

Few Wives 421

Chapter 421: I'll haunt your ghost!

What this meant was that, even if Freya had all the powerful cores in the world. If her domain wasn't strong enough, she wouldn't be able to do anything apart from looking at them.

Let's say for example, she hasn't joined Muku's group and stayed with Lisa's group. Even if they realised her potential and gave her the best material they could... Which would be Lisa's black earth element soil stronger than steel by countless times... Freya wouldn't be able to use PR4 beast cores since Lisa herself wasn't that strong yet.

Of course, that was before Lisa's class upgrade. As for now, who knows...

But still, the point stands. Freya would be nowhere near as strong as she was now without Muku and the girls...

As the group discussed how they would deal with the upcoming problem, clouds began gathering above them...

They started right about Raya and began growing in every direction.

Muku quickly told the girls to back off lest they got caught up in the trial...

And so, the girls took the castle and retreated. Muku couldn't help but feel gratified looking at the castle that was flying without his interference. In fact, it could be said that this was the first time it was actually flying since before he was practically carrying it...

Soon enough, the clouds covered more than twenty kilometres of the sky above Raya.

And whether it be the girls or the R5s that had come to fish in troubled waters, they had all been forced back. They even went a further kilometre away from the clouds just to be safe.

And of course, they also kept some distance between themselves and the floating castle.

The death of their "comrades" had certainly given them a scare. So much so that a few gave up on the whole thing and left. These were mostly LR5s.

The event made their greedy minds realise that their chances of dying were way higher than actually getting anything. If anything, they were just there to make up the numbers, so leaving was better...

Of course, among them, not all actually left, they just went a little further back.

If the situation to take action showed itself, then they'd definitely take action. If not, then at least they'd keep their lives and lose nothing but their time...

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At the centre of the clouds (on the ground)...

"Are you ready?" Muku who was now standing beside Raya with a serious expression couldn't help but ask.

He was currently in his silver giant form. Which was just him surrounding his body with mercury to make a giant around ten metres. The same one he made before.

It was nowhere near his strongest capabilities. But it was okay for a start. After all, the trial started out weak...

"Are you?" Raya asked back without opening her eyes... She was still maintaining the dragon version of a meditative position, clearly wanting to be in her best state until the very last second...

"Does it matter? It won't change anything after all" Muku replied wryly.

"I couldn't say it any better myself" Raya replied seriously.

Normally she would have taken the chance to tease him, but it was clearly not the time for such things...

"Hey... If we survive this... I'll forget a third of the favours you owe me" Raya suddenly spoke after a moment of silence.

"Well, that's certainly motivating... I'd be even more motivated if you made it half... I really owe you way too much after all" Muku replied.

"Tsk. As expected of humans. You give them an inch, they take your house, car, wife and one good kidney" Raya cursed.

"Wtf?! What kind of bullshit saying is that?! That's not how it goes!!" Muku shouted angrily.

What did Raya think humans were? Demon? Hell, even demons wouldn't be so ruthless!

And was the kidney part necessary?!... Though honestly, he couldn't put it above humanity to do such a thing.

Honestly, Raya's statement was quite funny despite everything. It actually put him in a good mood he couldn't help but smile inside his silver giant...

It seems the clouds had finished their preparation in their mission to eliminate Raya... And Muku by association. Different coloured flickers of light could be seen in every direction.

If Muku and Raya didn't know that the clouds had set out to kill them, they might have appreciated the beauty brought by the flickering lightning in the clouds.

Crackle!

BOOOOOM!

Out of nowhere, a yellow lightning bolt struck down and hit Raya between the eyes...

With her ultra-durable defence, the attack did nothing at all. However, it didn't make either her or Muku happy.

After all, that one inconspicuous lightning bolt which didn't even look threatening at all... Actually had the power of a MR5.

Sure, to beings of their strength. That level of strength was nothing... However, for the starting point of a long ritual to be MR5 instead of LR5, one could only imagine the hell that was to come.

"I think I should take on the first rounds of attacks until I can't bear them anymore. Then you'll step in. You know, like last time. It worked then, so it should work now... Though the situation does seem a bit more grave this time" Raya suggested to Muku with a grave look on her face.

The lightning hadn't gotten serious yet, so she could leisurely speak to Muku for now.

"Hmm... We could do that or an alternative so that neither one of us is taken to the extreme. We both know that the last time we survived barely managed to survive. So employing the same method seems like we're just seeking death. It might be ironic for me to say this right now, but lightning doesn't strike the same place twice... I mean, right now it does, but you should understand what I mean right?" Muku replied.

"Yeah. But you humans really complicate things for no reason. Why beat around the bush? Why not just say just because we got lucky last time doesn't mean we'll get lucky now. Anyway, fine, we'll do it your way. Just know that if I die, it's your fault and I'll haunt you forever" Raya replied with some irritation.

If she hadn't lived with him for so long and read through some of his memories, she might have been confused thinking that he was talking about real lightning.

"Fool, if you die then wouldn't I die too?" Muku replied while rolling his eyes.

"That changes nothing, I'll haunt your ghost!" Raya gave an outrageous response.

Muku even wondered if all the lightning that was hitting her head had made her somewhat crazy. After all, since when did ghosts haunt other ghosts?

Like really, would she come out through a wall behind his ghost to scare him? Well, he could do that too! And what would be the point of scaring a ghost? It's not like she could scare him to death right?...

After around thirty minutes, the first round of attacks ended. Since it was so manageable, Muku and Raya had been quarrelling the whole time.

The girls watching from a distance couldn't help but smile wryly.

Even the beasts watching from the same de cursed internally.

Couldn't those two bastards take the situation more seriously?

How dare they ignore attacks that could seriously injure if not kill them?!

Couldn't they pretend to feel pain at least?!

They weren't giving them any face at all!

Okay, maybe asking for face from something you're overtly trying to kill might be a bit unreasonable, but so what? If anyone disagreed with how they thought then they should speak up so they can fight it out...

Anyway, Muku took on the second round. Since the lightning mostly targeted Raya, she had to take on her chibby form and hide under Muku's giant form as it took on the lightning.

In normal situations, metal shouldn't be any defence against lightning right? But Muku's metal was different, the lightning was completely under his control. So it could manipulate its properties so that it is even better than rubber in blocking electrical currents.

And so, the second round was a breeze too. The onlookers couldn't help but feel sorry for the lightning at that point.

It just couldn't be helped, Muku and Raya happened to be the monsters of all monsters in terms of talent and relative strength. So yeah, making them sweat was easier said than done.

Not to mention that they had gone through lightning tempering trials and their lightning resistance was rather outstanding...

But of course, their advantages wouldn't protect them forever... The real trial began around the fifth round of lightning bolts.

The lightning colours went like this... Yellow→orange→red→green→ and now it was dark blue...

A colour somewhat similar to Chloe's lightning but deeper, more controlled, more destructive... Simply better.

Looking at it from a distance, Chloe couldn't help but be mesmerised by it. She wondered if one day her lightning would be like that... No, it will definitely be like that and it will go beyond that even! She believed that she could do it!...

Chapter 422: Size doesn't matter! It's how you use it that counts!

This blue lightning actually managed to leave light scorch marks on Raya's scales and stung her significantly.

From that, she and Muku decided to use magic to protect themselves from their own... Well, Muku had been using it from the start though.

It wasn't anything strong, just something which put him on the same playing field as Raya. After all, even if his defence had been improved by a large margin, Raya was at the end of the day a dragon. She was naturally superior to him in their natural states.

And since they were both upgraded... She still remained above him looking at him disdainfully.

It was only this dragon brat who made him understand how others felt when they looked at him with his natural gifts.

After all, when compared to humans, he was the most outstanding in most things. But when he was compared to Raya... Other than his bloodline, he could only bow to this little ancestor...

A few more hours later... Muku and Raya were now facing the ninth trial. Yes, they now faced it together. It would expend too much energy to do it alone...

Even then, the two weeks already somewhat spent. The lightning rounds weren't only getting stronger, they were also getting longer.

And so, the expenditure for each round continued to increase.

The lightning from the ninth round wasn't only stronger, it was also a lot thicker. It was at least three metres thick. Some bolts were even five metres in thickness.

So if one were to call them lightning pillars instead of bolts, they wouldn't be wrong. Just one of these bolts could kill over twenty MR5s.

So yeah, even if Muku and Raya were super strong, they were expending quite a lot of energy to protect themselves. After all, ye bolt weren't coming one by one. They were coming at them from all directions from clouds that covered twenty kilometres.

The sight was actually rather hellish if one thought about it. Purple lightning pillars rained down on two beings nonstop. Clearly trying to end their lives and the two beings couldn't even run away...

But of course, to the "fishers", this scene was scary but greatly welcomed. After all, the weaker these two are after the trial, the higher their chances of getting benefits.

