

## Once Human 221

### Chapter 221

Staring at the hardly injured Arthur and the sheer quantity of Nether Energy being absorbed by him, the alertness the Sovereign was feeling intensified . Every time they hunted a Dark Magic, never had been a case like this because usually, these targets could only use Dark Magic which is vulnerable against the Holy Attribute .

'We must inform the Echelon about this!'

The old man was smart enough to change his priorities from capturing or killing Arthur to informing the higher-ups of this strange case, if they do not about such danger then with enough time to grow up, this target can cause them big troubles, and this is proved by an ancient story where a Dark Magic user almost annihilated the whole Holy Echelon by himself .

Although the old man joined the fray, Arthur was neither going to focus him nor defend against him, such feats are not easily feasible unless he puts all his attention on the old man and disregards the two women .

These two women were frightened by the sudden death of their comrades but they didn't lose hope as the old man was still with them and with his help, victory is in their sight .

The two stretched their large white wings, flapping them heavily to disperse the Dark Flames scattered near them . Arthur wasn't going to wait for them to wait until they feel comfortable or chat with the curious old man, he held Makaze in his right hand and slapped a white talisman on the ground .

Since the old man surely sensed that something was off, he decided to use more diverse skills but not show the powerful ones like the Heavenly Arrow, Rinotsu or even Rizaki, these are needed in critical times, when he was sure that his attack will deal a fatal blow .

Arthur's body transformed into a yellow streak of lightning that went straight toward the two women, all they could see was a yellow sparkle before he was before them .

Their speed may not match his, however, they were not inexperienced fighters, they were Peak Gods for a reason .

The two white spears swept towards each other, making an 'X' sign to deflect the incoming streak of lightning but again, the streak vanished from their sight only to appear behind the two of them, dumbfounding them and forcing the old man to act again .

Contrary to before, it wasn't an open palm that struck Arthur but a mighty fist, his figure heavily crashed on the ground with the fist of light pressing it, wanting to crush his bones and disabling his movements .

"You're not his match, quickly leave this place and go inform the echelon . I'll keep him occupied . "

The old man ordered the two as he kept pressing his fist on Arthur's body, however, as a certain point, the body dispersed into a grey miasma that vanished into nothingness very quickly .

"Not good, get out of there!"

Unfortunately for the two women, by the time they heard their superior's warning, it was too late . Arthur had been using the clone conjured from the Shadow Magic since the moment he used [Faster Than Death] when he was closing up on the two women . He changed the tactic a bit, sneaking around under the earth and making perfect use of the dark cube and its properties .

The two women raised their spears and used their wings to protect their bodies but what they didn't expect is countless dark and ominous chains to abruptly surface from the earth .

One of the two was quicker than her comrade, she used the snake conjured in her spear to push her friend from the grasp of the chains, as for herself, it was too late as the thick chains enveloped both her lower limbs . Such chains are breakable given enough seconds but that amount of time was more than enough for Arthur to finish the job .

Countless Dark Spears appeared from all the walls of the dark cube, going directly at the trapped weapon, the numbers of spears were endless, even if the wings, which was protecting her from the penetrative force of the Dark Magic could resist one thousand spears, it can't resist ten thousand .

Moreover, Arthur wasn't going to sit idly and wait for results either . He knew that the old man was trying to locate him and if he surfaces right now then he would be exposed, the only reason he wasn't found was thanks to the dark cube's interior space . It was completely made of Dark Magic, so was Arthur right now, which made him blend with this space and pass undetected by the Sovereign .

Within only five seconds, the Holy Wings showed signs of dispersing, this was apparent from the countless small holes of light formed from the Dark Spears which unceasingly hit the terrified woman . By no means did she expect to be driven to such a poor state by merely a Dark Magic User at the Peak of the Divine Realm . No matter how talented the target is and how trump cards he has, he should never be this strong, even the old man was aware of that which is why urgent urged them to leave the dark cube lest they miserably perish in such a gloomy and ominous place .

The old man ignored the suffering woman who was being bombarded by the Dark Spears and focused all his Nether Energy in his finger, which shot out a thin beam of light that hit the dark cube's wall, causing it to shake heavily then creating a small opening, barely enough for the woman to escape .

At first, when she saw her friend in danger, she wanted to help, however, upon the orders of the old man, she had no choice but quickly to leave, afraid that Arthur appears out of nowhere again and attacks her, she was overcome with helplessness that a God like her never felt and she felt incomparably weak against this strange entity, which overpowered three Peak Gods with only a cultivation at the Peak of the Divine Realm .

Arthur also noticed the opening and was forced to act fast, his dark flaming figure surfaced from the ground, right behind the woman, who left the dark cube at last but only managed to cross a small distance .

The old man was preoccupied with opening in the dark cube but when his underling left, he shifted his attention to Arthur, who appeared out of nowhere again, making him wonder what kind of technique is this, as even Spatial Teleportation could be detected by a Sovereign like him but for some reason, he couldn't predict when or where he would teleport to, or how the technique even works .

Arthur bent his back onward, with Makaze in his sheath, vibrating intensely, ready to burst out of its sheath and unleash a powerful blow .

He shifted his use to Mana to let his Nether Energy recover and unhesitatingly used [Thousand Waves], his strongest sword-related skill . His target was obviously the fleeing woman as he could not afford to let any witness escape alive, especially one of these people, as the more information they got on him, the worse it is for him as they would send stronger reinforcement and may even attack his friends or family .

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At last, Makaze left its sheath, releasing with it phenomenal tidal waves of raging Dark Mana, cracking the surrounding space and bringing with it an immense pressure, alarming even the old man, who was sure that such a strike would even hurt him .

'First Wave, Black as night, Calamity descends!'

A curtain of darkness covered the sky, changing the bright and sunny day to complete darkness, where even the view of a God could extend only to a short distance .

This, however, was only the beginning of the fleeing woman's nightmare, she breathed a sigh of relief once she left the dark cube but it hasn't been ten seconds yet the environment had a drastic change . The first person to react was the old man, who waved his hand, retrieving a long golden staff from his storage and immediately rushing at Arthur, intending to interrupt his strike or at least divert its direction so that the woman could flee safely .

A strike that could alter weather and cause such change is not something ordinary, albeit the target being a Peak God, what Arthur demonstrated earlier is not something to laugh at or underestimate .

One can only imagine how strong this strike is going to be, knowing that even normal sword slashes could potentially injure his underlings, then this kind of powered attack would obliterate them, leaving nothing but empty space .

As Arthur slashed down toward the fleeing woman, he performed the slash with lightning speed, shattering the very space Makaze passed through and launching an enormous wave of jet black energy, created by mostly sharp Arthur's Sword Energy .

The speed of the black wave was faster than the old man could have imagined, by the time he appeared next to Arthur and swung down his golden staff, the dark wave enveloped the fearful woman without any means of resistance . One second she was fleeing in a direction and the other there was nothing but the dark wave, which dispersed in a dark fog, the sky also regained its color and the weather returned to normal .

[Thousand Waves] is the strongest attack Arthur could muster after Rizaki, it was even superior to the Heavenly Arrow, this was thanks to its properties . It could be used along with other attributes and even without them, purely from Sword Energy .

Arthur's mind relaxed a bit when he got rid of the woman, but the fight wasn't over, in fact, it hasn't even begun, the Gods he got rid of were nothing compared to the old man . He had the advantage of surprise, they largely underestimated him, especially the young man, which made it easier to get rid of

them but it didn't look like the old man was the naive type, he was cautious from the beginning and he didn't hold back in his previous attacks .

The incoming staff which was going to hit Arthur's left shoulder and probably causes more than half of the bones of his body to shatter, halted mid-air as it met with the strengthened Dark Barrier condensed especially to defend against the old man when he's busy unleashing [Thousand Waves] .

"There's no escape, little vermin!"

The old man's eyes turned into two blinding lights and his aura rose, the Dark Barrier could no longer hold on and shattered, thankfully, Arthur had enough time to face the old man and slash with Makaze, which was no longer dark but had the color of snow, pure white with narrow edges and small lightning streaks twirling around it .

'Second wave, Thunderous God, Punishment for the Sinners!'

'Bzzzt'

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A loud clapping sound was heard as white thunder raged and an ear-deafening explosion was heard from hundreds of miles away .

