

Once Human 611

Chapter 611: 611

The Joker made sure to cast a spell on Saly to make her unconsciously fall asleep . He didn't want to hear what he'll talk about the slightly nervous Leiu .

"Do you think he's entered it?"

"The trial has began so it's safe to assume so . "

The youth was tapping his finger on the table, while he was restlessly trying to find a comfortable position while looking at the large monitor, which displayed an empty waiting room .

The contestant were teleported to an isolated space, which was the 34th floor, a dimension unique and different for each individual . In it, they'll be pitted against an enhanced version of their past enemy . Arthur arrival on the 34th floor is one of the main reasons the Red Tower was built and, unlike the rest, he didn't get to fight... no, he experienced a whole different thing .

"In the past you always said it, right? 'Each person has a truth that cannot be told even to themselves . ' Do you think the end of this cycle would be any different?"-Wolfram

"It has to be different..."

"You, Arthur, and I, do you think it's destiny or something else? Is it right to call it a coincidence? Can't it be the work of a higher being? Something or someone we can't fathom . Beyond our comprehension . "

Hearing this, Leiu chuckled and replied: "Perhaps there is, who can tell? Do you want to pray? Beg? You think that would make a difference? This is not the first time we're going through this events, maybe we did pray in one of the past cycle but so what? Our very presence here mean that it didn't work! It never will!"

The Nameless Knight got up from his seat and walked in front of the joker, his finger pointing at the latter's chest, slowly pushing him to the back .

"What are you trying to say, Wolfram? I should have faith? Because it's not faith that allowed me to obtain power . It's desire, so don't pray and do what you must! Let it end... for our sake . "

When he finished saying his piece, he passed by the dumbstruck Magician and exited the room .

Confused, Arthur looked around, instantly recognizing this unforgettable place . The shimmering sky was as beautiful as ever and the quiet atmosphere brought him a refreshing serenity .

His gaze fell on the bench which he sat on with Lucy in the past, at the night of their marriage . Truly, it felt like yesterday, making the parasite emotional for a few moments .

He snapped out of his daze when a fragrance entered his nose, it calmed his beating heart and purged his thoughts .

Arthur saw a man sitting next to a table near the empty bench . Surprisingly, the man looked exactly like his human appearance and he didn't feel odd like Claud, for example .

"Come and sit . "

He motioned for Arthur to get closer and pointed at a wooden chair right next to where he's sitting . Arthur obediently did as told, not knowing what exactly is happening, his mind was filled with questions he withhold for the time being .

The man poured some tea for Arthur and put the cup in front of him, neither saying anything and simply studying the parasite's face .

"Here, drink . "

Again, Arthur did as told and sipped some of the tea, which tasted really magical, easing his emotions yet again . Only after looking around did Arthur ask:

"What is this place?"

"What do you think it is?"

The man, who had the same face as his, smiled and replied with a question .

"This is one of the courtyards of the Ma Clan..."

The man drank some tea before speaking again: "Indeed it was, however, now it's but a memory inside your head . It's vivid and eternal . "

"So what is this about? Who am I supposed to fight?"

"No, you won't be fighting anyone or anything . You're here to listen... and understand . "

"Listen?"

The man nodded his head, took another sip before clearing his throat, and asking:

"Tell me, Arthur, do you think you have achieved enough?"

The questioned man tilted his head, not knowing what to say exactly . He stared back at his own face for an inordinate amount of time before muttering:

"I achieved nothing . "

"From what I've seen, you did quite the opposite . Whether it's your fight with the Divine beasts, your struggle in Riaravar or the war against the White Specters . Each time, you do more than you're expected, which is why you end up in a very bad situation, usually beaten half-dead . Don't get me wrong, I'm not criticizing you, quite the contrary, I'm proud of what you have become . "

Arthur raised his hand and interrupted the man from speaking any further .

"I don't understand, just who are you to tell me you're proud of my actions?"

The man wasn't angry, his lips arches upwards as he looked back at the parasite .

"I look, sound, and think like you... isn't it obvious who I am?"

He gulped down the rest of the tea before taking a deep breath and adding: "Let me clarify, then . I am you, your inner consciousness, your soul, and your body . "

"You're me, and? Is there a reason for me to be here?"

Noticing his impatience, the man chuckled and calmly replied: "Of course there is . Our meeting is predetermined and, dare I say, necessary . "

"Necessary?"

"There are things you need to know about what's to come . I'm sure you know a few things already, like how you'll go to the past to do many things . Just like it happened, it will happen again, without any errors . The motive remains the same but the result is always subjected to change . "

"What do you want from me?" Arthur spoke with a louder tone, his face slightly frowned . He was never a fan of these mysterious encounters and this riddle-like type of talking .

"Calm down, I'm doing this for you, after all, we're one and the same . "

...

While Arthur was conversing with himself in that memorable courtyard, Lucy was facing the very same wingless earth dragon who attacked her and Arthur back on Astria . It was when they were heading to the Nemia Academy . She didn't personally fight it but the tower registered it as one of her past enemies, moreover, it greatly boosted its power and slightly its appearance, making it bigger than more frightening to look at .

As for the old man Zodiak, he was surprised to see his drunken father appear before him . Contrary to his real ragged state, the father looked sober and was even wearing an armor .

'Tsk! It's just twisting things however it likes . '

He inwardly cursed the Red Tower and retrieved a talisman from under his sleeve, ready to get rid of the danger right away .

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"Bilgart told you that he created you and he even gave you a reason but, do you know what you are? A human? A parasite? Or something like the Twelve, who are born to be creators and forever eternal . "

The man's smile widened as he gazed at the quiet and listening Arthur .

"Did you know? 'God' wasn't the one who created humans, neither did Medtris create Demons, it's all a believable lie convince the future generations . Sure, there were Races that were created but they were very twisted and defected, like the Cthulhu . It is possible to create a temporary living thing but to create a whole race out of nothing? That's absurd and is against the Natural Laws, which even the Twelve are shackled by .

"What about parasites, then?"

"Parasites? They weren't created, per se, but are a part of the Zaarae . I'm not talking about all of them, of course, just the main and first ones . Just like a Tree grows on its own and can produce seeds, parasites can multiply . Humans copulate and Phoenix's lay self-created eggs, each Race has a mean to keep itself alive . "

"You said you are me, how do you know things I don't?"

The man took out a feather that had some ink on its tip and then drew a line on the table .

"To explain it to you, I'll have to teach you a bit about time . "

He pointed at the line and continued: "This is a timeline..." He drew circles on the line, all small and have the same size : "These are cycles, with a beginning and an end . A single timeline can have a limitless amount of cycles, however, the opposite is not true . A cycle can only have one timeline... the one it exists in . It is possible but very difficult to jump from one timeline to another and the consequences are irreparable even to mighty beings like Bilgart . Each Timeline is very different from the other and they're all parallel, meaning that they never interfere with each other, unlike cycles .

To give you a good example, cycles are similar to books . Living through one is like reading a mystery book, when you jump into another cycle, it's like reading another book but with the same genre . In your case, your life is separated in two parts that exist in the same timeline, obviously . However, your life didn't begin when the first cycle started, after all, there's Zodiak, who's your reincarnation but is still considered part of you . I, the person you're speaking to, am you but slightly different . "

"Different? How so?"

"While you experienced only one cycle, I've experienced 62 . "

"62? How is that possible? I thought I'll only live through two . "

"Yes, but when the second cycle ends, that doesn't mean your life ends, it just repeats itself . The memories of the past repeating cycles are always stored, that is, to not repeat the same mistakes . My existence is to assure that you reach the true end and leave this never-ending spiral of life and death . This means that I have the memories of 31 Arthur, who, just like you, lived what you went through and ended two cycles but were not able to complete them and break out . "

"So, what's your point? How did I fail?"

"There many, many reasons but if I had to point out the one thing that traps you here then it's definitely Leiu, your brother . "

"..." Arthur didn't say anything, he just stared back at his carbon copy, still processing everything that was being said .

"I see that you're still confused and that's a normal reaction . Let me explain, again . " He pointed at Arthur's heart and stated: "The soul inside your consciousness is not complete, yes?"

The parasite shook his head in confirmation .

"As far as you know, Zodiak is in possession of the other half but that is also not the truth . You've got one third of the main soul, Zodiak has a third, and **** has a third . "

The moment he said that, Arthur's pupils shook and he shot up from his seat, glaring at the man .

