

## **Strongest 1361**

### Chapter 1361: Hope Has Many Faces [Part 1]

Just as William was about to wake up from his slumber, he felt something soft, and fragrant touching his face.

The Half-Elf sleepily opened his eyes, and found himself locked up in a warm embrace, with his head pressed over a soft bosom.

The memories of what happened several hours ago appeared inside his head, which made him realize that he had fallen asleep while Princess Aila was comforting him, with his face buried in her chest.

That was as far as his memories took him.

However, there was a problem.

He could feel another pair of arms hugging him from behind, and two soft mounds were pressed against the back of his head, making him wonder who their owner was.

Right now, William knew that he needed to make a choice.

Either stay nestled between those soft, and fragrant peaks, which made him feel very comfortable. Or get out of bed, and do what he needed to do for the day. Truth be told, the red-headed teenager was very reluctant to move because he felt so comfortable right now.

Judging by the faint light that was coming from the window, the Half-Elf assumed that the sun had just risen, which meant that it was still early morning.

'Just fifteen more minutes,' William thought as he buried his head deeper into Princess Aila's softness, feeling her warmth, and enjoying the skinship with his angelic lover.

Just as William's consciousness was about to go back to sleep, a pair of soft lips nibbled his ears, making him shudder.

"Don't go back to sleep, Will," a sweet and teasing voice whispered in William's ears, making the Half-Elf open his eyes abruptly. "You have many important things to do today, so it's time for you to wake up."

"Shannon?" William turned his head to look at the fox lady who was laying behind him, only to find his face buried on a pair of voluptuous breasts that were a little bigger than Princess Aila's.

"Awww, I didn't know that you wanted it so early in the morning," Shannon said mischievously as she set her hand on the back of William's head, guiding his lips towards one of her pink tips, and holding him in place.

"Okay, I'll let you enjoy it for fifteen more minutes, but after that you need to wake up and have breakfast, okay?"

William, whose lips were pressed over her left breast, only gave a muffled reply. Princess Aila, who was sound asleep earlier, felt that something was missing, so she opened her eyes to see the Half-Elf in Shannon's embrace.

The angelic Princess yawned sleepily, and scooted closer to the Half-Elf, hugging him from behind before closing her eyes again. She was still tired from their night of passion, so she didn't mind whatever Shannon was doing.

Two hours later, William left the room alongside Princess Aila, and Shannon, after taking a bath with them.

When they arrived at the dining room, Medusa, Erinys, and Cherry were already eating breakfast together.

Cherry grabbed hold of Erinys' arm as she moved her chair closer to her. Clearly, she was still afraid of the Half-Elf, whom she still treated as the Prince of Darkness.

Seeing this scene, William couldn't help but smile bitterly because he could clearly see the deep-rooted fear in the little girl's eyes. He knew that it would take time before Cherry would be able to overcome her fear of him, but he was feeling optimistic about it.

With Medusa and Erinys as her two playmates, the Half-Elf was sure that it wouldn't be long before the little girl had a favorable opinion of him.

"What would you like to eat, Will?" Charmaine asked. "We have fried eggs, bacon, sausages, and pancakes."

"I'll have fried eggs and bacon," William replied. "Thank you, Charmaine."

"I'll have pancakes please, Charmaine," Princess Aila commented.

"Eggs and sausage for me," Shannon said, placing her order as well.

"Understood, I'll be back soon." Charmaine smiled as she walked towards the kitchen to prepare the food for the three people who just arrived for breakfast.

William's other wives and lovers were not inside the Thousand Beast Domain because he wanted to have some time for himself for the time being.

Chloee had lost her permission to freely enter the Domain because her authority was also erased when the Holy Light by the Pope hit William.

Shannon had escaped to the Thousand Beast Domain earlier because she didn't want to deal with Wendy, Estelle, and Belle. When she found out that William had arrived at the villa, she snuck inside it at dawn, when she was sure that the Half-Elf and Princess Aila had finished their session together.

William's lovers seemed to have developed an unwritten rule that they wouldn't disturb each other's "alone time" with William, as much as possible.

After finishing their breakfast, the Half-Elf spent some time with the three little girls and played with them in the theme park by riding the bumper cars.

Although Cherry was still feeling wary of William, she joined Medusa, and Erinys, in bullying him by hitting his car repeatedly for the duration of the ride.

An hour later, William was finally ready to return to the world outside of the Thousand Beast Domain, and deal with the problems that he needed to face.

"It will be fine, Will," Erinys said as she held William's hand. "I'm also curious about what will happen if I meet the girls that you told me about earlier."

Since Erinys was part of the seven ladies that the Half-Elf assumed would lead him to Hope, he decided to tell her about the other ladies that she would be meeting today.

After hearing the Half-ling's encouragement, William smiled and opened the portal that would lead him back to the Ainsworth Empire.

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"Your Majesty, Pearl has just arrived," Nisha reported. "She is already on her way here to the throne room."

"Thank you, Nisha," William replied while sitting on the throne.

Inside the throne room, several men and women were gathered. All of William's wives, lovers, and Pseudo-Gods, including the white-robed woman, who had attacked William during their battle in the Palace of Light, were present as well.

Haleth, Amelia, Priscilla, Vesta, Anh, and Erinys, were standing at the center, and waiting for Pearl to arrive.

William had explained to them the reason why they were gathered, which made all of them, with the exception of Erinys, wonder what William meant when he said that they would help him find hope.

"Let's just wait for Pearl to arrive," William stated. "Everything will be revealed then... at least, that is what I hope will happen."

Even the Half-Elf was unsure if something would really happen once all seven ladies, that Optimus told him to gather, were in the same room.

Since he was as clueless as the rest of them, he decided to just wait until the final piece of the puzzle arrived.

A moment later, the doors of the throne room opened and a pretty Elf, who was also Charmaine's older sister, arrived.

"I was told to come here in haste," Pearl said with a frown. "Did something happen to my sister?"

