

## Dimensional Descent

- Chapter 1824: Prepare |

### Dimensional Descent

#### Chapter 1824: Prepare

1824 Prepare

"Cloud Race? How, explain it to me. Quickly."

Cross Elder Avan was becoming impatient, but at the same time, something felt fishy here. Why would the Cloud Race attack them?

The obvious answer was because Shield Cross Stars was interfering with Earth and this was messing with the Cloud Race's goal. But that was only a surface answer that didn't get to the deep roots of the matter. Only a low level tactician would fall for such a thing.

While it seemed harmful for the Cloud Race for the Shield Cross Stars to be so involved in Earth's matters, even if it was from the shadows, in reality, it was almost nothing but beneficial. So long as Shield Cross Stars existed in Earth's territory, it meant that humans would be butting heads, and so long as the humans were butting heads, it allowed the Cloud Race ample chances to take advantage and sow discord, making their plans flow even smoother.

The less variables there were in Earth's territory, the more obvious any discord became, and the easier it was to pick out detractors. Like this, any movement that the Cloud Race made would have to be even more covert than usual, thus being contradictory to their original goals.

If the Cloud Race had a halfway decent tactician leading their charge, which they most definitely did, they would not only not destroy Shield Cross Stars, they would ironically use them as their own shield, hiding behind them to reinforce their actions.

The fact that things had happened in this way, and so boldly at that, made Cross Elder Avan believe that the Cloud Race was responsible even less.

'Unless that's why they were so bold in the first place?◆◆? Avan narrowed his eyes before shaking his head.

One could go around in circles like this all day until one ended up in a chicken and the egg scenario. Avan had too much experience to fall into something like that. 99% of the time, the simplest answer was the right answer. In that case, there would need to be evidence to have him judge otherwise.

"Yes, elder! From the last bits of intel we gathered, the Ascension Empire thwarted a sneak attack planned. The attack was coordinated between the Thrusting Skies and Chaotic Water Sector, in addition to the Viola family of the Three Pillar Sector, Earth's main Sector."

"How?" Cross Elder Avan got to the crux of the matter.

"We have been receiving tips about a potential underground information network spreading through Earth, however we haven't been able to pin them down properly. It was our understanding that this network was crippled after the destruction of the Brazinger, Adurna, Crudus and Laevis families, but it is likely that they were able to survive and be repurposed by the Ascension Empire to be used in this fashion."

The fact that Shield Cross Stars had some inkling about the Etching Metal Organization wasn't impossible to accept, but if Leonel had been a fly on the wall, he would have realized where the leak came from.

Treasurer Jemsy and the others, four of the eight executives of the Etching Metal Organization, had been exposed by Raylion as having formed ties with the four families. It was likely that in forming those ties, it caused a leak in integrity of the organization, thus leaving flaws for others to catch onto.

There was a reason Raylion had wanted to maintain tight control over the organization, it was precisely to avoid situations like this one. This result was almost inevitable.

However, it wasn't quite yet certain whether this was a good or a bad thing.

"Such an information network exists?" Cross Elder Avan mumbled.

"We believe that the reason they've been able to remain so covert is because they're entirely focused on gathering information in Earth's territory. They've

never encroached or poked at more powerful families or territories, so they've been very good at cleaning up their tracks and leaving nothing behind."

Cross Elder Avan's gaze narrowed, seemingly thinking of something, but he still waved a hand and had his attendant continued.

"After the attack was thwarted, the Skies family was infuriated because they suffered the most losses and they seemed to have accused the Chaotic Water Sector of backstabbing them.

The information in this space is muddled, but it seemed that the Viola family concluded that a change of tactics was needed and they swiftly conquered the Rain Galaxy before falling idle for a few days.

"It was only after that that our stations were swiftly destroyed, leaving none alive. They were all attacked at once, and due to strict communication protocols, it was impossible to send back information."

Cross Elder Avan shook his head. This was an inevitable part of covert operations. The various stations were connected to one another, but they didn't connect back to any Shield Cross Stars branches. This was to maintain plausible deniability and the works.

"However, there is an interesting piece of information here," the attendant suddenly said.

Cross Elder Avan looked up. "And what is that?"

"Our technicians observed the final hours of the Rain family once again, and we found multiple attempts at communication. We had stationed one of our covert branches in the Rain Galaxy due to its strategic location, so they were paying close attention to the war while remaining out of the way.

"They intercepted those signals and reverse engineered them. What was especially interesting about these signals was that they were targeted toward a relay station, and only then would said relay station send the signal out toward the appropriate location.

"The first signal was fine, but the second had very unique fluctuations only used by the Cloud Race. In addition... Their destination was the Chaotic Water Sector."