"What makes you say that? Do you have proof?!"

"Of course I have, otherwise I wouldn't be sitting here and telling you the sad truth . You must not repeat the same mistakes and end it whatever the means... even if it means sacrificing your loved ones .
"

As he heard that, Arthur was further angered, he grabbed the man by his collar and raised him in the air . The man didn't retaliate and his expression didn't change, not minding any of Arthur's aggressive actions .

"If it means Lucy and Saly live, I will sacrifice anything, even myself . "

"And you think your death will save them? Mind elaborating how?"

He shook off Arthur's hand, calmly sat back and poured some tea for himself .

"You'll get provide them with a peaceful place to live in after you acquire enough strength? You'll hide them somewhere? You'll protect them somewhere? The reality is not as easy as you portray it to be . Even if you're the strongest person, there will always be a problem . Your brother is a living example of that . He can defeat anyone but why is he struggling? Why can he not get rid of Sol'khin? I'm sure, by now, you know why, or at least must have some idea .

In those 62 cycles, Saly and Lucy died many times and they were a reason for your failure . Their deaths destroyed you and made you someone without a goal so you did not seek an end . In this cycle, there may come a time when they'll die, it's only a possibility but if it happens, you must remember my words and never give up . "

"So I'm just supposed to forget about them and end the cycle so you can get the memories again?!"

"No, if you end the cycle for good, I will disappear . However, if you sink into oblivion, what happened to all your predecessors will happen to you, without a doubt . "

"You keep telling me to succeed but what am I supposed to do?"

"Rejoining and closure . First, complete your soul then you'll know how to break free . You may try to live peacefully with your family but you'll soon understand that tragedy will follow you everywhere, it's just how cycles work . "

"What about Wolfram and Leiu, are they trapped in the cycles too?"

"It's not their cycles but since they willingly entered them, they're imprisoned and can only escape when you do . Unlike you, they don't die and repeat but travel back in time and orchestrate the whole thing, trying a different ending . They made this meeting happen by using the Red Tower, they also reincarnated you in Astria by threatening Fate . "

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*Congratulations! You cleared the floor . Teleportation to the Waiting Room will begin shortly . *

Arthur ignored the tower's voice as his mind was preoccupied with all the information he heard from himself . It was just too much for him to forget or ignore, everything that was told was backed by proofs and the more he thought about it, the more he dreaded the incoming future which he won't be able to escape from .

Things are becoming complicated and, to make matters worse, the second he appeared in the Waiting Room, he noticed that one of his emotions was erased again, however, he didn't know which one as he couldn't recognize it anymore . Fortunately, his feeling toward his wife, Lucy, are still present, making him breathe a sigh of relief as sat in a corner and looked at the System notification popping out of nowhere .

*Through sufficient accumulated information, you've gained a new Racial skill: [Multiplication(active)] . *

*[Multiplication(passive): As a soul parasite, you're able to create identical clones that share your skills and stats but are without a soul . They are a version of yourself and if they're killed in battle, their memories are sent to the main host: Arthur MoonStar .

Number of clones you can create: 2

Clones created: 0/2

Cost: 1500 Mental Power will be deducted until the clone dies .

Cooldown: None .

Please note that while the clones have the user's stats, any benefits gotten from Blessings or Oaths will not be applied . *

Arthur read the description and became momentarily awed . He very much wanted to try it but there were a lot of peering eyes in the room and showcasing his new skills might cause troubles later—on, if he ever wants to trick others, that is .

"What's troubling you?"

Zodiak came and sat next to Arthur, his robe was all bloodied but he didn't seem to mind as black fog covered it and erased all the traces of the disgusting and nauseating liquid .

"Did you know?"

Arthur stared at the old man and asked him out of the blue .

"About what?"

"Our soul... we each have a third . "

Hearing this, Zodiak sighed, retrieved a dark talisman, and put it on the table, which created an inky black cube that separated them from the other guests .

"So you heard . I'm curious about who told you . "

"Does that matter? Tell me, is it true?"

"Unfortunately, it is . I told you the truth is never easy to handle . "

"So you want to tell me that we're the same entity?"

"Are we though? We share a soul but we're so very different . "

The old man stopped talking and waved his hand, getting rid of the cube . Lucy just appeared here and immediately located Arthur and Zodiak .

The latter smiled at the silver-haired woman then got up and left, leaving a frowning Arthur, who only noticed Lucy when she patted his back .

"Did the fight go well?"

For a second, he didn't reply as his eyes were glued on a line he drew on the table .

"A-ah, yes, it wasn't that hard . "

"Hahaha then I'm glad . I got rewarded 15,000,000 points, I'll soon get the phoenix's blood . "

She softly smiled and sat next to him, who smiled and purged all the troublesome thoughts from his mind, focusing on his wife as he didn't want to get her too much involved . He didn't even tell her the truth, fearing what she'll do to change the inevitable . After all, all he wishes for is her happiness and safety .

Honestly, he wanted to tell her to leave the Red Tower but he kept such thoughts to himself because he knew she'll refuse no matter what he says to convince her otherwise . It's no that he didn't trust her or her ability to defend herself, however, he couldn't help but worry, especially after what he heard in that courtyard . His disappearing emotions may turn him into an emotionless monster and he didn't want her to see him like that .

The only solution is the Garden of Words, his next destination after leaving the Red Tower, though it is said to be a secretive place that very few managed to reach . It has all the answers in the multiverse and can solve any problem you ask it so, as long as he asks the right thing, he'll get a satisfactory answer about his evolution and get rid of the disadvantage of being a soul parasite .

"Lucy... you know that I love you very much, right?"

He uttered those words while caressing her rosy cheeks . In response, a mesmerizing smile appeared on her pretty face, she enjoyed the warmth of his hand and his affectionate words .

"I love you too . Very very very much . "

She giggled and gave him a light hug before stuffing his mouth with white cake, which she liked to eat whenever she's in the waiting room .

"I heard that the next floor is tiring so you have to fill your stomach!"

Arthur chewed the delicious cake and complained: "But I don't need to eat... you know that . "

"No buts!"

"Instead... I wouldn't mind tasting another thing . "

He leaned closer to her, his lips almost touching hers but, unfortunately, she stopped him with her index finger . She coquettishly said:"

"Maybe if there is a secluded spot later then..." Her right eyes emitted a blue light as her finger ran down his chin and lifted his head .

"That robe really suits you, woman . "

The Joker nodded his head as he stared at the uninvited guest who appeared at the top floor of the Red Tower . She had a skin similar to a corpse's and a hair darker than night . Although she recently became Death, she didn't dare behave arrogantly and, instead, bowed toward the two seated brothers . Wolfram unceremoniously waved his hand while Leiu ignored her, because he did hate what she became but he didn't dislike her personally .

"Pardon the intrusion . "

"Nah, it's fine, at least you don't behave like your master, 'God, don't bless his non-existent soul' . "

Anastassia ignored that comment and glanced at the large monitor before asking:

"I've seen enough of the past to know that both of you are strong enough to get rid of Sol'khin . Why are you hesitating?"

While the Nameless Knight kept his silence, the Joker furrowed his brow and retorted:

"Hesitating? Who said we're hesitating? We just don't want to . You can't force us to do something, can you?"

"I'm not here to ask you to do anything . I was just curious . "

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"As Death, it's not your job to be curious . You harvest souls and end the existence of which that should not exist . Any interference with other matters will automatically make the Death Laws strip you of your title and replace you . "

For the first time, Leiu talked while still looking at the monitor . His voice was cold and utterly void of any emotions .

"I have the Grim Reapers to harvest the souls . "

"That doesn't mean you can wander around, visible to anyone . "

Anastassia showed no fear as she took a step forward and talked back: "Before I became Death, I was a human and a friend of Arthur . I am worried about him and Lucy . "

"Worried? It's just a lingering emotion that will disappear soon . Death has no emotions . "

"Why are you being so mean?" The Joker clicked his tongue at his brother before standing up and signaling for Anastassia to sit beside him .

"Don't mind his grumpy attitude, he's socially inept . You're my younger brother's friend so a proper welcome is needed . Please sit . "

The Joker sounded genuine as he crushed a card, causing a table filled with all types of food to appear . He also presented many beautiful clothes to Anastassia, saying that it's a small gift from him .

From the entrance of the room, a short figure came flying into Death's hands, hugging her tightly while her white tail wagged left and right .

"Auntie!"