The Elf ignored everyone, and simply stared at Charmaine, who was standing at the base of the stairs, leading to William's throne.

"Nothing has happened to Charmaine," William replied. "I asked you to come because I need to ask a favor from you."

"A favor?"

"Yes. Can you please stand next to the ladies over there?"

William pointed at the place where Haleth, Amelia, Priscilla, Vesta, Anh, and Erinys, were gathered.

Although Pearl didn't understand what the Half-Elf wanted from her, she decided to follow his instructions for the time being.

When the Elf was only a meter away from Haleth, a look of surprise appeared on Pearl's face.

It was not only her, but all the seven ladies all had similar expressions on their faces.

"This is weird," Pearl said as she held Haleth's hand. "It is as if being around you completes me."

"Yes," Haleth replied. "I have that same feeling too. This is the first time I've felt like this."

As if being pulled by a mysterious force, all the ladies held each other's hand, forming a circle. A moment later, all of their bodies glowed and turned into particles of light, merging together as one.

William immediately stood up from the throne because he was caught completely by surprise at what just happened.

Worry and anxiety could be seen on his face because he didn't want any harm to come to any of the ladies that he had gathered.

However, there was nothing he could do, except stare at the particles of light that were merging together.

Finally, after two minutes of waiting, a blinding flash of light erupted in the middle of the throne room, making everyone cover their eyes.

When the light receded, a giggle reached everyone's ears, making them feel as if they were meeting a long lost friend that they hadn't seen for years.

It was at that moment when William came face to face, with the person that was said to bring him Hope.

"Hope has many faces," a voice filled with mischievousness said. "It's nice to see you again, Will."

## Chapter 1362: Hope Has Many Faces [Part 2]

Lilith's mouth hung open when she saw the familiar black-haired lady who had appeared in the center of the throne room.

How could she possibly forget the lady who had been part of an important turning point in her life?

"C-Cathy?" Lilith stuttered. "Is that really you?"

Cathy turned around and smiled at Lilith. "Hey, it's been a while, Lilith. I see that you're doing well."

"How come you're here?"

"Because I was needed?"

William, who had lost his memories, didn't know who the lady named Cathy was. But, after seeing that Lily was familiar with her, he looked at the Amazon Princess with the "can you please tell me who she is?" stare, which made Lilith decide to introduce the black-haired lady to everyone.

"Everyone, this is Cathy," Lilith said. "There was a time when William and I were sent to a place called the Deadlands. She was the one that helped control his bloodthirst by volunteering to give him some of her blood."

"Hello everyone, I am William's blood donor, Cathy," Cathy waved at the ladies inside the room. "I am also his Ninth Wife, it's a pleasure to meet all of you."

"..."

"..."

"..."

"..."

Almost everyone in the throne room became speechless after hearing Cathy's casual declaration of being one of William's future wives. None of them were expecting that the Hope they were looking for was the happy-go-lucky girl that was currently waving her hand at all of them, as if she was the winner of the Miss Universe Pageant.

Even Nisha, who was standing on the right side of William's throne, couldn't help but have doubts that the lady who had appeared in front of them would actually be able to help the Half-Elf recover his memories.

The red-headed teenager once again sat on his throne as he gazed at the lady whose attention had now shifted back to him.

Cathy wasn't beautiful, and calling her pretty was an overstatement. She looked slightly better than an average looking lady, giving her a score of 5 over 10 in the beauty rankings.

However, she had this appeal that attracted everyone to her. Even William couldn't help but feel that making her his ninth wife didn't sound like a bad idea.

"Okay, I know I'm pretty so stop ogling me," Cathy gave the Half-Elf a playful wink before blowing him a flying kiss. "What will you do if I get pregnant? Ah, just so you know, if I get pregnant, the seven ladies that summoned me will also become pregnant. So, if you want a buy one get 7 deal, this is the perfect opportunity to do that. I guarantee that all of them will give birth to healthy daughters!"

Nisha, who couldn't take Cathy's nonsense any longer, cleared her throat before getting to the main agenda.

"Your name is Cathy, right?" Nisha asked. "My name is Nisha, and I am the Emperor's steward, and Minister. We are very honored that you have graced us with your presence, but we are a little short on time. We have reason to believe that you can lead us to Hope, right?"

Cathy blinked once then twice before chuckling. After she finished her laughter, she made a curtsy and lightly bowed her head to the red-headed teenager.

"Allow me to introduce myself," Cathy said. "I go by many faces, and names, and Cathy is just one of my many personas. I am the Eighth Heavenly Virtue, Hope. Once again, it's a pleasure to meet your acquaintance, Your Majesty."

"Eight Heavenly Virtue..." William muttered. "I see. So that's what it is."

Cherry, tugged Audrey's robe as she pointed at Cathy who still had her head bowed to William.

"Is that weird lady over there one of our sisters?" Cherry asked.

"Shhh... don't let her hear you," Audrey replied in a hushed tone. "If someone asks, tell them that we're not related."

The other Heavenly Virtues all nodded their heads in agreement. Clearly, none of them wanted to be associated with the black-haired lady that they had labeled a weirdo.

Shannon, who was also present in the throne room, looked at Cathy with an understanding gaze. As the Eighth Deadly Sin, and Cathy's counterpart, she knew more than anyone else that their powers couldn't be measured by their outward appearance and personalities.

"Please, raise your head. It is my honor to meet you, Cathy," William replied. "I've been told that you can help me recover my memories. Is this true?"

Cathy smiled and nodded. "Yes. I can help you recover your memories."

"Then can you please return my memories?"

"Eh? I'm not in the mood to do that right now."

The corner of everyone's lips twitched after hearing Cathy's reply because they didn't expect her to reject William's request without batting an eye.

"Forgive me for asking such an unreasonable request," William rested his hands over the armrest of his throne as he tried to hide his frustration. "I'm sure that this service will not come for free. Please, tell me, what do you want in exchange for returning my memories?"