The staff was met with the white blade, causing severe cracks to the Dark Cube, which apparently couldn't hold on any longer . An illusory figure of an old man with a long beard appeared above Arthur, the old man raised his long magical staff to the cloudy sky then pointed its tip at the old man, who was momentarily startled by this but managed to snap out of his astonishment .

A crack between the dark clouds appeared, bringing with it a thunderous roar belonging to a blade made out of pure Godly Thunder, it descended toward Arthur's opponent, ready to annihilate him .

In response to this, the old man waved his scepter, which flashed flew out of his hand and met with the enormous sword descending upon him, the scepter enlarged in size and rotated horizontally with blinding Holy Light emanating from it . What came out of the blinding light was a four-meter long shield that blocked the thunder sword from hurting its target .

The Godly Thunder is explosive by nature and when it's used in a powerful skill such as this one, its might is doubled, so one could easily guess the outcome of the clash between the huge sword and bright white shield .

The dark cube started falling apart, little by little, and devastation caused by this clash was not unnoticed by the surrounding people .

Although Arthur traveled a safe system from the city, the destruction caused by this clash couldn't pass undetected . The enormous thunder sword was even seen from the city, this alerted the guards and even the Kang Family which sent its elders to activate the defensive barrier to protect the city from the battle . Sitting on top of the walls surrounding the city and gazing at the direction of the fight, Kang Amidel felt the heavy energy fluctuation that even reached him from such a big distance .

Winds raged and howled as strong waves of energy disturbed the sunny day and caused clouds to turn the normal day into a gloomy one and frightening the weaker cultivators .

The previous curtain of darkness didn't reach the city but this clash was more destructive due to the thunder's property and the strong defense of the white shield thrown by the Sovereign .

"Is this the battle of Peak Gods, Dad?"

Kithel, who was standing next to his father along with Emily and Swain, who went back to the city per the orders of his master .

Amidel glanced at Swain and calmly replied

"Why don't you ask your new friend?"

Kithel was confused at first then seemed to have realized something . Swain came back yet his master didn't, which meant that there is a big chance that the master is involved one way or another .

"Hey hey, is it really your master out there? How come I couldn't sense she was this strong?!"

Emily wasn't worried about the fight, she was as curious as always, she also felt a bit surprised since she couldn't see through Swain's master .

Swain stared at the horizon, his eyes pulsating with a red light, he remained expressionless and didn't reply to Emily, who kept pestering him . After a few seconds, he looked at Amidel, who was glancing at him and replied

"A man's duty is not spectating, therefore, the servant shall excuse himself . "

Swain bowed toward Amidel and silently left the area, heading toward the Kang castle . Emily wanted to keep watching what's happening, but she couldn't let Swain alone, so she followed right after him . She caught up with him in no time and asked again

"What's wrong, Swain? Do you not want to see what a fight between Peak Gods is?"

Again, receiving no reply from him made the little girl pout but she didn't insist like last time, she kept glancing back every few seconds, interested in what's causing the troubled winds and raging Nether Energy coming from that direction . Seeing her like that, Swain smirked and said

"You ask a lot of questions, don't you?"

The girl stuck her tongue out cutely and retorted

"My brother always says curiosity is my besetting sin . "

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In another corner of the city, a group of people with long ears and brown robes stared at the gigantic Thunder Sword with fear, this group belonged to the Desert Gargoyles with Ehrendil leading them . The leader looked thoroughly at the Thunder Sword, for some reason, he was feeling the same ominous energy he felt back in their headquarters, when the dark cube popped out of nowhere .

"We'll just watch, for now, then we'll go see who's fighting who . "

Obviously, he was only talking to the commanders, the juniors will stay at the city lest they die from a collateral attack launched by Tarathiel, who was leading the Desert Gargoyles .

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Another group of gargoyles which left the city a while ago stared with fright and awe at the descending sword, which cut a hole through the dense clouds and caused the raging winds to reach them .

"A fight has already broken out, we must take heed and travel safely without alerting any enemies .  
Protecting general Rose is the top priority . "

Tarathiel ordered his subordinates as they circled the white-armored Rose, who had become an important figure in the tribe . She was young and talented, and she was a General to begin with, the only downside is that she only had one arm but such a thing could be fixed, for these reasons, Tarathiel planned to place all his bets on her, to nurture her to be a strong leader that could lead them out of this wasteland .

'I know this feeling, it's 'him' without a doubt! To think he was this strong...'

The one who was most familiar with Arthur was most definitely Rose, who had him possess her forcefully and bore with him inside her for a period of time, so she was quite sensitive to Dark Magic, which is a part of Arthur and now that it has been unleashed to such a degree, there is no way she wouldn't be able to not feel it or be mistaken about it . She touched the hilt of her sword and followed her kin, marching toward their territory while making use of the dense forest to cover them .

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"It's not Peak Gods, right, dad?"

Kithel's eyes were locked onto the large sword, wondering what kind of person could summon such a mighty sword .

"It's not, it's a battle between Sovereigns, I can sense strong and pure Holy Magic and explosive Thunder source from that sword, it's difficult for the city to remain unscathed even with the existence of the barrier . Amidel didn't wait for his son to reply before he got out of the city, standing a dozen meters in front of the barrier, planning to personally act if something unexpected happens .

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Upon the occurrence of the clash between the gigantic thunder sword and the white shield, a huge white sphere enveloped the two of them, creating a raging storm around the area and only a few seconds after its appearance, it exploded, resulting in an immense crater under it and sending both the old man and Arthur flying away .

Being a Sovereign, the old man sustained some injuries that were not serious despite that his robe was dyed with blood, his face was brimming with energy and vitality as if this blow didn't cause him any harm whatsoever .

On the total opposite, Arthur smashed into the earth ten miles away . He had several broken bones and an ugly wound on his chest, although it was quite a severe injury, it healed very fast at a speed even the naked eye could see, this wall thanks to his Vitality stat, which boosted his recovery by a huge margin .

Unaffected by the gushing blood, Arthur got up and shot straight at the old man, Makaze in his hand, but the black flames surrounding him and his blade dimmed a lot and the Sword Energy Makaze was

unleashing was decreasing every second . This was due to [Thousand Waves], to unleash its full potential, it required a powerful blade, a user in a high Realm and a big pool of Mana or Nether Energy, he only executed two waves yet it taxed him this much .

The space where the collision occurred was distorting and enormous dust waves blocked vision, the crater had a radius of fifty miles and traces of Godly Thunder could still be seen . The old man caught the falling scepter and stared with awe at his target, which became a streak of lightning, coming straight at him .

Two white illusory hands appeared behind the elder, once Arthur was in range, the old man attacked him, planning to crush the target between the two big palms .

However, before they reached Arthur, he raised his hand and used his newly acquired Spatial Magic and making use of the unstable space around them to distort it completely . Similar to a shattering glass, the space around the hands shattered, rendering them useless for a short time, Arthur made use of this opportunity to raise Makaze and prepare for the third wave .

'It's all on you now, buddy!'

Arthur unhesitatingly poured more Dark Mana into his weapon, further strengthening it . The dark blade yet again changed in appearance, scorching hot dark red flames replaced the usual dark flames, as if it was put in a furnace for a long time, Makaze became deep red, similar to the blood's color .

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The old man recognized the change and knew that Arthur's attack wasn't finished, which deepened his fear as his target was stronger than all of his expectations . This pushed him to go all out, wanting to kill this target as letting it go will cause more than simple troubles, such entity could not be left alive, even if he has to sacrifice his life for that to happen!

Just before he initiated his next wave, Arthur snapped his finger, activating the white talisman he slapped on the ground earlier . It was simply a thoroughly prepared Godly Thunder attack that can cause 'Stunned' effect . It took time to generate the thunder but it was useful, especially in such situations .

Winds howled and rains heavily poured, dark clouds clustered together and thunder noises were heard, this alerted the old man, who put all his focus on Arthur, he thought that the same kind of Thunder Sword would descend again so he through his scepter above again, which became a white shield that defended him from above .

Unfortunately for the elder, the attack was never going to come from above, Arthur used [Faster Than Death] to appear behind the enemy, and just when before he teleported, he deactivated the [Spatial Passage] skill, unleashing a bombardment of Godly Lightning in a form of a snake that opened its mouth, intending to bite its target .

