

Dimensional Descent

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Chapter 1821: Cloud

"Shouldn't we be going to the other locations now?" Aphestus suddenly asked.

In truth, Aphestus was a bit anxious. The pills Leonel had given him were burning a hole in his spatial device and he was trying his best not to be impatient and wait for this to calm down before he consumed them. But seeing Leonel be so nonchalant about it, all, even leisurely reclining and staring into the depths of space as though he was in his own dream world left him unable to remain quiet.

Leonel, who had indeed been in his own world, looked up.

"Hm?"

Aphestus nearly fainted. He had thought that Leonel might be thinking about something important, so he had felt slightly bad for interrupting, especially considering his original reasoning, but seeing Leonel's somewhat dazed look he didn't even know what to say.

"The Skies family wasn't the only worry, we have other enemies to deal with quickly. Even if we dealt a blow to them, those people were just canon fodder, most of them weren't even strong enough to control a galaxy to themselves, we can't get complacent now."

Several gazes landed on Leonel when Aphestus said this. In truth, he was correct, and the fact Aphestus of all people was saying it spoke volumes. He was usually the meathead who let Raylion make all of his decisions for him. But right this moment, Raylion was as relaxed as Leonel, sitting in silence seemingly without any intention to say anything.

Aphestus knew Raylion too well. Considering that man's pride, even if he was feeling as anxious as he was to start absorbing the rewards Leonel had just given them, he wouldn't say anything about it. So Aphestus knew that it was up to him to say something.

Currently, the group was in a lounging area of the flagship, there was food and snacks around and it didn't seem like a post battle region at all. In fact, that battle had almost been too easy, they hardly had any casualties at all.

"Oh, that?" Leonel said lightly. "Don't worry about it."

Aphestus choked on air. What was that supposed to mean?

"Don't we have to deal with the Viola and Chaotic Water Sectors?"

"Them? They've been dealt with. We don't have to do anything for the next few weeks. Next time you hear information from them, they would have crippled themselves," Leonel yawned slightly, feeling a bit tired. Indeed, he had been doing too much running around lately and not enough resting.

He faintly closed his eyes, seemingly about to take a nap.

Aphestus frowned. Leonel's words implied that they could do what they wanted for the next few weeks, but was this true?

The members of the Etching Metal organization looked toward one another. They knew too little about Leonel, and even for those of them that did, it had been over two decades since they last saw him, so they were feeling that the situation was a bit odd too.

However, before Aphestus could follow up again, Raylion slowly stood to his feet and walked away. He was clearly taking Leonel's words to heart and was returning to his quarters. He had waited too long, it was about time he transcended his limits.

Seeing this, Aphestus understood. Ironically, of all those here, Raylion probably had the most respect for Leonel despite the fact Raylion was so standoffish. If Leonel said the matter was handled, then it was handled.

As for the others, like Leonel's brothers, and Aina and the girls, the former group didn't need to be told twice, and the latter followed Aina's cues and she obviously took Leonel's words very seriously as well.

Just like this, a supposed "war" ended after just a single half body and a few dozen ambushes. As for the "instigator", he reclined in a chair, his eyes closed and his breathing steady. He let the flagship drift through space as though nothing at all was happening.

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Within their rooms, Apestus and Raylion glared down at the pills they had been given, their heartbeats dancing at various rates.

This meant a lot more for Raylion than it did for Apestus, or most others for that matter. Raylion had wanted to be number for as long as he could remember, he had an absolute obsession for power, it was what he cared about the most, at least in his youth.

As he grew, he found other things he cared about, but that fire had still been there. It was just unfortunate that though he had once thought himself to be a great talent, to the wider Dimensional Verse, he was simply not worth very much at all.

Staring at the pills, he could remember all the hardship he had gone through to make it to this level. He could have accepted Leonel's help all those decades ago, but his pride hadn't allowed him to, he refused to take handouts he hadn't earned.

Now he had built up the best information in the whole of Earth's territory, and his hard work had grown the seed that would allow Leonel to crush so many enemies even while silently reclining in his chair.

This was something he had earned, with his own two hands... this was the chance he had been waiting so many years for.

Raylion opened the box with steady hands. He knew that just eating one of these might lead to his death and all that hard work would have meant nothing.

He sometimes thought about what it would mean to live a life of mediocrity, to be constantly protected by his own wife, to sit in the shadows and man an information network... but it simply wasn't in his being, it wasn't in his heart, it wasn't in his soul to be that man.

The universe hadn't blessed him with great talent, but if it gave him another path to it, he swore that he would show it just what kind of mistake it had made snubbing him.

Raylion reached forward and swallowed the first pill without hesitation. No more than half a breath passed before his body exploded into a cloud of flesh and blood.

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Chapter 1822: Irony and Family Values

The raid on the Rain Galaxy occurred almost immediately after Rychard's orders were given out. Rychard himself had no need to move out, a single elite team of the Viola family was more than enough. In just a single day, the Rain Galaxy was already unable to mount a counter attack, being forced back into the own territory further and further.