A mischievous smile hung on Cathy's face as she gazed at the Half-Elf who was currently seated on the throne.

"I'm glad that his Majesty understands that there are no free lunches in this world," Cathy commented. "Sadly the current you is unable to give me what I want. Since that is the case, I'll just ask for an advance payment first, and settle the rest at a later time. Will you be fine with this kind of arrangement?"

"Yes," William replied. "Also, please don't be formal. Feel free to call me William, or Will."

Cathy raised her head and gave the Half-Elf a very sweet smile, which gave him a sudden urge to bite her and suck her blood.

"Alright, Will," Cathy commented. "Since your Stewards are in a hurry, and your wives and lovers seem to be feeling wary of me, shall we take a stroll in the garden? You know, just the two of us? I want to have a nice long talk with you. Also, we need to discuss the advance payment I want to ask from you."

William nodded his head and left the throne room with Cathy. He forbade anyone from following them, so that they could talk alone.

Of course, this order of his went into one ear and out the other, as his wives, lovers, and subordinates, used various means to try and eavesdrop on their conversation, in order to get a better understanding of the lady who claimed to be William's Ninth Wife.

### Chapter 1363: Hope Has Many Faces [Part 3]

"Can I ask you something, Cathy?"

"Yes?"

"What happened to the other girls?" William inquired as he walked hand in hand with the Virthous lady of Hope. "Are they sleeping inside you or something?"

Truth be told, he was quite worried about Haleth's, Amelia's, Priscilla's, Vesta's, Anh's, Pearl's, and Erinys' safety. When all of them turned into particles of light, he felt as if a heavy stone had been placed on his chest, making it hard for him to breathe.

"Don't worry, all of them are awake, and listening to our conversation," Cathy replied with a smile and gave William's hand a light squeeze. "They are safe."

"That's good to know." William sighed internally. Now that he knew that they were safe, he was able to breathe a little easier as he continued to take a stroll with Cathy in the Palace Gardens.

"Well, aside from Amelia, Priscilla, Pearl, and Vesta, the rest of the girls love you, so you better treat them with great care," Cathy replied in a teasing manner. "But, since I'll be your Ninth Wife, they are bound to become your lovers sooner or later. This is something inevitable, so treat them nicely as well."

William didn't know how to react to the bomb that Cathy dropped just now, so he decided to keep quiet about it.

"Don't be so tense." Cathy grabbed hold of William's arm and clung to him, making the Half-Elf feel something soft press against his arm. "First, let me tell you some good news. The Army of Destruction will need exactly two years before they arrive here in Hestia.

"It would take that much time to finish their campaigns in the other worlds that they are currently waging war on before they can gather their entire army and attack this world. The Three Gods of Destruction have already decided that sending a punitive force to this world would not be enough to destroy it. Because of this, you will be able to have some buffer time."

"Two years...," William muttered. "It sounds long, but if we tell people that the end of the world will be happening in two years, they will definitely do their best to live their lives to the fullest with the remaining time they have."

Cathy nodded. "Yes. I'm sure that is indeed the case. So, make sure to use those two precious years to unite the residents of this world. Your chances of winning are already low, so make sure to eliminate infighting completely."

The two continued their stroll until they reached the center of the garden where a bench was located.

William and Cathy sat there as they continued to chat about random things. The Half-Elf was surprised that the lady beside him seemed to never run out of interesting stories to tell. She was like an Auntie who had plenty of gossip to share, making her a very good story teller.

Finally, after half an hour, Cathy took the initiative to breach the topic about William's memories.

"I will now return your memories to you," Cathy explained. "Now, please close your eyes. You and I will go on a trip together after you regain your memories. That will be your first advance payment. For this special service."

William nodded and closed his eyes.

Cathy took a deep breath before pressing her forehead over William to pass him the memories he had lost.

As soon as their foreheads touched each other, William's body jolted as he felt several volts of electricity running through his brain, as if it was being rewired to accommodate the information that he was about to receive.

Scenes that came from Midgard, Earth, and Hestia flooded inside his head, filling in the gaps that had been created when he lost his memories.

This continued for fifteen whole minutes before Cathy pulled back, making William hold his head with both hands as he panted for breath.

He was currently suffering from a terrible headache that wouldn't go away even though he was already using Life Magic to cure it.

It took him ten more minutes to regain his composure, even though his head was still hurting from the sudden influx of information that would take some time to get organized.

"Take a rest first," Cathy said as she patted her lap. "Don't worry, I'm not going anywhere. You will still need to uphold your part of the bargain, so rest for now. Our journey will begin after you clear your head."

William gratefully accepted Cathy's proposal and laid his head on her lap. The Virtuous Lady of Hope then started to hum, as she lightly brushed William's head, singing him a lullaby, so he could rest.

Cathy's comforting hands, and voice, lulled William to sleep. Soon, he closed his eyes and allowed his exhausted mind to repair itself from the overload of information that he received just a few minutes ago.

"He looks so peaceful when he sleeps," Haleth said from inside Cathy's head.

"I know, right?" Cathy replied. "Doesn't he look like a fairy tale prince when he's like this?"

"Yes," Erinys commented. "William is indeed a prince."

"Our Prince, right?" Anh said as she gazed at William through Cathy's eyes.

"Well, it's good that you three are getting along, but I would appreciate it if you didn't let your emotions override my own," Pearl replied. "I still have a grudge because he brainwashed my sister. I will not forgive him that easily."

"Um, I'm only doing this, so that Princess Sidonie will be revived," Priscilla commented with a flushed face. "I'm not really interested in William. Although I have to agree that there are very few men who are worthy enough to have my Princess' love and affection."

"My father has been telling me to seduce him as of late," Vesta said with a pout. "It's really a pain... but, it's hard for me to find someone who is better than him."

