

S. Lord 1011

Chapter 1011 Primal

The Primal was slightly chubby, but his momentum didn't suffer from that. He was incredibly fast and didn't hesitate to show that.

Eliminating the Volcano God had been a rather simple task, but it didn't seem like the Primal came for the Volcano God in the first place. Still, organizing the cosmos was one of the things the Primal did. The Volcano God intervened in the lives of the mortals by eliminating an entire planetary system with his cut-open Divinity.

Maybe Michael could survive this...somehow.

"You are that kid with Fenrir's Curse?" The Primal asked, his azure hide-like skin around his lips stretching far. The Primal had azure-like hide as skin, razor-sharp teeth, and large, pitch-black eyes. His arms and legs were unproportionally long and seemed to wave around wildly. It was almost like the man didn't have any control of his arms and legs.

Michael swallowed hard while continuing to fuel his body with as much Essence as he and his God Curses needed to unleash his full power. He tried to access Slipstream to escape if necessary but quickly noticed how the fissure in the fabric of space and reality blocked all major space jumps. He could still use Slipstream but only jump a few hundred kilometers at a time. That wasn't enough to escape the Primal.

"I have Fenrir inside me," Michael nodded slowly. Even if the Primal were a bit slow, he would be able to sense the three Divinities radiating from him. It didn't take a genius to do so.

"You look different than expected. To think the Will choose a Hyuman to give Fenrir to after so many Hyumans have been annoying, destroying the Origin Expanse left and right. I wonder what makes you special," The Primal said, only to shrug, "Actually, I don't really care. I know about your powers, the God Curses, and the second heart in your chest. Even the Pure Aether radiating faintly from you is known to me. You cannot hide the Pure Aether with those merged Divinity Domains. Well, you tried, so that's that."

The Primal looked at Michael intently, ready to say more, but its lips remained shut. Michael's lips parted and closed a few times, but he was unsure if whatever he was going to say would kill him.

"Are you going to kill me?" Michael asked at last. He could have avoided the topic and try to stall more time to prepare for the inevitable, however, Michael wasn't sure if that was possible in the first place. The God Curses were already doing their utmost to help him with their Divinities, and Michael was unsure how much stronger he could get without unleashing the full force of dead planets and countless tons of Void Ingots at once.

"Do you want me to kill you?" The Primal retorted.

"Not really, I would much rather survive—...." As the words escaped his lips, the Primal did something. His pitch-black eyes glowed faintly, and a stream of unknown Essence gushed out of them.

Michael pushed to the side a quarter of a second before the Essence reached him, but their velocity was incredibly high, forcing Michael and the God Curses to retaliate. They unleashed streams of their Essences as well while activating the Power and Death Authority.

Unfortunately, Michael's Essences were crushed easily. The Primal's Essence flood swamped the space and reached Michael, whose body reacted similarly to the Volcano God's.

His chest burst apart alongside his arms and legs.

A wave of pain flooded Michael, who reacted instinctively with Unlimited Enhancement applied to River of Vigor. The supreme healing serum, alongside the enhanced Soultrait, healed Michael rapidly, but regrowing four limbs and a good portion of his upper body wouldn't be completed within a second or two. It would take a little longer.

"You survived that? Looks like the Beast Gods pushed you above the threshold of the average Minor God. That's interesting, given you're only an 8th Tier Awakened. I think we can deduce that you are not yet a full-fledged God but that the rankings of the Origin Expanse's Awakened do not apply to you anymore. Very interesting." The Primal said lightheartedly.

Michael cursed inwardly and tried retaliating. He conjured spears with Emperor Qi but focused on applying the Death Authority and the purest Essences of the Wolf Divinity to them. At last, Michael hurled them at the Primal with the Power Authority, pushing their velocity to another level.

The Primal smiled nonchalantly at the sight unfolding before him and waved his hand. A wall of Essence formed before him, blocking the Emperor Qi spears easily. Michael was annoyed, but the Primal's actions were interesting.

'He is cautious. If the projectiles wouldn't be able to harm him, the Primal would have never used an Essence barrier!' [He knows what Fenrir can do. Isn't that the one who captured you, Fenrir?] Hel asked, but Fenrir merely growled. The Beast God wasn't in the mood to respond. He was in fury, which transferred to Michael, whose eyes narrowed to tiny slits.

If the Primal standing before them was the same who defeated and captured Fenrir, that would be good and bad at the same time. First things first, the Primal would know Fenrir's powers like the back of his hand. He would know what Fenrir could do and could do various things to overpower Fenrir's Wolf Divinity. But, at the same time, the Primal would know Fenrir's powers. That wasn't only an advantage for the Primal.

After all, the Primal would also know what could injure him and that he had to be more careful fighting Fenrir IF there was something the Wolf Divinity could do to harm the Primal. That was the case, which was evident at the Essence barrier.

'What did you do to harm him? Can we repeat that? Even if we can't recreate the same effect, how about we make it seem like we can do it in order to fool the Primal? Since Pure Aether is good enough to injure the Primal, all we need to do is get close to the Primal and cut him a few times.'

[You make it sound so easy. The Primal are not that easy to defeat, especially not this guy. He is a nuisance and probably one of the Primal who has caught most rebelling Gods. Though he did not only catch most, but he killed those who were easy enough to kill. There was no need to bother capturing the weaker rebelling gods.] Fenrir responded.

[And no. We cannot recreate the same effect. Michael would be torn into shreds with his body.]

'That is...unfortunate...'

Michael's body was still not strong enough to endure the full power of the God Curses' Divinities. His Divinities were growing and thus also nourishing and strengthening his body, but that wasn't enough. He was still not strong enough.

'Does that mean I have to die?' Michael asked as a joke, but the God Curses didn't respond.

"You are thinking too loud. Your expressions reveal everything that's on your mind." The Primal chuckled before releasing another series of Essence. This time, it wasn't a flood but a rainstorm of Essence. A hail descended upon Michael, who accessed Slipstream instinctively to evade it.

"Oh? You have a Spatial Soultrait as well? Looks like you developed something new from Fenrir's powers. That is very interesting. To think Fenrir is capable of something like that. I don't think he could that before." The Primal surprised Michael with that, only for Fenrir to growl.

[I spent eons in the void. Of course, I was planning my revenge. Growing my powers and creating Extraction was necessary!]

'While that's interesting...how about we use my Soultraits to beat the shit out of him?' Michael suggested, but the God Curses laughed. It was a sad laugh.

[I don't want to crush your dreams, but I don't think this is how it's going to work.]

Chapter 1012 The Primal II

Everything was going south, starting with the appearance of the Primal.

Dealing with the Volcano God would have been a hassle, but it wasn't impossible. Michael was certain to defeat the Volcano God with the support of the three God Curses. He almost had the Volcano God where he wanted him to be when the Primal appeared. If he only had a few minutes longer, Michael would have had defeated the Volcano God and disappeared. The fissure in the fabric of space and reality wouldn't be able to block him and the Primal would have appeared in an empty planetary system.

Unfortunately, his plan didn't work out as intended. Nothing worked out like he wanted to. The worst about that was the danger level of the Primal. Michael knew he wouldn't be able to defeat the Primal, who showed him that quite clearly.

Michael tried blocking a few attacks with the Imperial Barrier once his limbs and chest had regrown, but the hail of Essences was too strong. They shattered the Imperial Barrier and poked holes into Michael's body. He looked like a piece of cheese after the barrage of Essences and ended up forced to use supreme healing serum to regenerate.

The Primal didn't even try killing him instantly. It felt like a game...with Michael being the toy everyone wanted to play with. That didn't feel great. It was annoying, especially with the God Curses' lackluster attempts to help him. It was almost like the God Curses had already given up.

'Try harder! Even if you have to tear my body apart, use more of your Divinities!' Michael roared in his mind in an attempt to motivate the God Curses. However, their reaction was far from motivated. They acted lethargic, almost like they were already dead and waiting for the butcher to take them apart.

