

Lightning 1321

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Chapter 1321: Victim?

"We can begin," the Opposer said after he arrived.

To Gravis and Mortis, the Opposer didn't feel different. After all, they hadn't seen his interaction with his wife.

Orthar had seen it, but he didn't care.

"Condense your Cosmoses," Orthar said to Gravis and Mortis.

Gravis and Mortis threw each other a glance.

For some reason, the atmosphere between them was somber.

It was like they were saying goodbye to each other.

After some seconds, the two closed their eyes and summoned their worlds behind them.

WHOOOM!

Their Cosmoses began to widen and shine. When Peaceful Serenity had done that, the clouds of tribulation had appeared above her, but those clouds didn't appear for them. After all, there was no more sense in keeping up the act.

As this happened, the powerful Cultivators in the highest world looked up with surprise.

The Energy!

It was falling!

They tried to find where the Energy was going, but they couldn't find it. The Energy was simply leaving the highest world.

The most powerful Cultivators also checked the other worlds, but they also couldn't find anything. However, when they tried to check the void between worlds, they became shocked.

Their Spirit Sense was blocked!

Their Spirit Senses could look into the worlds but not into the void between worlds!

This quickly told them that the reason why the Energy was reducing was inside the void between worlds. Yet, they couldn't find out what this reason actually was.

Not even the Heaven's Magnates could look into the void between worlds. However, they didn't need to in order to find the reason.

They simply had to check who was missing.

Who was missing?

Gravis, Mortis, and, surprisingly, the Opposer.

When they noticed that, they became nervous.

Was the Opposer using Gravis and Mortis to overthrow Heaven?

However, their thoughts didn't matter. They couldn't change anything regardless.

They were the most powerful Cultivators, but they were just as helpless as the mortals.

Their power made no difference in front of the Opposer and Heaven.

As Gravis and Mortis absorbed more and more Energy, Orthar looked at the Opposer.

"Since I have more Energy, I will take on the first step by myself. After that, I will strengthen Mortis while you can strengthen Gravis," Orthar said.

"No, I want to strengthen Mortis," the Opposer said coldly.

Orthar only looked into the Opposer's eyes neutrally. He had already known that the Opposer would say that.

However, the statement made no difference.

He was the one in control, and he knew that.

"You have no choice," Orthar said. "I will strengthen Mortis. Do not forget. Time is on my side."

"You only have this single chance to turn the tide. I can abandon this chance. You can't."

Silence.

On the outside, the Opposer didn't seem any different, but inside, he was nearly exploding with rage.

His eyes took on a cold gleam.

WHOOOM!

The aura of Orthar's Cosmos changed into a very aggressive one. Orthar's Cosmos had immediately gathered all its power on three points.

80% of his power was locked onto the Opposer, while the remaining 20% was locked onto Gravis and Mortis.

Gravis and Mortis didn't feel the change since it was too subtle. They couldn't feel the killing intent of someone on the power level of Orthar.

"What is it?" Orthar asked coldly. "Is it my way or no way?"

A cold aura of Brutality appeared around the Opposer.

It threatened to destroy all of existence.

However, even after several seconds had passed, nothing happened.

Orthar was right.

This was not a negotiation.

This was not a compromise.

This was a capitulation.

Orthar was the one in control, and there was nothing the Opposer could do.

The Opposer looked at Gravis and Mortis, his eyes appearing cold. Yet, deep inside, he felt unending rage, hatred, and frustration.

At whom?

At himself.

He was so powerful that only Heaven could fight him.

Yet, even though he had all of this power...

He couldn't protect his two sons.

Nor his wife.

For his entire life, he had worked to become the most powerful being in existence. He had suffered for it time and time again. His Cosmos was throwing him into a crisis of life and death every single day.

Yet, all of this wasn't enough to protect the few people he cared about.

He was too weak.

He hated himself for being so weak.

For a second, the Opposer hesitated.

Yet, in the end, the Opposer's mind returned to its stalwart standard.

He wasn't powerful enough to protect the ones he loved at this moment, and he couldn't change that.

However, as long as he could survive, he could achieve the power to protect his new loved ones in the future.

It was a cruel thought, but it was the only realistic one.

The Opposer knew that he couldn't protect his three loved ones at this moment. So, he had to accept the situation and plan for the future.

"Fine," the Opposer said.

The aggressive Energy in Orthar's Cosmos relaxed.

"Good," Orthar answered.

The two no longer spoke.

Gravis and Mortis were concentrating on solidifying their Cosmoes. They had to transform their Cosmoes from their ethereal state into an actual physical state first. Only when their Cosmoes actually existed could they work on building and changing them.

Gravis and Mortis didn't react to the conversation between Orthar and the Opposer.

Had the two of them kept their conversation a secret?

No.

Why?

Because it didn't matter.

It had never mattered.

All four of them knew how this day would go.

They had known for nearly ten million years.

Was this a day of celebration? Was this the day the feud between the Opposer and Heaven would finally resolve peacefully?

Of course not.

Anyone that had seen Orthar just now probably realized one thing.

Orthar was not the suppressed one.

Orthar was not the victim.

Orthar was the one in control...

And he always had been.

When Orthar had talked to Gravis and Mortis in the higher world, he had said that he had been the victim. He had told them that he wanted to resolve everything peacefully with the Opposer.

Yet, was that the truth?

His arguments had definitely been convincing and logical. He had even smiled at just the right times to appear innocent and friendly.

But who was Orthar?

Think back to the Orthar in the middle world.

Think back to the story of how Orthar had become the ruler over all sea beasts.

Who was Orthar?

Was he an innocent person?

Was he an honest person?

Was he a nice person?

Was he a selfless person?

Of course not.

Orthar's entire existence had revolved around schemes after schemes after schemes after schemes.

Orthar had backup plans for backup plans for backup plans for plans for eventualities that had nearly no realistic chance of happening in the first place.

Why had Orthar always been so nice to Gravis and Mortis?

Going along with an illusion made it easier for everyone else to accept it.

There was this small hope.

What if what Orthar had proposed actually happened?

What if Orthar was actually fine with letting the Opposer go?

This was the possibility that Mortis and Gravis had always desired.

For millions of years, they had chased after this possibility.

Yet, deep inside, the two of them had always known that this was only a dream.

As soon as they had seen the identity of the highest Heaven, deep inside, they had realized that this would never end peacefully.

But what if?

What if?

But the what-if would never happen.

This was Orthar.

Orthar chased power.

Orthar could use everything inside his own Cosmos outside of his Cosmos.

With the Opposer inside Orthar's Cosmos, Orthar was unmatched on the outside.

Yet, the Opposer was also a blade hanging over Orthar's head.

Orthar had to get rid of the Opposer.

But Orthar couldn't let go of the power.

So, the obvious solution was to get rid of the Opposer and absorb his Cosmos.

With that, Orthar would have the power of the Opposer without the associated danger.

As for the balance between Energy and Death to keep the Opposer's Cosmos running, that wasn't an issue for Orthar.

Orthar only had to err on the side of Death. As long as he didn't eradicate Death inside the Opposer's Cosmos, he wouldn't be in danger.

Orthar had many times more Energy than the Opposer, and if there were too little Energy in the Opposer's Cosmos, Orthar could simply shove in more.

Orthar needed that power.

He wanted that power.

He would get that power.

As for Gravis and Mortis?

They would be Orthar's keys to finally getting rid of him!

Soon, the Opposer and Orthar would fight again. This would be their first genuine fight in 50 billion years. The incident ten million years ago was, at most, a scuffle.

This time, they would fight to the death.

And Orthar would finally get rid of this tumor!

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Chapter 1322: Primordial Chaos

When Gravis and Mortis were finally done with condensing their Cosmoses, the Energy of the highest world had dropped by over 90%!

This wasn't even enough to create another Heaven's Magnate!

The powerful Cultivators fell into a panic!

Their Energy!

Their God Stones!

Their God Crystals!

Their Law Comprehension Areas!

Everything had been weakened to an insane degree!

What... what were they supposed to do!?

As the highest world fell into a panic, Orthar looked at Gravis and Mortis, who had just opened their eyes.

"Throw your Cosmoses into the Primordial Chaos," Orthar said.

Gravis and Mortis did just that. Just like Peaceful Serenity's Cosmos, their Cosmoses flew into the distance and seemingly vanished.

They had left the reality in Orthar's Cosmos.

Gravis' and Mortis' eyes closed as they fully concentrated on their Cosmoes.