"My father is the same." Amelia admitted. "He even talked to William's Grandpa a few years ago, so that I could be his concubine. I don't know if they reached an agreement..."

Deep inside Cathy's consciousness, the seven ladies were having an internal discussion, while waiting for William to wake up from his rest.

All of them had different personalities, and they all had different relationships with the red-headed teenager, who was sleeping peacefully on their lap.

Priscilla, Pearl, and Vesta, managed to convince Cathy that she shouldn't get pregnant without their permission. After all, once she got pregnant, it would not be her that would give birth, but all of them.

Cathy agreed because she respected their opinions as well. Just as she had said earlier, Hope had many faces, and the faces of the ladies around her represented the different faces of hope that were needed in a world that was headed for destruction.

#### Chapter 1364: Return To Midgard

Three hours later, William finally regained consciousness.

His overall presence had changed, which made Cathy smile.

"Do you remember me now?" Cathy asked in a teasing tone.

"Yes," William replied. "You are my emergency rations."

"How rude."

"But, isn't it the truth?"

Cathy snorted and pulled on William's cheeks, until the latter tapped her hands to tell her to stop.

"Cathy, I didn't expect that we would meet each other again in this manner," William said as he continued to lie down on her lap. "So, you're Hope."

"In the flesh." Cathy replied as she patted William's head.

"I believe you mentioned that you're going to ask for an advance payment for returning my memories."

"Mmm. I did say that. So, are you ready to give me my payment?"

"Okay." William nodded. "What do you want?"

"I want you to accompany me to a place."

"Where?"

"Midgard."

William's eyes widened in shock because he didn't expect that he would hear that word from Cathy's lips.

"But, Midgard is already destroyed," William replied. "How can we possibly go there?"

"Who said that it was destroyed?" Cathy asked back with a smile.

"It wasn't destroyed?"

"Nope."

William propped himself up in a sitting position before looking at Cathy in disbelief.

"Midgard still exists?" William asked back. "I thought the other realms were also destroyed after Asgard fell."

"Well, that should have been the case," Cathy replied. "But, Odin and Freya had made preparations beforehand to prevent the worst case scenario from happening. If Asgard was to fall, Freya would cut Midgard off from Yggdrasil, and set it on a course away from the path of destruction. That was how Midgard survived."

William became silent because now that he thought about it, everything made so much more sense.

During the battle of Ragnarok, Freya was nowhere to be seen. All the other Gods had fought, while the Queen of the Valkyries couldn't be found anywhere.

If he were to believe Cathy's explanation then that meant that the Stall Owner who had given him the rings, Altair and Vega, which he and Belle wore in their fingers, was the Goddess Freya, who was absent when the Asgardians were duking it out with the Army of Destruction.

He didn't recognize her because she wore a veil, preventing him from seeing her face.

"Unbelievable," William muttered as the realization finally hit him. "So Midgard survived."

"Right, and it is even thriving right now." Cathy smirked. "Now, My Prince, will you accompany me to take a stroll to Midgard?"

Just as William was about to answer, three ladies descended from the sky and landed in front of them.

"I'm going as well," Wendy said. "I would visit Midgard often to fulfill my duties as a Valkyrie Captain. I want to see if it really survived Ragnarok."

"I'm going to," Estelle stated. "Will is always kidnapped by women. I'll tag along to ensure that he is safe."

"I'll go as well," Belle commented. "We still have a lot of catching up to do, right, Will?"

The Half-Elf raised both of his hands in surrender, which meant that he agreed to take the three of them with him to Midgard.

"Is it fine if they tag along?" William asked Cathy, who had an amused expression on her face.

"Why not?" Cathy answered. "The more the merrier. But, I'll only be taking the three of them with us. You ladies hiding over there can't come with us, okay?"

Astrape, Bronte, Titania, Loxos, Nisha, Shannon, Chloee, and the rest of William's lovers, who were all hiding around the garden to eavesdrop on the conversation, all came out of their hiding places.

"Girls, please wait for my arrival," William said to his lovers in a firm manner. "I'm not going on a picnic. This is purely business. Just wait for my return. I promise that I will spend some time with all of you then."

After coaxing his women to wait for his return, Cathy raised her hand and pointed to something in the Heavens.

"Coordinates locked on," Cathy muttered. "Let's go, Bifrost Bridge."

A beam of light shot up towards the Heavens, taking William, Cathy, Wendy, Estelle, and Belle towards the place where the Virtuous Lady of Hope wanted to visit.

The journey didn't last long and, in just half a minute, the Half-Elf found himself gazing down at a familiar place, where he had been several months ago.

The red-headed teenager then shifted her gaze to Cathy, who was grinning back at him.

"This is indeed Midgard," Cathy stated. "But, the people of this world call it Earth."

Belle glanced at her surroundings and also noticed the familiar scene.

A giant crater, which had now turned into a lake, could be seen from the sky. This was where K-City used to be, before it was taken to the Void.

"The air of this world feels a bit heavy," Estelle commented. "I don't sense any magic in the surroundings. Do you know of this place, Will?"

The Half-Elf nodded. If earlier he wasn't sure, now he was sure of it. Using his enhanced senses, he was able to zoom in on a nearby city, and confirm that he had indeed returned to Earth.

"After escaping its destruction, Midgard floated in the Void until it arrived in this Solar System," Cathy explained. "Freya made sure that it would be set on a proper orbit, so it wouldn't be pulled towards the Sun. Because of the lack of monsters and Giants that constantly invaded Midgard, the people of this world walked the path of modernization and technology."

"Although it isn't exactly peaceful, the fact that it exists is proof that the Asgardians managed to save at least one world from destruction."

William was having complicated feelings inside his heart after he realized that the place where he had met Belle, was actually the same place where he was once discarded by his own father, for being a bastard son.

"Now that we're here, what kind of advance payment do you want to have?" William asked after he calmed himself down.