And even if they died and were erased out of existence along with the benefits, it was okay too. After all, that would mean they wouldn't have to worry about two super-strong enemies at the very least.

The world might be super huge weaker beings. But to beings of their level of strength, it was no different from a small country. It would take some time to travel it, but it could be done in a relatively short time.

So the chance of running into each other was higher. And nobody would want to run into the duo facing the trial. Especially now after turning up to fish for benefits. An enmity had been established...

Anyway, while hard, Muku and Raya managed to ward off the round.

What came next was a rather familiar attack... Though way stronger and of course, larger...

A white palm appeared from the clouds after the lightning gathered from all sides for close to thirty minutes...

While Muku and Raya knew that the coming attack would be devastating, they were more than happy to get the 30-minute break. After all, it allowed them to recover significantly.

Muku took out beast cores from his storage ring and the duo began devouring them like beggars getting food after starving for months... Though of course in reality, no beggar would last that long without food.

Low rank evolvers probably could do it. But if you're an evolver, even a low-ranked one and still can't secure food for yourself, then maybe you should just die...

Anyway, after the 30 minutes were up, the duo had gained more than half their lost mana... And that gave them the confidence to take on this attack that almost killed them last time...

At this point, Muku had long discarded the silver armour. He was now in his nightmare with a smaller version of his avatar around him.

After all, if he used the nearly a hundred metres tall version, then he'd get trounced by the lightning alone while Raya hid below him. He knew the little brat enough to know that she'd definitely do such a thing if given the chance.

So, currently, the two were both standing around ten meters... But seeing the humongous palm that covered more than ten kilometres, they felt that they were too small to resist in their current form.

Naturally, they had to improve their sizes to match. Their forms improved to their maximum!

Sadly two beings reaching a hundred metres in were still not too big compared to a palm expanding beyond ten kilometres. If anything, now they were slightly bigger bugs.

The feeling was rather stifling for the duo. After all, they were quite proud of their huge forms before.

In fact, all the onlookers had big forms around that size. They were also proud of their forms. So, naturally, they also felt stifled.

For the first time, everyone was on the duo's side wishing that they'd defeat the palm and prove once and for all that size doesn't matter! It's how you use it that counts!

As if feeling the prayers from everyone around them, Muku and Raya were fired up. So much so that they didn't wait for the palm to reach them. They flew up to meet it head-on!

Was it dumb? Probably, but it could be argued to be smart too. After all, they intercepted it before it gained its maximum momentum by the time it reached them. Which should have reduced its power somewhat... Maybe not by much but a decrease is a decrease, okay?!

And so....

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

The initial impact sent a shockwave so strong and loud that it was heard hundreds of kilometres away while also clearing more than 40 kilometres of land of all the plants and creatures.

Even the fishers had to form groups to resist it!

After it passed them, some instantly turned around and fled.

Screw benefits!

What use were the benefits if you died for them?!

The last time, it was only the LR5s who ran away, this time, the remaining LR5s ran away. And they weren't alone, some weak-willed MR5s joined them... But then again, whether they were weak-willed or smart, it could be debated.

After all, staying after such a thing was anything but smart...

Anyway, after the initial collision, the real battle between the duo and the palm began...

Raya roared in pain and fury while white, black and somewhat greyish-black mana surrounded her as protection as she fought to destroy the palm....

Muku beside her was doing the same, but of course, he was screaming instead of roaring...

Suddenly, as if on cue, Raya opened her large mouth drew her head back then....

ROOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOAR!

After all, if they had let them explode upon impact, they would have been as affected by the resulting explosion as much as the palm. And unlike them, the palm didn't feel pain, so it would mean that they'd have taken the worst of it.

By the point the explosion occurred, the duo had long shrunk and dug deep into the ground. After which, they employed all the defensive mechanisms they could in a short period.

Was it extremely shameless? Yes! Definitely! But it was also smart and anything could be discussed when one was trying to preserve their lives...

Above ground, the resulting explosion erased the clouds and expanded in all directions.

In less than a second it had expanded beyond twenty kilometres erasing all that was present out of existence before they could even react...

Chapter 423: It was nice knowing you...

And so, just like that, the fishers and the girls were all dead. Nuh, just kidding, it was only the fishers who died. The girls had long been warned by Muku.

They had escaped soon after the energy wave from the first contact between the duo and the palm.

In fact, they would have escaped sooner if it wouldn't have looked suspicious. So Muku and Raya gave them a reason to withdraw.

While they weren't suspected by most of the beasts, a few smart fishers chose to withdraw with them.

It was a shame that not all the beasts were killed because of that. But only around ten managed to live.

And they were quickly taken care of by the girls. After all, they had suffered injuries in their retreat...

In any case, it was a windfall for Muku's group. In one move they had wiped out all the enemies. Now Muku and Raya in their weakened states shouldn't have to worry about being besieged after the trial... Speaking of which, shouldn't it be over now that the palm had been resisted?

With that thought, the mansion, which had also suffered some damage but managed to pull through thanks to the barrier, began making its way back to the duo. It was time to collect them so they could go back and celebrate!

Just when the girls were around 30 kilometres away. They noticed something. Something startling, something sudden, something unexpected and frightening.

The clouds which had been completely erased from the sky by the explosion were slowly gathering again.

But if the ritual was over... Then why were they gathering again?!

Of course, that question was rhetorical. From the formation of the clouds, everyone knew what was happening. Muku and Raya's hard time wasn't over yet...

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Back at ground zero....

A deep hole, so deep it could be called an abyss had appeared. It was more than twenty kilometres wide and nobody could estimate how deep it was as it seemed to go on and on.

At the very bottom of that abyss Muku and Raya stirred. One of Raya's front legs was missing, most of her scales were also gone and blood freely flowed from her body. Her breath was weak and seemed like it could be extinguished by even a light breeze.

Muku's condition wasn't any better. While he didn't lose any body parts due to the protection of the nightmare armour, his legs and hands were all broken in many places. Most of his internal organs were close to collapsing.

While in normal cases, the armour could ward off the form of attacks along with the attacks themselves, it couldn't do so this time. Also, Muku was very proficient in controlling force and could be said to be immune at that point.

And yet, despite the two defences he had, he was still completely overwhelmed and broken. In fact, he might have been killed off if it weren't for them.

Mind you, this was after the duo escaped who knows how many kilometres into the ground. What would have happened had they carelessly decided to tank it above ground? Wouldn't they have been completely erased like the fishers then?

"Hahahaha Argh! Cough Cough" Muku suddenly started laughing like a madman. Completely ignoring the pain from basically every part of his body. Or maybe, it was the pain that made him laugh? Maybe it drove him mad.

"What are you laughing at?" Raya growled in pain unable to stand Muku's laughter.

"Oh, nothing. Just realising that you tricked me. I shouldn't have made that soul-link with you. Sure, I might have died long ago, but at least I wouldn't have to face this thing every once in a while right? And what if I end up dying still? Wouldn't it have all been for nought? Hahahaha" Muku stopped laughing, replied then continued laughing again.

Raya just rolled her eyes. She knew he didn't actually mean it. While he was in pain and probably regretted the soul-link a little bit, as anyone would, he understood that the benefits were worth it.

He was just venting by laughing and thought to annoy Raya since she asked. She could feel it through the soul-link that he was actually in a good mood despite everything. And she understood why, after all, she was the same.

Recently they had gotten rather too strong for the world. For that reason, the duo who had gotten used to life in The Beast World had gotten somewhat bored.

After all, there weren't any threats around which could excite them anymore. They missed fighting with everything they had only to barely win. It really made their blood pump.

Speaking of which, maybe that's why they met and formed a soul-link. Destiny was just bringing together two like-minded psychos.

Of course, they could have sought out trouble with Ares or the Tactoa Monarch but they were psychos not idiots.

They knew that while they'd managed to survive the onslaught of the Monarchs up to that point, it definitely involved luck.

And luck seldom favoured fools who sought out death but going to an enemy's home ground...

Just as the two were casually relaxing in silence waiting to be rescued their expressions suddenly turned grave.

While they were so deep down they couldn't see the sky, they could still sense the situation up above. And so, they immediately sensed the clouds when they started gathering again.

If they were normal clouds, they wouldn't have been able to sense them. However, these clouds were rather distinctive. After all, they carried the oppressive aura from the heavens...

"Well... It was nice knowing you" Raya who couldn't even move said her farewells to Muku.

She didn't even try to resist what was coming nor did she sink into despair. After, she had expended all her mana and her body was broken as well. Muku wasn't in a better situation either.

She didn't even think to seek the girl's help. After all, even if the girls combined their current power of fledgling R5s, it wouldn't be enough to match either Raya or Muku alone.

So resisting an attack even stronger than the attack Raya and Muku could barely resist was out of the question.

Hell, if they joined, the attack would become even stronger than it would have been at the start.