The moment Cross Elder Avan heard this, he stood to his feet violently, the office floor beneath him almost giving out.

"Send out my order, now! I need three 2nd Star Rank fleets! You have three hours to prepare!"

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### Chapter 1825: Happened

#### 1825 Happened

To Cross Elder Avan, it suddenly all slipped into place.

After the Skies family was betrayed, they immediately concluded that someone must have betrayed them. How were they the only ones to suffer while the Viola and Chaotic Water Sect had gotten off free? Something felt fishy to them.

However, they had no evidence so they could only roar out in displeasure and rescind their allyship. This was the best they could do.

After this, the Viola family realized that it needed to change tactics and chose to conquer the Rain Galaxy swiftly. This was a Galaxy right adjacent to the Milky Way, it was both not too close, and also not too far from the Ascension Empire. It was the perfect launching pad for war.

Not knowing that the Chaotic Water Sector had already placed its pawns in the Rain Galaxy, the Viola family attacked swiftly, eradicating them before they could react. At the same time, the Rain Galaxy probably allowed it to happen, thinking that it was part of the plan until it was way too late.

In their panic, they sent out help signals, help signals, of which some were intercepted by the Viola family.

There was trouble here, though. The Viola family had designed their signal catching net to deal with technology of the Human Domain, but they had no idea how to counter and trap the Force Arts of the Cloud Race. Only Shield Cross Stars and the Void Palace were well informed enough about the technological advances of the other races that they could be confident in snagging all of these signals.

Due to this mix up, the Viola family foolishly believed that they had caught all of the signals, having no idea that they weren't dealing with humans, but were rather dealing with Cloud Race technicians.

But this was where Shield Cross Stars shot itself in the foot.

At the same time that the Viola family was gathering information, so too was Shield Cross Stars gathering information, using far more sophisticated methods. But as the Viola family was intercepting messages, it snagged some of Shield Cross Stars' signals.

When the Viola family Force Artists were decoding these messages, they obviously had no ability to decode the Cloud Race Force Arts, so they instead ended up decoding the Force Arts of Shield Cross Stars instead!

The network of Shield Cross Stars was well encrypted, but that was only in house. All of the encryption was completed on the back end, but why would they be worried about encryption when they were in the process of intercepting the signals of others?

In an irony of ironies, Shield Cross Stars had ended up opening itself up to a breach while trying to breach others, leading the "locations" the Viola family decoded not being the location of the Cloud Race members like they should have, but instead the locations of the Shield Cross Stars stations!

The Viola family thought that it was targeting the remnants of the Rain family, or more accurately, what remained of its lingering attachments to the Chaotic Water Sector. They had wanted to maintain decorum with the Sector, so they chose to attack anyway despite knowing that it was likely related to their people, and to their surprise, they actually found people... not realizing that they had never been attacking the Chaotic Water Sector to begin with.

It was a shit show, a complete shit show. However, even so, Cross Elder Avan was raring to go. Through this coincidence, they had actually weeded out such a large base of the Cloud Race.

Under normal circumstances, Shield Cross Stars might choose to bide their time and wait, seeing if more of the Cloud Race would expose themselves. But the humiliation caused by the escape of ""Zulgella", "Urrith" and "Winword" had caused a huge blow to the prestige of Shield Cross Stars in the eyes of the people.

Shield Cross Stars needed a big win, and they needed one now. In fact, Cross Elder Avan moved out personally, wanting to vent some frustration himself as well. Plus, this way, he could absolutely guarantee that there would be no more escapes.

He was still entirely oblivious to the fingers pulling at his puppet strings from the shadows.

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In recent days, Graros had been feeling somewhat anxious. He had reacted to every situation perfectly, and yet things still felt like they were slowly getting out of his control.

First it was the failure of the sneak attack to begin with. He should be in the process of conquering the next half of Earth's territory after having already stormed through claiming the first 50% in just a single day, but that had failed.

The second was the attack on the Rain Galaxy. Although he had nonchalantly allowed the Viola family to take it, he had been carefully rearing that piece for decades already. In fact, his intentions went so far back that he was even part of the first assault on Earth after it entered the Fifth Dimension. While he used the Rain family and those other galaxies as a cover, he had moved quite a number of pieces in the Milky Way to buy time for the penultimate moment.

But the straw that almost broke the camel's back was the Viola family's swift attack on "their" branches. The Viola had attacked seemingly random places, places that Graros couldn't wrap his head around why they would attack but he also couldn't ask the Viola family about it because then it would make it obvious that he knew which places they should have been attacking instead.