"Well, the answer is really simple." Cathy smiled as she held William's arm and clung to him. "Let's go on a date. Treat it as your advance payment for having your memories returned."

"A date?" William arched an eyebrow at the lady holding his arm. "Is that all you want from me?"

"Yes." Cathy nodded before whispering something in William's ear. "This might be our last date together. After all, you still need to rescue your wives from the Underworld, as well as unite the warring Factions in Hestia. Two years may not be enough time to bring everyone under one banner. So, do your best. I will be cheering for you, even if you don't see me."

Cathy planted a kiss on William's cheek, before holding his hand to drag him away to fly to the city where he was born.

The black-haired lady had already sent a telepathic message to the three girls to give her some time alone with William, so the two of them could enjoy their date.

Since the three girls owed her a favor for returning William's memories, Wendy, Estelle, and Belle had no choice but to compromise, and allow Cathy to spend a day with the red-headed teenager, who was currently a famous celebrity on Earth.

#### Chapter 1365: The Power Of Hope

"Isn't that William? He's one of the Avengers, right?"

"Omg! It is him! I wonder if I can get an autograph?"

"Who's that plain looking girl beside him? Is this a reenactment of the story of Handsome and the Beast?"

"I'm much more beautiful than that girl. Do you think if I went over to talk to them, Mr. William would ditch her and come with me instead?"

"Girl, take a good look at your face. A bullfrog is prettier than you."

Cathy giggled after hearing what the onlookers were saying. She was currently taking a stroll with William in one of the most famous attractions for couples in the city, and everyone was taking snapshots of the two of them as they walked past them.

"You're really famous, Will," Cathy commented. "Too bad, I am not as beautiful as your wives. They are saying that we're not a match for each other."

"Just ignore them," William replied as he walked hand in hand with Cathy. "Still, I didn't know that Earth and Midgard were the same."

"Are you feeling sentimental?" Cathy commented. "Do you want to visit the site where Camelot used to be? Or do you want to bring flowers to the grave of your father who exiled you during your teenage years?"

William didn't reply right away. He had experienced returning to Camelot when he was still the Prince of Darkness. He even fought against Lancelot and won, allowing himself to get over the grudges he held in the past.

Cathy didn't disturb William's thoughts and simply walked beside him. A few minutes later, the Half-Elf shook his head. He had already moved on, and there was no need to cling to what happened in the past.

"Would you like to have some ice cream?" William asked as they stopped at an Ice Cream shop. "You said that your senses are connected to the seven of them right, will they be able to taste the food that you eat?"

Cathy nodded. "We all share the same body. In fact, I can even transform myself to look like each and every one of them. Whenever you spend some time with them, you can think of it as me spending time with you. So even if I am not around, as long as you are interacting with them, you are also interacting with me at the same time. Pretty amazing, right?"

"When Shannon, Erinys, and I were on the uninhabited island..."

"No need to continue. I already said that I am them, and they are me. Meaning, I also experienced everything that Erinys experienced back then."

Cathy gave William a mischievous smile, making the Half-Elf avert his gaze. What he didn't know was that inside Cathy's Sea of Consciousness, all the girls were now interrogating Erinys about what happened when William was still on the island together with her and Shannon.

Cathy smiled internally, as she watched the Half-ling, whose face had already turned beet-red, after being pestered by her "sisters", who made up Cathy as a whole.

William, who was oblivious of what was happening, asked the lady beside him on what flavor of ice cream she wanted.

"What flavor do you like to have?" William inquired.

"I'll have chocolate mint ice cream," Cathy replied. "I've always wanted to try it, but I was too busy doing things in the background."

"Busy? What things were you doing?"

"Did you forget, Will? I am Hope. Almost everyone in the world turns to me when they are encountering hardships. This is why I am quite busy. I only took a day off because of you. So, make sure to be happy that I allowed you to accompany me."

William eyed Cathy who was batting her eyes at him. He still didn't know how the power of Hope worked, so for now, he just assumed that the mischievous lady beside him was telling him the truth.

After getting the chocolate mint ice cream, Cathy didn't waste time and started to eat it.

"What's this? It's cold and it's delicious!" Priscilla exclaimed. "What kind of desert is this?"

"Strange, I've eaten a lot of things along my journey in the Silvermoon Continent, but this is the first time I've tasted something like this," Pearl stated.

"This desert called ice cream has different colors," Amelia commented. "Does that mean it has many different flavors as well?"

"Yes," Erinys answered. "There are many different flavors. I tried a few of them when I ordered them in bulk from Ama-Soon. The Underworld can be quite hot during certain times of the year."

"I've eaten several kinds of ice cream in the Thousand Beast Domain," Vesta interjected. "But, we didn't have this flavor in the ice cream shops right, Anh?"

"Yeah," Anh answered. "We have chocolate, and dark chocolate, but this cool and refreshing taste is different from what I know. We have to ask Will to bring some of this mint back home. I'm sure it will be popular with the children."

"Let's try the other flavors as well," Haleth insisted. "Maybe there is something that tastes better than this."

""""Okay!""""

Everyone inside Cathy's Sea of Consciousness voted unanimously to try the different ice cream flavors that were available inside the shop.

Cathy accommodated all of their requests, and tasted all the ice cream flavors that were available, making the uncultured ladies like Amelia, Priscilla, and Pearl, experience something that they hadn't experienced before.

"Two strawberry cones, please," Cathy said to the server, who was quite amazed by Cathy's ability to eat so many ice creams without breaking a sweat.

"You ate strawberries earlier." William teased. "What's wrong, is Erinys asking for seconds?"

Cathy smiled as she accepted the two strawberry cones that the server had given her.

"Although Erinyes loves strawberry, this is not for her," Cathy replied as she turned around to hand the ice cream to two little girls that had walked behind her and William.

"Here you go, girls," Cathy said with a smile.

"Maple thanks you for the ice cream."

"C-Cinnamon is also grateful."