"Your little friends abandoned you, didn't they? Isn't it funny how much you struggle while giving your utmost to survive while your lovely Curses have already given up. My arrival must have

shattered their plans. A mere Divine Lifeform is trying to survive against a Primal while three God Curses are not doing anything. That is cute!" The Primal gaggled, his pitch-black eyes locking on Michael with devilish joy. The glint of excitement in his eyes sickened Michael.

'Do something!' He shouted, hoping the God Curses would do more when more Essences of the Primal filled the planetary system.

However, Michael was torn apart again without a response from the God Curses. It was almost like they weren't present in the first place. That was...weird. It didn't make any sense. Why would the God Curses disappear all of a sudden? They needed him, and at this very moment, Michael needed them as well. Right now, more than ever!

But they didn't respond. Why? Was the Primal doing something to cut their connection?

A glance in Primal's direction told Michael that the powerhouse wasn't doing anything other than enjoying the scene unfolding before him. After living for as long as the cosmos existed, the Primal had only experienced little joy. Torturing his enemies and watching them grow more desperate as they realized nobody was coming to help them was among the most pleasing things to watch as a Primal.

Of course, some Primal had other preferences, but most had the lack of exciting experiences in common. They had always been the strongest entities of the universe and encountered little to no problems. Of course, some Gods had been troublesome, but the Primal let most of them live until they transformed into proper issues to feel some more excitement running through their veins.

Fenrir had been difficult to deal with. He was a dangerous opponent as long as he unleashed his full power. The Primal standing opposite Michael had encountered Fenrir at full power and knew that Fenrir was powerful enough to harm the Essences of the Primal. That hadn't been as exciting because the Primal rarely felt pain. It fueled them with rage and confusion. It...showed them that they weren't invincible, which was what they had always been certain of.

However, feeling pain showed them that they were far from invincible. Thus, they started removing the most dangerous threats. Even if they weren't fortunate enough to experience many more exciting fights, they could find other things that excited them. Such as torturing those who could become dangerous opponents if they were given more time to grow.

But they weren't given any time to grow. On the contrary, the Primal would remove the roots of all those who were bound to become too powerful after attaining the powers of Godhood for an extended period. Michael was not a God yet, but he was already strong enough to kill one. That was dangerous. If he was given a few more years to grow...who knew how strong Michael was going to be?

[Stall more time.] Fenrir said suddenly in Michael's mind, which the Primal noticed even though Michael's expression didn't change in the slightest.

"They didn't abandon you yet? That is very interesting. Or maybe they're trying to find a way to turn you into their meatshield. They'll have to surrender a portion of their Essence; the Essence that fused with yours, but that is a cheap price in exchange for survival. I wonder how long it will take before they come back. They will fail again and again and again." The Primal laughed at the top of his lungs while releasing more droplets of Essence into the open space. Michael was riddled with more holes, which regrew rapidly. Still, the damage consumed lots of energy, nutrients, lifeforce,

and supreme healing serum. Michael had enough of each, but after thousands of Essence droplets pierced through him, inflicting fist-sized holes even though the Essences were only the size of mere droplets, Michael ended up consuming much more resources than he'd wanted to.

The only advantage was that Micheal stalled for some time. Fenrir's comment had been short, but it filled Michael with hope. If they hadn't abandoned him, which the message suggested, Michael would have survived as long as the God Curses needed...for whatever they were doing.

He was unsure what was going to happen but struggled to survive nonetheless. The Divinities in his Soul Sphere were quickly used up, but the God Curses didn't replenish them. From that time onward, Michael struggled even more to survive. He managed it decently, but the Primal's joy transformed into annoyance. Michael wasn't dying, and his power level wasn't dropping either.

If his willpower had been crushed at this point, the Primal would have salvaged the desperation in Michael's eyes and the terror of realizing that he was going to die shortly. But Michael didn't think like that. His eyes were filled with determination and the desire to survive.

That frustrated the Primal after tens of minutes passed. He was going to rip Michael's Essence into shreds and kill him once and for all.

Fortunately, the Primal acted too late. The God Curses' plan succeeded.

The moment the Primal was about to act more seriously to kill Michael properly, hundreds of fissures tore through the fabric of space and reality.

[Good job, Michael!] Jormungandr praised.

[You can relax now. Your reinforcement is here!]

Chapter 1013 Reinforcement

The fissures in space appeared unexpectedly. At least Michael didn't expect them. However, the God Curses seemed to have expected them. No, they had called for them. They used their Divinities, consuming a massive amount of Essence alongside two of the dead planets – which Michael noticed were missing only now – to call for help.

'The Beastial Galaxies!' Michael exclaimed.

[Somewhat like that. The Beastial Galaxies are not enough to deal with a Primal. We needed more than a few old Beast Gods. Your Beast Halos are fairly useful. We could channel our Essences through them to verify the genuineness of our existence and showed them some memories of your fight.] Hal said.

[Well, we also showed them a little bit more about your past and everything else beforehand. Also, about your fight with the Volcano God. It was a little annoying to waste our Divinities like this, but I'm glad we did that for the last few weeks. Maintaining the Beast Halo was also a tad annoying, but it worked out well.]

A white horse, its muscles constricting with every step it took into the wide-open space, emerged from one of the fissures. It was winged with a pair of golden-framed feathers. The feathers attracted Michael's interest, but even more interesting was a six-legged horse with a familiar presence.

'This one is one of your siblings, ain't it? It feels oddly familiar.'

The six-legged horse looked at Percy and tilted its head. It neighed a moment later and appeared beside him. Percy didn't even sense the horse's movements nor the Essence it had released.

[I'm Sleipnir. And yes, these idiots inside you are my siblings. No, I cannot read your mind. Yes, your expressions are easy to read. And no, I'm not stronger than them. They're just idiots for getting caught or for fusing with you without asking for your permission. I apologize for their behavior. My siblings must have been very happy to find a suitable vessel. Happy enough to surrender a portion of their existence and forfeit their Divinities to create someone like you.] the horse, but Michael just listened.

He was confused, but that was only obvious. Who wouldn't be confused listening to the complaints of a stranger.

'Sleipnir seems nice. He has a brain.'

[Shut up! We just saved your life!] Fenrir growled.

'Thanks for that. But this is not yet over, you know?'

The Primal ignored the fissures in the fabric of space and reality and attacked Michael again. His body was torn apart and it was no surprise when Michael lost his lower body. His arms were missing as well, leaving him his chest, neck, and head unscathed.

If not for Michael's quick response, he would have died to the Primal's attack.

[Oh yeah. The Primal is still here and those idiots take too long to step through the fissure!!!] Fenrir complained, but Michael just shrugged. Or he would have if he had still his shoulder left. They were removed alongside his arms and had to regrow first.

The Pegasus appeared before Sleipnir and unleashed its power. It didn't say anything to Michael, but that wasn't needed. It looked deep into Michael's vibrant golden eyes and started healing him. The Nature Divinity kicked in, filling Michael with more than enough lifeforce and nutrients to supplement the Pegasus' Essence.

The Pegasus' Essence entered Michael's body and accelerated the supreme healing serum and River of Vigor drastically. Michael's missing body parts regrew almost instantaneously.

"Thank you," Michael hinted a bow toward the Pegasus, which neighed in excitement.

[My little girl is interested in your Nature Divinity. How did you procure it? She – or rather we – thought the Law of Nature disappeared eons ago.] Sleipnir asked while more and more Beast Gods and other creatures emerged from the fissures.

Michael could see a few dragons, two Hydras, a Behemoth, a Leviathan, Tigers, more Wolves – they glared in Michael's direction and were clearly displeased with him or what was inside him –, Frost Giants, human-like creatures and much more.

One particular man who transformed from a frost giant into a very human-like man smiled gently at Michael. [That's our father.] Jormungandr explained, to which Michael responded with an "Oh. Okay."

Was he supposed to thank their father because their children gave him their Divinities? But then again, Michael was never asked if he wanted their Divinities. Of course, he liked them, but it wasn't like the three siblings didn't receive anything in return.

[Don't bother doing anything. We will see him later again. He is a chatterbox and a sly, tricky bastard. Don't let him get to your mind!] Fenrir growled again, which surprised Michael a little.

'Looks like my family isn't the only one with issues.'

