. By today afternoon you can expect to hear the good news.” The male voice explained to Sansa why the task she has assigned to them has not been completed yet.

“Cut the crap, I did not pay you to hear your bull shit. Get the Job done by today afternoon or else get ready to cough every single penny I paid you.” Sansa did not care

for the explanation of the male voice, all she wanted was results, a cold corpse of her rival's last spawn.

"Yes, Madam, trust me. I will contact you once the task is completed." The male voice tried to assure Sansa but Sansa hung up the call. As any promise without results is an empty promise.

'I cannot trust these fools to take care of the boy. It seems I will have to use someone else' Hanging up the call Sansa went into deep thought as she knew she could not count on a third rate organisation that was stupid enough to name itself 'The Circle' to complete the task.

Contemplating for few minutes Sansa's eyes shined brilliantly as she hurriedly made another call,

"The sun must have risen due west today for stunning Sansa to call me. Has your impotent husband left for another dungeon raid? Will you come over or should we meet at the regular place" a playful male voice sounded from the other end of the call.

"Norman, there is a time and place for that. This time I called you to talk about business." Sansa was not offended by the vulgar words of Norman, indicating that Norman and Sansa's relation was that of taboo nature between a married woman and a single man.

"We can always talk about the business before we do it, while we are doing it or after we did it a couple of times. So how about we meet at the regular place. You craved dragon meat right my men just caught a mature dragon in a dungeon raid, if you come to the usual place we can eat it, we can do it and talk about the business. One arrow and three birds, sweet right." Norman did not give up with a single no, otherwise, how could he bed the wife of the youngest demigod in human history.

"First listen to what I have to say then you can decide whether we meet at the usual place." Sansa knew Norman better than himself. Therefore instead of getting angry, she decided to let him decide whether they should meet at the usual place to do it today or not.

"Interesting, it must be something substantial for you to be so confident. But I have a condition." Norman was not a fool, he knew what Sansa was doing, yet he decided to play along in exchange for a condition.

"What I am going to say will benefit both you and your family? If anything I should be the one demanding conditions." Sansa argued.

"Whatever, I don't care. I have to taste you today." Norman threw a tantrum.

"Fine, you big baby. What is it?" Sansa asked impatiently

“Next time we do it, we will try the Titan’s big dipper position. You always reject it whenever I bring it up.” Norman complained as he mentioned his condition.

“Fuq you, you son of a freak! How many times should I remind you that position is too humiliating and demeaning? Any self-respecting woman will not do that.” Sansa cursed and yelled at Norman in anger.

“Okay, okay calm down. Didn’t you say you had some urgent business you wanted to talk about? Let’s talk” hearing Sansa go berserk, Norman gave up and tried to switch the topic.

“Good! Let’s talk business” Sansa smiled mischievously seeing Norman fall for her act.

“You little minx! Fine, It’s your win. I give up. What is that got you so riled up?” Norman gave up trying to take advantage of Sansa.

“Have you heard about Silver Milk Powder?” Asked Sansa seriously.

“Who hasn’t? Silver milk powder, a powder that helps mortals cultivate their active soul control. The hot discovery of the Southern Royal family, Heatsend Family. Name they got themselves a golden goose” Norman answered Sansa with everything he knew about Silver milk powder.

“Correction, the Silver Milk Powder is not the discovery of the Heatsend family but a backwater third-grade city boy. The Heatsend family only owns the complete rights for its production and supply.” Sansa corrected Norman, this was the core part of what she was going to talk about.

“Potato~Patato, who cares about that ant? A fool who could not even protect what is rightfully his.” Norman said in disgust.

“What if I say that ant that you look down on is key to our downfall. If things continue as they are, our doom is near.” Sansa prophesied.

“Sansa, do you know what you are implying? Our families participated in the founding of the current government and are the current pillars of the capital. Do you know even if the whole capital comes together it will be difficult for them to erase our families? How can a mere ant lead to the collapse of our families with 1000s of years of history.” Norman thought Sansa was an alarmist and did not take her word seriously.

“What if the ant that you despise is actually the son of Ellen Duskborn and one of the heirs of the Duskborn family?” Sansa finally revealed the reason for the call to Norman.

“What?” Norman exclaimed in surprise.

"Yes you heard right, the discoverer and 25% royalty owner of silver milk powder is the spawn of Ellen Duskbrown," Sansa repeated herself.

"How do you know this? How accurate is your info." Norman inquired.

"You do not need to know that. What you need to know is that the Fire Fist Emperor and Axe Emperor of the Duskbrown family are on their way to bring that evil spawn back to the Duskbrown family. You can imagine what will happen next." Sansa dodged Norman's question and cautioned him about the plans of the Duskbrown family.

Chapter 264: Sansa Baylor

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 11:40

Location- Baylor Mansion, Capital City

"I am surprised that Ellen and her husband are still alive and have a son together. I never thought that they would be able to escape the hunt of your husband and Duskbrown family.

So, what if that child owns 25% of silver milk powder, that is still not enough for a big family like the Duskbrown family to get back on its feet. I do not know what makes you think that this will change anything?" Norman knew what Sansa was trying to achieve by giving this information to him and agitating him with her alarmist claims.

"Ellen never escaped the hunt of my husband and her family as they were the ones who helped her escape. My husband's love for Ellen runs very deep so he could not bring himself to kill her and her love. With the help of her father, my husband orchestrated a fake manhunt while they helped Ellen escape and build a happy life for herself somewhere safe." Sansa revealed something she was hoping to take with her to her grave.

"No wonder you did not hesitate when I first hit on you. And here I thought it was because of my charm. Wait, how do you know all these? Knowing your husband he is known to do things perfectly. There is no way he would let you know this matter knowing your history with Ellen." Norman asked the one question that Sansa was hoping he would not ask.

"No silly, I chose you because you dared to hit on me despite knowing my husband's reputation, while others still do not dare to glance at me for more than 3 seconds. In a way, I did fall for your charm." Sansa answered hoping to divert Norman's attention.

"Thank you but you still haven't answered me? How do you know all this? And why do you think that Ants' arrival will affect our families? Haven't I earned your trust yet?"
Unfortunately, Sansa's efforts of diverting Norman's attention did not pan out.

"Fine. But first, let me correct you Ellen and her husband died 2 months ago and I had them killed. I also wanted to get her son killed but due to some complications he still lives.

Like the rest of the capital, I thought Ellen was on the run until 2 months ago when I eavesdropped on my husband conversing with Ellen's father. I always wondered despite all that happened why my husband still maintains a deep relationship with the Duskborn family, after hearing their conversation it became clear to me.

As for why I think that evil spawn will be able to hurt our families is not because of the 25% royalty of Silver milk powder in his possession but the people backing him, the Southern region royalty, the Heatsend family.

If the Duskborn family are able to bring that evil spawn to their side it is equal to winning over the support of the Heatsend family. With that, the family that was losing the rat race in the capital will suddenly jump to the front with help of the southern royalty.

Now I do not have to remind you where that leaves our families. Not to mention the grudge between us and the Duskborn family. Do you think they will let us off once they get the chance to?" Sansa slowly revealed her secret and pointed Norman in the direction she wanted to.

"Um... all your speculations will only happen if the boy is willing to return to the Duskborn family. Considering what they had put his father and mother through, if I were that boy I would hate Duskborn enough to burn it down. Even though Ellen's father helped her in her escape, it still does not make up for all the atrocious things that the Duskborn family has put that boy's parents through.

I do not have a thing to worry about, I will watch as the Boy gets his revenge on all those that wronged his parents with the help of the Heatsend family. Oh wait, doesn't that involve you." After listening to Sansa's dirty secret, Norman finally knew why Sansa called him. She wanted to use him as a spearhead to get rid of her troubles.

"I thought I could trust you?" Said Sansa with a grimacing tone. This is the reason Sansa wanted to take her secrets to her grave. But to think she would fall prey to one of her tricks.

"Yes, you can. Your secret is safe with me. But if you want to get rid of your garbage then that is another thing. You know why the Heatsend family is called The Southern Royalty, right. With them watching over that boy nobody in the world would be foolish enough to touch that boy. This price is too much to pay for one of my side hoes."

Norman put it as bluntly as possible. He was addicted to Sansa's body but the name Heatsend was enough to make him sober.

"A side hoe? To think that I, Sansa Baylor, would someday be called by that name. Norman Jones, is that what I am to you?" Sansa became emotional and asked her lover if he ever really liked her.

"Sansa, come on. 'No Feeling Involved' remember? Isn't that what you used to say to me ever I expressed my love for you. It seems I finally got what you meant." Norman gloated as he reminded Sansa of the words she once told him.

"I have taught you well. Then you would not mind what I am going to do next." Sansa said mysteriously.

"..." Norman fell speechless hearing Sansa, unable to understand where her confidence stemmed from.

"Norman, in the past I never asked you about other girls you have been dating but today I feel like it. So tell me, what was it like to taste the young bride of Demigod Demon Song? Was she fresh and juice for a young virgin? I heard she has a special physique and Demigod Demon Song has been saving her for a special occasion" Sansa finally revealed her trump card.

"You! How do you know that?" Norman's voice was no longer playful, he became serious. As his relationship with Demigod Demon Song's young bride was not something even his trusted aid knew of so how did Sansa know this?

"Haha, what about Lady Jade... I bet her husband would be pissed to find out that someone has been swimming in his personal swimming pool.

The Widow of the Stark family recently seemed to be glowing as if she is getting her weekly dose of proteins from somewhere, despite her husband being dead.

Norman you freak, you will fuq anything that moves and has a husband, won't you?" Sansa listed Norman's dark secret one by one.

"How? How do you know all this? Even those women do not know that I was the one they were having an affair with." Norman freaked out seeing Sansa reveal his dark secrets one by one. Right now only one thought was going on in his mind, 'How did she know all this? How much does she know? Does she know about that too?'

"Midnight Flower Plunderer " Sansa said three words, each of which exploded like bombs in Norman's head and led to the following thought in his mind 'She knows!'

"How? How did you find out? My Ocean Mask is untraceable. Even a demigod will not be able to trace my whereabouts while I wear that mask, so how were you able to

gather all this info about me?" Norman was unable to deduce how Sansa knew about all of his adventures as the Midnight Flower Plunderer.

"Haha, you were the one who informed me about all your endeavours." Sansa laughed hard as she answered Norman.

"Impossible, I would never do such a thing. I do not remember ever telling you those secrets." Norman found it hard to believe Sansa's words as he does not remember doing so.

"Slave dog number 7, memory release." Sansa commanded her origin card. With that Norman gained access to a huge amount of suppressed memories in his mind.

"You... What have you done to me? What have you made me do? So all my memories about us were fake? No no... I did not do those things? That isn't me, that isn't me. You made me do that! You bitch how could you? How could be so heartless? she was just a child." Remembering all the suppressed memories Norman spiralled.

"You fool, how in the hell did you think that I, Sansa Baylor, would ever have an affair and dare to cheat on my beloved? For my beloved, I crippled the Duskbear family... For my beloved, I kill my mother... for my beloved had my best friend killed. What made you think that I would cheat on my beloved with a low life rapist such as yourself."

Chapter 265: MasterMind

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 11:45

Location- Baylor Mansion, Capital City

"How much I regret hitting on you on that unfortunate evening?" Having received his suppressed memories Norman realised that all the memories of his affair with Sansa were fake.

According to the real memories every time he met with Sansa at their rendezvous point she would release his memories and blackmail him into doing things even a demon would feel shy of. At first, she intimidated him into doing small things but some of these small things accumulated into something inexplicable. With this, her control over him grew larger where she had him do unjustifiable deeds.

"You know it's your fault, it's okay for you to hit on me, blame my charm. But to belittle my beloved how dare you

“I will perish but no longer be controlled by you.” Norman yelled in anger. Despite knowing how this threat would end Norman could not help but threaten Sansa with suicide.

“Norman, search your memories, you know how this will end. Like always you will try to commit suicide and I will stop by saying,

If you dared to commit suicide I will reveal the atrocities you did to the world. Unable to get their revenge on you, people will turn to your family and loved ones who will bear the burden of your sins.” Sansa reminded Norman that this was not the first time and he had no way out of it.

“They are not my Sins you made me do that” Norman yelled to make himself feel good and convince himself that he had no other choice. But deep in his heart, he knew there were other choices but he was too much of a coward to make those choices.

“Fine, If that helps you to be a good slave dog, follow my command and complete the tasks I assigned you then feel free to believe whatever works for you. As long as you get the results I want I do not care.” Sansa did not argue with Norman, as it did not matter as long as he followed her will.

“...” Norman tried to think of many ways to solve the predicament he was in right now but it felt like he was repeating the same thing again and again. Reading his memories carefully he realised his past self like the current self he always tried to think of ways to escape Sansa’s clutches but they all failed. Not because he was not smart enough or Sansa was too devious, but he did not have enough time and know whom to trust as Sansa had many spies planted around him to keep in check.

“You know it did not have to come to this? If only your previous self was a good boy and followed my arrangements I would not have to release your memories and you would have to go through all this again.” Sansa blamed Norman for being a smartass.

“Yes, it was my fault.” said Norman sarcastically.

“Good, now that we both are on the same page let’s talk about your next task. I have sent you the latest picture of Ellen’s only spawn. You have to assassinate him. I know you are a thief but your origin card Ocean Mask is best for assassination it will be a waste to not put it to its intended use. He will be surrounded by the Axe emperor, Fire Fist emperor and even the Southern emperor and her aides. So you will need a team for this task.

I will send you a set of coordinates, go there and meet up with my other slaves and your temporary team for this task. They all are powerful people in Emperor rank. They can buy you enough time for you to achieve your part of the task of assassinating the Boy. While those card emperors are distracting the card emperors surrounding the boy you assassinate him.” Sansa explained to Norman his role in the upcoming task in detail.

“How many people have you enslaved? How are you still unnoticed by those powerful demigods? Especially your husband, considering his strength he should have long seen through you.” Thanks to his new memories Norman knew he was not the only one being used by Sansa there were others but what puzzled him was how none of the mighty demigods had noticed what was happening in the backyard of the capital.

“That’s not for your small head to think about, just complete the task assigned to you and everything will go back to how it was a few minutes ago. You will once again become the lover of Sansa Baylor and no longer have to bear the weight of carrying the burden of your sins.” Sansa reminded Norman of his reward for completing the task assigned to him. To go back to being an ignorant fool who thought that he bedded the wife of the youngest Demigod Baylor.

“Can you not do that? Please! I beg of you let me bear the burden of those sins. I longer want to run away from them. Let me bear them so please do not suppress my memories after I complete this task.” Norman begged with the most aggrieved voice he could think of.

“Norman, try being a smartass once again and I will make you regret it. Do you think I am a fool? I know what you are planning? You are not the only one to think of that. Just remember those who try to outsmart me have feet worse than a dog’s death. Do not forget I control your memories, you cannot hide anything from me.” Sansa knew what Norman was trying to do. Norman was trying to buy himself enough time to think of ways to escape Sansa’s clutches and execute them properly.

One of the reasons Sansa was able to control many superpowers with something like blackmail was because after getting what she wanted she would suppress their memories not giving her victim a chance to retaliate against her. But not everyone is a coward and idiot like Norman. In their case, she had to go to the extreme, like erasing and editing some of their rebellious memories.

Suppressing memories is not a long term solution as over time the suppressed memories accumulate enough for her slaves to come up with plans to rebel against her. There she regularly checks the slave’s memories and erases some and edits some so that they are stuck in an infinite loop of thinking and doing the same thing over and over again without them realising.

This also allowed Sansa to be one step ahead of her slaves as she knew what her slaves would do in a particular environment as they would have done exactly the same thing before but have no recollection of that memory as it was erased or edited by her.

Chapter 266: Family Laws

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 11:23

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, Somewhere in the sky

“Your highness, Southern emperor. I, Axe Emperor Brandon Duskborn, extend my greetings to you.”

“Your highness, Southern emperor. I, Fire Fist Emperor of the Duskborn family, extend my greetings to you.” Brandon and his Uncle extended their greetings to Anna as they descended the hovercar. Though all three of them were Card emperors their status varied with a huge gap. Anna was royalty and the only heir of the Heatsend Royal family. While Brandon and his uncle were nobody from an average family among numerous families in the capital.

“You shits, what did I ask you and what are you blabbering. 3 seconds, give me a good reason to spare your life. Otherwise, you better run.” Anna did not greet back or accept the uncle and nephew duos greetings.

“Your highness, you cannot kill us. We are Dalton’s family members by blood. I think you are forgetting something. You are bound by the soul contract from harming us and if the situation presents itself you even have to protect us.” Brandon was aggravated with Anna’s attitude towards them. So he no longer remained polite and showed his trump card, and one of the motives behind their trip to Sky blossom city.

“You guys finally revealed your true faces! On the contrary you dumbass I think you’re forgetting something... ” Anna suddenly vanished from the spot where she was standing, the Duskborn family Card emperor duo did not even realize Anna had vanished because of the perfect mirror image she left behind in her place.

“Watch out!” Realising something was amiss, the Fire Fist emperor pushed aside his nephew but soon fresh blood sprinkled on clueless Brandon’s face.

“Uncle!” Brandon cried in anguish as he watched his Uncle soaked in blood missing his left arm.

“I will keep this as a price of your insolence.” Next moment Anna appeared where she had left her mirror image with a torn and bloodied limb. Soon the bloodied arm turned to dust as she said, ” So as I was saying, the soul contract penalty only applies when Wyatt knows about the incident and demands for it. So you shits, I can kill you right here without having to worry about the soul contract penalty. So, you better behave if you want to live.”

“That is not how a soul contract works! A soul contract is absolute and impartial.” Brandon yelled, feeling he was being cheated.

“You dumb fuq! Do not raise your voice in front of me. Believe it or not, I will show you two a place worse than hell.” Anna snapped.

“Brandon enough, what was the family thinking by sending you for something as sensitive as this. We are here to bring back your nephew, my grandnephew back home and thank the southern employer for taking care of our family child.” The Fire Fist emperor tried hard to regrow his limb but an untraceable energy was blocking him from doing so. Getting himself together from the shock of losing a limb he reprimanded Brandon for overplaying their hand.

The plan was to be humble and get Ellen’s child in their possession while increasing his goodwill towards the family and gaining his trust. Once the kid was in their palms then they would set their plans and ambition in motion. This plan also involved gaining the Heatsend royalties trust along the side but his stupid nephew ruined any chance of gaining their trust but a temporary alliance was still possible. It all depended on their performance henceforth.

“My apologies, your highness. It seems our family’s teachings are not enough. If it takes one of my hands to calm your anger then so be it. Our only goal is to bring the lost child of our family back home.” Fire Fist emperor knew Anna had no intention of giving back his limb or allow him to regrow it so he decided not to bring it up and use it to smoothen the relationship between them.

“You sly shit. The day I signed the soul contract with Wyatt I checked his background. Do you think I do not know what your relationship with Wyatt is? What gives you the guts to show your shameless faces here in the first place. Once Wyatt knows the history between you and his parents there is no telling what he is going to do or give up for revenge. If he gives up 30% or just 20% of the silver milk powder royalty in his hand, I will not hesitate to lead the Southern watch to the capital and flatten your family. If that’s what he wants.” Anna’s cheeks turned red because the one who performed the background check was her mother while she was celebrating with Elliott not knowing that Wyatt had made a fool out of her.

“Your highness, every family member is equal in the Duskborn family’s eyes. Ellen had betrayed the family’s trust and made a grave mistake, which she made up for by being banished from the family and the capital. Now her child has earned enough merits to redeem his parents’ mistake and once again join the Duskborn family. And your highness this is Duskborn family internal matters, please do not interfere in it.” The Fire Fist Emperor repeated what he was confined in by the family elders.

“You are going with that bull shit? My god, you people are dumber than I thought. You guys may still have the chance to make peace with Wyatt. Compensate him and beg for his forgiveness. Send someone meaningful like his grandfather to negotiate instead of a nobody dumbass like that cunt standing next to you.” Anna advised Fire Fist emperor as she knew in the near future Wyatt would need all the help he could get.

The world has not witnessed the miracle of the silver milk powder like she and her family. Therefore they underestimate the worth of silver milk powder but once the silver milk powder is released and spread in the market, there is no telling what kind of waves

it will stir up. For Anna, compared to Wyatt's survival, his parents' grievance with the Duskborn family was trivial.

"Thank your highness for your guidance but the family law is absolute. And same for everyone, merits are awarded and mistakes are punished. There is nothing that the family needs to apologize for. I think Ellen's child will understand this and would like his parents to rest with their predecessors in the Duskborn family ancestral graveyard." The Fire Fist emperor finally revealed where the family's confidence stemmed from.

"Haha! So you are going to offer two spots in your ancestral graveyard in exchange for the royalty of silver milk powder and Wyatt joining your family. Aren't you guys geniuses? Let's see how it works out for you guys."

Chapter 267: Enemy of the State

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 11:16

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Balcony, Chou Family

"Yo Wyatt" as I was busy discussing with the Whiteburn sisters about our next step to finding missing Pax, I did not notice Cortney walk towards me until she greeted me.

"What the hell are you doing here, you... you..." Beth lashed out at Cortney but was struck, unable to decide a fitting curse word to use.

"You Bitch, get lost before or else" Amy followed Beth and threatened Cortney. Unlike Any and Beth, Eliza remained silent but her eyes remained on Cortney and did not blink.

"Or else what? You three together are not my match. Tsk, I am not here to argue with you. I need to speak with Wyatt." Courtney interrupted Amy and started her purpose.

"What is it?" I asked Cortney in annoyance, frustrated, unable to trace Pax's whereabouts.

The Circle delivered Pax to the demigod worshipers there is no doubt about it but the demigod worshipers did not have Pax. No, they had Pax at one point before he went missing again. Because when the Head Cleric showed the crystal coffin to be he was very confident that pax was in it. And he along with his cronies genuinely seemed surprised to find the Crystal coffin empty and Pax missing. So much so that they thought the Circle double-crossed them.

As far as I know, the circle has no reason to double-cross the demigod worshipers, they knew better than that. As the saying goes

Do not steal money from a merchant, Do not steal the weapon from the warrior and Do not steal their lord from the demigod worshipers. They will follow you till the end of the world to get what's theirs, revenge.

So if the demigod worshipers and the circle do not have Pax then where did he go? Or the demigod worshipers are just faking it while their comrades are smuggling Pax to the empire as we speak. Fuq! I was frustrated as I did not even know where to start the investigation and search for Pax, with the area of the incident torn to rubbles and becoming a war zone between the demigod worshipers and the city's best and brightest card apprentices.

"Hey, I am here to do you a solid. So, you better mind your attitude." Cortney said, feeling the annoyance in my voice.

"Fine. Madam Cortney, what are you doing here?" I asked Cortney sarcastically. Knowing she was one of the culprits who handed Pax to the demigod worshipers discussed as Medics.

"*sigh* not cleaning up my mother's immediate superiors' mess. You might have already guessed the circle was the one that helped the demigod worshipers. I am supposed to kill all the demigod worshipers before they are captured by the city's card apprentice. My job is to erase any evidence pointing towards the circle." Cortney sighed hearing the sarcasm in my tone before revealing what she ordered to do.

"So, why are you not cleaning up the mess?" I was confused. Why is Cortney telling me this and why in the hell do I care?

"Being a gangster and hired assassin is one thing but helping them erase the evidence about their involvement with demigod worshipers will make me a traitor and enemy of the state" Courtney explained her predicament and the reason behind her choice.

"Aren't you already? After all, you did help the circle deliver Pax to the demigod worshipers." I asked, not expecting an answer from Cortney.

"Wow, slow your roll buddy. I just won fair and square against Pax. It's not my concern what the circle and demigod worshipers did with unconscious Pax." Cortney hurriedly explained that she had zero involvement in Pax's kidnapping. In any that is completely coincidental.

"Good for you, I guess" I was speechless, one thing is for sure Cortney had very fat and thick facial skin, she lied her ass off having zero involvement in Pax's kidnapping and helping the circle without the slightest hint of embarrassment.

"I knew speaking to you would make me feel good about ditching my mother when she needs me most. You are a good friend Wyatt. Now it's my turn. Manchy, spit him out." Cortney felt as if a huge weight was off her shoulder after confiding in me.

With Cortney's order, a huge chameleon shaped wraith surfaced from the floor of the balcony. Letting out a growl the chameleon started vomiting. First, its stomach contents and digestive juices came out followed by a human body. Vomiting the slime human body the huge chameleon wraith disappeared.

"Pax" the Whiteburn sister trio shouted in unison, noticing the human body was none other than their little brother Pax.

"Is he alright?" I asked, seeing Pax's unmoving body. He was too still for a living person.

"Do not worry he is just unconscious. I had Manchy rescue him from the crystal coffin. I was going to hand him to you after the demigod worshipers left the city. Seeing things as they are now I decided to hand him to you right away. I guess I am the hero here ." Cortney answered smugly. Hearing Cortney, Eliza and the twins move unconscious Pax next to Kindle Chou.

"Thank you" I thanked Cortney for going out of her way and rescuing Pax.

"You can thank me by treating me to Lunch." Courtney seemed more cheerful compared to the morning when I told her that I would be killing her mother for my revenge.

"I do not think I can eat anything after seeing something so disgusting." I said referring to the abomination of wraith chameleon vomiting out a Pax.

"Not right now silly, at the afternoon that's when you are supposed to have lunch." Yep, Cortney was completely different from the one I went to in the morning. Something has changed.

"I thought you were going to kill me?" If she is making plans with me for the afternoon does it mean she gave up on killing me or did she mean to have lunch with my corpse.

"I have to kill you." Courtney said grimly maintaining her charming smile.

'Nope nothing changed'

Chapter 268: Unreasonable

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 11: 25

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Balcony, Chou Family

"Thank you" after handing over Pax to Chou family medics. Eliza and the Twins thanked Cortney gratefully and in embarrassment. As they never thought that the person to help

them in their dire need would be Cortney who pushed them into the dire situation in the first place.

“Do not thank me, I did not do this for you people. I did it for Wyatt.” Cortney has seen and noted all the people who entered the VIP box one with me. Being a seasoned street hustler she could tell who was close to me and who was not. Pax being the one who helped me fulfil my dream of building a mecha was indeed close to me compared to his sister.

Noticing that Cortney, who for some reason thinks we are friends, decided to help me rescue Pax. As Pax was being carried by the fake medic’s Cortney attached her chameleon wraith to Pax. Which when nobody was noticing swallowed unconscious Pax from the crystal coffin and returned to Cortney.

“Anyway, we are grateful for your help.” Eliza did not seem to have forgotten that they were in the current predicament because of Cortney in the first place.

“Whatever” Cortney did not care for Eliza and the twins’ gratefulness and grudges.

“Did we come at the wrong time, guys?” As the atmosphere turned awkward with the cold war between the girls. Elliott, Susan and the rest of the gang came to check on us.

“Nope, what is happening? Will the tournament semifinals and finals be postponed? Any news?” I asked, trying to talk about something that everyone can participate in.

“You would want that, wouldn’t you, you coward. The tournament will continue, as usual, the demigod worshippers are killed by grandpa and other city leaders. You can withdraw your summons. They are an eyesore.” I received the answer from Corey, who just entered the VIP balcony in search of Susan.

“Okay, that’s it. I thought ignoring you would be best but it seems like you have mistaken my patience as my weakness. What’s your problem? What do you want from me?” I snapped at Corey

“What’s my problem? How dare you talk to me like that? Don’t you know what I want? I want big sis Susan, give her to me, you mother stealing rogue.” Corey, as if waiting for this moment went berserk.

“How many times do I have to remind you dumbass? I will not give Susan to you. She is mine, how dare you covet what’s mine, you cry baby.” Two can play at that game, I wasn’t backing down or just ignore her thinking that it was beneath me, like the previous times. I had to make clear to this dumbass that Susan was an important part of the card empire I was dreaming to build.

“You, rogue! How can you claim an unmarried young woman as your property? Big Sis Susan see did I not warn you that you can not trust this guy. He is dangerous,

immediately resign and come work with me as my partner." Hearing my words, Corey smirked and her eyes smiled brilliantly then she began making false accusations against me and persuading Susan to resign from working for me while seducing her by offering her a better offer to work with her.

'This bitch' I cursed Corey in my mind and turned to see Susan, her face was bright red and when our eyes met she shyly said, "I am too old for you."

I understood that my words earlier were misinterpreted by Corey and People followed her narration and misunderstood what I was trying to imply by saying 'Susan is mine'. I wanted to explain myself but the moment had passed and speaking now would only hurt Susan's feelings.

"Big sis, see he is not even denying it. Wyatt how shameless and brazen can you be to covet your female employees. You beast." Yep, my silence only paved the way for Corey to slander me endlessly. This bitch had to be taught a lesson just as was I going to go berserk on Corey, Susan spoke up,

"Corey enough, Wyatt is a good boss and good person. Do not slander him. Did I not warn you not to do something like this? It's my choice where I work, and I chose to work with Wyatt. If you continue further with your shenanigans I will not speak to you anymore." Susan glared at Corey like a mama bear covering for her baby.

"But big sis he clearly has ill intentions towards you...." overstated Corey but seeing no change in Susan's stance she turned to me and yelled, "You, you are only good at hiding behind a woman."

"Corey, stop it. You look pathetic. Since you so desperately want Susan to work in your card studio it's almost as if you are the one coveting Susan." I was comfortable with my gender enough to have women fight my battles, beauty, brain and brawn, these are the things I appreciate in women.

"You, you... how about we make a bet? Huh! Are you man enough to bet with me?" Corey tried to can't me by questioning my masculinity.

"Depends on how and what we are betting on?" I was interested in betting with Corey, as I had long wanted to teach this bitch a lesson.

"We bet on our upcoming card duel, the winner gets to work with Big Sis Susan. So, what do you say, deal or no deal" Corey's desire of having Susan work with her in her card studio seems to have not died with Susan making it clear that she prefers to work for me.

"Nope first of whom Susan chooses to work with is not up to me to decide and secondly, I stand to gain nothing from this bet. If I lose, I will lose a trusted employee and friend but if I win, I get nothing as Susan is already working for me. This is basically an unfair

and unreasonable bet." Corey's appetite was large, she wanted to take Susan while betting nothing in return. Ain't she a genius.