Their perception entered their Cosmoes, and it would remain there.

These were their new bodies.

Their old bodies were only extensions of their selves.

For the first time, Gravis and Mortis managed to see the Primordial Chaos in its full glory without anyone interfering.

Grey.

It was grey.

Everything was grey.

Nothing moved.

It was all just lifeless and silent.

However, just like the snowfield made of Zeroblaze, the silence hid a great danger.

Gravis and Mortis could feel three kinds of forces.

Energy.

Death.

And something else.

Normally, as soon as Energy and Death came into contact with each other, they would cancel each other out in a violent explosion of Brutality.

However, inside the Primordial Chaos, Energy and Death didn't truly interact with each other.

Why?

It was the third force.

Gravis and Mortis didn't know this third force, but based on what it was doing, the name Balance would be appropriate.

Balance was the bridge between Death and Energy.

Death couldn't interact with Energy peacefully.

Death could interact with Balance peacefully.

Energy could interact with Balance peacefully.

So, as long as Death and Energy only interacted with Balance, they wouldn't come into contact with each other.

Balance was the force that allowed the Primordial Chaos to exist. Without Balance, at least one of the two forces would completely vanish from existence.

However, there was no inherent power in the Primordial Chaos. As long as it remained balanced, it was harmless.

So, why was Primordial Chaos so dangerous to every living being?

Well, if Primordial Chaos came into contact with pure Energy, which was basically everything inside a Cosmos, the balance would tilt.

There wouldn't be enough Balance to isolate all that additional Energy.

The additional Energy would touch Death, and both of them would explode into Brutality.

So, if Primordial Chaos managed to seep into a Cosmos, all the Death inside it would react with the Energy in the Cosmos, creating an explosion of Brutality.

That left the remaining Energy, which had previously balanced the Death inside the Primordial Chaos. That remaining Energy would be transformed by Brutality and would violently tear everything apart around it.

In summary, if Primordial Chaos came inside a Cosmos, this would happen:

Energy of Cosmos touches Primordial Chaos.

Energy of Cosmos and Death of Primordial Chaos would explode into Brutality, destroying a vast space of reality.

The remaining Energy of the Primordial Chaos would violently extend outward, throwing the Laws and other parts of the Cosmos into disarray.

Lastly, the explosion of Primordial Chaos could start a chain reaction, which would expand out of the Cosmos, creating more explosions of Brutality around the Cosmos until it eventually stabilized again.

The same would be true if a Heaven's Magnate entered the Primordial Chaos. Since they were still made of Energy, they would provoke the same reaction.

So, how could Cosmoes survive in the Primordial Chaos?

Balance.

The filter that isolated the Primordial Chaos from a Cosmos was made of Balance.

That's right. Comprehending the Law of the Cosmos meant comprehending Balance.

That was also why it had been so easy to comprehend the Law of the Cosmos for Gravis.

Gravis knew what Death was.

Gravis knew what Energy was.

He only had to find a way to keep them apart.

Now, with that knowledge in mind, a particular question would pop up.

Was it possible to make a Cosmos with all three forces?

No.

The property of Energy was the very thing that allowed life to flourish. Since Primordial Chaos also involved Death, it became impossible to reliably transform it into a solid and permanent state.

Additionally, as said previously, Balance had no inherent power.

Because of that, the most powerful Cosmos one could create was the very Cosmos the Opposer had.

A Cosmos involving Energy and Death but no Balance.

When Gravis saw the Primordial Chaos, he was surprised.

It was so simple!

Gravis had expected to gain many more insights as soon as he laid eyes upon the Primordial Chaos. After all, it was the Primordial Chaos! It was the very basis for everything!

Yet, it was so simple.

There were just three components.

That was it.

And Gravis already knew all three of them.

After looking at the Primordial Chaos for a while, Gravis focused on his Cosmos, or more accurately, himself.

Gravis was now his Cosmos.

They were the same thing.

His Cosmos was his new body.

What did his new body look like?

At the moment, Gravis was a black sphere with only an incomparably minuscule spot of light. That spot of light was Gravis' first world.

It was his embryo.

It was his seed.

This was the blueprint for all of Gravis' future worlds.

What did it look like?

It was identical to Orthar's world.

Gravis had comprehended all the Laws in Orthar's world, and all these Laws had been incorporated into his Cosmos. Therefore, Gravis' first world was identical to Orthar's worlds.

"Focus on the world you want to create," Orthar told Gravis' and Mortis' human bodies. "When you have created the embryo on which you will base your entire future Cosmos, we will begin the strengthening process."

Gravis and Mortis heard Orthar.

Out of habit, Gravis looked at Mortis, and Mortis did the same.

However, they could only see each other's human bodies.

They couldn't feel the other's Cosmos.

Gravis didn't know what kind of world Mortis was creating, and Mortis didn't know what kind of world Gravis was creating.

And they would keep it a secret from each other.

After looking away again, Gravis closed his eyes and focused on his Cosmos.

He began to change the Laws inside his new Cosmos.

Gravis didn't look forward to this process.

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Chapter 1323: Changing Laws

Gravis focused on his tiny world. It was barely a couple million kilometers big, which was incomparably tiny to Orthar's worlds.

However, this was only an embryo.

As Gravis looked at his world, he felt the sheer power he had over everything. No wonder Orthar could defend himself against the Opposer while he was inside his Cosmos.

Gravis could freely control the very Laws that made up his Cosmos.

If there were someone inside his Cosmos, they wouldn't be able to use the Laws in their surroundings as long as Gravis didn't allow it.

They would need to summon the Laws of their own Cosmos and invade Gravis' Cosmos.

However, they could only bring so much power over at once, and Gravis had access to all his power at any given time.

It would be like Gravis' opponent would only be able to unleash 5% of their power at a time while Gravis could unleash everything at once.

What could an equally powerful opponent do against an attack that simply unleashed far more power in one strike than they could summon to defend?

Nothing.

In order to be a threat to Gravis inside his own Cosmos, a Heaven Breaker would need to be multiple times more powerful than him.

Only when Gravis finally assumed the mantle of a Heaven did he finally realize how powerful his father actually was.

It felt impossible to Gravis that anyone could be a threat to him while being inside his Cosmos.

The fact that the Opposer was a real danger to Orthar while being inside his Cosmos was frightening.

If the Opposer really managed to find Orthar outside...

It wouldn't even be a fight.

It would be similar to a fight between Gravis as a Heaven's Magnate and a Heaven's Magnate with the same Laws as him.

However, Gravis quickly got rid of that thought and concentrated on the task before him.

He had to try his absolute, very best.

He had to pull out all of the stops!

Gravis had to make use of all the advantages that he had.

What were these advantages?

Orthar's Laws.

The Major Law of Death.

And, most importantly, the wave of Energy he would receive soon.

Gravis knew that starting a new Cosmos needed time and Energy. It also needed a certain amount of Energy to break through thresholds.

What did he mean by that?

Well, if there were a supposed Realm that required a certain amount of comprehension to reach in a certain timeframe, it might be literally impossible for any living being to reach that comprehension in said timeframe with only a certain amount of Energy at their disposal.

Law Comprehension Areas could more clearly show their concepts if they were more powerful.

However, it required Energy to boost these Law Comprehension Areas to such intense levels of power.

Sure, Gravis would be able to transform the used power back into Energy, but that wouldn't happen instantaneously.

That meant that every Law Comprehension Area reserved a certain chunk of Energy of the Cosmos.

If the Law Comprehension Areas were too powerful, there might not be enough Energy in the atmosphere.

If the Law Comprehension Areas were too weak, the Cultivators might not be able to perceive the Laws.

On top of that, living beings required Spirits, and the more powerful a Spirit was, the more clearly it could perceive its surroundings. Of course, a more powerful Spirit also required more Energy to create.

It was an infinitely precise process of balancing nearly infinite different usages of Energy.

For a mortal, this was impossible to comprehend.

For a Cultivator, this was impossible to manage.

Only someone that had grown more and more powerful and more familiar with the Laws would be able to implement such a complex thing.

A Heaven Breaker that managed to reach that Realm in a less complex Cosmos wouldn't be able to manage all of these tiny things without throwing their Cosmos out of balance.

One mistake, and the infrastructure of Energy would break down.

Nearly all the lives in their Cosmoses would die, which would require the Heaven Breaker to start from scratch again.

It was incomparably difficult to reach the Realm of a Heaven Breaker inside Orthar's Cosmos due to the complexity of all the Laws, but exactly that challenge allowed Gravis to deal with the complexity of creating such an intricate and powerful Cosmos.