For the first time since the beginning of the fight, the old man used his physical body to defend, he raised his palm to meet the white snake, it was but a simple palm strike yet the white snake couldn't resist for even a split second . The snake dispersed into countless lightning streaks, this pushed Arthur to release way more than he needed .

He coughed a huge amount of blood but still forced himself to deactivate all the Spatial Passages he had prepared . Normally, using two skills at the same time is doable but very difficult, Arthur could do so but it's incredibly stressing and causes heavy self-harm, so he restrained himself a lot but at such a critical moment, he deactivated five different Spatial Passages along with [Thousand Waves] which is still active .

That's six skills at the same time, moreover, to avoid the cooldown of the white lightning and Spatial Passage, he consecutively used [Blood for Blood] which consumed permanent Mental Power thus dropping him his Realm from 9th Grade .

Five white snakes lunged at the old man, who used the same kind of attack to defend against them, however, this time his palm turned golden as it struck the air in front of them(snakes) .

'Punishing Palm!'

As if pushed by the mere wind, the white snakes were pushed a big distance away before they vanished, unable to resist the pressure of the attack .

They didn't their job but they managed to buy Arthur enough time to finally prepare the third wave .

'Third wave, Extinguishing Flames, Fire of Redemption!'

A red blade with blazing hot flames struck the defenseless back of the old man, he wanted to use the white shield to reflect the attack in time but his reaction was a split second later . Arthur's distractions did their job and although he wanted to stun the enemy, this kind of result was welcome too .

Like a meteor falling, the old man was sent flying down with a big wave of dark flames behind his back, illuminating the dark sky and spreading a wave of intense heat that burned some of the forests at the edges of the crater .

This attack has definitely injured the old man and it wasn't some minor wounds like earlier . Arthur panted heavily as blood leaked out of his lips, the dark flames enveloping him disappeared as he returned to his normal appearance .

Even Makaze's appearance returned to normal, just a jet black curved blade that had no aura, it couldn't hold on anymore and it's unwise to continue unleashing the remaining waves of the skill, it will result in the blade's destruction and even if it could, Arthur's wasn't in a condition where he can unleash it, not at his current state, at least .

With the boost from the Dark Magic gone and the absence of Makaze, which was safely stored away, Arthur's prowess has declined with these two gone, fortunately, he still had a couple of aces up his sleeve but there is still the fact that he's injured and used a big amount of his Nether Energy and Mana .

As he was thinking was to do to buy some time for his wounds to recover, Arthur's instincts were alerted when a beam of white light shot straight at his head, aiming for a fatal strike .

The beam was evaded by a quick teleport but what awaited him next was a big illusory fist that came from below . Seeing that teleporting from it is too late, Arthur met the attack with his fist, which emanated flames from all direction .



A large fist of fire materialized itself in front of the illusory fist, soon colliding with it . One side had dark red flames blazing the sky and the other had a bright white light illuminating the gloomy sky .

Arthur made use of his Space Magic again to distort the space near the fist, weakening it and allowing his fist to push it away .

Unfortunately, just as the fist of light was pushed, the old man, who had a haggard and disheveled appearance, appeared next to him with a golden palm striking his chest .

Arthur couldn't cross his hands to defend either could the Dark Barrier be of any use against such an attack . The defenseless and injured chest of Arthur was struck by the golden palm which only pushed him a small distance away but a palm mark emitting light was engraved on him, weakening the effect of the Dark-Star strengthening technique and further wounding him .

Mouthful after mouthful of blood was coughed by Arthur, who held his chest and used Natural Lightning to extinguish the weakening light that invaded his body and acted like a deadly poison .

"To think I would be this injured from a Dark Magic user! Such a disgrace to the Holy Echelon!"

After being injured by the last strike of Makaze, the old man could no longer maintain his calm demeanor, his back was scorched from the flames and his robe was burned . His back was a gory sight of flesh and bubbles of blood that could not be healed even after he cast several Healing spells, even high-cost pills were of no cost, which infuriated the old man .

## Chapter 224

Arthur didn't stand there despite having his strength weakening . He retrieved the Griffin's body from his storage and possessed it, leaving not even enough time for the old man to witness what happened .

He just saw a griffin body made of only bones appear before him and Arthur disappear right after .

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Alerted and a bit speechless, he stared at the griffin which glared at him menacingly, he knew that Arthur must be controlling it, which increased his dread of this strange Dark Magic User .

Contrary to Arthur's expectation, the old man didn't start attacking again, he contemplated the large body of the Griffin then said

"If you're willing to surrender right now . I can guarantee your safety if you cooperate and can even help you become part of the Holy Echelon as long as the Dark Magic is purged from your body . Your abilities are top-tier and you would become a prominent figure with such power and talent . "

Although not everything he spouted was a truth, some of it was, which startled Arthur as he didn't think the enemy will propose such a thing . Nonetheless, it's not like he's going to surrender, winning is practically impossible against a Sovereign who didn't even summon his God Spirit .

There are only two results to this fight, either he comes out alive and victorious, with the old man dead, or he ends up dying, there is no cooperation or peaceful surrender, such a thing rarely occurs in a fight between Gods and the old man was aware of that yet he still attempted finishing it in a diplomatic way .

Arthur gave no response to the old man, informing the latter of his intent without the need for useless words .

"Dealing with this Sovereign is possible if you sign the contract with me, I can assure you that . "

From deep within his consciousness, the Earth Spirit spoke to Arthur again, urging him to accept the contract but Arthur turned a deaf ear to the knight, still not wanting to give up the Dimensional Stone he had gotten from the Kang Treasury .

The griffin's large mouth opened wide, showing its sharp teeth, Arthur spat several detonators at the old man, each with half the size of the Griffin .

The illusory hands appeared yet again and deflected the detonators, pushing them in a different direction . Clearly, the old man was still wary of Arthur's flames and didn't want to have direct contact with them .

The detonators crashed into the nearby forest, exploding and destroying a huge part of the greenery and bringing with it loud noises . Dark red flames and a bit of Dark Magic lingered where the collisions occurred, this place could no longer be called a forest as trees were burned to ashes, the land was scorched from the fire and the earth was corrupted from the Dark Magic .

Even the old man didn't expect the detonators to do such damage, he looked at the still burning flames, which didn't seem that they'll be extinguished by the raging winds anytime soon, even the pouring rain had no effect on them .

'This is an S-class target, I need to end this quickly!'

Arthur continued unleashing numerous detonators coupled with Void Bombs that contained countless small void mouths that ate everything in their way .

He also flew at the old man, ready to engage in melee combat while using his skills to pressure the Sovereign .

Explosions rang every second due to the exploding detonators that never ceased coming out of Arthur's mouth, even the two illusory hands couldn't deflect them all, which pushed the old man to personally act .

He waved his scepter, drawing a circle on the air, which fired a pillar of light, extinguishing all the flying detonators, the Void Bombs weren't spared from the damage as they vanished completely, which surprised Arthur as never had been a case where any Void related skill was overpowered by other technique or skills .

Making good use of [Faster Than Death], Arthur appeared inches away from the old man and used the griffin long claws to slash at his target, activating [Dark Burst] to maximize the damage .

Unfortunately, the old man was a Sovereign and landing such an attack on him isn't an easy feat, the scepter became a white shield that protected its master from the incoming claws .

The illusory hands joined the fight, each forming into a fist and flying at Arthur from two directions .

[Faster Than Death] was used yet again, teleporting Arthur in front of the old man this time, he opened his mouth wide as if he wants to devour the elder, then from within the bottomless mouth a grey orb appeared . It started expanding in size at an alarming speed until it reached a considerable size .

The old man snorted and did a quick hand seal in the air

"Hmpf! Insolence! Holy Arts third chapter: Radiance Seal!"

A runic symbol pulsating with Holy Light appeared where the hand seal was written, it was only the size of the old man's hand but the Holy Light was too pure, to the point of burning the bones of the Griffin, turning them into particles of light that dispersed into nothingness .

This grey orb was a trump card he only used against Meyzu, it's made purely from accumulated Death Energy . This energy is hard to obtain so Arthur only uses it in emergency situations, such as this one .