Chapter 269: Accountability

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 11: 29

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Balcony, Chou Family

"Corey, how could you say that despite me warning you so many times? Why don't you understand?" Susan asked Corey after me, rejecting Corey's proposal to bet Susan as stakes for our upcoming card fight.

"Big sis you, I want to work with you! Why don't you understand? Together we can run my card studio. Why do you always keep choosing him over me? Am I not important to you? Do you not care for me?" Corey broke into tears as if she was wronged despite being the one who started all this drama.

"You silly girl, I do care for you and I am not always choosing him over you. I am doing just what feels right. And also I owe Wyatt a lot. The Susan you know would not exist if not for him trusting in me and helping in my desperate times. You are too young to understand it. But for now please do not be stubborn and be a good girl will you?" Crying Corey caused Susan's anger to subside Then Susan hugged Corry and started consoling her similar to a mother pampering her attention and love seeking child.

"But I want to work with you Big sis, doing stuff together, you teaching new things every day, tell each other what we did last night... I want to spend time with you." Lifting her head buried in Susan's shoulder, teary Corey winked at me.

'Fuq! This bitch' It was all an act, seeing Susan get mad Corey, she used fake tears to calm Susan down and gain her sympathy. I could not even yell 'she is faking it' otherwise people would be like 'what's wrong with you boy?'.

"How about this? We will bet as you proposed easily on the upcoming Card fight between you and Wyatt but stakes need to be changed. If you win I come work with you but if Wyatt wins he gets your card studio and you work for him for three years. Reasonable right. Either way, we both will work together." Falling for Corey's performance Susan accepted Corey's bet proposal with new stakes.

"Really! I am game." Corey's eyes shined brightly as he answered enthusiastically and celebrated as if she had already won. Corey was not worried that she would lose, since she had survived 100 years in neither realm and fought the 7 Nether Princes.

“Wyatt, teach that little girl a lesson for me will you. Fake tears, I majored in it. Let her know she should not mess with her seniors.” convincing Corey to bet with new stakes, Susan passed by me as she whispered in my ears. Hearing Susan I was surprised, but soon realising that I can finally get back at Corey I was seething for vengeance and whispered back to Susan, “Just, wait and watch.”

For me, Corey and her fancy card studio were not worth the same as Susan. After all, Susan was someone I could trust and count on, as for Corey she is a spoiled princess with mental issues and her Card studio, I could build a fancier and better one with my current wealth. But still, I agreed with the unfair stakes as Susan as one of the stakes herself proposed them. And honestly, I felt like I had no say in this. After all, Susan was the one paying if I lost.

...

“Old man William, you sure your daughter is not a lesbian? And here I thought she would make a good daughter-in-law. I do not mind but I do not have a daughter for her.” Matriarch Chou taunted Old man William as they watched the younger generation.

“Um... I don’t know but that girl is acting weird lately. Maybe I should ask Malinda or your aunt to have the talk with her once again.” William was not offended by Misha’s remark, but rather somewhat agreed with her as his granddaughter was acting weird lately.

“Talking about aunt, I heard you retired and handed the family to the aunt. After fighting with her for power for decades did you finally choose to give up. Knowing aunt’s nature she should be pissed.” Misha spoke about the mysterious Matriarch of the Bright family.

“Hehe, where are you going with this little girl? I may have chosen to retire, I ain’t senile yet.” William warned Misha to choose her next words carefully.

“Hehe, can’t a junior show concern for her senior’s life.” Misha laughed off William’s warning.

“You can if you don’t have alternate motives. Talk clearly.” William did not buy into Misha’s bullshit, being able to become the matriarch of the chou family at a young age she was slyer and scarier than beasts.

“I will but you sure you retired. You sure don’t act like it.” Having tested the water Misha was ready to talk about what she was planning on.

“Haha, you are right I am retired, I should act like it. You discuss with your aunt, she is the one increase of the Bright family now, what she decides goes. But let me warn you one first, that boy is more than what meets the eyes. If I were you I would wait a few more days before whatever you are planning on doing, I think he will surprise you.” William agreed with Misha, since he is retired he should stay retired.

"I have never seen you praise a younger generation like this before, what gives? I saw in the betting pool that you bet on his win before every round. Whom will you bet on next match, your lovely granddaughter or your personal favourite champ, Dalton Wyatt." Misha was confused seeing William appreciate a younger generation so much. Especially since except for his granddaughter all the other juniors are expendable and disposable, so him pleasing someone other than his granddaughter was almost surreal.

"Do you have to ask? Of course my granddaughter. I would bet the complete Bright family on her if possible. Even if I lost I would not regret, yes if it's her I would regret anything she does." William did not bother to hide his sick granddaughter-con side in front of Misha.

'This sick perverted old man.' Misha cursed William in her mind after listening to his answer.

...

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 11: 29

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.2

Slam! The door of VIP box no.2 opened hard slamming on the wall, and the Clown mask entered the VIP box.

"Fuq! It's you. You bitch! Don't you know to knock before coming in, You almost gave me a scare." The Skinny old man has been sweating bullets ever since he knew that deal with the empire went sideways and infiltration of demigod worshipers had come to light, he did not care who lived or who died. As long as the shit does not blow black on him he would count his lucky stars.

"..." The Clown Mask stood dumbly being yelled at by her immediate superior.

"Well report dammit, do I have to remind you how to do your job." Seeing the Clown Mask stand dumbly and not report the progress so far, the Skinny old man yelled at the Clown Mask again. Yelling at the clown mask helped him vent and clear his mind.

"All the demigod Worshipers in the card stadium have been massacred. As for at the Whiteburn manors end casualty was less and many were able to escape. And lastly, zero demigod worshippers were captured." Reported the Clown mask mechanically with zero emotions in her voice.

"What about the loose ends in our organisation that participated or knew about this.." The skinny old man did not celebrate early knowing all the demigod worshipers were

killed or escaped and none were captured. Instead, he asked about the people employed to help the demigod worshipers in their mission.

“All of them have been silenced for good, only one is remaining.” Answered the Clown mask with an eerie and suspicious tone.

“Then what are you doing here, go take care of it. Do I even have to tell you this? I see where your daughter gets her attitude from.” The Skinny old man did not understand the underlying meaning behind the Clown mask’s words.

“I’m here to do exactly that.” The Clown mask responded, her mechanical reply made her voice sound eerie.

“What?... Haha,” the skinny old soon laughter enlightened knowing the meaning behind the Clown masks words. As the news sank into the old man’s mind he started yelling in anger, “you can’t do this to me, I gave my life to this organisation. Without me, it would not be what it is today. I demand an explanation. How can the Circle I built with my arms treat me like this?”

“The inner circle is disappointed, Our friends in the empire were displeased by how this task ended. Despite the sacrifice of all our demigod worshipping friends we still were not able to complete the task, the inner circle had spoken. Somebody has to take responsibility and that somebody is you the one in charge of this task.”

Card Apprentice Daily Log #Chapter 270: Accountability II - Read Card Apprentice Daily Log Chapter 270: Accountability II

Chapter 270: Accountability II

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 11: 40

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

“It seems I have to create a review board to conduct a half-decade fit City Lords check. How the hell a bunch of demigod worshipers were able to run a monk in my city?” Anna yelled in anger. As the current southern emperor, the entire south region was her property. Meaning the Sky Blossom city was hers.

“...” The Sky Blossom City Lord stood in front of Anna with his head down like a frightened child. The City Lord is in a bind right now, caught between the Southern Emperor and the Circle.

The City Lord had to choose between the Southern Emperor and the Circle. Any sane person would choose to side with the Southern emperor, the ruler of the south but the City Lord did not seem to consider that option. He knows the culprit behind the demigod worshiper incident was the Circle but he did not rather could not report that to the Southern Emperor as betraying the Circle would cost him more than his life. As the Circle had gathered evidence of all the atrocities his predecessor and he had committed as the City Lords of their time. This is the reason the City hall never interfered with the business of the Circle.

“Damn it, Answer me. Are you dumb?” Anna was getting annoyed by the unresponsive City Lord, she felt like she was talking to a rock. So, she yelled in anger, as she caught him spacing out instead of answering her.

“No, Your Highness.” Finally getting a question which he could answer, the City lord hurriedly answered Anna.

“No, what?”

“No, I am not dumb your highness.” The City Lord hurriedly explained himself.

“You shit, who made you made you a city lord. The city was attacked by the demigod worshipers and as the acting City lord, all you have to say for yourself is you are not dumb.

A demigod worshiper of the card emperor realm was lurking in City skies. If I was not here today he may have destroyed the entire city to get what he wants.” Anna was frustrated and satisfied with the City Lord.

“How can that be possible? the city array did not report any anomaly.” The City lord exclaimed in surprise hearing Anna’s claims of lurking card emperor. The city array spoken by the city lord is one of the defensive arrays of the city which helps them detect if there are any high realm card apprentices hiding in the masses.

“Are you calling me a liar?” Saying that Anna summoned her grimoire and threw a Severed head and a Platinum grade grimoire on the City lord’s face.

The city lord did not dare to dodge the incoming severed head and grimoire, instead, he scrutinised the severed head and exclaimed, ” Oh my god, it’s the Cloud Emperor Claude. How dare those illiterate demigod worshipers send a card emperor to a third-tier city? They are ignoring the treaty art by our ancestors. Do they want a war?”

“Shut up you fool! My forefathers were the ones that step the treaty do not need to remind me that. As for whether they want war or not is not for someone as lowly as you to decide.” Anna snapped at the City lord. According to the treaty higher realm card apprentices are not allowed to step into the low tier human settlement. In a third tier, City like the Sky blossom city the highest realm allowed for Card apprentices was Card

Lord. If a card apprentice breaks through to a higher realm he/she would be asked to move to a high tier city of his/her choice with a considerable amount of compensation.

Seeing Anna get angrier the city lord hurriedly got on his knees and bowed his head banging it on the floor, "Thank you your highness for your saving grace. If not for you millions of lives would have been lost due to my lacking leadership and skills."

"You Kiss Ass, enough of your flowery words and report me why didn't the City array detect the presence of a Card emperor in the city skies? Hasn't the High command been sending you enough yearly grants for the maintenance of City defences and Arrays? Or are have you not been putting the grants for their intended purposes?" Anna's patience was running thin. The only reason she was entertaining this fool was because of the achievements of his ancestors who were part of the army that helped her ancestors free the southern region from dungeons and monsters and make it inhabitable for human settlements.

"No, Your Highness. The City defences and Arrays are the reason we are able to step up the city in this forsaken place. This slave does not dare to play with the lives of millions of people. As for why the City array did not work? I can not tell you anything concrete yet. Once the Card Creationist Association has looked into it I will report to you, your highness." The City Lord knew that Circle was also involved in this but he choose not to report it and help Circle cover up their mess. Right now is quite afraid of have deep did the circle infiltrated the city. He always believed City hall and Card creation association were still not tainted by the Circle but it seems he was wrong.

"What fuq can you do? You better report me something useful before I decide to make an example out of you?" Seeing the City lord be so tight-lipped Anna deduced that the city lord was covering for somebody. Which angered her even more, how can a master not be angry seeing her family dog be loyal to a stranger than her.

"Your Highness, one thing I know for sure is that the demigod worshipers are so desperate enough to send a card emperor is related to that boy, Pax Whiteburn. Not only did they try to kidnap that boy twice but today the Whitburn family alone was attacked by demigod worshipers." The City lord recalled his take with Ted earlier in the morning and hiding the part about Circle he revealed the rest using Pax and Whiteburn family as a scapegoat.

Pax and his Sisters who were enjoying the display of Anna's might along with me suddenly froze. By now if they did not figure Anna's identity they would be fools. Seeing their brother and family being thrown under the bus by the city lord the Whiteburn sister felt goosebumps raise on their entire body especially when Anna glanced towards them with her intimidating gaze.

Chapter 271: Old Fool

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 11: 52

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

“Old man, where are you heading? You need the southern emperor’s permission to enter. Which family do you belong to? I have never seen you in this city” Roy Blanc, the new Representative of Inner Circle, called out seeing a bearded old man who was just about to barge into the VIP box no.1.

“Sir, you cannot enter her without a prior appointment or invitation.” The Staff who was standing next to the VIP box no1 door did not notice the old man until Roy Blanc called him out, the staff was only of the Card soldier realm which was very low compared to the realm of the old man. So low that she could not even discern the presence of the old man even though he was passing right by her.

“Oh, okay. I am the newly assigned Card Creationist association leader. Could ask her highness Southern emperor that her subordinate is here to visit.” The old man politely requested the staff. As he summoned his custom disguised grimoire so that the staff could confirm his identity.

“So, you are the new Card Creationist association leader, no wonder I do not remember seeing you in the city. Hi, I am Roy Blanc the representative of the inner circle. Young lady, I will also trouble to inform ger majesty that her subordinate requests an audience with her” Roy introduced himself to the old man as I requested the staff to relay his request. The staff headed in to report to the VIP occupying the VIP box no1.

“...” The old man ignored Roy completely.

“Didn’t the old Card Creationist association leader tell you about the Sky Blossom city customs.” Roy Blanc was irritated and angered seeing that the old man ignored him twice. The first time it was forgivable since he did not know who he was but the second time, the old man was provoking him.

“...” The old man still treated Roy as air.

“Old man just you wait, you stubbornness and willfulness will cost.” Roy threatened the old man but in return, he did not even receive a response from the old man. If not for being at a sensitive location Roy would have already taught the old man a lesson on sky blossom city customs.

“You can see Her Highness, the southern emperor now.” The staff returned and opened the door for the old man and Roy Blanc.

...

Just as Anna was about to question Pax and his sisters, the VIP box staff reported, "Your Highness, the Card Creationist Association leader and the Inner Circle representative are asking an audience with you."

"Send them in." Anna wanted to reject them but remembering the Card Creationist Association was looking into the City array, Anna decided otherwise. But hearing that the Card Creationist Association leader and the Inner Circle representative had come together, Anna had no hopes that she would get any evidence against Circle this time around.

Anna was so careful around the Circle and wanted to do everything by the books because their founder had a demigod behind him who provided this organisation with a foreign ambassador status. Which prompted Anna to hand Circle or any other organisations with a justifiable cause because many Heatsend family ambassadors are also stationed in the territory of various demigods and prominent families, clans and sects. Even the Empire and other cult kingdoms are no exception.

"Your Highness, the Southern Emperor." The representative of the inner Circle bowed and greeted Anna.

As for the leader of the card creationist guild, he just looked at her as he brushed his long beard with his hands, " You Brat, I knew you were one of those ungrateful ones. To think that one day I would have to wait at somebody's door to meet them."

Hearing the old man address Anna as 'Brat' and call her ungrateful the whole room gasped, even I could not help but take a second look at the old man. The Card Creationist Associations arrogance was known to everyone but acting like that in front of the southern emperor was just Plain ignorance. I knew Anna's temper first hand and knew that these words were like trigger words for her to go berserk. After all, I had my feet, an arm and an ear cut when Anna felt the slightest hint of disrespect and provoked.

'This Old man is senile, what were the card association thinking sending such a stuck up arrogant bum. It seems I will not get a chance to teach this old fool a lesson.' Roy Blanc gloated at the old man imagining the misfortune soon to befall him.

"Old man, believe it or not, I will make you kneel and beg for forgiveness." Compared to the old man's words Anna's words came to me as a huge surprise. After a breath, I saw the old man and Anna engage in a staring contest and I was enlightened, these two knew each other.

"I believe you, the first time I saw I knew only you were capable of such a heartless thing." The old man sighed and shook his head and said, "As heartless as ever I see, your mother is so sweet and kind she still sends presents to this old man on my birthday. And here you are her only daughter who dares to call her master old man."

“Enough, Old man. What are you doing here? Shouldn’t you be in some foreign land exploring, When did you arrive? ” Anna asked seriously. by now everyone in the room was clear.

“Tsk, I arrived in about 45 minutes or so, the city array did not respond to my arrival so I directly took charge of the local card creationist association and went to check on the arrays, it seems they have been maintained poorly but there was no evidence of tampering though.

I am here because of the white powder your uncle sent me today morning, what did he call it? the silver milk powder. That powder is a miracle, I had to come meet its creator. So I used your family teleportation array and landed here. What about you, what are you doing here?” The Old man clicked his tongue at his disciple’s lack of respect towards him and narrated the purpose of his arrival.

“Same as you I also came to meet the creator of the white powder. Old man, are you sure the detection array was not tampered with?” Anna checked with the old man once again.

“Girl it is one thing to disrespect me but questioning my ability as a card creationist, I will not tolerate it!” The old man thundered.

“Old man, hold your horses. I am just double-checking as a hostile card emperor was lurking in the city.”

Chapter 272: Way Beyond

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 12: 03

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

“What do you mean by a hostile Card Emperor is lurking in the city? Are they after the founder of the White powder?” The old man did not believe any Card emperor would be foolish enough to break the treaty but remembering the white powder, the old man became alert thinking, ‘If the white powder is involved, there is a possibility some greedy faq’s would act up’

“No, it was a demigod worshipper. He was after somebody else.” Anna answered the old man pointing towards the severed head of the cloud card emperor on the floor next to the City lords feet. And then glaring at the City Lord, Anna asked the old man, “since there’s no sign of tampering in the city-wide detection array, then why was it not working?”

"The arrays are badly maintained, it seems they were only provided with the bare minimum soul energy to self stain themselves. Since the arrays have been self-sustaining for a long time due to lack of soul energy, they basically stopped functioning for what they are meant for and just exist for show. With few ingredients and a large amount of soul energy, I will be able to make them as good as new." The old man explained what's wrong with city arrays and why they are not functioning.

"I see, so the arrays were not tampered with and the fault actually lied somewhere else? City Lord, what do you think? Why were the arrays not well maintained and lacked enough energy to function properly?" Anna's glare at the city lord intensified.

"This slave is guilty, your highness. Realising that my actions may have cost the lives of the people I should protect and govern, I deem myself unfit to continue as the city lord and resign, effective immediately. And await your highness's judgement." The city lord did indeed steal the soul jades that were granted by the southern state allotted for the maintenance and operation of the defensive arrays.

The City Lord knew he could no longer deny or act ignorant towards the crimes, if he still dared to push his luck he might have to give up this life as a consequence. Therefore he decided to plead guilty and hope the southern emperor is merciful. Turns out even the circle is not dumb enough to let a card emperor infiltrate the city it was leeching off.

"Um, aren't you smart? If you had begged for forgiveness or denied the crimes I would have sentenced you to death and revoked your family privileges over this city. Which would make my work here easier. Now I have to think of a fitting punishment. what to do? What to do? Old geezer, any suggestions?" Anna could have just executed the city lord for his crimes but doing so will frighten the rest of the city lords spread across the southern region. Who knows what those desperate corrupts will end up doing? So this matter had to be handled firmly yet carefully.

"Umm... What's there to think? He dared to bite the hand that fed him, then let's send him to Way beyond. To contribute to the raging skirmish against those monsters. Let him make a list of people who helped him with his crimes and send them together with him to help him earn enough contribution to redeem himself." The Old man did not think much and responded with the first punishment that came to his mind.

Hearing the old man planning on sending him to Way Beyond to contribute to the war between humanity and monsters the City Lord's face paled, he seemed to have aged a few decades in a blink of an eye. Not just the city lord, even the representative of the inner circle Roy along with Elliot and the gang next to him gasped in astonishment. I and Susan were clueless as to what Way Beyond was? Hasn't the war between Humans and Monsters been won by humans already?

"Old geezer, you are as cruel as I remember. Okay, then it's decided, City lord you heard the old man, hand over your position to your brightest progeny and head to the

Way Beyond with the ones that helped you in your crimes. You shall not return to the mainland until you have gathered 10,000 merits of contributions in the war. Mind you, if you involve any innocent soul in your only chance to redeem yourself. I will not only kill you but your entire family to set an example. And make sure your successor is not greedy as you otherwise he will be the last city lord to govern one of my cities from your family." Corey gave her verdict and warned the ex-city lord from trying to find loopholes in her punishment for him.

"Yes, your highness. I will hand over my position to my eldest son soon and leave for the Way Beyond with my partners in crime. My eldest son is a much more honourable man than I am so rest assured your majesty he will not disappoint you." This is the reason why the city lord did not hesitate to resign as city lord because thanks to the privileges earned by his ancestors, his descendants would be first in line to become the city lord after him. As for the Way Beyond part, it was not quite the punishment he expected but still, he gets to keep his life for few more days. Which is way better than dying.

"You have to leave for the Way Beyond, within this week. My subordinates will watch over the entire process. So for your sake, do not do anything stupid. You can leave now, I do not want to see your repulsive face anymore." Anna gave the ex-city lord an ultimatum and sent him packing.

"Thank you for your mercy, your highness." The city lord thanked Anna and did not dare to hold a grudge against her for pushing him to his demise. The arrogant city lord who dared to assassinate his loyal subordinates like old Ben for petty reasons was so docile towards Anna because of the incredible gap between their status, strength, authority and wealth.

"Your highness, about the tournament? How should I proceed?" Before leaving the City lord picked up the severed head and the platinum grimoire on the floor and placed them next to Anna's feet and asked about the tournament. Only the city lord knows how much willpower it took for him to part with the platinum grimoire, something about which he dreamed day and night. With it, he could ascend to the Overlord realm or even become an emperor himself. But the city lord knew if he even dared to have thoughts of southern emperors' belongings, he and his family would be executed without trial.

Chapter 273: Demonic Practice

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 12: 09

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

"Announce that the tournament will resume at 15:00 hrs in the afternoon. That should give you enough time to clear the stadium and its nearing lunch hour. I bet audiences

would like to enjoy a proper lunch with their loved ones. " As Anna said the last sentence her eyes lingered on me. Anna's gaze did not bother me as I was preoccupied dealing with other not so polite gazes which would occasionally inspect me and my body.

These gazes belong to two men that sat beside Anna. I would have asked them what's their problem was but once I used my soul pupil on them I realised their soul energy signature was comparable to Anna's meaning they were also of card emperor realm in strength. Realising their status I decided to ignore their rude gazes which would land up on me periodically.

"Yes, your honour. I will make arrangements. As per your plans." The city lord soon excused himself.

Turning to Roy Blanc, Anna asked in a stern voice, " The leader of your organisation is getting arrogant to send a representative to greet me instead of him coming in person."

"No, your highness. You misunderstood our leader. He is not able to greet you personally as he is stuck trying to break through in his Active soul control." Roy explained the absence of their leader.

"Okay, then why are you here?" Anna first thought that the circle and the card creationist association were in cahoots and they came together to act a play to display their innocence and deny any involvement in the incident. Now that it was clear that the circle did not sabotage the city defence array, Anna wondered why Roy was here.

"Haha, maybe he is here to remind you about the Sky Blossom city customs." Before Roy could reply, the old man answered her.

Hearing the old man, Roy sweated bullets. 'Fuq! Me and my big mouth' Roy cursed himself and hurriedly summoned a storage trunk and opened it. And explained his arrival, " your highness, it is rare for you to visit our city so my master has asked me to extend you a warm welcome and present you with a welcome tribute. Hope it's to your liking, your highness."

"Royal Purple Quartz Silk, your master is a very generous man. To think that such a rare ingredient would be available in a third-tier city like yours." The old man glanced into the box and examined its contents. And turning to Anna he said, "Brat if you do not want it I will be taking it. I can use this silk to make a great evening gown for my granddaughter."

"Okay, but make one for me too." Anna was used to the shamelessness of the old man. Compared to his status a Royal Purple Quartz Silk was not a worthy gift for either of them. And glancing at Roy, Anna said in annoyance, " you can leave now."

"Yes-s!" Roy was confused as to what happened but still chose to obey Anna and left dingly.

"Was it a domestic card emperor? With your ability, he must have been an easy opponent." Said the old man picking up the severed head, "he is too weak, his carcass is not even worthy to be used as an ingredient."

"Old man, that's my loot, leave it. Your tricks will not work on me. State a fair price or leave before I kick your old ass out of here." Anna knew the old man better than anyone having fallen for way too many of his tricks. If the severed head was not useful he wouldn't even have mentioned it.

"Haha, consider it as the price for the evening gown I am making for you." The old man bargained with Anna.

"Old geezer don't make me get up from this couch" Anna warned the old man. The ingredient Royal Purple Quartz Silk used to make the gown was hers to begin with. How dare he try to fool her again.

"Fine, tell me what you are willing to exchange for the head?" Said the old man, clearly dissatisfied having to pay for the head.

"Forget it. The head is not for sale. I prepared it as a gift for someone." While saying these words Anna's gaze lingered on me again. Despite how uncomfortable I felt from Anna's vulgar compassionate gaze I took this as an opportunity to ask all the doubts I gathered listening in on Anna's conversation with the City Lord and the Old man.

"Anna, can a Card Creationist use a human corpse as a card ingredient?" This was a new revolution to me, it seemed very much like cannibalism.

"It is termed as a demonic practise but yes you can use the human corpse as a card ingredient. Didn't one of your opponents summon an army of human undead? And yet you ask this.

But I advise you not to do that if you plan on attending the top 10 universities. Many frown upon these kinds of practices. You may even be hunted down by some people. This practice is mostly used by cult organisations.

So, my advice to you is unless you have enough strength, do not even think about indulging in these kinds of practices." Anna answered my question in detail and advised me to stay far away and abandon practising such methods until I have enough strength.

Seeing Anna answer me so enthusiastically the old man looked at me curiously. While the two men beside Anna frowned, their frown grew deeper as Anna went into details.

"Who might this kid be? One of your new pry's? Boy run as far as possible do not let her get her hands on you, she will eat you dry. I lost a few good interns to her." The old man seemed to be aware of his disciple's habits.

"Old geezer do you want to die?" Anna yelled at the old man in anger.

"Haha! Whatever. point me to the great founder of that miraculous white powder and I will be out of your hair." The old man laughed and inquired Anna.

"Senior, that is not white powder. It's silver milk powder, and the person you're looking for, that would be me." I responded to the old man's inquiry.

"Wait, Aren't you too young to be creating white powder?

" Yes, Yes I am."

Chapter 274: Lorenzo Lorn

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 12: 16

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

"If you do not mind me asking what prompted you into discovering the silver milk powder?" The old man asked me with great enthusiasm.

"Senior this..." this was the problem talking with smart people, they ask too many questions. I turned to Anna for help. As I did know how to answer him. Since telling him that I remember it from my previous life was not an option.

"Old man, have you no shame. Trying to pry info from a kid using your seniority. First, sign an NDA and a new slave... employment contract. Then we will speak." Anna was more brutal than I imagined she went straight for the old man's jugular.

"Brat, I am just asking the kid about his inspiration behind such an ingenious idea of cultivating bacteria using poisonous water and drying them for human use. I am not prying into anything important." The old man got serious seeing Anna bud in the way him satisfying his curiosity. He no longer joked with Anna like before.

"Hehe, everything is important. If you want the answer to your question just sign the damn NDA and the slave... Employment contract." Anna did not budge to the old man's sudden coldness. As she knew the old man would give up anything in his pursuit of knowledge.

"You do know that I am your grand aunt's husband and work for your grandfather right?" The old man's status was comparable to Anna's grandfather himself, except for Anna nobody dared to provoke him in the southern region. And if it was anybody else the old man would not have been so tolerating and accommodating.

"Old man, are you trying to threaten me. Grandaunt would love to hear about this. Either sign the contract or get out of here. Without the contract, forget about getting any answers." Anna knew how to deal with her granduncle very well and did not fall for his threat and senior card. I was shocked to see Anna act so mercilessly towards her granduncle.

"What do you need me for, don't you have this kid, the founder of the white powder himself?" If it was anyone else the old man would have already signed the NDA and the contract but becoming the subordinate of his disciple/grandniece did not sit right with him. His pride as a competent teacher would not allow it.

"He may die soon in the upcoming tournament card fights. So, I can't store all my eggs in one basket now, can I?" Anna was blunt; she did not try to hide the fact that she knew that the tournament was arranged to kill me by the families and officials of the sky blossom city in order to please her. Anna could not intervene in this as it was a test from her mother to see if Wyatt is worthy of being treated as an ally of the Heatsend family rather than a mere tool.

This is the reason Anna did not intervene in the tournament and did not allow visitors from the Duskbrown family to contact Wyatt. They had to wait till Wyatt wins the tournament to talk to him. The Duskbrown duo had no choice but to follow Anna's arrangement as she was stronger.

"So, your mother is up to her tricks again huh! Your father messed up your mother real good. The girl I remember and your current mother are like totally two different people.

Since he is going to die soon I might as well use the remaining time to learn everything from him before it's too late. Hand me the NDA and slave contract, and also add 3 more zeros to my monthly pay." The old man had a great attitude towards learning. He did not let his age, seniority, power or anything else come in the path of his pursuit of knowledge. He reminded me of certain somebody.

"Here, happy cooperation." Said Anna as she shared two contracts to the old man's grimoire.

"Happy cooperation" repeated the old man as he signed the contracts and shared a copy of the contracts with Anna. After signing the contract the old man turned to me and said, " Boy, now tell me the inspiration behind your idea to create the white powder."

"Senior, First of its Silver milk powder, not white powder and the discovery of the silver milk powder was total coincidence or more like a mistake." Thanks to Anna buying me

enough time I came up with a good enough cover story to answer the old man. Then turning to Anna I asked her, " Anna who is this senior? "

"Nobody important. He is one of the trusted subordinates of the previous southern emperor, my grandfather. If my grandfather is the emperor of the southern region then this guy is like his trusted minister. Do not worry though I am the current southern emperor so in a way he is basically my subordinate whose loyalty lies with my grandfather, not me.

But thanks to you now he is my slave... employee hahaha! " Anna answered enthusiastically with her eyes glued on the employment contract signed by the old man

"What do you mean by a mistake, explain yourself! You are telling me the revolutionary white powder which could change the fate of humanity as we know is just a mistake. Explain yourself." Finally getting out of the shock from hearing my answer the old man yelled frantically. As his mind could not comprehend that something which the greatest minds of mankind have been searching for their whole life, was discovered by a kid due to a sheer mistake.

"Old man get it together or do you want me to help you!" Anna warned the old man to act civil.