Thinking about it, Raya started to doubt the name of her situation. From what was happening, this wasn't a ritual, trial or whatever... It was clearly a purge.

If she were alone, the palm would have definitely destroyed her. Even the last time was difficult to say whether she could have survived it alone.

She wondered how the beasts of the past survived these trials. Did they also form soul links or was she just trash?

She began questioning her life. But it wasn't in despair or any particular emotion. She was just doing it in passing, in a detached manner, as if it weren't her life while calmly waiting for death.

At the same time, she cursed all those human stories that said one's life flashes before their eyes just when they are about to die. None of that happened to her, she just felt extremely calm... Maybe she was just a weirdo. Or the experiences of humans and beasts were different...

"Tsk. If you want to die. Die alone. I'm making it out of here. Now eat this" Muku replied disdainfully while holding something against Raya's mouth.

The dragon was currently around two metres tall and lying next to him while looking up at the black sky.

Without thinking, Raya opened her mouth and ate whatever Muku offered. She assumed he was giving her a last meal before they died.

As for what he said about making it out... She didn't take it to heart. To her, it was just the stubborn words of a man at death's door, after all, what could he possibly do with his body that was broken even more than hers?

Speaking of which, how did he lift up his hand?

Just when that thought passed through Raya's mind, a familiar warmth spread across her body. And a flavour unlike any other was tasted in her mouth. Unfortunately, the taste didn't last long.

However, the warmth became more and more intense until she was practically burning from the inside out.

But instead of screaming from the pain she felt, a smile appeared on her draconic face... Well, she tried to smile at least.

After all, her body was recovering, and her mana was recovering. Both processes were occurring so quickly that she was almost fully recovered within ten seconds. Even her missing leg was regenerating. It was truly miraculous!

"I had forgotten you had these" Raya said in a pleasantly surprised voice. She got up off the ground as she spoke...

"Well, not anymore..." Muku replied while also getting up.

That's right, he has used those fruits he got from Mrs C before to recover his abs Raya's bodies.

Since they had already used them before, their bodies didn't improve but just recovered. But that didn't bother them. The recovery is all they needed.

"Let's go take care of this thing. I can feel that this is the last round..." Raya spoke then without waiting for Muku's response, she flew up into the sky at top speed.

Muku smirked inside the nightmare armour and followed behind her...

Chapter 424: Fourth World Evolution begins!

Just above the deep hole...

"...What the hell is that?" Muku asked slowly, with a deadpan expression on his face, while looking at the sky.

"I'm not sure, but it kinda looks like a bomb made out of grey lighting..." Raya replied in a similar tone.

"I thought so. I think you can give up now. In fact, let's go back into the hole and lie down... I'm even regretting wasting those two fruits on two soon-to-be-deceased people" Muku continued.

"Hmm. Makes sense. However, I'm not a person. So it should be a soon-to-be-deceased dragon and person" Raya agreed with a little correction.

"Sure sure, but why aren't you going then?" Muku asked.

"Why aren't you?" Raya asked back.

"I figured that if I'm gonna die. I might as well go out with a bang" Muku replied.

"Ha... I thought the same thing" Raya spoke in an unchanged tone.

"Well, then, I guess it's settled" Muku replied, his gaze unmoving from the sky...

Despite the banter between the two about possibly giving up. Neither even considered it from the start.

While they could tell that the upcoming strike would definitely be beyond anything they've ever dealt with before... They were confident they'd pull through no matter what. Even if they'd likely end up in a worse situation than before. They will definitely make it. That's how confident they were in their abilities.

And now without any bugs around to worry about, they could completely focus and give it their all from the start.

[Sufficient mana level for World Evolution reached. World Evolution will commence in one minute]

Just as the duo were getting ready to receive the bomb. A familiar voice was heard in the ears of every person and beast on the planet.

And no matter who, how strong they were or what they were doing, they felt a chill going down their spines.

Even unranked beasts that had survived the previous World Evolutions were scared out of their minds despite lacking intelligence for the most part. But lacking intelligence didn't mean they couldn't understand what was going to happen.

After all, he'll always followed everytime they hear that voice.

And so, they immediately scrambled to their hiding spots... Which might not be too smart considering that most of those spots included the ground in some way. So the chance of being destroyed when it shakes and expands was quite high.

But hey, just because they knew that there was danger didn't mean they knew how to deal with it right?

Just like them everyone else who could scramble for cover was doing the same.

Of course, the smarter ones chose to avoid spots that could get them squashed. The capable took to the skies...

All humans who were close to safe zones scrambled for them.

Those who weren't could only despair as they climbed trees and hugged them with all their might.

Which wasn't a bad strategy considering that trees seldom got taken down by the shaking... However, that didn't provide any protection against the beasts sure to attack after the earthquake. And that's why they despaired.

After all, most lived in safe zones by that point and would have been safe if they were there when the evolution began.

Only if they were given around thirty minutes or so, many would have been able to get back to their strength.

Hell, even ten minutes would have been helpful. Unfortunately, the world was getting more and more unfair.

They could only hug trees while missing the good old days when they got 24 hours to prepare. And to think they cursed the Messenger back then for giving them too little time...

At the same time, they couldn't help but wonder if the future evolutions will be instantaneous. Like, the message would be {Evolution beginning now} then boom! But that probably has nothing to do with them. After all, they'd have to survive the current one before thinking about the next...

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On the sky castle...

"Oh my! This couldn't have happened at a worse time" Audrey commented with a pale expression on her face.

Truly troubles seldom came one at a time. They were just celebrating a minor win when all the fishers were taken care of. Then they realised the trial wasn't over.

Before they could get over that, they noticed a bomb forming in the sky. Before they could get over that, the world's evolution began. It seems it really wasn't their group's day...

"Well, while it might be troublesome when the beasts turn up. There's no portal here, so as long as our side avoids the ground. We should be okay..." Layla replied calmly.

With her words, everyone realised that things really weren't as dire as they thought yet. And since the beasts come after the earthquake which should take a while. Muku and Raya should be done by then.

And without any portals around them, they should have it relatively easy for a while...

"That makes sense. What about Jade's brothers and Lisa's group? Should some people go back and help them?" Audrey replied.

"Nuh. They should be fine. They managed to live this long right? And both were warned, so even if this is sudden. They should be able to deal with it. After all, we aren't their babysitters" Jade spoke before anyone could.

Though she seemed a bit unfeeling in her words. She made sense. Lisa's group just had to remain in their safe zone and Klaus's group was strong enough and experienced enough to make it through...

"Okay, if you say so. We'll all just stay here and keep guarding those two then..." Audrey didn't disagree.

After all, she had only said it for Jade's sake. Since Jade said it was fine, then it was fine.

With that said, the girls focused all their focus on Muku and Raya as the last ten seconds went by before the evolution began...

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On Muku's side...

"Tsk" Muku clicked his tongue without making a comment. There was no need to make a comment.

They both understood that the situation had gotten worse.

Raya didn't even make a sound. Just the look in her eyes changed. It got graver.

The two just quietly waited for both their problems to start. The bomb will probably come after the evolution began, so they paid attention to the timer more...

[5...4...3...2...1...0]

The moment the timer reached zero, everyone held their breath, and an almost visible wave of mana washed over the whole planet. Then...

GRRR...

With a sound that almost sounded like a low growl, the earthquake came. Tides rose and areas close to large water bodies were flooded.

Many people and land beasts were taken into the ocean then quickly killed off by water beasts. That's right, it wasn't just the land of the world that was "contaminated" by beasts from the Beast World. The water bodies were invaded too. In fact, there were more water beasts than land beasts, countless times more.

Which was to be expected really. After all, the planet was mostly water, hence the name, "Blue Planet"

Unlike those who lived in the land, they were rather happy with the evolution. It brought them rare delicacies.

Of course, they weren't confined to water like water animals and could go out to land but they were most powerful in water so they seldom went out. And there was more food in water anyway...

The earthquake did more than deliver food to water beasts of course. It buried many land beasts and the structures they had developed.

In fact, it was just a side effect of what was really going on. And that was the expansion of the planet. It was slowly getting closer to the size of Jupiter.

At the same time, the natural laws of the planet were also improving. Of course, the soil and all natural aspects of nature were made stronger as always.

The attacks that could destroy kilometres of land before, could at best destroy a kilometre now.

Even more miraculous was how the hole below Muku and Raya was quickly filled up.

It was almost like nothing happened at all. The vegetation didn't grow back though.

And that was understandable, the planet seemed to only be able to recover itself in a short amount of time. But eventually the vegetation should grow back...

Muku couldn't help but feel that it might have been a waste of time to fix the hole at that time. After all, there was a bomb on the way...

Speaking of which, it was finally formed. And its size was just as exaggerated as the palm before it. Its thickness was several kilometres. Properly around three kilometres while the length was beyond ten kilometres.