The grey orb's speed was unimaginable, it struck the Radiance Seal, shaking it heavily and even causing blood to leak out of the old man's lips .

This, however, was but the beginning, Death Energy, or all negative types of Energies were the total opposite Holy Energy, so its effect was stronger, making some cracks appear on the white seal .

Seeing this, the old man grabbed his scepter and pressed its tip on the white

"Holy Arts, first Chapter: Holy Enforcement!"

The light emanating from the seal magnified, it pushed the grey orb away, trying to deflect it away . The griffin's still opened mouth spat grey fog with an ominous aura similar to the orb, the fog transformed into a whirlpool that engulfed both the seal and the orb, along with the old man with them .

As for Arthur, he quickly retreated since he wasn't immune to Death Energy, it's hard to control and could cause harm to its user, just like the Void Attribute .

The grey whirlpool expanded in size while the old man was still inside, flashes of white light were seen inside of it but these lights were insignificant and couldn't disturb the flow of the whirlpool .

The bones of the Griffin shattered and turned into dust so Arthur left it and used his main body again .

His left eyes pulsed with grey light and his hair became deep grey, different from the usual, the white seal didn't even touch him but its effect was horrifying .

Some of his Vitality and lifespan were eaten away without his notice, if not for possessing another body, he would have suffered the full attack and it would've been a fatal strike . His face was as pale a sheet of paper and he couldn't perfectly control it, it was shaking from the accumulated stress .

If not for his high recovery, he would have been defeated a long time ago, this reassured Arthur but he still had no solutions, he knew that the grey whirlpool isn't enough to kill a Sovereign .

As he breathing heavily and looking at the rotating whirlpool, the sky shook and the ground shattered, a golden figure appeared out of the grey whirlpool, with a bloodied robe, a half-broken scepter, and an enraged expression, the old man looked miserable with dust on his face, a not so healthy skin and a broken weapon .

The white seal had eaten some of Arthur's lifespan but unlike the seal, Death Energy was more direct, it brought its target closer to his imminent death . Fast aging and destabilizing the body, similar to an old mortal that could barely move, that's what the whirlpool did .

It didn't attack physically or mentally, but its effect is dangerous and almost unavoidable, especially if the target is confident enough in being able to resist it instead of dodging .

"What did you do to me!"

The old man felt strange energy invade his body and even with the help of the Holy Arts he still wasn't able to drive it out, it circulated through his veins, meridians, and even his Dantian, making him feel uncomfortable and greatly weakened .

His body turned golden as he was forced to summon his God Spirit and fuse with it, which was something only a Sovereign could do, yet despite obtaining the great power of his God Spirit, the energy was still plaguing him .

Seeing that his attack was successful, Arthur smirked back at the infuriated old man and coldly said

"You feel it, right? Death is coming and I'm here to deliver you to its door . "

## Chapter 225

For the grand finale, Arthur decided to take out the best body he could possess, the silver wolf . Although he is not in his peak state, this doesn't stop him from using the wolf's body as only with it would he be able to finish the enemy .

He had enough confidence in being able to fight equally against the Sovereign if all passives are activated, then he would aim for a battle of attrition since his Stamina is infinite, all that is left to do is wait until the Sovereign weakens over time .

If there is a chance to kill the Sovereign, of course, he wouldn't miss it, however, that is rather unlikely with how powerful the old man is right now, especially after he fused with his God Spirit .

The large body of the wolf was retrieved and its size was a bit bigger than the one he used against Meyzu and co . He wasted no time and possessed the body and activated all the passives, burdening his mind and bringing stress that weighed heavily on him, to the point of making him feel a bit dizzy .

Silver fur that wasn't affected by the falling rain, two red vicious eyes and a huge frame that brought fear to anyone who looked at it, the appearance of the wolf didn't change when all the passives were activated, but it's certain that Arthur's stats sky-rocketed . Thick chains wrapped around its back and its four limbs, but instead of limitations, Arthur used them as some kind of a defense, like an armor of some sort since besides himself, no one could break them .

"In the end, what are you?"

The old man couldn't help but ask that as he looked at his target, which transformed into a beast every a few exchanges, however, what's more, frightening is that the new appearance is always more threatening than the last .

"What I am does not matter, you should focus on what's about to come . "

A calm voice rang in the old man's ears, he knew it belonged to the enemy but he felt a chill that made all his hair stand .

The silver wolf howled loudly, shattering space and frightening even the hidden spectators such as the gargoyles and Kang Amidel, who activated his physique, not daring underestimate either of the parties .

The golden luster emanating from the Sovereign body's intensified, his scepter became a white crown that rested on his head and a Holy aura enveloped him, making him look like some kind of a Holy Angel .

"Come!"

The silver wolf transformed into a grey beam that crashed into the old man's, astonishing him as he was not able to react and defend in time .

His body shot through the air and only stopped after flying for a few miles, however, what waited for him was a grey beam that didn't wait for him to stabilize his body . The old man smashed his fists together, creating a bright light that collided with the sharp claws of the wolf which came out of nowhere .

Despite being able to defend in time, such techniques were not helpful as the light was extinguished and the claws hit the old man, sending him flying yet again, blood spurted out of his mouth and an ugly wound could be seen in his chest .

Arthur's physical strength is incomparable right now, all the accumulated passives gave him unmatched speed, sturdy defense, and godly strength . A single slash of his could literally finish a Peak God, but all of this comes at a cost, and it isn't a small one .

The wolf lunged at the old man, appearing next to him within a split second, barely giving the Sovereign enough time to act .

"Holy Arts, fifth chapter: Spear of Mercy!"

A spear of only pure white light appeared above the old man, and by his will, it flew straight at the wolf . The sharp long claws which were strengthened with Natural Lightning clashed with the large spear .

Arthur's physical abilities may be greater than the old man, but his techniques and Realm are weaker, so when he clashed when he collided with the spear, he managed to resist before it struck his abdomen .

Fortunately, his defense was high and it wasn't able to injure him, it only pushed away .

The wolf's body flew a long distance, all the way to the city, in fact . It only stopped until it crashed on the barrier protecting it, this brought fear and surprise to the guards .

On the side, Amidel looked at the wolf with fear, to survive a direct hit from a Sovereign and still be uninjured, that's not easy to do, even for other Sovereigns .

As if nothing happened, Arthur rushed at the old man and clashed with him again and again, sometimes spitting detonators, sometimes using Godly Thunder or Dark Magic .

The sky near the city was colored with all kinds of spells, the ground shook, mountains split and the barrier showed signs of destruction .

'Boom!'

Yet Another detonators were deflected by the illusory hands of the old man, it landed near the walls of the city, exploding and creating an enormous crater . Two figures retreated, each into a direction, one was the old man, who looked more disheveled than before, his robe was completely red and his face was pale, he even showed signs of exhaustion .

The other one was the silver wolf, which had a few wounds all over its body but it didn't seem weakened as it growled menacingly at its enemy, ready to leap at him again .

"This damned monster..."

The old man held his scepter and retrieved a long white staff from his storage, he did a few hand seals which caused the two weapons to vibrate then fuse together as if they were one piece from the very beginning .

This, however, was the first step, the old man's face became paler as he spat a golden drop of blood, which merged with the new weapon, making it release bright golden lights that illuminated the whole area as if it was a sun .

Arthur felt overwhelming pressure and great danger from that weapon, his bestial instincts were unceasingly warning him to turn around and run but it was too late for that .

The silver wolf took a fighting stance and opened its mouth wide, not showing signs of retreat . The old man grinned and recited

"Holy Arts, Sixth Chapter: Golden Nova!"

A golden humanoid figure conjured from the old man's weapon appeared in front of him, it was three meters tall, held a blade of light and looked at Arthur, who stared back with ferocity, undaunted by the aura this figure was emanating .

The howling winds calmed down as they were all being absorbed inside the wolf's mouth, an ominous dark fog surrounded the beast and harmless dark flames were burning it .

The old man, who suffered enough strange attacks from Arthur, wasn't going to wait for the target to finish preparing his attack . The golden humanoid figure charged at Arthur, swinging its blade with full intensity at the big wolf .

Just from its Holy aura, the clustered dark cloud dispersed and the rain stopped, the figure was the embodiment of life, Holiness, and serenity .