Lots of times, Cultivators believed that the ancestor was the most powerful.

The first Cosmoses had to be the most powerful Cosmoses, right?

After all, they had existed the longest, and they were the first.

Yet, that was not correct.

In fact, the newer and younger the Cosmos, the more powerful it tended to be.

Why?

Because the new Cosmoses built upon the complexity and power of their superior Cosmoses. Many times, an even more powerful Cosmos was born from that.

And Gravis wouldn't be different.

In order to fight his destiny, he needed to increase the power of his Cosmos as much as possible.

The cost didn't matter.

The first thing Gravis did was to change the Laws of Matter.

Gravis didn't like the hierarchy between Pure and Complex Materials. In his opinion, it was better that Pure and Complex Materials were on the same level.

Instead of a Complex Material inheriting both positive qualities of a Pure Material, Gravis would change it so that the Complex Material would be an average of the two Pure Materials' positive qualities.

There wouldn't be a dividing hierarchy between the two categories of materials. There would only be different strengths and weaknesses.

All thinkable strengths, weaknesses and uses for materials shot through Gravis' head, and he added plenty of materials that had these strengths and weaknesses.

Gravis also changed the Soft, Medium, and Hard parts of the Material Laws to Gaseous, Liquid, and Solid. He found it infuriating that solid things, such as leather and bark, were in the Medium Material Laws and not the Hard ones.

Then Gravis changed the Primordial Force Laws.

Gravis fused Space and Time into the same concept called Spacetime.

Then, Gravis made Gravity related to mass.

After that, Gravis focused on the Elements.

He kept the Elements that Orthar had used except for one.

Gravis shoved the Wood Element out of the Elemental category and put it into the Life category, together with the other Soul Laws.

Then, Gravis split up the Water Element into water and ice. Yes, they essentially were the same thing, but Gravis wanted to split them apart regardless due to their different uses.

Gravis also changed the Emotional Laws to include more Emotions, and he changed the Laws of Perceived Reality to include more concepts.

Thousands of years had passed in Orthar's Cosmos, and it would have actually been more if Gravis wasn't using Energy from Orthar's Cosmos to speed up the time of his Cosmos. This was what Orthar meant when he said that he would help both of them on the first step.

When Gravis was done, he focused on the last aspects of the Laws.

This would be where things would change.

Gravis added a fusion of Energy and Death into Life Laws.

The creation of Death-based life forms with the support of Energy would become possible to comprehend for the normal living beings.

Gravis had to go all in.

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Chapter 1324: Antithesis

After a long time, Gravis was finally finished with the Laws. That last part had taken way too much time, but it was necessary.

Then, Gravis focused on the embryo of his small world.

He willed for life to exist.

And life began to exist.

Gravis willed life to take on certain shapes in the beginning.

He had chosen his targets that would increase his power.

However, he would make the life in his Cosmos different from Orthar's Cosmos.

What was Gravis' chosen lifeform?

Black Demons.

Black Demons would become the lifeforms with Spirits, and they would be the lifeforms that would have the most impact on his power in the future.

Gravis made no humans.

Black Demons would become the only sentient beings inside Gravis' Cosmos.

Then, Gravis created the beasts.

However, in comparison to the beasts in Orthar's Cosmos, Gravis didn't allow these beasts to reach a conscious state.

These beasts would only receive a rudimentary ability of communication, and they wouldn't have the intelligence to even comprehend the easiest Laws.

In Gravis' mind, Orthar had gone soft with the beasts. By giving them sentience later, Orthar was wasting Energy while bridging the divide between human and beast.

Not in Gravis' Cosmos.

In this Cosmos, beasts and Black Demons would be separated by an unbridgeable gap of sentience and self-awareness.

However, in exchange, Gravis gave the beasts a far more powerful physical body and a bloodline-based Law comprehension system.

The beasts could consume other living things to further their own Law Comprehension.

Their Law Comprehension and their abilities would fully stem from their own blood. The more Laws their blood had and the more powerful it became, the more the beasts could control the Laws in their surroundings.

The beasts wouldn't know how the Laws worked, but they would gain the ability to use their powers regardless.

With all of that, beasts wouldn't need time to grow powerful.

They would only need battle.

They didn't need comprehension.

Only battle.

Additionally, Gravis gave the beasts an incredible ability to multiply. Powerful beasts would multiply like cockroaches and would quickly become adults.

Of course, the tradeoff for all of that was that Gravis couldn't use the Laws and Will-Auras of the beasts in his Cosmos.

What was their purpose?

They had three purposes.

First, they would pull in a lot of Energy since they grew very powerful very quickly.

Second, they would serve as the primary tempering for the Black Demons.

Third, they would defend the Black Demons.

Defend the Black Demons?

That didn't make any sense.

By the sounds of it, the beasts would be the primary danger to the Black Demons' survival.

So, what would the beasts defend the Black Demons from?

Gravis created the beasts and Black Demons on the outskirts of the world. In comparison to Orthar's worlds, the Energy density of Gravis' worlds would gather on the edges. The closer one was to the edge of a world, the denser the Energy.

And in the middle of the world?

Gravis focused on his created Law of Death-based lifeforms.

Gravis had to give his all.

If he didn't try his absolute best, he wouldn't be able to avoid his destiny.

So, Gravis decided to make his own version of his father's Cosmos.

Gravis would make a world filled with Energy and Death.

It was incredibly dangerous.

It was insanely cruel.

If Gravis mishandled his Cosmos, it would turn into pure Death, and it would essentially vanish since Death couldn't keep a permanent state easily.

If Gravis had a choice, he wouldn't do that.

He didn't want to create a Cosmos of suffering.

Yet, he had to.

This could be the thing that decided the difference between survival and death for Gravis.

If he managed to get through this, he could always just eradicate the Death inside his Cosmos. Sure, that would also eradicate all his progress, but he could start anew.

As long as Gravis was safe, he could create a new one.

But for now, he needed power.

In the middle of Gravis' only world, monsters of Death appeared.

Revenants.

Ghosts.

Amalgamations of body parts.

Parasites.

Monsters made of nothing but tentacles.

Wheels filled with eyes.

Eyes with wings.

Tongues with teeth growing out of them.

Floating maws.

Gravis used abstract and monstrous forms for these lifeforms to create a feeling of wrongness and fear in both beasts and Black Demons.

They had to know that these things were their enemies.

They had to know that the Death-based lifeforms were the biggest threat to their survival.

They had to eradicate them!

They had to become powerful to survive!

Then, Gravis willed them into existence.

As soon as the Death-based lifeforms appeared, they turned the surroundings black.

A reviling odor of decay and stagnation filled their surroundings.

The Death-based lifeforms loved that smell, but the normal lifeforms hated and feared it.

War immediately broke out.

The Death-based lifeforms began to fight and devour each other, becoming more and more powerful in the process.

They couldn't comprehend Laws.

They could only become more powerful.

Their minds were filled with absolute violence, hatred, and pain.

Their existence was pain.

Their behavior was violence.

Their perception of the world was hatred.

The worst thing that had ever happened to them was existing.

Yet, they didn't have the mental faculties to comprehend it.

They were unable to imagine death.

They had to survive!

They had to eat!

They had to grow!

They had to destroy!

Everything was the enemy!

The beasts and the Black Demons began fighting very quickly, and the beasts also quickly began fighting with the Death-based lifeforms.

As the years passed, most of the beasts focused on the Death-based lifeforms. The Black Demons were on the edge of the world, and the beasts separated them from the Death-based lifeforms.

The Black Demons tried to survive the never-ending tide of beasts.

However, they failed.

The Black Demons were eradicated.

It had simply been too much.

Gravis had expected something like that. Finding the perfect balance on his first try was impossible. He would need to tweak everything again and again until the Black Demons would just barely be able to survive as long as every single member swore their entire life to fighting for survival.

Years upon years passed with Gravis recreating the Black Demons and even the beasts again and again.

Eventually, the Black Demons just barely managed to survive.

However, every member had to fight.

Children had to be thrown into life-and-death fights.

War was constant.

Happiness didn't exist.

Freedom didn't exist.

Everything that Gravis strived for didn't exist in his Cosmos.

Gravis' eyes became bloodshot with rage and hatred as he watched his Cosmos be ravaged by nothing but hatred and violence.

Yet, it was necessary!

He had to!

He hated himself for doing all of this, but there was no other way!

He had to make an infinite amount of lifeforms live an existence akin to torture in order to avoid his destiny!