He chuckled, ignoring the Primal's follow-up attacks. A massive Gorilla, probably more than a hundred meters tall, appeared before Michael and blocked the Essence streams of the Primal with his own Divinity. The Gorilla had a Defensive-type Divinity, allowing the creature to block attacks from the Primal with little pain and effort.

"Back to the topic," Michael cleared his throat, "I acquired the Nature Heart as a Divinity Fragment from the Untamed Jungle. It was once one of the Primal Regions of the Origin Expanse." [I see. That makes sense. I also understand why my siblings chose to merge with you without asking for your consent. Everything was supposed to be like this. Sadly, I couldn't fuse with you and it is too late to do that now. If I had only been a little bit earlier.]

It was confusing to see Sleipnir show genuine sadness at the thought. He was sincere when he mentioned to merge with Michael. The regret in the Beast God's voice was overwhelming.

[He is ours! Back off, you annoying brick!!] Fenrir roared.

Michael raised an eyebrow but decided to ignore the siblings. They were even worse than he had been with Danny and his other family. He shrugged it off and turned to the other Gods. the Beast Gods attracted his attention, but he was more interested in the other Gods. There were more than a hundred of them, including Loki, but his eyes lingered on someone else.

Beelzebub.

'Did you guys invite this one as well?'

[Who are you talking about?] Jormungandr asked first, using Michael's eyes to see whom he was looking at.

"I am looking at Beelzebub. What is that guy doing here? Didn't he tell us that he is going to kill me the next time we meet?" [You met Beelze already? That's surprising.] Sleipnir said in Michael's mind, but Michael could only frown.

"It wasn't a nice meeting. He took over the body of the man who killed my brother – not directly, but whatever. I managed to revive my brother but that's not the point. I accidentally helped Beelzebub awaken and he told me that he would kill me the next time we meet."

[I don't think he is going to kill you. If anything, he will help you kill the Primal. We might be more than 100 Gods coming for your reinforcement but nobody can kill the Primal, especially if the Primal—...] Sleipnir didn't have to go all-in into detail because the Primal acted already.

He unleashed a typhoon of Essence and..disappeared. A few fissures were torn into shreds, leaving behind Torn Firmaments that would swallow the empty planetary system soon, but nobody paid much attention to it.

The Primal vanished just like that.

Chapter 1014 The Sleepers

Michael was surprised about two things. The first surprise was that the Primal disappeared just like that. Michael considered the Primal of the cosmos as beings overflowing with pride. It didn't feel

like that at first glance, but Michael quickly noticed that there was more to the Primal than pride as well.

The Primal who'd attacked him had killed the Volcano God instantly while giving Michael a chance to survive. There was no doubt the Primal could have killed him with his first attack, but he didn't. He released the same attack he had used against the Volcano God and watched Michael survive and grow stronger from it.

Therefore, the Primal chose to transform their little bout into a game. In this game, the Primal tortured Michael by inflicting more serious injuries with every attack. It was almost like the Primal was trying to find out how to inflict the most lethal wound on Michael to discover what it would take to kill him.

Michael didn't do well against the Primal but was still alive. That was all that mattered.

But it was still confusing why the Primal disappeared without trying to retaliate. Was he afraid of the 100+ Gods and initiated a tactical retreat to kill Michael at a later point – because he wasn't afraid Michael could grow strong enough to kill him anytime soon – or was he just being careful and curious about what the Gods would do later?

Michael couldn't tell what it was. Maybe the Primal had been afraid, but it hadn't really looked like that. If anything, the Primal looked a little excited before he left.

[I don't care why he left. Our advantage is that the Primal left in the first place. We can make use of that and throw you into the training of the Rebels.] Fenrir commented.

"Training?" He tilted his head and turned to the Gods, who had also turned to look at him when the Primal disappeared.

"Are they going to train me?" Michael asked in surprise.

"One of my siblings must have told you about us. There is a rebellion formed by Gods who do not like the rules set up by the Primal. We do not like staying idle and doing nothing in the 'cosmic playground' – the Primal call it like that – since that restrains our movements and course of action. Even though we attained godhood, we cannot do much under the ground rules set up by the Primal. In fact, we cannot even protect our own kin against Demi Gods without breaking the ground rules of the Primal. That is nonsense and one of the many reasons we fight them." One of the Frost Giants, or what he presumed to be Frost Giant due to their glacial-blue skin and ten-meter-tall height, informed Michael.

He'd travel up to Michael and looked calmly at him.

"But that is not all," Loki, in his human-like form, approached Michael. His shoulder-long black hair was bound back, revealing his vibrant amber-colored eyes. He stared intently at Michael, almost like he was trying to look through him to see his children.

"The Primal are hunting everyone they deem too powerful. They say they want to maintain the balance of the cosmos by playing its guardian, but at the end of the day, they're too afraid to be overwhelmed by Gods with the necessary potential and strength to defeat them. It might take dozens of Gods who're stronger than the Volcano God – Gods with enough experience with their Divinity and Godly Combat – to deal with the Primal, but even with dozens of us fighting one of

them, they have the chance to retaliate and kill us slowly but steadily. However, putting them under pressure takes only one or two stronger Gods."

"Like Fenrir and Beelzebub? They were too strong for the Primal to kill and were thus sealed in Soultrait Symbols. Is that correct?"

Loki winced when he recalled his son's story, but he nodded slowly.

"Most Gods with enough potential to become threats to the Primal are killed as soon as possible. However, they shouldn't be killed if they have already attained a certain power level. The Primal can still obliterate them most of the time, but the aftermath is not worth it. First, the Primal would lose a lot of Essence permanently, thus weakening them for the next big fight to come. Second, most Gods who face the Primal head-on are suicidal, ready to sacrifice everything to take them down. But there is a reason for that."

Michael listened up. He wasn't too curious about Loki and his persona, but his intel was top-notch.

"Most suicidal Gods inserted a trace of their Essence and Divinity in the bodies of other beings. Therefore, when they die, they can be resurrected in the bodies of the beings they've chosen. The chosen beings are usually great vessels and, thus, perfect picks for the rebirth program. Beelzebub is the best example for that program. He fought one of the Primal – was forced to – and died. His body was torn apart, releasing his Essence back into the cosmos. But since his Essence was still connected to one of his chosen vessels, Beelzebub's Essence didn't spread in all directions and dispersed forever. Instead, they were pulled into the vessels and integrated into the being, which triggered the requirements to revive Beelzebub. Beelzebub might not be the strongest God at this point. He was much stronger in the past. However, he is still alive, injured one of the Primal permanently by depriving him of some of his Core Essences, and he knows much better than anyone how much stronger he has to grow to defeat the Primal."

Michael nodded slowly. He heard from the God Curses that Beelzebub was likely a victim of the Primal's power like Fenrir, but Loki explained the situation much better to him. The God of Trickery was either making fun of him, which didn't seem logical in a serious situation like this, or he knew better than his children. The latter was more likely.

"Was this Primal one of the weakened ones, or is he one of the strongest Primal? In the first place... how many Primal are left in the cosmos?" Michael tilted his head in confusion. Either Michael was a lot weaker than expected, and the Primal was one of the weakest, or he'd just survived a battle against one of the average – or stronger – Primal. One way or another, Loki and some other older Gods should be able to tell him what awaited Michael in the near future.

"I...actually, I don't know. I have never seen this Primal before. However, given his physique, I can be fairly certain that he didn't fought one of the stronger Gods before. It didn't look like he lost much Essence permanently since he is still chubby. Generally, you can consider chubby Primals as more potent enemies because their bodies are bloated with Essence. Not even after compressing their Essences to their limits did the bloated belly disappear.

That being said, I don't know this one, and nobody else has claimed to have fought him just yet. That either means you fought one of the weaker Primal, who have been staying back to leave the hard work for the others, or he is one of the Sleepers, which would be bad. The former is highly unlikely because the excitement in his eyes upon fighting you was genuine. He shouldn't be a weak back-liner who lets others fight if he is on ecstasy fighting you."

Michael agreed with that conclusion to a certain degree, but he still missed some intel.