From the countless exchanges, Arthur discovered that the old man was quite wary of Dark Magic and the Ancient Flames, he was also injured by a few Void-oriented skills .

He discarded the Ancient flames for this attack as it is too burdening and decided to use Dark Magic and Void Magic, their fusion leads to the Eclipse Magic, which he hasn't used in a very long time since it wasn't as powerful as Dark Magic .

A Heavenly Arrow from pure Eclipse Magic, it was his first try but he had high expectations, he expended a lot of Energy, he was mentally exhausted and it won't be long before he is forced to leave the wolf's body else he falls unconscious without realizing it .

As the humanoid figure got close, something flew from the wolf's large mouth, it had fast speed and so much power that all the space behind it shattered .

An orange arrow four meters long absorbed the air and Energy like a bottomless hole and strengthened itself by devouring everything as it made its way toward the golden figure .

Arthur swiftly retreated, knowing that the collision will cause catastrophic damage, there's no knowing if he gets injured by the clash and knowing the proprieties of the Void Magic, being damaged by it is irreversible .

The blade made of light and the arrow met each other, distorting space and causing an annoying ringing sound to be heard . The golden figure used its other hand to press against the other, planning to push it away as it couldn't extinguish it, however, even that was impossible as its hand was devoured the moment it touched the orange arrow .

Further strengthened, the arrow became bigger as it pressed against the white blade, absorbing its light and enlarging its size, the cycle went on until the golden figure let go of its blade and intertwined its hands, using them as a hammer to smash the arrow from above with all its strength .

At last, the arrow was forced down, it flew straight at the ground, devouring it and creating a large bottomless hole, no one knows how deep it went before it stopped .

A few seconds after it went down, a deafening explosion was heard from underground, some of the buildings in the city couldn't handle it and fell down, cultivators took refuge in safe places as the barrier shattered and the nearby mountains and hills split apart, creating large valleys and deep holes .

## Chapter 226

The golden light emanating from the figure dimmed by a lot after having deflected the orange arrow, it clearly took a huge toll on the old man as he coughed some blood . He relied on the golden figure to act right now, it's practically impossible to fight along with it as it's not a Sovereign is possible to do .

Just activating the technique required Blood Essence and a high mastery of these arts, any person under the Sovereign Realm would certainly be unable to achieve what he did .

Arthur's control over the arrow was lost which is why it ended up exploding deep underground . He probably has at most one minute before he must leave the wolf's body, any more than that would be fatal to him and it will even cause him to lose the wolf's body, which is a valuable vessel .

A grey beam flew across the sky, heavily crashing at the golden figure, shaking it violently and forcing it to stagger back . Arthur made use of this to teleport near the weakened old man and opened his mouth, spitting a large detonator .

Unfortunately for him, the golden figure teleported just like him, appearing between him and the old man, it used its hands to hold the detonator, which exploded the moment it contacts with the hands .

No sounds were heard, the explosion was safely avoided inside the golden hands, however, this wasn't the only assault Arthur had launched .

The space distorted and a lock sound was heard as a huge part of the space disappeared, taking the golden figure along with it .

[Spatial Banishment] was another technique of the deceased Spatial Master, it is difficult to use and it needs an immobile target, Arthur knew that the golden figure will protect its master and it wouldn't budge so he used this as an advantage .

With the golden figure gone for a bit of time, Arthur wasted no time in relentlessly attacking the old man, trying to finish the fight as fast as possible .

Although the golden figure was out of the battle, the illusory hands were still defending the old man, they were unharmed after all that happened and they were powerful enough to injure someone like Arthur .

The silver wolf charged at its target while slashing the air, sending a wave of dark red flames flying at the old man, ready to scorch him .

In response, the old man used the same palm technique to cut the wave of flames, however, he wasn't able to stop the melee attacks of Arthur .

The pointy teeth of the wolf bit down on the old man's shoulder, penetrating deep into his flesh and even injuring the bones .

While he was at it, Leiu injected all kinds of poisons he could use, hoping it would cause some kind of negative effect, at least .

The old man cried painfully due to the agonizing injury he received from Arthur . The silver wolf didn't let go of him no matter how much he shook his body, even the two illusory hands grabbed a part of the wolf, trying to pull him but to no avail, they weren't powerful enough to shake him .

Natural Lightning flowed from the sharp teeth to the wound, invading the old man's body and attacking his bones, heart, and Dantian, aiming for a fatal blow .

Suddenly, a golden fist out of thin air, landing on the wolf's body and sending him flying away . It was the golden figure which got out of its banishment after the time elapsed .

Arthur didn't give up just yet, [Spatial Passage] was deactivated, unleashing the Mini Heavenly Arrow that was hidden in it . The Arrow was conjured from pure Dark Magic, making it very lethal against the old man .

The arrow was rapid and its appearance was abrupt, making it perfect for such a sneak attack . The old man had breathed a sigh of relief when got rid of the clingy wolf, his guard dropped slightly when the golden figure came back, boosting his confidence once more .

What he didn't expect was a small yet nimble dark arrow that slipped through the golden figure's defense, it hit the left side of the chest and caused the Sovereign to cough mouthful after mouthful of black blood .



Dark Magic was like poison to him, who used Holy Magic, if his body isn't purified in time and this magic lingers in his body, he would die sooner or later .

He focused all his attention on ejecting the Dark Magic out, however, it was too potent and the quantity was too big despite the negligible size of the arrow .

Panic started showing on the Sovereign's face, with no choice but to use his last trump card, he lifted his shaky hand toward the golden figure, which understood its master intention .

The golden figure was no more as the long scepter appeared in the old man's hand again, he held it vertically and took a dignified pose despite the agonizing pain, he pushed his chest back and strengthened his back then said

"Holy Arts, Seventh Chapter; Clarity of Vulnerability, Great River of Healing!"

A light brighter than the sun's enveloped the old man, forcing Arthur and all the spectators to close their eyes .

After a few seconds passed, the old man appeared again, brimming with vitality as his body looked healthy, devoid of any injuries . His robe was restored and his aura was strengthened, apparently, his power increased by two if not three times .

Arthur looked at this scene with astonishment, he didn't think that the old man would be able to heal himself back to full just like that, even for a Sovereign, such a feat is not possible without a miraculous artifact .

Looking at the old man, he saw that the long scepter disappeared, so he concluded that it must have been its doing .

Arthur's speculations were right, the old man had sacrificed his weapon to activate the 7th chapter of the Holy Arts, this healed him back to peak state and doubled his original strength . With the situation reversed, the old man looked at the silver wolf and mockingly said

"Still want to fight?"

Seeing the immobile beast and hearing nothing but silence, the old man frowned but just as he was going to speak again, he saw the wolf transform into a grey-haired man with strange grey eyes .

Arthur looked back at the city, which suffered a bit of damage due to the fight but no major destruction could be seen, it must've been thanks to Amidel, who deflected all the collateral damage resulting from their fierce fight .

After checking the state of the city, he looked at the clear sky and the passing white clouds in a daze, his mind was lost in thoughts as he reminisced about the joyful memories he has with Lucy .

'I guess it's time . '

A minute of silence passed swiftly, the old man could no longer bear it and used the illusory hands to attack Arthur, still not daring to underestimate his enemy after all that happened .

Arthur retrieved a dark shield and used it to block the incoming big fist, which only managed to push him away yet do not apparent damage . The second fist came from behind but barely missed as Arthur teleported a distance away but that was predicted too as a spear of light flew straight at him, intending to nail him on the ground .

With the Dark Barrier activated, coupled with the shield he retrieved, it barely managed to stop the spear for a second before it penetrated the shield, creating a large hole in it .

Fortunately, the spear's power weakened after it penetrated the shield, nonetheless, it did hit its target, passing through Arthur's abdomen and causing blood to gush out from this grievous wound .

Seeing that Arthur was extremely weak and feeling the immense power surging in him, the old man grinned and floated toward Arthur, who was vomiting a large amount of blood, he looked on the verge of death .

A bit below the old man, approximatively fifty or so meters, a small black dot was floating there, pulsating with strange ominous light that was barely noticeable... .

## Chapter 227

"To think you wanted to defeat me, a Sovereign? That's just wishful thinking, even with monstrous abilities like yours . "

The old man looked at Arthur with an evil grin, he enjoyed the miserable look of his enemy . He didn't dare drop his guard as the illusory hands protected from both sides .

