

Few Wives 521

Chapter 521 Planning

"What are a couple of idiots. Why didn't you kill them?" Raya asked.

She had been looking forward to having her first R7 meat and Muku just let them go. That really sucked.

"Have you already forgotten what mother said?! We shouldn't go around finding trouble as we did back home. It's not even nearly as worth it. Plus we aren't clear on the situation here yet. So we can't be high profile. Not to mention what happened to Layla. Should I go on?" Muku replied.

"Okay, okay, stop. I get it. But I do hope that we won't completely stop killing. Even if we can love without eating, I don't want to. I want to know what R7s-8s-9s and so on taste like. Even if you don't help me get them, I'll do it myself" Raya spoke seriously.

It couldn't be helped. She was a natural-born predator after all. The apex predator of all species in fact. So expecting her to stop eating meat even when she didn't need to was nothing but wishful thinking.

"Don't worry. We're not turning into monks or something. I'm just saying that we need to be careful right now as we figure out the terrain" Muku reassured.

"Oh, okay. Good then" Raya replied in an appeased voice.

"Now that that's done. Let's get out of here" Muku spoke then within warning, he and the girls went back into the embryo.

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"What the. Why did you do it so suddenly?" Jade complained after being caught off guard.

"I was just being careful in case we were being traced okay?. We still don't understand what happened with Layla. Was it really a Monarch or just a strong beast? Either way, we couldn't linger around that place too long" Muku replied.

"Fine" Jade gave in to logic.

"Now before we talk about anything. Can you tell us how you found out about that weird bug on Layla's neck?" Muku asked Emily.

"Umm, I'm not sure. From the moment Layla started acting weird, I just felt disgusted when I looked at her and felt an intense urge to destroy her. Of course, I would never do such a thing. And I didn't say anything since we were doing other things. But I kept my eye on her. It was then I realised that it wasn't her I was disgusted by, but something on her. So I used my fire to destroy any foreign object on her or any of us just to be safe. That's when the whole fiasco happened" Emily replied.

"How did our clothes not get burnt then?" Jade asked.

"Because I counted them as part of you like I always do. Why would you ask such a dumb thing you pervert?" Emily snapped at Jade lightly.

"Oh," Jade replied and moved on.

What she and Emily didn't notice was how most of the others had embarrassed looks on their faces.

This was because they had thought the same thing as Jade. They just didn't ask it.

But hearing Jade getting insulted made them feel like they were being insulted too.

Fortunately, no one would ever know.

"Anyway. The situation is really weird. And for now, there's nothing we can do apart from leaving our safety up to you Emily. If you sense anything wrong with any of us, tell the others immediately and figure out what to do.

"Okay. I'll do that" Emily nodded as she agreed.

"Good. Now with that done. Let's move on to a situation that's definitely in our hands. I'm sure you all heard what the two beasts said. What do you suggest we do now? Should we gamble and go in or play it safe and stay here?" Muku asked the others for their opinions.

"I say we take the risk. There would be no point in coming here if we didn't go there. After all, there are probably not many R7s here even if we want to take the inefficient KP path. And the divine mana isn't thick enough for proper cultivation" Audrey voted for taking the risk.

Something very rare from the lady who almost always chose to play it safe.

Her words were something you'd expect from Jade instead.

"I'm with her" Jade readily supported her.

{Of course you are} The others thought at the same time.

"Me too" Raya supported Audrey as well. Something that was also expected.

After that, the others expressed their willingness as well.

While some, like Hope and Emily were initially super timid before the apocalypse, they had long adopted and their temperaments also adjusted to the new life they were living.

Now something being dangerous Didi deterred them. They would figure out if it was worth it or not first before deciding. And this was definitely worth it.

Things didn't look good for their home world. So strength was a must if they wanted to do something about that. Even if they didn't care about the world, they cared about the people.

Mostly the people in their group, but Jade also had her brothers somewhere in the world.

For those reasons, they needed power.

"Well... I can't say I didn't expect this honestly. Y'all keep getting more and more passionate every day," Muku commented in a pleased tone.

Whether his words that had a double meaning were said intentionally or not was unknown. Some of the girls just glared at him with blushes on their faces but didn't say anything.

"However, just being willing to take risks isn't a plan. So we need to think of something before we go through. What will be our first move after going through? Are we going to go in swinging or are we fleeing upon entry?" Mukunl asked.

"I suggest we fight it out. I doubt the guards will be that strong" Jade suggested.

She couldn't wait to fight her real first R7 even if it was a group of them.

"Sounds great... Until a second later when we're surrounded by thousands of them because we caused a commission and it takes beings like us less than a second to traverse millions of kilometres" Layla rebated.

This time there wasn't any provocation in her voice like that time she was "possessed".

She was just being her usual analytical self.

"Ah... Flee?" Jade switched on the spot.

No matter how much of a battle junkie she was. She didn't want to die such a stupid death.

She wouldn't mind dying while fighting. But it has to be a heroic death with a credible reason.

"Fleeing can't be easy either. They likely prepared for both scenarios" Lisa chimed in.

As an experienced commander and leader, she would have prepared for both scenarios had she been in charge. So she figured there was no way ancient beasts didn't prepare for it too.

"That makes sense. Is there a way to make it through without being caught then?" Jade replied and asked a question to no one in particular.

"I have an idea. I don't know if it will work though" Freya spoke up.

"Sure let's hear it. I'm sure it's great" Muku encouraged.

"Umm. Well, what if we all stay in here and Mu..leader goes through alone? And immediately upon arriving on the other side he comes back inside. After that, we stay inside for a few days until their guard goes down and they think he escaped. Then we jump out at once and take out a few of them wheel scanning the situation. If there's an opening, we run. If not, we will retreat again after making a smoke screen of sorts. How does that sound to you all? If it's a bad plan then I forget I said anything" Freya spoke with a bit of hesitation but clearly.

"Wow! What a great plan! Let's do it" Jade was the first to support the plan.

Honestly, it seemed like she just wanted to go no matter what. But the plan really wasn't bad.

"As Jade so excitedly said. That's a great plan, Freya. I love it. And are you really still too shy to call me by my name? What kind of wife is so shy of their husband? Aren't we already an old couple?" Muku supported the plan and took some time to tease Freya while he was at it. She just made it too easy after all.

"Shameless" Raya commented while the others nodded their heads in agreement.

Muku really didn't care about time and place. They were literally having a serious conversation and he dared to flirt?

Freya shyly looked away without saying anything.

But the joy in her eyes from being called "wife" was very evident.

It was burning so much that the others figured that if they weren't present, she would have long thrown herself into Muku's arms.

They rolled their eyes at how she had bold thoughts but a timid personality. But then again, isn't it how it usually went with "innocent" girls?

Maybe that's why they were so liked by many men. It was an interesting contrast they had with themselves.

"Cough. Shut up. I'll go now. Wait for the good news" Muku spoke and quickly escaped the scene before they all started teasing him.

And so, the girls stayed there chatting while Muku executed the plan.

While they looked relaxed, they were ready to pounce at any moment. Which was their base setting at that point in time really...

Chapter 522 The other side

Muku carefully made his way through towards the portal.

He had to be wary of the phantom Monarch after all.

But then again, what could he possibly do if the Monarch personally showed up? Well whatever, that didn't mean he could be unnecessarily careless.

Even if the Monarch was taken out of the picture, being careful was still not a bad thing.

{So have you thought of a name for the child yet?} Audrey asked from within the embryo.

He had made it so that they could see what he was doing and could speak to him.

"No. Not yet. I wanted your help with that actually. I just couldn't find the time to seat down and discuss it" Mikei replied in a low voice.

{Oh. Well, we're all here and it can be said that there's time right now. Why not do it now?} Audrey replied.

The others agreed. They were more than happy to help. It was basically practice for when they had to name their own kids if they didn't like Muku's name and suggestions.

"Well, I guess we can do it. However, why the sudden interest?" Muku asked.

{Well, a small incident occurred here. Sarah happened to walk in while we were talking. As you know, we're invisible to her. So she could only hear our voices and not see us. Then there was not being able to lock onto where we were. She likely got overwhelmed by that and... She fainted} Audrey explained.

"What? But didn't you all notice her?" Muku asked

{We did, but we all forgot that she couldn't see us anymore. So we continued talking. Hearing our voices at once from all directions must be similar to a mental attack for weaker people. Anyway, as an apology, I want to give her her child's name today" Audrey spoke.

"Ah. I can see how that could happen. And okay, let's do it. I want the name to start with J in honour of his father. Any suggestions?" Muku asked.

{Hmm. What about Jackson?} Audrey suggested.

"Okay. What? Did you just combine Jack and son?, sure it's a name but it feels like you definitely combined the two worlds" Muku was flabbergasted by how terrible she was at choosing a name.