Although he had lost exactly zero men to those attacks, they left him more uneasy than anything else had. It felt like a shadow was slowly wrapping around his neck and he had no idea what to do about it.

The pressure had reached its peak today. His face was entirely drained of blood and he was even finding it difficult to maintain his human form. Sometimes, he found himself almost slipping back to his Cloud Figure.

And then, it happened.

**BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!**

All across the Chaotic Water Sector, the vicious sounds of battle erupted. Shield Cross Star moved with an unquenchable momentum, crushing everything in its path.

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### Chapter 1826: executive

#### 1826 Executive

Graros fell to his knees, watching decades of hard work crumble before him. His face was entirely drained of blood and his heart was beating so fast he couldn't even feel it any longer.

It felt as though everything was coming to an end.

He wanted to roar out.

Who was it!? Who was it that did this?!

He felt like a scared man, roaring out into the darkness, wanting to know the face of the creature lurking in the shadows ready to pounce on him. He would rather see the ugly mug of a grotesque creature with a maw big enough to swallow his head whole than to be left in the sheer uncertainty of what might step out from the dark and into the light.

However, there was no one coming to him with an answer on a silver platter.

He didn't even try to fight back. Shield Cross Stars had actually sent one of those old monsters and he had lost all sense of propriety. He didn't seem to care about his status at all. He killed Fifth Dimensional experts just as easily as he killed Seventh Dimensional experts. The suppression of the Chaotic Water Sector seemed to be nothing more than a joke to him.

When that man approached, Graros finally couldn't control himself anymore and his human form crumbled. In his mind, he seemed to see the smirking image of a devilishly handsome young man. No matter how he tried, he couldn't erase that image from his head.

No... it couldn't be him... that young man he said was only good at petty tricks couldn't possibly be the reason he was in this state now... the reason he had fallen to the point of not even being able to maintain his disguise, something even a toddler of his race could do...

Cross Elder Avan descended from the skies with a BANG! When he saw "Graros", he was so pleasantly surprised he roared into the skies with laughter.

He had had the faint feeling that someone was leading him by the nose as well, but when he saw "Graros", none of that seemed to matter anymore. Since there really was the Cloud Race in this place, he would take this as a win and nothing less.

The Cloud Race was an odd looking race indeed, at least by Human Domain standards.

Their faces looked almost like a two dimensional curved mask, the rest of the volume of their heads being made up by a foggy-like, grey energy reminiscent of clouds gathering on a soon to be rainy day.

Their eyes were filled by murky white irises that looked like they fit better on the elderly than someone who was as young as "Graros". As for the rest of their body, they looked quite

"human", just lankier and more grey than usual.

What made Cross Elder Avan especially happy were the faint runes dancing within the cloud that made up most of the back volume of "Graros's" head. Those runes, much like the runes of the Rapax, represented a higher noble class of the Cloud Race, they had definitely caught themselves a good one this time. This was too excellent.

"Haha! I want to see who dares look down on my Shield Cross Stars now!" Avan's voice boomed.

"Who..."

"Graros" managed to mumble out these words. He had never suffered such a loss in his life. Ever since his youth, he had been nigh untouchable, he had even come here with all the confidence in the world to force the Human Race

to his knees. And yet, just when he was that close... it all came crumbling down.

"... Who did this to me? How did this happen?! WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?!" "Graros's" words ended in a fiendish roar.

Avan froze for a moment before he snorted.

"Did you not hear me say Shield Cross Stars, brat? Listen well, you were apprehended by the protectors of humanity."

"HAHAHAHAHAHHAHA!"

"Graros" laughed so hard that his cloud began to rain, sprinkling water falling down.

"Shield Cross Stars?! You incompetent pieces of trash could never put me in such a state!"

Avan's expression became somewhat ugly before he chopped down with a hand against "Graros's" forehead and knocked him unconscious. He would be thoroughly interrogating this lad later, but for now, he didn't want to hear such nonsense.

"Apprehend the rest! Shield Cross Stars is invincible!"

Avan's voice roared and the other Officers surged forward. Even as he said this, though, a hint of doubt crept up in the depths of his eyes. Who was it, indeed...?

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Moans echoed through the room.

Leonel pressed Aina down beneath him, his strokes deep and slow as he savored her lips. While he quite enjoyed subduing this little vixen, he enjoyed these slower, more intimate moments as well. He could feel every inch of her body, hear every beat of her heart... complete an elegant dance between her tongue and his own...

This didn't last long, though, as Leonel suddenly felt a hand grab his ass. He froze and pulled back, looking down at the pair of moist golden eyes that had a hint of mischievousness in them.

Aina squeezed a couple times before pulling back and releasing a crisp slap.