Blood leaked out of Arthur's ugly wounds, he reeked of blood and the bitter taste of this red liquid never left his mouth . He was so weakened that he could barely move, the passives were turned off but their after effect took a huge toll on his mind and body .

If he did not turn on the pain immunity, he would have collapsed from the pain long ago . Half-kneeling on the floor, Arthur grinned as he stared back at the old man, who was oblivious to what's about to happen .

Arthur used all the remaining of his Nether Energy to activate his ultimate skill, Rizaki . He used Dark Magic for this one so he won't cause himself a lot of damage, the only thing to do now is waiting for it since it required a short period of time to explode .

The small dark dot was decreasing in size but the intensity and quantity of Dark Magic inside of it are tremendous . He was certain that a lot of people would be harmed in the process and that's unfortunate, but he couldn't afford to let himself be caught or killed like this, not after all he had done to kill the Spatial Master . He had a family waiting for him, a wife and a daughter, a long life to live and it's definitely not some old foggy that's going to steal that from him .

If worse comes to worse, he would even break his chains to kill this bastard then travel to Earth, passing the rest of his remaining time with his wife . However, Rizaki is a powerful and frightening skill, even if the Sovereign was at his peak state, it would do enough damage to kill him or heavily injure him, buying Arthur enough time to retreat .

He no longer wanted to kill the enemy, escaping alive is better than perishing here even if it costs being hunted by strong people and having his trump cards and skills known to them .

"It's such a shame, really... if you were smart enough to surrender, you would have become a good seed to nurture, however, you were consumed by the Dark Magic and your soul has become tainted . "

The old man stopped a few meters away from Arthur and raised his hand, emitting Holy light that landed on Arthur, intending to finish him once and for all .

"Hahahah \*cough\* tainted? Consumed? That's just you twisting words \*cough\* but you are right in one thing... it's already too late . "

As Arthur finished his sentence, darkness that covered the whole area, the city, the mountains and stretching as far as a thousand miles . It blocked the view of every living being, all they could see is darkness, be it Gods or Sovereigns, they were all alike, trapped in this ominous darkness that brought fear, uneasiness, and dread to all who are trapped inside of it .

The old man's smiling face froze as Arthur disappeared from his view, he clutched his hand, adding more power to the Holy Light but there was no light, the darkness consumed everything, no matter how much Nether Energy he injected, he was helpless .

Kang Amidel, who was watching from afar, was also freaked out by this, he took out an old box and opened it, causing small, almost inexistent light to emanate from a pure drop of water laying there .

Without any slight hesitation, he threw the drop of water into his mouth then followed with several hand seals but despite this, the darkness was still scaring him . Light a candle in a small dark room, his body flashed with a blue light, this comforted him as his treasure had worked but the danger was still around .

He didn't dare to waste time as he rushed straight towards the direction of the city . With all his view covered by this ominous darkness, all he could hope for was that he was heading towards the right way else it would be catastrophic if the city is destroyed .

He didn't know what exactly happened, but he guessed that this was the last trick the grey-haired man had . He too, thought that the fight was over and it was the old man's win, never did he think a nightmare would befall on him this suddenly .

A growling soon followed the falling darkness, it brought chills to whoever heard it and many weak cultivators couldn't handle the terror, passing out on the spot .

The Darkness lasted for only a minute, but it felt like a day for most of those who experienced it . The high leveled skill [Nightmare] that those who are skilled in Darkness attribute have is absolutely nothing compared to this, the skill only had a radius of a dozen meters at most, but this one exceeded a hundred miles!

This was only the beginning for the Sovereign, the chilling beastly voice invaded his mind, bringing with it fear, terror and desperation .

He could only think of escaping this, even retaliation was deemed as useless in this situation . He spat more than ten drops of Blood Essence, not caring about the high cost or the backlash he may suffer later .

The old man's aura became majestic, pushing a bit of the darkness away but the darkness was still trying to consume the light? With two opposite energies were colliding with each other, coupled with the different environment the old man was currently at, the space was nonexistent, the other attributes were nonexistent, there existed light and an overwhelming quantity of Darkness .

"This is impossible!"

The Sovereign shouted angrily, his face became pale white from the sacrifice of this precious Blood Essence, what's sadder is that he could barely fight off the darkness, moving would weaken the light and cause him to be consumed by this hell .

Another minute passed slowly and now the light emanating from the old man weakened, only a small dot of light was left, barely enough to protect the old man, however, this ended when the darkness concentrated on that light .

The radius of the darkness shortened as Arthur focused on the old man, this resulted in having only half of the city covered by the nightmare .

Fortunately, Amidel was able to activate some kind of mechanism that allowed the darkness to not affect neither the city or its citizens . He stood outside of this terror, gazing at it with a fearful expression, even a Sovereign such as himself felt nothing but dread, if he was the target, he knew that it was almost impossible to escape .

The darkness' rage shortened every second until it only encompassed a small area, where the old man and Arthur were . Its shortening continued until it became a dark orb with the old man still trapped inside, the growling noise finally ended but the calm winds started howling and raging, the atmosphere became eerie, rocks started floating and trees were forcibly rooted from the earth .

The process was slow but the explosion finally occurred, like a thermonuclear bomb being detonated . The ear-deafening sound was enough to create ravaging sound waves that obliterated the already destroyed mountains . The main explosion sound followed, making the previously created crater to disappear, transforming into a bottomless abyss . The ground turned jet black and the sunny day turned into a gloomy night .

The city was barely protected a shiny blue barrier defended against the main explosion, there were cracks all over it but it still managed to protect the inhabitant from the impact .

The old man, who was at the center of it was nowhere to be seen, the only thing left was a pool of blood . Arthur made use of the two minutes the darkness was present to enter retreated a safe distance, with a Dark Barrier still up and his immunity to Dark Magic, the only damage he suffered was from the explosion .

Whether it was the sneakily fleeing Gargoyles or any cultivators which were curious enough to come to watch this fight, they were all injured, many were killed on the spot and countless were heavily injured if not crippled .

Rose was protected by Tarathiel, who didn't hesitate in taking out a treasure to protect his people . She was the one who was least injured as her white armor played a huge role in keeping her alive and well .

...

An enormous dark dust cloud could be seen from hundreds of miles away, it stretched high up in the sky, making the area look like hell had risen there .

Arthur was not in a good state either, despite being the one who cast Rizaki . He lost an arm, that was blown off by the explosion and his legs were severely injured, rendering him useless, not even able to walk .

His body leaned on a broken tree and a couple of meters in front of him was a humongous cliff where the bottom could not be seen . The earth was jet black and chilling winds twirled, a couple of big tornadoes resulted from Rizaki could be seen deep into the abyss, each of them was strong enough to instantly kill a peak Immortal .

## Chapter 228

Hearing the raging winds and the spinning tornadoes, Arthur heaved a sigh of relief as his map showed no signs of the enemy . He was in a very bad state and even with his high recovery, it won't take just a short time to heal .

Especially the toll on his mind, which affected him mentally, it made him unable to think properly to the point of forgetting something .

In every sense of the word, he was broken, physically and mentally and needed a long rest, however, that wasn't possible as he can't move, neither does he have enough Mental Power to summon a strong enough Death Knight to protect him and get him out of here .

The only thing he could do is patiently wait, he had sent a Death Knight earlier and it should be returning to him soon . Its mission was to retrieve the corpse of the woman he killed in that small garden inside the main palace .

Arthur could only hope no enemies arrive as anyone will be able to kill him and dying like this, after successfully defeating a Sovereign is pretty unfortunate .

As he was panting heavily and coughing blood while holding his chest, he started feeling dizzy as the pain overwhelmed him, he could not even keep the Pain Immunity passive on, his mind just couldn't handle it, if he overexerts himself any more than this, he would literally die .

If he were in a safer place, he would have entered the ARK and although time flows slower in there, that doesn't mean it'll stop . Every second matter and a powerful enemy would need a second if not less to finish him off . The downside of the ARK is that he doesn't know what's happening outside, so he could be captured and still be unaware of it, which made him give up on recovering inside that space, despite its high efficiency .

Lost in thoughts and unable to lift a finger, Arthur's instincts suddenly warned him but he was unable to respond . Four golden blades penetrated his three limbs and chest, nailing him on the ground and causing more blood to gush out, dying the black earth with its color .