The real shame of it was that they could have made this a real battle. But according to their deal with the Chaotic Water Sector, the Thrusting Skies Sector and the Viola family, the original intention was for them to pretend to be a third party caught in the conflict, they were meant to "battle" but purposely lose. While they would suffer a few casualties, it wouldn't be anything that they couldn't recover from.

But how could they guess that the Viola hadn't come here for a play, they had come here to conquer in earnest. By the time the Rain Galaxy realized that something was wrong with this picture and began to fight back in earnest, it was already too late.

Just because a family controlled a Galaxy, didn't mean that they had perfect control over all aspects of it. Normally, it meant that they had key bases in a majority of the quadrants at the very least, and could, as such, deploy troops anywhere within said region in a timely fashion.

The Rain family met this criteria, but the Viola family countered it perfectly, not only taking advantage of the Rain family's surprise, but also by swiftly taking control of key regions and moving on just as swiftly.

They killed a large majority of the powerful experts they came across, which was another reason the Rain family took so long to catch onto what was happening. In order to maintain secrecy and not to make the hearts of the laymen go cold from being sacrificed, only the most elite of warriors knew the truth of what was happening, but with them dying, no one was reporting back the oddity of the situation. Only reports from lesser warriors were coming in, which were obviously ignored.

Like this, the Rain family was beaten back to their main estate. The elders could only watch on with solemn expressions, regretting their decisions. If they had known that this would happen, how would they have ever agreed to trust the Viola? Even Earth hadn't made any attempts to conquer them yet, and now they practically fell to their knees in just a few days.

Standing on warships high in the skies, the elites of the Viola family stood. Lexus Viola, Destiny Viola and Eddy Viola, three great talents of the pinnacle of the Sixth Dimension, all of whom had names that rang quite frequently in Earth's territory. But now, they had their blades pointed toward the Rain family.

Just one of them was enough to strike fear in them, let alone all three.

"What is the meaning of this? I thought we had a deal. Is this how the Viola family treats its allies?!"

The current Matriarch of the Rain family, Darla Rain, a middle aged woman brimming with vitality, couldn't help but shout out, the weather replying to her fury with a thunderous rain. Unfortunately, the Viola family was entirely unmoved by this.

"Kill them all," Lexus said coldly.

The Rain family paled as the warships descended. The heat of their engines and power of their winds razed the Rain estate to the ground before they even touched down. By the time they actually did so, millions had died. The sheer size of these warships was too much for Planet Rain to handle, but there was nothing they could do to stop it.

The Rain family was eradicated with a great amount of grievances. In her final moment, Darla could only release a final plea for help. It wasn't the first time she had released this signal, but she had been ignored every time. Even in the end, as she breathed her last, a sword through her lung, that help never came.

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Lexus cleaned off his sword with a close, his purple eyes piercing and cold.

"We caught those outgoing signals, correct?" Lexus asked.

"Yes, we did," Destiny replied, stretching out her curves with a lazy expression as though she couldn't be bothered to have participated in this battle. She didn't look like she had either, there wasn't a bead of sweat or blood in sight on her.

"What's the result?"

"It seemed to have been a scatter shot. From what the technicians said, it was a web signal designed to be spread and only be gathered by those that have the appropriate decoding methods."

"Is there a way to decode those methods? We need to finish this to the end. Leaving enemies behind is a huge taboo, and if they're connected with a large power, well..."

The so-called no enemy left behind philosophy of the Viola family had ironically come due to Rychard himself. He saw the kind of enemy that he had become due to Leonel's neglect, so he had grilled his family's juniors to never make the same mistakes. It was truly an irony of all ironies.

"There shouldn't be a problem. The decoding process will take a few days."

"A few days?" Lexus turned serious. A few days was enough for information of what had happened here to leak and allow those who this message had been meant for to retreat. But more importantly than that, if it took their best days to decode these messages, then this was definitely a message delivery method far beyond the Rain family.

It seems that their Patriarch may have been correct about the Rain family's connection to larger powers. This was... interesting, and somewhat troubling at the same time.

This could be a large deal or a small deal depending, but they would have to properly investigate it first. Only that way could they be prepared to deal with the rest.

Their family had been wiped out once before, but their Patriarch had allowed them to make a comeback.

That humiliation was taught to every youth. They would never allow such a thing to happen again.

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Chapter 1823: Chaos

1823 Chaos

The days passed by quickly and Lexus eventually got his answer.

"News? What's the report say?"

To the side, Eddy perked up as Destiny unfurled a document. They had all been somewhat anxious. If this had just been about the Rain family, it was no big deal. But it was clear to them that there were some large existences moving in the shadows, existences that they would definitely have to deal with to pave out the path for their future.

Destiny quickly scanned the news and her gaze narrowed.

"According to this there are literally dozens of locations. The team thought that they might be decoys to throw us off the scent. All of the locations seem to be very well hidden. Some are restaurants, some are convenience stations, there are also a few brothels and entertainment centers. It's hard to tell without an even more thorough investigation which of them are real and which aren't."