"What is a Sleeper? And you didn't answer how many Primal are left."

More Gods approached Michael. Their hearing senses were great, allowing them to hear everything that had been said until now. The Gods' interest was picked, and they got closer.

"Sleepers are the Primal, who couldn't be bothered to stay awake since the Beginning. Some Primal decided life was boring when the vast cosmos was still young. They chose to hibernate in the wide-open space and set up a few conditions to awaken in the future. Once those conditions have been met, of course." One of the Gods explained before a Beast God used a method similar to Whispering Energy to add.

[The Sleepers are also why we do not know how many Primals there are in total. We know of 20 Primal, or we have known about this man because eight of them have been killed...by fellow Primal. We are unclear why they killed each other, but we can say one thing for sure. The Rebels didn't kill a single Primal yet. In fact, nobody other than the Primal killed a Primal just yet. Since the Beginning. Never!]

That was a little problematic, especially with the Rebels and God Curses expecting Michael to grow strong enough to kill the Primal. That didn't sit well with Michael, who noticed a few problems.

"How am I supposed to kill the Primal if nobody has ever done it? Am I your guinea pig or what?" He was a little annoyed but tried to contain his emotions.

"I don't think anyone would ever consider you a guinea pig. While it is true that we did some things, we never expected to be doing. Precisely, we never expected a body to be able to contain three God Curses. That is beyond our expectations, but it worked, so we're happy about it. Furthermore, you have another Divinity within you. That being said, you are our best shot at killing a Primal, even more so with your Pure Aether. The only time we saw the Primal kill each other was with Pure Aether. That's why we have been searching and collecting more Pure Aether to kill and injure the Primal."

Loki sighed deeply.

"Unfortunately, the Pure Aeether was always only barely good enough to injure the Primal. They took us by surprise and killed the Gods wielding Pure Aether before they could accumulate enough to kill the Primal. Still, they sustained permanent wounds from our desperate attempts."

Michael was unsure what to think of this, but he nodded slowly. He had Pure Aether and could create more Aether by nourishing it through SoulStar Fragments. That was all he needed to slay the Primal – other than overwhelmingly high strength, of course.

'Is that why they sealed you away? They were afraid that killing you would pull you inside your backup vessel, which was why they chose to transform you into a Soultrait Symbol, which was going to levitate in the wide open void forever, if possible.'

[They were having a hard time killing me in the first place, but you are correct with your assumption. They didn't dare to kill me, fearing what would happen once I revive. I would have an easy time laying low, nurturing enough Pure Aether for the Rebels, and slay the Primal by wearing them down slowly and steadily.]

That was a plan, though it involved the deaths of too many Gods. Something would go wrong one way or another.

[That is why we need you. You are the reason we decided to try killing the Primal with one perfect vessel. The Lord who will kill them all!] **

Chapter 1015 Reason of Power

The days after his battle with the Volcano God and the Primal were confusing, to say the least. First of all, the damage caused by the battle was not without aftermath. The aftermath was much more severe than one may think at first glance. The Volcano God might have eradicated an entire planetary system, destroying all lifeforms in the system, but it was the Primal who tore the fabric of space apart.

If it was only that, the issues wouldn't be as severe as they are right now. The fabric of space and reality had been torn apart, but it would mend itself...if the Primal hadn't unleashed a massive typhoon of Essence to leave the encirclement of more than one hundred Gods. The amount of Essence released into the planetary system damaged the fissures and damaged them enough to transform a total of six fissures in the fabric of space and reality into Torn Firmaments.

Almost a third of the planetary system was now covered in lines of Torn Firmament, which expanded, forcing the Hyuman Gods to intervene...if they could afford to endanger their lives. The Hyuman Gods were not allowed to join the cosmic playground just like no other Gods were allowed to do so, yet that was what they had already done by allowing the Volcano God to attack Michael.

Michael was unsure if the Primal would punish the Supreme Human Alliance for their actions, but he could tell the Primal would act the moment a dozen Hyuman Gods – Michael didn't know exactly how many Gods the Supreme Human Alliance had given birth to since its creation – to fix the Torn Firmament.

That being said, the Hyuman Gods could either endanger their lives to fix the Torn Firmament, or the Demi Gods all over the Supreme Human Alliance would have to act. After all, the Torn Firmament was too damaged and would expand. Sooner rather than later, it would reach other planetary systems and tear them apart. That being said, the Supreme Human Alliance didn't want the Torn Firmament to reach the other planetary systems since Michael had fought the God and the Primal in the inner region of their territory. No matter where the Torn Firmament expanded, it would inflict tremendous damage to the core of the Supreme Human Alliance. Michael was unsure how many Demi Gods were needed to fix the Torn Firmament. All he knew was how easy it would be for him to fix it. But that was not what he wanted. He hoped the Supreme Human Alliance would deploy their Demi Gods – too afraid to use their Gods after losing the Volcano God to the Primal – to fix the Torn Firmament. It wouldn't take eons to fix the Torn Firmament but while the Demi Gods would be pulled back from the front lines, the Altors Union, the Divine Subordinates, and Michael's Super Awakened could attack their frontlines and conquer a bunch of planetary systems and maybe even more than that. There were also other organizations fighting the Supreme Human Alliance. They would probably unleash their fury upon the SHA upon realizing their lack of defenses. Michael was curious about the Supreme Human Alliance's course of action, but he didn't stay behind to watch it happen. He returned to the Origin Expanse for a few hours to spread his order and tell everyone what they had to know to nourish the Untamed Jungle and aid its expansion while also inflicting as much damage as possible to the Supreme Human Alliance in the cosmos. In the

meantime, Michael would travel to the Origin Expanse, and his fight with the Supreme Human Alliance would be postponed for a while.

He had attracted the interest of the Primal and would have to focus on growing stronger to survive against the forces of the Primal and deal with them in the future. Survival was his highest priority, but that wasn't enough. Michael wanted more. He hoped to defeat the Primal in the future or force them to concessions. Maybe he could grow strong enough to make a compromise. But that was still a thing for the future. For now, Michael had to grow stronger. That's why he went with the Gods.

He traveled with Loki after returning from the Origin Expanse. The God and father of many powerful beings was pleasant to be around. He reminded him of the God Curse siblings, though his attitude was better.

"Jormungandr showed us your fight with the Volcano God and how you managed to fight the Pseudo God with the Divinities that have formed in your Soul Sphere. We saw everything up to the point where you asked my children for their help. You fought well," Loki commended Michael, but his expression remained serious without indicating any praise, "But what do you think was the reason for that? What do you think pushed your power level beyond your Tier? What allowed you to fight Gods as an 8th Tier Awakened?"

Michael noticed something about the way Loki spoke. It attracted his interest, but he focused on the questions instead of studying Loki.

"The two greatest advantages of my individual combat prowess are my Soultraits and the Divinities in my Soul Sphere. That being said, my Soul Sphere is my greatest advantage. Each Soultrait has permanently enhanced my body, mind, and soul, pushing my combat prowess to a higher level than the average Divine Lifeform at the 8th Tier. But that is not all. My Soultraits are all unique and very powerful. I can unleash a wide range of attacks and defenses and do things most can only dream of." He tilted his head lightly while looking at Loki, who nodded slowly.

"My Divinities are similar, just more pronounced. They enhance my entire being drastically. With every fraction of growth, I grow stronger as well. I can tap into the power of my Divinities, but I also grow stronger in terms of physical prowess, the potency of my soul, and mental fortitude by nourishing and using my Divinities as often as possible."

Loki smiled and agreed with Michael, but not in the way he expected.

"I agree that your Soultraits and Divinities are extraordinary, and I consider your Soul Sphere to be your greatest strength. However, there is more to your Soul Sphere than your Soultraits and Divinities!" Loki declared nonchalantly.

"Do you mean the Aether bound to my Soul Sphere? I noticed the Pure Aether gaining in strength as my Soul Sphere expanded. The growth of every single Soultrait and every fraction of my Divinities' growth pushed my Aether to new strength."

Loki didn't seem content with his answer.