"Why'd you stop, cowboy? This mistress is not satisfied yet! Giddy up!"

Leonel was speechless for a long while.

"Is this what sexual assault feels like...?" he mumbled after a long while.

Aina suddenly sputtered with laughter. What nonsense was this guy talking about while he was inside of her?

"You do it to me all the time, now you want to complain?" Aina asked innocently as though she had been wronged.

"It's not the same." Leonel replied with great assurance.

"How is it not the same?!" Aina asked.

"Double standards, that's why. If you want to complain, take it to the board of directors. I'll warn you, though. I'm in all the executive positions."

Aina blinked with a playful light in her eyes, grabbing Leonel's ass with both hands this time to thrust him deeper inside of her.

"I'd like to see what these "executives" can do then."

"You asked for it," Leonel's eyes flashed. Clearly, he hadn't taught this vixen enough of a lesson last time.

Aina squealed, but it was already too late for regret.

If "Graros" knew what the enemy of his lifetime was doing while his own life was being entirely ruined, it was hard to say how he'd react.

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### Chapter 1827: Until...

1827 Until...

Aina laid on her side in the little spoon position, angling a hand back to rest her palm on Leonel's cheek and seemingly enjoying the kisses that trailed her neck and shoulder. The somewhat dazed look in her eye and the shaking of

her legs painted a different sort of story, but unfortunately for her, Leonel had a firm grip on her one raised leg, leaving her no room to run away.

At this point, Leonel was certain that she only provoked him like this despite knowing the ending only because she liked it so much. In the end, it hardly felt like he was in control at all, but he still chuckled, finally letting her leg go.

The slight shift in position, albeit slow, hit her at a new angle and Aina shivered once more, apparently too tired to do much other than breathe hard.

Her twitching caused Leonel to release his own breath, a torrent he had been holding back for a long while rushing forward.

Leonel smiled with satisfaction, running a hand up and down Aina's thigh, before trailing up her toned belly and grabbing a nice and soft handful of breast. His hand seemed to have a mind of its own, finding its favorite position without any prompting from him.

"... Are you sure you don't have any work to do?"

Aina's voice might as well have been a whisper, it seemed that she didn't have much strength to even speak at a normal volume.

Leonel laughed. "What, are you trying to kick me out after you're done with me?"

"Well, it is a little hot," Aina joked. "Who asked you to give off so much heat?"

Leonel smiled and waved a hand. Suddenly, the two went from on their bed to within the cool waters of their personal bathhouse within the Segmented Cube. Almost instantly, the two felt refreshed and cleansed at the same time.

"Ah! mn Aina hopped up a bit, feeling a strong pinch to her butt. She had just been sitting comfortably, but now she could only glare back toward Leonel who was already laughing.

"A small punishment for doubting me, don't you know how amazing your husband is?"

Aina snorted before settling the back of her head onto Leonel's check again. "I still don't see a wedding ring. Plus, it's been almost a month now since we've left this place, I'm a bit worried about Earth and what retaliation it might face."

Leonel laughed again. "Those guys are too busy scrambling not to lose their lives to attack Earth."

"Really?" Aina asked.

Back then, when Apestus was flustered and questioning Leonel, Aina could only roll her eyes. This man loved her almost more than anyone else in his life, and yet even for her it felt like pulling teeth to get him to explain anything. Compared to her, Apestus was even more out of luck. The others could just cross their fingers and hope that Leonel was competent.

Leonel's teammates were already used to this, Leonel went off and did things on his own all too often. Sometimes he would even manipulate them without them being aware of doing exactly what he wanted them to do.

When most thought about it, it made little sense. The effort needed to manipulate your enemy and your allies at the same time should have been more than the effort needed just to manipulate the former, but for some reason Leonel almost always insisted on taking the more difficult route.

If it wasn't for the fact Leonel had grown up with his brothers since they were toddlers, ever since they were all given their assignment after the Gene Assessment Exam, many might have already felt dissatisfied to the point of never interacting with him again.

However, Leonel's teammates saw things differently.

The thing was... If Leonel wanted to manipulate a person and have them never find out, it was as easy as breathing. Even to this point, the Viola and "Graros" still had no idea who had put them in such a situation.

If Leonel manipulated you, and you knew about it, it was more than 99% likely that he gave you enough information to know about it, and in his own weird way, that meant he liked you and respected you.

That day during the championship game all those years ago, when James tried to throw the game for reasons Leonel had still yet to care enough to find out about, was a prime example. James thought he had succeeded in throwing the game, only for Leonel to manage to turn it around anyway. In fact, by that point, Leonel was already over 90% certain of James' intention, and yet he still threw him the ball on purpose.