He never expected that from her. Maybe Layla was lucky that it wasn't Audrey who named her, it who knows what simple name she would have had.

{Cough. No, no. I didn't do that. You're thinking too much. But fine, since you don't like it, I'll let the others suggest something} Audrey replied in an embarrassed voice.

She really wished she could go back and change her suggestion or say something else. Or maybe not say anything at all since she knew clearly that she was terrible at naming things.

Anyway, to not make her feel any more embarrassed, the others started suggesting names.

More than thirty names were suggested in just three minutes.

As they did that, Muku reached the statue he and the others defeated.

He requested entry like he was told to. And it was provided like he was told would happen.

After that he slowly proceeded forward. He was really nervous at that point.

After all, no matter how strong he was. He couldn't afford to get more enemies at the time being. He currently only had a few but each and every one of them were Monarch-level.

There was Legion but he wasn't sure about whether that thing was still alive or not.

Anyway, after calming his nerves he finally walked through the portal which wasn't giving off a threatening aura like before.

It didn't take long to reach the other side and as a portal veteran at that point, he didn't feel weird at all.

He was ready to swing a few times before retreating after reaching the other side of the portal but he was met with an unexpected situation.

The expected guards weren't present. The expected majestic beauty wasn't present.

Sure, the ground was made of clouds with looked quite magical but it was all ruined by the ruined world he was looking at.

Broken down huge trees, ruined buildings, the scent of death and destruction in the air, and huge beast skeletons from many different species laid out everywhere he looked.

This wasn't the high realm he was promised. Sure the divine mana there was in abundance to say the very least. He could feel his cultivation improving by just standing there. It was super slow but it was worlds above what he felt in the Beast Forest.

But that was beside the point when he was in an obviously unsafe environment.

He felt even more alert than when he expected to be greeted by an army.

After all, that situation would at least have order and he would know what to expect. But this was different. This was practically falling down into hell. He had no idea what to expect.

As he cautiously looked around after finding a random huge skull to stand on top of.

One would expect him to hide right? But what would that do when people at his level have long made mana sense their base "eyes"?

So even if he hides, he'd still be "seen" if the other party is strong enough.

So it was better to do his thing while watching out for ambushes than give himself false safety.

"Well this is unexpected. What do you the most happened here?" Jade asked while standing beside Muku.

She and the others had just come out of the embryo.

They figured it was better to deal with this new development together in one place.

"If I had to guess, I'd say there was a civil war of sort. Beasts can't live in harmony for too long. Their urge to fight and conquer is too strong. I think someone started something and soon after everyone was involved and this happened. Hell, even humans couldn't live peacefully for too long despite not having real power back then. So what of those who actually had power?" Raya was the one who replied.

At first it seemed like she looked down on beasts and preferred humans but after she finished, the group realised that she dislikes both equally.

Which they understood honestly. After all, both groups simply sucked.

"Oh?... Looking at the damage on the skeletons and the lack of human skeletons or something like that, I support your guess. Now only one question remains..." Muku spoke.

"And what's that?" Raya asked.

"Did they wipe each other out or did some survive? And if any survived, are they stronger or weaker because of the experience?" Muku replied.

"Umm, isn't that two questions?" Hope cutely asked.

"Yup, that's definitely two" Jade supported.

"No it's not. The other is a follow up if the first one. So it's like part 2 or something" Muku defended.

"Still another question" Jade argued.

"Okay, is episode two in a series another movie or the continuation of the first episode?" Muku argued back.

"Not another movie but definitely another episode" Jade didn't give up.

"Okay, okay. Just agreed to disagree and let's move on. This isn't the time or place" Audrey intervened before Muku could say anything, she knew that he was just as stubborn as Jade was so if no one said anything, they would go on and on.

"Fine. I'll let it go. I still believe I was right though" Muku spoke.

"Me too" Jade replied and sparks started flying between the two again.

Audrey found herself placing her hand on her aching forehead. Well, it wasn't aching for real. But if she was a normal human being, it definitely would have been aching from constantly having to act like the group's mother all the time.

To think even her husband is so childish. Is this what it was like having a younger husband? Then again, aren't men childish no matter their age?

Did that mean she will have to deal with his childishness forever? After all, for them, living forever was a real possibility that got more and more solid with each breakthrough.

She didn't know how to feel about that. Should she be happy or sad?

Well, whatever, that was cute Audrey's fault.

"Audrey, Audrey, Audrey..."

Just when she returned from her thoughts she was met with Muku calling her over and over again.

"What?" She asked.

"Nothing. You zoned out and we were worried" Muku replied with a look of concern on his face.

"No, it's nothing. Sorry to worry you. I just got lost in random thoughts" Audrey replied reassuringly.

"Oh, okay. That's good. Anyway, me and the others decided to go look around in groups of four. How does that sound to you?" Muku brought her up to speed.

"That sounds good. But aren't we one person short?" Audrey asked.

"That's no problem. The group will have me and Raya. Specifically Raya. She can get away from anything with her space element. Not to mention that we all have access to the embryo from anywhere at anytime. So it's really not too dangerous if we don't meet any unreasonably strong opponents" Muku replied.

"Oh. That's good then. Let's do it. Who is going with who?" Audrey asked.

"Let's draw lots" Muku replied instantly.

The girls tended to get jealous when he chose someone specifically, so he used such mini games to decide things whenever possible.

And it was really effective at keeping the peace...

Chapter 523 Chilling encounter

A while later...

The lots had been drawn, and the groups had been formed.

Muku and Raya's team got Hope, who was smiling from ear to ear as one would expect from her whenever she gets a chance to cling onto Muku.

The other teams were Layla, Audrey, Freya, and Lisa. Then Chloe, Emily, Elsa, and Jade. No one was against the lineups. Then again, no matter who was where, they were all great.

It's the advantage of everyone being competent.

"Now with that done let's get this over with. We'll meet again after two hours of looking. And stay in touch. If you find anything weird or something along those lines, do not approach alone. Yeah, even if there are four of you, I still consider it "alone" we should all gather together before doing such things" Muku gave his directive.

The girls understood and agreed. They weren't planning on making such rash moves anyway.

After all, like any other expert out there, they were super cautious. It was something that came with strength ironically.

After that, the three groups split and went their own ways.

Four groups would have been better but there weren't enough people for the groups to have a minimum of three people. So instead of spreading them too thin, Muku chose slightly bigger groups.

He felt that he and Raya could do a lot of damage alone, but the girls would probably refuse such an arrangement. After all, they had as much say in his life as he did in theirs. The only reason they usually just went with whatever he said was that he usually considered their reaction before saying anything.

When it's reckless they will speak up and shut him down.

Anyway, as they investigated separately they all reported the same things. Wherever they looked, they saw ruins, skulls... simply destruction.

Even after two hours none of them had seen any living being.

This made them wonder if the beasts had really wiped each other out.

That can't be it. After all, the remains they came across belonged to R8s at most. And from what they knew, R8s weren't even close to being the strongest.

So for now they couldn't come to the conclusion that the beasts had wiped each other out.

As for how they knew the remains were beyond R7 but not beyond R8. Well, it was due to experience.

They had experienced enough in their lives to come to that conclusion simultaneously.

Anyway, they soon gathered back together again.

They could continue their search or speed it up by billions of times, but they chose not to. Being in an unfamiliar land was really restricting, especially one that was clearly war-torn.

It also made them wonder if this was how their world was going to look after the first R7 from the new era appears there.

"So now what?" Jade asked as they all sat on top of a skull.

"Why not follow me to my place?" An unknown voice replied.

She looked behind her and saw an unfamiliar mature lady standing there with a smile on her face.

A chill instantly went down not only hers but everyone else's spines.

The lady had approached without being noticed by any of them.

But that didn't stop them from sprinting into action ready to fight for their lives.

"Awe. So cute. But please don't. Your current strength isn't enough to even make my hair move. And if I wanted to kill you. You would already be dead" The lady spoke with an amused smile on her face.

"Okay. But who are you? It makes no sense to go somewhere we don't know with someone we don't know don't you think?" Muku replied bravely.

While he believed the other party's claim about being much stronger than they were, he refused to show weakness. For it was over the moment you did that in such situations.

"Fufu. What an interesting little human. All of you are interested in fact. Despite knowing that I'm stronger than you by so much it's absurd, none of you are scared. I wonder why that is. Well, whatever, I'm sure I'll find out eventually. For now, let's introduce ourselves. I am Althea... The Monarch of Destruction. You?" The lady spoke with a cute expression on her face as if she didn't just say the most horrifying words ever.

Muku and the girls instantly went pale. All the fight in them disappeared.

How could it not after they finally met a true Monarch so suddenly?