Cathy giggled as she patted the head of the two girls, who were now happily licking their ice creams.

William who saw Maple and Cinnamon almost did a double take because he wasn't expecting to see the two girls on Earth.

Although he was very happy to see them, he was also very worried because the two pink-haired girls were prone to going to random places without a guardian.

He had seen them back in the Underworld, and now he was seeing them again on Earth. The Half-Elf could already feel his liver itch, thinking of how dangerous it would be for the two little gluttons to wander on their own, without someone accompanying them.

But, the biggest question was.

What were Maple and Cinnamon doing here?

The red-headed teenager glanced at Cathy who was wiping Maple's cheek with a handkerchief because it had been dirtied by the ice cream she was eating. For some reason, he felt as if this whole thing wasn't a coincidence.

This made him wonder if the Virtuous Lady of Hope truly didn't know what was happening, or was simply using her mysterious powers to help William attain the goals he was striving to reach.

Chapter 1366: Right Now, It Is Impossible For You To Beat Him

"Maple wants some cotton candy!"

"C-Cinnamon wants waffles."

"Macarons!"

"Brownies!"

"Cupcakes!"

"Cheesecake!"

"Apple pie!"

"Chocolate chip cookies!"

The two little gluttons happily ate anything that looked good in the stores that William and Cathy visited.

William was holding Maple's hand, while Cathy was holding Cinnamon's. Both girls had bottomless appetites, and the Half-Elf was more than happy to spoil them with food.

Fortunately, the VIP Credit Card he got from the president of the National Bank of Country-K worked in any establishment, allowing him to purchase everything without any limit.

Since the one paying for everything was his father-in-law, Raymond, who was also Belle's father, he didn't mind using his family's fortune in order to make the two little girls happy.

The four people went to a nearby park to have a picnic because the weather was nice, and Cathy was the one that proposed it. The Virtuous Lady of Hope was smitten with the two pink-haired girls, whom she pampered just as much as William did.

After they finished eating, William asked the question that had been on his mind since he saw the two little girls, who had appeared out of nowhere.

"Do you have anyone accompanying the two of you?" William asked.

"No," Maple replied. "We escaped!"

"We don't want to eat vegetables, so we decided to run away!" Cinnamon commented from the side.

William blinked once then twice because he couldn't believe what he was hearing.

The two girls were the very incarnation of gluttony and could eat anything including rocks and dirt on the ground. However, they decided to run away from home because they were asked to eat vegetables?

How picky could they get?

"Vegetables are good for the two of you," William said with a smile. "If you don't eat vegetables, you will not be able to grow tall."

"I can grow taller than Mama?" Cinnamon asked.

"As tall as Papa?" Maple inquired.

"Maybe?" William replied. "But, vegetables are good for the body. So, you have to eat them, okay?"

"No."

"I don't want to."

The two girls pouted and the Half-Elf was very tempted to pinch their puffed-up cheeks that made them look like squirrels with their mouths full of food.

"The two of you should eat vegetables," Cathy commented. "If you don't eat it, your Mama will be sad. Do you want your mama to be sad?"

The two little gluttons exchanged a glance with each other before shaking their heads.

"Good." Cathy nodded. "So, the next time your Mama asks you to eat vegetables, you better eat them, okay? If you do, your Mama will be very happy."

"She will?"

"Will Mama be happy?"

"Of course! So, you better not be picky with food, okay?"

""Okay!""

Seeing how Cathy resolved the problem without too much effort, the Half-Elf couldn't help but smile. Although he was still feeling anxious about Maple and Cinnamon running away from home without anyone to look after them, as long as he was around, he would keep the two of them safe.

Observing William from afar were three ladies wearing stylish clothes and sunglasses. They were observing the four people who were enjoying their picnic from afar and making sure that they weren't discovered by the red-headed teenager, who was happily feeding one of the pink-haired girls with a macaron.

Since the three of them were beautiful ladies, many men tried to flirt with them, but anyone who came near them was scared away by the golden snake, Dia, and the little puppy, Thor, who were making sure that no guys would get near Wendy and Estelle.

"Who are those two children?" Wendy asked Belle. "Do you know them?"

"Yes," Belle replied. "I believe their names are Maple and Cinnamon. William introduced them to me after our wedding."

"They're very cute," Estelle said softly. "I hope that my child with William will be as cute as them."

Wendy nodded, and Belle nodded in agreement. Who wouldn't like to have cute daughters like Maple and Cinnamon?

Just as the three were observing the two girls, they noticed William glancing in their direction. A second later, the Half-Elf waved his hand, as if greeting them from afar.

The three had no choice but to wave back because their covers were blown. They were not aware that William was able to pinpoint their location because Optimus could detect their presence from afar.

Half an hour later, the seven people met up to watch a movie together. After that, they had an early dinner, before going to the hotel that Belle had reserved earlier in the day for all of them.

Maple, and Cinnamon were taken away by Wendy, Estelle, and Belle, to their own rooms, leaving William and Cathy behind.

The Virtuous Lady of Hope told the three girls that she had some important matters to discuss with William, and she would be gone when morning came. This was why the three relented and allowed her to spend the night with the Half-Elf while they pampered the two adorable girls, who made them want to have babies of their own.

"Cathy, tell me the truth," William said as he lightly squeezed Cathy's hand as she leaned her head on his shoulder. "What is the real reason why you brought me to Earth? Why are Maple and Cinnamon here?"

The two of them were seated on a spacious bed, which was large enough to accommodate six people.

"Because, we needed to come here in order to meet Maple and Cinnamon," Cathy replied.

"Why?"

"Because the two of them can go anywhere."

Cathy raised her head and looked at William with a serious expression on her face. The teasing attitude she had earlier was now gone, and the Half-Elf could vaguely feel that the two of them were going to have a serious discussion from this point onwards.