This time the duo dared not go meet it in the sky. However, that didn't mean they'd wait for it.

And so, the attacks they had been preparing were immediately aimed...

Before, Raya's attack was hurriedly prepared, so it wasn't in its strongest state. Unlike now, when she had time to gather a significant amount of energy.

On Muku's side, he had used all his Mithril back then, but that didn't mean he was weaker now.

Sure, Mithril would be better in the situation, but if you couldn't use quality, then quantity works too!

And so, a silver spear more than seven kilometres long and one kilometre thick appeared beside Muku and Raya.

This wasn't just a huge metal spear. It was a huge metal spear full of all the force energy Muku had gathered inside it. That's right, while the force from the palm completely destroyed him, he still managed to gather as much force as he could...

"What was that saying again? I think it went something like, if the heavens want to keep me down... Then I will poke a hole through the Heavens and rise up!" Muku shouted spiritedly.

Chapter 425: Heaven Destroyer!

Muku didn't shout but his voice spread into the distance. It blended into the chaotic sounds of evolution.

It even spread to the fortress around fifty kilometres away. Everyone there who recognised the voice couldn't help but smile wryly.

"Hahahaha. Couldn't have said it better myself. My brother truly is passionate! Hahaha," Klaus happily commented from inside the barrier.

That's right, Lisa had agreed to house them during the evolution. But they'd have to leave after. Klaus readily agreed. After all, he was a leader too, and unless necessary, no leader would want to live under someone's roof for too long...

Lisa on the other hand felt a little embarrassed by Muku's words. It was as if her husband had declared something embarrassing for the world to hear.

With that thought her face reddened a little bit. Sure, she promised herself to make him take responsibility, but that was just in the spur of the moment. She was too shy to actually try anything.

Though at the same time, she couldn't help but admire his confidence. She wasn't sure what he was facing, but from the loud sounds they had been hearing since before the evolution began, she could tell that it was something cataclysmic to those like her. Something she couldn't hope to face for a long while...

Interestingly enough, the girls on the sky castle were feeling something almost identical to Lisa. The only difference was that they weren't too shy about thinking of him as their husband.

Of course, Elsa just rolled her eyes at her brother-in-law's crazy words.

While they all felt he was speaking too much, they couldn't help but smile. He wouldn't be Muku if he didn't say such famous last words!...

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"Ew so cringey" Raya immediately commented disgustedly.

"Shut up! I'm trying to fire myself up okay?! If you don't like that you can face it yourself!" Muku snapped back.

How dare the brat say that his handsome words were cringe? Does she know that only famous people speak such words? Sure, most of them didn't have good endings after, but still, they still sounded cool right?

"Fine fine, I'm sorry. Anyway, I just got an idea. Is there more space in your spear? Or can you make it bigger?" Raya spoke with a glint in her eyes.

"Why?" Muku asked curiously while making his spear even bigger.

"Well, you said you wanted to poke a hole through the heavens right? I'm just trying to make sure that you do..." Raya replied calmly...

...

A few moments later...

The spear's size had been improved by quite a bit. It was now over ten kilometres tall and three kilometres thick. Around the same size as the bomb.

Its colour was no longer just silver. It now had black and white carvings all over it and a blackish grey energy faintly radiating from it.

Muku's face had turned pale behind the nightmare armour. After all, while he could make countless spears of the same size with his strength. He could barely make one strong enough to hold all the energies inside this one.

It had taken all his mana. He only had enough left to move. Beside him, Raya was also weakened.

That's right, the two had expended all their power to make the spear as strong as it could possibly be. While it wasn't exactly a union spell since the energy wasn't combined into one, it was just confined in the same space separately, but that didn't mean it would be much weaker.

Besides, they didn't have enough time for a true union spell, and they had tried it once before and almost died when it exploded in the Beast World.

The girls had been lucky back then otherwise the chance of failure was higher than success.

Muku and Raya wouldn't mess with something so uncertain at such a time. So they did the best they could.

"So, what do you think we should call it?" Muku asked Raya.

"Hmm. Why not be straightforward and call it Heaven Destroyer?" Raya replied after thinking for less than a second.

"Heaven Destroyer huh? Makes sense... Though it's a bit arrogant" Muku felt that the name was perfect.

"Says the man who declared he'd poke a hole through the heavens. Anyway, are you going to send it out or? I mean, the bomb has been coming down at us all this time after all..." Raya replied while rolling her eyes.

"Tsk. Do you think I don't see it? This thing is rather hard to move with my current strength. But don't worry, all I need is Maximum Effort!" Muku replied then shouted at the end as blood began flowing out of his nose, eyes, mouth and ears.

This was because for the first time ever, he reached the limits of his Telekinesis and pushed past it.

In normal cases, he would be able to move the spear without using Telekinesis since that's what metal manipulation meant, but this time, it wasn't enough, so he had to add his Telekinesis too. And even that needed to be used in overdrive.

And finally, the spear began shaking then slowly rose from the ground.

Which was quite a sight. After all, if the shaking of the very ground hadn't been able to shake it. So one could understand how heavy and steady it was from that.

In the place where it stood before was a hole around half a kilometre deep. But of course, since the world was evolving, the hole was soon filled up. But Muku and Raya didn't have the time to look at that for now, all their focus was on the spear slowly gaining momentum as it climbed up into the sky heading straight for the bomb coming their way...

The distance between the clouds and the ground was over a hundred kilometres, so the two giant weapons had more than enough space to gain momentum.

Surprisingly enough, the spear ended up travelling faster than the bomb which had natural momentum on its side...

At this point, Muku could barely keep his bloody eyes open and his head hurt so much he wished he could rip it off and trade it in for a new one. Or just die, he was okay with both options.

Anyway, that didn't stop him from propelling the spear forward then...

The two weapons of mass destruction met...

Everyone who was watching couldn't help but hold their breath while subconsciously backing away...

Muku and Raya wanted to dig into the ground again. Unfortunately, not only did they not have the power for such, but they also dared not do it when the world was evolving. Who knows how chaotic the situation down there is? What if they get squashed?

And so, they floated slightly above ground while looking at the sky hoping they would survive what was about to come.

Well, Raya floated and looked up. Muku lay on her back looking like he could die at any moment. But of course, he was too much of a cockroach to actually die. But the best he could do now was barely keep himself conscious and leave the rest to Raya.

If the situation wasn't so dire, he wouldn't have minded letting himself go and fainting on the spot...

Unfortunately, before fainting, he had to see this thing through...

The explosion upon impact that everyone expected didn't occur...

Instead, it seemed the two attacks... Combined into one and started disappearing?! Was that the legendary implosion? But was it possible for such a thing to happen when two objects clashed?

And where was the sound?

Before anyone could make sense of what was going on... Darkness appeared in the sky and spread in all directions...

And again, sound was missing in action.

At first, it looked like the clouds were getting eaten away by a dark energy.

But to Raya's horror, that wasn't what was going on at all! It wasn't just the clouds getting eaten away...

"Space itself is getting destroyed!" Raya shouted in shock and fear as a cold chill went down her spine...

She wanted to leave, to escape as quickly as she could. And yet, her body couldn't move.

No, it wasn't that she was out of mana. While she was almost out of it, she still had enough to move a little bit.

What was happening now was the effect of looking directly into the abyss. Looking into the deep dark void that was eating away at space like it was a thin layer of paper getting burned away by heavenly flames.

She was scared stiff. All her fearlessness was nothing in front of the void. She felt like she was less than an ant in front of it. She even felt that Monarchs would also be less than ant if compared to that primal darkness.

No energy was radiating from it... Or maybe, she was just too weak to sense it...

All she could do was look as the darkness inched closer and closer. She screamed in her body telling her body to move but it didn't listen.

And so, despair appeared in her eyes. To think that she was going to die so unremarkably.

All this time, she thought that if she were to die, then it would be gloriously in battle...

Just when the darkness was about to reach her. Something miraculous and rather scary too happened.

A finger appeared from within the darkness and plugged up the hole in space which was now around fifteen kilometres wide...

Chapter 426: Insidious brat

"SIGH..."

A sigh was heard by everyone everywhere. Then the finger began retreating. The sky was mended as it did.

And just like that, everything returned to normal... Well, in accordance with the broken sky. As for the world evolution, it was getting stronger and stronger...

"What was that?" Salted fish Muku who could currently do nothing but lie down on Raya's back asked in a slightly laboured voice.

He had just been chilling, feeling so much pain he wished he were dead while the chaotic sounds of the evolution kept him entertained. Then suddenly, he heard a sigh that sounded awfully like a tired mother cleaning up after her naughty child.

He instantly thought of Mrs C. Had she come to watch him suffer then feel sad about it? After all, that seemed like his mother's favourite activity.

"I think I finally understand why the world evolves too..." Raya spoke. Though she didn't exactly answer Muku's question.