As for why this was their first Monarch. Well, the ones they met before were either souls, newly resurrected, or possessing something. And this lady was definitely in the flesh.

They could barely survive the past Monarchs so what avoid a real one at full power? One that was called the Monarch of Destruction at that.

Anyway, the point here was that they were screwed and they knew it.

In normal cases, they would instantly retreat into the embryo. But they dared not expose it at that moment.

Who knows what the Monarch could do? She was likely way faster than they could retreat. And maybe she would let them retreat and follow them inside. Everything would be over by then.

After all, even if Muku was the absolute being in the embryo, he didn't have enough power to contend against a being like a Monarch. It wasn't even close.

As for the erasing gaze? Bullshit! He couldn't use that anymore. Now he had erasing fists. And there was no way she would let him punch her.

Hell, even if he still had erasing gaze, she could probably dodge it and end him. And from what he was told by Mrs C, using his bloodline power in front of a Monarch was simply seeking death.

So he dared not test that theory. It will just make things worse. After all, it looked like she was in a good mood so death wasn't guaranteed yet. But if he dares to try that, then death will likely be the only ending for them.

"Destruction? I thought it would be Desire, Just, or something along those lines honestly. I mean, you give off that vibe" Muku replied.

He wasn't a bootlicker even if it meant saving his life. And Althea didn't seem like someone who would appreciate a bootlicker anyway.

"Haha. Really? No one has ever said that to me before. How interesting. And you're right. Once upon a time I was just the Monarch of desire, but as an unmarried lady who likes to fight, I figured I might as well kill a few Monarchs and change my title. There were originally 12 Monarchs but after I was done there were only 8. Of course, the posts were taken over by new ones, but you know what I mean. Anyway, you haven't told me your names yet. Isn't it rude after I told you mine not to tell me yours?" Althea replied in a jolly tone.

Her words made Muku's side even paler. They had not only come across a Monarch but one of the stronger ones who seemed to have mental issues too.

After all, she literally killed a few of her colleagues because she was bored and disliked her title.

While there was no hope of escaping before, there wasn't even the thought of hope now.

"You're. Right. I'm Muku, and these are my wives. Audrey...." Muku introduced himself and the girls.

Elsa wanted to ask when she became his wife but knew that it wasn't the time. And strangely enough, she didn't dislike it.

The others just blushed shyly. A few looked at the blushing Hope with questioning gazes but ultimately said nothing.

Raya was the only one who had a look of disgust on her face. She was definitely going to settle scores with Muku later. How are hw lump her in with his girls? Was he worthy of a great being like her? Was anyone worthy? Of course not!

"Oh ho! Looks like we have a player here. But these girls are so cute that I understand. Who would want to leave them to anyone else? But from what I can see, you haven't sealed the deal with a few of them. Why is that?" Althea asked with glowing eyes. Clearly a gossip.

As for how she, a Monarch knew terms like "player", no one thought of it too much. She had probably studied humans of the past at some point or something like that.

"I know right. I once thought of only taking one but it just didn't sit right with me you know. As for why I haven't sealed the deal with the others. Well, you can't casually do such things. It would be their first time, and you have to get the mood right. It has to be special. After all, it's more about them than it is about me" Muku shamelessly shared.

The girls felt like beating him up on the spot. How dare he so freely expose their private affairs to a stranger like that? So what if she was a Monarch and it was likely to preserve their lives?

They would rather die than be so embarrassed... Then again, they were happy to know that he was so considerate. So maybe he should speak more and they can learn his thoughts... As always, they had mixed feelings and thoughts.

"Is that so?... You know what. Let's go to my place and continue this talk there. I'm sure you're curious about why it's like this here. I'll tell you that too" Althea spoke while looking at Muku in a weird way that felt threatening to the girls for whatever reason.

"Sure. Let's go" Muku readily agreed. It wasn't like refusing was an option anyway.

Besides, if they can make it out alive, they will learn a lot from this encounter.

If they had to encounter a Monarch, he was happy that it was Althea. At least she was willing to speak first.

If it had been Ares, even if they didn't know each other, that bastard would probably start by saying, "Submit or perish" or something like that.

With that said, Althea took everyone away with a wave of her hand...

Chapter 524 The Clans and Monarchs

In Althea's personal dimension...

She and Muku's group appeared in what looked like a meeting room.

There was a huge table at the centre surrounded by chairs.

Everyone appeared beside the setting.

"Please, take a seat. I'll have my servants bring in some food. It's how you humans treat guests right?" Althea spoke while directing them to the chairs.

They all nodded and took their seats quietly.

"As we wait, can you tell us about what we just witnessed? That is if you don't mind" Muku spoke first.

"Straight to the point huh? I like it. And no, I don't mind. I did say I'd tell you about it after all" Althea replied in a jolly tone.

"Thank you very much" Muku thanked her before she said anything. It was so that she would be more willing to speak of course.

While he wouldn't completely go all out in bootyllicking, he could do this much at least.

"Sure. So it's like this. You all came in through the abandoned zone... Well, let me go back a few thousands of years to a time when it wasn't like that. You see, there was a time when there was only one connection between the Beast World's lower and higher realms, which was that portal you came through. Back then, you could come through and choose whichever faction you wanted among the twelve rulers. But at some point, one clan got too powerful when too many beasts joined. The others didn't like that. So a fight broke out... Well, it was because the Monarchs allowed it otherwise it wouldn't have happened. In fact, they were behind the whole situation from the start by leading most beasts into one faction to see what would happen. After that, a civil war broke out easily. The twelve clans didn't like each other's existence anyway, so it wasn't hard" Althea began telling them the History behind everything.

They were surprised by how she was really telling them but didn't say anything.

They figured Monarchs were fickle like that. Hell, even Mrs C who was beyond them was just as fickle if not more.

"Wait, why would the Monarchs do that?" Muku asked suddenly.

"I was about to get to that. Anyway, to answer your question, they were bored. They just like seeing the world burn I guess. And no, I wasn't part of the plan, I'm not that crazy... Don't look at me like you don't believe me. Killing off a few Monarchs because I was bored is completely different. After all, I didn't target weaker opponents. And fights among is are pretty common. I might have gone a bit too far, that's all" Althea defended herself even though no one accused her of anything.

She could practically taste the judgmental gazes so it was understandable that she would react like that.

"Okay. We believe you" Muku spoke just to appease her.

"Good. Now where was I? Right, after the fight, all of them lost many beasts and the Monarchs were appeased. But that place you came from was corrupted by all the ruthless killing to the point that any beast that went there would go crazy. So the Monarchs opened twelve other portals that led directly to the personal lands of the clans. Beasts are sent there based on their species and the process is automatic. Of course, it's unknown in the lower realm since there haven't been any chatterboxes from here in a long time. And on the other side, there's only one portal which separates internally so they have no way of knowing. It mostly doesn't affect them since they are sent where they would have likely chosen to go anyway. Of course, some who wanted to spice it up would be disappointed" Althea continued.

"Wait. We didn't feel anything when we could through though, did the effect disappear or something?" Muku asked curiously.

Technically, he was the only one who came through. But he wasn't going to say that. That would mean exposing the embryo, their only safe place at the moment if they play their cards right.

"That's simple actually. It doesn't affect humans. As for this dragon child here. I don't know why she isn't affected. Maybe she's an anomaly or something. Though it has declined over the years as well. But it's still strong enough for most" Althea explained.

"Okay. That's good. Now, you said that the R7s are sent over to where they would likely go... While that sounds fair. It doesn't eliminate the initial problem of one faction having too many members. In fact, it might make it worse. I wouldn't be surprised if one faction has at least twice the number of members the rest have at this point" Muku spoke.

"You're right. And it's not just one faction either. Out of the twelve factions, two have at least ten times the number of beasts compared to the others. But since everyone keeps it secret, no one knows who has what. They all think that they are the best, but none dare try anything because of the fear that they might be wrong. Such a mistake could lead to being wiped out completely if they expose weakness after all. Even the two strongest have no confidence in themselves. It's quite funny to watch honestly" Althea spoke with an amused expression on her face.

"Which are these twelve clans anyway?" Jade suddenly asked.

The way she did it didn't sound respectful at all. Muku's way was a lot more measured than hers. This made the others tense.

They realised that they probably should have covered this loudmouth's mouth a long time ago.

But it was too late now.

"Oh. I guess I didn't introduce them huh? Well, it goes like this, There's the Draconi, Tiga, Leoris, Taurus, Serpentine, Insectoid, Goatling, Lycan, Kitsune, Reptoid, Woodlings, and Orc-kind. There's a Monarch standing behind all of them too. But you don't need to know those useless fellows right? Though I feel like you have encountered at least one of them in some way..." Althea replied while looking directly at Jade.

She did seem offended but the way she looked at Jade seemed to have a hidden meaning they couldn't decipher.