A figure descended from above, wearing a torn red robe stinking with blood, the lower left side of his abdomen was missing a huge chunk as if a beast had torn it off . His skin was black, making him look like a demon from hell, with only two eyes pulsating with a golden light, the old man looked fiercely at Arthur, his eyes containing unprecedented resentment, hate, and uncontrollable rage .

One of his arms was shattered and the other was bloodied, barely usable, as he couldn't move his legs too, making use of his powers to fly . He had sacrificed a lot of Blood Essence to survive the explosion which made him drop all the way to the God Realm! He dropped to the 2nd Grade which infuriated him as all his efforts over the years were lost, his honor was gone and if he goes back to the Holy Echelon, he would lose a lot of face and he would surely be humiliated .

All the Gods he looked down to are now stronger than him, moreover, he suffered permanent injuries which caused him to barely have the required strength to be called a proper God, the shame he was feeling made him want to suicide yet he held himself back .

He wanted to pay back what was done to him, skin Arthur alive and break all his bones, he wanted to show him what true hell really is, make him wish death yet not grant it to him .

"... You've done well, to make me suffer this much and almost kill me... hahahahhahahaha"

The old man has almost turned insane, he spoke hysterically as he waved his bloodied hand, making the swords of light dive deeper into Arthur's body, causing him to groan painfully .

He was already on the verge of death before being attacked, the only reason he is still breathing was because the old man didn't want to kill him and thanks to his recovery, the short time he passed healing allowed him to more or less recover a decent amount of Health and Nether Energy .

Despite having enough Energy to execute skills, he was immobilized, nailed on the ground with the enemy carefully watching him, any sudden movement of his part will result in his death, he had no way out and was basically at the mercy of the other party .

Actually, the old man's Health was in no way better than Arthur, he just happened to catch the latter by surprise and land sneak attacks that hit the vitals, leaving his enemy hanging on a threat .

"\*cough\* \*cough\* You really think you can kill \*cough\* me?"

Arthur mocked the old man as he unceasingly coughed blood, his Health was decreasing by huge amounts every passing second and even the arrival of the Death Knight won't save him as the old man could deal with that level of undead easily .

The maniacal laughing of the old man halted when he heard Arthur's words, his expression twisted and his face became ugly to behold . He controlled the blade of light, making it cut off Arthur's other hand, then he walked up to him and used his bloodied hand to lift him off the ground and hold him tightly by the neck .

His face got closer to Arthur as he whispered coldly

"Killing you is easy... but that's not fun, I'll enjoy my time torturing you first . "

His face showed enjoyment as he strengthened his grip over the victim's neck, making him suffocate for a few seconds then releasing it .

He did this for a few times before he got bored so he moved into another thing, he used his power to maintain Arthur hanging in the air then proceeded in breaking his ribs, one by one, and as painfully as he possibly can .

From time to time, the old man would cough up blood, these were signs that his body was deteriorating as the Dark Magic was lethal and it had already invaded his Dantian, if it had entered his heart, he would have died long ago .

He was weakening by the second and his Realm was dropping, it was wise to protect his heart instead of his Dantian so he could survive, however, the cost was big and here he is losing power and dropping Grades .

"H-How does it feel? \*cough\* \*cough\*... to know that you're going to hell soon \*cough\*..."

Even when he's being tortured, Arthur didn't seem to care, he kept provoking the old man, driving him crazy and causing him to torture him more brutally .

A bloodied fist entered Arthur's abdomen, pulling his organs out and spilling them on the ground, which had several gory things scattered on it . Arthur had long since stopped groaning from the pain, his body felt numb and he felt that his death is coming soon due to all the blood he had lost .

'Ah... this feeling again...'

No matter if it's in his previous life or this one, Arthur could never get used to getting tortured . He closed his eyes only see absolute darkness yet standing in this darkness was a shiny figure of a woman with a long silver hair and two mesmerizing eyes . She was giving him a beautiful and enchanting smile which made him snap out of it .

He opened his eyes again yet this time, it contained a hint of resolution and craziness . With a broken mental state, two lost limbs and a barely functioning body, he was still going to fight, no matter how desperate the situation is .

Arthur mustered all his strength to open his mouth and spit a Mini Heavenly Arrow at the cost of all the Nether Energy he managed to recover throughout the time he was tortured, it depleted all his pool and made him lose consciousness for a split second .

## Chapter 229

The mini Heavenly Arrow, which was purely created from Void Attribute, dived through the old man's chest, devouring all the flesh, bones, and energy in its way . The injured and weakened body of the elder was pushed a few dozen meters and a big ugly hole appeared in his chest .

He was fortunate enough not to have his heart consumed as it the arrow barely missed it, nonetheless, the damage it had done was more than enough to bring him on the verge of death, just like his enemy .

He laid on his back, spurting blood and struggling to heal the wound with Holy Light but to recover from an injury sustained from Void Attribute is very difficult, almost impossible, especially while being this injured and in a very bad state .

All the light could do is lower then gushing blood, however, that wasn't going to make him avoid the imminent death . He was going to die sooner or later due to the Dark Magic, now that he was wounded

with another powerful attack, he could no not stand up no matter how he tried, even his control over Nether Energy was disrupted, rendering him in a useless state .

The two bloodied bodies laid a distance away from each other, both were a thread away from death and very soon, they will perish .

Arthur was in a slightly better state since his recovery is high but the last attack he threw severely damaged his mind and caused unimaginable pain, the agony tormented him and added more salt to the injury .

Also laying on his back, he was barely able to breathe as blood filled his mouth and he couldn't cough it out, with his two missing hands, a body full of holes and gory flesh and organs lingering in his opened abdomen, anyone would mistake him for a dead person .

"You damnable m-monster... I will not rest until you're dead!"

The old man cursed loudly, repeatedly vowing to end his life, after all, in such a situation, all he could do was talk and even that was taking a lot of effort .

Arthur remained silent, he didn't reply to all the curses and hoped that his recovery does its job, giving him back control over his body sooner else the old man will really kill him . Previously, the ex-Sovereign wanted to torture him to death but after what happened right now, he only wanted to see Arthur dead, he wanted to bring the enemy with him to hell .

As death was coming closer, a figure appeared in the area where the two laid . With a long sword wrapped in a cloth on her back, long black hair and an expressionless face, she stared at both of them and frowned .

It was none other than Jian Si, who happened to pass by the area and when she heard the noise created by the mini Heavenly Arrow, she tracked the origin of the noise only to end up here . She too, witnessed what happened to this place and felt dread yet admiration, for a sword fanatic like herself, she yearned for absolute power and dreamed of being able to show such strength as the two fighting sides .

Since she exited the Tomb a bit late, she only saw the destruction of Rizaki, unfortunately, she couldn't see the fierce fight between two Sovereigns, or so said the spectators .

She was obviously irritated so she headed to where the battle supposedly occurred, wanting to see how much the land was affected and perhaps stumble on something interesting .

Indeed, her decision was deemed wise as luck was on her side, allowing her to see this sight where the two parties were on the verge of death .

One more reason that she came here is because she heard one of the two fighters had the appearance of a grey-haired man, she immediately knew that it was the same person who ridiculed her and easily defeated her .

She never expected that he was this powerful, witnessing the ravaged lands and black earth, she remembered the strange and ominous magic he used back then and linked the two together .

Although it wasn't shown on her face, she was dumbfounded when she saw the current state of Arthur, if not for his heavy breathing, she would have thought he was already dead . On the other side was the



old man, who managed to move and lean on a medium-sized trunk of a rooted tree, he was startled by the appearance of Jian Si but he wasn't afraid neither was he cautious of her .

His eyes contained murderous intent as he glanced at her but it soon disappeared, he revealed an exasperated look as he spoke with a slight panic

"Oh!! Thank God you're here! Y-you have to help me kill this vile monster... he must be eliminated, such an existence is pure evil!"

Trying to sound righteous wasn't going to cut it, the old man knew that when the girl didn't even flinch or move after listening to him, he didn't give up and added

"I'm a Sovereign from the Holy Echelon! I can guarantee that you'll be generously rewarded if you help me . "

Still getting no reaction, the old man continued spouting some nonsense, badmouthing Arthur and accusing him of a lot of things he never did, including mass murder, stealing and so on...