This was all to say that at this point, Aina felt that Leonel was a lost cause, but her curiosity had gotten the best of her this time around. Although the Etching Metal Organization likely had the information she needed, if she went to ask, wouldn't that be like admitting Leonel didn't explain anything to her either?

Her gaze suddenly flashed. She really had to rein in this unruly boy some more.

"Really," Leonel laughed. "Would I lie to you?"

"Maybe, maybe not. But what you would definitely do is annoyingly hold back information," Aina slapped Leonel's hands away from her chest. "Tell me, what happened?"

"Well, I didn't really do much, they just shot themselves in the foot. Who asked them to be so stupid?"

Aina's lips twitched. She had been by Leonel's side all this time so she knew that he hadn't taken a step out, nor had he asked anyone for information about what had happened, but he was still so confidently calling those Patriarchs who ruled over trillions of people stupid.

"They're fighting each other?"

"Well, a little bit. But Shield Cross Stars is ironically a nice sword to use. There'll probably be news of the Chaotic Water Sector being annihilated soon."

"Annihilated?" Aina's brows raised. "Why's that? And by Shield Cross Stars? How'd you manage that?"

"Well, they are members of the Cloud Race, so Shield Cross Stars was probably just finally doing its job."

Aina blinked. Since when had the Chaotic Water Sector become members of the Cloud Race?

Leonel chuckled. "Remember when they somehow found us in the middle of nowhere and ruined our honeymoon? I've known since then. The Human Domain didn't have the capability to do that with the precautions I had taken. Also, trying to bait me into killing their Prince with a weapon of Shield Cross

Stars was really weird, and I couldn't understand why they were so insistent, until..."

"Until?" Aina was very curious about where Leonel was going with this until she felt a pair of hands creeping back toward her chest.

Aina smiled and shook her head. It was almost like he was taking them as a reward, she would never understand why men were so obsessed with these things.

As far as she was concerned she would prefer her hair to be cut to ear length and her breasts to be about a quarter as large. If those two things happened, her combat prowess would probably rise by another 10%.

But so long as Leonel was happy, she would let it slide.

Leonel smiled triumphantly as he continued his story.

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### Chapter 1828: Blame Yourself

#### 1828 Blame Yourself

"Well, there are a few possibilities. I thought about the potential fail safes the flagship could have, there could be a sudden activation when a human was killed with its abilities. After all, Shield Cross Stars would have a vested interest in making sure their Officers weren't corrupt, and an even larger interest in making sure that if their flagships ever ended up in enemy hands, it wouldn't be able to turn against them.

"Of course, that ability's scope and range would have to be limited, or else there would be too many checks and balances stopping the Shield Cross Stars Officers from doing their duty.

So, the number of humans that could gain such protections would likely be limited to the nobility, which is why he would have to send his son.

"So it seemed that their Patriarch was goading me into attacking and killing his son and his protectors so that the flagship would shut down and become unusable. At the same time, he would gain the favor and reward that came

with not only the return of such a valuable military asset, but also my capture as well.

"It was a smart plan, and the perfect cover. That idiot Richard was the perfect fall guy too, he was useless for everything other than the blood running through his veins.

"But then I thought of another possibility.

"The logistics of sacrificing a useless prince for the favor of Shield Cross Stars made perfect sense on the surface, but there were a lot of problems with it. Setting aside the fact that killing your own Prince would cause a blow to the prestige of your Empire, recapturing the flagship didn't come with any guaranteed benefits either.

"There was a bounty on my head, but that bounty is chump change in the face of a family on that scale. At the same time, there was no particular bounty for the flagship, so the Chaotic Water Sector was basically essentially just hoping that they would likely get a reward for their service.

"Doesn't it seem a bit stupid for a Patriarch to take such a risk with no real tangible reward?"

While Leonel's bounty was plentiful to an individual, to a large scale family or organization, it was practically pennies. What was a mere 10 000 kilograms of Seventh Dimension Ore to people who worked on that scale? That might be enough to run a single high class city for a few years, but a single family might have hundreds of those cities under their control.

This was done on purpose by Shield Cross Stars. They preferred small teams, vigilantes and bounty hunters to chase down criminals. This was so that any prestige that came from capturing such criminals could only be enjoyed on an individual basis.

One could imagine the kind of issues Shield Cross Stars might run into if a large organization or family became famous for catching many hard to snag criminals. At that point, why should Shield Cross Stars exist? They might as well be replaced by said family or organization instead.

Aina nodded faintly to Leonel's words, seemingly seeing a bit of a picture forming. But the logical leaps that remained still seemed too far apart.