"You might be thinking that the hardest part in saving your wives is to help them escape the Underworld," Cathy stated. "But, have you considered that getting to the Underworld is probably the hardest part? All of the entrances that can be used by mortals and immortals alike are closed right now.

Only the dead can go in the Underworld without being restricted by the blockade that the God of Death has put in place, to prevent you from barging inside his Domain. Your Father has used up his strength to allow you to use the hidden path inside the World Tree to go to the Underworld. Even if he had the strength to help you, that path is blocked as well, so it is useless."

The Half-Elf frowned because he didn't expect that all the entrances that led to the Underworld would be blocked. It seemed that after William had taken Erinys away from the Land of the Dead, Thanatos decided to prevent him from entering again to save his wives.

"For you to enter the Underworld, you will need Maple's and Cinnamon's help," Cathy explained. "But, even if you successfully enter the Underworld, you will be facing an army and, ultimately, the God of Death who rules it. Right now, it is impossible for you to beat him."

"Then, are you going to tell me how to beat him?" William asked.

"Beat him?" Cathy giggled. "You make it sound that beating a God is easy. No, Will. I'm not going to tell you how to beat him. Instead, I am going to tell you how to reach the Top floor of the Tower of Babylon without challenging the other floors.

"Both of us know that you are not interested in conquering those floors, and I will save you the time to do such a troublesome thing. Maple and Cinnamon can help you do that. Take note that they won't be able to stay for long, but do not worry. Those two have the habit of sneaking away whenever an opportunity arises.

"Hopefully, the next time those two little girls sneak away, you will have the means to fight against Thanatos. That way, you will be able to rescue your wives from his grasp."

William nodded his head in understanding.

He also didn't have the confidence to beat the God of Death in his own Domain. Perhaps, if the Primordial Goddess didn't favor him, Thanatos might have already snapped his neck, and imprisoned his soul in the rivers of hell before he could even take Erinyes away from the Underworld, where she was born.

#### Chapter 1367: One Last Prank

William and Cathy talked about many things.

But, most of them were about the present.

The Virtuous Lady of Hope listened to the Half-Elf's worries, so that he could unload the uneasiness in his heart. When everything was done, the two went to take a bath together so that he could cool himself and relax.

"Feeling better?" Cathy asked as she wrapped her arms around William's neck.

"A lot better," William replied. "Thank you, Cathy."

Whenever he was with Cathy, William found a sort of peace that was hard to describe. Perhaps it was because of her Divinity that represented Hope, the Half-Elf could instinctively feel that even though the future was filled with hardships, a chance still existed.

"Mmm," Cathy pressed her lips over William's as the latter wrapped his arms around her body.

She had already said that she wouldn't make love to him because she respected Priscilla's, Vesta's, and Pearl's wishes, but that didn't mean that she would not kiss him.

Unlike William's passionate kisses with his wife, Lilith, or the soft and gentle kisses he shared with Chiffon, Cathy's kiss was like the kiss of first love.

It was a very difficult feeling to explain. Having so many women, William had kissed all of them, and yet, when he kissed Cathy, it tasted so sweet, as if it was his first time kissing a girl.

A few minutes later, Cathy raised her body, and pressed the Half-Elf's face to her chest.

"It is going to be a while before we see each other, so make sure to drink until you're satisfied," Cathy said softly. "Tomorrow, you and the others will return to Hestia, and ask for Maple's and Cinnamon's help to go to the top floor of the Tower of Babylon. Only take Celeste with you, or you won't get to see the God of Familiars. Perhaps he holds the key to be able to complete your soul, so you will be whole once again."

"How long till I see you again?" William inquired.

"Patience, My Love," Cathy replied as she gently patted William's head. "Just as the sun will give way to the night, and the seasons change, we will reunite when the time is right. Until then, keep me close in your heart, always."

William kissed Cathy's right breast, which was as white as cream, and aching for his love. After that, he sank his fangs into those tender hills and drank slowly, savoring each drop.

Deep inside Cathy's Sea of Consciousness, all the ladies writhed because of the profound pleasure that washed over their bodies.

Erinys, Anh, Haleth, were already accustomed to this sensation, but it still made them unable to prevent the soft sighs of pleasure that escaped their lips.

The ones that were affected the most were Priscilla, Amelia, Pearl, and Vesta, most of whom had never had the opportunity of having their blood drunk by the Half-Elf.

Back then, William had sunk his fangs into Pearl after he fought her, when she failed to kidnap Charmaine from him. But, this incident had only happened once.

The Elf had already forgotten how that feeling almost drove her crazy in the past, and now, she was reliving the same experience, making her unable to tell which direction was left or right.

Time seemed to move painfully slow, as William drank Cathy's blood, while the latter brushed his hair, urging him to drink to his fill.

He had thought about it in the past, but out of all the ladies he had drunk blood from so far, Cathy's was the best tasting of them all. Also, her blood supply seemed endless. No matter how much William had drank back in the Deadlands, the mischievous lady was still lively, despite having drank several liters of her blood non-stop.

As William enjoyed the sweetness that Cathy brought him, her humming, which resembled a lullaby, reached his ears, making him feel sleepy, like a baby who had finished eating his meal.

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Sunlight peeked inside the room, and touched the cheek of the Half-Elf who was currently lying in bed, making him slowly open his eyes.

He couldn't remember how he ended up in the bedroom. All that he could recall was the time when he was in the bathtub with Cathy, and the latter was humming him a lullaby.

But, no matter how sleepy William was, it all went away when he saw the scene that he found himself in.

Vesta was hugging his head like a pillow, as she slept above him.

Priscilla was sleeping on his left side, and resting her head on his chest, while her arm rested on his waist.

Amelia's head was resting on his abdomen, and her soft sleeper breaths was fanning the little guy who was standing tall and proud, ready to rumble at any given time as long as William wished it.

Pearl slept on his right side, hugging his arm, which was pressed against her voluptuous breasts. But, that was not all. William's hand was buried between her thighs, touching her...