"Yes, I apologise. Kid, could you explain what you mean by the discovery of the white powder was a mistake?" Getting himself together the old man apologised and repeated his doubts.

"Senior please get it through the thick head of yours, it's silver milk powder, not white powder. And my name is Wyatt, not a kid. Before I answer your doubts please introduce yourself." White powder meant cocaine back on earth. This is why it got on my nerves whenever the old man referred to the revolutionary silver milk powder as a white powder. And seriously who is this old fool, Anna did not bother to properly introduce him.

" I am Lorenzo Lorn, ex-minister of RND of the southern region. Sorry, I will be careful next time Wyatt." Lorenzo introduced himself and apologised for referring to silver milk powder as White powder. And eagerly waited for me to answer his doubts.

"Senior Lorn, I wanted to extract poison from the silver milk water of the D-rank silver gate dungeon as a card ingredient. If I was able to successfully develop a unique and useful product from the dungeon it would no longer be considered a waste dungeon. And earn me more profits.

During this process of poison extraction, I extracted that bacteria's feeding on silver milk water. I researched the bacteria thinking that it was behind the poisonous nature of the silver milk water but I was wrong and instead I discovered the revolutionary silver milk powder. This is what I mean by the discovery of the silver milk powder was a mistake. I

was searching for one thing and found something more valuable." I narrated the fake story I concocted to Lorenzo, in a way I was not completely lying as silver milk powder was something I discovered as a mistake back on earth creating the viltronian superhuman serum.

"Hahaha, I remembered an old saying when you do not search for it, it is right in front of your eyes. But once you search for it, you can no longer find it. So many people have spent centuries and millennia searching for something similar but failed but a young blood such as yourself succeeded without even intending to. Heavens are so unfair." Lorenzo's beliefs were totally shaken. Depressed, he went into a dark place.

"Old geezer are you done? I have sent all of his research papers and findings on silver milk powder, now get work. Read them and come with a plan on how to begin with the mass production of the silver milk powder." Anna did not give Lorenzo enough time to recover and handed him an enormous amount of workload. Then Anna turned to fame me and pointed towards the severed head and the platinum grimoire say she said, " Become mine and these will be yours."

Chapter 275: Severed Head

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 12:21

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

After the ambush incident with demigod worshipers concluded. Pax, Eliza, Susan and the rest of the gang followed Wyatt to the VIP Box no.1. Where another surprise ambushed them. 'Anna is the Southern Emperor. No freaking way!' This was the thought that run through their mind when they saw the City lord and his entourage respectfully bow and address Anna as 'The Southern Emperor'

If it were some other time Eliza, Susan, Jaya and the rest would try to leave a good impression on the Southern Emperor but since they have already met with the Southern Emperor as unbridled and rude Anna they did not know how to approach her majesty. Who knew that the southern emperor was just another horny and spoiled brat. Therefore they chose to just spectate and not participate in the conversation between Anna, the weird old man Lorenzo and Wyatt. But staying quiet for too long someone broke the silence.

"Guys should we take our leave, I think our presence here is not required." Whispered Beth, she was still frightened remembering the gaze of the southern emperor when the city lord threw them under the bus to protect his ass.

"Before that, we have to clear the misunderstanding the city lord has created. Do not be afraid we are the victims here. If we explain the truth to the majesty she will

understand." Eliza whispered to her frightened sister assuring her that everything is going to be alright. Eliza was waiting for the moment when Anna would ask them to explain the city lord's claims. As she knew if they left this matter as it is, all the blame will be pushed on the Whiteburn family. Public opinion can be regained but if her majesty forms an opinion about their family then it will be unfavourable for her siblings and the family.

"Yeah, good luck with that. From the way that girl behaved earlier I can tell you for sure that she is a cuckoo." Corey sneered at Eliza's statement. And she did not seem to care if Anna was a card emperor or the ruler of the southern region.

"Corey, shut up. That is the southern emperor you are talking about. Be more respectful." Susan whispered to Corey with a stern frown.

"She may be a little crude but she is right. The southern emperor said it herself that she killed her sister. Now you tell me if she will be reasonable." Jaya whispered, supporting Corey's statement. Jaya was worried right now, this time she had done it. Her sister sent her to mend her relationship with Wyatt. But Jaya was not only unable to fix her relationship with Wyatt but she offended the mother freaking southern emperor, the fuqing ruler of the Southern region.

"Are you guys dumb or what? Her majesty is a higher being in the card emperor realm. Don't you think she can hear you guys whispering about her?" Amy whispered reminding her siblings and friends that they were stupid to whisper about the card emperor right next to her.

Hearing Amy, Beth, Jaya and Susan's faces turned pale. Beth was anxious for Pax who was at the centre of the demigod worshipers incident. Jaya was worried that she might have ruined any chance of leaving a good impression on the southern emperor. As for Susan, she was worried for Corey who did not seem to understand the repercussions of not showing proper respect to the southern emperor which she deserved.

"Come on guys, you make it seem like Anna is some kind of ruthless tyrant. Well, she is but to her friends she is the opposite. You do not have to worry, I do not think Anna will make things hard for you knowing that you are Wyatt's friend. So be comfortable, you have nothing to worry about unless you did something wrong." Seeing the girls frightened of Anna, Elliott assured them that Anna was good to her friends.

Elliott's assurance only added to the worry of the girls, 'what does he mean by, you have nothing to worry about unless you did something wrong? Did we do something wrong? What is wrong? What are the do's and don'ts in front of the southern emperor? What if we do something wrong, will she Kill us? She killed her sister, she won't bat an eye killing us? Does she kill just for fun?' These were the thoughts running on each of their heads.

Corey grabbed worried Susan by her wrist and assured her, " Big Sis Su, do not worry? I will protect you if she acts up?"

'Someone please protect me from this loon.' Susan did not reprimand Corey this time around but let out a weak helpless laugh. This girl used to be so timid and cute, when did she turn into such an ignorant and self-righteous Brat.

Cough Seeing the girls more worried Elliott coughed in embarrassment.

"You are destined to die alone" Karen commented and added salt to Elliott's wounds.

"No, I am not. I have you." Seeing Elliott be cheeky with her Karen blushed and mumbled, "idiot"

"Elliott ain't she your secretary. 'JK LTD's heir in relationship with his secretary. Is it finding love at unexpected places or Is it just another filthy secret of big companies?' This would make a good sandal right!" Jaya taunted Elliott, seeing him be affectionate with his secretary without caring for his surroundings.

"Is it a threat, I remember Wyatt saying he would not do any kind of business with you Fine Gold sisters. So why are you here?" Elliott's face turned cold, though Elliott was enjoying his new life he still remembered his old grudges and people who did not hesitate to kick him when he was at his lowest. And Jaya was one of them. If not for her coming with Wyatt he would have already had her thrown out of the VIP box.

"Well, isn't it obvious Wyatt invited me? Relax, it was not a threat but a satire. I thought it would help lighten the mood. Elliott your anger is justifiable but please understand that the incident back then was just business, right now I am here as a friend. Just put yourself in my shoes and ask yourself what would you have done as a good businessman at that point." Jaya was not offended by Elliott lashing out at her as she understood where his anger stemmed from.

"Good businessman? A good businessman does not build his fortune on other businesses' carcasses. Since Wyatt invited you I will tolerate you for now." Socialising with people he hates was not new to Elliott.

"Thank you." Jaya was grateful that Elliott was not making things more difficult for her then it currently is.

...

"No, sorry I will never consider it. But could you explain to me what are the uses of the severed head, if senior Lorn wants it then it should not be something of little value?" I rejected Anna's proposal without a thought as if it was a reflex and asked her about the uses of the severed head. Can it be used for necromancy type cards? Will it allow one to summon the dead? According to their conversation, the severed head belongs to a

card emperor, will it be possible to use the severed head as an ingredient to summon an undead card emperor.

"Well for starters it is a card emperor's severed head so it is very precious. Until or unless a civil war is going on it is hard to get one of these.

Usually, a Card Emperor's severed head is very valuable but the card emperor whom this head belongs to is a domesticated card emperor so it is useless for someone of my strength.

As for its uses, hahaha how about you win the tournament and I will tell you. Knowing too much too early is not good for you." Anna explained how precious the severed head was but acted mysteriously when it came to informing its uses.

"Boy, if I were you I would accept her offer. Let me just tell you what you will be missing, with that severed head you can easily defeat a card overlord or even a card king if you are capable enough. I do not see why you would reject such a good deal? With this deal not only will you be getting power but beauty by your side." The old man seemed to be genuine but for some reason, I felt his words were meant to mock me.

Chapter 276: Ego Fire

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 12:21

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

"Shortcuts are good but they will cost you your future, Wyatt. Instead of listening to the shameless old man pushing you in the wrong direction, why don't you ask him what it will cost you in the long run by making use of the severed head." Just as I was guessing the intent and motives behind the old man's words Corey spoke up. She intervened to advise me not to make use of the severed head and called Lorenzo a shameless old man. Susan who was next to her was fidgeting hearing Corey's bold words. While I was surprised that Corey stood up to help me as I thought she hated me for hogging Susan, her fantasy mother.

"Little girl, I think you misunderstood my words. I am asking him to use the severe head to create cards, not use it on himself." Before I could speak up, Lorenzo spoke and did not seem to be offended by Corey addressing him as a shameless old man.

"Old man, you know with his current realm Wyatt can only use golden grimoire and A-rank cards at best. Even if you create a perfect card from the severed head it would be at least of myth grade and AA or S – rank, which are useless to him.

You sly old man, you just want him to take the severed head from Anna so that you get your hands on the severed head under the disguise of helping him create high-grade cards." Corey once again rudely referred to Lorenzo as an Old man and began to explain her claims.

"Corey, thank you but can you explain what is happening here?" I already knew that Old man Lorenzo was planning something. Corey's words confirmed my doubts. According to Corey, the old man pushed me to accept Anna's offer in the promise of gaining the ability to defeat card overlord and card king because he wanted to get his hands on the severed head in disguise of helping me.

"No need to thank me. After all, we are all friends here. And I could not stand the sight of the old man shamelessly trying to take advantage of you." Corey's words raised another alarm in my head and it became clear to me that Corey was not here to help me but herself with her following words, "How about this, you take the head from her and sell it to me? In exchange, I will help make four rare grade cards using the head"

"*cough* little girl, this old man is just doing this to make a living for himself. Cut me a little slack will you." Hearing Corey offers 4 rare grade cards in exchange for the severed head, Lorenzo spoke up.

"Hehe old man, that thing will be a waste on somebody of your level and age. Greed is not a good shade for your age. Why don't you let this junior handle this matter" if it was old Corey she would not know how priceless a card emperor's intact head was. But thanks to Corey Park's memories Corey would not let go of the chance to get her hands on a severed head of a card emperor.

"Haha, little girl do you have the qualification to make 4 rare grade cards using the severe head. Before making such bold claims you should show your capabilities. Do you even know what a card emperor's head is worth and how to refine it? Even though the head is just a carcass it still is a card emperor carcass you sure you can handle it." The old fox Lorenzo was not someone without some tricks up his sleeves.

"Eternal Flame of agony"

*swoosh**cry*A dark red flame formed on Corey's palm from which dark smoke formed in the shape of a human head with hollow eyes as it let out weird wails and cries.

"Old man, what about now? Do you think this qualifies me to back my claims?" Saying that Corey fed more soul energy to the eternal flames of agony intensifying the wails coming out of the hollow-eyed human face made of the smoke.

"Little girl, which 'Ego' did you comprehend? It's so evil." Lorenzo was shocked by the eerie flame on Corey's palm, not just him. Everyone in the room was shocked by the sight of Corey's flame.

"Does it matter? I have proved my qualification. Now will you scoot, I have a business to attend to." Corey did bother to answer Oldman's question about her flames.

"To think that I would find someone who comprehended an Ego fire in a place like this. Little girl you are a genius but I also have a cute genius granddaughter back home who could really use this. So, I will politely ask you to give up." Lorenzo did not hesitate to drag his granddaughter into this. Then he turned to me and said, "Wyatt, I will offer you 2 myth grade cards made using the severed head. You decide whether you will take 2 myth grade cards or 4 rare grade cards in exchange for the severed head."

'Fuq, these people are treating me as a countryside illiterate.' Right now my pride was hurt badly. These people seem to know something I did not know. And the severed head was at the centre of all of my confusion. If Corey and Lorenzo can give four rare grade or 2 myth grade cards made from the severed head then what do they stand to gain from the head? It must be something more valuable than two myth grade cards.

"Old man, what Wyatt needs right now are strong rare grade cards, myth grade cards are useless for the current him. Wyatt I do not have to tell you what you need, you can decide for yourself." Corey wanted to smack the old man on his face for trying to outdo her. If not for her limited realm and grimoire she would have offered 4 myth grade cards made from the severed head.

"I agree with you little girl, Wyatt knows what he needs most. After all, he can buy rare grade cards anywhere. But Myth grade cards are hard to come by. I guess it would be wise to choose 2 Myth grade cards over 4 rare grad cards. As he can exchange 1 myth grade card for a dozen rare grade cards." Lorenzo would never let a little girl outsmart him. When it came to conning she was 370 years too late to compete with him.

'Babe, I love the confused look on your face its so cute, like a lost puppy. It makes me want to cuddle you to death. How about this I will give you the head if let me cuddle you for a night? before you reject my offer again why don't you use your other set of eyes to examine the head once?' Suddenly I heard Anna's voice in my head sending me into a state of shock. I was not shocked because Anna could use telepathy but she seemed to know something about my eyes or maybe she is just talking about aura pupils, which I claimed as my origin card.

Heeding Anna's words I ignore Corey and Lorenzo's blabber and used my soul pupils to see what makes the severed head of a card emperor so valuable that a prestigious card emperor like Lorenzo would stoop so low to dupe a junior such as myself.

As I activated my soul pupils and scanned the severed head, I noticed a small gem in the centre of the severed head's eyebrows. Under the soul pathways of the skin, skull among the soul pathways of the brain I found a small gem of the size of a bean. I focused my soul pupils to check what it was and suddenly my consciousness was dragged into the bean-sized head.

Inside the bean-sized gem, there was an endless space as my conscious drifted into this space I saw 6 bright suns in it. each sun had its own different colour, red, blue, green, black, yellow, purple.

My consciousness was drifting towards these suns. Which gave me a huge scare, was I going to be crash on one of these suns. What will happen to my consciousness if I crash in any one of these suns? I did not know but slowly my consciousness neared these suns. And at some point, without me realising I was at the centre surrounded by all the 6 suns. Not knowing what was going on I tried using my soul pupils to examine these suns for answers only to be dumbfounded by the sight that greeted me.

Chapter 277: Unsightly

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 12:29

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

“My eyes! By god what did I just see? Delete! Delete! Delete! ” I yelled in disbelief as I saw 6 naked old men flexing their loose and saggy muscles at me. Thankfully each of them seem to be missing their male genitalia as they appeared to be remnant spirits.

These 6 old men were none other than the 6 different coloured suns that had surrounded me. They appeared as the sun to my naked eyes as nake eyes could not see past the bright rays of light emitted by the weird inscriptions on each of their foreheads. Each of the inscriptions read different and glowed in different colours, Red, Blue, Green, Black, Yellow and Purple.

“Old people, stop flexing your baggy skin.

It’s disgusting.” I addressed the old fellows unable to bear the disgusting sight of them flex their unsightly baggy skin.

“Old green, did that little guy just talk to us?” Asked the old man with the blue coloured inscription in astonishment hearing me address them.

“Yes, Mr Blue old man, I was talking to you guys. What is this place? Who are you guys and what are the glowing interceptions on your foreheads?” Since I did not know the current situation I was in I decided to be a bit lowkey.

“Fuq, that Brat is really talking to us!” Cried out the old man with green-coloured Inscription.

“Fool, that is old news. He says he can see the inscriptions on our foreheads.” exclaimed the old man with blue coloured inscription in shock.

“I call dibs. He is mine.” Claimed the old man with the yellow-coloured inscription on his forehead.

“I found him first so he is mine.” Yelled the old man with the blue coloured inscription.

“I am the oldest one so it is only fair I have the boy.” Said the old man with the green coloured inscription.

“Shut up you old fools, your seniority is nothing in front of my might. The boy is mine.” Exclaimed the old man with the purple coloured inscription on his forehead. He did not seem to care about the seniority or first come first serve, he felt only the mighty had the right to pick first.

“Silence, the boy is mine. I will kill you all if I have to.” Yelled the old man with the red coloured inscription intimidating the rest of the old man.

As the old men were busy fighting to make me their property I silently analysed them. Soon I noticed that the glow of each of the inscriptions was different in intensity. The Red coloured inscription was the brightest next came Purple, followed by Green, Blue, yellow and black. Surprisingly the old man with the black-coloured inscription seemed familiar. After scrutinising him keenly I realised that the face on the severed head and the old man with black colour inscription were the same. The severed head belonged to the old man with black coloured inscription.

With my observations, I made four assumptions,

1. The strength of the old men was proportional to the intensity of the glow of the inscription on their forehead.
2. The old man with the black-coloured inscription on his forehead was the card emperor who was slain by Anna.
3. All these old men have the strength of a card emperor at the least.
4. These old men were not hiding the fact that they had plans for me. Whether the said plans were good for me or bad was yet to be confirmed.

Speculating all these I started to look for a way out but felt different coloured light rays lock me to my current position unable to move a step backwards or forward. Experiencing all these events even a fool would know these old men had no good intention towards me. I was not stupid enough to believe that I was fortunate enough to find a mysterious space in the severed head and the old men were fighting to make me their disciple.

“Old Red, you may be strong but if all 5 of us gang up on you, even you will not be our match. What do you say, old fellows?” The old man with the green coloured inscription.

“Yes!” The rest of the four old fogies agreed in unison.

“But while you though? Little black, you will be the first to die if you join these guys.” The old man with the red coloured inscription agreed with the old man with green coloured inscription, 5 of them were too many for him to handle. So, he intimidated the old man with the black inscription to not have any thoughts of joining the other guys in rebellion against him.

“Leave me out of this, I am still recovering and getting used to this new state, unlike you old guys.” The old man with the black inscription chose to stay neutral as he was still in a recovery period having died a few hours ago. Unlike the other old men who have spent nearly 5 centuries adjusting to his Ego temple, he was still a greenhorn.

“So what? We were never counting on him to make any worthy contribution, better him not participate than become a liability.” The old man with Purple inscription on his forehead believed that his strength was enough to make up for two of them, himself and the old man with black coloured inscription.

“Come on then, what are you waiting for? An invitation.” The old man with the red coloured inscription seemed to be very confident of his strength and looked down on the other four card emperors.

“Old Red, you seem to be forgetting something. This is no longer a battle of might and prowess, instead, it is going to be a battle of iteration. Who is going to outlast the other? No matter how strong you are, are you confident that you can outlast us four? ” The old man with the green coloured inscription explained the situation to the old man with the red coloured inscription.

“Old green, I know you. Someone as cunning as you are not dumb to leak your info to your enemy unless you want to and planned something else. What are you up to, old green?” The old man with the red coloured inscription was confident in his strength to defeat the other four of his competitors but he was not confident that he had enough stamina to fight a battle of iteration with all four of them. Therefore he finally calmed down and was willing to listen to the old man with green coloured inscription.

“Simple, how about we take turns with the boy? As the strongest among us, you will be the first. Followed by Purple, me, Blue, yellow and finally Black. After all, we all have been together for centuries in this blank space. Why waste such comradery by fighting among ourselves over a little boy? ” The old man with green coloured inscription proposed that they all will share me based on each other’s strength.

‘What the fuq are these old fogies planning? The more I hear them the faster my heart races in fear of me losing my spiritual butthole to 6 ugly old men. The one thing assuring me that I may have misunderstood their interaction right now is that they do not have male genitalia.’ Despite my worries and fears, I could do nothing being locked at the

same spot as a statue under the influence of the ray of light emitted by the various coloured inscriptions.

“Old green, it seems you have misunderstood something? I want the boy completely for myself. There is no compromise there. And if you back off now for old time sake I will let you guys live in the old black’s severed head. Otherwise do not blame me!” It seems the old man with the red-coloured inscription never planned to share the bounty with his friends. And even dared to go as far as murdering all of his friends to get what he wants. And have a monopoly over me.

“Old red, don’t be cocky. No matter how strong you are, even you can’t fight and win all four of us at once. This doesn’t have to be like this, let’s peacefully resolve this.” The old man with the green-coloured inscription wanted to avoid going on war against the old man with the red inscription. As he knew even if all 4 of them were able to defeat the old man with the red coloured inscription, they would not come out unscathed. And once the old man with the red coloured inscription is taken care of he doesn’t believe his allies will continue to stay allied.

Chapter 278: Return

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 12:35

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

“Something is wrong with Wyatt, he has been staring at the severed head for five minutes and he is not responding.” Susan noticed that Wyatt has been staring at the severed head for quite a while now. Worried she called out to him. Receiving no response from him Susan asked for help.

“Wyatt! Wyatt! Wyatt!” Elliott and the rest tried calling him but they too did not get a response and finally realized the anomaly in Wyatt’s silence.

“What a baby! Is he so frightened by a severed head that he turned dumb?” mocked Jaya looking at the lifeless statue like Wyatt.

“You shut up. If you do not know how to be helpful, at least know the time and place to make your bad jokes.” Elliott rebuked Jaya for untimely humour. While Jaya felt that Elliott was waiting for a chance to rebuke her.

“Looks like he found the dead card emperor’s Ego Gem.” Corey imparted the obvious known to her from Wyatt’s current condition.

"I do not know whether to call the kid lucky or unlucky for having found the ego gem. Did you help him? Aren't you cruel?" Lorenzo blamed Anna for revealing the location of the ego gem to Wyatt even though he was not prepared enough.

"..." Anna remained silent towards Lorenzo's accusation. She just wanted Wyatt to realise how important the severed head was by using his Aura Sight. But she never expected for his consciousness to be full in the ego gem of the cloud emperor Claude.

...

Old Green did not want to go to war with old Red because he knew that his alliance with the other three prevailed due to the presence of a bigger threat, old Red. With the old Red out of the picture, there was no longer a need for the alliance to exist. If he was the strongest of the other three then he would not mind killing old Red but he was not the strongest after old Red, it was old Purple.

Right now if he got rid of old Red then old Purple would fill his shoes. So, allying with the other three to kill the old red would all be in vain. Seeing how old purple is arrogant of his might, old green was sure that killing old Red will only result in replacing a tyrant with another one. Therefore at any cost old green wanted to avoid going to war with old Red and convince him into a comparison.

"Old green, what are you waiting for? Let's smoke this red fool." Said old Purple eagerly seeing old Green engage in a staring contest with old Red.

"Old Red, it doesn't have to be like this." Old green ignored old purple and continued to persuade old red to share the boy.

"Enough, do not blame me." Having said that, the inscription on the forehead of the old man glowed brighter as if he was preparing to attack.

"Fuq this. old Blue, old Yellow Cover me. Raging thunder fist. This is the new move I came up with within a few decades. I will make you regret your decision." old Purple decided to act on his own accord and not wait for old Green's command.

"Now you're speaking, blood fiend." Old Red enthusiastically shouted and took on old purple's incoming fist head-on.

"Whirlpool" at old Blue's command a huge water blue whirlpool formed under old Red slowing his moment down and making him unable to dodge incoming attacks.

"Divine Might" a bright light was summoned by old Yellow and he showered it on old purple giving a huge boost to him in terms of speed, defence and speed.

"You fools, stop it." Old Green yelled in alarm but he was too late that impulsive old bastard purple had already begun and old Blue and old Yellow followed in suit.

Seeing none of them heeds his words and his allies being suppressed by old Red, old Green clenched his fist and shouted, "screw it, typhoon"

...

As the 5 spirits Red, Purple, Blue, Green and Yellow were busy confronting each other old black who said he would not participate suddenly turned into a blurry shadow and hurried towards me before even I could shout for help and alert the other spirits old black came next to me and said, "to think that me dying would result in a blessing to get my hands on genius who can see rules."

"Old black, what are you doing?" Yelled old Red in anger seeing old black standing next to me.

"Haha, you suckers. You guys are the dumbest people I have ever seen. You were so busy fighting for the loot that you guys lost sight of the loot. Haha, you guys were my bitch before and you will continue to be my bitch again." Old black laughed maniacally unlike his previous suppressed self.

"With this new body, I will be able to control you bitches even better. No, maybe I won't need you old fools. I can comprehend my own rules and do not have to depend on your broken rules left behind by your past self.

Those damned fools would always mock me that I was a domesticated card emperor, homegrown by feeding broken rules of the fallen card apprentice.

I will show those bastards who is the domesticated pig. With this new body, I may even reach the fabled demigod realm. Yes, I can reach card emperor realm in a decade and card demigod realm in a century. And even become the youngest demigod ever." Old black seemed to be lost in his fantasy forgetting what he was set out to do.

"Lightning charge" old purple did not hesitate to take action seeing old black lose his focus. Old Red followed his example and attacked distracted old black, "Blood lance"

"Sayonara suckers. Become mine, Engulf." Old black was not a fool to let go of the bone in his mouth. When he saw old red and purple attacking him. Old black took his queue to exit the stage.

"Noooo!" All the spirits yelled and raced towards me at their fastest speed they could fathom.

Engulf old black turned into a pitch-black cloud that wrapped me completely from head to toe into himself. Before everything went dark I saw desperate faces of the old spirits trying to reach me before it was too late.

Just when I thought that's the end of me, several notifications sounded in my head from the grimoire.

[Calamity Soul Core detected a threat to the host consciousness.]

[Calamity Soul Core activating]

[Calamity soul core active]

[Host soul returning to Calamity Soul core]

[Calamity Soul Core engaging the threat]

[Calamity Soul Core eliminated remnant spirit, Claude]

[Threat neutralised]

[Calamity Soul core swallowed a broken Rune 'Cloud']

[Broken Rune 'Cloud' now available in Calamity Soul core]

[Calamity Soul Core seeking hosts permission to sacrifice broken Rune 'Cloud', will you allow it?]

[Yes/No]

...

"Fuq! That was dangerous." I yelled as I opened my eyes hurriedly only to be greeted by the worried faces of Susan, Elliott and others.

"Wyatt, you are awake." Exclaimed everyone seeing me finally snap out of the dazed state.

"Incredible, not only were you able to enter a dead man's ego gem but also returned unharmed, despite not having an ego gem of your own. Interesting." Lorenzo commented, witnessing me make it back alive from the damned empty space.

"I thought you were gone for good and I would no longer have to share mama... big sis Susan with you. Damn it, why didn't you get possessed, you cockroach." Corey bawled, expressing her sadness at me coming alive from the empty space instead of being possessed.

"Anna, what was that godforsaken place? I almost got killed there." I ignored Corey and Lorenzo and directly questioned Anna as she had directed me to that empty space.

“Yeah, how did you make it back? On a more serious note, how were you able to enter the ego gem without opening your ego gem?” Instead of answering me, Anna interrogated me. Lorenzo and Corey looked at me very intently waiting to hear my answer.

Thankfully it cleared one of my suspicions about Anna and her loyalty towards me. It seems she did not send me to that space knowing the dangers in them, it was my soul pupils. It seems the bean-sized gem I found in the cloud emperor’s head is termed as ego gem. And one can enter it if only they have opened their ego gem.

“Forget it, it’s your secret. You can tell me when you start to trust me. What matters is that you are back alive.” Anna did not force me to answer the questions she asked me earlier.

“Thank you for being so understanding. Now, will you explain to me what an ego gem is? And who were the people inside it?” Thanking Anna for not prying into my secrets I asked her about the questions that continued to bother me even after my return from the empty space.

Chapter 279: Ego Gem

Changes, Ego Temple -> Ego Gem

...

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 12:43

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

Though Anna was willing to give up preying on my secrets that doesn’t mean others would do the same. No, not Corey and Lorenzo. Corey recently started acting too proud, so she does not care about my secret. Lorenzo was Anna’s slave... employee so he would do anything against her wishes. The ones that gained my suspicions were the two card emperors seated beside Anna. They have been staring at me intently, if for the presence of Anna and Lorenzo I bet they would have already acted on the ideas that they were cooking up in their minds. It seems I wasn’t the only one that felt their intent towards me,

“Lorenzo would be kind enough to entertain these two guests from central to lunch.” Anna order Lorenzo to take the two card emperors from central somewhere else before she and I would start talking about Ego Gem, my experience in the Ego Gem, Rules and Broken Runes. Out of all these, my experience in the Ego Gem was of confidential nature.

“Happy to oblige, your Majesty.” Lorenzo dowed and accepted Anna’s orders without a bit of delay or hint of dissatisfaction. Turning to the two card emperors Lorenzo barked, “you central region snoods follow me, I will show you guys what an authentic southern 36-course meal looks like. If you are well behaved I may even let you taste it.”

Lorenzo was not worried his unbridled worlds would heart the visitors, he was a prideful person after all. Having served an entire family of demigods and their descendants, the Heatsends. Lorenzo thought it was beneath him to serve some no-name card emperors from the central region who were known to look down on anybody who wasn’t from or belonged to the central region.

Brandon wanted to teach this old card emperor some manners but was held back by his uncle, in anger he mentally asked his uncle, ” Uncle, why did you hold me back? Let me kill this old fool. How dare he disrespect us and treat us like some kind of inferior being.”

“Control yourself, my dear stupid nephew. Who do you think that old man is? He is the Raining Alchemist. He single-handedly cleared not one, not two but four SS-Rank Field dungeons. Do you know what that means? Field dungeons are more difficult compared to the gate dungeons. They have an army of monsters in them. Do you even know how many SS-Rank monsters are in a single SS-Rank field dungeon? Do you know the kind of power it takes to defeat an army of high-level monsters with about 100 or so SS-Rank monsters and one SS-rank boss monster?

There is a rumour going on about him in the central region that even some in the Demigod realm fear him. We together can barely handle Anna let alone taking on Raining Alchemist and Anna simultaneously. Stay put and do as they say, do not forget our mission. If your ego gets in the way of our mission I will cripple you myself.” Brandon’s uncle mentally warned him and reminded him that the family mission was the priority, not his petty grievances.