"But then I thought of something else. I learned about the Cloud Race in the Void Library, they're an interesting race of people indeed. Their brains are amorphous and actually take the shape of real clouds. They're incredibly intelligent as a result because their memories, thoughts and synapses aren't tied down to a physical form or even a tangible limit.

"That aside, the Cloud Race has tiers of nobility a lot like the Rapax, and those tiers manifest in runes that float within their "Cloud Figure", or in other words, their brain. The more concentrated and dense the runes, the higher class they are and the more talented.

"These runes, however, have one path that they follow, and that's the path of deception and mimicry.

"The reason the brain capacity of a Cloud Race member has to be so large is because when they become someone else or pretend to be someone else, they're taking into account thousands, millions, billions, or even trillions of variables all at once depending on their talent and strength.

"The details don't really matter, but what's important is that when it comes to scanning, understanding, organizing, compartmentalizing, and then spitting out a summary, the Cloud Race is practically untouchable in this regard.

"And then I thought about that Captain Wimword fellow who turned out to be a Cloud Race member, and Captain Urrith and Zylgella as well. All three of them had taken the risk to become high class Officers of Shield Cross Stars.

"You have to wonder why?"

"When I thought to that point, I suddenly thought of something else. What if the entire point was to get the ship to shut down so that they could scan how it worked and reverse engineered it?"

"What if in the middle of a war, all of Human Domain's greatest weapons just stopped working because it recognized the death of a Cloud Figure as a human instead?"

Aina's eyes widened as she sat up slightly.

If what Leonel was saying was correct, didn't that mean he had just saved the Human Domain from a calamity it didn't even know was coming?

Wait, who was to say that he had stopped it? What if there were others of the Cloud Race on the same mission that had had far more success?

Aina calmed down and her gaze narrowed. "Wasn't that all just speculation, though? You could have been wrong."

Leonel laughed. "Like I told you at the beginning, the moment they found us, I knew they were members of the Cloud Race. I only became doubly sure after Wimword, Urrith and Zylgella escaped.

"In my exchange with Wimword, he used a very special movement technique that exposed his race, but he didn't have to do that. In fact, I'm pretty sure he exposed himself on purpose."

"Why would he do that?"

"Because the Cloud Race only really has one obvious weakness," Leonel said. "And that weakness is that they can't scan a new target unless they release their Cloud Figure."

Aina's head snapped around and looked toward Leonel who was smiling.

"You mean...?"

"Yeah. The reason they were able to lock onto me and find us in the middle of nowhere is because Wimword likely has a near perfect replica of me in his Cloud Figure, a replica he likely passed onto the Patriarch of the Chaotic Water Sector who then used it to hatch this scheme."

"Then that means..."

Leonel nodded, but a cold and domineering light danced within his irises.

ince they failed the first time, and even suffered such a severe loss, next time they come, the ring a lot more fire power, and that fire power might not just mean weaponry.

"Since they failed the first time they they'll bring a lot fire p d that fire p ight not just ponry."

Aina blinked, the undisguised indifference and confidence in Leonel's eyes making her feel somewhat hot again.

Leonel felt something grab him below and he blinked out of his thoughts, looking toward Aina somewhat speechlessly. Hadn't she just barely been able to speak before? What was with this quick recovery?

"Don't give me that look, you only have yourself to blame," Aina smiled a toothy smile. "Now come please your mistress."

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### Chapter 1829: Casual Breakthrough

1829 Casual Breakthrough Leonel felt very lucky that he had invested so heavily into his vitality. If not for this, there was a chance that he really might not be able to keep up with Aina at all. Luckily, he went from potentially suffering loss after loss, to being quite undefeatable. Though, considering Aina's own talents, her recovery was off the charts and almost any little thing he did seemed to "trigger" her.

As far as Leonel was concerned, though, these were good problems to have. If there was anyone in his life that he wanted to please, this future wife of his was near the top of a very, very short list.

About a day or so later, Leonel sat in a state of meditation.

It was very easy to become complacent without the pressure of the Void Palace constantly barraging him from all sides. If there were any problems with the fact he had been booted prematurely, it was this.

He understood his own personality quite well, there was a subtle sort of lazy undertone to everything he did that came from a place of complacency, a place that made it feel like he was constantly looking down on the whole world.

But Leonel also knew better than anyone else that he hadn't earned such a complacency yet. Unless he actively suppressed it, he could spend weeks or even months at a time rolling around in bed with Aina without even the slightest worry in the world.

Luckily, he had become hyper aware of this flaw of his for multiple reasons.

First, there was Aina by his side. No matter what, she didn't have such complacency. Although she hadn't said anything after learning about Leonel's

destruction of the Brazinger family, Leonel knew quite well that this was because they had entered a sort of second honeymoon period of their relationship.