"That is not wrong. Your Pure Aether is stronger than the norm and it will keep growing as your Soultraits reach 10-Star, as your new Soultraits will grow, and when your Divinities expand. Slowly, the Nature Divinity will also travel to your Soul Sphere, further nourishing the Pure Aether. Don't be worried about the Nature Heart. It shouldn't disappear as it is an affliction of the Divinity imprinted in your being."

"But the Aether is not what you are talking about. You think something else allows me to be stronger than the rest. No. From the way you look at me, something in the Soul Sphere is helping me grow strong and maybe even be stronger than the average God, but it shouldn't be something as obvious as the Divinities and Soultrait Symbols," Michael murmured, trying to figure out what Loki was talking about.

He tilted his head and thought about it for a while until he realized something Hiraku had mentioned a while ago. It was also something related to the comments of the God Curses.

"Are you talking about my Lord Powers and the Soul Power I accumulate as a Lord in the Origin Expanse?" Loki grinned, and his smile widened as understanding dawned on Michael.

"Gods may not lose their connection to the Origin Expanse right away, but most civilizations of beings forced to leave the Origin Expanse cease to exist over the course of time. Gods, among some other creatures, will be expelled from the Will and will never be allowed to return. That means, I am an Awakened with the power of a God, yet the Will of the Origin Expanse didn't expel me. I have more than a dozen 19-Star Soultraits, and the biggest region under my control will soon advance to an Ancient Region. Every Link of Loyalty with a citizen of the Ancient Region will empower me greatly, thus further pushing my individual prowess to a higher level."

Michael swallowed.

"My Soul Power will increase immensely, and so will my power."

Loki gave Michael a thumbs up, "Bingo. Your connection to the Origin Expanse is what allowed you to fight the Volcano God head-on. The Divinities are great and all, but you wouldn't be able to use them or endure the power of the Divinities if not for the shocking – truly shocking if you were to ask me or any other GOD – number of powerful Soultraits in your possession. But possessing this many Soultraits alone isn't enough. Each of them has to be nourished by as much Soul Power as possible to become truly undefeatable."

"The more Soul Power the Soultrait Symbols accumulate, the stronger the Soultraits when I use them. And, the more Soul Techniques and Soullife Arts I can unleash." "Mastering your Soultraits will be very important during your training with the Gods. You will have to attain perfect mastery of all of your Soultrait Symbols, acquire more Perfect Soul Techniques, create Perfect Soullife Arts for every Soultrait, and upgrade your Soultraits to 10-Star altogether if possible. I don't think you should acquire more Soultraits for the time being but focus on strengthening the existing ones.

Also, you should never forget your advantage as a Lord of the Origin Expanse. You MUST acquire more regions and expand the population in your territories as high as possible without affecting their quality of life. It would be even better if your subjects prayed to you as their god. The more devout they are, the better. That being said, using your Divinities in the Origin Expanse will help you with each of those tasks."

Once Michael attained godhood, he would lose the Origin Expanse. At least the Runic Gate wouldn't open to him anymore. Thus, as a 8th Tier Awakened with the power of Gods, Michael might actually be the best person to train and prepare against the Primal.

That being said, Michael was unsure what to think about transforming his subjects into devout believers. Was he willing to transform himself into a God in the eyes of his subjects? There wasn't really a major problem with that, per se, but Michael would have to understand that he could never

return to being an ordinary Lord once he started to become his people's 'God'. Was the effort worth the result, or would the attempt to become his people's God backfire? Michael was unsure about that, but the God Curses calmed him down.

[I don't think your subjects could be more loyal to you. Their Links of Loyalty reward you with much more Soul Power than we have anticipated in the first place. The difference between devout believers and dead-loyal subjects is not that extensive. You do not have to change. In fact, changing yourself may harm you and the relationship with your subjects more than it will help.] Hel commented, which Loki heard as well.

"As long as you expand your territory, create more Aether, and increase your Tier, you will be fine. The rest depends on the success of your training with the Gods." Loki said with a smile.

If Michael wanted to stay Awakened in the Origin Expanse and abuse his benefits as a Lord, Michael would never be allowed to reach the 10th Tier. However, given that he was already as strong as Gods and that the Origin Expanse still didn't consider him as a "proper God", Michael could probably advance to the Peak of the 9th Tier without any issues as well.

That being said, Michael slowly started using Void Ingots with Permute to fill his Energy Vortex.

After that, the real training with the Gods – the Rebels of the vast universe – began.

Chapter 1016 Primordial Curse, Bestikal

Michael was unsure what kind of place he expected to be trained at, but he certainly didn't expect it to be near the Spring of Abundant Life. To be precise, the stomach of the Primordial Curse, Bestikal. The cursed fissures in space were temporarily sealed, blocking all external entrances to the Spring of Abundant Life like the one he and Selena had used.

The interior of the massive Primordial Curse Bestikal looked similar to before. The Spring of Abundant Life was still there, and the monster's insides were still overflowing with curse power.

"Since you're a Curse User and my children transformed into your Curses, they can absorb the Primordial Curse's curse power to replenish their Divinity. They will channel their Divinity through you with low output at all times and slowly increase the intensity. That way, your Divinities will be nourished slowly, and your body will get used to the three Divinities. You may consider this unnecessary, but believe our experience, please." Michael did not have a reason to reject Loki's proposal. It sounded feasible. The more the God Curses used their Divinities through him, the more his Divinities would grow. That much was obvious.

"I understand. But won't this harm the Primordial Curse? I mean...I don't know how long we are going to train here, but if we stay here for a year or two and the God Curses use their Divinities by supplying the surrounding curse power to supplement the missing Essence...won't Bestikal die?" Michael didn't know Bestikal personally, but he owed the Primordial Curse a lot. Because of the Primordial Curse, he got Danny back and quickly acquired a high mastery of Curse Fusion in its stomach. "The Primordial Curse is aware of the sacrifice it has to make, but you do not have to worry about its' well-being. Bestikal will not die from the time you spend inside it. The Primordial Curse is as old as the Primal. It does not wish to fight and is not at war with the Primal, but it has realized that the Primal have gone down the wrong track. Bestikal wants us to help the Primal change back to the beings they've once been. The Guardians of the Universe." Michael nodded slowly, but his expression stiffened when Loki added.

"Furthermore, you are wrong when you say 'one or two years'. You will stay in the Spring of Abundant Life, constantly churning through your Nature Heart and the Divinity of Nature for the next two decades. The Spring of Abundant Life is a creation of the Primordial Curse's lover, the Everlasting Blessing. It wants you to use the Everlasting Blessing to connect it one last time with the Origin Expanse. That being said, the Spring of Abundant Life will help you transform your fragmented Divinity into a full-fledged Nature Divinity while accelerating the Untamed Jungle's growth. You wish to create a Primal Region, don't you?"

Michael scrunched the bridge of his nose, yet he nodded again. He did indeed wish to transform the Untamed Jungle back into a Primal Region. However, staying in the Primordial Curse for two decades wasn't okay. That was too long.

"You don't have to worry about anything. The two decades won't feel like a long time. The God of Illusion, myself, the Beast Gods of Hallucination, Nightmares, and War...and a bunch other Gods will help you create a perfect mindscape where you can train your Soultrait Symbols to perfection while simultaneously nourishing your Divinities. Of course, we will also help you create perfect Soul Techniques and perfect Soullife Arts!" Loki said lightly.

"And if you are worried about your territory, don't be. The Rebels have been waiting for someone like you for a long time. A very, VERY long time. We've prepared more than enough resources. Though....we might have to exchange a bunch of them because we expected you – not exactly you, but the perfect candidate for our counterattack – to be a Demi God on the verge of attaining Godhood. We hoped to throw a bunch of resources at him to prepare his territory for the loss of their Lord."

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Michael nodded slowly, "But since I am not going to be thrown out of the Origin Expanse anytime soon, you won't have to give me the same resources as you would have given the Pseudo God. Instead, you want my foundation to be perfect and my territory to be about to advance to a Primal Region. However, you are unsure what I will need since you have heard of my Super Awakened."

Loki tilted his head.