"Okay. That makes sense. From that, I think it's obvious to everyone what is what. At least it seems obvious to me" Jade spoke while nodding her head.

The others nodded too. It was easy enough to figure out which species the clans leaned toward from the names alone. That is if it was by human standards, which it most likely was as the two groups seemed to be deeply linked.

"Oh? And I wanted to show you images of them too. Oh well, I guess if you understand it's okay" Althea spoke in a slightly disheartened tone as if she couldn't wait to show them images.

"It's fine to show us if you want. On another note, since the situation is like that, will the Monarchs not mess with them again?" Muku asked.

"Meh. I'm over it. It's funny you would ask that. It was the plan before the gate to the other world suddenly opened again. I mean, it requires the power of Monarchs to open, but that's only when we're allowed. Anyway, since they were given a new toy, they are now focusing on dealing with humans and

see who can rule the world first through servants alone. If it's was for that, the internal massacre would have happened again a while back" Althea replied nonchalantly.

"What? How can they be so cruel to play with the lives of their subordinates like that? Those monsters" Emily suddenly cursed angrily.

While she was now willing to kill for her people and world, she was still against thoughtless killings. Especially if one's own is like this.

"Careful. I'm one of those monsters you speak of" Althea warned. Though there wasn't even a hint of anger on her face.

"Oh. Sorry. I didn't mean it like that. I misspoke" Emily immediately apologised.

"It's okay. I understand. I don't like what they do either. I'd rather we fight it out personally if we're bored. But they always say no ever since I killed those weak bastards from back then. Why did I have to be surrounded by such trash?" Althea lamented.

Muku's group couldn't help but smile wryly as they realised that she might not just be one of the strongest Monarchs but the strongest Monarch, period.

"Cough. I'm really sorry about that. But did you suggest that Monarchs do not have to attack our world but just do it because they are bored?" Muku asked, his fists tightening.

He was extremely angry inside. While the girls he grew to care about on a personal level had survived and thrived. He still lost most of his students and people he was familiar with from before the apocalypse.

So knowing that it was something that was done on a whim definitely made him angrier about it than he was before.

"Well, to a greater extent, yes. But that's not the only reason. We also need that planet to break through past our current limits. I mean, I'm the only one who has reached this limit but still. Maybe they are

thinking ahead. I don't see the need though. We're already the strongest in existence. So why bother with getting more strength?" Althea replied.

Muku almost laughed at her misinformation. Did she really think they were the strongest?

Did she ask his mother's permission before deciding that?

Then again, it seemed Mrs C viewed Monarchs as ants unworthy to even know of her existence, so it was understandable that Althea thought the way she did.

"Ah. That makes sense" Muku spoke while trying to regain his wits and not do something dumb.

"Now enough of these one-sided questions. It's my turn to ask. Now you answer my questions. Tell me who is backing you. How did you get here? How are you so strong already and why does this one smell like that bastard Ares?" Althea suddenly asked many questions at once.

Muku's group was caught completely off guard. Especially by the last one.

What did she mean Jade smelled like Ares?...

Chapter 525 Beast World History

"Umm. What do you mean exactly?" Muku asked trying to act dumb.

"Come on. Don't be like that. Aren't we all friends here? I told you what you wanted to know, so why won't you tell me what I want to know?" Althea immediately called him out.

"What we asked wasn't nearly as personal" Muku replied.

"Hmm. Good point. You can ask anything personal you want to know. Do you want to know about my relationship status? I'm single and have never been in a relationship. Oh, and I don't mind males from different species. So you might have a chance" Althea replied flirtatiously.

"R... really? Oww. Cough. I mean. That's not necessary to tell us. We'll answer your questions, but we hope that you can accept that we can't answer everything" Muku replied.

He was a bit taken aback by what Althea said while subtly flexing her body which looked as human as Raya's. But a pinch from Emily brought him back.

"Oh, okay. Well, tell me about your strength then. How is it that you're already R7 when I know that most people on your planet are LR6 at most? There's literally no beasts to kill for KP there after all" Althea asked.

"Oh, that. That's simple. We got lucky and got transported into space once when we encountered two R6s. It seems the World Spirit doesn't like R6 fights to happen on the planet. Anyway, after that fight. We noticed a neighbouring planet that had many R6s we took out. It wasn't too hard because of the planet's elemental suppression on them" Muku replied truthfully.

There was no reason to hide that after all. Besides, Althea had told them a lot, including spicy information they didn't need to know. So telling her something wasn't a bad thing.

And if they didn't say anything, she might get mad and kill them all, so...

"Ah... So that's how it is. It seems those bastards are doing some things behind my back. I thought they were only attacking the Universe's source planet. But they are attacking the surrounding ones too? They are going to hear from me about this" Althea angrily commented.

"What, I thought you weren't involved in the plan?" Muku asked.

"Oh, I'm not. But that doesn't mean that I don't want to know what's going on. After all, I even went through the trouble of finding a champion... Who is crashing all of theirs by the way. Except for Ares... Because his is dead. Haha. I wish I could meet the human who killed him. Anyway, this brings me to my next question, like I asked before, why does this one smell like Ares?" Althea replied then asked the same question again.

"We're just as confused as you on that. None of us knew. In fact, we're at odds with that bastard. As for who killed his champion, that would be me... Almost got assassinated a few times after that, but I don't regret it" Muku replied.

"Really? It was you? Hahahaha. Good job! I like you more and more. I can clearly sense the hatred in your voice. It's the same he has for you when he speaks. Trying to assassinate you is definitely something the petty thief would try to do. As for this Ms, if she's with you, I at least know that she isn't with him. And I have a theory now. Can she show me her mana... Or whatever energy she uses..." Althea replied happily.

She seemed to enjoy Ares' suffering quite a lot.

"..." Jade didn't immediately do something but looked toward Muku first.

He nodded and it was only then that she released a little of her divine Beast Aura.

Seeing it, Althea's eyes widened I'm surprised. The Amusement appeared in her eyes.

"Oh? This is quite unexpected. Suddenly, I'm looking forward to the future. Fufu hahaha. A great show is coming for sure. I can't wait!" Althea started laughing in between her speech like a person who had gone crazy with happiness after winning the lottery.

"Care to tell us why you're so happy?" Muku asked curiously. The girls wanted to know too. Especially Jade.

She felt a burning desire to know, like she was finally about to get the final puzzle piece to her life's mystery.

"Hmm. Should I say it or not? Meh. It's not like I was involved anyway, so let me tell you. This Ms here is somehow a descendant of the original Monarch of War. A lineage that should have been wiped out a long long time ago. I wasn't even a Monarch during those days. Just a young fox spirit following my Master around. Anyway, I'm not sure what happened but all the Monarchs from that time disappeared for a time. When they appeared, all of them were injured. In fact, some returned as corpses. Their supposedly immortal souls had been destroyed. My Master wasn't critically injured but injured enough

to need to go into retreat for a long time. However, the Monarch of War was beyond saving. He died soon after coming back. But that was after giving his authority to his wife. Who was interestingly a human..." Althea paused for a bit to let it sink in.

"Anyway. His human wife didn't immediately gain complete control of the authority. This meant that while she was technically a Monarch, she didn't have a Monarch's power. But she was a top expert if Monarchs were ignored. So there wasn't much of a problem really. The problem came when a certain Golden Gorilla had the idea to assassinate her and steal the authority. It was a crazy plan since the gorilla wasn't her match. But somehow, it worked. Maybe because she was still weakened and had her guard down after having a child and likely having been involved in another big battle somewhere. I'm not sure. After that, the gorilla, who's Ares obviously, wiped out the whole clan behind the old lineage. But somehow, the lady escaped with her child though the authority along with her heart had been taken. She could have recovered from that had her soul not also been cursed to fade away soon after that. It's something only ancient and super-rare artifacts can do. Ares was very thorough in his preparation I guess...." Althea paused again.

This time it was because of Jade's aura that was rampaging in the whole room. Her eyes had long turned red with anger. And she was getting angrier and angrier the more she heard.

Althea had been ignoring it up to that point.

"Please continue" Jade spoke in a calm voice even though her actions suggested that she was about to blow.

"Okay. Now where was I? Right, after she escaped with the baby, she was never heard of again. But from what I have heard, Ares performed a bloodline elimination ritual that killed any and everyone with the bloodline left in the Beast World. Which wasn't called that at the time by the way. It was called Haven if I'm not mistaken. And from what I hear, there was a name before that too that was lost in history but whatever. Anyway, after that, we all assumed that the lineage was no more" Althea spoke.

"What about the human world? Did the spell affect them too?" Muku asked.