Saly was happy to see Anastassia, whom she thought disappeared from Astria . The little girl was very delighted as she guided Death to her seat and started talking to her .

Anastassia reciprocated and acted friendly as she was also happy to see her friend's daughter . She taught Saly many things in the past and they were very close .

"You seem to have evolved?"

The woman noticed the archaic aura emanating from Saly as well as her white fur and sky-blue pupils .

"I am Fenrir now!"

Saly giggled and flexed her small muscles to Anastassia, who was gob-smacked . She glanced at the Joker, who nodded his head and confirmed her suspicions:

"It's true, she's the real Fenrir, the devourer of the Sun and Moon . I can't have a shabby disciple, after all . "

"I-I see . "

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Floor 36th, Singularity Laboratory

Arthur couldn't party with Lucy and was randomly allied with one of the contestants, the elven archer, to be exact . Their task was to escort a machine loaded with power cores from location A to B . The machine needs to be unscathed and all the enemies must be eliminated to guarantee their success .

The parasite didn't mind having the elf as a temporary companion because he wasn't just strong, he wasn't that arrogant either . He seemed different from the normal elves and not very talkative, but not a complete mute either .

"How come I don't bother you? I heard Elves abhor parasites . "

As he didn't sense any hostility from his new teammate, Arthur curiously asked the elf named Ar'wen .

In response, the elf, who was busy enchanting his wooden that was covered with ivy, shrugged his shoulders and nonchalantly said:

"Most elves are what you call 'Religious' . They worship nature and, in particular, Dmitra, who's titled Mother Nature . As a race that has a grim history of corrupting and harming the environment, the elves do indeed loath parasites but that doesn't apply to everyone . I consider myself open-minded and don't

judge someone purely based on their races, after all, how is that different from what the Dominion is doing, right?"

"I like your way of interpreting things . "

"Thanks for the compliment . " Just as he said that, Ar'wen readied his bow and fired three arrows, destroying three machine-like flying centipedes . "4 o'clock, two targets . "

"On it . " Arthur shot two green bolts of lightning at the enemies, breaking them into dozens of pieces . They were both standing on top of the large and broad machine, which was moving on its own toward the destination . It looked like a vehicle and was loaded with multi-colored spheres that contained large quantities of Dark Matter . Arthur didn't know if all the contestants got the same task but it seemed rather unlikely as it's too simple .

The laboratory was too big and to navigate on your own is difficult as it was like a maze . The system's map was disabled and his sense was restricted due to the Dark Matter negating the spreading of Nether Energy, or any other energy that is weaker, such as Mana or Qi .

So, far, the enemies weren't that strong but the more they advanced, the stronger they got . Their number also substantially increased, so was their appearances . The flying centipedes filled the air but they weren't as troublesome as the neon giants, which were slow but very hard to break . Dark Magic had no effect on them as they weren't living beings and the Natural and Godly lightning grazed them, at most .

Even so, Ar'wen's arrows managed to hinder them and the stronger ones broke down the giants, called Prototypes-R2 with one hit, at times . The elf didn't look strong but he was extremely skilled in archery, he's able to fire multiple arrows simultaneously and change their trajectories even after shooting them .

By far, he was the best archer Arthur had ever seen and was truly a strong individual . Apparently, he doesn't belong to any elven tribe and, like an poet he knew in the past, he's a traveler who received a personal invitation from the Joker .

"This won't do, you need to stop them . I'll support you from here . "

It didn't take long for them to be overwhelmed by the sheer number of aerial and terrestrial enemies coming from all directions . Arthur was doing his best to keep them away but he had to hold back a bit as his destructive skills may damage the slowly moving machine, which is quite vulnerable . A single hit from one tiny centipede took a third of its health, which, fortunately, gradually recovers . Apparently, the vehicle has a function that allows it to self-repair but it has to be immobile and not attacked in the process .

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The place was over-run with the prototypes and machine insects and due to the blocked path, the moving vehicle was forced to stop . Arthur retrieved the sword he got from Timos, jumped in the air, and slashed one time before quickly storing it . That one attack caused his arm to become as thin as a branch and his body to slow down for a couple of seconds . He felt suffocated and his heart tightened due to the severe consumption, nevertheless, he managed to successfully blast away all the enemies blocking the front .

An unstoppable and invisible gust of sword essence cut down countless centipedes and close to ten giants, rendering them useless . The vehicle started moving again but the fight wasn't over as there were still enemies coming from both sides and behind .

Ar'wen pointed his bow to the roof and pulled the string but didn't fire, he was readying his technique, which took five seconds to cast . When he released it, hundreds of green arrows cascaded upon the enemies, stopping their charge and breaking them .

The parasite transformed into a praying mantis that had a special armor made of empowered golden threads . The insect's two wings were made of green lightning and its sharp claw-like wings had the White Tiger's acid on them . Like a ghost, Arthur flashed from one place to another, cutting the enemies in pieces . His speed was too much for the machines, which either crumbled in one or two hits . The acid was highly effective as it bypassed their tough shell and melted down the cores .

...

*You have completed the task . Please wait until all the cores are unloaded . *

*Bonus task: defeat Prototype-R0 to receive bonus points . *

"What do you say, wanna give it a try?"

Arthur asked the male elf, whose ears twitched as he turned around and faced the parasite .

Ar'wen glanced at the motionless giant machine that resembled a Cerberus . It had three heads made of dark golden metal and looked ferocious, to say the least .

It seemed to be slumbering but if they accept the bonus task, it'll wake up, of course .

"I don't see why not . "

The elf seemed like a very easy-going person and didn't consider Arthur as an enemy . They were rivals but, currently, they were allied together and it won't hurt him to obtain more points, if the opportunity arises .

Arthur accepted the task, causing the boss to open its gem-like eyes and glare at them . He was about to lunge at the enemy only for Ar'wen to stop him and say:

"Wait, I've got something that will help you . "

He handed him a white pocket that was similar to a charm, it shone with a bright light the moment it made contact with Arthur's hand .

*You received the buff: [Nature's Blessing]: All stats +10% for one hour .

Nature Magic will deal 150% more damage .

Nature Magic has a 30% chance to inflict a damage over time effect for 30 seconds . *

Arthur accepted the buff and transformed into a large thorny treant which rooted itself on the ground and attacked the incoming boss . Thick green vines sprung from below and stabbed the machine, they

stopped its mad charge and even pushed it a bit . Since Nature Magic was buffed, he would not mind using it, after all, it's very strong but can easily be countered by Fire or Magma, for example .

Ar'wen jumped on one of the treant large branches and fired his a big wooden arrow which hit one of the cerberus' heads, breaking a part of it in the process .

The fight wasn't easy, however, thanks to their flawless cooperation, they managed to wear down the boss and pulverize two of its heads . It took them half an hour to reduce its health to a third before it entered some sort of an enraged mode that boosted its damage .

At some point, it reached Arthur and tried to bite down the treant's trunk, however, it bumped into a watery and invisible surface, causing it to bounce off and miserably roll on the ground . It was then bombarded with a rain of arrows that pinned it down on the ground . Arthur followed with his Nature Magic, he made grass grow from the metallic ground, they wrapped around the cerberus and ten or so seconds, the boss was completely bound .

Ar'wen grasped this opportunity and shot a truly powerful arrow that even startled Arthur . The fast arrow was unimaginably big as it spiraled in the air and struck the target, destroying its last head and finishing it once and for all .

"Beautifully done . "-Arthur

"Thanks . "

The elf jumped down from the branch and calmly put the bow back on his back, he didn't appear to be tired as he went next to the headless boss to examine it, not bothered by the destruction around him or the twitching body, which was frightening but harmless, nonetheless .

*You defeat Prototype-R0 . You will be rewarded with 25,000,000 points .

Arthur MoonStar and Ar'wen will shortly be teleported to the Waiting Room .

Team 13 is the 6th to complete the 36th floor .

Clear time: 3 hours, 48 minutes, 2 seconds . *

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"It seems that pretty much everyone's score has gone up since the first attempt . "

Lucy commented as she looked at the board displaying the results of contestants who already took the test . They already reached the 40th floor and it was time to kick another contestant . Only 23 remain and one has to be disqualified for them to proceed to the next floor . At this point, only the best of the best are left and all got familiar with each other, either in a positive or a negative way .