Aina probably still felt like what they had was fragile and she wanted to protect it, so rather than complaining about something she likely had a great right to complain about, she suppressed those feelings and directly ignored them.

However, it was clear by how much harder she was working everyday that it bothered her.

Leonel wasn't clueless. In fact, he was hyper aware of everything around him, and this hyper awareness only became sharper after he unbound his soul and unleashed his true King's Might Lineage Factor. He understood the ins and outs of Aina's thoughts, maybe more than even she herself did.

Back then, while it was true that Aina had been fatigued from helping him bring his body back to 100%, her hatred of the Brazinger family was deep enough that this wouldn't have mattered to her. Logic and emotion were two different things, but one wasn't necessarily more important than the other to most people not named Leonel Morales.

The second reason was because of his King's Might and the evolution of his Dream Force which had allowed him to enter Tier 3.

Leonel's increase to his Dream Force allowed him to be hyper aware of his own thoughts and the process by which they formed. He had a deeper understanding of why he was the way he was and what reasons there might be at the root of it all.

Ultimately, he knew that if he didn't force himself to work, or external pressure didn't force him, he could easily become complacent.

So rather than allowing himself to dictate things, he set a Dream Counter ability to trigger instead.

And now, thanks to that, he was currently in blissful meditation. His mind compared and contrasted the improvements he had made in Dream Force versus the lack of improvement in everything else. He then referenced this with the shifts to his Emulation Spatial Force and slowly noted down several comprehensions.

Thaela had made a great deal of improvement back when she was still in possession of this Innate Node. As such, there were many runes already formed.

The formation of her runes were actually much weaker than the formation Leonel had made on his two Scarlet Star Force Innate Nodes. However, Leonel didn't feel like he could take much credit for this at all considering the circumstances that had led to things being this way in the first place.

But what he did realize was that there were subtle shifts in her Innate Node that weren't in his own. Some parts of the rune were far thicker and denser than other parts that looked to be drawn lighter and more illusory. These seemed to represent parts that she was more familiar with versus parts she had less comprehension about.

This was intriguing to Leonel because he had never formed this way. Even for his Dream Force or his Vital Star Force, they either formed, or didn't, there was no inbetween like this.

The question was if the reason was due to his approach, or if it was just a matter of mindset. Leonel did seem like the type of person to not be satisfied with moving on unless he comprehended something entirely, only then would he use it. This was how things had always been with his weapon Forces.

This time, however, Leonel didn't feel like he was to blame. There was something deeper going on here.

'If I'm correct it's a matter of whether this world can sustain it or not. I have a feeling that if I was in an Eighth Dimensional world, forming partial runes like this would be very much possible. In lesser worlds, though, without a perfect comprehension, runes can't form at all.❖❖

Essentially, the reason why Thaela could form partial runes and increase her Force Manipulation in this way was because her environment could help her to do so.

'That hypothesis should have about a 97.2% chance of being correct, give or take.'

Leonel calmly nodded and moved on in his deductions, seemingly not realizing just how groundbreaking this discovery was.

If one had an all or nothing approach to Force Manipulation, moving forward would be impossible with sudden enlightenment, like what Leonel had experienced a few weeks ago, or without a reference, like the complete Innate Node in Leonel's kidney.

This would be an inherent weakness of "imperfect" worlds, or in other words... Worlds beneath the Ninth Dimension.

What was even more groundbreaking, though, was the fact that Leonel felt that he could create a work around based on this. And if he was correct, Force Manipulation improvement would come as natural to his people as it did for the geniuses of that Zone.

## Dimensional Descent

### Chapter 1830: One Condition

1830 One Condition Leonel felt that his deduction simply ran smoother now with the improvement to his Dream Force. He saw the world with more clarity and could simulate with much greater speed and accuracy. It was as though he had his own personal vast world in his mind, just waiting to be experimented on.

He made large leaps with every passing second and in just a few hours, he had created dozens of potential prototypes for a treasure that could help with this. His favorite iteration was the simplest configuration, relying only on Pure Force Crystals, the Mantras he retrieved from the Zone, and a Life Force type Jade.

The only bottleneck would be Anastasia and her progress in dissecting and deducing the Mantras. But outside of that, the gadget was so simple that Leonel could allow the Segmented Cube to mass produce them once the blueprint was set.

Of course, the result wouldn't be as perfect as a true Ninth Dimensional world would be, but it didn't need to be. Even Leonel was much too far away from needing a Ninth Dimensional structure to help him along, let alone his brothers and the others.

There was something curious about these deductions, though.