"Human World? That didn't exist at the time. It was part of this world. Everything was one big world. In fact, it was around that time that the world was split I think. Many years after that, the first beast attack on the human world happened. Of course, we didn't win otherwise we wouldn't be here right now. The humans were so tenacious back then. But we didn't lose either. We just agreed on a temporary truce and will fight again later. That later is fast approaching... Or it's already here? Well, whatever. Oh, and I

might be saying "We" but again, I wasn't involved back then. I was busy guarding Ares' door" Althea continued.

"Huh? Why is that?" Muku asked confusedly while the other girls were gathered around Jade trying to calm her down.

"Well, the bastard didn't stop at attacking the Monarch of War. He also attacked my Master. They fought and both sides were heavily injured. My Master couldn't survive that on top of his old wounds unfortunately. So he died after passing on the authority to me. He also locked the secret dimension with the last of his power. It could get out until I was strong enough. Which was probably for the best because I would have long sought out Ares and gotten killed at the time. Fortunately, my master's damage kept Ares in retreat for many years before he could go out. By the time he came out, the other authorities had been claimed and new Monarchs had appeared. Ones not any weaker than him. In fact, most were stronger. Which was a good thing because if he hadn't been forced into retreat he might have claimed most of the authorities and become unstoppable" Althea explained.

"Oh. So that's what happened. It seems Ares really is the trash I thought he was" Muku spoke disdainfully.

"Whoa, now. You shouldn't casually say his name here. If I weren't here, he would have found you out and killed you on the spot. He can come with his real body now unlike back in your world" Althea cautioned...

Chapter 526

"Oh right, thank you for your protection and reminder. It might have gotten me in trouble later. But I have a question if you don't mind" Muku replied gratefully.

"Well, you've asked thousands already, so why not one more right?" Althea replied with a hint of sarcasm.

"Cough. So how is it that you've killed 4 Monarchs but there are still 12? Like didn't you take their authority or something?" Muku asked feeling slightly awkward.

"Oh, that. I gave them away of course. You see, the Monarch of Destruction is not an official title. It's something I made myself and the others accepted since it just made sense. I could have kept the authorities and would have likely been stronger than I am right now. But meh, I don't want to be dirtied

by those things. I also like using my own power. In fact, I barely use my authority's power. What I can say I got from it is the best talent in this world right now. All the authorities boost the user's talent by an absurd amount, but my own talent was special on its own. So I'm better than them even if we were given the same boost. Not to mention that they let the borrowed power go to their head and never worked on themselves..." Althea replied boastfully.

She quite liked telling people about how superior she was to everyone else.

As she spoke Muku turned to look at Raya. He wondered what kind of bullshit existence she would become if she had one of those authorities... Then again, the brat was lazy so maybe she won't be as strong as Althea.

But she would definitely be stronger than the average Monarch.

"Wait. If you're that much stronger. How's Ares still alive?" Muku asked without thinking.

"Didn't you say one more? Tsk, as expected of humans. They never stick to their promises. Just like my master told me. Lucky for you, I'm nice otherwise you would have lost an arm at least if it were anyone else. Anyway, that rat is only still alive because he hasn't come out of his private dimension since I chased him into it. Unfortunately, even I can't break into those things despite being the strongest. The trash uses clones for all the meetings he attends. And much as I don't want to compliment him in any way. I have to admit that there is no one better at preserving their life than him. But I promise you that he's dead the moment he comes out" Althea spoke in a slightly pissed off voice.

Whether she was pissed at Muku or Ares it was unknown. Maybe both pissed her off at the same time.

"Get in line. He's mine to kill" Jade who was still trying to calm down spoke without thinking.

"Is that so? And what would you do if I refuse? Will you take me out?" Althea asked with an amused look on her face.

Honestly, she admired Jade's courage despite it being powered by anger and not thinking first.

After all, she would never dare speak to a Monarch like that no matter what. Even if she knew the Monarch at a personal level, she would still be hesitant. Yet Jade hadn't known her for long yet she was already comfortable enough to threaten her.

It really amazed her as someone who couldn't completely relax in front of her own father who was the Monarch back then. Hell, she stopped calling him father the day she fathomed just what a Monarch was. They were the very peak of existence (from what she knew)

Even now when she was probably stronger than he was when he was alive, she still called him master.

"Not right now. But as soon as I can, then yes..." Jade replied without backing down.

The others looked at her with weird looks on their faces.

They wondered where the heck she was getting all this courage.

It better not be from expecting them to back her up because that would make zero difference. Negative zero is such a thing existence. That's how worthless they were in the situation.

This was different from fighting heavily restricted Monarchs. And even those times they survived purely because of luck really.

"Oh? Haha. I like you. For that reason, I'll cut you a deal. Whoever gets to him first gets to kill him. We both lost special people in our lives because of that bastard. In fact, you're just a descendant by many many generations in-between but I actually knew the one I want to fight for" Althea replied in the same amused tone.

"Fine by me. And I knew her too" Jade replied.

Her memories had finally cleared up after Althea explained everything back then.

She now knew that those visions were definitely real events that happened with zero lies.

She now knew that the lady who looked a lot like her in those visions was actually her birth mother. The one who refused to die before taking her to a safe place. The one she would have spent a lot of happy years with had it not been for Ares.

"Sure, whatever" Althea replied dismissively.

She felt that Jade just didn't want to lose in the argument so she was saying whatever she could to stay in the game.

After all, how could this young human know a woman from who knows how many years back?

Fortunately Jade didn't try to explain herself or who knows what Althea would have done.

"So, now it's my turn right?" Althea asked Muku.

"Sure. Just after you clarify this one thing. It's not even a new question, but just me wanting to understand what you said" Muku shamelessly requested to ask another question.

"Do I seem so nice that you ignore that I can kill you with a mere glance?" Althea asked with a dark look on her face,

"Forget I said anything. Ask anything you want to know and I'll tell you to the best of my abilities" Muku immediately backtracked.

He dared not push further after hearing that obvious threat to his life.

"Good. Now tell me how you got here" Althea asked.

She didn't accommodate Muku anymore as she had reached the end of her patience.

"I think my wife here is the best person to reply to that" Muku replied while looking toward Freya.

Yeah, there was no way he was going to expose his mother.

It wasn't for her safety... Obviously. But theirs, from her, as well as Althea's safety really.

After all, it was clear that the lady didn't want to be known by too many people.

So if he blurts it out, then he and the girls would definitely get punished somehow.

He was sure that it wouldn't be death, or something over the top. But it would definitely be something that would make them regret ever being born. Maybe she would make them go through hell training or something.

As for why he threw Freya into the mix, it wasn't that. It was a calculated move.

Before Mrs C came into the mix, they were planning on using Iris' method to get there. So it wasn't Freya who was getting thrown under the bus but Iris instead.

Freya instantly understood the assignment and threw Iris under the bus to the best of her capabilities.

She explained everything about how Iris wanted to get them there. She even exposed Iris' origin without being asked.

Muku and the others looked at her with fear in their eyes.

They had no idea she was such a snake. And they thought she was the nicest of them all too.

Seeing their looks made Freya feel very aggrieved. She had gone above and beyond to get their appreciation but it only made them look at her like she was the most unforgivable traitor in existence.

She then looked at Muku hatefully. It was okay for the others to look at her like that, but how dare he do the same when it was his idea?

She might have done too much but it was still Muku's plan.

"Oh? So that's how it is. I have to say, that's such a daring method. Like the chance of failure was literally over 95% and yet you managed to make it with just the remaining 5. Truly lucky humans you are" Althea commented with admiration in her voice.

All her past negative emotions were wiped away.

She completely bought it too. After all, Freya had said it in a way that it wasn't a lie. She only spoke of the method but did not say whether it was what they used or not. Althea was so caught up in it that she missed that part.

"Life in the beast apocalypse requires guts or you won't get anything done" Muku commented casually.

The comment again didn't make things clear. It just led Althea into assuming that they used the method.

She was completely fooled by them this time.

Then again, she wasn't used to deceptive beings.

After all, even the vilest beasts like Ares seldom lied if at all. They are too proud to lie. If they want you dead, they'll ambush you right away or come head-on.

To beasts, lying or being deceptive with words was beneath them. They would much rather act.

That's why most, if not all of them had zero resistance against deception...

Chapter 527

"Okay. Now tell me why you came here. It couldn't be because you want more power right? I mean, I'd admire that but I would think it's a dumb move at the same time. After all, the risk is way too much here. I know it's weird for me to say, but Monarchs aren't good beings. They are way too random. They could be in their realms at one moment then be killing randomly in the next. And there's nothing you can do against that. Even if they are ignored, there's still R8s, 9s, and so on. So it is a terrible idea to come here randomly" Althea asked another question.