That was because her mind was still stuck on what she had just witnessed. The existence of absolute darkness waits to pounce just behind their fragile existence. And even greater was the existence of that being who could repel it and casually repair space.

She didn't know what to think about this... Then again, what could she do about it with her current strength anyway? And so, she decided not to think about it too much, all she could do was improve her strength, and maybe one day she would be able to plug up space too! Well, at the very least, she wanted to be able to resist it.

She rather envied Muku who saw nothing despite being so close to death. After all, he was practically blind right now and his mana sense was also out of commission since he had no mana left. And unlike the usual dangers that accompany overwhelming pressure, the void approached quietly. Without seeing it, you'd likely die before you knew what was going on.

Now, while it will likely haunt her dreams for a while, Muku will be absolutely fine... But she couldn't have that now could she?

And so, for the first time, she guided Muku's consciousness into her soul sea... It wasn't as intricate or useful as a mindscape, but it was enough for what she wanted to do... And that was show Muku what she had just seen. That way they'll have nightmares together. It will also answer his question, right?

And so, the curious Muku allowed his consciousness to be directed towards certain memories by Raya. He didn't know what she was trying to do, but it was the first time she was letting him view her memories, so he was more than willing to participate.

Soon enough, Muku's consciousness was horrified after seeing what Raya wanted to show him. Fear assaulted him instantly. What the hell was that?!

Raya the insidious brat had actually made him "experience" the incident instead of seeing it. This was done by placing him in her shoes in the memory. That way, it was like he experienced it himself. This was something only possible due to their soul-link otherwise he'd have only been able to see it from an observer's point of view.

But of course, Raya would never accept such a loss. It was either they were even or they were even. There was no middle ground.

Even if Muku furiously cursed her after. A happy glint didn't leave her eyes.

Another reason to be happy was the fact that the clouds didn't appear again. So the ritual was over. She could feel her bloodline strengthening inside her veins. Now she just needed a safe place to hibernate and evolve.

In normal cases, she would have long entered Muku's mindscape... But currently, the one who should enter the other one's mindscape was Muku. After all, he was currently way too weak!

Unfortunately, she didn't have a mindscape of her own yet. She was close to creating one, but wasn't there yet. So she could only physically guard him... Even though she probably doesn't even pose a threat to a weak R4 beast in her current state. However, just the aura of a Pseudo-R6 should be enough to ward off many opponents no matter the state.

Besides, the girls should be arriving soon. She would fly towards them if she wasn't afraid of running into some trouble. After all, you never know what could happen.

In the meantime, she thought back to her discovery. The one about why the planet evolved. It wasn't just to protect itself from being destroyed by the attacks of the ever-improving residents... That was definitely one for the reasons, but not the only one. Another reason was to make sure that the attacks from the residents don't breach the space barrier and get everyone killed by the void.

So, it was protecting everyone. Including the trouble-causers. Maybe that's why the Beast World didn't rashly send in experts from the start. They'd probably breach the space barrier and get everyone killed which would make the invasion pointless...

And here she was thinking that the bastards just liked watching humans struggle before killing them off. After all, it was undeniable that while experts like Muku's group were having a good life. Everyone else was suffering and getting killed off.

After all, even the stronger groups like Klaus's and Lisa's had lost many people over the years. It was probably only Muku's group that increased in number instead of decreasing. They were truly an anomaly...

Anyway, it was good to know that no matter how much Monarchs hate them, they can never just abandon all reason and come to personally kill them.

Then there was that encounter with the green Monarch... It seems it hadn't stepped into Pseudo-R6 like they thought it did. Either that or maybe the guardians had supported the space behind the scenes or everything would have long been consumed by the void.

But then again, as a legit Pseudo-R6, she felt that the Monarch back then wasn't as strong as she was. Just that its power wasn't as suppressed as her's was.

That's right, the world didn't just passively take damage from beasts and evolvers. It fought back by suppressing their power to a greater extent.

No matter how strong they got, the world would catch up and suppress them.

She even suspected that they only managed to break the space barrier because the world hadn't caught up yet. After all, it was currently still evolving and wasn't there yet..

For the first time ever, she looked up in the sky... With her strength, she could see beyond the blue if she wanted to. And that's what she did, she looked at the black sky full of stars during the day.

Internally she wondered... Would she still be suppressed up there?

With her current strength. She could easily go months without food or breathing. And her body should be more than strong enough to resist space erosion.

After all, rockets were countless times weaker than her and they could resist it... Maybe one day it was worth exploring...

Anyway, her ride was here. She would continue thinking about whatever after resting a bit in the castle. She currently didn't even have enough mana to transform back into her human form. So rest was definitely needed.

The useless Muku couldn't even take out the beast cores from his ring so that they could recover. So neither of them had recovered much as they waited.

So some of the girls came to help Raya onto the sky castle. She tried flying forward but it took all her energy just to stay afloat so she couldn't do it...

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On the Sky Castle...

Raya dragged herself to their beast core storage room and lay on top of one pile. Then began sucking in the energy.

Her body was so broken that almost all the energy she sucked in was getting expended in recovering her body. Only a little bit went to her mana recovery. Which was understandable considering that repairing the vessel was more important than filling it up...

Jade brought in Muku and put him on another pile.

They had mountains upon mountains of beast cores. So no matter how many the duo used, it will likely barely be noticeable.

Though honestly, the sight was quite scary if you considered that every core came from a life. And many had been used while other beasts didn't have beast cores. Which meant that by that point, the beasts killed by the group had likely passed a million a long time ago.

But then again, beasts were invaders, and killing them off was totally justified. It was self-defence. Besides, beasts had killed off billions of humans, so it was all fair game. In fact, the group was far behind compared to the beasts.

Anyway, just like Rara, Muku was also focusing on recovering his body. This guy had even let himself faint after arriving.

So, Raya was actually doing the work for both of them. After all, with Muku's permission, she could control his body to some extent.

He had given her permission and then slept on the spot. Clearly saying, "It was your ritual, so you fix me" without actually speaking.

And so, begrudgingly, Raya could only take care of him too.

She didn't play tricks because she was really grateful, she knew that if she were alone, death was almost certain back then...

As the two recovered, Hope stood guard outside. It wasn't necessary really. She just wanted to be the first to be seen by Muku when he wakes up.

At least this time she didn't cry like before when Muku got injured. Maybe she had matured a bit...

As she stood guard she received a phone call which made her expression turn pale...

What could it be?

Chapter 427: Blood flowed freely...

"A huge portal appeared ten kilometres away from the fortress and countless beasts are running toward it?! Why are you telling me? Shouldn't you all be evacuating everyone so that we can leave?" Hope spoke animatedly.

Sure, the appearance of a portal was definitely scary, considering it would bring countless new threats, but all they had to do was run away right? So what was the problem?...

....

On the other side...

"Muku said that real danger will come after a week so it's a good time to gain KP. Also, Iris said that this is the main portal. Something which should have appeared in the oceans. Unfortunately, it's here, and it will last for at least a week while the others close after a few hours. So, if we let it be, the land will be overrun by beasts. Oh, and Iris also said that the larger the number of creatures on the plant, the sooner the next evolution and invasion will come. She hadn't said it before because not only were we too weak to make a difference, but this portal was also supposed to appear in the ocean. It seems the Monarchs behind the scenes have gotten cocky and think that there's no need to be cautious anymore. Or maybe

they misjudged the positioning. Either way, we must fight until we can't anymore... That's why I'm calling you now" Chloe who was the one informing Hope explained.

The beasts coming through were still relatively weak, so she could afford to make a phone call. After all, even if the portal was several kilometres wide and many beasts were coming out at once... It was still something one person could take care of. Currently Jade was having a field day killing all that dared come through.

The lucky ones that passed her were killed off by the Lisa's and Klaus's groups. In fact, Jade was letting them through otherwise she could easily kill them all.

In fact, she shouldn't even be in the battle. It almost seemed like a T. rex was bullying ants. It was so sad Audrey eventually pulled her back...

Besides, it was a good experience for the weaker people from the two groups behind her. While the fight was super easy for Jade, it brought significant pressure to them, which was good for their growth in the long run.

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"Oh, okay... In that case, can I heal Big Brother now? I get that healing him will return his body to its peak without any benefits while his current method will leave him stronger... But still, this can be counted as an emergency right?... Sigh fine, I'll wait until it's actually dangerous before doing anything" Hope replied sulkily.

Muku really made things hard for her. He had decided to heal naturally because it made his body stronger, which he noticed in the Beast World. Unlike when he was healed by Hope which would only revert him back to his best state without any benefits.

That's why despite the pain, he chose to heal naturally. After all, he should be fine in a day or two... Besides, he was sleeping while Raya did the work, so why should he not take advantage of the situation to get stronger?

But of course, for Hope who had the power to make him better and didn't like seeing him injured. His decision was like torture to her.