Logically, even without a Ninth Dimensional world, lower level worlds should at least be able to sustain partial comprehensions on equally as low leveled runes. But for some reason they could not.

There was a deeper sort of... imperfection here. But for some reason, even the current Leonel couldn't grasp what it was.

Leonel opened his eyes and exhaled.

That was enough for now, Anastasia could handle the rest. By the time he was finished with the other things he had to do, the first would be finished and he should be able to use it immediately with his Vital Star Force. Like that, his speed of comprehension should skyrocket immediately.

'It's been three weeks,' Leonel thought with a cold flash in his eyes.

He had given the Oryx enough time. Now the two choices before them were all too obvious.

Leonel could feel that his tribulation was coming and he didn't know how long he would vanish for. He had to be certain that everything was perfectly lined up before he left because there was no telling what variables might appear in his absence.

So, he was entirely serious about eradicating the Oryx if they didn't comply. He would do everything he could to leave Earth in an absolute state of peace before he vanished.

But first, he would pay a little visit to the Thrusting Skies Sector.

He gave Aina who was meditating not far from him a kiss on the forehead before he left the Segmented Cube and manned the flagship to soar across Earth's territory.

\*k Aleck had been sitting on pins and needles for the last several weeks.

While the Sectors were in chaos and everyone was ducking, hoping to not be the next ones to be destroyed and wondering how all of this was happening, he was all too clear who was responsible.

The young man never raised a single finger. He fought just a single battle and casually strode away after he was done. Right now, he was probably reclining with a woman in his arms, watching the world collapse around him.

The Thrusting Skies Sector had taken a small blow after losing so many Sixth Dimensional experts, but the Viola family lost several elite Seventh Dimensional experts in their sudden ambush attempt and my more promising Sixth Dimensional experts. Even setting aside this, the Chaotic Water Sector got it the worst because not a single aspect of their Empire remained, they were wiped out by Shield Cross Stars in just a single day!

Seeing these things happen one after another, Aleck couldn't eat, he couldn't sleep, he even found it difficult for him to breathe properly from day to day.

He was tired of people asking him what was wrong so he just sent away all of his attendants and he sat completely alone in a dining room capable of seating and serving over 300

people at once, and yet he didn't touch any of the food before him at all.

Suddenly, Aleck stood violently to his feet, snapping his own head around with such force that he quite nearly almost ended his own life.

When he saw the young man casually seated on the host's chair behind him, a table placed in an elevated position like the medieval dining rooms of old, his face paled completely. He seemed to have entirely forgotten that Leonel was a "mere" Sixth Dimensional existence and that he should have no need to fear him in a one on one battle.

Leonel smiled lightly and didn't say anything immediately, only faintly greeting Aleck. But to his surprise, the Patriarch immediately fell to his knees and slammed his forehead against the ground with such force that the entire room trembled.

"I am willing to place the entire strength of the Skies family behind you, Imperial Prince! Whether that be for the coming Heir Wars or anything else you might need us to do. I swear I will do my utmost, I only ask for a path to survival."

Leonel blinked a few times. Was he really that scary? He hadn't really been all that cruel in his estimation, he could have made things far worse for the three

parties, but in the end he decided to just eradicate the Chaotic Water Sector. As far as he saw it, he had actually been quite nice.

Seeing that Leonel didn't answer, Aleck didn't dare to look up, he was absolutely subservient to Leonel, his heart having been subdued entirely.

Truthfully, this was the best outcome for Leonel. The Thrusting Skies Sector was about as powerful as the Chaotic Water Sector, or at the very least, the Chaotic Water Sector's display to the outside world. They were a Seventh Dimensional Sector not quite as good as the Constellation families, but not too far away either.

Essentially, they were around the upper portions of the middle of the pack when it came to the Seventh Dimension. They would probably immediately become Leonel's strongest support in terms of raw power.

In past years, Seventh Dimensional existences couldn't participate in the Heir Wars, but this was obviously thrown out the window considering the Heirs themselves were in the Seventh Dimension now.

Once Leonel entered the Seventh Dimension as well, the Heirs Wars would begin and there would be no escaping such things.

Leonel nodded to himself. By the time he entered the Seventh Dimension, the use of the Umbra, Florer, Midas and Radix families would probably be far more useful to him, but regardless, the Skies family would be a decent smokescreen.

Plus, they would be a good sword to use in taking down the Viola family for good.

"Alright, I accept," Leonel said lightly. Before Aleck could be overjoyed, though, Leonel spoke again. "On one condition. Open up everything to me. I want to know even the deepest held secrets of your family. If you choose to hide anything from me, I will leave and not look back. When we meet again, it'll be during the destruction of your Sector."