"You're right. We also wouldn't have come here if we didn't have to. We learned that the moment an R7 appears in our world is the moment all hell will break loose. So we had to leave. At the same time, if we just waited for it to happen eventually, we wouldn't have enough strength to resist. So coming here was the only option. Now we're just looking for a spot to cultivate on" Muku replies truthfully.

"Ah. So that's how it is. I had forgotten about that. Now that I know, I guess you made the wisest and bravest decision. You'd make great allies... In fact, do you want to be my allies?" Althea suddenly asked something absurd.

"Huh? Allies? Us? Not to sound like I don't have confidence, but we're extremely weak compared to you. Probably worth less than ants. Frankly, we can't help you in any way anytime soon. So why would you want us as allies?" Muku asked confusedly.

The deal was definitely great for them and he wanted to agree instantly. But he had to understand why they were getting offered something that was clearly too good to be true.

"You're right. Right now, you can't help me in any way. However, I'm not looking for help right now. But that doesn't mean it will stay like that forever. While I'm currently the strongest Monarch. The others are slowly catching up and they are allied with each other. So at some point, I will be disadvantaged. Not all of them will try anything after that, but some definitely will. And I'm looking for backup they won't expect" Althea explained.

"Huh? You don't expect us to become as strong as Monarchs one day so you?" Muku asked in surprise.

"That's exactly what I expect. And I know for a fact that all of you will become just as strong as Monarchs eventually. Call it my Monarch's intuition. And even if you don't all reach that level and just half of you or fewer reach it, it's still worth it. And that's not the only reason..." Althea replied seriously.

Muku and the others looked at her quietly waiting for her to continue.

"You see, there's an individual who appeared briefly in your world a while back. We don't know the energy signature or appearance but they have to be human at least. Anyway, this being managed to repel an R7 while being an R6 at most, probably weaker than that even. And they took out the portal. Something even I can't do. For that reason, they were deemed "The Variable" by all the Monarchs here. Some are gunning for their life the moment they find them, some want to first study them before killing them, and some want to avoid them altogether. I, on the other hand am different. I want to make them my ally. I have no issues with them after all. And something tells me that killing them off won't be as easy as those Monarchs think. After all, destroying a portal is not something any random beings can do. And avoiding them seems extremely careless as who knows if they will get manipulated into taking you out without your knowledge since you aren't involved with them in any way" Althea revealed her other reason.

"And you want us to be your link with that person should we meet them since we're human and connecting will be easier with other humans in between, right?" Muku asked with his heart beating a bit harder than before while trying to seem as unbothered as possible by what Althea said.

She was clearly speaking about him. But he was far from what she was painting him out to be. Sure, he did all those things but that almost killed him and he lost the power he used to do it, so it was debatable if he was worth it anymore.

"Yes, exactly! I like dealing with smart people. And I'll give you protection during your time here as well as a great spot to cultivate. The best spot in the whole Beast World in fact. So it's not a bad deal for you at all" Althea confirmed and told them what she offered in return.

"Well, if you put it like that, I guess we can't say no. But what makes you so sure that the person isn't one of us? I mean, you don't seem to suspect us at all" Muku asked curiously.

"Tsk. There you go asking questions again. But fine, I'll answer it. I don't suspect you because none of you give any threatening feeling to me, nor do you have an expert's air. While you're outstanding humans, the best I've ever seen or heard of, you just fall a bit short of what I'm expecting" Althea calmly called Muku's group B-tier at best without batting an eye.

"...oh" Muku replied simply.

He didn't know how else to react after being compared to himself then called trash.

Even worse was how he knew that despite being stronger now, he couldn't take on that version of himself at all.

Sure, he was more destructive and whatnot, but that version had like an enhanced erasing gaze. So just getting a glimpse of him was enough to end it.

Of course, as a divine being, he should be invisible to the other party, but would that make the gaze useless as long as the version knew that he was there? It was something to think about.

"Fufu. Don't feel discouraged. Like I said. You're already the pinnacle of humanity. Take pride in that. Though I have to ask, why did all your hearts skip a beat when I was talking about the variable? Do you know them or something?" Althea tried to cheer them up then asked a question that almost gave them heart attacks.

But this time they were prepared, so their hearts didn't change their rhythm at all.

"What? Wouldn't you be surprised if you were told about the existence of such a person? It sounds like a fairy tale don't you think?" Muku replied in a roundabout way that revealed nothing but wasn't a lie either.

"Ah. That makes sense. My heart also skipped a beat when it happened... As expected from my fated partner" Althea replied.

"When did they become your partner?" Emily suddenly asked with a voice full of jealousy while looking at Muku as if he were the one who said it.

"Well, they aren't my partner yet. But they definitely will be after we meet. Don't you think that it only makes sense for the best of both sides to get together? That would end the war. Isn't that great news for you? Why do you sound jealous? You already have a partner. It are you lecherous like your man here? Well, let me tell you this, my future partner will only have me. So you better settle where you are you understand?" Althea replied threateningly.

"What if they already have someone? What if they prefer humans? What do you think Muku? Do you think they prefer humans or copies of humans?" Emily didn't back down then asked a loaded question to Muku.

The others just looked in quietly while enjoying the show. They looked at Muku eagerly wanting to hear how he would get himself out of this situation.

"Cough. I don't think it's my place to say anything. We're different people after all. Who knows what they are into?" Muku replied while trying his best to avoid Emily's gaze.

"Oh... So you think Ms Althea is beautiful?" Emily asked a follow-up question as if she expected his response.

This one was even more loaded.

"Well, while I prefer you more and love you. If we look at her objectively, she's beautiful. I mean, denying her beauty is the same as denying Raya's don't you think?" Muku complimented her, expressed his love, replied to the question smartly then brought Raya in as a shield in his reply.

The girls were amazed. All of them commended him to their heads. The guy really knew how to deal with women.

And that was obvious in how Emily was instantly neutralised and wasn't able to say anything after that. She didn't know whether to blush or be angry.

And with Raya in the matter, she couldn't continue without saying something regrettable. So it was checkmate and the match was done.

"Oh. Okay," Emily replied in defeat.

"Why were you interrogating him? Aren't I the one you were speaking to? Anyway, the answer to your question is, I don't think he has anyone yet. After all, someone like that can't find someone easily. No one there is worthy of him" Althea who was oblivious to the matters of human relationships answered.

"Umm, what if they are a woman? Also, even if they are a man, wouldn't they be way too young for you?" Elsa who will always be behind her sister asked.

"If they are a woman, they will be my sworn sister. If they are a man, I'm still a young girl in Monarch years okay? Besides, age is just a number" Althea replied shamelessly...

Chapter 528

"Okay. Now tell me why you came here. It couldn't be because you want more power right? I mean, I'd admire that but I would think it's a dumb move at the same time. After all, the risk is way too much here. I know it's weird for me to say, but Monarchs aren't good beings. They are way too random. They could be in their realms at one moment then be killing randomly in the next. And there's nothing you can do against that. Even if they are ignored, there's still R8s, 9s, and so on. So it is a terrible idea to come here randomly" Althea asked another question.

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Muku and the others looked at her quietly waiting for her to continue.

"You see, there's an individual who appeared briefly in your world a while back. We don't know the energy signature or appearance but they have to be human at least. Anyway, this being managed to repel an R7 while being an R6 at most, probably weaker than that even. And they took out the portal. Something even I can't do. For that reason, they were deemed "The Variable" by all the Monarchs here. Some are gunning for their life the moment they find them, some want to first study them before killing them, and some want to avoid them altogether. I, on the other hand am different. I want to make them my ally. I have no issues with them after all. And something tells me that killing them off won't be as easy as those Monarchs think. After all, destroying a portal is not something any random beings can do. And avoiding them seems extremely careless as who knows if they will get manipulated into taking you out without your knowledge since you aren't involved with them in any way" Althea revealed her other reason.

"And you want us to be your link with that person should we meet them since we're human and connecting will be easier with other humans in between, right?" Muku asked with his heart beating a bit harder than before while trying to seem as unbothered as possible by what Althea said.

She was clearly speaking about him. But he was far from what she was painting him out to be. Sure, he did all those things but that almost killed him and he lost the power he used to do it, so it was debatable if he was worth it anymore.

"Yes, exactly! I like dealing with smart people. And I'll give you protection during your time here as well as a great spot to cultivate. The best spot in the whole Beast World in fact. So it's not a bad deal for you at all" Althea confirmed and told them what she offered in return.

"Well, if you put it like that, I guess we can't say no. But what makes you so sure that the person isn't one of us? I mean, you don't seem to suspect us at all" Muku asked curiously.

"Tsk. There you go asking questions again. But fine, I'll answer it. I don't suspect you because none of you give any threatening feeling to me, nor do you have an expert's air. While you're outstanding humans, the best I've ever seen or heard of, you just fall a bit short of what I'm expecting" Althea calmly called Muku's group B-tier at best without batting an eye.