She really wanted to use the portal as an excuse to heal him. Unfortunately, it seems things weren't dire yet. Which sucked.

But as an obedient little sister, she could only respect his wishes and continue guarding him.

As for going outside to help? Hell no! Why would she go when things weren't even tough yet? She has no interest in watching anyone other than her brother fighting.

Yup, a true bro-con. Though she was one of those oblivious ones who saw no problems with their thought processes.

Anyway, she wasn't wrong either. Her presence wasn't even close to being needed yet. So much so that with just the side characters... Cough, with just Lisa and Klaus's people, they had pushed the beasts back to just two kilometres away from the portal.

Initially, they only noticed the beasts when they reached them.

Fortunately, the worldwide earthquake had finally stopped otherwise it wouldn't have been so easy to push the beasts back.

And so, in just thirty minutes, piles upon piles of beast corpses could be seen on the battlefield.

Blood flowed freely. Mad screams from the humans were heard everywhere. They were venting all their frustrations on these creatures.

After all, no matter how good their lives were now. They were nowhere near close to being as good as they were before the apocalypse.

Even beggars missed the good old days. Back then, they might not have had food, but they had peace. And to a certain extent, their lives were guaranteed.

Now, they had strength and food, but they could be killed off at any moment. So it was a bittersweet experience. And it was all because of these invaders.

They became even more ruthless and driven to kill when they heard that the more they killed, the more time they'd have before the next evolution and invasion.

The thing was, the mana which radiates from living beings is what pushes the world to evolve. This is because, the world will start generating more and more mana to get stronger and prevent itself from getting destroyed.

Like a disease(beasts and evolvers) forcing the body(planet) to generate antibodies(mana) to fight against the problem.

Though instead of killing off the "disease" it evolves to be able to contain and suppress it...

When the world evolves, a passage that can let in stronger beasts on the planet is created.

For that reason, the fewer the number of beasts on the planet, the longer the next evolution will be put off.

Because of this, everyone couldn't help but regret not killing off the weak beasts they ignored in the past. After all, back then, there really was no reason to waste their time and mana on the matter.

But then again, what could killing off a few weak beasts do? It would have probably put off the evolution by just a few minutes at best.

But it was different now, while the beast appeared now we're weak... There were millions of them. So killing them off will definitely make a difference...

And they were just the first wave of beasts. At this point, not even a single R4 had appeared. They were all R3s and below. With the strongest being Psuedo-R4s.

Considering the theme, millions of R4s are likely to follow after a while.

By that point, the two supporting groups will probably have to take a step back after fighting for a little bit. With that understanding, they put all their efforts into killing off the weaker ones so the experts up above won't waste their power on them.

Of course, there were those like Klaus, Lisa, Chris and such who were among the stronger R4s. Currently, they weren't fighting seriously.

They couldn't even if they wanted to. So they just oversaw the battlefield protecting anyone who got careless. Their time to fight will come...

Lisa couldn't wait for it. After all, she needed the KP. She felt that after this battle, she should have reached the peak and be ready to charge for R5... A rank she wasn't able to reach in her past life.

Klaus and Chris were more relaxed. They had already reached the peak with Klaus being at the peak of Pseudo-R5. He only needed to generate an avatar at that point.

But due to the obvious commotion it caused, he hadn't been able to do it. The people around him weren't strong enough to guard him.

His original plan was to wait until a few reached the same stage as him then take turns advancing while the others suppressed the aura of the one advancing.

But now, with his unreasonably strong little sister around as well as his even stronger brother... in-law. He should be able to safely advance after the current matter is taken care of. After all, there was no safer environment than with those people around...

He couldn't help but be a little jealous of Muku's group. They were small. But every member was beyond strong and super talented. And all of them were R5s!

If his group had such talent wouldn't he have long become the ruler of the planet?

Oh well, at least they could be said to be the closest of allies, so there was no need to fear them or anything like that. It was a good thing even, after all, it was clear they had no interest in world domination. So maybe they would help him gain control?

Just thinking about it made him jittery with emotion...

...

One day later...

The situation had changed. The two groups that had fought for over 24 hours had done their part.

They were now resting at the base completely out of strength.

Now it was time for the stronger ones to enter. After all, the R4s had come.

And interestingly enough, the weaker were PR4s!. It seems the other side had somehow realised that there was something wrong...

So they didn't send the weaker ones through.

And so, out of the large red portal, hundreds of PR4s and Pseudo-R5s emerged.

While the portal was large, PR4s weren't small either. So only tens could come out at once.

Which was perfect for those like Lisa... Their time to fight had come...

Chapter 428: Number one under the sky

And so, the battle began...

Klaus was casually killing every beast which crossed his path with a single punch for each.

He was so quick that everyone could only see him before and after he made a move. They'd only see him focus on a target and in the next second, the target's head would explode. Then Klaus would be revealed again.

Of course, it wasn't that he had OP physical strength. Indeed, he was exceptionally strong in that regard as well, but his physical strength wasn't sufficient to achieve such a result. He was actually using his domain armour and his fists were completely covered by mana.

Just that his armour was an invisible force for the most part. Only the dense mana on his mana was visible. One fist was white and the other black. It was somewhat like when Raya uses her two elements.

However, Klaus's was somewhat faded compared to Raya's light. But that didn't mean he was weak though. This was evident from the massacre.

In fact, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to call him the number one Pseudo-R5 under the sky...

Some distance away from him, PR4 Chris was also laying waste to beasts with his barriers. Though he wasn't doing it as easily as Klaus. But it was fine, he was already doing more than any average PR4 could.

Even further away, Genevieve and Scarlett were helping each other deal with one beast at a time.

They were also strong and capable of soloing a beast, but they wouldn't be able to do it quickly like Chris and Klaus. So they joined hands.

In random spots on the battlefield, all those who still had strength were helping each other fight off the beast. Whether it be Klaus's group members or Lisa's. They didn't care about prior prejudices.

As they say, battle brings people closer together. And that's what happened in this case, after fighting together for so long, it was hard not to get along...

As for Lisa herself, she was having the best time.

She was soloing beasts with a smile on her face. This should have been impossible with her lowered strength (now LR5), yet she was doing it.

She wasn't as swift as Chris, but it was understandable considering their stage differences.

Speaking of which, Chris probably wouldn't be able to achieve the same result as her if he were in her position.

After all, his class had long been eroded from his Tactoa days. Knowing this, Chris couldn't help but cast her a slight look of envy as well as regretting his past life choices.

But oh well, what was done was done. And he could see that Lisa was relying more on her strength alone. From the way she fought, it seemed like she had been fighting for decades. Which was not a feeling he got from even his sister's group.

He wondered why that was but they weren't close and had barely spoke so he could only bury his curiosity. Besides, he wasn't one to easily talk to new people like that and Scarlett might kill him in his sleep if he suddenly changed his behaviour to speak to a woman.

And so, Lisa peacefully continued to dominate the beasts with her almost PR5 strength while actually being LR5. This was of course, also thanks to the physical upgrade from the fruit on top of her class upgrade and experience from her past life.

And her new class was great. A spell which would create a middle before could now create a thick spear... Of course she never actually created middles, this is just an example so that it's understood how much stronger she had become.

And as if inspired by Muku, she was currently wearing black armour. Though unlike Muku's, hers was more heroic than scary and instead of swords she used spears as weapons. And it was also on the thicker side... Like heavy armour. While Muku's wasn't body tight, it wasn't as heavy looking as her's.

Even without knowing her class's name. One would definitely come to that conclusion just from looking at her... Dark Paladin.

Wherever she went, beasts fell with spear holes all over their bodies. Especially heads and chest areas...

Lisa had never felt so strong. She was barely stopping herself from cackling like a crazy lady.

But of course, the more experienced observers could see just how excited she was.

Out of everyone in Muku's group. Jade was actually the first one to acknowledge her... They had all, at the very least decided to tolerate her after learning about how excruciating the upgrade process was.

It was only now that Jade truly acknowledged her. After all, anyone who enjoyed murdering beasts and was good at it was okay with her. Everything else could be discussed after that..

Even the others could appreciate battle prowess though accepting her over something like that was only something Jade would do.

Even if her defence was a bit too strong. Like, she wasn't only super strong offensively, but defensively as well. In fact, her defence was even stronger than her offence. It's what allowed her to act so freely on the battlefield while others proceeded cautiously.

In just thirty minutes, hundreds of PR4s had been bodied. In fact, if it weren't for Emily and Jade burning the bodies of the defeated beasts, there would be mountains upon mountains of bodies by that point.

It would have looked like a scene from a horror movie and the fighting space would have kept on decreasing.

But it didn't deter the beasts coming from the portal though. They kept on pouring out.

They seemed to even pick up pace after a while which pushed the human side back by a few kilometres.

While the humans didn't weaken in the number of beasts they were killing, they were soon overwhelmed by sheer numbers.