In the 38th floor, there was a strong guy from the Holy Dominion who was kept chasing after Arthur, wanting to disqualify him, however, the means he used were tricky and annoyed everyone, including the parasite himself . Before Arthur took any action, the poor guy was beaten black and blue by six other contestants, who forced him to use the Escape Ticket and leave the Red Tower .

On that floor, fighting was not prohibited but if one contestant attacks another, all will lose points, which was something no one wanted hence their aggressive and expected retaliation . He asked for it and definitely got what he deserved . With him gone, Arthur didn't have to worry about having pests following after him, trying to kick him out and the rest of the participants played fairly and wanted to climb to the highest floor using their strength alone .

Currently, half of the 23 contestants took the test, and, like usual, the one who has the highest score will be disqualified . Compared to the 10th floor, the score slightly increased with the Sword God maintaining his first top for four consecutive times .

This time, he scored 44 points, which is a relatively high number . In fact, most were aware of his strength and they didn't purposely fight him, much less provoke him . His nonchalant attitude made him approachable and his lack of arrogance is probably why he doesn't have any enemies, at least not in this tower .

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Arthur's turn still hasn't arrived but Lucy already hit the strange large boulder . Surprisingly, her score was second only Ber Von Xin, she used her fusion fire and scored a staggering 42 points, guaranteeing her the second post, for the time being, that is, though it is rather unlikely that anyone can break her score unless they use an ultimate skill .

Her special fire is already known to the contestants so they weren't surprised to see such a high score, the only thing they couldn't understand is how she managed to create it, after all, it should be impossible to fuse to opposite attribute . Arthur tried doing it but it neither worked with Life and Death or Water and Fire, this made him even more proud of his prodigious wife .

Time crept by and, at last, all the results were shown . As expected, Lucy was the second boss followed by Zodiak and Forne . The one who got disqualified was a woman who was half-human half-fairy named Chu An, she used Music Magic like Aneirin but, from Arthur's point of view, she wasn't as strong as the talkative poet, who pretends or actually thinks he's weak .

*Congratulations on passing the test . The 21 contestants who will proceed to the 41th floor are:

1 Ber Von Xin: 44 . 1 points (100 . 3 million points)

2 Lucy MoonStar: 42 points (201 million points)

3 Zodiak: 40 . 9 points (65 million points)

4 Forne: 40 . 6 Points (60 million points)

5 Ar'wen : 38 . 7 points (99 million points)

6 Arthur MoonStar: 38 points (75 million points)

7 Maxine : 37 . 9 points (88 . 7 million points)

8 Hach'ara : 37 . 8 points (91 million points)

9 Celes : 37 . 7 points (55 million points)

- 10 Void Behemoth : 37 . 5 points (50 . 8 million points)
- 11 Losha Alpenwatcher : 37 . 5 points (66 . 6 million points)
- 12 Sickle Bart : 37 . 4 points (20 million points)
- 13 'X' : 37 points (1 million points)
- 14 King of Jade Amtir : 37 points (12 million points)
- 15 Lightning Spirit, Raad: 37 points (23 million points)
- 16 Demon Lord Setros : 37 points (75 million points)
- 17 Maktis : 36 . 9 points (36 . 1 million points)
- 18 Leo : 36 . 9 points (800k points)
- 19 Saber Saint : 36 . 9 points (80 million points)
- 20 : G'am Tir : 35 . 5 points (9 million points)
- 21 : AXYT-48 : 35 . 4 points . * (69 . 5 million points)

Unsurprisingly, Lucy has the highest amount of points because Arthur pretty much gave her all of his points every time they met up . He wasn't interested in any of the items in the Luxury Store, moreover, she finally has enough to buy the phoenix blood, which costs 195 million points . With it, she'll hopefully boost her Yin Power and breakthrough to the middle stage of the Overgod Realm .

She'll need some time to process the blood and doing it during an event will make her vulnerable even if Arthur was protecting her . All those who remain are extremely strong so it's not possible for Arthur to protect her from more than one contestant . The only exception is G'am Tir, who isn't strong individually but since he's the behemoth's companion, they can be considered as one entity .

Furthermore, their low scores don't mean they are weaker than the top spots because they haven't revealed their trump cards yet... at least not all of them . AXYT-48 are the two robots, which fused into one and are not an opponent to scoff at . The robot has an absurdly high resistance to all kinds of attributes and is able to fire cannon blasts embedded with Dark Matter .

...

"I finally have it . "

Lucy with brimming with joy as she held a transparent vial containing a small blue drop of blood . A freezing energy was emanating from the vial, just touching it would freeze anyone though Lucy was a unique exception thanks to her special Physique, which was very compatible with the Blue Phoenix blood .

Just like its counterpart, the Blue Phoenix is a mythical creature that uses mainly Ice Magic and although it cannot self-revive, its attack and defensive power are a level above the Fire Phoenix . With the phoenix Ice and the Golden Crow flames, Lucy's fusion flame will become too overpowered but controlling will also become harder .

"It's not a good time to consume it . "-Arthur

"I know, I'll do it after leaving the tower . " Lucy laughed and gave him a small peck on his lips before continuing to admire the frozen drop of blood .

"I reckon she'll reach Peak Overgod is she consumes the blood . "-The Joker

"No, her foundation is solid and the quantity of Mana her Dantian needs is higher than the average . She'll reach the peak of middle stage Overgod, any more would be difficult without any kind of catalyst . But, I do agree that she'll get significantly stronger . "

"Hehehe mommy will soon surpass you..."

Saly giggled as she looked at Lucy, who was happily chatting with Arthur . Without a sound that could barely be heard, Saly glanced at the Joker and muttered:

"I'll tell her to kick your ass then..."

Unfortunately, Wolfram clearly heard the little girl . He stretched his hand and grabbed her little held and pulled her closer

"Aw aw teacher that hurts!"

"What did you say? She'll kick my ass?"

"N-no, I didn't say anything!"

"It seems you forgot your place... you need a thorough spanking!"

Saly's eyes turned teary as she tried to escape her teacher's hand but to no avail, she ended up getting spanked until her butt felt numb .

Chapter 616

The last ten floors are supposed to take significantly more time to clear, the tasks were very difficult and demanded the contestants to go all out lest they want to die or get disqualified . Slowly but surely, each person started showing their trump cards and trying to reach the top floor first .

*Contestant 'X' was teleported to the 43th floor using the Golden Frog . *

The Luxury store had an item called the Golden Frog which allowed the user to jump to a higher floor but it only worked from the first floor to the 45th, moreover, its price was exorbitant so with the exception of 'X', no one wanted to waste their precious points to buy it .

Although he had an advantage over the rest, that doesn't mean he's going to hold that first stop forever as Zodiak was finally showing his true colors . The old man started hindering the annoying contestants and almost killed the lightning spirit, Raad .

Right after they took the test on the 40th floor, the 21 individuals were taken to the next floor, which was some sort of a battle royal against unknown enemies that were extremely strong . The goal was to take down ten target without any help but Arthur was unlucky enough to encounter a group of robots

that belonged to the System . They were a realistic imitation created by the tower and their power was nothing to scoff at .

The parasite was seriously injured and had to flee for his life for the first time since his entering this ginormous structure . Were it not for the White Tiger's instant recovery spell and its golden barrier, he would have been forced to use the Escape Ticket .

With the disappearance of the Waiting Room, it became a race where only the faster contestant will receive the generous rewards that await them at the top . Both the Joker and Leiu were also on the 50th floor, patiently waiting for the final show to begin .

Arthur believed in his brother's strength, however, he still worried about his brother, who is a quiet but loving person . Zodiac and Forne definitely had something that could awaken the Nameless Knight, such as Sol'khin's cane, which will be playing a big role in capturing the evil within the youth .

"Master, are you really going to fight them?"

The Quad-spirit asked the meditating parasite, who opened his eyes, sighed, and said:

'I just want to stop them . I don't care about Sol'khin but if they're planning to take down Leiu with him then I won't sit still . I don't think the Joker will watch either . '

"Tsk! What an annoying brat!"

Xyktia's clicked her tongue and pulled the air, causing an unstoppable energy to grab hold of Ar'wen legs and flip him outside down . The elf retaliated correspondingly and fired three arrows after freeing himself using a black dagger which cut through the formless energy of the Lady of Darkness .

The arrows flew in a line, each one shattering one layer of the woman's defense . The last one hit her hand, ripping a hole through it and causing a lot of blood to gush out . The assassin snorted and activated her stealth, turning invisible, her unseen figure appeared next to the archer in a split second .