Hearing his uncle’s warning Brandon was dumbfounded and stared at the carefree old man Lorenzo in front of him at high alert. as he quietly followed Lorenzo he thought, ‘Fuq, what kind of monster is he to threaten someone in the demigod realm. First that bitch and now this old fool.’

“How about we head out for lunch too? Just the two of us, I will explain everything to you in explicit details.” Anna ended her sentence with a small moan, was it intentional. Knowing her it must have been. As people do not simply moan in a room full of people.

“Big sis, come on let’s go. Let’s give them some privacy.” Corey gave Anna a thumbs up and dragged Susan out of the VIP room. The rest did not need an invitation, they followed Susan and Corey out. I ordered Sarah and other daughter cores to follow Susan.

“Your Majesty, about the whit...” the Whiteburn siblings stayed behind to consult Anna on the matter earlier but before Eliza could complete her sentence Anna interrupted her

and said, " You guys have nothing to worry about. I will meet your family leader to put an end to this matter. Go enjoy your lunch."

"Thank you, your Eminence." Eliza, Pax, Ammy and Beth hurriedly thanked Anna and vacated the VIP box no1. Leaving me and Anna alone in it.

"So, what would you like to have for lunch?" Anna asked me while ringing the staff beeper, calling for the staff to take our orders.

"Double cheese pizza with mushroom topping." Narrating my order to the staff who just walked in I looked at Anna and said, "Well I am waiting"

"Mushroom and Pepperoni for me" Anna reported her order and added, "what the rush?"

"Mmm... At least keep the severed head out of my sight." I said looking at the severed head and platinum grimoire of card emperor Claude.

"Fine." Stuffing the head in her space storage Anna said, " wait a second let me make sure that nobody is eavesdropping."

Saying that Anna summoned her diamond grimoire and activated a card. And soon a blue hollow circled the room and formed a type of energy coating on the floor, ceiling and the 4 walls, "You can start now, begin from how you entered the ego gem? what you experienced within the ego gem? And why were you able to escape the ego gem."

"I thought you were not going to ask me how and why?" Anna had promised me that she would not pry into my secrets a few minutes ago, yet here she was preying into my secrets.

"I thought you started trusting me so I asked. Do you trust me now?" Was she doing it on purpose? I do not know, because her expression seemed genuine enough.

"No! I don't." I stated.

"Wow, that hurts more than I thought it would. Why don't you trust me? Is it because of my sleeping around? I just like to have a good time. But for you, I give up on that, Babe." Anna elucidated, looking as if I had wronged her.

"What is happening here? Nope! I am not participating in this. Anna, I will walk right out of here if you do not stop these shenanigans and start explaining what I want to know." Note to mental self, 'never be alone in a room with a crazy woman named Anna. No matter how desperate you are.'

"You are no fun, well I will forgive you as you just experienced a near-death experience. But if you dare to reject me again I will show you what it feels like to be rejected, again

and again, got it" Anna warned me, for a second I thought I saw her eyes turn pitch black. Note to mental self, 'scratch that, this bitch is possessed. If you get out of here alive. May god bless you that you do not run into her again.'

"Understood. Now can you tell me about the ego gems? How can I get one?" What was I thinking? Why did I willingly choose to stay alone with her? Or are all girls like this, moody?

"For humans, Ego Gems are what Monster cores are for the monsters. Unlike monsters who are born with a monster core, humans have to form their ego gem by solidifying their spirit.

The spirit of your soul is in an ethereal state, you have to purify and refine it before you solidify your spirit into an ego gem." Anna explained but I did not understand her. Seeing my confused look it became clear to her that I did not understand a single thing she was talking about.

"Here watch this, it will help you understand." Saying that Anna closed her eyes and an Astral phantom appeared behind her. It looked exactly like Anna, no more majestic and stuck up than Anna. Yeah, she was also bountiful and charming than Anna herself but the expression made by the phantom clearly expressed an unbridled disgust for all living beings.

"That is my solidified spirit. Don't mind her expression, she is like that to me too. You have to solidify the spirit/ego of your soul to that level then you can form an ego gem." Anna seemed to also be worried about her spirit's unbridled disgust.

"I thought we already have an ego gem and we had to open or awaken it." My wrong assumptions were the reason for me not understanding Susan

"That's for animals, once they awaken their monster core, they are termed as monsters."

Card Apprentice Daily Log #Chapter 280: Ego Gem Grade - Read Card Apprentice Daily Log Chapter 280: Ego Gem Grade

Chapter 280: Ego Gem Grade

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 12:53

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

“I am confused, how are Monster Core and Ego Gem the same?” If Ego Gem is similar to Monster Core then what about Viltronian Core and its variant form Calamity Soul Core that I created using Calamity Dungeon Core.

“Before that, you have to understand what is the Spirit/Ego of a soul? And why do we need to solidify them? Knowing its formation and purpose you see the similarities between Ego Gem and a Monster Core, which will help you understand why they are the same.” Instead of telling the answer directly, Anna was trying to make me realize the answer.

“You are pro here, as you say I am all ears.” I had no complaints about Anna’s approach because what she was going to narrate was privileged information that I could only learn by joining the top 10 universities. What Anna was doing now by teaching how to solidify my Ego Gem was equal to making top 10 colleges her enemy by breaking the laws set by them.

In this world, it may seem like knowledge is free but in reality, free knowledge is only free because that is what the people ruling this world want us to know and use that knowledge to help them control our destiny. And the actual good stuff that could help us shape our destiny is being kept far from us. As the saying goes the masters only worry is their slaves becoming masters.

“Have you ever wondered who owned the first grimoire and created the first card? How were they able to create the cards? How does a monster core enable Monsters to use supernatural skills like conjuring fire or teleportation? Where does all this come from?” I thought Anna was going to tell me more about spirit and souls but she started sounding like a riddler asking me confusing questions like, which one came first, the chicken or the egg?

“Are you high right now? Why do you keep going off the topic? If I knew the answers to these questions I would not be needing your assistance now would I?” It’s not like I haven’t thought about who owned the first grimoire or created the first card? Similar to how Alexander Graham Bell created the first telephone there has to be someone who created the first Card and grimoire. But when I searched for information on it I found nothing. So, I left it at that.

“Have patients will you, I am getting there. If you’re going to be such an unruly student then do not blame me if I end up spanking you” Anna was having fun, yesterday she spent so much time with Karen to pick up the perfect outfit for her first date with Wyatt. But this dense bastard did not compliment her even after her intention behind her sudden visit to Sky blossom city was revealed by Karen and Elliott.

“...” I choose to stay mum and not respond to Anna and her taunts because whatever I said Anna somehow managed to make it weird and awkward.

“... So where was I? Yes, how are monsters able to conjure elements and supernatural power? And where does that power come from? You have to ask yourself these questions in order to properly understand why we solidify our soul Spirit/Ego? These questions help you open up your mind to new possibilities which in turn helps you understand what’s right in front of you.

You already know monsters are able to use skills through their monster core, what you have to ask yourself is where do these skills in the core come from? Only illiterates think that they get it from birth or it’s already present there.

The monster’s core gets the skills within them from the world. But how are the monster cores able to get these skills from the world?” Asking that Anna looked at me expecting an answer.

“... If I had to guess then the Spirit/Ego within the monster core. Wait, by chance are Beast will and Spirit/Ego of the monster core the same?” Anna’s approach started to show results and I finally began to connect some dots.

“Ding!Ding!Ding! Correct answer. As a reward, let this teacher award you with a kiss.” Before I could react or respond to it Anna got up from the couch kissing my forehead she returned to the couch.

“You! Lady hoodlum...” I wanted to curse at Anna for her bold actions more but what she said next left me speechless.

“So sweet, I can get addicted to it,” Anna said as her tongue licked her lips as if trying to get an aftertaste of my forehead.

“...” Seeing the vulgar expression on her face I could not fathom a single word from my mouth as it was being swallowed with my saliva witnessing the breathtaking seduction of Anna, I felt dirty yet was drawn towards her.

“Do you want me to continue...” Anna whispered yet I heard her loud and understood her words clearly.

“Y... no. Anna, please behave. Otherwise, I will leave.” I tried to show Anna where I stood.

“You can leave, it’s not as if I am holding you hostage?” She knew I would not leave halfway and I never planned on leaving without getting the answers. Curiosity is bad, yet I am a slave to it.

“Please continue Anna...”

“Not Anna, when class is in session call me Miss Anna”

“Please continue M-Miss Anna...” I felt so dirty saying this but I had to, to appease Anna.

“Good boy... And yes, the beast will is the Spirit/Ego of the monster’s core. They are the same. But have two different names because the leaders do not want the masses to get even a hint of how to form an Ego Gem.

No, the question remains how does the Spirit/Ego of the monster’s core get the skills from the world? They do that by communicating with the world, which we humans termed as becoming one with the world.

One with the world is a state in which a card apprentice can communicate with the world and learn the rules of the world. Mastering the Rules of the world to a certain level you can form Runes which later are used to create cards. For a card apprentice to immerse in this state he or she needs a solidified Spirit/Ego aka an Ego Gem.

Compared to us humans Animals have always been close to nature, so they are easily able to solidify their spirit/ego and form a monster core. With the formation of their monster core, the monsters start to gain strength and intelligence. Unlike us humans, the solidification of Spirit/Ego of their soul comes easily to monsters, therefore, I said monsters awaken their monster core while humans have to form their Ego Gem.” explained Anna.

“I guess forming an Ego Gem is very hard then.” Remembering how the 6 old spirits acted knowing I could see them and their Runes. I guess forming an Ego Gem is a huge deal.

“Not many humans can form Ego Gems, therefore the predecessor found an easier way for the average human to create cards by using monster cores, carcasses etc as ingredients in card creation.

Not all hope is lost for these people as they have a chance of creating an Ego Gem at peak Card Lord realm before breaking through to Card Overlord realm.

Even if you form an Ego Gem it does not guarantee that one can communicate with the world by immersing in one with the world state. Here also talent comes into the picture. The one with the world stated is divided into four talent grades depending upon the card apprentice synchronisation rate with the world. Higher the synchronisation rate higher the talent,

Below 10% – Poor Grade Ego Gem

11%-25% – Average Grade Ego Gem

26%-50% – Good Grade Ego Gem

Above 50% – Excellent Grade Ego Gem

For a Card apprentice having poor grade Ego Gem, it is a hopeless situation. As they can feel the rules of the world but can hardly comprehend a thing. Take the card emperor I killed, he has poor grade Ego Gem, and it almost took him a millennium to comprehend a single rule and to form it into a rune. Therefore he had to resort to stuffing his Ego Gem with broken Runes extracted from fallen card emperor's. Which I highly do not recommend even for my enemies.

The highest Synchronisation rate achieved by humans up to date is 63%. The one to achieve such a high rate is none other than the youngest demigod of history, Demigod Baylor." Anna explained to me how hard it is to form Ego Gems and that they are divided into various grades based on the synchronisation rate of a card apprentice with the world.

"What is your Ego Gem grade and Synchronisation rate?" I asked Anna curious about her Ego Gem. She should have a high-grade gem after all she seems strong.

Chapter 281: Side Effects

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 13:02

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

"My Ego Gem is of Excellent Grade with 51% synchronisation rate. I barely made the cut. I formed mine when I was in the card master realm." Anna shared her Ego Gem info as if it were common knowledge. Does she trust me that much?

"So I am in the presence of genius then." I made small talk complimenting Anna's natural talent.

"If we are talking about genius then it should be you. To be able to enter others Ego Gem even without condensing your Ego Gem. And also see rules, runes and escape spirits unscathed. How were you able to do that? I wonder what your synchronisation rate will be?" Anna asked the questions I wasn't ready to answer yet.

"Anna, I understand that a card apprentice after comprehending rules to a level can form runes and once that person dies the runes he formed in his lifetime become broken runes. Here's what I do not understand, why don't you recommend using broken runes?" The calamity soul core had collected a broken rune and I wanted to decide what to do with it based on Anna's answer.

"I take it that you have encountered the spirits and broken runes in Claude's Ego Gem. Why do you think there are 5 other spirits in his Ego Gem?" Asked Anna

"Is it because Claude used their broken Runes?" I knew why the spirits were present there but I did not know how it is possible, weren't they supposed to be dead?

"Yes, you must be wondering how can the spirits of the dead be alive in someone else's Ego Gem, right?

Simple, those spirits you saw are not real spirits. They are just remnants that the broken runes have conjured up using the understanding of the masters that formed them. The runes are not living but they are powerful enough to achieve something like this.

If these runes were in their original dead Ego Gem losing nourishment they would have slowly broken down into rules from which they were formed and then these rules would return to the world. But being transferred to alive Ego Gem they get enough nourishment to continue to flourish. Over an accumulated period these runes gather enough energy to form the spirits of their dead Masters. Just like the ones you saw. There is no way to stop or delay this from happening. The worst of all is that the card apprentice will henceforth have to share his Ego Gem with other spirits.

The only way to get rid of or use the broken runes is to have stronger runes that can be used to suppress and control the broken runes. And also destroy them if needed." Anna explained to me why she did not recommend using broken runes. Having multiple free mouchers in your own house who would opt for that.

"Other than having to share the Ego Gem how do the broken runes affect the card apprentice?" The side effect of using broken gems sounded more like multiple personality disorder back on earth.

"Umm, the synchronisation rate of your Ego Gem will decrease drastically. And using the existing rules and runes will become harder as your Ego Gem's control is split between different spirits. If the spirit is strong enough it can also take control of the Ego Gem and replace the original host.

That would be disastrous not just for the said card apprentice but everyone around him. As these spirits are not the real spirits they are just the imitation conjured up by the runes. Once they get a body to possess they will do what the master of the rune desired when he formed it. We call them fascinated card apprentices.

So using a broken rune can lead to many disastrous outcomes. But still, people choose to use them in search of power." Anna narrated why she was against using broken runes, turns out one can lose his body to the broken rune he used. Proving there is no free lunch in this world.

"How powerful does the broken rune have to be to possess the host? " I asked, thinking of a possibility.

"As long as the broken runes are stronger than the host then that is enough for them to break free of the host's control and possess his/her body" Anna Answered my questions patiently.

"What if the rune is from a demigod? What then?" Demigods are the apex beings of the current world, there were too many mysteries surrounding them. I had to inquire about them then who better than Anna who has three demigods just in her family.

"I like where your brain is headed and yes what you are thinking is possible. But certain conditions have to be met first. After all, resurrection is equal to cheating death." Anna easily guessed where my mind was headed with a couple of questions I asked her.

"So it is possible to resurrect a demigod by placing one of his broken runes in a life Ego Gem" I asked Anna with great enthusiasm, feeling I have stumbled on something huge.

"As I said, some conditions have to be met for that to happen as nobody can withstand the transfer of a demigod's broken rune into his/her Ego Gem.

The demigod's runes develop intelligence of their own and they are hard to please. Because of this intelligence of the rune, it is possible to resurrect a fallen demigod.

Due to their intelligence, the runes have strong loyalty and attachment to their masters. They would rather die and return to the world than go into someone else's Ego Gem. Even the demigods have a hard time trying to use a broken rune of a fallen demigod.

But there's a way to cheat these intelligent runes that is by making use of the bloodline of the demigods' direct descendants. For this purpose, most demigods breed as many progenies as possible. But having demigod blood isn't enough, they should also have enough bloodline purity.

Therefore the demigods favour their descendants with high bloodline purity and spare no effort to help them grow and become stronger enough to be used when needed." Anna mentioned the conditions required for the transfer of the demigod's runes. Runes having intelligence did not surprise me as in this world every day I discover more blizzard things.

"No wonder, the demigod worshipers are so desperately after Pax. I bet they have a rune of demigod Michael Angelo Godson. And they want Pax so that they can resurrect their lord. That is why they treated Pax with at most respect and care." I finally figured out why the demigod worshipers were so desperately after Pax. They wanted to use him to resurrect the demigod they worship. Not to mention Sarah, the last descendant of the demigod Redfall. According to Van Sarah has a very high bloodline purity and the demigod Redfall kept her hidden from the world because he must have planned on using her to resurrect himself in case of his untimely demise.

“You know, the resurrection of the demigod would not be the best of plans cause some of the demigods like the great marksman Michael Angelo Godson have tirelessly fought for humanity and finally found peace in an honourable and worthy death. I do not think it’s a good idea to disturb their peace.” Anna’s words may be true for a martyr-like demigod Michael who would not like to be disturbed. but the same could not be said for demigod Redfall. If I remember correctly Van did say he felt like he easily escaped the massacre of his family as if somebody was watching over him.

“Anna, if using broken Runes is of no merits then why did old man Lorenzo and Corey fight so hard for the severed head. Lorenzo went as far as promising me 2 Myth grade cards.” From Anna’s explanation all I can get is that broken runes are nothing but trouble if so why were Lorenzo and Corey fighting for it so badly.

“They do not want to use the broken runes but want to study them. So that they can comprehend the rules used to create those rules. That is useless for Lorenzo but it’s a huge deal for someone of his granddaughter and Corey’s level.” Anna revealed why Corey and Lorenzo so desperately fought over the head.

“What? You can comprehend rules in such a way too? Won’t that have any adverse effect” Another bizarre discovery.

“You can. It is like you are reading from a copy of the original book. The copy is bound to have mistakes. After all, shortcuts are bound to have side effects.

Therefore I recommend you only use the broken runes just to get introduced to that particular rule rather than using the broken rune to comprehend your own rune. As a copy of a copy will have more mistakes.

Using Broken Runes this way allows you to find the rules much easier than immersing yourself in one with the world state.”

Chapter 282: Pain or Pleasure

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 13:11

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

“What do you mean by using the broken runes to find the rules in the world?” Some of the words used by Anna just went over my head.

“You will understand once you form your Ego Gem? Now all you need to know is that depending on broken runes is bad and can lead to disastrous consequences.” It seems I need to practically experience the Ego Gem formation and rule comprehension to understand the theoretical knowledge that Anna just unloaded on me.

“Can you teach me how to form Ego Gem? So I can experience what we just talked about?” Right now I had so many other questions about Ego Gem, Monster Core and the Viltronian Core. Whether all three are the same or not? I could not get an answer for this from Anna as she doesn’t know about Viltronian Cores and I did not plan on revealing it to her. I can only rely on myself to uncover the secrets behind these three cores. To achieve that first I would have to learn how to form an Ego Gem. Only by doing that will I know what is the difference between Ego Gem and Viltronian Cores that I have been creating. And how do they relate to Monster core?

“My dear student up till now Miss Anna’s classes were free but now they are going to cost you. I can teach you how to form an Ego Gem from scratch but how are planning to pay for the Classes. Kind reminder Miss Anna is open to all forms of payment if know what I mean?” Informed Anna as she leaned forward emphasising her full chest.

“What? You said Ego Gem is formed by solidifying the spirit/ego of our soul right, how hard can it be?” I decided to try forming an Ego Gem without Anna’s guidance but soon I realised, “where do you find the spirit/ego of your soul? And how do you solidify it?”

“I thought you were going to do it by yourself, go ahead I wouldn’t disturb you.” Anna ignored my plea, “If forming an Ego Gem was so easy why would people try so hard to enter the top 10 universities. They could just from their Ego Gem at their homes with the help of a forum or watching a video online, you dumbass.”

“Okay, I am sorry. Miss Anna, please teach me.” Realising the foolishness in my action I apologised to Anna for my cockiness earlier.

“You are forgetting something, Mister. Pay up upfront no loans allowed.” Satisfied with my apology Anna asked me to pay the cost of her guidance upfront.

“Anna, be reasonable. What can a humble orphan like me have that could make up for the guidance of the great southern emperor? Please be generous this once and help this poor orphan boy, will you.” Call me shameless, if it helps me get what I want I do not mind using the orphan card.

“Hehe, you have a sweet mouth on you but it’s not going to work today neither is the orphan card. If you want to learn how to form an Ego Gem then I except an appropriate compensation or else finish your pizza and get out of here.” Anna did not fall for the flattery or the orphan card, she stood her ground ruthlessly.

“Okay, fine. What does the great southern emperor want from this poor helpless orphan boy?” I choose to stick with my act still the end.

“Do not play the victim here. This is a fair exchange. Do you know how many people will play a limb, kidney for my guidance? Count yourself lucky that this Emperor finds you cute.” Anna laughed with a villainous laugh.

"Yes, emperor. You concubine knows I am wrong." I said that in the heat of the moment but soon regretted it.

"Come here, let this emperor taste those plump red lips of yours." Anna vanished from her couch and pounced on her defenceless prey.

"What the... *moan*" before I could react Anna was on top of me pressing me against the couch. As I tried to respond to her lustful actions she fiercely bit on my lower lip and sucked on it. I could not help but let out a moan in pleasure... pain. I tried pushing her off me but my strength was nowhere enough to counter a preying emperor.

"Soft and subtle with a hint of sweetness, just the way I like it." Satisfied Anna got off me and returns to her couch.

"You.. *ah*." My lower lip was swollen it hurt as I tried to curse at Anna for her actions. Before I could complain about the swelling my Viltronian physique healed it.

"You lady hoodlum, I will file a sexual harassment case against you." Have regained my ability to speak normally I threatened Anna with a verbal sexual harassment lawsuit.

"Sexual harassment lawsuit, sure file it but where? Go ahead do as you please. But don't act innocent, I heard your pleasure-filled moan. It felt great, didn't it? There is more where it came from all you have to do is just ask for it." Anna did not take my threat of suing her seriously. She was the freaking southern emperor who dared to question her.

"It wasn't, that moan was out of pain you savage. Now that you got what you want, teach me how to form an Ego Gem." There is no point in fighting over the spoiled milk, I will get her back for that later but right now I had to learn how to form an Ego Gem. Let's not forget what's important here. As long as I gain info on how to form the Ego Gem it is my win. Except for Anna, there are only two places left that I know of where I can learn about Ego Gem formation, the first is top 10 universities and then Corey. Getting into the top 10 universities was a long process and as for Corey, she would definitely ask Susan in exchange.

I just realised that I cannot take the upcoming duel with Corey lightly. The way she knew about the uses of the card emperor's head it is clear that she had an Ego Gem and has a proper command over the power of rules. Not to mention the Ego fire that she displayed earlier, was it a rune.

How strong has she gotten in just 2 days? Fuqing cheat! Her origin card is a cheat. Now that I think about it, what was the identity of Corey in her past life? Where is her past self from, this world or any other world? Seeing how she knows about Ego Gem, Broken runes and the way she remained unfazed after knowing Anna and Lorenzo's identity. she should have had a high level of status in her past life.

Chapter 283: Three Stages

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 13:18

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

Realising that I have been underestimating Corey and should not treat the current Corey as same as the timid Corey I knew back then. I knew that the upcoming match with Corey was going to be a lot harder than I imagined. Enough about Corey I should focus on the matter at hand to get the method to form Ego Gem from Anna.

“Anna now that you got what you want. It’s only fair that you teach me how to form the Ego Gem, don’t you think?” I repeated myself to Anna as she did not respond to my plea earlier.

“It was painful, was it? So you moaned out in pain” Anna fixated on my words from earlier.

“Yes, but forget about it, my lip has healed. Now let’s talk about the formation of an Ego Gem...” I did not know why Anna was fixated on that part of our conversation earlier but I tried to bring her to matters at hand but it did not work in my favour.

“Do you know how valuable the knowledge of the formation of an Ego Gem is? What makes you think that a small kiss is enough compensation for it.” Anna’s tone sounded a lot distant and cold unlike previous affectionate and clingy tone.

“Small kiss? You bit on my lower lip and sucked on it for about 30 seconds, you dare to call that small kiss. Which part about it is a kiss you savage? If not for my Card’s passive skill, my lips would still be swollen, showcasing the bite marks the proof of your savage deeds.” I exaggerated a little to guilt Anna into teaching me how to form an Ego Gem, I know it is low but this was the fastest way to get the method.

“What a drama queen, don’t overreact it was just a small kiss” Anna did not even react to me guilting her and dismissed my claims nonchalantly.

“You... okay, fine you win. FYI anything Physical and of sexual nature is off the table. Now tell me what you want in exchange for your guidance in the creation of Ego Gem?” I was done pussyfooting around, as my duel with Corey was at 15: 00hrs which is about 2 hours from now. I have to start preparing now if I want to defeat Corey. The consequence of losing to Corey is dire, Susan and I underestimated her and made a bet with her, which I regret right now. Otherwise, I would not have to tolerate Anna and so desperately seek her guidance.

"You killjoy, but still it's better than you trying to guilt me into helping you. What do you have that is worth my interest other than your body? Let's see... How does 10% of the silver milk powder royalty in your name sound?" Anna had seen through me shamelessly trying to guilt her into helping me for free.

"Okay, I will go ask Corey or just wait till I get into one of the top 10 colleges" having said that I immersed myself in enjoying the pizza.

"What? You don't think it's the appropriate price? Other than your body and the silver milk powder what else is there on you that is as valuable as the method to form an Ego Gem? Even if you enter one of the top 10 colleges you would not be given the method to form Ego Gem until you make it to 2nd year and believe me it is not an easy task. Do you know how many rules I will be breaking just by guiding you on how to form your Ego Gem?" With one sentence I turned the tables with Anna. Me desperately trying to negotiate with Anna allowed her to try and swallow a huge chunk off of me.

"The Pizza is good right, the cheese just melts in your mouth." I ignored Anna and decided to show how uninterested I was.

"I know what you are trying to do but since I want to teach you how to form an Ego Gem from the start I am willing to compromise. As long as you tell the truth that you liked it" Anna was still fixated on the part where I denied that I did not like what she did. I guess this was her way to get back at me. No wonder she sounded distant and cold earlier.

"..." I was not a prude or anything, but how would you feel telling the one that sexually harassed you that you like it. I do not know about others but I was greatly embarrassed right now.

"Say the Four magic words and you can get started with forming your Ego Gem." Seeing me embarrassed Anna encouraged me but it only added to my embarrassment.

"Yes, I liked it." I yelled hurriedly to be done with it.

"Now say you want more." Anna was having her share of fun and enjoying to the fullest at my expense.

"Miss Anna, now please teach me how to form an Ego Gem." I decided to play softball because whenever I tried to take control of the conversation Anna would rebel and go rogue. I just had to tolerate all this till I got my hands on the method of forming an Ego Gem.

"Aren't you cute, my lovely student. Okay fine I'll tell you the method so listen closely. There are three stages to the formation of the Ego Gem,

1. Realizing the Spirit of your Soul that is in the Ethereal State.

2. Conjuring the spirit from Ethereal State to Reality

3. Solidifying the Spirit energy into a gem and housing the spirit in that Gem – Gem stage" Anna explained that there are three stages to formation of an Ego Gem, Ethereal Stage, conjured Stage and Gem Stage.

"Great, how do I find the Ethereal spirit? Could you be faster? I have to form the Ego Gem before my duel later." Seeing that I could finally begin forming my Ego Gem I was eager to achieve it before my duel with Corey.

"What your trying to form is a Ego Gem, not your every day sugar-coated chocolate gems. For you to bake it in hour and half. Are you sure that you haven't lost your mind? Forget creating the Ego Gem it takes months for a card apprentice to find the ethereal spirit of their soul." Anna exclaimed, hearing that I wanted to form my Ego Gem within one and half hours.

Chapter 284: Rune Cards

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 13:25

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

Hearing that it takes months for a card apprentice just to find his/her Ethereal Spirit I was without words. As I was planning on using my Ego Gem in my upcoming duel against Corey. But would not just give up on forming an Ego Gem without attempting it first. Just in case I had to ask Anna some obvious questions.

"Anna, you have met Corey, right? Did she form her Ego Gem? And that weird sinister fire of hers was it a rule?" These questions were weighing my mind. so I decided to get them cleared first.

"Oh, that Bright family girl. She is talented just like her parents. Whenever I meet those two at the Way Beyond they can't stop bragging about their daughter. The nerve of that Bright couple to compare me to their daughter but finally meeting her in person I have got to say she did not disappoint me.

She has already formed her Ego Gem. As for the sinister fire that she displayed it was not just a rule but a rule forged into the rune. She even surpassed me by forming an Ego Gem and a Rune Card while she is still in the Card Soldier realm. You know I formed my Ego Gem at the Card Master realm and forged my first Rune Card in the Card grandmaster realm. She will make a great addition to the Way Beyond.

I remember the Bright couple asking for early retirement. Now that I have found a capable and perfect replacement for them I think I should reward their years of selfless

service with early retirement as they desire. I heard they wanted retirement to be with their family. Well, they can finally meet their family soon. Hahaha" Anna finishing her monologue let out a villainous laugh.

"..." I was speechless hearing Anna. How much of a jerk can one person be? To award a selfless veteran couple by sending their only daughter to the front line in their stead. I bet hearing Anna's plans for them and their daughter, the Bright couple will never dare to ask for retirement or brag about their daughter in front of Anna.

"Oh, sorry. I spoke my mind out loud." Seeing my complex expression Anna realized that she spoke her thoughts out loud, which were not meant for a third party to listen.

"I bet the Southern Watch loves having you as their commander" I said sarcastically.

"Don't judge me, if every capable card apprentice keeps asking for leave and early retirement then who will get the job done? I don't have to explain myself to you." Anna snorted, claiming her hands were tied and she ain't the bad person here.

"Hey, I'm just a humble orphan. No judgement here." I did hear Corey complaining to Susan that it's been years since she met or talked to her parents. If she knew the person responsible for that is Anna I do not know what her reaction would be.

"..." Anna rolled her eyes to my response.

"By the way what is this Way Beyond? seeing you banish the city lord to Way Beyond I thought it was some kind of place to dispose of troublemakers but now you say that Corey's parents are also there. What is that place anyway?" From Anna's monologue earlier Corey's parents seem to be her subordinates then why send them to a place where troublemakers are banished to?

"First of all, I did not banish the city lord. I just gave him an opportunity to earn merits and redeem himself and his family from the crimes he has committed.

Way Beyond is something only the people with a certain level of clearance know about. So, it's not for you to worry about. You will know about it when you join one of the top 10 universities anyway.

If you are curious then all you have to know is that Way Beyond is the reason our ancestors decided to come together and form the current government and community as we know. At the Way Beyond a war is going on and we need all hands on deck." Anna knew I was not the type to leave the things I am curious about alone. So she fed me little hints to what Way Beyond meant to humanity.