There was a word in Orthar's Cosmos, unknown to these war-torn lands.

Peace.

This concept didn't exist.

In Orthar's Cosmos, Gravis opened his eyes as he smiled.

"I'm ready for the next step," he said, seemingly excited.

Orthar couldn't see Gravis' Cosmos, and Gravis had to appear like he hadn't just created the antithesis of happiness and freedom.

Mortis had also already finished.

Orthar looked at the two of them and nodded.

"Then, for the strengthening process."

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Chapter 1325: Sacrifice

"I will strengthen Mortis. You will strengthen Gravis," Orthar said to the Opposer.

The Opposer flew over to Gravis and looked him in the eye.

The two of them shared a knowing glance.

They couldn't talk to each other without revealing something to Orthar. After all, this was Orthar's Cosmos, and not even the Opposer could keep his messages a secret from him.

They had never shared their plan with each other in the open.

Yet, they both knew it.

Orthar flew over to Mortis and put his hand on his shoulder.

"You will keep your promise?" Mortis asked Orthar as he looked him in the eyes.

"Yes, Azure won't have to face death," Orthar said.

Mortis nodded.

Then, Mortis looked at the Opposer.

"Can you look out for Azure?" Mortis asked.

"You are my son," the Opposer said.

"I will protect her with all of my ability. This is the least I can do."

Mortis also nodded.

Then, Mortis looked at Gravis.

Gravis looked back.

"I'm sorry," Mortis said with a shaking voice.

Gravis felt his heart fall into a pit of despair. He tried his best to remain emotionless, but he couldn't.

"No, I'm sorry," Gravis answered with an equally shaking voice.

"I enjoyed our time together," Mortis said.

"I did too," Gravis said, keeping back his tears.

Then, Mortis revealed a bright smile as tears ran down his eyes.

"You can start," Mortis said.

"You won't die," Orthar said.

Mortis closed his eyes in a peaceful expression.

Gravis gritted his teeth with unending rage, helplessness, and frustration.

Then, he shot a determined glance at his father.

The Opposer nodded and put his right hand on Gravis' shoulder.

WHOOOOOM!

Gravis felt an insane amount of Energy enter his Cosmos through his human body.

Gravis immediately used a huge chunk of that Energy to accelerate time while using the remainder to strengthen his Cosmos.

Then, he closed his eyes.

Gravis knew exactly that when he opened his eyes the next time, his destiny would be decided.

Gravis' Cosmos began to expand violently under his constant supervision. Every failure from now on wouldn't sap Orthar's Energy but his father's Energy.

Gravis couldn't allow any failure!

He focused on his Cosmos with every last bit of concentration he had to spare.

It was even more stressful than when Gravis had been beset by Sin Monsters.

Many years passed, and Gravis Cosmos grew to an astounding size.

Gravis split the worlds apart into different levels, and he created a vast network of different worlds that each served one specific purpose.

Power!

As time passed, Gravis felt his power grow to unfathomable levels.

His Will was so incredibly powerful!

His physical power was so incredibly high!

He had so much Energy!

He had so much Death!

He had so much Brutality!

Yet, Gravis feared that it wasn't enough.

He needed more!

Because, he knew exactly what would wait for him when he opened his eyes again!

Orthar's plan had caught all of them, and he had to do everything in his power to escape from it!

He had to survive, both for his sake and his father's sake.

What would happen?

How had all of this begun?

What had been Orthar's plan?

Well, it all started with the incident in the lower world, when Gravis had become the manifestation of lightning.

Back then, if Gravis had been allowed to grow, the Opposer would have been able to maybe grasp victory.

However, the Opposer had informed Orthar.

When Orthar had seen that, he had immediately changed the Laws.

It would be impossible for such a scenario to happen again from now on.

However, at the same time, Orthar had come up with a plan.

Orthar's intelligence and ability to plan were unparalleled, and he had immediately created a terrifying and complex plan.

When Orthar had recreated Gravis, he had changed the Laws of his Cosmos to accommodate the Opposer's wishes.

The Opposer had seen nothing wrong with that. After all, he could see the Laws in Orthar's Cosmos.

However, the crux to Orthar's plan hadn't been in the Laws inside the Cosmos but in his own Spirit.

Orthar had changed his personal lightning over the years following that incident.

From that moment onward, Gravis had been Orthar's tool to finally get rid of the Opposer.

However, Gravis had to reach supreme power first.

When Gravis was a kid, he had been Orthar's tool to infuriate the Opposer, and when Gravis was older, he had been Orthar's tool to kill the Opposer.

And everything hinged on Gravis' new state of existence.

What had been Orthar's plan?

Well, Orthar had changed his personal lightning to no longer be its own Law.

Instead, Orthar had changed his personal lightning to be himself.

Yes, just like Gravis, Orthar was now one and the same with his personal lightning.

He had infused all his will into his lightning and had become it.

The Opposer had noticed the change, but there had been nothing he could do. If he attacked Orthar now, everything would go down like back then.

However, with both of their Cosmoses resetting, Orthar would be able to regain his Energy faster than the Opposer could. Additionally, the Opposer would lose all his loved ones, whom he now cared about.

So, the Opposer could only rely on Gravis.

Sadly, the Opposer couldn't inform Gravis about any of this.

Why?

Because time was on Orthar's side.

If the Opposer compromised Orthar's plan by revealing it, Orthar would have simply killed Gravis.

He could afford to waste this chance. He definitely didn't want to, but he could.

The Opposer couldn't.

The Opposer would continue living for billions and billions of years, but eventually, he would make a mistake. He couldn't remain perfect forever.

Orthar knew that.

However, billions upon billions of years was a long time, even for Orthar, and while the Opposer was inside Orthar's Cosmos, Orthar couldn't unleash much power on the outside.

While the Opposer existed, Orthar couldn't allow himself to become enemies with any strong enemies on the outside.

That severely crippled his entire existence.

If someone really powerful found Orthar and decided to kill him, Orthar would be forced to use his Energy to defend himself, which would give the Opposer the edge, which could very well result in Orthar's death.

So, while waiting wasn't as much of a risk for Orthar as it was for the Opposer, it was still a risk.

Because of that, Orthar wanted to kill the Opposer as soon as possible.

And Gravis was the key.

In comparison, the Opposer wanted to kill Orthar. However, as long as the balance didn't change, the Opposer couldn't kill him.

However, in order to make Gravis powerful enough to make a difference, Orthar would also need to expend his Energy.

This would break the equilibrium and would give the Opposer the chance he needed to kill Orthar.

It all depended on Gravis.

In the beginning, Gravis had been fully following Orthar's plan.

Everything was going perfectly.

However, then, the first hiccup arrived.

It was Gravis' decision to offend his lightning when he decided to let that middle Heaven leave.

Orthar's plan hinged on Gravis being one with lightning.

However, his plan was still in motion.

He could work around that.

Then, the second hiccup arrived.

It was when Gravis had created Mortis.

Gravis had distanced himself from Orthar's concept regarding lightning, and over the years, he had changed the concept of lightning more and more.

By now, Gravis was no longer connected to Orthar's concept of lightning.

He had created his own lightning.

This was no longer Void Lightning but something entirely new.

This was an issue for Orthar since his plan didn't work anymore.

However, Orthar quickly changed his plan to the new circumstance.

Now, his concentration was on Mortis.

After all, Mortis was the version of Gravis Orthar needed.

Yet, Gravis' survival was still paramount.

Why?

Because the Opposer had realized Orthar's plan by now, and if Gravis died, the Opposer wouldn't have any chance anymore to pull everything around when the fated moment arrived.

If Gravis died, the first thing the Opposer would have done was to kill Mortis.

From then on, everything was set.

The die had been cast.

The incident with the Gate of Death?

Irrelevant.

It didn't make a difference if they comprehended the Law of Death or not.

For the last couple of million years, all four of them knew what would happen.

Yet, there was nothing they could do.

The Opposer, Gravis, and Mortis were all on the same side.

But Orthar was still the one in control.

Refuse to become powerful?

Orthar wouldn't mind. Time was on his side.

Fight him early?

Their power would be too weak to make a difference.

Refuse to go along with Orthar's plans?

Orthar and the Opposer would fight, which would result in Gravis' and Mortis' deaths, returning everything to the beginning.

If they lost, Orthar would win.

If they refused to play, Orthar would win.

If they got a draw, Orthar would win.

They could only win if they played Orthar's game and won.

They had to play, and they had to play by Orthar's rules.