Unfortunately, before she could attack him, someone interfered and attack them both with the user of a highly destructive assault . He was a man that had scissor like arms and feet, his body was made of a metal and his eyes shone with an orange light, his name was Sickle Bart one of the top 21 contestants .

Countless razor-sharp small metal pieces cascaded on Ar'wen and Xyktia, dealing considerable damage but it wasn't enough to push them out of the moving thing everyone was currently on .

Around 15 contestants were now on the 45th floor, which was actually a massive moving train and the task was simple . They had to safely reach the destination without getting pushed off the train, which was separated into six large carriages . Fighting wasn't prohibited and, instead, encouraged, as the Red Tower wanted to decrease their number so that only 10 will reach the 50th floor but from how things were proceeding, it seemed rather unlikely for only 10 to arrive at the peak .

'X' was still in the lead, struggling alone on the 46th floor, which demanded cooperation . The remaining 5 contestants were still on the 44th floor, which was a world of cards and the contestants had to battle each other using cards that had their skill engraved on them . Some battles took seconds while others took hours, it only depended on the users .

...

"Ha!"

Sickle Bart performed a deadly dance that emitted violent gales which forced both Ar'wen and Xyktia to retreat . He jumped on the black-haired woman, who stopped his sharp metal legs using a short black sword that she pulled from nowhere . As the two were busy clashing, Ar'wen retreated to a safe position then shot a big arrow of light that engulfed his two target, sending them all the way to the other carriage .

Each time he damages another contestant, he'll obtain points based on how many injuries his target suffered . His last arrow netted him a whopping 5 million points, which is enough to find quite a few miraculous items .

The elf turned around and was about to head to another carriage only for his legs to be frozen . His reaction was a second too late as a fast white shadow came from the side and kicked his abdomen, flinging him in the air .

He tightly held his bow and shot an arrow in the sky, which transformed into countless arrows of light that descended upon the assailant . Unfortunately, the arrows were stopped by a beautiful blooming ice lotus that was big enough to cover a third of the carriage they were on .

Lucy glanced around, making sure no one was present before attacking the archer again . She had no enmity against him but they were competing against each other so there was no reason not to attack a target when an opportunity arises . Arthur warned her about the people she should be wary off, nevertheless, she was strong enough to defend against anyone .

Nine lotuses danced around the White Specter, who grew an illusory whitetail and two horns that were actually beautiful to see . Two arrows that were fired god-knows-when, managed to bypass the ice lotuses and hit her but were split in half by an ear-piercing cry that she released .

Still in the specter form, Lucy flew at the incoming Ar'wen, her hand holding a fully-loaded silver revolver . She fired three times at the elf, who blocked her bullet using metallic arrows that were stronger and faster, surprisingly .

Usually, a gun is faster than a bow but it wasn't the case this time, sadly . Four of Lucy's lotuses were destroyed after blocking the metallic arrows, the other five shone with a white light then slowly bloomed, freezing the air and the ground, even the movement of the train slightly decreased .

[Absolute Zero]!

For a few moments, the whole world was frozen and the rapidly moving elf turned into a block of ice, no longer able to move or shoot arrows . Lucy's right arm became a bit bigger and covered in red scales, it released a lot of steam as it sucked all the energy in the air .

By the time Ar'wen broke free, Lucy appeared before him and attacked with the Devil's arm . She used the overgrown claws to slash at the target, sending him flying like a kite, leaving a trail of blood behind .

Just by that one strike, the elf looked very miserable as he covered the terrifying injury on his chest . He threw two pills in his mouth then swiftly retreated from the carriage but right before he disappeared from Lucy's sight, his back was shot by a dark bullet .

He was sure he was going to dodge it but his movement were slowed hence the result . Lucy's skills were efficient as they focused on slowing down the target, after all, she could freeze them or stop time, which is why her victory was guaranteed against Ar'wen, then again, it was all thanks to her surprise attack at the beginning .

...

On the 6th carriage, Arthur was fighting toe to toe with Amtir, also known as, King of Jade and ruler of the Jade Realm . More than his strength, this person is known for his wealth, which he accumulated for generations . Amtir an Exalted God that had the appearance of a middle-aged man despite his old age, he likes to flaunt his money and is not afraid to use it to get rid of any arising troubles .

This time around, it wasn't Arthur who was randomly attacked but his enemy, Amtir . It was a good opportunity for the parasite to gain points and if he manages to take down the king, he'll obtain all of his points but it was rather unlikely to defeat him now as there are many prying eyes, one of them being the annoying Locha, who's standing in the corner, her arms crossed while she calmly watched the two fight .

Chapter 617: 617

"You're pushing your luck, parasite!"

Amtir angrily shouted as he jumped back and wiped some blood off his lips . A large White Tiger that was enveloped by green lightning was blocking his way and relentlessly attacking him .

The King of Jade was able to resist Arthur's monstrous attacks using only his weapon, which was a ruler made of translucent jade .

Arthur ignored whatever was said and lunged at the man, his large figure transforming into a thin bolt of lightning which pierced through a violent blast unleashed by Amtir's ruler .

Seeing no use in continuing with his attack, the king used his weapon to block the lightning bolt and fired an arrow from a hidden crossbow under his over-sized sleeves .

The large figure of the Divine Beast bashed into Amtir, pushing him back a few steps then spitting deadly acid all over the carriage . The liquid melted a tiny part of the area but Amtir's jade was strong enough to resist the tiger's acid . The crossbow' arrow was fast but it ended up hitting Arthur's afterimage as he retreated and changed forms . Two lengthy flaming wings spread in the sky, bringing with them a suffocating heat .

The King of Jade was engulfed by a sea of vermillion flames which burned his clothes and part of his hands, however, his ruler started getting bigger and released a green energy which extinguished the parasite's flames .

As he held the elongated ruler, Amtir swung at the Vermilion Bird flying in the air . The simple weapon made of Jade unleashed a powerful burst which focused only on Arthur, ripping a large holes through his wings and causing him to fall .

Amtir wanted to follow-up but by the time Arthur crashed into the ground, all the wounds had disappeared . A lightning-fast silhouette charged at the king and kicked him from the side, causing him to stagger . Arthur teleported behind the target and punched using [Dark Burst] and [S-Void Mouths] . This combination managed, for the first time, to overcome the ruler's jade and directly hit Amtir .

Small and creepy mouths ate away parts of the Jade then jumped on Amtir, ripping through his chest . Unfortunately, the victim had a quick reaction as he retrieved another ruler which was also made of Jade but had a different color . This new ruler was pink-ish and seemed considerably stronger but just holding it made it extremely tired .

Amtir sacrificed the first ruler by breaking it apart and using the shards to get rid of the void mouths while the second ruler slashed his own skin and sucked all the Dark Magic .

Arthur, who had been standing still for the last couple of seconds, pointed both of his palms at Amtir . Soon enough, two dragon cries echoed across the train, and from within the parasite, a lightning and fire dragons appeared, both flying at the King of Jade .

In mid-air, they twirled around each other and merged, becoming an even larger entity . Sadly, they couldn't do anything as Amtir held the pink ruler with both of his hand and vertically slashed at the incoming dragon .

In a way, his retaliation was very effective as the blast he unleashed was similar to Arthur's sword, which was given to him by Timos . The Parasite used the White Tiger's Golden Barrier along with the Dark Barrier to block most of the incoming damage yet he still ended up injured .

It took him a bit more than ten seconds to heal himself using Life Energy and when he looked up, Amtir had already fled .

The parasite opened the Red Tower's system and checked his points, smirking only when he noticed a significant increase . The brief fight netted him 35 million points, which is considered a decent amount .

"Do you admit your loss now?"

Losha's foot was on Maxine's chest, the latter was severely injured and breathing heavily . She was beaten in a fair fight against the reincarnator, who didn't hold back and finally showcased the true might of the Diamond Physique and the Divine Sword; Grail .

"Do you?"

The blacksmith repeated her words while leaning her closer to Maxine, who, strangely, had a bright smile on her face .

"T, the terrain is not good but I admit it... I lost . "

As she said that, Losha retracted her hand and stretched her hand to the player, who accepted it, not withholding any hard feelings . They never planned to fight to the death and, in some ways, their character was a bit similar, though Maxine was on the crazier side .