"Okay, I will take your word for it. How strong are rule and rune cards? Is it possible to counter them with normal cards?" Since Corey has already formed her Ego Gem and forged her rune cards, I had to come up with precautions against them before our duel.

“Fighting Rule and Rune Cards with normal cards, you crazy? It would be like using a wooden sword against a sharp steel sword.

The rules and rune cards are the essence of everything you see, feel and experience in this world. How are you going to fight with something like that with the normal cards created to imitate them?

Is it about your upcoming fight with Corey? I see she doesn’t seem to have a good impression of you. If she is anything like her parents she will try her best to embarrass you so bad. If I were you I would not even climb the arena but directly forfeit the match. It’s better to lose like a coward than be humiliated in the arena in front of a huge audience.

You know things like this can label you for life. You do not have to go through this just give up but then my mother will try to have you killed in other ways. Oh my if I could be anybody I would not want to be you! You are so miserable. But if you choose to become my husband as I proposed yesterday, I can help you out of your misery. After all, my mother will not try to have her son-in-law killed.” Anna had a hearty laugh poking at my misery.

“This time marrying you will also not solve my problem. As I can’t forfeit this duel with Corey since I have an ongoing bet with her.”

Chapter 285: First Stage

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 13:29

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

“Now why would you go and make a bet with someone you couldn’t possibly defeat? For a man who claims to be smart, you do a lot of stupid shit.” Anna stated the obvious.

” I made the bet before I knew all that shit like Ego Gem, Rules and Runes even existed. How am I supposed to know Corey has formed her Ego Gem and forged Rune cards if I don’t even know if they exist?” I made an excuse for my stupidity.

“Whatever fool, you are screwed royally. It’s your mistake to underestimate your opponent.” Anna did not buy into my excuse and blamed me for underestimating my opponent.

“Not if I can help it. Anna, teach me how to find my Ethereal Spirit.” I will not give up without attempting even once.

"Wow, you are relentless aren't you. Fine but don't be disappointed if you fail to find your Ethereal spirit on your first try. It took over a month for a genius like a demigod Baylor to find his spirit so do not expect much. That doesn't mean I am asking you to give up. I say you try your best but do not get your hopes up as it is normal that you can't find your spirit in your first try." Asking me not to get my hopes up Anna soon began to impart how to find the ethereal spirit of the soul to me.

Following Anna's guidance, I searched my soul for my Ethereal Spirit in my 2-times mutated soul which looked like a ball with four large bumps covering it. After all, I had four souls that were combined to form one huge mutated soul. Thanks to my soul pupils I found the Ethereal spirit that Anna was speaking of at the core of my soul without any suspense.

My spirit looked exactly like a replica of me wound to every little detail except for a tiny little mutation. My spirit had four heads instead of one. Quite similar to the twin-headed ogre or Cerberus monster core, I used to mutate my soul to have 3 slave consciousness and one master consciousness totalling 4 consciousness. Knowing that Anna would ask to see my ethereal spirit I started panicking about how to explain my conduit to Anna or rather how to hide this from her.

There is no way I could hide about finding my ethereal spirit if I want Anna to teach me how to achieve 2nd and 3rd state of Ego Gem formation. Now I was in a pickle, now the only question that remained in my mind was, How much did I trust Anna?

No, I can't give up yet there have to be other ways. How about I make the ethereal spirit retract the four heads into one? It should be possible, right? After all, only the Master consciousness is in control. I can try willing it to retract the four heads into one.

Having thought of the solution I decided to follow it by concentrating on my Ethereal spirit to establish a connection with it. As the Ethereal Spirit was mine we already had a connection. I only had to beef up the connection enough to send my thoughts to so that it can retract the other three heads. After a while, I was finally able to contact my Ethereal Spirit. Listening to my intent, all four heads of my Ethereal spirit opened their closed eyes and a devious smile formed on the face of the Master head while the other heads were expressionless. Maintaining the devious expression on its face the Master head followed my intent and retracted the other three heads.

"Anna, I found my Ethereal Spirit and was successful in establishing a connection with it. What next?" Having taken care of the problem I enthusiastically reported my success to Anna.

"What! You gotta be shitting me. " Anna exclaimed in alarm. Finding the Ethereal spirit on the first try Anna was right to be alerted. This goes beyond the realm of genius to the realm of godly genius.

“...” Anna’s current expression was a sight to behold just like an alerted cat, and I was enjoying it.

“Did you lie just to mess with me?” Anna did not seem to believe me.

“Yes, I lied just to mess with. Just kidding, see my Ethereal spirit. “An Ethereal replica of me with a devious face I showed in my eyes. My spirit was in an Ethereal state so I could not summon my spirit out as Anna did with hers yet. But I used my eyes to show her my Ethereal spirit.

” You, you monster! Get out of here. How is it even possible?” Anna’s eyes almost pooped seeing my Ethereal Spirit? Not every day do I get to see a Card Emperor make cute expressions.

“Stop overreacting, I had already found my ethereal spirit long ago but I did not know what it was until today. Following your guidance, I realized that the thing that I thought was a part of my soul is my Ethereal spirit. ” I did not lie, I did find the mini-me, similarly I found mini Elliott, mini Jaya, mini Pax using my soul pupils long ago while creating the viltonian core. Until today I did not know they were called ethereal spirits.

“No wonder. That explains a lot of the recent abnormalities related to you. Fuq! I was frightened to death by you. But still entering an Ego Gem should not be possible, or being able to see runes. You are getting more mysterious with every passing second. Now I am more curious about you than before. You know what they say about mysterious men?” Anna started to flirt with me again, trying to establish her dynamic that she lost due to the fiasco earlier.

“How about we move on to the next stage of condensing my Ethereal spirit to reality?” I asked, trying to bring Anna back to the track.

Chapter 286: Age is Just a Number

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 13:43

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

“Not so fast by discovering your ethereal spirit you have only laid the bricks now you need to cement them. So before we move to the second stage you have to strengthen your bond with your ethereal spirit. You must have felt a connection with your ethereal spirit right. Try communicating with and get a response from it.” Anna did not direct me to the next stage of Ego Gem formation. Instead, she directed me to strengthen my foundation before I plan to build the house.

“Oh about that I have already done that. Now can I move to the second stage of Ego Gem formation?” To get my ethereal spirit to retract three of its heads I had already enhanced my connection with it and got it to retract the extra three heads. It felt as if I was one step ahead of the syllabus.

“I give up! How did you achieve that even before I guided you? I would not be surprised if you were to say that you already have formed your Ego Gem.” Anna acted as if she started to get numb to my level of prodigy.

“...” Maybe it is for the good that I hid about the Viltronian core and Calamity soul core. If ain’t knew I discovered my version of monster core she would flip.

“You didn’t, right?” Seeing me embarrassed by dodge her eyes Anna asked me in scepticism.

“Second stage please” I beg Anna, worried that if I left the conversation as it is Anna might start believing her suspicions.

“The second stage is to conjure your ethereal spirit to reality. For that, you will need to refine your soul energy to a higher degree of purity. Ethereal spirits are your soul’s spirit but they have a more refined taste when it comes to the type of energy needed for their nourishment compared to the soul.

Therefore you need pure soul energy to nourish your ethereal spirit to reality. The purer the soul energy you nourish it with the stronger and faster it grows. If the purity of the soul energy does not meet its taste the ethereal spirit does not utilise the soul energy and it will go on a hunger strike growing weaker and weaker.

That’s why most card apprentices refine their soul energy to a certain degree of purity before trying to find their soul’s ethereal spirit. I was going to advise you the same after you failed your first try to find your soul’s ethereal spirit but I think it’s not necessarily seeing the prodigy that you are.” Anna gave a brief explanation of soul energy purity and the important role it plays in nursing the ethereal spirit to conjure it to reality.

“Why did you not start explaining something as important as this? What happens if a card apprentice’s ethereal spirit goes on a hunger strike not receiving pure soul energy?” Purity of the soul energy was not a concern to me but still, I wanted to know the consequence of not ethereal spirit growing weaker due to lack of pure soul energy.

“How would I know that you would find your ethereal spirit in the trial?” Anna threw the ball in my court.

“So, is it my fault that I am a prodigy?” I was narcissistic here but it was the only thing I could annoy Anna with.

“You... don’t forget I am the stronger one here.” Anna reminded me who’s the most and added, ” As the ethereal spirit grows weaker it starts feeding on the card apprentice’s active soul control to continue its existence. Usually, those who can find their soul’s ethereal spirit can purify their soul energy to the required degree before that happens. But if somebody still isn’t able to meet the requirement then they will just die. After all, stored stocks are going to run out someday.”

“With such dire consequences, you did not start guiding me with that. Anyway, how do I refine my soul energy to purify it? Is there a method or potion I need to take for that?” Despite having my unorthodox method to refine my soul energy I wanted to know how the other card apprentices did it.

“Oh, you are going to love this. The answer to refining your soul energy is dual cultivation. Lots and lots of dual cultivation. You know the higher the realm of your partner the better the results you get. Here, let me teach you how dual cultivation is done.” Anna with great enthusiasm started to explain dual cultivation, its merits and how it is done.

“Dual cultivation you say? Are you sure you are not making this stuff up?” I asked, acting ignorant towards Anna’s obvious intentions.

“No, why would I? What could I possibly get from lying to you?” I could literally see Anna dripping drool.

“Real, I guess you are right? But where do I find a partner willing to perform dual cultivation with me? Not to mention you said the higher the realm of my partner the more benefits I get. But where do I find a willing and ideal partner?” I continued to play along with Anna.

“You know Wyatt, A partner in the Card emperor realm is the best for your current situation. If you were to perform dual cultivation with someone of that realm you may even be able to form your Ego Gem faster than you expect it to.” Anna could not be more obvious. Did she believe that I was ignorant enough to fall for her dumb lies?

“Card emperor? Won’t they be too old? I do like a woman with a fully grown and matured set of assets but a card emperor will be too old for me don’t you think? After all, I just turned 17 this year.” Yep, I used the age card. What an irony, a transmigrator judging others on their age.

“Wyatt, how could you say such sallow words? Age is just a number.” Anna acted as if I was the villainous husband who was bullying his caring and lovely older wife for her age.

Chapter 287: Basic Circulation Method

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 13:48

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

“Anna, stop it. I know you are lying” I decided to stop entertaining Anna before the situation gets out of hand and Anna starts demanding something ludicrous like taking responsibility for her.

“What? How could you blame me of such a thing? I never lied to you! Dual cultivation helps in refining your soul energy.” Despite me exposing her, Anna chose to stick with her story.

“There should be other ways to refine soul energy right? How about we explore those options.” I saw through what Anna was doing. Maybe she was not lying but she wasn’t telling the whole truth either. It’s not as if dual cultivation is the only way to refine the soul energy.

“There are other methods but Dual cultivation is the easiest and fastest way. Since you were in a hurry to form your Ego Gem I told you the best option. How could you imply that I am lying, Wyatt? Even after I have helped you so much. How could you be so heartless?” Anna began with her drama once again.

“Enough, it’s getting tedious. Why don’t you tell me other serious methods to refine the soul energy?” I enjoyed spending time with Anna, but she keeps going off track. Keep your panties dry, woman.

“There is this basic soul energy circulation method distributed by the top 10 universities to all of their freshmen. It’s great for beginners as it is easy to understand and put to use. I guess it is better suited for a dense guy such as yourself.” Then Anna started to explain to me the details of the basic circulation method and how to execute it. The basic circulation method had two parts to it.

The first part was on how to control one’s soul energy. This part involved sitting in the lotus position and meditating while moving soul energy throughout one’s body from head to toe. After moving soul energy becomes as easy as breathing air we move to the second part of the circulation technique. That is to swirl the soul energy in your lower torso as fast as possible. This way the heavier and purest form of soul energy gathers at the centre of the swirl and settles down. while the lighter impurity slowly starts accumulating at the outer part of the swirl. later gets thrown out of the body as the sedimented impurity through the pores of the card apprentices skin.

“Faster you circulate the circulation method, the faster you refine your soul energy. Being a card soldier your active soul control should be below 30%. Meaning you have a considerable amount of soul energy to refine. For every percentage of purity, you will have to refine the entire amount of your soul energy again and again. This is a tedious process that even a prodigious talent can’t skip. You may be faster than others but you

still have to do the grunt work." I felt that Anna was gloating over the fact that I could not skip the hard work required to refine my soul energy.

"Sure, let me practice the basic circulation method " following Anna's guidance I started to circulate my soul energy throughout my body with ease thanks to the soul energy manipulation ability I extracted from soulpoles. Who knew it would such wondrous use and come in handy now of all the places.

Since my control over my soul energy was as easy as breathing air I decided to move to the second part of the basic circulation method. I spun my soul energy at the fastest speed possible with soul energy manipulation skill. And as Anna explained to me I noticed heavier pure soul energy and lighter impurities separate as I swirled my soul energy at the fastest speed allowed by my soul energy manipulation skill. Soon I was drenched in black sediment impurities that came out of my skin pores and I started to smell.

"You, son of a gun" Anna exclaimed in utter shock seeing me able to successfully refine my soul energy to a certain degree under 5 minutes of practising the basic circulation method.

"I think I need a shower", unable to bear the smell of my own body. I thought it would be better if I took a shower. After all, this is a stadium. They should have showers for players here.

" A shower! That's what comes to your mind? You freak! You just broke my reality as I know and you want to shower" Anna yelled as she summoned her grimoire and used a weird card which cleared all the impurities of me and my dress. Even the smell was gone without a trace.

"What card is that? It is so useful. Can I have one?" I was not a clean freak but I hate it when I get stains on my clothes or sweat a lot. Such a card would come in handy in such situations.

"It's called Dirt Purge, I have only one of them on me right now. I use it to remove the bloodstains on my dress from the stupid faqs I kill. I do not like getting bloodstains on my dress, period.

That's not important right now? How were you able to master the basic circulation method on your first try? Did you know it took me 3 days to fully gain control over my soul energy? But you not only mastered control of your soul energy but also refined your soul energy in under 5 minutes on your first try, how is that even possible? That has pressed the norms of prodigy. Fuq! here I thought I had grown numb" Anna started questioning her reality. Anna herself is a genius but it took her a week before she successfully mastered the basic circulation technique and refined her soul energy for the first time.

"You do not have to react like this, okay. I was able to master the basic circulation method so fast because of my soul energy manipulation card. I just cheated, there is nothing to be shocked about." I revealed my soul energy manipulation skill to Anna. Afraid that she could not hold back her jealousy.

"You have such a miraculous card. No wonder, I got scared over nothing. You know Wyatt, depending on cards too much is not good for you. I suggest you learn soul energy control rather than depending on a card. As it is a very handy and fundamental method. It will help you in the long run." Anna started to preach that I should not depend too much on cards and blah blah blah...

"You are just jealous that I get to skip the hardship you went through figuring out how to control soul energy and mastering the basic circulation technique."

"Yes, I am. I am the southern emperor. How come I have to learn soul energy control like mortals but you get to do it like a royal? The world is so unfair!" Can't Anna see the irony in her words?

Chapter 288: Caught

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 13:57

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

"There it is... now that is out of your system let's head to the third stage of Ego Gem formation, shall we?" Seeing Anna be jealous enough to show it out in such an ugly way. I felt it was worth it having gone through all the trouble to extract soul energy manipulation skills from the Soulpoles.

"Hold your horses, buddy. You may have mastered the basic soul energy circulation method because of your cheat skill, Soul energy manipulation. But you still have to refine your entire soul energy to the required degree of purity. And then use that refined soul energy to nourish your ethereal spirit to conjure it to reality."

For you to achieve the required degree of purity you will have to purify your soul energy for 2 or 3 weeks even with your cheat skill. And then nourish your ethereal spirit to reality. So, the third stage will have to wait. Until you can conjure your spirit to reality. Don't think having a cheat skill will save you from the required grunt work." Anna seemed to be pretty mad about my soul energy manipulation skill to repeatedly call it a cheat skill. But jealousy was not her colour it did not suit her.

"Anna, I think my soul energy has already reached the required degree of purity for the nourishment of my ethereal spirit. Can you check if I have met the requirement? So that I can start nourishing my spirit and soon conjure it into reality." I did not know what

degree of purity of soul energy was needed to nourish my ethereal spirit so I had to ask Anna to check if the purity of my soul energy was enough.

“Hahaha! Oh, Wyatt now you’re sounding narcissistic you know that right. You have just refined your soul energy for 5 minutes and you think you have already met the required degree of purity of your soul energy to nourish your spirit to reality. If you are not being narcissistic then what?” Anna laughed at my words and called me a narcissist, for thinking that I have achieved the required purity for the nourishment of the spirit.

“Could you please check if the degree of purity of my soul energy is enough?” I pleaded to Anna as I stretched my head towards her and circulated my soul energy in it for her to check it.

“Fine, since you insist I will check. But don’t get your hopes up. These things take time... you son of a Banshee. What in the name of Satan? How in the hell is your soul energy so pure and thick? You are not toying with me on purpose are you, Wyatt? I swear if you are I will make you regret it. This is the first time you used a soul energy refining technique in your life right?” Anna grabbed my wrist and began clicking the purity of soul energy reluctantly. But soon she yelled in shock as I proved her wrong once again as my soul energy had met the purity requirement. which led to Anna start doubting that I had already refined my soul energy long ago and was messing with her.

“No, I am not toying with you, Anna. This is the first time I have used a soul energy refining technique in my life, I swear. I always felt my Soul energy get denser and purer every time I went through Baptism. First I thought it was the same for everybody but after learning the soul energy refining technique from you I realised my baptism experience differed from what others experienced. And how hard it is to purify soul energy. Therefore I insisted you verify if the purity of my soul energy had met the requirements. Anyway, what would I get from toying with you Anna?” Yes, I lied my ass off. The two secrets that I would take to my grave were the Calamity Soul Core and the Soul mutation method both of which I created.

Yes, my soul mutation was the reason why my Soul energy was so dense and pure. My soul energy was 4 times denser and purer than regular soul energy. To achieve this degree of purity in soul energy using the basic circulation method even with my soul energy manipulation skill I would require a minimum of 4 years. And for an average talent, it may require 10 to 20 years to reach this level of purification in his soul energy.

The most revolutionary thing was how dense my soul energy was. The basic soul energy circulation technique only helped with refining and purifying the soul energy, not enhancing the quality of the soul energy. For example,

Cow’s milk and Donkey’s milk are not the same as Donkey’s milk is more nutritious compared to Cow’s milk but both are milk at the end and nobody could tell a difference once they were mixed. The fact remains that Donkey’s milk is more nutritious and

expensive than Cow's milk. Similarly, my soul energy was 4 times denser and of better quality than the average soul energy.

"Um, you're telling me that you were able to achieve this level of dense and pure soul energy due to your special baptism. Um... then that means you have a special physique or a trait stat, don't you? Only that can explain why your baptism is special and gives you extra benefits." Anna reached a conclusion I never could have thought of. This conclusion was bad news for me considering how the government was actively recruiting people with the physique or a trait. And also helping the secret clans, families and sects to hide any information about physique and trait stats from the general public.

"..." Anna's judgment regarding my special baptism caught me off guard and I did not know how to answer her. My words and facial expression froze which was enough to hint Anna to the obvious answer.

"From the look on your face, I take it that my guess about you having an extra physique or a trait stat was right. My god, you are a prodigy. The natural extra stat is a sign of a prodigy.

I liked you a lot, Wyatt. But this information changes everything. What to do? This is difficult, I can't decide. On the one hand, I want you to be mine but on the other hand, I have to fulfil my duty. Wyatt, you would understand me if I chose the latter right? I am so sorry, Wyatt. I did not want this"

Chapter 289: Trust

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 14:06

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

"..." I realised that there are not two secrets that I would take to my grave but three secrets... Calamity soul core, Soul mutation method and physique and trait stats.

"Got you! Haha. You should have seen the look on your face haha. You silly goose I can not believe you feel for it. It was a ruse to prank you. Did you forget you and I have a soul contract and I have to protect you from harm? And also there are many card apprentices with extra Physique or trait stat in the southern watch. So do not worry it is not a big deal if you have proper backing. " Anna exclaimed, revealing that her words and actions earlier were just an act.

"All that was an act?" I was still in alert mode. I would not take any chances when it comes to my life.

“Yes, it was all an elaborate plan of mine to get back at you for trying to show off despite knowing that you are a cheat. A soul energy manipulation skill and now a special physique or trait stat? If these ain’t cheats then what?” Anna explained that she did that to get back at me because she was jealous of my cards and talent.

“Elaborate plan? Isn’t it quite far-fetched from what happened? But you do know that this stunt has made me more cautious towards you?” Yeah, I was just warming up to the idea of Anna as a friend and she had to pull the wrong prank. Now I will have a hard time trusting her.

“Does it matter? you did not trust me from the start, anyway. I have been throwing myself at you for a while now, don’t you dare act dumb. You are aroused and attracted to me but you do not try to make a move on me even if I pinned you down. Not because of my numerous ex-lovers you are not that type of guy. It is because you cannot bring yourself to trust me and lower your guard in my presence.” Anna was spot on, I was not a prude to give up on a sure thing but I was calculative enough to know that fornication will lead to feelings which I rather not have towards someone I am not sure if I could trust yet.

“...” Despite my thick skin, I was not shameless enough to ask her to teach me the next step to form Ego Gem after she poured her heart out. If I did that I wouldn’t just be shameless but considered as a jerk.

“So, where were we? Yes, the purity of your soul energy is more than enough to nourish your ethereal spirit and conjure it to reality.” Anna chose to live the previous matter despite how hurt she was. Who wouldn’t be? Despite her status, she conjured enough courage and went out of her way to confess to the boy she likes and then help him in every way possible only to know that he did not even trust her yet? It was already a miracle that she did not leave instead stayed behind and decided to help me.

I followed Anna’s guidance and fed my soul energy to my Ethereal spirit. The spirit greedily devoured the soul energy and started to form shape and gain presence. Feeding the spirit soul energy was like filling in colours to a picture. Ethereal spirit was a colourless picture that came to reality as I filled it with my soul energy, the metaphorical colour. After feeding it most of my spirit energy I found that the Spirit stopped. Seeing how it looked alive and real. I knew the spirit was full and had finally condensed to reality rather than ethereal.

To test whether my spirit has completely condensed to reality I tried to summon it to the outside world from within my soul just like Anna did earlier. As I willed it, my spirit was summoned in the outside world. Like Anna’s spirit which showed disgust to everything in existence, my Spirit carried an ominous quietly maniacal look in its eyes with a devious smile. Yep, that look sent a chill in my spin. As my spirit painted me as a psychopath. So I hurriedly recalled it. Now I understood how Anna felt showing her spirit.

“No surprise there you conjured your spirit to reality faster than I thought. Now let’s head to the third and final stage. This should be easier. What am I saying? You achieved the first and second stages as easy as you were walking in a park, then this third step should be a lot like drinking water for you.

Ask your spirit to surround itself with as much soul energy as possible. And compress all the soul energy in a shape of your choice with the spirit in the centre. For optimum results I recommend you to choose a symmetrical design for your gem for example a sphere. This way you can easily know where the centre is as you forge your Ego Gem.” Anna tried to act unaffected by how fast I conjured my spirit to reality and started to guide me about the last step to forge the Ego Gem.

“Wait! That’s it? I gather soul energy around with my spirit in the centre and compress the gathered soul energy into a shape of my choice to get an Ego Gem. How does that work? How can just compressing soul energy for a gem? That does not make sense.” Yes, this was the most illogical thing I had heard.

“You fool, the third step is not for you but your spirit. All you have to do is gather enough soul energy with your spirit in the centre and hold it in a place as your spirit starts to cocoon itself using the soul energy you have gathered.

Now don’t ask how the spirit knows this? It’s like asking how caterpillars know to form cocoons? How do spiders know to weave their silk? They just do, it comes naturally to them. Similarly our spirits also naturally know to forge a gem they just require our help in gathering the soul energy and hold it in place.

Now just shut up and form the gem. I have places to be since you do not appreciate my presence anyway.” It was very awkward for Anna to stay behind after revealing that she knew that I was pretending to act dumb and did not trust her. She felt like running away and hiding in embarrassment but still, she forced herself to stay behind and complete the task. As it was not like a Heatsend to leave a job half-finished.

Card Apprentice Daily Log #Chapter 290: Fusion - Read Card Apprentice Daily Log Chapter 290: Fusion

Chapter 290: Fusion

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 14:11

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

“Sure, just a sec I will forge the gem so you can get back to your work.” Anna’s words did not guilt me as we both wanted separate things from our relationship. If she was

looking for a friend in me I was down for that but clearly, she wanted more which I am not ready for yet. I have to be heartless to make it clear to her to avoid any misunderstanding in future.

“You know this is the part I like the most about you, ruthless and goal-oriented. I am in no hurry, I will make you mine soon.” As the wealthiest, strongest and most beautiful lass of the southern region, Anna never thought that there would be a day when she would say such pitiful words to a boy and not raise a single emotion. No, if it’s this boy in front of her then she should have expected such ruthless words from him.

“All the best then.” I did not take Anna’s word seriously. Instead, I put my mind to forging the Ego Gem. With my spirit in the Centre, I started gathering the purest of my soul energy around and compressed them in a spherical shape. Then I made use of Hive AI to get a perfect spherical shape and pinpoint an accurate centre for my spirit.

As Anna said I soon notice that the soul energy surrounding my spirit slowly condenses into a solid form and starts enclosing my spirit like a cocoon. This is it I thought? Will the gem forged in such a simple way contain the endless empty space I had been in. How is that possible? So mysterious.

It did not take long for the entire soul energy surrounding my spirit to condense to a solid form and finally enclose my spirit into what looked like a spherical bead more than a gem. With that, a bunch of notifications from grimoire started to sound in my mind. I summoned my grimoire to check what was up and I was notified that the Ego Gem is added to my physique stat.

[Ego Gem is added to hosts Physique Stat] with the remainder of the notification I checked my stats and saw a new addition to my physique stat, Ego Gem right next to the calamity soul core. Then I checked the Ego Gem physique info.

[Physique Name: Ego Gem

Physique Type: Inborn Skill

Physique Rank: Innate Grade

Physique Description: The host gains the ability to communicate with the world based on the limit to which he can harmonize with the world.

Additional effect: One with the world Synchronisation Rate: 75%

Note: Higher the resynchronization rate longer and deeper you can communicate with the world.]

[Physique Name: Calamity soul core

Physique Type: Origin Card

Physique Rank: Acquired Grade

Physique Description: The host gains an artificial variant human core formed using the Viltronian Core and Calamity Dungeon Seed.

Additional effects: Soul Pupils, Viltronian Physique, Immortal core, Body Restructure Transformation, Parent/Daughter soul core, calamity Daughter core, Hive AI, Mutated Soul, Soul Echolocation, Soul Energy Manipulation.

Note: Calamity Soul Cores Duty is to protect the host's soul.]

[Alert: Calamity soul core reacting to Ego Gem]

[Alert: Ego Gem reacting to Calamity soul core]

[Alert: Calamity Soul core and Ego Gem responding to each other]

[Calamity soul core and Ego Gem can be fused, will you proceed with fusion?] Ever since I knew about the Ego gem I suspect both were the different sides of the same coin. This proves it.

[Proceed/Cancel]

[Proceed] I did not see a reason not to and also I can not get a second opinion on this since I am the only one with both an artificial human core and an Ego Gem.

[Proceeding with Calamity soul core and Ego Gem fusion...]

[Note: Please enter the state 'One with the world'] I followed the advice and entered the state One with the world.

This was my first time entering this state and I felt like I suddenly became a part of this huge energy or entity. I was lost in this big swarm of energies that was trying to influence me some or the other way. And so many emotions ran through my mind right now honestly I got to say it was very much similar to doing cannabis for the first time. The similarity was astounding and uncanny. Was it like this for everybody or just me? I do not know if it was supposed to be like this. Maybe it will take me a while to get used to it. Soon I came out of the state unable to handle all the energies trying to influence me.

"You are finally awake. How was your first time connecting to the world? " I heard Anna's voice and focused on it to awaken from the muddled state I was in since coming out of the one with the world state. The influence of the energies I experienced earlier still affected me in the real world. I was having a hard time and could not even think

straight. But thankful I used Anna's voice as a beckon to focus on and close all the other thoughts and emotions affecting my mind.

"Hold on a minute," I asked Anna to wait as I checked my grimoire notification to see if the fusion of Calamity Soul Core and Ego Gem was complete.

[Calamity Soul Core and Ego Gem fusion successful]

[Origin Card updated]

[Host status is updated. Please check at the host's convenience.]

"What's so important in your grimoire that you ignore the beauty in front of you? Was your Ego Gem formation not successful? I doubt a prodigy like you could fail at a sure thing." Anna asked curiously, seeing me intently stare at my grimoire.

"Yes, I was successful in the creation of the Ego Gem. I was checking its info to see if I forged or right. As I had a very unusual experience connecting to the world for the first time." I did not tell Anna about the new mutated gem that formed in me instead spoke about the experience connecting to the world.

Chapter 291: Minx

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 14:32

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

"I can see that, you were out of it for quite a while. And also you were automatically disqualified from the tournament for not showing up." Anna informed me that entering the one with the world state I missed my match with corey.

"Really? But good try. I might have fallen for your prank if I had not checked my grimoire." I did not fall for Anna's prank but I would have if not for me checking the grimoire earlier to check the notifications.

"Anyway, show me your Ego Gem? What shape did you choose? What is your synchronisation rate? How many energies tried to contact you?" Anna was not surprised that her prank did not work. Instead, she enthusiastically barraged me with questions one after the other without giving me time to answer.

"Here" I just summoned my variant Ego Gem as it answered most of Anna's questions.

“You chose a spherical shape as I suggested,” Anna inspected my Ego Gem from afar and soon she vanished from her spot and before I could react she grabbed My Ego Gem hovering in front of me and returned to her previous position.

“Anna, what do you mean by this?” I growled at Anna in anger. Seeing her snatch my Ego Gem.