"...oh" Muku replied simply.

He didn't know how else to react after being compared to himself then called trash.

Even worse was how he knew that despite being stronger now, he couldn't take on that version of himself at all.

Sure, he was more destructive and whatnot, but that version had like an enhanced erasing gaze. So just getting a glimpse of him was enough to end it.

Of course, as a divine being, he should be invisible to the other party, but would that make the gaze useless as long as the version knew that he was there? It was something to think about.

"Fufu. Don't feel discouraged. Like I said. You're already the pinnacle of humanity. Take pride in that. Though I have to ask, why did all your hearts skip a beat when I was talking about the variable? Do you know them or something?" Althea tried to cheer them up then asked a question that almost gave them heart attacks.

But this time they were prepared, so their hearts didn't change their rhythm at all.

"What? Wouldn't you be surprised if you were told about the existence of such a person? It sounds like a fairy tale don't you think?" Muku replied in a roundabout way that revealed nothing but wasn't a lie either.

"Ah. That makes sense. My heart also skipped a beat when it happened... As expected from my fated partner" Althea replied.

"When did they become your partner?" Emily suddenly asked with a voice full of jealousy while looking at Muku as if he were the one who said it.

"Well, they aren't my partner yet. But they definitely will be after we meet. Don't you think that it only makes sense for the best of both sides to get together? That would end the war. Isn't that great news for you? Why do you sound jealous? You already have a partner. It are you lecherous like your man here? Well, let me tell you this, my future partner will only have me. So you better settle where you are you understand?" Althea replied threateningly.

"What if they already have someone? What if they prefer humans? What do you think Muku? Do you think they prefer humans or copies of humans?" Emily didn't back down then asked a loaded question to Muku.

The others just looked in quietly while enjoying the show. They looked at Muku eagerly wanting to hear how he would get himself out of this situation.

"Cough. I don't think it's my place to say anything. We're different people after all. Who knows what they are into?" Muku replied while trying his best to avoid Emily's gaze.

"Oh... So you think Ms Althea is beautiful?" Emily asked a follow-up question as if she expected his response.

This one was even more loaded.

"Well, while I prefer you more and love you. If we look at her objectively, she's beautiful. I mean, denying her beauty is the same as denying Raya's don't you think?" Muku complimented her, expressed his love, replied to the question smartly then brought Raya in as a shield in his reply.

The girls were amazed. All of them commended him to their heads. The guy really knew how to deal with women.

And that was obvious in how Emily was instantly neutralised and wasn't able to say anything after that. She didn't know whether to blush or be angry.

And with Raya in the matter, she couldn't continue without saying something regrettable. So it was checkmate and the match was done.

"Oh. Okay," Emily replied in defeat.

"Why were you interrogating him? Aren't I the one you were speaking to? Anyway, the answer to your question is, I don't think he has anyone yet. After all, someone like that can't find someone easily. No one there is worthy of him" Althea who was oblivious to the matters of human relationships answered.

"Umm, what if they are a woman? Also, even if they are a man, wouldn't they be way too young for you?" Elsa who will always be behind her sister asked.

"If they are a woman, they will be my sworn sister. If they are a man, I'm still a young girl in Monarch years okay? Besides, age is just a number" Althea replied shamelessly...

Chapter 529 Let's go fight it out!

"So you are hell bent on making some sort of connection with them no matter what huh?" Emily asked one more time.

"Yes" Althea replied instantly.

"Okay. I wish you luck" Emily replied.

She had decided to let the matter go. It wasn't that she was accepting Althea but she figured there was no reason to resist so much when Althea didn't know that she was looking for Muku.

And if they don't say anything, she won't know. But if she keeps on resisting, Althea might guess something. So she could only let it go for now.

It wasn't like she didn't trust Muku... Yeah, that's exactly what it was. While he was loyal in most cases, he was definitely a sucker for outstanding ladies. And Althea was currently the most outstanding one of all.

She had beauty equal to Audrey, which was very enviable, strength they couldn't even imagine and she offered safety. Something even Muku couldn't offer at the moment. So yeah, she didn't believe that Muku wouldn't attack if he got the chance.

And honestly, she kinda understood. She didn't want it, but she understood. Althea was that outstanding. Not to mention the one thing Muku seemed to out beyond everything else. Which was purity, he might not have stated it specifically, but they could tell from his possessiveness.

Such a person could never accept not being the first and last their woman had/has.

"I feel like I'm missing something here, but okay, thanks I guess. Now that I'm in a good mood, what is it that you wanted to ask before?" Althea replied to Emily then turned her attention to Muku.

"Oh, that. It's nothing special. I just wanted to ask if your master is completely dead. Before you get mad, I don't mean anything bad from it. It's just that I learnt that Monarch souls are immortal. So even if their bodies are ruined, they should be able to generate a new body after a while or something right?" Muku asked.

"Hmm. I'm not sure how you came to know that but yes, you're right. But whatever my master and the others faced somehow hurt the soul with the body at the same time and made them breakdown together until there was nothing left. In fact, even if Ares didn't attack, my master would have likely died eventually" Althea replied calmly. Seemingly unbothered by the sensitive topic.

"Okay, I guess that makes sense. But aren't you worried that whatever it is, it will appear again?" Muku asked a follow-up that made Althea roll her eyes again.

The bastard always pushed his luck didn't he?

"I'm not worried because my master told me that it was taken care of and there's no need to worry. And it has been so long but nothing has happened. So don't you think it's safe to say that they sacrificed their lives to take care of it?" Althea replied.

"Okay. I have no more questions. You can continue asking now" Muku replied in satisfaction.

"Tsk. Like I'm still in the mood with you butting in left and right. We'll continue another time" Althea replied dismissively.

"But you gave me permission" Muku defended himself.

"I was giving you the chance to be a gentleman but you didn't take the hint!" Althea snapped.

"What? You know about those? Are there gentlemen among beasts or something?" Muku asked curiously.

"There you go again. And yes, the term is also part of our culture. As you know, both sides lived together at some point, so we copied a few of your ways and you ours. But most was left alone. Now let me show you where you will be living and cultivating during your stay here before you make me go crazy" Althea replied then got up and started walking in a certain direction.

She gestured at Muku and the others to follow her. As for the food she had her servants prepare, it was left on the table.

Muku's group didn't mind though. It was all raw anyway.

Of course Raya grabbed a piece and began munching in it as they followed after Althea.

For whatever reason Althea hadn't taken notice of her being a beast among a group of humans like it was the most common thing ever.

Of course they wouldn't take the initiative to bring it up. So both sides just acted like she was no different from the others even if she obviously wasn't the same.

"So you're the daughter of a Monarch huh? Who would have thought" Muku suddenly started a conversation while putting his hand on Jade's shoulders and pulling her closer.

"If that's true then your background is even higher than mine. But then again, even if that's ignored, your mother is enough" Jade who had finally calmed down replied.

She and the other girls suspected that Mrs C was definitely that white figure in her visions, but they weren't sure and also didn't feel like it was their place to reveal it if it was true.

And shouldn't have Muku at least thought about it considering his intelligence?

Maybe he already did and was pretending like he didn't for whatever reason. Or he was subconsciously stopping himself from making the connection because of the pain it might bring.

There was no way he wouldn't be resentful of his birth parents after being abandoned as a young child with no memories at all.

The way he must have felt lost and afraid when he knew nothing was just sad to think about.

So yeah, if it was really Mrs C, she had to be the one to speak to him.

"Hmm. I guess that makes sense. But that brat was younger than me, so it's still questionable if it was me. Maybe it was my ancestor or something" Muku replied calmly.

"Yeah. I never thought of that. You might be right" Jade acknowledged the possibility.

"In any case, what's your next move?" Muku asked.

"Simple. We get stronger and stronger until we can kill Ares" Jade replied simply.

"Wait... We? I thought you'd want to do it solo or something. Who would have thought that there would be a day Jade would actually want help" Muku teased.

"Tsk. Aren't you my husband? Helping should come naturally to you. Just like how I help you with no questions asked" Jade replied comfortably while hugging Muku's waist and pulling him closer shamelessly.

The others looked on with deadpan expressions on their faces.

The gull of the shameless pair to show their love in front of everyone like that. Where they being punished for not being as shameless as them or something?

As for how the two were practically spilling secrets in front of Althea, well, that wasn't a problem.

Mrs C had added a new feature to the phone. People you now speak telepathically as long as they had each other's contacts.

If fact, as R7s, they could do it with their divine sense as well. But that would be easily discovered by Althea, so they were doing it this way instead. And it was very secure.

To Althea who was walking ahead, they were just a pair of weird and extremely affectionate humans.

She even suspected that they might strip each other at any moment and mate on the spot. And she was kinda looking forward to it as someone who has never done it or seen anyone do it.