"But tell me! What was that mo-"

Maxine suddenly stopped talking and looked to the side, precisely at the edge of the carriage . A person appeared out of nowhere and was staring at them but she couldn't feel any hostility .

"Huh? Isn't she that White Specter? Luna... no no, Lucy, right right!"

Maxine sized up the incoming Lucy, not very interested in a fight but still keeping her guards up .

The silver-haired woman stopped before the player and Losha, then slightly bowed her head to the latter .

"Teacher . "

In response, Losha waved her hand dismissively while saying: "I'm not your teacher anymore so stop doing that . "

"..." Lucy raised her head and stared back at the red-haired blacksmith, who acted nonchalantly .

Maxine used a skill similar to Appraisal to check Lucy's info and when she read the displayed information, her opinion of the specter changed .

"You're really something, huh . "

She nodded her head as she inspected her from head to toe before backing off and leaving the area . Her behavior was strange and inexplicable but since Lucy didn't come for the player, she didn't comment and quietly watched the green-haired woman leave while whistling .

"It's rare to see you alone . "

Losha looked around before asking: "Where is that detestable husband of yours?"

"I don't know . "

Lucy shook her head while answering truthfully . They got separated on the previous floor and the train is just too big to search every nook and cranny .

*Contestants, the train will reach the destination in 15 minutes . Please hold tight . "

Right after the tower spoke, the whole train started violently shaking, making many of the contestants lose balance . Unless you've got a special skill, flying is not possible using only energy, moreover, there were some large wraiths that would attack you if you leave the train's protection range .

When the trembling started, the screeching wraiths appeared from the shrouded sides and attacked everything that moved .

Lucy took out her revolver and fired at the wraiths, which were momentarily stopped by the bullets but weren't extinguished . Losha unsheathed Grail, the White divine sword, and stabbed the nearest wraith . A blinding light burst from the blade's tip, it caused the monster to wildly cry before disappearing into nothingness .

"Spiritual monsters can be killed using lig-"

Before she could finish, Losha saw a blue cloud that appeared above the carriage . The cloud appeared from a blue bullet, this was but the beginning as countless lightning bolts descended upon all the

attacking wraiths, slowly killing them, their bodies were emitting steam as they tried to flee but the zapping blue lightning was merciless, sparing none .

Chapter 618: 618

By the time the first contestant reached the 47th floor, three were eliminated, leaving only 18 inside the Red Tower . In addition to 'X', Maktis, who's Xyktia, also caught up and they started competing for the lead . The 16 others were on the 46th floor, where things got really bloody .

Arthur fought Amtir again and managed to kick him out of the tower, though he had to hit him two consecutive times with his sword, which consumed a great deal of energy and sucked a lot of his life essence . While he can recover it with time and Life Magic, the backlash was even a parasite like him couldn't resist .

He felt incredible dizziness and fatigue which greatly slowed his movements and rendered him vulnerable for a few minutes . Using an expensive defensive formation and the body of the Black Turtle, Arthur was forced to receive the joint frontal attacks of Leo and the Saber Saint, who teamed up and clearly wanted to take him down .

Leo was an experienced martial artist who used two hardened wooden batons, he was from the Heaven and Hell Universe and his fighting style could be described as strange . As for the Saber Saint, he obviously used a saber and was truly a strong individual . His saber attacks are deadly and faster than any of Arthur's attacks . The two didn't have any personal grudge against the parasite, they just wanted to eliminate the parasite because he's considered a big threat to them as he can transform into many things, which can be troublesome later on .

Fortunately, before they could breakthrough Arthur's multi-layered defense, the robot AXYT-48 intervened and started indiscriminately attacking everyone .

"Is that supposed to scare me?"

'X' leaned on his cane and mockingly said to the black-haired man gazing back at him . For a split second, she revealed her real appearance to him but he wasn't the least bit afraid . She was the one who forcefully tasked him to search for the Divine Swords and, at that time, he had to obey or die, however, the situation was different inside the tower .

"I can feel that you're not as strong as when you were trapped . Oh, and I could care less about your motive... just don't bother me, eh?"

He turned around and was about to leave but a black shadow lunged at him . The attacker's sword went through the target as 'X' teleported a distance away then glanced at the tall undead standing in his previous position .

The undead was a Death Knight specially summoned by the creator of Necromancy . It boasted a monstrous strength and a great speed and that is without including its flawless control over Death Magic .

It wasn't like Arthur's summons, which, at most, can fight against a new God . This Death Knight can fight and even defeat an Overgod and it's but one of her undead, if she were to summon her strongest servant, she would be able to defeat all the contestants .

"That's a strong undead but I reckon it's the only one you can summon here . The Joker is watching and I don't think he'll allow you to bring forth something that could break the balance of the competition . Now then..."

He waved his hand and vanished, leaving an expressionless Xyktia behind .

"What a strange man . "

She snorted and turned invisible, her summon was also affected by the stealth and followed right behind her .

...

The competition inside the Red Tower began a bit less than two months ago and it was almost time for the grand show to begin . Although those who're outside didn't know what's happening inside this massive structure, they could feel that the end is nigh . The Red Tower was glowing with a blinding crimson gold glow, the card symbols were continuously changing colors and expanding in size, covering almost the entirety of the sky-piercing tower .

The army of Holy Knights doubled in size and blocked all sides of the tower and waited for the parasite to emerge for more than a month . The peaceful atmosphere and their dominance was broken when a thousand or so cultivators wearing the same attire appeared out of nowhere and attacked them .

Apparently, they all belonged to the Kang Clan and were above the God Realm . Individually, they were very strong and managed to push back the dominion's forces out of the area surrounding the Red Tower .

Seraph, the man leading the Holy Knights battled someone both Arthur and Lucy were quite familiar with . He was a middle-aged man they met in the Underworld, he went by the name of Azure Bai .

He was the vice-master of the Kang Clan and the Blue Seat of Wisdom of Black Rose, those the second identity was known only to few people . Despite having the numerical advantage, the Holy Dominion suffered one loss after the other and, to make matters worse for them, the Overgod Dan and Wrath, both trusted confidants of Isadore Malfront, King of Green Leaf, appeared in the battlefield and openly helped the Kang Clan .

Although Seraph's army was defeated multiple times, they didn't back down, instead, they called for more reinforcements, fully determined to get Arthur, dead or alive .

"Rin, how's it hanging?"

Bai poured some tea for the bard sitting next to him . From the way they talked to each other, you could see they were close friends .

Aneirin's attention was focused on a beautiful woman who accompanied Azure Bai here . She was the second-in-command and had a mature look and a revealing dress that exposed much skin . For a

womanize like the wandering poet, he simply couldn't take his eyes off her, he couldn't even hear what his friend said .

The woman stood next to her leader and pretended to ignore the stranger's fiery gaze . As for Azure Bai, he chuckled and said:

"I'll properly introduce you two later so how about you tell me why you're here?"

He waved his hand in front of the poet's face, snapping him out of his long daze .

"Ehm I'm just meeting an old friend . "

"And who might that be?" Bai tried to probe further but the bard just dropped his head on the table and closed his eyes, trying to take a nap .

"You think this is a good place?"

Sonia, the current vice-master of the MoonStar Sect, looked around while asking her Robin and Mary, who accompanied her here . They appeared in the desolate Eastern lands of Green Leaf, where only a few old races live, like the Pigolo and the Nagas .

As per Arthur's instruction, it's finally time to expand the sect and there's no better starting place than here . Isadore offered his help in establishing the first branch here and provided them with soldiers and materials to start the construction .

Robin pushed back her glasses, crouched down and touched the dirt, which lacked any type of energy . The land was infertile and the weather is always hot but Arthur insisted to start here because he knew how to change it . The wasteland took a big portion of Green Leaf and it's pretty much uninhabitable so the sect manages to dominate this land, it won't be hard to expand to the outside world .

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"I smell nothing . There's no grass or even insects . "

Mary sniffed the air but ended up shivering, clearly disliking how this place felt . It was no different from a land of death and without the talisman provided by the king, they wouldn't be able to survive on their own .

In addition to the three women, the young Rey, who looked more mature, there was also a few strong individuals in the air . There dozens of wraiths and three large bone dragons, the very first Arthur ever summoned .

The main one had a body that was over four hundred meters in length and can even fight against a God, which is more than enough to guarantee the safety of its master's friends .