“As your teacher, I am dropping some important knowledge on you. So you do not end up making mistakes that may cost you more than you ever imagined. First, never summon your Ego Gem out even if you are in the presence of people you trust or you are alone behind a closed door. If you do not want to become a slave to others then you engrave that in your mind.” Anna went on to warn me about how dangerous it is if my Ego Gem falls into wrong hands. While I was completely focused on the small Gem in her hand. She literally had my life in her hands.

“Okay, give it back,” I yelled. There is always one idiot friend who snaps a shot of you participating in underage drinking or smoking and playfully threatens to share it with your parents. Or sometimes forcefully borrows your phone to visit questionable sites. I fuqing hate that dude but he is a good friend. And right now I hated Anna the most but at the same time, I was grateful to her for teaching me how to form an Ego Gem. I was not worried Anna would do anything to my Ego Gem because we had a soul contract between us and also because I had other insurance in place.

“What’s the hurry? How can you learn without any consequence?” Anna had a villainous smile on her as she said those words.

“Anna, whatever you are up to stop it before I get angry.” Even though I was sure Anna could not do any harm to me and my soul gem I still felt uncomfortable seeing her use it as a plaything.

“I think you are forgetting who is in charge, Student Wyatt. Do you want me to remind you?” Anna said as she showed me my Ego Gem.

“No, Miss Anna.” Understanding Anna’s Intent I decided to play along till I got my soul gem back.

“Good, boy. If you want your Ego Gem back. All you have to do is kiss me.” Anna put forward her demands and they were as silly as her actions.

“You promise to give me back my Ego Gem if I kiss you once.” Kissing a woman wasn’t new to me. But being forced to kiss a woman was new.

“Yes, I promise. As long as you kiss me once I will return you your Ego Gem. What are you waiting for?” Anna promised and urged me to hurry up.

But since when did a man require to be forced to kiss a beauty? I did not think much and walked towards Anna with steady steps neither hurried nor reluctant. Reaching Anna, I wrapped my left arm around her waist and pulled her into my embrace causing her ample bosom to be pressed against my muscular chest. Using my free hand I cleared the playful bangs falling on her face with a gentle touch leaving a lingering sensation on her skin.

“Where do you want me to kiss you?” Looking into Anna’s eyes I whispered. Feeling my breath on them Anna’s pale white cheeks turned rosy and her lips quivered.

“Kiss where it pleases you the most” Anna gave me a green single to do as I please.

“Then don’t mind me” whispering that I gently started to nibble on Anna’s ears. Soon I felt Anna put her whole body weight in my embrace as her legs turned weak after a brief romantic session.

“Good, now give my Ego Gem back.” Placing Anna on the nearby Couch I demanded my Ego Gem.

“Let me catch my breath, will you. This wasn’t your first time right. Who knew an honest looking boy such as yourself had such skill. Oh my god, it felt so good. I am so aroused right now. Let’s go all the way, pretty please ” Anna beamed and started to propose going all the way.

“Anna you promised, now give me back my Ego Gem,” I said sternly. Even I was aroused feeling up Anna’s supple body. But I controlled myself as it was not the time or place for it.

Hearing my thoughts I glanced at Anna in fright, it was happening as she said. I almost considered doing it with her if I did not have to participate in a duel in the next 20 minutes. This minx is dangerous. She almost had me.

“I know you do not have to keep reminding me that. We Heatsend always keep our promise. Here, catch” Anna released my Ego Gem from her constraint which was stopping me from recalling the Ego Gem and threw it towards me. Feeling the constraints block me from recalling Ego Gem I recalled it.

Chapter 292: Influence

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 14:39

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

"I thought you had somewhere to be?" I asked Anna who was eyeing me similar to a popsicle to devour.

"I'm too aroused to go anywhere, I never thought that an inexperienced brat like you would make me so wet. How are you so good at your first time?" Anna made excuses for leaving and continue to play her tricks on me.

"How do you know it is my first time?" I asked her with a devious smile. I should stop entertaining her while but I did the contrary.

"As I mentioned before I did a thorough background check on you after I went home that morning." Saying that Anna recalled her talk with her mother,

'Mom, You are saying he has zero experience with women. Is he into men?'

'The report did not mention the boy showing such tendencies.'

'Not into Men and zero experience with women. Does he have some weird type of fetish?'

'Don't know, not mentioned in the report. Stop focusing on his sexuality and explain to me how a teenager managed to trick you so royally?'

What kind of bullshit deal is this? He enjoys 35% royalty by sitting back and doing nothing with no obligation to contribute towards the production and supply of the product or investing in the expansion. Not to mention the one-sided soul contract between you and him.

At the surface, it may look like we are making profits but most or all of it will be invested back in for expansion of the product R&D and its production and supply chain. Meanwhile, fending off the strongest vultures and jackals of the world trying to grab a piece of our pie. Worst of all, that boy will be enjoying the biggest piece of the pie while using us as his shield.

The first decade of the business is a crucial and fragile period for a business so most of the profit made would be poured into keeping it afloat and expanding it. This would be borne by all the partners, so in the end, everybody would have small profits to show for. But in our case because of your stupidity, we will have no profits to show for as we will be using our entire profits to invest back in the product expansion. Since that boy is not obligated to invest or help us.

We do all the work, we face all the scrutiny and we protect that freeloader and his family. While that boy will enjoy all the profits this basically makes us his slaves. All because of your stupidity, Anna?'

'I got it, He must be one of those late bloomers. He hasn't matured enough yet. No wonder he did not fall for my charm or glance at my hot body. His fruits are not ripe yet I am not the one to blame.'

'You! Prodigal daughter. You turned our entire Heatsend royal family into a money-making cow for a 17-year-old and still do not repent. Your grandparents and uncle have spoiled you rotten.'

"So, I know you more than you know yourself." Anna was not ashamed to claim her mothers work as hers.

"Yeah, right. On another note, since you're staying, you might as well answer a few of my doubts." I decided to make use of Anna's knowledge once again.

"Well shoot away, what do you want to know?" Anna was more than willing to help.

"About my experience entering the state, one with the world. It was very unpleasant and awful... is it the same for everyone?" My experience with the state 'One with the world is troubling the most' is troubling me the most.

"The problem you're facing is not something all card apprentices face and will not be able to help you. Thankfully I faced the same problem when entering the state 'one with the world' for the first time. So, I can help you.

The reason why most card apprentices do not go through what you went through is that they do not have a high synchronisation rate such as you and me.

Having a high synchronisation rate means connecting with the world on a deeper level. The deeper you are connected with the world the easier it is for you to contact you. And easier for the world to contact you." Hearing Anna claims that the world can contact us, I was bewildered. How is the world able to contact us? Is the world a living being?

"Wait, does the world contact us? How is it possible? Is it a living being?" I interrupted Anna between her explanation as this was a huge discovery for me.

"Not much of the world is known to us but it is a common belief that the world contacts us through the rules. But this is only possible with card apprentices with excellent grade Ego Gems.

I guess when you entered the state 'one with the world' you must have felt as if you had become a part of a huge entity and felt a energy trying to influence you. That energy is the rule and the huge entity is the world.

The rule used by the world to contact card apprentices is the best-situated rule for the said card apprentices. Not only will you be able to comprehend that rule faster but also create various excellent grade runes using it.

When I first entered the state ‘one with the world’ the world contacted me by making use of 6 different rules. The influence of 6 different rules can drive a card apprentice crazy. But since these rules were compatible with me. I gained control over them faster than their influence over me increased.” Anna shared that she was influenced by 6 different rules. She keeps sharing personal info with me nonchalantly. Does she trust me or think that my strength is not enough to be a threat to her.

Anna’s explanations of the world and the rules made me happy and worried at the same time as many rules tried to influence me. I do not know the exact number but it’s a two-digit number for sure. I was happy that I was compatible with many rules but I was worried about what Anna meant by she gained control over rules before they influenced her.

Chapter 293: Calamity Soul Gem

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 14:44

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

“Anna, what do you mean by you gaining control over the rules and them not influencing you?” I asked the part which confused me the most and raised alarms in my mind.

“The rules are like naughty children. You need to discipline them otherwise they will run wild. Do not worry about it. First, get used to them. I will help you during the process.” Anna did not talk much about what she meant earlier but said she promised to help me with it later. It seemed like she is keeping a reason for me to contact her and for her to keep visiting me again.

“By the way, I forgot to ask what is your synchronisation rate? I just assumed your Ego Gem was of excellent grade since it was you and because your first encounter with the world was not that great.” Anna finally asked the question I dodge earlier and wanted to avoid as long as possible. Hoping Anna would not ask that question again.

“Can I not answer it. Because I do not want to lie to you.” I Indicated to Anna that my synchronisation rate was high enough to make me lie about it to her. I risked being upright to Anna choosing to bet on the newfound bond between me and Anna.

“Thank you. Don’t worry I will not ask any further. It seems my teachings are starting to show effect. But can you tell me how many rules contacted you?” Anna understood my intention and thanked me for not lying to her face.

“I did not count but it’s definitely a two-digit number.” I was vague about the number of rules that contacted me. Making it sound like the number of rules that contacted me was close to 10 or 11 while I know that actually number was the ice or four times that.

“Wow! Your synchronization rate should be very high. Smart choice that you did not reveal it to me.” Anna was amazed by my answer and agreed that I was right not having shared my synchronisation rate with her.

“Thank you for understanding. When I have enough strength to protect myself you will be the first to know the number.” I thanked Anna for understanding and not asking too many questions. I bet Anna is curious but she did not use force to get the answer and chose to leave it alone.

“Aren’t you a sweet talker? I will wait for that day but till that date comes Have you considered my offer?” Anna questioned.

“Which offer?” Anna has two outstanding offers for me one was to marry and become house husband while the other was I cuddle with her for a night interchange for the cloud emperor’s head.

“Does it matter? I bet your answer will be the same for both?” Anna knew what my answer was going to be.

“Then why ask” I was perplexed. If you know the answer then why ask?

“Can’t a girl be greedy?” That’s human nature alright hoping against the odds.

“You can but my answer is still the same, no.” I answered with a resounding ‘No’ to Anna’s questions. My answer would never change because one of Anna’s proposals wanted me to be her trophy wife while the other wanted me to be her boy toy.

“I will turn that no to yes someday just you wait. You can have the severed head. I have no use for it. Consider it a gift. I did not experience this calmness for a long time, I missed it.” Anna generously gifted me the severed head.

“Thank you for the gift.” I was excited about getting the severed head from Anna because I had made an amazing discovery about the broken runes. The broken runes are going to be helping me a lot.

“Anna, excuse me, I want to make some preparations for the upcoming battle.” I was preparing to excuse myself as I collected the severed head from Anna but she added, “There’s no need for you to leave. I have two people that I need to show them their place. you continue to use the VIP and prepare for the battle.” Saying that Anna headed out.

Seeing Anna leave, I sat in the lotus position and summoned my grimoire.

[Calamity Soul Gem asking permission to sacrifice broken rune ‘cloud’? (Allow/Decline)]

This notification was on hold since I had come out of the cloud card emperor's Ego Gem. Now I finally get to see what the Calamity Soul Gem is up to.

(Allow) so I permitted Calamity Soul Gem to proceed further with its plan.

[Calamity Soul Gem sacrificing broken rune 'Cloud' to calamity daughter gem]

[Calamity daughter gem fusing with broken rune cloud]

[Calamity daughter gem – Cloud Lord formed. Switch to Card form? (Switch/Decline)]

(Switch) a string of notifications sounded once I permitted the calamity Ego Gem to sacrifice the broken rune – Cloud. As it was of no use to me.

The Calamity Ego Gem fused the broken rune with calamity daughter gem and gave the spirit of card emperor formed by the broken cloud rune a physical body made up of the rule with the physique of a viltronian as a named calamity daughter gem. But the strength of the spirit had decreased a lot. It went from a card emperor to a card lord realm.

I did not expect the calamity daughter gem to be able to fuse with the remnant spirit formed by the broken rune. Who knew the dungeon calamity seed was this powerful. This was a game-changer.

There are still 5 more broken runes in the card emperor's severed head and they were mine for taking. Now I finally saw the hope of defeating Corey. At first, I thought I could easily form an Ego Gem and comprehend a rule to counter Corey's Ego Gem and sinister fire rule. This scattered after realizing how hard it is to comprehend rules.

But during the process, I realised how I was lucky to have formed the core in an hour and a half. If not for my soul pupils, soul energy manipulation and migrated soul it would be months to forge my Ego Gem.

[Calamity daughter card Cloud Lord created. Whether to equip it? (Equip/Decline)]

Chapter 294: Monster Core

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 14:49

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

'A mystery is a mystery when someone tries to understand and explain it but fails in the process.'

Monster Cores, a mystery that is never explained but understood as natural as the air we breathe and the water we drink. I was one of those people who understood Monster Cores the same way. Humans have explained Air and water, uncovered the mystery behind them, what are they? Why are we dependent on them? Are there enough of them? And now answers to all of these questions are common knowledge.

Ever since the discovery of the Viltronian Core, I started to explore the mystery known as monster cores. How is the monster core formed? What are the perks of having a monster core? And in the end, I did reach half-assed answers to the incomplete questions I had come up with and believed that I had solved the mystery behind the monster cores, how narcissistic of me? Where in reality what I did is copy the incomplete findings of another race.

I thought Viltronian Core and Monster core are the same as both enhance the user's physique and strength. But I was wrong, the monster core did more than that, it gave monsters their skills. Which I overlooked completely and believed monsters inherent skill from their predecessor like bloodline therefore the monsters of the same race pretty much had the same skills.

I failed to question where the predecessors gained their skill. If I had asked this question then I would realise my understanding about the monster core is misguided and would not have to wait till Anna guided me to the right path by asking the simple questions: How do the monster core enable a monster to use supernatural skills like conjuring fire and teleportation? Where do these supernatural skills come from?

That's when I realised that I was wrong to think the monster core gives monsters a strong physique and inherent their predecessors skill. What monster core does is help monsters grow strong physically and develop their own set of skills. Yes, there are two parts to what monster core does. Comparing the viltronian core to the monster core I only focused on the part where the monster core provided a strong physique to monsters and completely credited the skills part to bloodline inheritance.

But the same goes for Ego Gem, it is too focused on how to gain supernatural skills like the monster core and unknowingly credits the effect of the monster core on the monster physique of monsters to supernatural skills. The monster physique and supernatural skills are two faces of the same coin, monster core. Ego Gem is to gain supernatural skills and Viltronian core is to gain monstrous physique.

In the end, both the Viltronian core and Ego Gem are incomplete copies of the monster core. They both are the same and so different at the same time. Answering the question of how I was able to enter the Ego Gem without forging my Ego Gem, I had something similar, a variant viltronian core Calamity Soul Core.

The similarity between them is the reason why Calamity soul core and Ego Gem responded to each other and asked to fuse, forming a complete version of Monster core known as Soul Gem. Which inhabits both the perks of a Viltronian Core and an Ego

Gem. The Soul Gem allows me to gain both Supernatural skills from the rules of the world and a monstrous physique with no natural death.

It is a known truth that the longer the monster lives the stronger the monster becomes. Meaning that strong monsters do not have a natural death or have a long life span gifted to them by their monstrous physique. Therefore they continue to grow stronger as time passes instead of growing old and dying.

Finally answering the correct questions: what is a monster core? How does a monster core do what it does and what enables it to do so? I can boldly say I have uncovered some important mysteries to the monster core. This time around I was not narcissistic enough to claim I have solved the mystery of monster core.

[Card Name: Calamity Soul Gem

Card Type: Origin card

Card Rank: Unique Grade

Card Rating: -/-

Card Durability: -/-

Card Effect: The host gains a monstrous physique of a viltronian and the ability to communicate with the world based on the limit to which he can harmonize with the world.

Additional effect: Soul Pupils, Viltronian Physique, Immortal core, Body Restructure Transformation, Parent/Daughter soul gem, calamity Daughter gem, Hive AI, Mutated Soul, Soul Echolocation, Soul Energy Manipulation, 'One with the world'

Synchronisation Rate: 95%

Note: Higher the resynchronization rate longer and deeper you can communicate with the world. Calamity Soul Gem protects the host's mutated soul]

[Physique Name: Calamity Soul Gem

Physique Type: Origin Card

Physique Rank: Acquired Grade

Physique Description: same as origin card effects]

[Physique Name: Mutated Soul

Physique Type: Origin Card

Physique Rank: Acquired Grade

Physique Description: The host's soul mutates and multiplies itself every time the host breaks through to the upper realm.

Card Student – Soul

Card Scholar – mutated soul with 2 consciousness

Card Soldier – mutated soul with 4 consciousness

Card Master – mutated soul with 8 consciousness

Card GrandMaster – mutated soul with 16 consciousness

Card Lord – mutated soul with 32 consciousness

Card Overlord – mutated soul with 64 consciousness

Card King – mutated soul with 128 consciousness

Card Emperor – mutated soul with 256 consciousness

Card Demigod – mutated soul with 512 consciousness

Note: current multiplying factor is 'Double', can be increased]

[Trait Name: Multi-Consciousness

Trait Type: Origin Card

Trait Rank: Acquired Grade

Trait Description: The host has multiple consciousnesses. Which will multiply every time the host breakthroughs upper realm]

[Trait Name: Mutated Soul Energy

Trait Type: Origin Card

Trait Rank: Acquired Grade

Trait Description: The host's soul energy is mutated which gets stronger and more refined with the increase in the number of consciousness the host has.

Note: the host's soul energy will get stronger and purer with an increase in the number of the host's consciousness.]

Chapter 295: Fishing

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 14:51

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP Box no.1

Sorting through my upgraded origin card and updated physique and traits stat I then turned my attention to the Cloud emperor's severed head and my new Calamity daughter card Cloud Lord.

The new ability of Calamity daughter core to switch from the core form to the card form was thanks to one of the perks Calamity Soul Gem picked up from Ego Gem. Now I understood what Anna meant by using runes to make cards. But this also left many unanswered questions in my mind, why not directly use the comprehended rules instead of extracting runes from them and forging them into cards.

I was yet to comprehend a single rule so I could not experiment as to why I cannot use the rules directly rather than going through all the hassle of forming runes and then turning them into cards. What was the reason behind this? And why were the rune spirits amazed that I could see their runes? I guess I will be contacting Anna very soon again. So much for hoping to not meet that minx again. There's still so much Anna has not taught me about the Ego Gems purposefully.

Shaking my mind, I brought my focus to the matter at hand, Calamity Daughter Card – Cloud Lord.

[Card Name: Cloud Lord 'Claude'

Card Type: Named Calamity Daughter Gem

Card Rank: A-rank(upgradable), Unique Grade

Card Rating: -/-

Card Durability: -/-

Card Effect: The broken Rune 'Cloud' has fused with Calamity Daughter Gem and revived in the form of its deceased owner Card emperor Claude using the false spirit created by the broken rune from the memories of its owner.

Additional effect: Rule 'cloud', Hive AI, Viltronian Physique, Immortal Core, Body Restructure, Transformation.

Note: Due to its broken state the runes realm has decreased to card lord realm. The rune can be upgraded by providing nourishment from Calamity Soul Gem]

The Broken rune 'cloud' which had manifested as its creator's spirit using its memories has fused with Calamity daughter Gem, giving it a body made up of clouds and properties of Viltronian physique. Basically, the rune has turned into a replica of young Claude with a cloud elemental body and viltronian physique. Due to the influence of the viltronian physique, the cloud element body of Claude looks young. After all, a Millennium is nothing in terms of a viltronian's life span.

The Cloud lord also inherited the core additional abilities of the Calamity Daughter Gem such as Hive AI, Immortal Core, Body Restructure and Transformation. Making it a Named Daughter Gem. What's eye-catching is that the card info shows that it has a unique grade, an upgradable rank with no card ratings and durability. Not to mention its ability the Rule 'Cloud'.

The most incredible thing is that I can control this Cloud Lord with Hive AI. Meaning I did not have to worry about the repercussions of using a Broken Rune as it was a slave to my Hive AI. I never had to worry about the broken rune trying to possess my body. Not that it's possible since it was reduced to being my slave trying to possess me in the first place. The juiciest part is that thanks to Anna's gift, the severed head I could create five more of such slave cards.

Without any delay, I entered the dying Ego Gem to find the other five broken runes.

...

"Guys, I am back" I yelled entering the dying Ego Gem.

"..." The 5 broken Runes which had manifested into spirit form in the shape of their owners from their memories looked at me speechlessly.

"Wait! Aren't you supposed to be erased? Where is Old black?" The old green broken rune asked the obvious questions that came to all 5 broken runes' minds.

"Who cares, He is mine." Old purple having learnt his lesson from last time he did not hesitate this time and rushed towards me before his compatriot could react.

[Alert: Calamity Soul Gem detected an imminent threat to the host consciousness]

[Calamity Soul Gem activating]

[Calamity Soul Gem active]

[Host Soul Recalled to Calamity Soul Gem]

[Calamity Soul Core engaging the threat]

[Calamity Soul Core eliminated remnant spirit, Brontes]

[Threat neutralised]

[Calamity Soul core swallowed a broken Rune 'Lightning']

[Broken Rune 'Lightning' now available in Calamity Soul Gem]

[Calamity Soul Gem seeking hosts permission to sacrifice broken Rune 'Lightning', will you allow it?]

[Allow/Decline]

"Now that was easy" I went fishing in the dying Ego gem and caught a Broken Rune without much effort. I thought they would be more cautious seeing me alive and their buddy Claude dead. I guess the Brontes fellow is not good at using his brain.

"Well, time to go fishing again" And I dove into the dying Ego Gem. Let's see if I can catch a broken rune faster than the last time.

"Fellow's your ride is back again, which one of you wants to go next," I said to the remaining 4 broken gems.

"How are you doing that? Where are the old black and purple? What happened to them?" Old Green no longer dared to look down on me because of my age and low realm.

"You mean Claude and Brontis, they are recuperating in my Ego Gem. I asked them to come and help me invite you guys to my Ego Gem but they rejected me saying it will become crowded and they do not want to share an Ego Gem again with you guys.

I get what they are saying but I have a card duel soon and the opponent is too strong and I need to win no matter what. so I need all the help I need therefore I came to make an offer to you folks, help me and you can stay in my Ego Gem." I can see that all the remaining broken runes are cautious towards me and did not dare to underestimate me as I took down the second strongest of them without effort. There I cooked up a cockamamie story to lure them into a trap my calamity Soul Gem.

"Fine, I will move to your Ego Gem. But know this I will only help when the situation is dire." Old Green was the first to fall for my trap.

"Old green, what are you doing? It may be a trap." Old yellow warned Old Green.

“So what? We are going to die if we stay in this Ego Gem anyway. I do not know about you guys but I want to achieve my creator’s wishes for that I have to live. So, I will take my chances with the kid.” Old Green was practical about his current situation. As expected, these broken runes are slaves to the feelings, desires that their card apprentice had while creating them.

“... I am coming too. I have to reach the demigod realm as my creator hoped.” Old Blue followed Old Green. Seeing Old Blue and Green, Old Yellow followed them adding, “I too am yet to achieve my master’s desire. I will not rest till I do”

Old Red did not say anything; he just followed the other three. As all of them had no choice but to take the risk or die with the dying Ego Gem.

Chapter 296: Unknown Visitors

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 14:47

Location- Sky Blossom City, South Zone Helen’s Homemade Bread

“This is the city’s famous bakery, if you visit Sky Blossom City then you must taste Helen’s Homemade Bread” Lorenzo Lorn as ordered by his new employer was entertaining the two guests from the capital.

“Master Lorn, I am filled to the brim after the 36-course meal earlier. I do not think I have room for baked goods in me,” Barnard declared as let out a huge burp.

“Vincent, it seems your nephew doesn’t understand the meaning of supporting the local businesses.” Lorenzo reminded Fire Fist emperor in a rather calm tone but these words were as cold as the blade of the guillotine for him.

“Master Lorenzo, my sister has spoiled him rotten. Please forgive his insolence. I will remember to properly educate him in my sister’s stead.” Vincent Duskborn roamed the entire sky blossom city with an amputated arm. The force stopping him from regrowing his hand had long disappeared but Vincent did not dare to regrow it not until it is back in the capital. This may be the most shameful moment in his life after becoming a card emperor but Vincent chose to swallow it as he knew he was not a match for Anna or her slave Lorenzo or the family behind her.

“Good, I trust you. Now go order something for yourselves. None for me though I have had digestion issues lately maybe because I am getting old.” Lorenzo was not afraid of being called shameless, he only cared about fulfilling his master’s... employer’s orders.

“No, Master Lorenzo, you are not old. I heard you can take down SS rank dungeons with ease. The problem may be with the food. Please, rest. While we support the local

businesses." Vincent did not hide his art of ass lickary. He appeared to be more shameless than Lorenzo himself. He knew that his family was wondering to get under the shade of the Heatsend Royal family umbrella so would have to lick the Royal family's ass anyway so why not get a head start than the rest of his family.

"Haha, you are right. Something must have been wrong with the food. The SS rank dungeon clear is old news. Last month I raided an SSS-Rank dungeon with a three-member demigod party. I just did not want to brag in front of you younger generation." Lorenzo bragged regardless and forgot to mention during the SSS-Rank Dungeon raid he acted as a porter for the demigod party of the Heatsend royal family.

"SSS-rank dungeon, Master Lorenzo meeting you in person I knew you were nothing short of the rumours about you." Vincent believed Lorenzo and his mind skillfully skipped the words demigod party and thought Lorenzo was the one who cleared the SSS-rank dungeon. As the saying goes, you only hear what you want to hear. Unlike him, his nephew Brandon was a little sceptical about the old bones because he had never seen a strong figure, the one the old bones claimed to be so shameless and narcissistic.

"What do the rumours tell about me. I am always holed up in research or dungeon diving so it has been a long time since I have contacted the outside world. Do the people still remember and talk about this old man? What do they say? Don't hesitate, I can take a little criticism." Lorenzo was enjoying Vincent's flattery and seamlessly asked for more.

"Well, Grandauant will love to hear how you cleared the SSS-rank dungeon old man. I bet Grandpa and Uncle will love to hear about it too." Anna appeared next to the 3 card apprentice out of the thin air.

"Haha, My dear Grandniece you already own me why do you have to go one step further to torture and humility me? Show this old man some mercy." The arrogant and shameless Lorenzo started to purr like a docile yet shameless cat hearing Anna mention his wife.

Snorting at her shameless old man, Anna turned to Vincent and Brandon and questioned them, " How many of you have come? Before you answer, know that for every lie you tell I will claim one body part of yours and that includes your genitalia, especially your genitalia."

"Just the two of us." Vincent hurriedly answered Anna. He knew this bitch was crazy and would not turn soft with a few words of flattery and honeyed words like Lorenzo.

"The family did not want to attract too much attention so it only sent two of us. I swear." Brandon hurriedly yelled while his hand covered his genitals. Seeing his invincible uncle lose an arm to this woman Brandon no longer dared to make light of her words.

Therefore he did not voice an opinion when she ordered them not to contact Wyatt until after the tournament was over.

“They are not lying” Lorenzo vouched for the uncle and nephew duo. Not because of the flattery of Vincent earlier but because of his special rune ‘Balance’. One of the reasons why he was able to become the most important minister of Demigod Heatsend and marry his elder sister Demigod Autumn March.

“Then who else knows about your visit and purpose of visit,” Anna asked with a deep frown.

“Except for a few family elders, Nobody else knows about our visit and its purpose,” Vincent answered and Brandon hurriedly nodded showing agreement to his uncle.

Anna looked at Lorenzo for confirmation who nodded indicating that the uncle and nephew duo were not lying.

“Then, the only possibility is that somehow the information of your visit and its purpose has been leaked.

I just sensed two other card emperors in the vicinity. They are skilled and were able to hide before I could trace them back.” Anna revealed her intention behind interrogating the Duskborn uncle and nephew.

“What? That’s not possible. This is very important to our family. There is no way there was a leak on our side. I am not pointing fingers but maybe these people have nothing to do with my family and they are just here to kidnap the creator of the Silver powder.” Vincent defended his family and was alert. Having witnessed Anna’s street first hand he knew a person who can escape her trance is not someone to trifle with.

Chapter 297: Family Drama

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 14:54

Location- Sky Blossom City, South Zone Helen’s Homemade Bread

“That is a possibility but I do not think so. The origin of Unknown visitors doesn’t matter for now. But their target is Wyatt for sure. If not for me being next to Wyatt. I would not have been able to sense them.

Old man, how come the city array once again failed to alert us. Didn’t you fix it? ” Anna did not know much about the unknown visitors but she knew their target was Wyatt. Which was enough for her to flame onto Valkyrie mode.

"No, not yet I did not have time to attend to that matter since I was busy entertaining these two." Old Man Lorenzo responded with a negative reply.

"So, you are blaming me for asking you to do your job. Wow old man it's your first day and you are already showing signs of the negligence of duty and rebellion. If I leave it here it will only grow so I will be cutting your first year's salary as punishment." Anna did not think twice before pushing the blame on the old man and punishing him ruthlessly.

"No, you can't do that? I have a granddaughter back home to spoil, not to mention numerous research and experiments to fund. If you do not pay me, how will I take care of my granddaughter?" Lorenzo made his priority clear that his granddaughter came before his work.

"That bitch is already 78 years old and a card emperor. She can take care of herself. And I could care less even if she had to sell body at the brothel to make a living. How dare she call me a slut? Fuq, your punishment was too light. Correction: I will be cutting a decade worth of your salary." Speaking of her younger cousin Anna got angrier with every sentence she spoke and Vented it on Lorenzo

"Why are you blaming my cute granddaughter? It was you who slept with her finance arranged by the family. Because of you, the decades-old arranged engagement was broken and she became the talk of the town. " Old man Lorenzo narrated the feud between Anna and His granddaughter.

His granddaughter was too good and well behaved for her own sake. This helped her climb to the Card emperor realm and become a talented Diamond grade Card creationist at a young age. And become the youngest academician at one of the top 10 universities. But this also bound her to sacrifice herself to keep the promise that his drunk son made decades ago to one of his colleagues.

Being bound by the honour of the family name Old man Lorenzo's hands were tied but he couldn't sit and watch his precious granddaughter's life be ruined because of his stupid son and his drunk promise. So he researched every aspect of the man who was supposed to marry his granddaughter and hatched a devious plan to save his granddaughter.