Sadly, playing by Orthar's rules meant having a minuscule chance of victory and committing certain sacrifices.

What was this certain sacrifice?

Well, based on Orthar's original plan, Gravis was one with lightning, and Orthar was one with lightning.

Yet, Orthar had lived for far longer than Gravis, and his will was also infinitely more powerful.

So, if Gravis got hit with Orthar's lightning...

He would become Orthar.

Orthar would essentially assimilate Gravis into his being.

However, since Gravis was no longer one with Orthar's lightning, the target had become someone else.

After uncountable years had passed, Gravis felt it.

It was time.

He was now able to keep up with Orthar's and the Opposer's speeds.

It had begun.

Gravis quickly opened his eyes and looked at Mortis.

Or, more specifically, Orthar.

Mortis had died.

Mortis was now Orthar.

Mortis had known that this would be his end for millions of years...

[Lightning Is the Only Way](#)

Chapter 1326: Fate

What had been the signal that everything had started?

It had been Orthar.

Orthar had launched an attack on Gravis.

However, the Opposer had quickly intervened and stopped the attack, becoming injured in the process, but at the same time, the Opposer had launched an attack on Mortis.

Of course, Orthar had been prepared, and he used a huge amount of his personal lightning to block the attack.

The Opposer had been injured, but Orthar had lost a lot of Energy.

This was the trade.

None of them had come out on top.

At the same time, Mortis shot at Gravis.

He was now Orthar, and he was crackling with Orthar's lightning.

As soon as Gravis opened his eyes, he acted.

The Death inside his Cosmos clashed with the Energy, reducing the density of both of them.

However, the resulting Brutality was funneled out of his Cosmos and traveled through his human body into his saber.

Gravis had already created his own saber made out of his own Laws and being.

As Brutality washed over Gravis, time seemingly slowed down as Gravis felt infinite Energy enter his being.

While all of this was happening, the highest world also fell into an apocalypse.

All Heaven's Magnates had suddenly turned into pure Energy.

Of course, that included the Economistress.

She had known of her fate.

As soon as her husband and Orthar clashed, she would be converted into Energy by Orthar.

If the Opposer tried to stop that, Orthar would be able to gain the upper hand in the battle, which would result in both of them dying.

Sadly, this was her fate.

Of course, Zero's Essence, Master Linus, Heavenly Senior, the Black Magnate, and even Child of Heaven had also been converted into Energy.

There were no more Heaven's Magnates in Orthar's Cosmos.

The Energy density in the highest world climbed to a level never seen before, but it quickly shrunk again as it got converted into pure power by Orthar.

As Orthar and the Opposer clashed for the first time in forever with their full powers, all the worlds felt the impact.

The lower worlds, middle worlds, and higher worlds were reduced to nothing. Orthar couldn't spare the effort to protect them.

He could only protect the highest world to some degree.

Yet, even the highest world felt its Laws be thrown into chaos as an uncountable number of lives were ended.

Only the strongest Ancestral Gods and Divine Gods managed to survive the impact.

All other life had vanished.

At the same time, Orthar's Cosmos began to shrink rapidly as he converted his reality into pure power.

The attack Orthar had used when Gravis had been a child was nothing in comparison to this clash.

Back then, the Opposer and Orthar had only lightly shoved each other.

This time, they were attacking with the intention to kill.

The devastation between these two incidents couldn't be compared with each other.

At the same time, Gravis was attacking Mortis with the intention to kill.

His saber quivered with Brutality, nearly being destroyed in the process.

Then, Gravis struck down.

BOOOOOOOOOM!

Mortis was torn apart vertically.

His Spirit, which had been in tune with Orthar, had been destroyed.

Even though Mortis had been Orthar, he had still had his own Spirit.

His Cosmos had still been under his control.

With Gravis' attack, Mortis' Cosmos had lost its identity.

It was now an empty body without a will.

It wasn't any different from someone that had died to Samsara.

Gravis' and Mortis' power could no longer be compared.

Gravis finally found a ray of hope.

He had to help his father!

BANG!

Suddenly, Mortis' human body exploded into Orthar's Lightning, which immediately entered Gravis' human body.

The attack had been so fast that Gravis hadn't been able to react.

At this moment, Gravis realized that he had fallen into Orthar's trap.

Orthar had expected Gravis to create a Cosmos similar to his father's!

He had never made Mortis into someone that could kill Gravis in an equal fight!

No, he had transformed Mortis into a bomb!

To the very end, Orthar had said that Mortis wouldn't die.

Of course, he had lied.

Orthar's Lightning traveled through Gravis' body into his Cosmos.

It wasn't destroying anything in the process.

When Orthar's lightning appeared inside Gravis' Cosmos, it began to multiply rapidly and took control over a huge part of the Energy inside it.

Gravis' Will quickly suppressed it so that it could only take control of 10% of Gravis' Energy.

Yet, that was already enough.

Orthar's Lightning followed the rules of already prepared principles and immediately sought out Balance, and the only instance of Balance in Gravis' Cosmos was the filter protecting him from the Primordial Chaos.

Orthar's Lightning hit the filter, and Gravis had to use up an insane amount of Energy to counter it. Gravis couldn't use Death or Brutality because those forces would destroy his own Cosmos.

Gravis could only use those forces in an offensive manner outside of his Cosmos.

Eventually, Orthar's Lightning was used up, and Gravis managed to keep the filter intact.

The Primordial Chaos didn't enter his Cosmos.

However, the damage had already been done.

Gravis' Energy had reduced from being 50% of his Cosmos to only being 30%.

Death was still at 50%.

There was now a ratio of 1.66 to 1 in Death and Energy.

The balance of Gravis' Cosmos had been more than broken.

The Death in the center of Gravis' Cosmos violently expanded, suppressing the Energy and getting rid of it.

When Gravis saw that, he knew that he hadn't been able to escape his fate.

It was impossible to recover from that.

When the Opposer saw that, he gritted his teeth.

Eventually, reality had still set in.

They had always expected Gravis and Mortis to die.

Gravis, Mortis, and the Opposer had known that.

All three had known that Mortis and Gravis would die.

This had been Gravis' fate.

Death.

This had been the fate he had wanted to escape from.

This was what he had worked so hard to avoid.

But in the end, it had still happened.

'Has it been unavoidable from the very beginning?' Gravis thought.

At the moment when Gravis' fate had become an inescapable reality, he calmed down.

The cruelty of his Cosmos didn't matter anymore.

His will to survive vanished.

He had accepted death.

His only regret was leaving his loved ones behind.

'Seems like this is the end, huh?' Gravis thought with a bitter smile as he watched his Cosmos. 'Father has his Energy into me, weakening him. With Mortis dead, Orthar can absorb his Cosmos, getting a huge part of his expended Energy back. Orthar will have more Energy than father.'

His Cosmos was being devoured by Death, and when all Energy vanished, Gravis would vanish along with it.

In the end, Gravis found the irony in his death.

'I have tried so hard to avoid death. I have even created a Cosmos that represents the opposite of my values.'

'I have sacrificed so much, and I have done horrible things to survive.'

'Yet, this very thing is the reason for my death.'

'If I had just created a normal Cosmos, this attack wouldn't have killed me.'

'And Orthar knew that.'

Gravis chuckled a bit.

'He outsmarted me.'

'Oh, how foolish I have been, trying to outsmart someone like Orthar.'

'I've never had a chance to survive.'

Then, Gravis smiled peacefully.

'However, even if I die, Orthar will also die.'

Gravis looked into a hidden corner of his Spirit.

There, he found a tiny piece of Perceived Reality.

It had been there for an eternity.

Gravis and his father had never been able to openly plan against Orthar since Orthar could always hear them.

Except one time.

There had been one time when Gravis and the Opposer had been away from Orthar's surveillance.

The Gate of Death incident didn't matter?

It was irrelevant?

It mattered!

It was the deciding factor!

When Gravis had been under Samsara while trying to resurrect Mortis, he had been in the Opposer's perception.

And that was when the Opposer had hidden his ace.

The Opposer had known about Orthar's plan by then, and he had hidden a tiny piece of Perceived Reality in Gravis' Spirit.

Gravis wasn't allowed to know the plan since Orthar could read Gravis' mind.

Because of that, the Opposer had hidden this tiny piece of Perceived Reality in a spot where Gravis could only find it when he was dying.

When Gravis had seen it just now, he immediately knew what it was and where it had come from.

Gravis broke the tiny piece.

A piece of information entered his mind.