If it was just grounded beasts they'd be able to manage. But soon, aerial beasts started pouring out too. And they'd immediately start tossing attacks down below indiscriminately.

It was a headache for everyone on the ground including beasts. But there was nothing to be done. They were all equal in strength after all.

The situation started turning grim... That's when the true experts stepped in... Well, one of them at least...

"Want to see something cool?" Emily who was standing on the castle wall with the other girls spoke.

"Sure" Jade replied.

Emily smiled and spoke.

"I'm going to burn the heavens"

Snap!

A snap was heard then...

In the distance, a little golden flame appeared out of nowhere at the centre of the aerial beasts.

The beasts quickly noticed however before they could make sense of it...

FWAH!

The little flame exploded out into the surroundings without much fanfare. It was so quick and smooth that no beast could react before it was enveloped and burned away.

Nothing but beast cores which practically rained from the sky were left.

Anyone who looked up could see nothing but golden flames. It almost looked like the sky itself was getting burned.

"Burning heavens..." Emily finally spoke the name of the spell after all the beasts in the sky which covered close to ten kilometres had been cleared out with ease.

Such was the difference between R5s and lower-rank beasts. No matter how strong an R4 was, even reaching Pseudo-R5, they were still trash in front of legit R5s.

"Well... definitely a beautiful show you've put on here, but what about the ones on the gro..." Jade complimented Emily's attack and was about to nitpick when...

Snap!

A finger snap interrupted her then...

The flames in the sky instantly descended down and before anyone could react, whether it be human or beast, they were all enveloped by the flames.

Immediately the humans who were celebrating started screaming like chickens getting slaughtered.

Grievances filled their hearts. After all, they had survived enemy attacks only to be taken care of by an ally. There was no worse injustice than that!

And so, they screamed their evgits out while others cursed... It was only after a few seconds passed since they were enveloped by the flames that they quietened down.

They had finally realised that the flames didn't harm them at all. Speaking of which, the flames that could destroy the beasts in the sky within a second should have been extremely hot right? Then why didn't they feel even the slightest bit of heat? At best they felt a comfort warmth... That really should have made them realise that the flames wouldn't harm them, but unfortunately...

Humans always think the worst of humans...

Their cursing almost made Emily burn away their clothes from anger but she held herself back. After all, their reaction was understandable to some extent.

Anyway, after her attack, all that was left of the beasts were beast cores.

Lisa and the others immediately started gathering all the cores. After all, it was the only thing left to do since for some reason, the beasts stopped coming out of the portal... At that point, everyone was convinced that the other side was somehow monitoring them. As for how or why they didn't send their strongest from the start, no one knew. So they could only take things as they came.

And all could tell that the coming wave wasn't something that minor characters like those who hadn't reached R5 could deal with.

So, they all pulled back after collecting the cores and giving them to Audrey who had Muku's storage ring.

None desired any despite their contribution. They left that to the leaders whether they'd get anything or not...

Suddenly, as everyone was resting ten kilometres away from the portal, the atmosphere changed.

They had arrived...

Chapter 429: Omnipresence

"Kekeke. Those useless trash, couldn't even take care of a few newly advanced human ants" A crackling and disdainful voice heard as a creature which looked like a hob-goblin stepped out of the portal.

"Come on now, Grog, we all know that even hundreds of the strongest R4s can't deal with the weakest LR5. So this result is to be expected" A slightly refined voice was heard as another humanoid beast stepped out of the portal.

This one looked like a gargoyle. Its skin looked rocky and everything. And for whatever reason it gave one the impression of a gentleman. Truly a weird creature.

"Shut up Rah, I know that. I'm just having fun" Grog replied in a displeased voice.

Behind them, more and more R5s started appearing. Most were LR5, the remaining were MR5. Ss for PR5 and beyond, they hadn't appeared yet.

But they should appear soon enough considering that beasts were still pouring out of the portal. In less than ten minutes, more than two hundred had appeared.

Besides, there was no need to be rushed in coming out. After all, the strongest enemy that was observed was just minor characters with LR5 strength.

In fact, Grog might be able to take care of them on his own with his MR5 strength. But just to be safe, the other side sent more than two hundred R5s, which was undoubtedly an overkill by a large margin, but oh well. It's what the Monarchs dictated after all.

After the 200+ R5s, weaker beasts began appearing again.

It seems that the R5s were not only exterminators sent to take care of the humans, but also bodyguards sent to protect the weaker beasts from further interference.

As for why the weaker beasts were so important, only the Monarchs knew....

And so, most of the R5s stayed close to the portal while a few went to attack the sky castle with Grog.

Before the attack team reached their target. The sky above them suddenly started darkening... In less than three seconds it had been completely covered by black clouds. Then...

"Sky rending destruction..." A soft feminine voice was heard by all as it travelled through the wind. What followed was...

CRACKLE!

BOOOOM! BOOOOM! BOOOOM!...

Tree trunk-thick blue lightning bolts began descending from the sky killing off all the weaker beasts that had appeared in the distance and a few unlucky R5s who had reacted too slowly.

Some who managed to react were still affected because the defence they mastered was too weak.

The lightning show only lasted for five seconds at most, but those five seconds left the beast side which had more than a thousand members with less than two hundred.

And even among those that were left, some were seriously injured. Probably no longer able to do battle.

However, the clouds didn't clear up, they kept on casting a shadow on the ten kilometres down below.

This of course kept the beasts on edge expecting another lightning attack. However, something else came instead. It might not have been as showy or destructive but it was definitely a lot scarier...

And it was... a ghost?

Well, it seemed like a ghost to the beasts that were getting attacked and killed randomly in different places almost at the same time.

Before those close to the target could react, it would be dead on the ground with a stab wound on its chest where its heart was or a slit on its neck.

What was eerie about the experience was how no matter how many defensive layers one put up, they'd still get killed like they didn't have any defence at all.

"ROOOOOOOOOOAR!" Grog angrily roared after finally recovering from the sudden situation.

He was initially as scared as the others and focused on defence. But he had managed to catch a glimpse of a silhouette flashing across the battlefield and killing his teammates in less than a second before disappearing.

While he didn't understand the power, he at least knew that it wasn't a ghost but a human. Which meant that it was magic. And so, his fighting spirit returned.

His mana exploded out with his roar and cleared up the clouds above his head. After that, the shadow didn't appear anymore.

He didn't make a connection between the clouds and the shadow though. He just assumed the person was scared away by his might display of strength...

And so, he arrogantly continued towards the target. His companions followed after him.

Back at the portal, Rah looked at the disappearing clouds then at the corpses on the ground. A thoughtful expression appeared on his face but he didn't say anything.

He just curiously looked into the distance with a vague smile on his stony face. It looked a bit creepy actually. Fortunately, no one was paying attention to him...

....

A distance away. On the sky castle...

"What great teamwork you two have. And to think that Layla would make such a great assassin!" Audrey complimented her two girls.

What happened was that Chloe took out the randos with that attack. This thinned the numbers by a lot. Then Layla with her broken shadow element spell she derived from her domain, "omnipresence" she decimated the other side even more.

Most of her targets were actually MR5s. And she had taken out more than fifth in just a minute. Almost killing one per second before the clouds were cleared out.

This wasn't something even Chloe with her absolute speed could achieve. After all, speed decreased a lot when one attacked unless maybe they were attacking in a straight line. Something the disappearing Layla didn't have to worry about.

In fact, her ability could be called a form of teleportation. Just that she's moving through the shadow realm instead of space. And it was clearly a lot more effective for the task at hand.

Not only did it cost little energy, but it was also mostly undetectable to most.

All she needed was the slightest shade/shadow and she would be all set.

Especially with her shadow-charged ice daggers that ignored defence.

She really was the best assassin around. If the beasts had attacked at night, she would have been even more effective. Grog might not even have been able to see her then.

Even if most R5s could somewhat see clearly at night even without night vision, it would be hard to spot Layla in such an ideal environment. After all, even during the day, she could barely be seen.

"That was nothing. I can't wait until things get serious and I whip out my avatar" Chloe replied excitedly.

That was her first time using a R5s spell.

Well, she had used the spell before, but it was so effective with so little mana input. This made her rather excited to see what she could do when she went all out...

Audrey smiled wryly. It was obvious to her that Chloe was losing herself to her power again.

It was something that happened from time to time. Especially soon after a major breakthrough. This was because the girl was an anime fanatic. And like most anime fanatics, having power was their undying dream. For that reason, losing it a bit when they finally got that power was understandable.

Fortunately, despite that, Chloe never put herself or her comrades in danger. So Audrey never tried to lecture her on the matter.

She just let the girl have her fun...

"Just don't get too excited and waste too much power. We still have a long way to go after all..." Audrey didn't stop her, but she warned her.

"Don't worry mom, I'd never lose myself like that" Chloe replied.