Unfortunately for her, nothing like that happened. Which disappointed her greatly.

"No questions asked but ten thousand complaints. And I often have to save you during those helping times so you have no case" Muku retorted as the two continued talking.

"Fine. I'll let you try that position you have always wanted to try after we kill him" Jade turned to bribing.

"Done. Let's go fight it out with him right now!" Muku replied spiritedly.

"Hahaha. You're crazy" Jade laughed while pushing him away.

She felt too embarrassed to hold him at the moment while thinking about that weird stance he wanted. It was just way too embarrassing.

And where did he even see it? Plus did he have some pinning fetish or something? Was the mirror even necessary?

Anyway, they quietly followed after Althea from then on.

They wanted to ask why they were walking instead of flying or teleporting like before. But none dared ask anything after Muku exhausted her patience already.

So they could only follow along. And with their strength they could walk at that pace for centuries without getting tired so it was okay with them...

....

A while later...

"We're finally here. Sorry that we had to walk. It's a tradition my master started. He said it's to appreciate the simple things. I think it's bullshit but I respect him so... Anyway, behind this door is my personal cultivation room. It's where you will all be cultivating until you're satisfied. Oh and I've noticed that you're still new and unstable R7s who know nothing. So I'll give you some pointers on how to control your power as well" Althea finally spoke after they reached the end of a long pathway.

There was a humongous door which reached beyond the clouds.

No one was surprised by it since things were generally super plus size in the Beast World. And this door was likely made for Althea's beast form, so it was understandable.

Besides, there was a smaller door on the huge door, so it was all good.

Althea opened that small door and gestured them to come in. They hesitated for a moment before finally going in.

What they encountered made them freeze in place...

Chapter 530 Cultivation

"What kind of room is this?" Jade blurted out what was on everyone else's minds.

They expected a plain-looking room with a mat or something. Maybe it would be a bit on the bigger side since Althea's beast form had to be huge as a Monarch.

But what they were looking at was way beyond being just big. It was more than fifty kilometres in length. And it went so high up into the sky that there were clouds. Not to mention the greenery everywhere.

But the biggest thing was the dense divine mana that was practically visible in the room. It swirled around and didn't escape even when they opened the doorway.

"I'll have you know that this place can barely contain my full form. So there's no need to overreact" Althea defended herself.

"Okay, but why does it look like a garden. I mean, if you were to change right now, wouldn't it all be squashed?" Muku replied.

"Yeah well, who said I use that form in here? I only said it was the reason why the room is so big. After all, I'm most comfortable with at least this much space, okay?" Althea continued her defense.

"Okay. Can you show us inside?" Muku changed topics.

"Sure. Let's go. I spend most of my time in here so I want to make it as welcoming as possible, which is why it looks like the forest I love so much. My spot is right in the center. You're not allowed there. Not that there's extra mana there or anything, I'm just protective of it. Oh, and there are many fruits all over the place. Don't randomly pick any of them without speaking to me yet. Some might kill you... Like the

one that Jade girl is hiding behind her back," Althea began explaining everything to them while showing the area around.

Then she called out Jade who immediately panicked after hearing her words and threw a pitch-black fruit to the ground.

"What the hell Jade. If all the fruits in here you had to pick the most sus looking one of them. And it was without permission too!" Muku rebuked her angrily.

He wasn't angry that she did, but that she endangered herself.

"S..sorry. It just looked so appetizing. And I sensed no danger from it so..." Jade apologised with her head down.

"Fufu. I was kidding. That fruit is okay for you to eat. It has zero benefits though. And you're free to eat whatever fruits you want in here. None of them has any benefits though. Such fruits have long gone extinct or appear in rare dimensional rifts" Althea spoke before Muku could say anything.

"What? Really? Sigh. In any case, she should have asked for your permission first. I apologise for her behaviour" Muku replied while bowing his head and making Jade do the same.

While Althea seemed nice and all, they didn't know her for long enough to completely let their guard down around her, so Jade shouldn't have tested her like that.

"It's fine. Just make sure y'all stay away from the center though, that part was true. I do not like people close to my sacred place" Althea waved Muku off uncaringly.

After that, they continued in silence. He kept a closer eye on Jade than before. Even holding her hand.

There was a slight smile on her face that made him question whether she was being careless before or if it was planned.

Nuh, Jade would just brazenly hold his hand if she wanted to. The others would likely intervene though... Wait, was that the reason why? She was giving herself an excuse!

Well, whatever. Her plan worked and it was her win if that was the case...

....

A while later...

"I've shown you everything that I wanted to and told you all the rules. If there's anything else, we'll talk another time. I'll come check in on you from time to time as well as give you info on the Beast World. Oh and ask more about your world. For now, if there's nothing else, I'm going to cultivate... I mean I can't get stronger than I currently am, but if one doesn't maintain, they will regress so..." Althea spoke as she prepared to leave them at their chosen spot.

"We will do as you say. For now, we will focus on cultivating and won't keep you. Good luck with your maintenance," Muku spoke for the group as usual.

"Great. Goodbye for now..." Althea spoke and left...

"Do you really trust her?" Audrey asked through their phone-telepathy.

"No, and she doesn't trust us either. But for now, there's nothing we can do. And I sense no aggression from her, so let's just take advantage of this chance for now" Muku replied plainly.

"I support that. I also feel like this is the best turn of events we could have hoped for. If we had stayed there, some other Monarch might have found us. Like that bug Monarch. We don't know if it would have been as nice as her despite not having shown aggression back then" Layla spoke in support of Muku.

"Wait. That wasn't Althea?" Chloe asked in confusion.

"No, the air around her is completely different from that of that bug. And she said that there's a bug Monarch out there. So they are the most obvious choice right now" Layla replied calmly.

She remembered that moment clearly and hated it the more she thought about it. Being controlled like that without being able to do anything really sucked. She has never felt such hatred for any other living creature before.

Even Ares wasn't as hateful to her. At least that bastard came head-on even when it was an ambush... Albeit that sounded quite ironic.

"Yeah, I support Layla. I feel no repulsion to Ms Althea at all. If anything, she feels quite warm" Emily spoke while remembering how comfortable she felt around Althea.

"Huh? With how hostile you were to her?" Jade asked.

"That's because she has her eyes on my man okay. Other than that, I think she's great" Emily defended herself.

"Yandere" Jade accused.

"Oh please, if I were a yandere you would have all died a long time ago. Especially you" denied the claim.

"Hey! Why me specifically?!" Jade exclaimed in a wronged voice.

"No reason. You're just too loud" Emily replied nonchalantly.

"Do you want to go?" Jade let go of Muku's hand and walked closer to Emily.

As she did so, Emily walked towards her as well. Just when they were about to bump into each other Emily side-stepped and went past Jade. In no time at all, she was standing beside Muku with her hand in his like Jade was doing before.

Seeing this made Jade freeze. She immediately realised what had happened. Emily had outsmarted her... Hard too.

But she didn't get mad. She actually smiled at how everything happened. She found the situation rather funny really. The others did the same.

At the same time, they all thought that Emily was definitely a yandere. Maybe the nicer version but a yandere nonetheless.

"Okay. Enough chitchat. Let's get to cultivating already. The last one to reach MR7 is a rotten tomato" Muku brought everyone's attention back to the matter at hand. And joked a bit as well.

"Man! I know it's going to be me. It's always me" Lisa complained in a joking manner.

"Nuh. Maybe in the past when the others had some kind of advantage over you. But after the hell training, you've definitely caught up in every way. So if you lose now it's definitely because you didn't try hard enough" Muku replied to her complaint.

"Can't you let me have my fail-safe damn it? I said it just in case I lost. That way I can keep a little face. But you ruined it" Lisa spoke in a displeased voice.

"Oh, sorry. Why don't we do it this way? If you're in the top 5, I'll do anything you want with no questions asked" Muku quickly got to bribing with his body like usual.

It always worked so there was no need to fix it right?

"Really?" Lisa asked with glowing eyes.

Clearly having already thought of many things she wanted to make Muku do.

"Not fair! What about the rest of us?" Hope complained.

"Okay, let's do it like this. I'll do anything for everyone within the top five" Muku completely threw himself under the bus to avoid a fight.

The air instantly shifted the moment he said that.

Sparks began flying among all the girls.

They instantly went from the closest allies to the worst of enemies because of that one statement.

All of them had one or two things they wanted Muku to do but were too embarrassed to say. So this was their chance and they were gonna do their best to win.

Even Audrey was fired up. Which surprised Muku a lot. He thought that at least she wouldn't be bothered by the statement. But it seemed he had underestimated what he said.

It made him kinda hesitant and want to backtrack. But he had a feeling that he would regret it if he dared back out now.

So he was cooked...