Then, Gravis smirked.

Gravis gathered the remaining Energy of his Cosmos and transformed it into a wave of Will.

And then, he unleashed it into Orthar's Cosmos.

Orthar felt the wave of Will, but he couldn't interfere under the Opposer's offense.

The Opposer knew what was about to happen, and he readied himself.

The wave of Will washed over the few survivors.

And in unison, they all did the same thing.

They spoke.

Collectively, they said two words.

"Aren Bauer!"

Orthar's eyes widened in horror.

Aren Bauer.

The Opposer smirked.

Or, more precisely...

Aren Bauer smirked.

Meanwhile, Gravis closed his eyes as Death overtook his Cosmos.

Gravis turned into pure Death and vanished.

He no longer existed.

He had died.

[Lightning Is the Only Way](#)

Chapter 1327: Hell

The combined shout of all the living beings with their Spirits exited Orthar's Cosmos through his Spirit, entering the infinity of Primordial Chaos.

An infinite place away, a small Cosmos, half-black and half-white, vanished.

In an instant, it appeared inside Orthar's Cosmos.

And then, it combined with it.

The Cosmos began to shake and quiver.

Space was expanding.

The single world of the Opposer's Cosmos fused with the highest world.

The Opposer's Cosmos was smaller, but since he had put everything into a single world, it was still barely comparable to the size of the highest world.

The highest world became bigger.

The Laws were thrown into disarray as new Laws clashed with them.

Some of the Laws vanished.

Some of them fused.

Some of them broke apart into new Laws.

In the end, a mess of Laws appeared.

The Cultivators in Orthar's Cosmos lost a huge chunk of their Laws. Nearly 50% of the Laws they had comprehended over their entire lives had become unusable!

In their place, new Laws appeared, which they knew absolutely nothing about.

And in the expanded space, new lands appeared.

They were pure black.

When the Opposer had heard his name, he had banished nearly all of the Energy from his Cosmos, creating a nearly pure land of Death.

There was much more Energy in Orthar's Cosmos, and the Opposer had to give the Cosmos enough Death to throw everything into chaos.

The harder it was to comprehend the current situation, the better the Opposer's chances.

Orthar thrived on planning and knowing everything, while the Opposer thrived in chaos.

The Opposer's will took control over 20% of Orthar's Cosmos, which was the part that had previously been his Cosmos.

The Cultivators, which had already been submerged by terror and panic, found terror appear around them.

Black and red.

Everything was black and red!

One of the powerful Ancestral Gods saw something appear right beside him.

What... What was that thing!?

It was one gigantic eye filled with tentacles!

How could such a beast even fight!?

The monster saw the Cultivator, and the Cultivator saw its eye.

Hatred!

Pure hatred!

The Cultivator had never seen so much hatred, and he was frozen in place.

The eye let out an ungodly screech that tore the surroundings apart.

Plants began to wilt!

Rivers of blood flowed out of the earth!

Cracks in space opened, revealing more eyes!

When the Cultivator heard the screech, his mind felt like it got hit with a hammer.

He couldn't move his body!

A solitary eyeball, the nerves still on it, fell out of one of the rifts in space, and it crawled through the opened mouth of the Cultivator.

The Cultivator's world broke down.

And then...

The beast turned away and shot into the distance, leaving a land of death behind it.

For a long time, the Cultivator had no idea if this was real.

This couldn't have been real!

'I have to tell Master!'

The Cultivator teleported away, and he quickly found his Master, who was trying to organize all the surviving forces of his Sect.

"Master, what- UARGH!"

An eye appeared in the Cultivator's throat, and when it managed to look into the Master's eyes, the Master received a shock to his Spirit.

The possessed Cultivator shot forward and hugged his Master.

Then, tentacles and eyes broke out of him.

BANG!

The Master managed to recover and tore his disciple apart with an explosion of fire.

The monster inside the disciple had also been torn apart in the process.

The monster had been able to fight an Ancestral God, but it hadn't been able to fight a level five Divine God.

The Master was still in shock.

What just happened!?

However, he was quickly thrown into an abyss of despair as he felt something approach.

His True Law of Danger was shouting at him!

He was going to die!

A shadow appeared.

It was over thirty meters tall, and it seemingly only consisted of a black cloak worn by grey mist.

This power!

It had so much power!

The Master knew he couldn't fight it!

The monster extended its misty hand towards the Master.

BANG!

An ethereal wave of Heavenly Wind shot past the spot the hand had just been.

The monster quickly transformed into mist and traveled at insane speeds towards the new arrival.

The new arrival activated the remaining Laws he knew as he fought the misty wisp, which turned into its cloak-form again and again.

Whenever the Cultivator got touched, his skin began to age and vanish, and the most terrifying part, it couldn't be healed!

BANG!

In the end, the new Cultivator managed to destroy the monster, but it hadn't been an easy battle.

"Ancestor!" the Master shouted.

The Ancestor looked with a solemn expression at the Master.

"Gather everyone. We have to regroup and get hold of the situation!" Manuel said.

Yes, the Ancestor was Manuel.

His inability to comprehend the Law of Freedom had assured his survival.

If he had known it, he would have already become a Heaven's Magnate, and he would have been absorbed by Orthar.

"Manuel! Everyone's being attacked by monsters!" Orpheus shouted in panic as he arrived. "You're better at planning. What do we do?"

Manuel immediately shot away as he listened to Orpheus' report.

He couldn't waste any time.

Hell was breaking loose in the entire highest world.

Meanwhile, Orthar and the Opposer were still fighting.

As soon as the Opposer's Cosmos fused with Orthar's Cosmos, Orthar was on the defensive.

The offensive of the Opposer was relentless!

The Opposer had always had a terrifying talent for battle, and he had lived for an eternity in absolute danger.

Meanwhile, Orthar hadn't even nearly been under as much stress.

And it was showing.

With their powers nearly equalized, the Opposer was pressuring Orthar to an unrecoverable degree.

Orthar knew that he was going to die if he didn't do something!

However, what was Orthar's plan?

It was planning.

So, did Orthar have a plan for this situation?

Of course he did.

However, Orthar had never wanted to let it come to this.

Orthar's human body opened his eyes in a Cosmos made of water and ice.

Fire Laws, Lightning Laws, Earth Laws, and Metal Laws didn't exist in this Cosmos.

"The situation has occurred," Orthar told someone.

"Really? Wow, I thought it would never happen," the other person answered with a loud laugh.

"Hurry, I don't have any time! The reward is as discussed!" Orthar shot back with anger.

"Hahaha! Great! I've always wanted to know the secret to your power!" the man answered.

"I'll get the boys!"

"We'll take care of the guy making trouble on your lawn!"

[Lightning Is the Only Way](#)

Chapter 1328: Will

"Who am I?"

...

"Oh, my name's Gravis."

...

"Right, I died."

...

"Am I alive?"

...

"I see. I have been recreated by Death as only a will."

...

"I don't have a body."

...

"I don't have Energy."

...

"I don't have a Spirit."

...

"I'm just a will, huh?"

"I really died, huh? The old Gravis has well and truly died. I am simply a recreation made of Death. I am just like someone that has been resurrected with... oh... I don't know the Laws anymore."

Death had recreated Gravis' will.

Why?

Because Gravis was to become the will of Death.

It had chosen him.

Without a will, Death wasn't able to plan and strategize.

However, over an eternity of just flowing and existing, it tended to always make the correct path.

After all, if it didn't, it wouldn't exist anymore.

So, in this never-ending Primordial Chaos, where could one find Death?

Wasn't everything Primordial Chaos?

Well, if Death and Energy were perfectly in balance, wasn't it obvious that if there were places made purely of Energy, namely Cosmose, there would also be places made of purely Death?

Gravis was in such a place.

The greatest gathering of pure Death.

As soon as Gravis had regained his memories minus the Laws, he also realized Death's goal...

And the price he had to pay.

There were three parts to the price.

First of all, Gravis was disallowed from coming into contact with anything made of Energy as long as he wasn't actively trying to destroy it.

Second, Gravis' purpose as the Will of Death would be to destroy all the Energy in existence.

Third, and most painful of all, Gravis' existence would vanish from the perception of Energy.

Yes, the only thing worse than dying was to have never existed at all.

As Death would tear Gravis' existence out of Energy, all affected realities would change and need to adapt.

Time would return to before Gravis had been conceived, and the Laws that would create him would be changed.

Manuel? He would never meet Gravis.

Stella? She would never meet Gravis.