"It doesn't matter as long as we use what Arthur gave us . "

Rey was playing with a ball of Dark Magic while saying that but he ended up getting smacked by an angry Robin, who berated:

"I told you to call him Sir Arthur . "

The boy shrugged his shoulders and kept his lips tightly shut, unwilling to anger his guardian .

This small group changed locations a few times until they stumbled upon a piece of land surrounded by rocky hills, the perfect place to build a thriving city . The workers sent by Isadore were confused but they didn't voice their opinion and just followed Sonia, who didn't look particularly strong .

The red-haired vice-master took out a sprout from her storage and meticulously planted it on the lifeless ground . Within seconds, the sprout grew bigger and bigger and affected everything around it, beginning from the ground . Grass and trees started rapidly growing, all kinds of vegetation covered the area, making it look more pleasant . As for the source of this, the sprout grew into an incredibly large tree which started changing forms until it became a tower similar to the one on Astria . It was made from white magic-resistant bricks and the symbol of the sect on its center .

The king's people were flabbergasted as they witnessed this magical sight . They thought they had to build everything from scratch but within minutes, a tower and a few large buildings rose from below, moreover, the lifeless earth showed signs of recovery, and the sky was soon covered by clouds, from which rain started pouring down .

"It really works . "

Rey stood there in disbelief, amazed by the effects of a single sprout . It was given to them by Arthur, who created it using his spirit's help along with Nature Magic . The largest dragon landed on the tower's roof and crouched down, entering a slumber as its body started resembling a statue . It was tasked to protect Sonia and co and now that part of the city was built, it only had to rest and act if trouble arises .

As for the workers, Sonia told them to start building the rest of the city using the materials provided by Isadore . They were the best in their respective fields and it won't take long for this small city to be completed .

Chapter 619

Floor 49 : Fallen Gods and Rising Angels

This was the last floor before they reach the top of the Red Tower . 18 contestants out of 1000 managed to reach this floor and every one of them had seen everything to see in this otherworldly structure .

Not all entered the floor at the same time but the sheer difficulty of the task made it hard even for the leading contestants to hastily complete it . In fact, what they had to do was simple, they just needed to survive inside a calamitous world .

"Master, these are not normal disasters . "

The moment Arthur appeared on the 49th floor, he was knocked off balance and fell into a bottomless abyss . He quickly transformed into a bird and, with great difficulty, flew out of the crack .

There was a violent earthquake assaulting the area, furthermore, the gravity was increased by fivefold, at the very least, and not even his spirit could negate the effect .

"I can sense firestorms, earthquakes, whirlpools, and even black holes . "

As it had a high sensitivity to certain elements, the spirit's sense caught the disasters occurring simultaneously all over the floor . Arthur looked at the shrouded sky, where there was a scarlet moon very close to the surface, and, from the looks of it, it was about to explode .

"These disasters are similar to what Claud spoke about . "

Arthur's guess was spot-on as this world was a recreation of past events... tragic events that wiped countless races off the face of the multiverse . Basically, these disasters were the retaliation of the natural laws after the balance was broken . The sheer magnitude of the disasters caused every living thing to cower and hide far away as not even the God Race managed to resist them .

"I can sense Madam Lucy North of here . "

'Is she alone?'

"She seems to be with the blacksmith . "

Arthur clicked his tongue and flew toward where Lucy, after all, he just needed to survive and it would be better to stay with his wife . Unfortunately, he just traveled for a few minutes only to be attacked by beings made of an ominous black light . They are corrupted versions of the God Race, a once-prominent race which was cursed by the Darkness Laws .

Only two blocked Arthur's way but they were strong enough to stop the speeding parasite and even cast a curse on him, which shouldn't work thanks to his passives and high resistances . His movement speed was slowed but he negated the effect by buffing himself with the talismans . He unleashed a torrent of Dark Spears followed by several exploding detonators, which did no damage to the Fallen Gods .

Not only were they very tough to beat, their attacks were destructive and complicated the situation as Arthur also had to deal with the unfavorable terrain affected by the disasters . He had left the range of the earthquake and was now affected by a massive wind whirlpool hanging in the sky . It released violent gales that rendered Arthur unable to fly properly and forced him to stick to the ground .

To swiftly end things, Arthur used a fire Rizaki, engulfing the area with the hell flames, slowing down the spinning whirlpool and pushing away the Fallen Gods . He didn't try to defeat them and, instead, activated [Transmutation] and [Eternium], before transforming into a lightning bolt that disappeared into the scarlet horizon .

Apparently, Lucy was right under the moon-like thing high-up in the sky, even from his current distance, Arthur was able to see countless black dots, which actually were Fallen Gods .

"Those disasters happened in the Era of Beginning but no one knows their cause . "

Anastassia looked at the ravaged world and curiously commented . The previous Death showed her many things but she still didn't know why disasters started hitting multiple worlds, sparing none .

While Leiu maintained his silence, the Joker explained:

"The balance was broken... in a way, it's the way the natural laws were administrating their punishment . "

"And how did the balance get broken?"

"Well, there are many reasons, for example, the conjunction of two or more cycles, messing with time, etc..."

He paused for a second and studied Death's face before continuing: "In this case, it's because the natural laws couldn't handle the Shadow Emperor's existence . The Shadow Laws were getting out of hand and affecting the other ones hence the appearance of those disasters . Facing extinction, the laws started acting on their own, though what they had done didn't really affect Moriah, who chose to end his own life . "

"So it's just because of Moriah?"

"What do you mean 'just because of Moriah'? It's more than enough of a reason . He became so powerful that his existence started erasing everything else, just thinking about it gives me the chills . "

"I thought Moriah died because he couldn't handle his own power . "

As she said that, the silent Leiu corrected her: "If he didn't end his own life then he wouldn't died anyway . He absorbed too much from the shadows and wasn't able to contain it all regardless of how tough his shell was . "

After saying that, the youth stood up and waved his hand while adding:

"It's almost time . You should leave... and take Saly home . Safely . "

He didn't wait for Anastassia to reply and quickly left the room, followed by the Joker, who didn't want to leave his brother's side . They were heading to the 50th floor; the World of Darkness .

Left alone, Death looked at the sleeping little girl then at the monitor . She enveloped the young beastmen with her magic and left the Red Tower second later .

An enormous illusory golden palm struck two Fallen Gods, flattening them on the ground and when they were about to get up, thick jet black chains sprung from the ground and bound their bodies, the gravity was also increased, further decreasing their mobility . Arthur descended from the sky, hitting one of the targets' faceless heads with his glowing fist . A thundering explosion echoed across the area when his fist connected with the mass of black light, which was tougher than Amtir's Jade .

Arthur clenched his teeth and punched again, this time unleashing a burst of Dark and Void Magic . The Fallen God's head slowly vanished but its body continued its struggle to break free from the chains . As for the other God, it managed to shatter the chains and attack the parasite only to be hit by a meteor-like fireball created by the Quad-Spirit .

As flames engulfed the Fallen God, a grey tornado appeared from within Arthur's body and flung the enemy in the air before it started eating what little was left of its Life essence .

Without wasting any second, Arthur transformed into a White Tiger and leapt far away, leaving only one headless Fallen God wriggling on the ground . He left the perimeter of the whirlpool and entered another area flagged by a disastrous ash-colored rain .

The heavy pouring liquid slowly decreased Arthur's health and even when coated himself with Dark Magic, it didn't work . In the end, he had to continuously use Life Energy to regenerate the lost Health .

He was getting closer and closer to Lucy, who seemed to be in the middle of battling Fallen Gods along with Losha .

...

Several minutes after finishing those two Fallen Gods, Arthur finally arrived at where his wife is . His eyes glowed with a blue light, freezing one of two enemies next to Lucy and her teacher, he teleported three times, appearing behind the target then used the White Tiger's massive body to bash the Fallen God then he returned to his human form and flew next to Lucy, holding her wrist and spinning around .

He spun 180 degrees before letting go of her hand, causing her body to fly in the air, directly towards one of the enemies . The White Specter made use of Devil Arm to slash at the mass of black light, ripping it into pieces .

Surprisingly, the energy released by her arm was highly effective against the Fallen Gods . As for Losha, she didn't face any troubles as her body was able to block all the attacks while her Divine Sword purged those malevolent entities .

Once the few enemies were disposed of, Arthur looked at the massive scarlet moon above him, focusing mainly on the black dots fighting each other . There appeared to be two sides, one was composed of Fallen Gods and the others were humanoid-like monsters with horns and long tail . The shape of their hands and the scales covering them were a bit similar to Lucy's devil arms but theirs didn't release steam or has a shoulder-guards made of dark red scales .