"No...I wouldn't put it like that," Loki tilted his head left and right but nibbled on his lips. We can tell what you 'should' need, but we are uncertain if that would create the best result. All we can tell for sure is that we need your full consciousness here with the Primordial Curse and the Everlasting Blessing to prepare this body."

That was when Michael broke into a faint smile.

He retrieved a few Soultrait Symbols and pointed at the Spring of Abundant Life – the Everlasting Blessing.

"I accepted my brother's fate a while ago. At first, it didn't feel like anything special, but something about my Soul and Soul Sphere changed. There has always been a tiny portion of my Soul that I

could never fill. It always felt like I was missing something to fill it. Almost like it didn't belong to this body." "Do you mean a portion of your Soul belongs to your brother?" Loki asked while inspecting the Soultrait Symbols in Michael's hands. His eyes narrowed and he turned to look at Michael, "What...are you trying to say?"

"I think you know what I mean. And no. My Soul only belongs to me. Nothing of it belongs to Daniel. However, a portion of my Souls does not belong to this body. It feels foreign to this vessel." Michael looked at the Spring of Abundant Life again and glanced a second time at the Soultrait Symbols of [Soul Cutter], [Implant], [Prehistorical Vessel], [Second Chance], [The Extra's Body].

Loki stared at him like Michael had lost the last bits of his sanity as he smiled vibrantly at the God of Trickery.

"Do you like Doppelgangers?"

Chapter 1017 Michael 2.0

Loki was still unsure what Michael was going to do. He had never been an Awakened, which was not uncommon among the Rebels, and never visited the Origin Expanse. He had heard enough about either, but his knowledge of Soultrait Symbols wasn't as extensive as Michael's. In fact, not even Fenrir's knowledge about Soultrait Symbols was as great as the knowledge Michael had acquired. Fenrir might be the source of all the knowledge Michael acquired through Extraction, but the Beast God was born a God. Fenrir had been as strong as a Beast God since birth, yet it took aeons to shapeshift his Divinity and create exactly what he wanted. Jormungandr and Hel had been more fortunate. Hel was the incarnation of Death and had thus no problem acquiring the Death Authority, while the World Serpent easily acquired a decent mastery of the Poison Law and the Power Authority.

Still, it was interesting to know that Jormungandr and Hel had sealed and forsaken their Divinities for thousands of years to enter the Origin Expanse. However, it wasn't that the two godly siblings were fleeing from the Primal to consider escaping into the Origin Expanse. No. They started looking for Fenrir in the Origin Expanse. Interestingly enough, Fenrir found them instead.

One way or another, Michael's knowledge of Soultrait Symbols was so extensive that he could easily decipher the powers of Soultrait Symbols according to its presence and the details unraveled by True Vision.

That was also why Soul Cutter, Implant, Prehistoric Vessel, Second Chance, and the Extra's Body were the perfect Soultraits for Michael. He didn't waste much time but used Insert on the Soultrait Symbols while also infusing Fenrir's Essence and curse power into the Soultrait Symbols. He also added the Essences of Jormungandr, Hel, and the Nature Heart with a trace of his purest energy into the fray, yet he didn't overdo it. There was no need to insert too much of the God Curses' Essences into the pair of Soultrait Symbols he formed for his grand plan.

[Second Body – Stage of the Split Consciousness] and [Perfect Soul Vessel] were created.

Michael was unsure how exactly he managed to create a Soultrait Symbol with such a long name since no Soultrait Symbol was longer than three words before, but that was also interesting. He was curious how different a long name would be once added to his Soul.

Well...a part of his soul.

Second Body and Perfect Soul Vessel were upgrade to 8-Star Soultraits without a second thought. Michael would have considered moving a little slower, but he was unwilling to waste any time. If it worked out, everything would be alright. If not...so be it. Michael shrugged inwardly at the thought of failure. It was okay to fail. As long as he didn't allow the failure to get through to him, he would be fine!

The Soultraits' names didn't change as he upgraded them, but something changed. As he upgraded the Soultrait Symbols, Michael lost control of them. It wasn't as simple as saying, Michael ever had control of the Soultrait Symbols, but one thing he could do with 9-Star Seer and True Vision was to analyze the Soultrait Symbols and their powers without infusing them into a suitable Soul. That was not possible as he upgraded Second Body and Perfect Soul Vessel to 8-Star. Instead of knowing for sure what was going on with the Soultrait Symbol and being able to decipher it at once, Michael could only 'feel' what was going on. It FELT correct to upgrade the two Soultrait Symbols and to leave them at 8-Star. At last, after who knows how many years had passed, the minuscule portion of his soul that had never reacted to his attempts to be used...reacted. It was the portion of his soul that came with the acceptance of his Twin Fates. As the new thread of fate wove into his Essence, Michael's soul expanded ever so slightly. The minuscule portion, which had never reacted, was the result of the insignificant expansion.

The portion of the soul connected to the new fate that had intertwined into his being when he rescued his brother was something that was never part of Michael. No. It was part of Michael, but it was never supposed to be part of this body. That was what Michael realized when he saw the Spring of Abundant Life and recalled what it had done with Danny's Living Soul.

Michael didn't hesitate and severed a portion of his Soul, cutting off the tether to his other fate once and for all. The Twin Fates were forcefully torn apart, severed with a simple slash. Michael extracted the portion of his soul, ignoring the immense pain severing it had caused, and added it to the Soul Grimoire.

Once the portion of his Soul was inside the Soul Grimoire, Michael fed it with all Soul Tears – they accounted for more than one million Soul Tears after the little disaster with the Volcano God and his domain. Strengthened, the minuscule portion was strong enough to endure the influx of millions of SoulStar Fragments.

Michael didn't wish to waste too much time, but he infused a steady stream of SoulStar Fragments rather than throwing mountains of Fragments into the smaller portion of his Soul. Thereafter, a trace of Fenrir's Divinity was added. It was merely an insignificant portion of the Wolf Divinity's trace, which he had added to the Soul, but it was enough to nearly tear it apart. Still, Michael achieved what he wanted. The trace of Fenrir's Divinity created a Soul Sphere in the soul fraction, expanded the soul, and strengthened it.

At the core of the Soul Sphere, a Divinity Seed of Extraction was formed. It was deactivated, of course, but ready to be unleashed once needed.

Second Body and Perfect Soul Vessel were added to the soul fraction, and they merged seamlessly. The Soultrait Symbols were visible in the Extraction Soul Sphere, but only for a moment. They disappeared after that without leaving any traces of existing. The Soultrait Symbols were no more, but the soul expanded while growing stronger...firmer... The soul fraction evolved and transformed into a Living Soul.

"Yes!!!" Michael exclaimed, his fists shooting into the air.

He made a victory pose and chuckled like a little child. His plan was working out. No, it was even better than he had planned because the consciousness of the Living Soul was born within Michael. It tapped into Michael's mind, where everything was shared. After all, the consciousnesses were one and the same.

The new consciousness was just like Michael, but it had only recently been born. Differences were bound to appear, but Michael was confident the changes wouldn't affect him negatively. If anything, the older consciousness would be positively affected by the newborn mind in his head.

They were the same, though alike, and felt the exact same as well. The only difference was that they could control different bodies.

Precisely, Michael could control his body, whereas Michael 2.0 couldn't control anything. Other than the Living Soul, of course.

"That is perfect," Michael mumbled before throwing Mike – which he decided to call Michael 2.0 – into the Spring of Abundant Life.

In the meantime, Loki could only stare at him in confusion, shock, and a mix of various other emotions, including anger.

"What...the hell did you just do?!"

Chapter 1018 Mike, the New Michael

"What...the hell did you just do?!" Loki asked, trying to fathom why Michael would sever a portion of his soul.

Michael chuckled, "You don't know what I have done and what I am doing with this?"

Loki cursed quietly, "Of course, I know what you have done. I also know what the Spring of Abundant Life did with your brother. But why do you think this is going to work on an ordinary soul?"

"Ordinary Soul? This was a Living Soul enhanced with two 8-Star Soultraits, a trace of Fenrir's Divinity, and Jormungandr and Hel's presence to alter the soul and affix it the same fluctuations as myself." Michael smiled.