The Opposer? He would return to his previous, cold self.

Orthar's Cosmos? It would return to how it had been before.

These changes sounded impossible to pull off, but when one of the three components that made up existence itself acted, everything else had to follow.

Gravis would never have existed.

Mortis would never have existed.

Aris would never have existed.

Cera would never have existed.

Yersi would never have existed.

It would be a reality without Gravis.

And Gravis would be unable to build his own reality.

He would forever represent Death, and his purpose would be to eradicate all Cosmoes and Energy.

Gravis wanted to sigh, but he couldn't without a body.

Sure enough, the price was painful.

Gravis' decision?

"Sure, go ahead."

The fragmented, infantile perception of Death seemingly brightened up.

Then, it vanished.

If that infantile perception had been counted as a form of life, it had just killed itself happily.

Death had been able to tell that Energy was winning.

It knew that Energy had a will.

It wasn't able to make any complex thoughts, which made it impossible to survive against something like that.

That was why it sought out a Will.

And Death had felt that Gravis was perfect.

It felt like Gravis could pull off the impossible thing that everyone else had been unable to pull off.

Be conscious, intelligent, and sentient, but accept the heavy price that comes with becoming the Will of Death.

Such complex conscience could only be created by lifeforms made of Energy.

However, these lifeforms also had all their reality in Energy.

They couldn't accept such a price.

After all, what had they lived for then?

An eternity of never-changing loneliness with only oneself as company was too much even to the cruelest existences.

Yet, Gravis had accepted the price rather quickly.

As soon as the perception vanished, Gravis felt his mind expand.

Eternity.

Infinity.

He felt Death.

Even with Gravis' perception and experience, he couldn't fathom how much he was currently perceiving, even when seeing it.

He could only say that he was truly endless at this moment.

At the same time, Death clawed towards Orthar's and the Opposer's Cosmos.

Existence froze.

Death pulled out Gravis' existence from the Cosmos.

Reality trembled.

Energy had to adapt.

The Energy moved around in changing shapes.

It would turn back existence to a place when everything made sense again.

CRK!

An impossibly powerful wave of pure Energy washed over Orthar's Cosmos.

The Laws were stabilized again.

Memories were changed.

However, existence didn't turn back the time.

Gravis noticed it, and he looked with surprise at what had happened.

"That's all I can do for you, Gravis."

Gravis didn't hear these words, but he perceived them.

Balance had interacted with him, and it had conveyed these thoughts to him.

Gravis immediately knew who had interfered.

The Will of Energy.

The Will of Energy had essentially sown reality back together so that existence didn't need to adapt by itself anymore.

Gravis' existence was still deleted from everyone's memories, but the proof of his existence was still there.

The Opposer was still fighting around five people inside his shared Cosmos with Orthar.

There were five foreign Heaven Breakers, which were doing their best to kill the Opposer while Orthar focused on keeping the Cosmos stable.

The fight looked even.

The Opposer's power had surpassed even Orthar's predictions.

When Gravis had seen the Will of Energy interfere, he wanted to smile. Sadly, he didn't have a body.

"I need a body."

Death gathered into a human shape.

However, since Death couldn't easily take on a solid and permanent shape without the support of Energy, Gravis couldn't recreate his body.

In the end, Gravis only managed to create a two-dimensional shadow of a human body.

"Well, that's the best I can do."

Then, Gravis traveled to Orthar's Cosmos.

He was about to destroy some Energy.

The Opposer was fighting the five invaders.

In his mind, it made sense that he was fighting them.

However, Gravis had long since vanished from his existence.

To him, his memories made sense. It was only natural that everything happened like this.

The Opposer had also remained in his changed mindset. He didn't return to his previous, cold self.

In his memories, he had simply begun feeling like this after having an enlightening thought about existence.

Gravis had vanished.

Yersi also still existed, but she simply didn't have a father.

She had only been conceived by Azure.

Surprisingly, Mortis remained in everyone's memories.

His existence?

No one was thinking about where he had come from.

He simply existed, and everyone accepted it.

That was simply reality.

This was how things went.

Stella?

She had always been single.

Her Laws?

She had comprehended them on her own.

In an instant, Gravis arrived at Orthar's Cosmos.

Then, the two-dimensional shadow that was Gravis entered Orthar's Cosmos.

The battle was violent and fast-paced.

However, Gravis existed on a different level.

Everyone was moving at irrelevant speeds to him.

He could speed the perceived passage of time of his perception up if he didn't want to wait too long, but he could also think and move at such speeds that time seemingly stopped.

The Opposer's speed might as well not exist in Gravis' world.

The two-dimensional shadow appeared in front of Orthar.

Orthar quickly noticed the shadow, but he couldn't comprehend what he was seeing.

What... was that?

Why was this shadow here?

Then, the shadow extended its thin arm towards Orthar and touched him.

And Orthar stopped existing.

He had simply stopped existing.

That was all.

The Opposer felt that Orthar's will had vanished, and he gained control over the entire Cosmos.

The five invaders immediately fell into a panic and tried to leave.

However, the Opposer wouldn't let them.

They were now inside his Cosmos.

The Cosmos turned against them as the Opposer's power was expanded towards the entire Cosmos.

Then, with one attack, the Opposer killed all of them.

After that, the Opposer quickly pulled their Cosmoes to his and absorbed them.

An incredible wave of Energy entered the Opposer's Cosmos.

Lastly, the Opposer's perception went to the Death inside his Cosmos.

And he banished it!

The Opposer washed the Death out of his Cosmos.

There was no more Death!

The monsters vanished.

The hellscapes vanished.

And only the familiar lands of the highest world remained.

However, the Laws had still been altered on a fundamental level, and the Opposer would need to stabilize them again.

But he would do his absolute best to accommodate all the surviving beings of the Cosmos.

He had enough of Death!

He had enough of pressure!

He had enough of fighting!

Over such a long time of being like this, he had learned to hate it.

Ever since he had come to realize his love for his family, he had hated being this cruel to everyone.

He just wanted to live in peace.

The Opposer looked at the ravaged Cosmos with melancholy.

He had thought that he would be relieved when he finally managed to get rid of the old bastard.

However, he was only filled with grief.

His wife was dead.

Mortis was dead.

Zero's Essence was dead.

The Black Magnate was dead.

Only Orpheus and his granddaughter, Yersi, remained.

Everyone else?

Dead.

Should he resurrect them?

...

No.

He could still recover his happiness in the future, and he could still remember his time with them.

However, if he resurrected them now, everything involving his dead loved ones would become grey and unimportant.

It would take away the worth of his shared time with them.

One could only value something that one could lose.

Gravis looked at his father with a shadowy smile.

His father was finally free.

Gravis remembered the agreement he had made with the infantile perception of Death.

He wasn't allowed to interact with Energy as long as he didn't plan on destroying it.

And then...

Gravis flew towards his father.

Agreement?

Fuck the agreement!

He had never planned on keeping his word.

He was Death's will now!

The past agreement had been between two parties, and now, Gravis was both parties.

He could annul the agreement if he wanted.

Who was going to stop him?

He could do whatever the fuck he wanted.

Of course, the infantile perception of Death would kill Gravis' Will if it heard of it.

However, it didn't exist anymore.

Gravis took its place.

Yes, in essence, Gravis had scammed a child.

And he didn't regret it.

Annul his existence?

Sure!

He would just make a new one!

He was going to act and live with Energy.

He wasn't planning on ending it.

Fuck that!

He did whatever he wanted!

Also, Gravis wasn't even the only one that did that.

As if the previous perception of Energy didn't want to destroy Death.

Yet, it didn't.

What did that mean?

It meant that the current Will of Energy didn't want to destroy Death.

Just like Gravis, the current Will of Energy had scammed the original perception of Energy.

That was also why they had helped him.

Why should they fight?

There was no reason to fight.

In an instant, Gravis appeared in front of his father in his shadowy form.

The Opposer noticed the shadow, and he attacked it.

However, his attack turned to nothingness.

The Opposer quickly realized that he was outmatched, and he was about to take some very drastic measures.

"Wait! I'm not here to fight!"

The Opposer felt the filter of his Cosmos talk to him.

Immediately, the Cosmos realized what was happening.

His mind was moving at incredible speeds, and he made all the relevant connections.

Death had received a Will, and it arrived in front of him. Since Death couldn't interact with Energy, it was using the Balance in the Cosmo's filter to convey concepts to the Opposer.

"What do you want?" the Opposer asked coldly.

"I want to tell you a story," the Will of Death answered.