First, he took Anna under the guise of work to a common place where the supposed finance of his granddaughter would periodically visit and so that man caught the eye of Anna. And then Let nature take its course. Anna being Anna, got what she wanted. Giving Old man Lorenzo enough reason to cancel the arranged marriage that his stupid son has set and saving his granddaughter from sure hell.

After that Old man, Lorenzo disowned his stupid Son who dared to play with his granddaughter's life and sentenced him to Way beyond for a century. But Lorenzo was not without consequences, this devious plan of his cost him Anna's respect for him as an elder and to date, she hates him for using her to achieve what he wants. Not to

mention His Granddaughter and Anna became the gossip of the year. Which brought cracks in Anna and her cousin's relationship.

"Shut it, old man. If you dare to argue I will extend the salary cut to a century. Old man, just give me a reason." Anna warned Lorenzo.

"Your highness, I'm sorry to be rude but please can we focus on Wyatt's safety and the unknown Card emperors." Vincent reminded Anna of the pressing issue. He knew someone who could escape from Anna, either had a special origin card or was stronger than her. Either way, these new people were too much for him and his nephew to handle, as protecting is harder than killing. It was too late to call support from family but thankfully he had two powerful card emperors like the Southern emperor and Raining Alchemist with overlapping goals.

"Don't worry about Wyatt's safety, I have left a mark on the back of his head. If he is in danger I can rush back to him. What worries me the most is the headcount of the enemy? If 2 card emperors came to locate their target then how many of them are there in total. We are outnumbered and adding you two liabilities to our team. It will be difficult and also fun." A brilliant light shone in Anna's eyes as though of the upcoming ambush. She acted as if all this was a game to her.

"With all due respect, your highness. I am a lot stronger than I look." Brandon did not take it well being called a liability. He was card emperor and had his dignity so he voiced out his grievance.

"Bitch, you did not even react when I attacked you earlier. If not for your uncle sacrificing an arm you would be dead and I would have gifted Wyatt with not one but two severed card emperor heads.

And you, yes you. You can regrow your arm as a reward for your good behaviour. And also make sure your nephew doesn't do something stupid in the fight to come." Anna's brutal words hit Brandon harder than any punch he has taken to date. The condescending tone to Anna's words still rang in his ears. No matter the era every being prefers to be wanted and best to the opposite sex. The same goes for Brandon. Being savagely ridiculed by a beauty like Anna who was known to be generous when it comes to choosing her men was devastating for him. Lord knows if he is ever going to recover from this.

"Thank you, your highness. I will keep an eye on this idiot." Vincent hurriedly summoned his grimoire and grew back his amputated Arm. He was Fire Fist Emperor, his arms were his weapons. Regrowing the arm Vincent felt like the fish back in the water.

Chapter 298: Crazy Old Bat

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 15:01

Location- Sky Blossom City, South Zone Helen's Homemade Bread

"Hey, old man. Call that bookworm here. We need all hands on deck." Anna knew the card emperors she sensed earlier were only here to reckon the situation surrounding Wyatt. Now that the enemy knows that 4 card emperors are protecting their target they will try to attack them with more headcount and stronger players because normal card emperors are not a match for her and Lorenzo's prowess.

"What? She is busy conducting her research. How can she possibly get her in time?" Old man Lorenzo's heart jumped out of his mouth when Anna asked him to involve his granddaughter in the upcoming fight.

"Don't act. Knowing her she must have followed you here once uncle introduced silver milk powder to you guys." Anna knew her cousin well. When it comes to hunger for knowledge, she is an exact copy of her grandfather. There is no way she would sit back having seen something so miraculous as the silver milk powder. She must have followed her grandfather to verify and research silver milk powder.

"I am telling you, she is busy conducting experiments. There is no way she can make it here in time. Besides, she is just a little girl and she will be of no help to us." Old man Lorenzo did not want his darling granddaughter to participate in a bloodbath that is about to come.

"She has your teleportation card right? Call her and ask her to bring some reinforcement." Anna clearly remembered Old man Lorenzo gifting his rare long-distance teleportation card awarded to him by her grandpa to her Cousin.

"Aren't you forgetting something? Her long-distance teleportation card only lets her teleport to the places she has been to and recorded in her grimoire. Besides, she is just a little girl and she will be of no help to us." Lorenzo reminded Anna that his granddaughter's teleportation card was useless for their current dilemma.

"Fine, I will find out if you are lying. Know this if you lied to me. I will lock you up in a dark room and have you create cards for the rest of your life... rest of your term of employment. And that bookworm is not a little girl. If you hadn't broken her arranged marriage she would have made you great-grandpa decades ago." Having warned Lorenzo, Anna looked towards the card stadium and strengthened her connection with Mark she had left on the back of Wyatt's head and then contacted her subordinates.

Anna knew that the upcoming fight was not about defeating the enemy but protecting Wyatt, so she made it her priority and then came enjoying the fight. As long as she and Lorenzo were able to protect Wyatt till her reinforcement arrived then it was her victory. Placing Wyatt in trusting hands, she can let loose and enjoy the carnage that is to come to her satisfaction.

“Yes, sweetie. What is it? The experiment was successful... Good. Yes, I have met the creator of the silver milk powder. You want to meet him too... That will be a problem because he is busy now. How about I set a meeting between just the two of you? Yes, that is possible. Who do you think your grandpa is? Anything for you, sweet pea. Timings? Tell me what time you prefer, I will arrange the meeting then. Tomorrow morning it is then. You head home first, grandpa has some work with your cousin. Let’s meet tomorrow morning. Bye.” While Anna was busy calling for reinforcement. Old man Lorenzo received a call.

The call was from Lorenzo’s beloved granddaughter informing him that whatever experiment she was conducting was a success. And she would like to come to visit him to meet the creator of silver milk powder. But was rejected by Lorenzo arguing that Wyatt was busy and promised that he would set up a meeting with Wyatt for her tomorrow morning. He did not want his granddaughter to be involved in the upcoming battle, so he made sure she did not come to him. Lorenzo was not lying, Wyatt was indeed busy participating in the tournament semi-finals.

“You, son of... call her back, call immediately before she uses her teleportation card and ask her to meet us here. How dare you lie to me” Anna who was calling for reinforcement, seeing Old Man act suspiciously, receiving as he answered the call she eavesdropped on him. She did not trust this old bat. He was loyal, very loyal but when it came to his granddaughter his loyalty was questionable. And she was right to eavesdrop on the old bat was even though he did not lie he hid that fact that she was conducting experiment somewhere nearby and could reach them to assist.

“Technically, I did not lie to you. She was indeed busy conducting an experiment...” Lorenzo was trying to buy some time so that his daughter could leave using the teleportation card. Once the card is used it enters a cooldown period and cannot be used. So his granddaughter cannot be involved in the upcoming battle no matter what.

“Pick up, Pick up...” realizing Lorenzo trying to stall for time. Anna called her cousin herself before it’s too late.

“Hi, Coz. It must be very urgent for you to call me.” Anna’s cousin answered the call. She was a little surprised that Anna called her because since their last fight neither of them has talked to each other.

“Luna, where are you right now? Did you return using the teleportation card?” Anna did not waste time talking nonsense with her cousin and directly went to the point.

Right now Anna hoped that her cousin did not teleport and leave because even though she was confident in her and Lorenzo’s strength, she was worried what if the enemy would be ruthless by attacking the city or worse use the city to negotiate with her. Anna was confident of protecting Wyatt but protecting the whole city at the same time was a difficulty of another level.

Chapter 299: Luna Lorn

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 15:01

Location- Sky Blossom City, South Zone Helen's Homemade Bread

"I am at home and yes I returned using the teleportation card." Sensing the urgency in Anna's tone, Luna Lorn answered truthfully.

"*Sigh*...Luna, what experiment were you conducting? And where?" Anna asked to decide on how to punish the crazy old bat. Due to the overprotective nature of Lorenzo, he might have endangered the entire Sky blossom city and Wyatt.

"I followed grandpa to Sky blossom city and went to that D-rank Gate dungeon Silver beach to experiment to check if the method of extracting the silver power was accurate and the result was the same as promised. What did grandpa do now? " Luna Lorn, despite her differences with Anna, answered patiently to her cousin's questions.

"He might have potentially endangered the lives of everyone living in the entire Sky Blossom City. Especially Dalton Wyatt, the creator of the miracle drug Silver milk powered. I am thinking of branding him insubordination and looking up in the cardroom to create cards for the rest of his life if we survive the upcoming battle." Feeling the weight of the lives of everyone living in the entire Sky Blossom City who might be implicated in something unrelated to them, Anna was a little chatty with her estranged cousin.

"I think that will be for the best and I can finally experience a life without adult supervision. The enemy you are facing might be strong enough for you to call for help." Luna knew when it came to battle her cushion was afraid of nothing and in some way was invincible. But for her to call for help then the enemy might be quite powerful.

"No, they are just a bunch of rats hiding in the shadows. I am worried that they might use the innocent people of the city as hostages." Anna was not worried, with her strength that if she saw no hope of winning then she could flee with Wyatt but what if the enemy threatened her with the citizens of Sky Blossom City. As the Southern emperor, the ruler of the southern region, this kind of situation was new to her but she wanted to avoid civilian casualties altogether if possible.

"Anna, you do know that the life of the creator of Silver milk powder is more important than the lives of the citizens of the Sky Blossom city. And not to mention your soul contract with him. You know what to do, I do not have to remind you. Just take the boy and escape." Luna thought Anna was stupid to confront the enemies with a disadvantage it would be in her best interest to take Wyatt and escape.

“It’s not that simple, Wyatt’s friends are in the city and he will never leave them behind.” Anna did think of escaping quietly with Wyatt but she knew Wyatt would never agree to her plan.

“The Anna I knew does not care about somebody’s feelings, she does what she wants. The boy must be quite special for you to consider his feelings before acting.” Luna knew her Cousin well. If Anna thought something was right she would do it without caring about the consequences. It was fresh to see her think about the consequences before acting.

“Something like that. Got to go. It was good talking to you again. I missed you.” Having a proper conversation with her little cousin after a long time, Anna was happy. But she did not forget the matter at hand.

“Send me your coordinates. I will be there. I need to meet the guy who has you hooked.” Luna was curious and wanted to meet the being who had her cousin hooked.

“What? I thought you used your teleportation card already? You have another teleportation card.” Anna was surprised to hear Luna ask for coordinates and it meant she wanted to teleport to her location. But soon realized Luna’s teleport card did not require coordinates, it worked only on places Luna has been and recorded in her grimoire. So does she have another teleportation card?

“No, I will borrow JJ’s teleportation card. Though his card is of the lower Grade and it only supports long-distance teleportation for one person. So I can not bring reinforcements. Send the coordinates. I will be there soon.” Luna did not have a second teleportation card but their Cousin JJ had a lower grade teleportation card which she could borrow.

“Great, see you soon.” Anna hung up the call and sent Luna her current coordinates.

It’s not that Anna did not think of asking for help from other people with the teleportation card. But the ones she knew of were all conveniently out on a mission. As for the Heatsend Family teleportation Array, it is an ultra long-distance mass teleportation array that is currently out of juice as it was used by Old man Lorenzo, Luna and others. By the evening for the array to be up and running once again but that is too late.

“Hi, I am here” soon Luna appeared right next to Anna. And turning to her grandpa she yelled “Grandpa, you went too far this time. Thankfully I was able to get hold of JJ in time before he left.”

“Old man, enjoy this freedom as much as you can. After today you will be locked in a dark cardroom and will be creating cards for the rest of your life.” Anna gave her verdict to Lorenzo and from her tone, she did not seem to be kidding.

"That's okay as long as my granddaughter comes to visit me. It will be fine." Lorenzo was a researcher who was titled Raining Alchemist. Being locked in a room for year's was not new to him. So Anna's punishment was like the doctor prescribing addicts more pain killers.

"Sorry, grandpa. I think I will be too busy with the new project that auntie gave to visit you." Luna apologized saying that she cannot visit Lorenzo in his dark card room.

"No, problem. I will call you whenever I think of you, sweet pea." Lorenzo tried to stay positive.

"You wish, all the grimoire privileges except for card creation will be banned during your incarceration.

So, mother hired you for the project of Silver Milk powder mass production. Congrats." Anna congratulated Luna for getting the new project. Hiding the fact that she was pissed at her mother for going behind her back and recruiting Luna without informing her. And here she was like a fool tiring to hire this crazy old bat Lorenzo for the mass production project.

Card Apprentice Daily Log #Chapter 300: Code Name Flower Thief - Read Card Apprentice Daily Log Chapter 300: Code Name Flower Thief

Chapter 300: Code Name Flower Thief

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 14: 50

Location- Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

"Fuq, that bitch's senses are too strong. If not for the newbie's origin card we almost got caught." Said a middle-aged bald man as he landed in a makeshift underground base.

"Hey man, what was that? You almost got me killed. The plan was to do a quick reconnaissance and return to the rendezvous point. What were you thinking? One second, if I were a second late then we both would be dead." Norman Jones yelled in anger at the middle-aged bald man.

"Calm down newbie, no harm done, we are alive aren't we. I thought I had a clear shot and wanted to take it. Saving us all the trouble of ambushing the freaking Southern Emperor. But who knew that bitch would sense me from that far away." The middle-aged man summoned a long-nosed rifle with a huge scope and caressed it as if it was his only love.

“Sniper, flower thief is right. That was too much of a risk. Thanks to your stunt we lost the element of surprise and will have to speed up the plans. Madam is not going to be happy to hear about it.” A bulky man with grey hair reprimanded the middle-aged man. And addressed Norman and the middle-aged man with their code names Flower thief and Sniper.

“Grey fur, then we do not have to add it in our mission report to the Madam, capish.” Sniper gave Grey fur an intimidating gaze.

“*sigh* you fool, you are not new to how madam works. Our mission report doesn’t matter. Even if we do not report to her about this incident, she will know everything with the regular memory inspection. Our mission reports are just to see if we are docile enough. Now hurry and report what you collect during reconnaissance.” Grey fur looked at Sniper as if seeing a fool and thought how can this fool be among the world’s top 50 deadliest snipers alive. He doesn’t have the patience or the attitude of a sniper. I guess if not for his origin card he would just be an average bald fool.

“The situation has changed. We will be facing the Raining Alchemist along with the Fire first emperor, Axe emperor and Southern emperor. Our five-man team is nowhere near enough to face the Southern Emperor and now adding Raining Alchemist to the mix we are all going to end up dying if we act now, ambush or not.” Norman honestly reported what he observed and gave his honest opinion.

“Who told you that it’s just us?” Grey Fur summoned his grimoire and ordered, ” Update status, Team one reporting.” And soon various voices reported their status from the other end.

“Team Two reporting, 1 hour 20 minutes from the rendezvous point”

“Team Three reporting, 15 minutes from the rendezvous point”

“Team Four reporting, 45 minutes from the rendezvous point”

“Team Five reporting, 1 hour 15 minutes from the rendezvous point”

“Team Six reporting, 1 hour from the rendezvous point”

“There are a total of 6 five-men teams. All of us are card emperors. Now, do you still think we will die? Be it Southern Emperor or Raining Alchemist 30 card emperor is not something either of them can deal with. If we successfully take the city hostage, a righteous ruler like the southern emperor will have no choice but to cave to our demands. So relax newbie I do not think we will need you or your origin card but just in case we should be prepared for all outcomes.” Grey fur laughed villainously, after explaining to Norman how prepared they were.

"The southern emperor I heard is a cruel butcher who killed her half-sister and her family in cold blood. I do not think that taking the city as a hostage will work on her." Norman was surprised to hear the Grey fur call Anna a righteous ruler which was very different from the rumours he heard that painted the Southern Emperor as a ruthless blood-hungry ruler.

"Newbie I do not have to teach you that rumours are not always true. I am someone who has worked close to her Majesty. Despite her cold and distant look, she cares a lot about the people and her family name. Just follow my lead. If we are lucky we do not have to fight to complete our mission." Grey fur seemed to know the Southern emperor in person and seemed pretty confident about his plan.

Ever since Norman got his suppressed memories back he was trying to think of various ways to get rid of Sansa's shackles. He never gave in to Sansa's coercion, despite his memories telling him that he had already tried everything and there is no way out of Sansa's clutches. Norman planned to play along until he came up with a plan for his freedom.

But Norman's all thoughts of rebelling came to an end when he saw Sansa gather 30 card emperors just to get rid of a low realm boy to hide her dirty secrets. Just how much power did that woman gather? Are there more card emperors other than these 30 card emperors in her hands? Even if she can control memories using her origin card, it is still impossible to control these many arrogant card emperors.

Each one of these card emperors is more arrogant and prideful than others, there is no way they are willing to be mere tools under someone. But seeing how the arrogant and brazen Sniper was worried about being punished by Sansa. Norman realised there is something he is missing here. How come they are so docile towards Sansa, the woman who is blackmailing them to do her bidding? What is it that made someone like Sniper so docile towards Sansa?

Unable to think of the reason why Sansa's grip was so strong on these Card emperors Norman decided to test the waters to get his answer, not the brightest of the plan but he was on a clock. Before Sansa suppresses his memories again he had to collect as much information as possible for his future self. Norman was not arrogant enough to think that he could break free of Sansa's web in a day. So he decided to gather enough hints and clues for his future self.

Chapter 301: Getting Paid

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 15:02

Location- Sky Blossom City, Outskirts, Underground Base

“Hey, guys. While we are here, is it just me or any of you guys secretly planning how to get out of this mess. I do not know about you but I am sick of doing Sansa’s dirty work for free.” Norman voiced out his thoughts about wanting to rebel against Sansa to Grey Fur and Sniper.

Not the smartest way to test the waters but the quickest way for sure. Norman was so brazen with this approach because he knew all his memories would be read by Sansa anyway so why try to be sneaky when you know you are going to be caught anyway.

“Haha, here we go again, another one of the newbies who thinks he is smart.” Sniper laughed Norman’s words off. This was not the first time he has encountered such a brazen situation.

“I remember Sniper’s first time he was all bark, ‘I will kill that bitch, that, this, blah blah...’ and now look at him he is the most docile dog under madam. Newbie who said we are doing this for free?” Grey fur’s words made it clear that he was on Sansa’s web for a long time.

“What do you mean by we are not doing this for free? Aren’t you guys blackmailed by Sansa to do her bidding?” Norman was confused, he thought they were also being blackmailed by Sansa just like him but turns out they were not being blackmailed, but were willing participants in her schemes and were also being paid handsomely.

“Newbie what Grey Fur means is that we are doing this mission because Madam Web has promised each of us handsome rewards of choice. And no we’re not being blackmailed. Is that clear enough for you” Sniper answered before Grey fur could answer Norman’s questions.

“What?...” Norman thought his approach of gathering information was brazen enough but the answers he got from the Sniper and Grey fur was not something he was expecting. What kind of self-respecting card emperor would willingly participate in the assassination of a teenager in the Card soldier realm. Not just one but 30 card emperors. What’s wrong with these people? Since when were Card emperors available for hire to kill a child.

“Newbie, let me first welcome you to the Madam Web’s club. Here in this club, you are what we call an intern, Sniper is a trainee and I am an official senior member.

The reason why you are not being paid is that you are an intern and have zero loyalty towards Madam Web. I bet you failed the madam’s test very badly for you to be an intern for so long....” Suddenly Grey fur was interpreted by Norman midway.

“What do you mean by I have been an intern for so long? Have we been on other missions together? Why do I not remember?” Norman tried very hard to search his memories but the result was the same. This was the first time he had met with Grey fur.

"If you can not remember me then only two reasons seem possible. One, some of your memories are still suppressed and second, some of your memories are erased by madam.

Madam hardly erases anybody's memories, I bet you must have pissed her off very badly to get your memories erased.

Anyways, where was I? Yes, after completing the Internship one becomes a trainee who has questionable loyalty towards madam but has passed Madam's test. Trainees are eligible to get paid. And over the period if you earn enough merits like me you become a member of the Madam Web's Club and will be paid handsomely for our work." Grey Fur let out a satisfied smile after finally being able to complete his explanation without any further interruption from Norman.

"Wait, don't tell me 30 card emperors are willing to gather to kill a teenager of the card soldier realm for money? Since when did card emperors care for a few soul jades?" Norman did not believe these Card emperors were willing to follow Sansa because of a few soul jades.

"What I mean by getting paid is we get something more worth than soul jades. For example, look at Sniper, do you think any family will be willing to make him their future head?" Grey fur asked Norman.

"..." Norman did not know how to answer because Sniper was standing right next to him.

"Don't mind me, be honest." Sniper pushed Norman for an answer.

"Mr Sniper is more of a warrior and the battlefield is where you shine the best. Family politics and management is not the best place for you." Norman chose his words carefully because he knew Sniper seemed the type to hold grudges.

"Good save. That's a way to politely put it. But the exact answer is no, no family would want a leader like Sniper. The family would fall to ruins the moment someone like the Sniper becomes the leader.

Yet, Sniper is now the top heir of his family. How is that possible? It's possible because that's what he asked Madam Web for in return for his services.

Madam Web's recruitment of interns is a bit crude and questionable but it's effective as long as you pass her test anything you ever wanted will be within your reach." Grey fur seemed to know Sniper's real identity and was pretty close to him As Sniper did not snap being called a fool by him.

"What about you Mr Grey fur? What did you ask in return for your service?" Norman asked curiously

“Aren’t you curious Newbie, I could tell you but I will have to kill you afterwards. Listen carefully, I rarely give advice, We all are being screwed hard but it’s up to you to decide whether you want to enjoy it or struggle till you are broken. That’s the only two end for you once you have entered madam web’s club.” Grey fur seemed to be a very private person despite him being in everybody’s business.

Chapter 302: Secret Organisation

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 15:09

Location- Sky Blossom City, Outskirts, Underground Base.

After having a detailed talk with Grey fur and Sniper, Norman got all the answers he seeks. It wasn’t much of an effort since they told him everything he wanted to know. The important thing was Norman got an answer for why are there so many card emperors willingly serving under Sansa’s command? Mutual benefit. Something grown-ups call ‘you scratch my back I scratch your back’.

What Sansa provided these card emperors is something you would not hope to find in a coerced organisation like this, impartial trust and faith. Madam Web’s club is nothing but a huge network with Sansa as the go-between and safety net.

Material needs mean nothing to people with enormous strength like a card emperor. They hunger for something that material possession and their current status cannot get them, that’s where Sansa comes in to help these card emperors connect with people who can get them what they want in a mutual exchange.

Sansa’s involvement doesn’t end there, if it did she would never be able to command the card emperors like mere pawns. She provided them with trust and guarantee that their mutual exchange goes through without a hitch.

The card emperors trust Sansa’s memory control ability. And believe that Sansa has control over everybody involved and nobody dared to go back on their words or double-cross them during the mutual exchange.

More importantly, the privacy that came with these deals was world-class and could not be found anywhere. The card emperors trapped in Sansa’s web are no ideal citizens, they have many skeletons in their closet which they want to hide from the world. That is the reason they fell in Sansa’s web in the first place.

With Sansa’s ability, it was not hard for her to maintain privacy according to the requirements of her club members. She could make sure that after the deal except for the member who demanded the deal, other personnel involved would forget that such a deal ever happened. Since the demands are not something that these card emperors

can achieve by normal means and require Sansa's help then what they demanded is something shady which they would not like for many people to know. In a way, these card emperors themselves are providing Sansa with more dirt and blackmail material on them.

The Card emperors did not care about this as Sansa and her network can get them whatever they desire, from extinct and forbidden card ingredients to positions in high places to getting revenge to assassinating to getting rid of competition to get away with genocide to anything illegal. As long as they had enough merits in Sansa's books She would make their desires true.

Sansa was like an anchor for these people, with her watching after them they did not need to suppress their animalistic needs. But Sansa wasn't a fool, she would cut anybody who was becoming a liability to the group without hesitation. If she can send 30 card emperor's to kill a child in the card Soldier realm then she can send 30+ card emperor's to kill a single card emperor whom she deemed as a liability to her club. For Sansa, all these card emperors were mere pawns to get what she wants, nothing more nothing less. Thanks to her origin card, controlling these pawns to form a secret organisation in the heart of the capital hidden from the demigods was an easy feat with her calculative and manipulative nature.

After learning all this Norman who was planning on getting free from Sansa's web by struggling hard enough no longer thought it was a good idea as he knew with Sansa's ability and the dirt she has on him it would be foolish of him to think that he could escape from her clutches. Having come to this conclusion Norman started to think it would be in his best interest to not try to go against Sansa and maybe take Grey fur's advice about using the organisation for his benefit similar to how it is using him because whether he likes it or not he is in the organisation and he will do what Sansa asks him off one way or the other, there is no use in struggling.

Having made up his mind Norman's eyes shone with resolve, he was no different from other card emperors he had things he wanted but his current power and status were not enough to get him that. He had enough of being the useless young master of the Jones family. It is true that without the family's resources he could never have been able to reach the card emperor realm. So, what? He had as much right to be the Jones family head as the rest of his siblings. Norman's ambition which he had suppressed under his hedonism finally came to light after an entanglement with Sansa's web.

"Grey Fur, when will we be attacking them?" Norman asked Grey Fur with newfound convictions.

"After the remaining 5 teams arrive at the rendezvous point and briefing them about our plan." Grey Fur felt that something had changed in Norman and he was not new to this as he had seen many Interns have the same light that Flower Thief had in his eyes. After outweighing the benefits of the club nobody would think of rebellion instead try hard to gain more merits and be recognised by Sansa.

“While you guys are trying to negotiate with the Southern emperor, can I try kidnapping that kid? With him in custody, it will be easy for us to escape. Of course, we will kill him once we reach a safe place.” Norman no longer wasted time thinking about how to get free instead he was thinking of using his origin card to earn merits.

“Good, newbie. I like the way you are thinking. Way to show initiative. If you are successful then the number of variables in this plan will decrease sharply. You can go ahead with your plan after all madam did send you to do exactly that.” Commending Norman, Grey fur heads out of the underground base for fresh air.

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Chapter 303: Scrutiny

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 15:14

Location- Sky Blossom City, Outskirts, Underground Base

Heading out, Norman summoned his grimoire and made contact with Sansa.

“Grey fur, you are done already. That was fast.” Sansa answered the call and was surprised to hear from Grey Fur so soon.

“Not yet, Madam. We are yet to start. Other teams haven’t arrived but we have done initial reconnaissance. And everything is within madam’s plan. Once all the team gather we plan to distract the boy’s protectors while Flower thief tries to kidnap the boy. We plan on using the boy as a hostage to escape and then get rid of him.” Grey Fur explained the reason for the delay and his plan step by step. This way Sansa would not blame him for calling her prematurely.

“This must not be the only reason why you called me? What is it?” Sansa asked impatiently

“I called to report about Flower Thief.” Grey fur was trying to do extra credits in Sansa’s books. It was due to teacher pet’s like Grey fur, Sansa did not have a hard time managing her secret organisation.

The senior members of the organisation have grown so dependent on the secret organisation that they protect it and make sure that the organisation continues to grow untraced. And also help Sansa manage and keep tabs on the new members so that they do not do something stupid. Sansa’s secret organisation is now basically functioning by itself. Except for recruiting new interns and solving occasional disputes Sansa’s role in her organisation was decreasing but this did not mean that her control over the organisation members decreased instead it only grew stronger.

"What about him? Did he try something funny? Should I suppress and check his memory remotely." Sansa thought that Norman must have tried to escape or something. So she decided to shut him down remotely.

"No, Madam. your plan was a success. That kid is playing right in your hands. He could not resist the idea of becoming the future Jones family head. But I will still keep my eyes on him for now. He is no longer a reluctant participant and is showing initiative." Grey Fur reported the change in Norman and him showing Initiative.

"Good. There is no surprise there they always do." Sansa answered nonchalantly.

"It's because madam knows how to select the perfect interns. With Flower thief in our hands, we have made it into the Jones family. Next, which family are we targeting madam?" Norman knew the key reason they were able to break Norman was because of his weak personality. Sansa knew how to select them.

"You are enthusiastic as ever Grey fur. But for now, finish that Boy. I do not want him stepping into the capital. I had tried so hard to get rid of that troublesome Ellen but even after death she still somehow manages to trouble me. Give that boy the most painful death you can think of. Only then will my anger recede." Sansa ordered Grey fur to kill Wyatt in the most painful way he can think of.

"Do not worry madam, your salve will not disappoint you." Grey fur humbly accepted Sansa's order.

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Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 14:30

Location- Sky Blossom City, Whiteburn Manor, Whiteburn Family Conference hall.

"If everybody is here then let's start with discussing the number of casualties during the ambush of demigod worshipers," Jack announced the commencement of the meeting.

"Thanks to family guards fast response the casualties are limited to only 7 family staff." The 7th elder reported the casualties during the ambush as asked by Jack.

"How many of them very form the main family?" Jack asked the questions that most of the elders present in the hall were wondering.

"None. The casualty was limited to branch family members." The 7th elder answered without any feelings for the dead.

“Good and what about property damage?” Jack did not dwell on the sacrifice of 7 branch family members. As if their deaths were not worth his concern. It seemed he was more eager to know if there is any casualties to main family members and how much property damage had taken place.

“The family declared martial law since the very beginning of the ambush so the property damage and casualties were kept to a minimum.” The 7th elder just followed Jack’s lead and report to what he was asked. It was as if they were playing a play.

Jack had already read the report submitted by the 7th elder but the other elders and grand elders were yet to receive the report. So Jack asked the 7th elder all the questions that were in the minds of all the elders present in the conference. So that everyone is brought to the speed. But still Whiteburn family was a den of wild animals elders would not sit still as he acted play to show that his leadership was perfect and not to be questioned during the ambush.

“Family head, please do not waste our time and skip to the main question that we all are here to ask. Why did the demigod work shippers only target our family and how did they know and were able to access the family’s secret escape teleportation array?” The 21st elder was of the same generation as Jack and was one of the people who were stepped on by Jack to his climb to power. He was especially here to scrutinise Jack. Despite knowing the answers to all the questions he just asked he still brought up the following questions in the conference to put Jack in the hot seat.

As expected 21st elders questions worked like a charm and the quiet conference hall turned rowdy in a matter of seconds,

“Wait, our family had a hidden escape teleportation array? So the rumours were true.”