"As for what exactly I did. I created a Plan B in case the Will wishes to throw me out of the Origin Expanse before we're done expanding the Untamed Jungle into a Primal Region. Mike, which is what I called the Living Soul, will help me with that. He will be my right hand, my left hand, my brain, my consciousness...and much more. He will be my everything. After all, Mike is ME...more or less."

Michael glanced at Loki, who listened intently. Loki might be the God of Trickery and a born God with countless years of living experience, but Michael's crazy actions were still something new to him.

"Mike is going to enter the Origin Expanse and organize the influx of the Everlasting Blessing's lifeforce, but that is only the beginning. Mike will also organize the energy of the primal root and how it is going to be channeled through the Untamed Jungle to expand it as fast as possible. After

that, Mike will help the Super Awakened and other forces to convince the Lords living outside the Untamed Jungle to either join the Untamed Jungle or prepare for an all-out war against hundreds of thousands of enemies and millions of monsters. Well, there will also be a bunch of Divine Lifeforms on our side at that point, which means we will have an easy time with the expansion no matter what the Lords decide."

Michael cleared his throat and looked away. He scratched the back of his head and put on a sad smile.

"Also...I want to be with my family. I don't think I can leave them behind for the next two decades or longer. We are not even certain this will take two decades or if 24 years aren't enough. Maybe I need more time before I can fight one of the Primal. That being said, I do not wish to miss my daughter's childhood. I already missed too much of Lucia's growth, and even if she says she doesn't mind, I DO MIND."

He kicked the ground and thought about whether he should continue speaking his mind or if it was enough.

"I am Mike, and he is Michael. Our consciousnesses are shared, and they feel like they're one and the same. We can also switch positions in our consciousnesses freely. After all, we are one and the same. Even if Michael has to stay here in the Primordial Curse to prepare this body for the grand finale by focusing entirely on the Soultrait Symbols and Divinities, Soul Techniques, and Soullife Arts, Mike can live his life freely and experience what Michael would otherwise miss."

Michael felt a little bit wrong about leaving his daughter behind like that, but since his connection to Mike was like this – Michael and Mike being in the same consciousness – Michael calmed down a little. All that mattered was to fix Mike's body quickly and to make sure Mike would grow quickly. He was going to be a Tierless Awakened since he had a portion of the Twin Fates inside him, and it would be easy to bring him inside the Untamed Jungle where he could grow with his perfectly purified existence, his massive soul, and the access to the Divinity Seed of Extraction. Mike might not be a Lord because he can only connect the Links of Loyalty to Michael's body since their souls and consciousness were part of the same, but it was only a matter of time before Mike would become the head of the Super Awakened. Michael was certain Mike would grow into a proper powerhouse quickly. After all, Michael understood himself better than anyone else.

"You are crazy," Loki said, but all the God's words did was to fill Michael's heart with pride. The corner of his lips curled upward as he returned a vibrant smile to face Loki head-on.

"I know my actions are unusual," Michael rescinded, "and I know I am a little insane, but I think that is necessary to overcome the challenges ahead of me. First of all, I would miss my daughter's childhood – more than I already did, which is already annoying enough – and I would never be suicidal enough to fight the Primal head-on. I would stay in the Origin Expanse for centuries while blocking my ascension to a true God, acquire dozens of Soultrait Symbols, push them to 10-Star, and conquer the entire Origin Expanse before emerging, leaving the Origin Expanse to check on everyone else. Well...maybe, if I wasn't a little insane, I would never fight the Primal. Why would I even think about it?"

"..." Loki had no response to that. Since Gods and the Primal couldn't enter the Origin Expanse, Michael could actually become the Lord of the Origin Expanse in its entirety. It would be a simple

task since Michael was already stronger than the strongest Divine Lifeforms ruling over parts of the Origin Expanse. All it would take was time and effort.

"Whatever. I won't waste hundreds of years in which the Primal or the Supreme Human Alliance endangers the cosmos to conquer the Origin Expanse. I do not wish to rule everything in the first place. But then again...maybe it would be interesting."

He shrugged and focused on his Living Soul as the first signs of growing a body entered his sight.

'[Second Body] must be accelerating the Living Soul's body growth. That is good to know. The soul is strong enough, and the Living Soul has more than enough energy, nutrients, and life force, too. I can supply everything it needs!'

With that in mind, Michael focused on the creation of Mike's body for the next two months.

Two months. That was all they needed to form Mike's perfect body. A second body was born with the same soul and consciousness as Michael.

Mike rose from the Spring of Abundant Life, his eyes glowing golden as he looked at the man – himself – standing before him.

"You look great," Mike said, the corners of his lips tugging into a sly smile.

"I was just about to say the same," Michael responded with the same smile. However, Michael's smile turned into a shit-eating grin when he saw the War Rune forming on the back of Mike's hand.

It wasn't the exact same War Rune as everyone else had. Instead, it was a portion of the same rune, which connected Mike to Michael. Mike might not have proper Lord Powers, but he had the means to control Michael's subjects like everyone else.

After all, they were the same.

Chapter 1019 Mike in the Untamed Jungle

It didn't take long after his body formed before Mike entered the Origin Expanse. He was still Michael, only in a different bodythat looked just like Michael. In fact, even calling himself Mike wasn't necessary. It only helped Michael separate the bodies. Mike was the new body whereas Michael was the old body.

The new body would stay in the Origin Expanse and take care of all issues there, whereas the old body was slowly but steadily transformed into a weapon powerful enough to fight the Primal.

Only a few minutes passed after Mike emerged in the Untamed Jungle when he felt odd. Something was missing.

"Why does it feel so weird without the God Curses? My body feels so clean...so pristine and flawless," Mike murmured, wondering if every Awakened felt like that. Mike doubted that was the case, but if it was... then everyone would have to be a lot stronger than they are. But the reason he doubted everyone to feel like Mike was simple. Mike might have an empty and unrefined War Rune, but his Energy Pillar never formed. An Energy Vortex formed instead of the Energy Pillar. The Energy Vortex would help him advance quickly, especially without a single proper Soultrait Symbol residing in his Soul Sphere. Perfect Soul Vessel and Second Body disappeared when they merged with Mike's Living Soul, leaving Mike with an empty Soul Sphere.

Well, the dormant Divinity Seed of Extraction was still there. Michael provided his second body with enough SoulStar Fragments to unlock the Divinity Seed once he entered the Origin Expanse too. That was what Mike did while checking on his perfectly purified body.

'My Soul is already refined. All I have to do is expand it a little bit more. My mind is also the same and thus perfectly refined to the Peak of the 8th Tier. In fact, given the benefits of my Soultraits and the four Divinities, my mind should be considered God Tier. That only leaves my physique which is perfectly purified and thus easy to refine.'

Mike smiled. Even without death energy, energy shares, and mountains of resources he would reach the 1st Tier within hours. Mike's War Rune would progress rapidly thanks to the surrounding energy density and the Energy Vortex working rapidly and tirelessly. Activating the Divinity Seed of Extraction didn't take long either, but some things changed upon triggering the Divinity Seed. Mike quickly noticed the difference between the Seeds in Michael and the Soul Sphere forming from the Extraction Divinity Seed.

'The Divinity Seed in Extraction is a replica and can never blossom. All it can do is use Extraction at the same level as Extraction in Michael's body. But the replica is also a little weaker because it can only be used on energy and corpses. That is a shame, but I guess it makes sense. The Soultrait belongs to Fenrir and is bound to the Beast God. Fenrir is not here with me. Therefore, I cannot use the full extent of Extraction.'

Mike was fine with that. He didn't need Extraction's full power to become the strongest. All he needed was the power to procure Soultrait Symbols and SoulStar Fragments. More than that could be considered a luxury.