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"It's going to explode soon . "

Losha commented while activating her physique, which covered her body in unbreakable diamond . The scarlet moon which was very close to them was slowly cracking but the Gods and Devils fighting below it didn't seem to care and continued crazily fighting each other .

"Then we'll be off . "

Arthur didn't feel like talking with the reincarnator, he transformed into a shark made of bones and dove underground right after Lucy jumped on his back and tightly grabbed one of the thinner bones . Unlike him, she couldn't navigate well under the unstable ground, and considering that the surface is filled with enemies, it's much safer to travel underground .

The tip of the shark was drilling through the tough earth, creating a large tunnel as it headed farther from the soon-to-explode moon .

Unfortunately, minutes after Arthur left that area, the place was obliterated by a meteor shower caused by the moon, which split in two . Losha was prepared, however, she was still blasted far away and half of her body became bloodied . No one and nothing was spared, not even the parasite fleeing underground... Arthur and Lucy were hit by a flattening force which crushed the earth and turned the whole area in an unrecognizable mess .

By the time the couple came to their senses, they were falling into the abyss along with countless boulders of all shapes and sizes, there were also corpses of both Gods and Devils .

Arthur automatically returned to his human form and unconsciously held Lucy tight while activating the Angel of Death wings that allowed him to fly, though he had to dodge the innumerable things falling from above . The situation got even worse when a falling meteor that had a radius of several kilometers came crashing down . Lucy activated her Godspirit and used it to slow down the flaming boulder but, sadly, it didn't last long as the ice lotus was soon shattered .

The parasite held his wife's hands as they faced the sky while falling . . . without needing to talk, the two started readying their energies . A massive and illusory humanoid figure appeared behind them, it was holding a blue bow and was slowly pulling the unseen strings of the weapon .

They didn't get to complete the whole skill as the meteor was closing down, nonetheless, the fired arrow was incredibly destructive as hit the center of the boulder . From the point of impact to all over the target, Yin power started freezing everything and quelling down the crimson fire which kind of resembled the Hell flames .

"It's not stopping!"

Arthur gritted his teeth and used two consecutive Rizakis, one made of Dark Magic and the other of Wind . He had to unleash them immediately as danger was nigh so their effect wasn't at its peak either, nonetheless, the result was satisfactory as a third of the meteor vanished . Dark flames clashed with the crimson ones while violent invisible winds were getting big chunks off the meteor . Lucy didn't remain idle either, through Arthur's help, who granted her a momentary lightning buff which greatly increased her speed, she flew at the boulder like a shooting star .

Her Devil Arm was emitting a lot of steam as she clenched her hand and poured all of her Mana into it then struck the unimaginable big target . Her appearance slightly changed as she activated her racial ability, further boosting her power and, at last, with a loud cry, she punched .

A deep rumbling could be heard the moment her fist made contact with the meteor, it was quickly followed by an absurd amount of steam which enveloped the whole area . The second she hit her target, Lucy and Arthur simultaneously used the Time stop ability to weaken the red flames and the speed of the boulder .

Fortunately, Lucy's attack managed to split it then make it explode like fireworks, allowing the couple to take a breath .

...

A distance away, a meteor no smaller than the one Arthur and Lucy had to deal with was frozen mid-air, or more precisely, it was stopped by a minuscule figure covered in diamonds . With blood covering her vision and most of her body, Losha was using her bare hands to stop the boulder . Slowly but surely, she was diverting the meteor's trajectory with sheer physical strength .

Although it took her a bit of time and she sustained several injuries, Losha still managed to throw away the meteor and then fell on the ground, panting heavily while clutching her rapidly beating heart .

"That sneaky fucker... this is the last floor!"

She didn't curse often but when she felt the energy emanating from within the half-destroyed moon, she instinctively knew this was not something as simple as surviving . It has been a long time she felt true fear, moreover, a single one of these countless falling meteors made her go all out . She threw a green pill in her mouth, sat cross-legged for ten seconds then got up after puking a mouthful of black blood . Feeling a bit refreshed, she looked around, looking for any contestants



A woman with a black hair that reached her feet looked at the crumbling sky and splitting earth before focusing on an unimaginably large wing hidden within the scarlet moon .

"How the hell did he catch it?"

She thought for a moment before mumbling: "Wait a minute..."

As if she realized something, she gasped, unwilling to believe her speculation .

"Leiu... you can't fight fire with fire . "

Without any hesitation, she took out a scissor made of bones and her a big portion of her long hair then she spilled some of her blood on it . The result of her actions was instant as a void-like whole appeared on the earth and, from within, an undead was summoned . This was her strongest undead and it is even more powerful than her current weakened self .

"You protect him and never leave his side, understood?"

She coldly ordered the undead, which was actually a short girl with white eyes and hair . She had a thin white longsword made of bones on her back and wore a beautiful black dress .

"Yes, milady . "

The girl bowed and vanished into a dispersing black smoke, breaking the space of the Red Tower and immediately appearing next to Leiu, who didn't seem too surprised to see her .

...

"... Soon, I will not be myself so-"

The Joker cut him off by saying: "Sure sure I know . I'm not interfering unless you're in danger . "

The youth sighed and explained: "You don't understand . It won't work unless I'm in danger . "

"Sigradzomr's presence is enough to force Sol'khin out . "

In response, Leiu shook his head and looked at an empty spot not far away . His brother followed his gaze only to see a robbed old man silently standing there, not showing any fear or hesitation .

"There's more than Sigradzomr . "

Zodiak, who was the first to arrive at this final place, also known as the World of Darkness, where Leiu's manor actually is, stared at the armored youth and said:

"You released the Elder Dragon Sigradzomr so you actually know that we're not enough to take you down once you're out of control but... an enslaved and vengeful monster won't discriminate . "

"We're not forcing anyone to be here . If you don't want to be part of this then leave . "-The Joker

"Hehehe how can I leave? I need to reclaim what's mine first . "

Dark Magic emanated from Zodiac's body, it transformed into black flames that merged with the dark environment, almost camouflaging the old man .

Zodiac wasn't here to talk so after saying his piece, he took out a creepy cane from his storage and pointed it at the motionless Leiu . The moment it was taken out of the ring, Sol'khin's cane started releasing an ominous purple light which even affected Zodiac, who grasped it more tightly .

The light coming out of the skull atop the cane resonated with something Leiu, who clutched his chest and knelt on the ground . Very soon, the purple light started spinning around Zodiac and his target, seemingly about to take them elsewhere .

Unfortunately, before the process was completed, the Joker appeared before the cane and blocked its purple light . He stretched his hand and fired a white beam which overpowered the cane's light and stopped the teleportation .

"If you want to take down Sol'khin then, sure, I won't meddle but I'm not going to take my brother somewhere else . Whatever happens, I need to be present . "

Zodiac snorted and pulled the skull from the cane, he held it in his hand and injected a large amount of Dark Magic, causing the purple light to intensify . A few seconds later, a ghastly laugh could be heard from behind the Magician, who took a few steps back while looking at his brother, who was no longer conscious .

"Ah! So it's not Arthur but Zodiac? It's really a surprise!"

Though Leiu's mouth didn't open, Sol'khin's voice echoed across this dark world . He stood up, uninterestingly glanced at the Joker then focused on the old man, who shattered the pulsating creepy with his hand .

After a few seconds, Sol'khin was confused, using the youth's body, he looked around then frowned:

"I can sense Arthur's soul too... so invigorating!"

Dark Magic was shot from Zodiac's hand, targeting the still speaking Sol'khin, however, before it could reach him, it was cut by a white sword . The undead summoned by Xyktia reached her target and stood before the Nameless Knight, her sword in hand as she faced the angry Zodiac .

He wasn't in the mood to deal with extras so he went all out from the beginning, unleashing a monstrous amount of Dark Magic that engulfed everything and made the whole place shake . Faced with the calamitous and malevolent magic, the girl remained calm and swung her sword multiple times, each time splitting the big waves of Dark Magic as if they were nothing .

As Zodiak was about to attack again, the white-haired undead girl was suddenly blasted by a destructive magic . She wasn't injured but the blow pushed her to the side and opened a path for Zodiak, who was more than prepared .

Forne made a timely appearance and started fighting the powerful undead . His destruction magic lightened the dark world as several loud explosions happened one after the other .