Cold Sword turned a deaf ear to the talkative old man and looked at Arthur, waiting for him to say his part too but the grey-haired man simply stared back at her for a second before he looked away while saying

"You do whatever you want . "

Again, Jian Si showed no response, simply looking back and forth between the two of them for a whole minute .

When she decided to act, the old man finally stopped talking, he eagerly waited for her to kill Arthur as he thought that all his talk bore fruit .

The longsword behind her back was unsheathed, revealing a sharp blade made out of a special steel, it reeked of blood and emitted a domineering aura .

Without any slight hesitation, Jian Si rushed straight at the old man with incredible speed and slashed her sword viciously, dismembering the poor elder who was shocked by her sudden action . Even if he was prepared, he didn't expect a Divine being to be this strong, his lack of knowledge and confidence brought his doom .

Although she is at the Peak of the Divine Realm, Jian Si could fight a God Realm and even emerge victorious thanks to her vicious murdering sword .

After dismembering the old man, she stabbed her sword through his heart, killing him and ending this battle once and for all .

Even Arthur didn't expect her to kill him so suddenly, she acted swiftly and decisively, moreover, she didn't utter a single word and killed without any apparent reason .

From her way of acting, he even suspected that he'll be next in her list . With mustered strength, Arthur somehow managed to use a meager amount of Dark Mana to take out the Dimensional Stone, ready to use it if she ever makes a move .

The reason he didn't use it earlier is simply because he couldn't, it's an easy process to take it out then use it but it requires a bit of concentration to take it out of his storage, furthermore, he used all his accumulated energy in his previous attack .

Jian Si knew that the old man was a Sovereign, so to ascertain his death, she stabbed her sword multiple times just to make sure, her expression never changed as if killing him is a usual occurrence .

When she was done, she shifted her focus to Arthur, who was holding the Dimensional stone in his sleeve, hiding it from view and preparing himself to flee .

"Isn't it a small word, huh?"

Seeing her walk toward him, Arthur started a conversation to buy a bit of time for his injuries to heal and to see what's going on with this girl, she was seriously too eccentric, or so thought Arthur .

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Jian Si stopped a distance away from Arthur, gazing at him with a strange look . He felt a bit of killing intent emanating from her, her facial expression was unusual as if she was struggling with two things .

After a bit of time in such a position, she had yet to speak to Arthur when turned her head and stared at a certain direction, exactly where his dismembered arm was .

Her eyes were glued onto his ring, which she seemed to be interested in . Obviously, he saw that but didn't say anything, in fact, he laughed inside as it is impossible to rob his belongings if they are inside Zodiac's ring .

To access it you need to be able to use Dark Mana and only he could do that, so it's a useless piece of garbage for her, still, he didn't tell her that and silently watched her actions .

The girl took the ring and injected Nether Energy, expecting to see what's inside, however, nothing happened even after a few tries so she looked at the defenseless Arthur again and spoke her first words

"Hand me your blade and I'll spare your life . "

Simple and direct words, she told him her motive without any tricks which is something Arthur liked, but that doesn't mean he'll tell her how to open the ring or just hand his weapon to her .

Makaze is his strongest weapon and his connection with it is rather strong, not only is it a unique blade, it is too powerful and it could even harm Sovereign .

That is part of the reason Jian Si wants it, if she enforces her own sword with Makaze then the results will be extraordinary, and as a sword fanatic, she would never miss such an opportunity .

She had already seen the deadliness of his blade and its might, and without a doubt, it's stronger than her own blade, which is a very old inheritance so this made her more attracted to Makaze .

Arthur spat some blood on the floor and grinned as he looked at the dead serious girl

"My blade? You're not worthy and even if you were, I'm not foolish enough to hand it to you . "

Not hearing the answer that she sought, Jian Si pointed her sword at Arthur with only a few inches of empty air separating the sharp tip of the blade and his face .

"It's either your weapon or your life, you choose . "

Still uncaring about the close blade that could end his life in a split second, Arthur mockingly replied

"As a sword user yourself, you know better than anyone that your sword is your life . "

Listening to the dying man, Jian Si frowned and maintained her silence, seemingly lost in thoughts but that she soon snapped out of it when Arthur continued with a weak voice

"Furthermore, people like you are always the same, the outcome will be the same whether I hand your my blade or not . "

"People like me?"

Arthur looked at her with a disgusted stare and answered

"Yes, people like you, the so-called young geniuses, born with unparalleled talent and expected to become legendary figures, however, the truth is sad and unpleasant to hear . You people, are nothing, you're like anybody else, fate just favored you so you were born in the right place, and with the right teachers and fed the expensive medicines, of course, you'll become 'prodigies' .

You want my blade to become stronger, you want revenge for the humiliation you suffered yet what you begrudge me for is nothing compared to those who really endured, others who experienced something you could never imagine, atrocities that would make you wish for death . "

Hearing this only made the girl angrier, she stared at her with dagger eyes as she snorted and retorted

"Hmpf! What do you know about me!"

Still coughing blood that had long since become black, Arthur objected

"I know enough . Actions speak louder than words, you have what others lack yet you want more, you have power yet your greed for more . You think you're strong enough to oppose people when you ignore the fact that they do not fear you but what's behind you . You seek to become the ultimate sword user when you don't even know yourself . "

Arthur seemed to have touched a sensitive topic as the girl snapped, slashing the air fiercely and cutting all the trees in its way, or what remained of them .

"I don't care about fate or whatsoever . Your life is in my hands, and it's up to you to choose wisely . "

Arthur sighed as he knew that his words won't affect her reasoning, he didn't invent all of that and truly said his true thoughts . He didn't particularly like these gold-spooned kids and it isn't a simple lecturing that's going to erase their arrogance, which was built over several years of prevailing and stepping on others .

Although her tone seemed different than usual, the killing intent became thicker and she definitely wasn't joking when she said she'll kill him .

"You say to choose wisely when all choices lead to the same conclusion... tell me, girl, where's the wisdom in that? You make it sound like you're some kind of a merciful person, giving me 'choices' when all of that is useless, pointless talking to give you a sense of relief, however, in such a world, it's either kill or be killed, sparing enemies is not something to consider, you should know that more than anyone, right?"

The sword touched Arthur's neck, causing drops of blood to leak out, it's only a slight push away from penetrating his throat and ending his life, or what's left of it .

"So does that mean I should kill you and be done with it?"

Arthur grinned, showing his row of white teeth which became dyed with red blood from the unceasing blood that rushed to his mouth only to be coughed out .

"Hoooo that would be for the best in such a situation but... you'll feel unsatisfied, you suffered a humiliation yet couldn't get a proper revenge, that could lead to serious problems in your future cultivation . There are many choices laid out for you, for example, you can finish that old man's job and torture me, not that'll make me talk, though . You can also kill me immediately, which is something I'll do, or you can just go on your way and pretend you saw nothing but... you better give me that ring back or else I swear I'll show you true despair . "

Arthur didn't point at Zodiac's ring, but the other one which was also picked by Jian Si . It was a simple ring, made out of gold and have a small engraving on it, it was not a magical artifact or anything of the sort, however, for Arthur, it meant the whole world for him as it is his marriage ring, the one he received from Lucy .

As she watched the man who was supposed to be surrendering, Jian Si felt a fear deep in her bones, imminent danger from the half-dead person in front of her . One look at the face of this beaten and tortured man, who should have been waiting for death, made it clear that his seemingly vain words were no mere boast .

She had no time to consider as her body reacted unconsciously, jumping a few meters back to avoid what's supposed to come but never did, the danger came from deep within the man yet no attack was thrown, it was indeed only a warning but its effect was more than he hoped for .

He didn't notice itself as anger consumed him, the ring for him was all that is left for Lucy, it's what's keeping him fight again and again, if it were destroyed or stolen, he would use anything to get it back if possible or abandon everything to kill whoever led to its destruction .

He may be half-dead and barely able to move his lips, but alternate actions could be taken, the chains were still on him, albeit not all of them since his limbs were torn off but they will grow back along with his flesh in a matter of time and he is capable of breaking them, it'll lead to his death but he has prepared for such a possible outcome since the start of his fight against the old man .