Mike sat down on the ground and checked his access to the Links of Loyalty, the primal root, and how much control he had of the Untamed Jungle. The Nature Heart was located inside Michael, but since Mike and Michael were the same, Mike could tap into the Nature Divinity as well. The only 'issue' was the delay. Since the Nature Heart was not located in Mike's heart, it would take a few seconds for the Heart to sense Mike's wishes and orders. While that could turn into a slight problem, Mike could ignore it since he was now aware of the delay. As long as he didn't try using the Nature Divinity, or his other Divinities, in a fight, Mike would be fine. That also meant Mike would have to come up with new tactics, acquire new Soultraits, and possibly alter his combat style. Others would be annoyed about that, but Mike found it rather intriguing. He had been busy creating Soultrait Symbols with perfect synergy for his Super Awakened and studied for months to improve their Soultraits and combat style. Mike was confident when it came to Soultrait Symbols. No one was better than him. Except for himself, maybe!

He chuckled lightly but got up after reassuring me how easy it was to access everything Michael had access to. It felt a little bit weird to share his consciousness with two bodies, but since his Fates were separated yet still combined into the Twin Fates, Michael/Mike didn't think it would be an issue. If anything, it was a challenge they had to overcome to generate the best results.

"Are you...Michael?" A young Forest Elf, an Awakened the Forest Elven Tribe had sent to the Untamed Jungle a few years back, asked Mike hesitantly. The Link of Loyalty connected the subjects of Michael's territories with him, which was also why they could sense something similar about Mike. Mike also looked the same as Michael, and their presence wasn't unfamiliar either. However, the wildness in Michael's presence wasn't the same, and he was only a Tierless

Awakened. After all, his body was reborn, and the influence of the God Curses' Essences didn't affect his new body either. It was only obvious that others were confused about his identity.

"I am Michael, yet not really," Mike responded lightly, "It's a Doppelganger I created to be in the Origin Expanse since my original body will be busy and unavailable for a few decades."

The Forest Elf looked at Mike, trying to grasp the situation, but he gave up and nodded merely.

"I am also busy with something. Do you need my help, or can I leave?"

Mike waved dismissively and turned in the direction of the wooden manor.

"Go your way. This is my fight."

Mike didn't think about it thoroughly before but he hoped his friends would accept him just like they accepted Michael.

'What if Alice and Lucia reject this body? What if they think it's weird?'

It was already too late for having second doubts. Michael would be busy for years and Mike was the one who could be present.

At the end of the day, Mike and Michael looked the same, and they were the same. The only difference was their power level.

'It will be alright!'

Chapter 1020 Be With Them

Everyone's eyes lingered on Mike even after he arrived at the wooden manor. Everyone could tell that Mike was, in fact, Michael, but something felt odd. It was almost like Michael had been replaced. That felt...weird.

Mike slowed down and smiled at some Super Awakened, a bunch of Untamed Awakened, Siegfried Dragoon, Tiara, and also Alice and Lucia.

Nobody said anything for a few seconds, only for the tiniest one to shatter the tension. Lucia squeezed out of her mother's embrace and landed softly on the ground. She broke into a bright smile charged at Mike.

She jumped into his arms, nearly breaking his ribs, but the pure energy circulating through him protected his body.

"Daddy!!" Lucia squealed, pressing her head against his chest, "Where did you leave your friends?"

Mike tilted his head but realized what his daughter was talking about a moment later, "Are you talking about the God Curses? I left them in my main body."

He realized his mistake as the words escaped his lips and cursed himself quietly.

'Why the hell would I speak like that to Lucia? How is she supposed to understand what I mean when I say 'main body'?'

Mike cursed himself a little more while Lucia looked up to stare deep into his eyes.

"So this is your spare body? Did you miss us so much you've created another body to stay with us? That's so cool! I love you, Dad~!" Mike's lips parted but they sealed shut quickly before anymore

stupid comments escaped from his mouth. Still, he embraced Lucia tightly, happy she didn't think of him as weird. It was a bit confusing how Lucia understood his actions right away, but Mike was glad his daughter was smart. If not for that, he would have had to spend hours talking to his daughter to make her understand what he had done.

Alice and the others approached Mike, the confusion in Alice growing.

"Can you explain to us what exactly happened?" Alice asked slowly, the hesitation in her voice overwhelming. I would love to understand what is going on because I'm certain you are still alive. In fact, Lucia told us the Untamed Jungle has never been better. You did something to the Untamed Jungle to accelerate its growth, didn't you?"

Mike was ready to reveal everything but looked around and pointed toward the Wooden Manor.

"Let us talk inside. This might take a while," Michael said, walking inside with his daughter in his arms. The others followed. They reached the office soon, where Mike dropped the bomb.

"It all starts with the fight against a God..."

...

Mike didn't explain everything in detail, but his story didn't want to end. He told his friends and family about his fight with the Volcano God, the destruction of a planetary system, the arrival of the Primal, how he barely survived, and the reinforcement through more than one hundred Gods. His story lasted a little longer, but the summary was simple.

"The Gods cannot easily kill the Primal and cannot move against them either. The Primal move quickly against the Rebels when they reveal themselves and even Beelzebub, one of the Gods of the Seven Hells lost his main body in the fight against one of the weakened Primals. Is that correct?" Hiraku asked to reaffirm, which Mike did with a nod.

"And they want you to fight those Primal to regain their freedom. The God Curses within you are helping you with their Divinities, whereas the Primordial Curse and the Everlasting Blessing, which is also the place you brought Daniel's Living Soul to, want to help you with the Untamed Jungle." Tiara pointed at Danny, who listened silently while intently studying Mike's body.

"The Primordial Curse helps the God Curses to empower them with curse power which the God Curses absorb to use their Divinities through my main body for the next few decades. Loki said it would take two decades before my Divinities are roughly ready to fight the Primal, but I am not in a rush. Whether it takes two decades or two hundred years doesn't change much for me. However, for the Gods, the Supreme Human Alliance, the Altors Union, the Nest, and many more, it would change a lot." Michael responded.

"The Everlasting Blessing is the Spring of Abundant Life. Bestikal, the Primordial Curse, wants his lover to reunite with the Origin Expanse. Thus, my main body is channeling the Spring of Abundant Life through the Nature Divinity into the Untamed Jungle. That will help me evolve the Divinity Fragment into a full-fledged Divinity, while the Untamed Jungle can advance to an Ancient Region and maybe even a Primal Region. That takes time, but I should be able to spare enough time to expand the Untamed Jungle."

"Okay...but how is all of that related to this body?" Alice finally asked, pointing at Mike and his new body.

Everyone listened intently.

"I didn't plan to create a secondary body, but when I heard I wouldn't be able to return to the Origin Expanse for decades, I decided to do it. Rather than missing you and our daughter's growth and being an absent father like my parents had been absent in my life, I'd rather create a secondary body to control just like my main body."

"Are you still the same, or is there a difference between you and Michael?" Alice asked sharply, conflicted what to think.

Fortunately, Lucia rescued her father.

"This is my Dad! They have the same presence! His pets are missing, but he is the same!!"

Alice's features softened, and she nodded. "You're right. His presence is the same. All that is missing is his power and the wildness of his aura. The God Curses must have altered Michael's presence with their Essences." She looked at Mike and smiled faintly. Mike approached his beloved and embraced her tightly. Alice was still a bit stiff, but she returned the embrace. Mike caressed her cheeks gently and smiled even brighter than before.

"Can I?" He asked mischievously, "If you do not wish to kiss my secondary body, that's fine. I didn't took into consideration what you or others may think when I come here with a Doppelganger."

Alice scoffed and squeezed his cheeks.

"You are definitely Michael. I don't know many with the power of Gods who would act drastically like you did without taking a second to reconsider your options. A warning would have been great, but I am glad you decided to be with me and your daughter like this rather than disappearing from our lives for tens of years. I think that would have crushed me and Lucia..." She swallowed hard but smiled at Michael.

"You are everything and much more than I could have hoped when I chose you. I'm glad you are the father of my child," Alice said, planting an intense kiss on his lips.

Lucia exclaimed in excitement and shouted.

"You are the best, Dad! Mom loves you very much! She missed you a lot."

Alice separated from Michael and glared at Lucia, who buried her head in her father's chest again.

Mike just laughed.

"I think it was a good decision to come here like this. I wouldn't want to miss another day with my family." He said.

"Now, I can stay with my family in the Origin Expanse while working my ass off to defeat those Primal!"