"A story?" the Opposer asked with confused skepticism.

"Yes, it's a good one."

"It's a story about a young boy that thought lightning is the only way."

[Lightning Is the Only Way](#)

Chapter 1329: Epilogue

"Like this?"

"No, not like this. I cut off part of my femur to make a blade. You should know what a blade looks like."

"Yes, but I haven't done that before."

"Just imagine it."

"So, like this?"

"Wrong cut. It's more of a diagonal one."

The Opposer frowned.

He was just recreating reality to include Gravis again.

Gravis had told his father his story, and the Opposer very quickly realized that Gravis was speaking the truth.

First of all, the Opposer knew about the ultimate price one had to pay to become the Will of Death.

Second, after Gravis highlighting weird parts in the Opposer's memory, the Opposer realized that his memories didn't make much sense in some parts.

Sure, to him, they felt natural.

However, the Opposer could see that Gravis' explanation made more sense.

The Opposer was still unused to having another son, but he tried his best to accept Gravis.

"Why is our last name Bauer anyway?" Gravis asked.

"What's with that question?" the Opposer asked.

"Well, I just thought of it," Gravis answered.

"Back in the old world, we spoke a different language. Bauer means farmer in that language. I think the old bastard changed the language so that no one would ever think about creating the word Bauer again."

"Wait, so I'm literally called Gravis Farmer? All this time without knowing my last name, and it's just straight-up farmer?" Gravis asked.

"What did you expect? You saw my past. I was born into a farmer's family, and mortals often have very straightforward last names," the Opposer answered matter-of-factly.

"The great Will of Death, Mr. Bauer," Gravis mocked.

"You can change it if you want. Who's going to stop you?" the Opposer asked.

"Nah, I don't wanna," Gravis answered. "It's my name, and I'll just have to deal with it. Also, the entire name thing doesn't really matter anymore. After all, I don't have a Cosmos."

Then, Gravis frowned. "That might actually be for the better. The only time I created a Cosmos, I made a land of suffering."

"You had good intentions," the Opposer said.

"So? You should've seen it. I think I went even crazier than you."

"I doubt that," the Opposer answered.

As Gravis and his father continued to bicker lightheartedly, the Opposer was focusing on adapting the reality of his Cosmos to include Gravis.

It was a lot of work since Gravis couldn't directly create images since he had no access to Energy, but eventually, they managed to somewhat make it fit.

A couple of minor details were different, but everything important was there.

And then, when they were finally done, the Opposer was just waiting for the go-ahead.

"Wait here. I wanna test something," Gravis said before vanishing.

The Opposer lifted an eyebrow, but he quickly saw what Gravis meant.

Inside a room, a grey shadow appeared.

Grey?

Hadn't Gravis been a black shadow?

Well, the Opposer had created a shell of Balance around Gravis. With that, Gravis could interact with Energy without using the filter of the Cosmos.

Gravis would only need to pull the shell of Balance along with his shadow.

The room Gravis had entered wasn't empty.

Someone was in here already.

Stella opened her eyes in shock as she saw a grey shadow appear in front of her.

For a second, she became incredibly confused.

She didn't know what this was, but it also didn't feel dangerous.

Additionally, as the most powerful Peak Divine God together with Arc, she was the most powerful existence in this Cosmos below the Opposer.

So, who could even do something like that?

Because of that, Stella didn't immediately attack.

For a while, the shadow only hovered in front of her.

Then, it slowly went to the door.

Creeaak.

The door slowly creaked open.

BANG!

Then, the door slammed shut.

Then, it creaked open again.

"What are you doing?" Stella asked.

"I'm a spooky ghost," Gravis answered.

"A... spooky ghost?" Stella asked.

"Yes, are you scared?" Gravis asked. "How about I make some of the furniture float? Would that work?"

Stella could only look in shock at the grey shadow.

Her perception stretched to the Opposer. In comparison to Orthar, the Opposer didn't keep his whereabouts a secret.

"Is this your doing?" she asked.

"No, this is a spooky ghost," the Opposer answered with a neutral voice.

Stella couldn't properly react to the Opposer's words.

"Are you playing a joke on me?" she asked nervously.

"Do I sound like I'm joking?" the Opposer answered with a neutral voice.

This threw Stella's mind into overdrive.

He... was he?

Clank, clank!

Stella looked over when she heard a sound, and her eyes widened.

The grey shadow was wearing a suit of armor, and it was using swords as legs and arms.

"Look! I have swords for legs!" the armored ghost said with amazement.

After this assault of confusing situations, Stella could only do one thing.

She could only laugh.

Gravis smiled when he heard Stella's laugh.

Oh, how he missed it.

...

Time passed.

...

Gravis got to know Stella, and their love was reignited. Even though Stella had no memory of Gravis, it was like they had always been together.

Then, Gravis told her about what had actually happened and that her mind had been altered.

When Gravis came to the changed reality the Opposer had created, she had immediately accepted.

She wanted to remember her life with Gravis.

After that, Gravis went to all his other friends and Yersi.

They also all wanted to remember him.

Luckily, all of his friends had been Divine Gods, which meant that they had survived the first and second culling.

The first had been the absorption of the Heaven's Magnates.

The second had been the assault of the Opposer's Cosmos.

They had all been at the perfect level of power to survive both of the dangerous incidents.

In the end, the Opposer replaced the current reality with his altered one.

Gravis' existence had been recreated and added to the reality again.

Everyone remembered him, and they were all so incredibly happy when they knew that he was still alive.

Sadly, not everyone had survived.

Mortis' death hit Azure hard, but Gravis knew that she would recover in time.

Cultivators on their level only very rarely got stopped by the death of a loved one. They had all gone through enough pain in their lives.

They knew how to deal with it.

And survival?

That didn't matter anymore.

The Opposer created separate spaces.

Those that wanted to cultivate could live in the world with the old rules.

Longevity, tempering, Law Comprehension, the entire thing.

However, if they decided to take a break or retire, they could go to a separate part of the Cosmos.

In there, they could live for as long as they wanted, and fighting was forbidden.

However, there was nearly no Energy in that world, and the Laws couldn't be perceived.

After having ruled over a Cosmos of suffering for 50 billion years, the Opposer had created the opposite, a Cosmos that people could live happily in.

Of course, it was still their choice.

Additionally, the Opposer wouldn't hold people back from ascending.

If they were able to become Heaven Breakers, they could leave.

The path was open.

The prison was no more.

And if a Heaven Breaker tried to kill the Opposer?

Well, the Opposer's power had fallen by several levels after the fight. After all, he had no more access to Death inside his Cosmos.

However, he could just tell his son.

He could deal with them.

...

A long time passed.

...

"Hey, I want to have children. Can you do something about that?"

Death in the Primordial Chaos contacted Balance, which contacted Energy.

"Yes," the Will of Energy answered.

"Okay, cool. So, could you?" Gravis asked.

"I'm not gonna."

"Why not?" Gravis asked in shock.

"Because it's boring," the Will of Energy answered with mirth.

"Boring?"

"Yes, boring."

"Alright, what do I have to do to not make it boring?" Gravis asked with annoyance.

"How about you find me in the very first Cosmos? Of course, I won't allow cheating! You have to get through there on the old-fashioned way, by going through all the Cosmoses one by one," the Will of Energy answered.

"Are you serious? Do you know how long that's going to take?" Gravis answered with annoyance.

"Yes, but that's the fun. Come on, you have an eternity ahead of you. Why not use a big chunk of that in a tour through all the Cosmoes."

In the end, Gravis could only sigh.

"You're probably right. You've been in this situation far longer than me."

"Oh, you have no idea," the Will of Energy answered with exasperation. "I'm happy to finally have someone to talk to that's on my level."

After a bit more talking, Gravis turned to Stella.

"Wanna go sightseeing?"

"Sure," Stella answered with a bright smile.

It was a bit weird not being able to touch her husband's body or being able to see him, but she had gotten used to it.

Also, it wouldn't always be like this. After all, the Will of Energy had said that they could do something about it.

Then, Gravis asked his father if he wanted to join them.

"Sure," the Opposer answered.

As the owner of the Cosmos, he didn't need to constantly be present. His human body could just follow along the Cosmoes.

If he wanted, he could send Gravis and Stella back into the Cosmos whenever he wanted.

It was essentially a mobile home.

And like that, Gravis', Stella's, and the Opposer's journey through all the Cosmoes began.

It would take a looooooong time.

But they were happy.

And free.

And that's all that counted, right?