This was troublesome. They had already wasted three days on this, if they wasted any more time, there would be nothing left to find.

They had done an excellent job of suppressing the information until now, but it could only last for so long.

"No, we can't wait any longer. I'll contact the Patriarch, but get moving on my orders now. Build up enough teams to attack all of them at once. Also make sure that each team has at least a few elite Seventh Dimensional existences, we can't afford to send in a team that is too weak and potentially suffer a loss because of it. We'll go all out."

Destiny and Eddy both nodded, agreeing with the sentiment.

The operation began almost immediately. They had already prepared for this potential outcome, so the teams were already mostly formulated, all they were lacking were the Seventh Dimensional existences, and that approval would come from Rychard himself.

Until now, Rychard had been hiding how many such powerhouses he had, but now he sat at a bit of a crossroads. When Lexus contacted him with the information, he took a moment to pause.

The fact that these lines of communication existed at all seemed to confirm that the Rain family was, indeed, in cahoots with the Chaotic Water Sector. But he had already informed the Chaotic Water Sector days ago of their attacks, so if they were aware of this potential breach, they should have been ready to deal with it quickly.

Due to this reason, Rychard was less worried about the time aspect than Lexus and the others were because he knew the full scope of the story.

But it was also precisely due to this that Rychard had to okay the attack regardless. If he hesitated for some reason, he would alert the Chaotic Water Sector to the issue at hand. Graros would definitely raise an eyebrow if he knew Rychard had such information and chose not to act on it, and he might realize that Rychard had some information about this matter.

In order to keep the status quo, Rychard had to attack, only then could he keep Graros guessing about whether or not he was aware or not. But there was another reason as well...

Rychard needed to confirm whether or not Aleck was speaking nonsense.

There was a potential world where Graros had connections with the Rain Galaxy, but had no connection with the Cloud Race.

As Rychard saw things now, it was still far more likely that Aleck had betrayed them and was using Graros' potential secrets as leverage for himself.

Rychard had secrets, he hadn't been forthright with how many Seventh Dimensional experts he had and many other things. There wasn't anything inherently wrong with them keeping secrets from one another, and a connection between the Rain and Chaotic Water Sector families was potentially benign.

Rychard maintained a level head. There was absolutely no reason to fall out with Graros over this matter.

The way he saw it, things could go one of a few ways.

First, they attacked and found nothing because Graros had smartly moved his things away already. This was what Rychard most expected to happen.

Second, they attacked and found some traces that led them to a different trail away from the Chaotic Water Sector. This was potentially likely to happen as well, though it might be troublesome for Graros to set something like that up in a small time.

Third, and the smallest likelihood, he would attack and find that Aleck hadn't been lying at all and there were some connections to the Cloud Race indeed.

Ultimately, Rychard didn't expect to find anything substantial, although he would leave no stone unturned as he performed a nice play for Graros. As things stood now, Graros was far better as an ally than an enemy, even if he had some secrets.

If he chose to backstab Rychard in the future, well... Rychard wasn't the young man of the past. His scheming nature had matured and his ability to see the chess board was far clearer than most. He would be ready when that time came. For now, Graros, the Rain Galaxy, even Leonel and the Ascension Empire... They were all useful pawns.

The operation proceeded and war broke out across the Ascension Empire. The Viola family swooped down like vipers, extending their claws and unleashing swift and decisive strikes.

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Across these dozens of locations, the Viola family found countless powerhouses, many of which wiped out large numbers of their elites before they were finally taken down. In the end, Rychard's most likely outcome didn't come to fruition. Rather than finding nothing, they found all out battle.

Rychard calmly accepted this outcome. It seemed that Graros had managed to set up the second option, even being willing to give up so many Seventh Dimensional existences to succeed. Could it be that Graros foundations were far deeper than he knew?

Rychard immediately commanded that the investigation begin. He wanted to see what backstories Graros had concocted for these men and women.

What Rychard didn't know was that across the universe, an old man with a balding head and furiously blowing mustache had shattered the windows to his office again.

Cross Elder Avan stood completely furious.

"ASCENSION EMPIRE!"

His roar billowed across the Empire.

Rychard had no idea that the bases he had just destroyed weren't from the Chaotic Water Sector at all, Graros had long since commanded his men to retreat and hide.

Those many stations he had destroyed, every single last one of them, was a hidden branch of Shield Cross Stars, locations that Leonel had gotten by deciphering the Force Art hidden within the phone left behind in the convenience station.

Small leaks even in a dam spanning countless kilometers could lead to floods. By now, the small leaks were too numerous to account for, because very soon, the straw that broke the camel's back was about to descend.

"Cross Elder Avan, there's something wrong. The reports we've received back don't tie back to the Ascension Empire at all. In fact, these signatures..."

Cross Elder Avan's rage calmed, his gaze becoming a piercing cold.

"Cloud Race?" he questioned.

Chaos was about to break loose and the young man who caused it was reclining in his chair, still snoring away.