As for why she called Audrey mom... Well, it was something she suddenly said a while back. And Audrey didn't dislike it since to her, Chloe was as much her daughter as Layla was.

"If you say so. However, leave the ones coming here to Freya. We need to end things as soon as possible not giving the others a chance to join..." Audrey added.

Everyone agreed without hesitation. While they wanted to gain experience fighting R5s, they knew that it wasn't the time for that yet...

As they spoke and Greg's group now reduced to four from ten approached, and Jade and Elsa helped Klaus and Lisa's groups onto the sky castle.

The two groups had done all they could. Keeping them in the ground was pointless at that point.

And hiding inside the barrier was also not as safe as before. After all, if one strong R5 could destroy it with enough effort, then what about over a hundred?

Anyway, it didn't take much time to get everyone on board. But of course, they weren't allowed inside. So they could only sit around inside the castle walls but outside the castle itself.

They didn't mind though, post-apocalypse humans didn't care about being treated "properly" or whatever. As long as they were safe, then everything else was of no consequence...

Grog's group didn't take long to arrive.

"Humans, give up now if you know what's good for you. I promise to give you a quick death if you give up now. But if you don't, then don't blame me for being ruthless when I break this flimsy barrier down!" With an arrogant look, Grog shouted.

PEW!

In response to Grog's words, a red energy beam flew out of one of the guns on the castle walls then....

Grog was gone.

Chapter 430: Die then...

All that was left of the cocky MR5 goblin was a beast core...

The others were horrified. However..

PEW!

PEW!

PEW!

They weren't given a chance to react before they too were taken out.

Such was the power of the sky castle. Especially when the opponent didn't expect it.

In the distance, the gargoyle Rah, as well as the other R5s were all shocked... And a bit glad that they weren't the ones who went to find trouble with the castle or they'd be dead too.

As for feeling sorry about their comrades who died?... Beasts didn't do that. Especially when they were forced into teaming up by the Monarchs.

In normal cases, they would have already started stabbing each other in the back if it weren't for the orders they were given.

So yeah, there was no such thing as feeling sorry for their allies.

In fact, they were more than happy to have allies die instead of them as it brought awareness.

Like now, they knew what to expect from the castle. Maybe not everything, but at least they knew that it was dangerous and it should be approached with caution.

For that reason, they made a decision. Sometimes, the best defence was a good offence.

And so, they gathered and released more than a hundred beam attacks at the castle...

Unfortunately, their actions were too obvious to the girls, so the castle escaped in time.

After that, they took turns attacking in hopes that someone would land a hit. Unfortunately, they were unsuccessful again. The castle just flew far enough to be able to react to anything.

Finally, they couldn't take it anymore, and more than a hundred beasts all charged forward.

They had tried to play it art under Rah's suggestion, but it clearly wasn't working.

So, their beastly nature took over. They were even wondering why they bothered listening to Rah, in the first place. The beast might be strong, but he had a reputation for avoiding fights whenever possible.

And whenever he did fight, he only won because he applied dirty tricks. Such a way of fighting was clearly not suitable for the situation. After all, humans, are quite familiar with such a way of fighting.

So it was better to be straightforward. It was easier and quicker too.

This time their plan seemed to have worked since they managed to completely encircle the castle.

Evil grins immediately appeared on their faces as they looked at the castle with bad intentions.

Some beasts even cast arrogant gazes at Rah who had chosen to stay behind. He gave the reason that someone had to stay behind in case something happened.

The others agreed but internally they thought that he was just a wimp who didn't even dare to fight with over a hundred brothers as back-up.

Of course, Rah noticed all this, but he didn't say anything, he just quietly let them do and think what they wanted. To him, all that mattered was his safety. For whatever reason, he felt that the situation wasn't as simple as it appeared.

After all, why hadn't the humans ditched the castle when it was about to be encircled? Surely they weren't willing to go down with it.

And even though it had a barrier, what could it possibly do against so many enemies?

Anyway, Rah's questions were answered almost as soon as they appeared.

The castle which didn't look too threatening before changed before his eyes.

It went from white walls and a generally appealing and inviting appearance to silver walls twice as long and a threatening appearance.

The castle grew spikes everywhere along with rows of guns in all directions. A huge railgun even appeared at the castle's highest point.

Then the barrier... Disappeared?!

All the beasts were surprised and their danger sense started going crazy. Without thinking, all of them made a break for it.

However, it was too late. They should have run when the thing was still transforming. At the very least, they could have tried attacking it then. But unfortunately, they were mesmerised by what was going on instead. And now, they were about to pay the price.

A light show appeared in the sky with the mansion being the source of it all. At this point, the sky was darkening, so the light show was more pronounced.

What followed was...

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!....

One explosion after the other rang out in the sky. With the multiple colours the explosions created, it was almost like a fireworks show.

The beasts tried resisting, but they had already been scouted out.

LR5s were attacked with MR5s beams while MR5s were attacked with PR5 beams. So death was guaranteed.

Of course, there were outstanding beasts among the large group that could resist the higher stage attacks, but so what? If one attack didn't kill them, then two would do it. If two didn't work, then three until they were all dead.

After all, Freya had mountains upon mountains of beast cores at her disposal.

Muku had gathered a lot in his days in the Beast World for that very purpose.

And considering that most of the beasts had beast cores, it wasn't a total loss when they were killed.

In less than thirty seconds, all the beasts had been cleared out of the sky...

Of the over two hundred R5s that were sent out, only Rah was left.

As the sole survivor, there was only one thing Rah could do. And that was... Run away!

Which he did without a second thought. As so staying and fighting to his death... That was bullshit! He was certain that the Monarchs would understand...

Even if they didn't and decided to kill him... It was okay too. He'd rather die later than sooner. He had dealt with this group enough for a lifetime...

As he flew away, the sky darkened and instantly...

Whoosh!

A black dagger sliced at his neck out of nowhere...

By some miracle, he actually managed to dodge it. Though barely... He could feel a little blood flowing out of his neck from the close call...

"Hmm, you managed to survive. How impressive. After all, you're the first... But I wonder if you can do it again..." Layla spoke as she materialised out of the shadows in front of Rah.

Normally, she wouldn't bother speaking to her opponents, but Rah truly impressed her. So she couldn't help it...

"I surrender! I'm willing to do anything!" Rah immediately surrendered.

He knew more than anyone that he'd only survived due to luck. He'd reacted on instinct the moment he saw the sky darkening.

After seeing Layla in action before, he figured that there was a high chance she'd attack him the moment the sky darkened. And so, just in case, he took a step back.

And even then, if she'd wanted to kill him. She'd have followed up with a stab to the heart.

She only stopped because she was impressed, otherwise he'd already be a corpse...

So, the only natural thing to do was surrender right?

"Are you sure you aren't human?" Layla couldn't help but ask the shameless fellow.

Since when did beasts behave so much like humans? Then again, Raya was even worse than Rah... Though she doubted Raya would surrender like this gargoyle.

"Hehe. I can be whatever you want me to be Ms..." Rah spoke flutteringly.

If he could surrender so easily, then obviously he wasn't above bootlicking. He even put on his best smile as he did so.

But of course, to a human girl, it looked more creepy than charming. So much so Layla felt a slight chill go down her spine.

It reminded her of the times ugly dudes approached her with "charming" smiles on their faces. Being ugly wasn't a problem since it wasn't optional, but not realising that you are ugly, definitely was.

After all, when you do something that makes good-looking people look better with your ugly face... You'd only look uglier and freak out those around you.

Anyway, Layla quickly recovered from the "mental attack" she received.

"Anything huh? Die then" Layla replied coldly.

"I ah... I mean I'll do anything other than take my own life. I am doing this to keep my life after all" Rah explained awkwardly.

He couldn't help but complain internally, after all, this lady was clearly not following the script. Like, since when does one ask for the life of someone who surrenders? Isn't the whole point of surrendering to keep one's life?

"Oh... Cut off your wings and give them to me then. I want to hang them on a wall in my room..." Layla replied.

"... You know lady, if you don't want to accept my surrender you can just say so" Rah replied with a deadpan expression on his face.

While he wasn't above doing anything to survive. He too had a bottom line... And that was his body! How dare she say that she wants to use his wings as well as decorations?! And to even tell him to cut them off himself.

"Tsk. You say you're willing to do anything. Yet you won't do this nor that. In fact, I was willing to let you live if you had given your wings, but now... I'll rip them off your corpse!" Layla exclaimed unreasonably.

For the first time, she understood why Muku and Jade liked to toy around with their opponents sometimes. It was actually quite fun to see their faces twist with anger but unable to do anything...

Just as Rah was about to explode in anger, both of them suddenly sensed something and looked in a certain direction...

There the portal lay. However, beasts had started appearing out of it again. And they came out with random strength.

However, all of them had glowing red eyes filled with fury.

It seems, the Monarchs on the other side have lost their patience...