“What? The demigod worshipers used our hidden teleportation array to attack our family manor. How come I am getting to hear this now?”

“That’s not important, how were they able to find the teleportation array and access it? It’s only known to a few of us. Does this mean there is a traitor in our family”

“The important question is why isn’t the family head asking these questions instead of flaunting the minimum casualties during the ambush.”

Chapter 304: Silence

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 14:40

Location- Sky Blossom City, Whiteburn Manor, Whiteburn Family Conference hall.

“Silence” Jack yelled with utter annoyance as if the family elders gathered in Whiteburn Family Conference hall were mere barking dogs.

The people gathered here were Whiteburn Family elders, they represented the past present and future of the family, these were the people who earned the family title of the wildest family of the Sky Blossom City. How could they be silenced by Jack’s mere yell? They were, they literally were silenced by Jack yelling the word Silence.

The elder spoke with the loudest voice they could fandom but no voice came out of their larynx. Not just their voice they could not even connect with their soul energy. The rowdy crowd of Whiteburn were not shocked or surprised by this as they were used to it, this was the World rule ‘Silence’ which their family head had comprehended.

The rule ‘Silence’ literally silences the victim’s voice and disconnects their access to their soul energy. No access to soul energy means the victim cannot summon his or her grimoire. Even if they had already summoned their grimoire and activated a skill it does not matter, all of it gets interpreted and cancelled as they lose access to their power supply, the soul energy. It’s similar to how all the running electronic items shut down when there’s a power outage.

This rule made the elders vary of Jack. Jack had yet to completely comprehend the rule and forge it into a rune and then turn it into a card. But the power of rule was already so enormous that Jack was able to subdue a hall full of card lord realm card apprentices with a single word. This rule is just a part of Jack’s actual strength as he had only formed his Ego Gem and comprehended the rule in the present decade before that Jack was able to lead the Whiteburn family with his might as a normal card apprentice alone.

While the elders were afraid of Jack’s mysterious rule they also saw it as an opportunity that would raise the Whiteburn family beyond a third rate city like sky blossom city. But only Jack knew that his half comprehend rule appeared so powerful because the people around him were just too weak. They did not have an Ego Gem so they could not resist the power of rule. Therefore he could easily silence them with his incomplete rule. A card apprentice of any realm with an Ego Gem could easily be immune to his incomplete rule. It was like being the only literate in the village of illiterates.

“I have conducted this conference to answer all of your questions. Have patience we will get to those questions when we are done with obvious ones. But since you guys are already brought to the speed, then I will continue by answering all the questions you have asked. Speak up now in a civilized manner if you have any objections. Instead of shouting like we are in a fish market.” Jack had already lifted his rule ‘silence’ and asked the elders if they had any problem with how he was conducting his conference. But the hall remained silent as rowdy elders no longer dared to use their numbers to pressure the family head.

“I will take your silence as no objection.” Jack eyed the 21st elder with an intimidating gaze. Elders who noticed this knew that upcoming days in the family for the 21st elder will be difficult.

“Yes, the family had created a secret escape teleportation array as a contingency as one of the hidden parts of the project ‘Last Stand’. You guys are not new to project ‘Last Stand’ but there are many hidden parts to the project which many of you are not aware of and the information of these hidden parts are limited to related personnel only. Any questions.” Jack glanced over all the elders across the entire hall and finally landed his gaze on the 21st elder who was about to speak and used his rule ‘silence’ on him.

“...” The 21st elder opened his mouth but no words came out of it. His mouth moved but it was unable to produce sound. The 21st elder did not panic, he knew what was happening, Jack was trying to show him who was running the show. But the 21st elder did not get overwhelmed here instead he raised his arms like students raising their hands in class to get permission from their teacher.

“...” Jack was dumbstruck. He did not expect the 21st elder despite being embarrassed by him to endure all the humiliation and continue making a stance against his tyranny. Seeing no choice Jack lifted his rule and asked “Yes, Luke what is it do you want to ask?”

“Thank you, family head. My questions are very simple,

How much of the family money did you use in setting up the hidden teleportation array? What is the current state of the hidden teleportation array? Is it damaged or can it be transplanted to another secure location?

Why were the family elders not informed of such a huge expenditure?

How did the demigod worshipers know about the hidden teleportation array and how to access it when most family elders did not know about it? Do you suspect there is a traitor among us? If yes, do you know who the traitor is?” Starting small the 21st elder asked all the questions which put Jack and his leadership under a very bad light.

“Setting up the teleportation array cost a butt load of money, all of the money we made through the black market was used to set up the teleportation array and maintain it.

The demigod worshipers destroyed the teleportation array during their escape so that we can not follow them. So now we can not transplant it to another secure location.

The reason why the family elders were not informed of such a huge expenditure was that all the money used in its creation was black money. The fewer people involved the better.

The demigod worshipers knew about the hidden teleportation array and how to access it because we do have a traitor among us. And that traitor is none other than the disowned Paul Whiteburn. Paul learned this information from his father who is one of the personnel involved in setting up, maintaining and guarding the teleportation Array.

Paul has not only betrayed the family but also joined the Empire. We are still investigating his entire family and friends list to check what other secrets that Paul may know about." Jake patiently answered all the questions asked by the 21st elder. Trying his best that these answers did not put him in a bad light just like the 21st elder intended to by asking these questions.

Chapter 305: Conspiracy

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 14:52

Location- Sky Blossom City, Whiteburn Manor, Whiteburn Family Conference hall

"Luke, I hope I was able to answer all your questions." Jack's eyes were so cold as he glared at Luke, the elders that noticed this thought Jack was planning on killing Luke.

To these elders who were oppressed under Jack's absolute tyranny, Luke who despite all the embarrassment and intimidation stood tall to question Jack appeared as a saviour and a better option than Jack the current family head.

"Yes, family head your answers were clear but my questions are not done there. I want to ask you,

Why did the Demigod family attack us out of all the families in the sky blossom city? We are the Whiteburn's strongest and the richest family in the city, how could they possibly be courageous enough to attack our family in our territory." Like asked the question that was bugging most of the elders. These elders are busy with their Active soul control cultivation or out on family business. Most of them do not know what transpired recently to provoke the religious nuts into attacking them. So, this question was bugging most of the elders.

"I do not know... I heard our family was not the only target they attacked the card stadium too. Maybe their acts were just acts of terror. And they chose our family because of Paul's involvement. If they want to terrorize the city then what better than attacking the strongest and richest family in the city. With the help of Paul and his information, our family may have seemed easy as a target." Jack lied without batting an eye.

“*clap* *clap*... Family head I will let this slide as a fellow father. Hey, which father doesn't lie to protect his only son. But do not forget the oath you took before becoming the family head, family before anything and anyone.

According to my information, the demigod worshipers attacked our family and the stadium because of your son, Pax Godson. The demigod worshipers believe that your son is the last descendant of the demigod Michael Angelo Godson. Is it true?” Luke everything all along and he purposefully asked his questions to trap Jack.

“No, Pax is not the last descendant of any demigod. His mother was a low-level adventurer who I met during my adventuring days. Have you ever heard of a demigod descendant picking up a dollar bill more efficiently than a stripper?

The demigod worshipers have misunderstood my son as their lord's last descendant because of his golem origin card which is shaped in demigod Michael Angelo Godson's image. That is all this is a big misunderstanding.

Do you have any more questions? If not, this family conference will end here. I still have to take care of a lot of things.” Jack was pissed that Luke brought his son into this despite knowing that his son is at the centre of this and he can not hide him forever.

“Family head, I know you are busy but we still have to decide how to treat the people involved and not mention the compensation to the 7 branch family members that sacrificed themselves for the family” by people involved Like clearly meant, Pax Godson. But he could not be obvious because Luke knew that pushing Jack too would not favour him. So turned to another issue that would help him gain points with branch family elders.

“What about the 7 beach family members? They did their job, why do we need to compensate them?” From the start, Jack acted as if the people from the branch family were expendable.

“Family head your quick response of declaring martial law was indeed helpful in averting the ambush of the demigod worshippers but we cannot forget that those 7 people were also key in repelling the enemy. Even though we cannot reward their bravery and contribution to those 7 people, the least we can do is compensate their household. What do you think of this family head?” The branch family elders looked at Luke with grateful eyes, the branch family did not dare to complain about discrimination in front of Jack who even oppressed the main family.

“Fine, 7th elder please see to it that all 7 people's households are compensated appropriately. Everyone dismiss... Elder Like please stay behind. I have things to discuss with you.” Dismissing everyone else Jack asked Luke to stay behind. Elders knew what Jack was up to but they did not dare to voice against Jack and could only shake their heads in disappointment with themselves.

...

"I never thought a day would come that we both would work together, you know I did try to have your eldest daughter assassinated and then your son through a death match." Luke did not understand Jack, how could this man be so cold-hearted that for the family he is willing to sacrifice his children.

"Anything for the family, right. Anyway, I stand to gain more by making you my puppet than killing you. So, did you make contact with Paul? How is it going on his side?" Jack did not hide his intentions from Luke.

"I did. The plan was a success. Everything went according to your calculation. They trust Paul as one of them. Having Paul help demigod worshippers attack our manor to become one of them and then having Paul rescue the fleeing demigod worshippers to gain their trust. Only you could think of such a devious plan." Luke reminisced how Jake approached him with Paul yesterday night. And offered to make him the next family head in exchange for his cooperation.

"But that is not enough for Paul to get into the inner sanctum of the church and get his hands on the demigod Michael Angelo's broken runes. There is still a lot of work we have to do. Make sure that body doesn't screw everything up in the middle." Jack pardoned Paul for his crimes and helped him infiltrate the empire because he had bigger plans like eyeing the broken rune of the demigod.

"Don't worry Paul is somebody I choose. That kid is more devious than you think. The important thing is how eager he is to prove his loyalty and himself to the family. As long as we look after his parents he will do what we ask of." Luke assured Jack that he could trust Paul and he can control Paul fine using his attachment to his parents.

"And You make sure to maintain the reputation I helped you build today. Especially focus on gaining the trust of the branch family. if you gain their trust. Nobody can stop you from taking the family leader position when I step down." Jack advised Luke on how to become the next family head when he steps down.

Chapter 306: Tell me why?

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 15:02

Location- Sky Blossom City, Whiteburn Manor, Whiteburn Family Conference hall

"Hey man, you don't have to tell me that. I have been preparing to overthrow you for decades." Luke did not take Jack's advice about winning the trust of the branch family seriously.

“This arrogance of yours is the reason why you have been trying to overthrow me for decades without success

Luke, the reason why I choose you is that I see a decisive leader in you. I think you are willing to do anything in the name of the family that others will hesitate to do.

But that is not enough to become a family head. If you continue to look down on the branch family you fail to become the head even after I step down.

Over the years many capable branch family members have married into the main family. Their contribution has made them a valuable asset to the main family, gaining them the same power as any main family member. Not to mention their offspring who have grown up being part of both main and branch families.

Winning over the branch families means winning over these people. Adding these two groups they make up to 60 percent of family power. This is how important the branch family are and most importantly they are very loyal and know to endure. Unlike the main family member who is dissatisfied with anything you do.” Jack did not like the arrogance shown by the next Whiteburn candidate chosen by him.

“Wow! You really want me to become the next family head. That means you are stepping down as the family head.” It seems Like never believed that Jack would help him become the next family head. Even after Luke tried to kill Jack’s eldest daughter and only son.

“You fool, I just destroyed the reputation I had built over the decades for you to act as hero in the family conference. And here you are still trying to figure me out. Now I feel like I would have had better chances with that other guy.” Jack knew it would not be easy to gain Luke’s trust and bring him to his side but he did know that despite all his efforts Luke would be this cynical of him and his motives.

“Why do I have a hard time trusting you? You just waltz into my bedroom and said you will make me the next family head and to trust you. But you never explained to me, why are you planning to retire? Why did you choose me despite our old and new grudges? And why are we having that kid Paul steal a broken demigod rune from the religious nuts?

I thought you were preparing your eldest daughter to be the next family head. If not for your sincerity earlier I would have thought you were just messing with me.” Luke had many doubts as today early morning at 02:00 Jack walked into his bedroom and dragged him out saying he will make him the next family head and to trust him. Without giving him much explanation Jack had him do many favours for him like helping Paul help demigod worshippers to ambush the manor, helping Paul help demigod worshippers escape the family pursuit, and helping Jack control Paul. Luke followed Jack’s arrangements because he felt that if he did not do what Jack asked him to, he would be killed by him under false pretences.

"I did not have the time to explain everything to you at that movement. Now that everything is taking off as planned. Let me bring you up to speed.

I have comprehended my rule enough to forge a rune. So, soon I am planning to break through to the Card Overlord realm. You know the government rules. Once I cross the card lord realm I have to leave for a higher tier city." Luke was shocked to hear that Jack had already comprehended a decent amount of rule and forged a rune. When the rest of the family was still thinking that Jack had just started comprehending his rule.

"What? There is no hurry for you to break through to the Card Overlord realm yet. You can always break through when you have comprehended a few more runes or until you have found a platinum grade grimoire." Luke knew Jack was an irreplaceable pillar of the Whiteburn family with him gone, the family's hold over the Sky blossom city and the city's black market will be challenged.

"I have to. You are smart, you must have already figured out that there is truth to the demigod worshipers' claims. Pax is one of the descendants of demigod Michael Angelo Godson.

Pax is not safe here, I am planning to have him join one of the top 10 universities. They would fight to have demigod descendants join their university." Jack made it clear that he was willing to join hands with the enemy for the sake of his son.

"It wasn't hard figuring out. Your boy's last name is Godson, same as the demigod. So for your son's safety, you will retire and move to Central Academic City along with him.

Central Academic City, with such a big stage, why would you want your eldest daughter to be a family head in a third-tier city. I bet you're planning on taking Eliza and the twins along with you.

It makes sense why you want to steal broken demigod runes from the church. But I still don't get it, why choose me as your replacement among all the people? I tried to kill Eliza and Pax, for god's sake Jack, please explain to me what the fuq are you planning." This question was bugging Luke more than anything else, he could not fathom why the hell a man like Jack who loves his children more than anything in life would be willing to forgive him for trying to assassinate his children and also help him achieve his lifelong dream. What was this man planning? The more generous Jack was to him the more it frightened Luke.

Chapter 307: Vision

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 15:13

Location- Sky Blossom City, Whiteburn Manor, Whiteburn Family Conference hall

"Haven't I answered you already? I chose you for your decisiveness and willingness to do anything for the family. And you're the only one who can understand my new vision for the family. The other candidates have a different vision for the family and its development.

My vision also used to align with their vision. Until recently everything changed when I learned that my only son had the blood of a demigod. Do you know what it means? Not just to Pax but to me, you and the family?" Jack certainly had a new vision for the Whiteburn family and his recent action was just a step towards that vision.

"I don't want to rain on your vision but you do know that having demigod blood does not guarantee that one can become a demigod..." Luke knew why Jack was so excited, but he thought Jack's thoughts were too far-fetched. If just having a demigod bloodline helped one become a demigod. With the number of children each demigod gives birth to and the descendants these children give birth to. There would be a demigod on every street.

"You are right, having demigod blood does not guarantee that one can become a demigod but having a demigod's broken rune does guarantee that one can become a demigod." Jack was clear about his plans and had already deployed a pawn named Paul to achieve it.

"Are you mad? Let's say even if Paul is successfully able to steal demigod Godson's broken rune, it is not absolute that it will accept Pax as its new master. There is something called bloodline purity, without enough of it, there's no way in hell demigod Godson's broken rune will acknowledge Pax.

Let's assume a miracle happens and demigod Godson's broken rune accepts Pax as its new master but who is to say that it will not revive demigod Godson in Pax's body. This plan is filled with so many variables that if we get caught doing what you are planning it will lead to the destruction of our whole Whiteburn family." It did not take a genius to figure out the obvious holes in Jack's plan and it made Luke cautious.

"Do not worry, I know what I am doing and the problems you just listed will not happen, Pax is my child and I will never risk his life. Trust me, if everything goes according to plan. The Whiteburn family will have a seat among the world leaders." Jack was not someone who would risk his son's life. He knew something that Luke did not know about the interesting demigod's broken rune.

The broken rune of a demigod does indeed need high demigod bloodline purity to accept a new master and this criterion is mostly satisfied by direct descendants of the said demigod. Pax is not a direct descendant but still, Jack was sure that the broken rune of a demigod will accept him as its new master because Pax had received a bestowal from the demigod Godson. Which is equal to getting the seal of approval from the demigod godson. With the blood of the demigod and his bestowal, Pax will easily be able to subdue the broken demigod rune.

As for why Jack was sure that demigod Godson will not try to revive in Pax because demigod worshippers from the empire have tried to revive demigod Godson a few times in the past and failed as he does not want to be revived. And the demigod Godson's will instead of getting revived helped the descendants that were accepted by his broken runes to ascend to demi-godhood. This way Demigod Godson continued to help humanity even after his fall.

These two were the reasons why Jack was quite sure that Pax would become a demigod without a hitch as long as Paul can steal the demigod Godson's broken rune. This Luke did not need to know as knowing too much sometimes does not end well for either of the parties involved.

"If we are caught we face definite annihilation but if we succeed we will be able to climb to the top with a single leap. Hahaha! My sight was limited to a third-tier city while you eye a seat among the world leaders. Jack you crazy son of a gun, I was never so proud of you as my rival till today. Count me in, I want to see if the world appears the same from the top." Luke did not trust that Jack had everything under control but he saw the vision Jack had for the family and it was grander than he could ever dream of.

What's important is that if they pushed hard enough this grand dream was possible. This one possibility was enough for Luke to put everything he ever cared for on the line. Luke would always ask himself who or what he was willing to die for? And the answer was always the same, family and its prosperity. But he always felt that this death was not worthy of him. But today Jack presented him with a vision that was worthy of his death, not just him but the entire family. Why were they all working so hard together? They were working so hard for the prosperity of the family. And what Jack's vision represented was the ultimate prosperity of the family.

"I knew you were the only one crazy enough in the family to see my vision. I was right to bet on you." Jack laughed out loud finding a common objective in his lifelong rival.

"You were right to bet on me. If it was any other family member they would have called you maniac and blew the whistle on you and your car vision. Those old fogies are comfortable where they are right now. They would never see eye to eye with our vision. Just take the great elders as an example. Those old fools suppressed their realm and slept in the ancestral temple. To protect the family in Sky blossom city. Instead of expanding the family to a second-tier city." Having gotten answers to his questions, Luke did not just see eye to eye in Jack's vision but he considered it as his new vision for the family.

Chapter 308: Dog's Nose

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 15:02

Location- Sky Blossom City, Card stadium, Arena no.2

[Semi finals, Dalton Wyatt Vs Corey Bright, Arena no.2]

The stadium was cleaned and fixed within the time for the semifinals. The number of arenas in the stadium was reduced to two. But the size of each arena had increased considerably. The idea was to loosen the rules binding the participants from displaying their true strength. And also to give a good show for the angry audience who paid a lot for the tickets for this tournament. Receiving the details for my next fight I head to Arena no.2, on my way over my grimoire sounded a message notification from Lion King bank,

[\$25,000,000 has been transferred to your Lion King bank account ending with XXXX from the Account name Kevin Zhang.

Massage: Big bro, I was wrong and have withdrawn my deathmatch challenge to you effective immediately. I know this money is not enough makeup for the things I and my gang did to you and to solve the grudges between us. But I hope this money is enough to buy me a chance. Therefore I have already skipped the city, promising you that I will not appear in front of you ever again.]

Kevin Zhang, I and he rather young Wyatt and he have a very deep grudge. And not to mention that fool dared to challenge me to a Life/death match. Now that dumbass skipped town and withdrew the deathmatch challenge between us. Can he do that? Is that even allowed?

Was it the viral video of the fight between my second form Stone Viltronian and Nick's Mountain Giant? Was it that viral video that scared him silly into fleeing? I guess all his gangsta stuff was just for show.

But if he thinks the grudges between us are over by giving money then he is wrong, very wrong. He is the murderer who killed young Wyatt. Not just him, his nephew and his ruffian gang each one of them is equally responsible for young Wyatt's death. So, each one will pay dearly for their party in young Wyatt's death.

Does he think skipping the city will keep him safe? Then he is wrong. I wanted to kill him on the 30th, the date he picked for his death. But now I will have to postpone his death. By running he has only moved his death closer. So what if you will never appear in front of me? I will appear in front of you.

And what the fuq does he think of me? For him to think that \$25,000,000 would tempt me to spare his life. Does he believe that \$25,000,000 is enough to gain him a chance to live after the day to day torture he put young Wyatt through? Only I who had gained young Wyatt's memories know what he had been through. He was only 17 for god sake... 17-year-olds are supposed to be worried about the wet dreams they are having about their math teacher and not be paranoid that they could be jumped on by gangsters any second.

Do you know what it's like to be in constant fear and unable to trust or rely on anybody other than yourself? It led to insomnia and finally suicide in young Wyatt's life. Until these fuqers Kevin Zhang, Ben Li and their underlings experience this they cannot die. As death will be a mercy for them compared to what I have in plan for them.

[Van, Kevin Zhang has skipped town. Send capable guild members to haul his fleeing ass back. Not just him, his nephew Ben Li and all his loyal subordinates. Gather them all in one of your guild's dungeons. It's time they paid for their crime.]

Using the Hive A.I, I informed about Kevin skipping town to Van and asked him to gather Kevin and all the people working for him in one of the TSR guild dungeons. Dungeons are the best place to handle dirty laundry without being disturbed.

Throwing Kevin Zhang and Vengeance to the back of my head I climbed Arena no.2 where Corey was already waiting for me with a smug smile. Seeing me she sniffed the air like a hound and with a surprised expression, she said, "I am surprised, how did you forge a core in just 2 hours?... Having a card emperor girlfriend seems to have its perks. But it's still not enough for you to defeat me unless you transplanted all the broken runes from the severed head. If you did that then I would say nobody is more foolish than you."

"Hold on, back up. How are you able to tell that I have forged my Ego Gem by sniffing the air? Do you have a dog's nose?" Talking with Anna I discovered my new and bizarre things. But seeing Corey being able to sniff the air and tell me that I have forged my Ego gem was the most bizarre thing I have seen. How did she do that?

"Close, I have something better than that. Don't get confused, I could tell by smelling the scent of the world on your soul which has connected with the world recently. Your soul did not have this smell earlier." Corey did not seem to mind me calling her nose dog nose. Instead, she took it as a compliment. But the important thing was trying to clear my confusion. She added more confusion to my mind.

"My soul has the scent of the world? What do you mean? Does the world also have a scent? What does the scent smell like, is it pleasant or..?" If what Corey said is for real, then this would be my most bizarre discovery to date. What does she mean by the scent of the world? Is the world like a flower that gives out its own fragrance?

"Are you dumb? The world is not your garden flower to give a pleasant fragrance." Corey referred to the ability of her card by saying she could smell the scent of the world on me but I took it literally.

"If not pleasant, then what does the world smell like? Is it pungent or musky?" The misunderstanding was not my fault, if Corey had just said that she knew I forged my Ego Gem because of her card then there would not be a misunderstanding, to begin with.

“Are you messing with me? I was planning to make your defeat a little less humiliating. But it seems you will not have your lesson to not mess with me until I give a proper lesson.” Corey was angered by my sarcasm. But I did not care. As this was just the start I was going to teach this girl not to mess with Daddy Wyatt.

“Oh yeah, bright it on. FYI, I am a strong supporter of gender equality. So do not expect me to hold back.” I am a guy who has no problem dealing a dropkick to a female opponent.

“What do you mean? Is it supposed to be funny? I don’t get it.” Corey did not understand my words. I forgot this world is a true example of men and women equal rights but it’s still getting comfortable with the idea of equal rights for LGBTQ. I bet with strong demigods like Redfall this will also be soon in practice.

“Forget it...” moment has passed and its air has turned awkward. Thankfully the referee came to my rescue,

“Contestants ready”

“3.. 2.. 1, fight!”

crack *crack* sound of Corey cracking her knuckles filled the arena after the referee commenced the card duel,

“Well go ahead, summon your grimoire and your best card?” Said Corey cracking her neck.

“Sure...” I did not hesitate to summon my grimoire because I would be a fool to underestimate Corey after all the extraordinary things I have seen her do and say.

“Ready or not here I come” yelling that Corey accelerated towards without summoning her grimoire. Nearing me she threw a punch at me.

“Have you gone mad? Wh...” seeing Corey try to fight me with her bare fists I was surprised and considering my viltronian physique I did not take her punch seriously and tried to grab her punch. For somebody who said I would not underestimate Corey, I did a huge blunder. Mystically Corey’s incoming fist evaded my arm and landed on my face

Boom sending me flying across the arena and in a second I had already crossed the arena bounds. Thankfully I was still suspended in the air and flew back at high speed heading for the stadium wall. Gathering my thoughts I used the Viltronian flight to break my fall and returned to the stadium bounds in a blink of an eye.

“Hehe” Corey just sneered at me who was looking at her in great astonishment. What the fuq is happening here? Corey didn’t even summon her grimoire. How is she able to

exert this much strength? How much force is that little fist of hers packing? Thanks to my physique I was able to withstand it otherwise I would be hospitalised for sure.

Chapter 309: Warlord Dance

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 15:06

Location- Sky Blossom City, Card stadium, Arena no.2

"So you have a special physique huh? Did not see that coming. Swordsmanship, Ego Fire, Special physique... What else did you receive from your past self?" I asked Corey as I soothed the area where Corey's punch landed. After Anna Corey is the only one that has managed to hurt me despite my Viltronian thick skin.

"That's not what you should be worrying about right now. My close combat is not as proficient as my Swordsmanship but I want to feel your bones break up close so I decided to go with my fist. Your sins towards me and my mother are too many. Let me wash them away with my fists." blabbering weird shit Corey once again dashed towards me at full throttle. This time I was prepared having activated the southern watch combat arts card beforehand, my personal combat experience was very shallow. So I had to depend on the card to fight Corey.

Seeing incoming Corey, I too darted towards her planning to engage her. Defending was not my style, now that I had tasted Corey's punch I had to give some of my own to her. Seeing come at her Corey threw a punch at me.

I caught the punch with my hand but Corey did not stop there she aimed her right knee at my crotch. I caught the knee with my free hand. Putting weight on Corey's knee and her fist I jumped and head-butted Corey right on her nose. And then landed back on my feet. Corey moved a few steps backwards in a daze as blood started to drip from her nose.

"Good one" Corey complimented, whipping the blood with the back of her hand. Special physique or not nose is always a sensitive area. And Corey's red eyes and bloody nose was the evidence. But this did not stop her, she once again attacked me. Corey is fast, I will give her that her combat experience is no near to beating the southern watch combat art card.

No matter how fast Corey threw her punches and kicks I could dodge and counter them with help of southern watch combat arts which brought out the potential of the Viltronian physique meant to battle and war. Seeing me dodge all of her punches and even counter some of her moves. Corey jumped back creating a distance between me and her.

“Warlord Dance ” Corey summoned her grimoire and activated a close combat card. Despite inheriting her past self’s memories Corey was as inexperienced as me in any form of combat, as she was not Corey Park but Corey Bright. Learning her lesson Corey decided to stop being cocky and

[Card Name: Warlord Dance

Card Type: Skill card

Card Rank: A-rank, Rare grade

Card Rate: 8 – stars

Card Durability: [98/100]

Card Effect: – Warlord Dance is a close combat art practised by the Ironhide tribe of the 7th Nether realm. Activating this card the host gains master level proficiency in Warlord Dance.

Additional Effect: Agility +10, Defence +5, Dexterity+5, Double back, Barrage, Critical damage, Iron defence, Force Punch]

Double Back(Passive) – After every successful basic punch, the host’s second punch will card double its power. Stacks up to 3 times.

Barrage (active) – For 5 seconds host temporarily gains an extra +10 Agility

Cooldown time – 10 sec

Iron Defence(passive) – For 5 seconds host temporarily gains an extra +10 defence

Cooldown time – 12 sec

Force Punch(Active) – The host can temporarily gather all the damage received for 2 seconds within a punch and attack. The damage received should be within the scope of the Card Lord realm otherwise skill becomes invalid.

Cooldown time – 15 sec

With the help of the combat card, Corey’s moves became faster and nimble. She finally started landing her punches. Which was bad news for me. Though viltronian defence is strong Corey’s punches were fast and heavy, they hurt like hell.

Both I and Corey had a special physique and an A-rank Combat Arts card but I was the losing end. There can only be two reasons for this,

1. My Viltronian physique was weaker compared to Corey's special physique.
2. My Combat arts card was not as good as Corey's combat arts card.

In terms of Physique, I was dominating Corey because my physique was powered by 4 times refined soul energy. No matter what cheat Corey had she could not gain the mutated soul energy I gained through my mutated soul. If my physique was not lacking then what's left is the combat arts card.

Southern Watch Combat Arts Card's full potential can only be unearthed when it is used in team fights with allies equipping similar cards. While Corey's combat arts card completely focuses on increasing users' combat power. Despite having an advantage in physique I was taking a lot of hits because of my lacking technique and combat experience.

“Barrage, Iron defence” Activating two skills simultaneously Corey discarded her defence and touched on attacking me. I noticed that the speed behind Corey's punches had increased considerably. While guarding myself with my hands I tried to attack Corey's legs. I was able to land a low kick to her leg but her legs were as solid as an iron beam and did not budge to my attack. But I continued to attack them and the second time I was able to do some considerable damage by breaking Corey's dance and throwing her off balance. Taking this as an opportunity I started to attack staggering Corey stopping her from perfecting her stance to defend against my punches.

...

Corey was aiming to suppress Wyatt with her passive ability Double back. This means as long as she can continuously land more than 4 punches, each of her punches will carry 8 times the strength of her basic punch. Therefore she activated 'Barrage' and 'Iron defence' so that she can solely focus on attacking Wyatt while leaving her defence to 'Iron defence'. But she did not expect Wyatt's physique to be so durable allowing him to endure her punches while he attacked her completely unguarded legs. Throwing her off balance and giving Wyatt an opening to launch a siege on her while she was defenceless and yet trying to find her balance.