It was the formula for trouble, and the Half-Elf's heart sank, knowing that this was a veeeeeeeery elaborate setup to give him a wonderful start to his day.

Haleth, Erinys, and Anh, were all sleeping properly on the other side of the bed, with the two ladies hugging Erinys in the middle, as if she was something precious.

'Sh\*t,' William thought.

He could already tell that the mischievous lady of Hope was the one that had set him up, giving him one last prank before leaving.

The red-headed teenager wouldn't have minded if the ones holding him were his lovers. However, the ones who were by his side were the ladies who weren't part of his harem, and one of them even wanted him dead in the past.

Left with no choice, the Half-Elf consulted the one person that wouldn't betray him.

'Optimus. Do you have a way to...'

< Will, don't raise flags. You already know what happens when you ask such a thing. >

As if proving him right, Pearl's eyelashes fluttered before slowly opening.

She gazed sleepily at William who was looking back at her with a calm expression on his face.

Since he was already riding the tiger's back, he decided to go all the way.

As the famous saying goes.

"People die when they are killed."

(A/N: All credits go to Shirou.)

"... What?" Pearl's eyes widened in shock when she noticed what she was hugging, and where William's hand was touching.

"I know that you won't believe me, but I still have to say it," William said with the most gentlemanly smile he could give. "Last night was amazing."

That was the last thing that William said before the entire bed shook, and the sleeping ladies by his side were awakened due to Pearl's earth-shattering scream.

Chapter 1368: Tell Me, Dark Prince, What Is Your Reason For Coming Here?

"Make sure to follow Maple, or you might get lost."

"Please hold Cinnamon's hand, I like to walk together."

William, who had barely resolved the misunderstanding with the help of Erinys, Haleth, and Anh, held the hands of the two little girls as they walked towards the location of the crater, where K-City used to be.

He could faintly feel the connection that allowed the Bifrost Bridge to make a transfer to Earth, but it was still very unstable.

The Half-Elf was certain that he could only use it one last time before he had to wait for it to become stable enough for him to be able to use it again.

'I think the Bifrost Bridge was able to make the connection to Earth because it was Cathy that initiated the transfer,' William thought.

Maple and Cinnamon seemed to be in a very good mood after they woke up, so the two of them were quite lively as they dragged the Half-Elf towards their destination.

Earlier, when they left the hotel, the people they passed gave William looks of envy and jealousy. This was understandable because walking behind him were ten gorgeous ladies, who could easily become the cover of women's fashion magazines.

William even heard some of the men wishing for him to get hit by truck-kun as he left the hotel for being a winner in life.

What they didn't know was that he had already been hit by Truck-kun, after he died, sending him to Hestia, where he met the ladies that were currently walking behind him.

Pearl, whose face was still beet red, was at the very end of the line. After hearing William's explanation, she remembered that it was Cathy that carried the sleeping Half-Elf back to the bed.

Afterwards, the Virtuous Lady of Hope slept beside him, and all of them, who were inside Cathy's Sea of Consciousness, fell asleep as well.

William was clearly innocent, but Pearl still held a grudge.

Her reason was very simple. If she easily forgave the Half-Elf for what he had done to her sister, Charmaine, and also to her in the past, everything she worked hard for over the past few years would be in vain.

The Half-Elf was also guilty of brainwashing Charmaine at the beginning, so he didn't ask for Pearl to forgive him. He only told her that if there is an opportunity for him to make up for what he had done, he would do his best, no matter what Pearl asked of him.

"Chocolate cake is good~ same with all the food~" Maple sang as she swung William's right arm as they walked together.

"Vegetables are bad~ eating them makes me sad~" Cinnamon joined her sister as she swung William's left hand, imitating her sister.

"I thought we already established that eating vegetables is good?" William asked with amusement.

"Cinnamon will eat vegetables, but it still makes me sad," Cinnamon complained. "I just don't want Mama to be sad, so I'll eat it even if it's bitter!"

"That's right!" Maple nodded. "We will eat if it makes Mama happy."

William only smiled before using his Wind Magic to make all of them float in the air. Looking at the clear-blue sky above his head, the Half-Elf locked onto the point in the sky where he could feel the strongest connection with the Bifrost Bridge.

"Let's go," William said in a voice that was loud enough for everyone to hear him. "It's time to return to Hestia."

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A radiant light bathed everyone, making them momentarily close their eyes. When the light receded, they found themselves standing at the center of the Bifrost Bridge, with the Palace of Asgard right in front of them.

"All of you, wait for me in the Palace," William said. "I am taking Maple, Cinnamon, and Celeste with me to visit a place here in the Tower.

Although Wendy, Estelle, and Belle were reluctant to leave him, they decided to obey his words. The Half-Elf already told them what he was planning to do after he returned to Hestia, and since they were unable to come with him, they had no choice but to wait for his return.

"At least take Chloe with you," Wendy insisted. "In a way, she is also your Familiar, right? I don't think the Gods of Familiar would mind seeing her."

William pondered this for a moment before nodding his head.

"If it puts your mind at ease then I will take her with me," William replied.

After waiting for half an hour, Chloe, Celeste, and Claire, arrived at the Bifrost Bridge with expectant gazes.

"Are you really going to meet the God of Familiars?" Celeste asked as soon as she saw William. "Is there a way to resurrect Elliot and Conan?"

Celeste was a Familiamancer. The very first of its kind in Hestia. When William also acquired the same profession, she was quite happy about it because it meant that she was no longer alone.

However, before their profession could even spread in the world, they were engulfed in a storm, which made it impossible for them to escape without others sacrificing themselves for their sake.

If possible, Celeste wanted William to help revive Elliot and Conan, so the missing half of his soul would finally be complete again.

"If there is a way for them to revive, I will do it," William replied. "How many times have you met the God of Familiars?"

Celeste pondered for a bit as she tried to recall the number of times he had an audience with the God of Familiars, who resided at the very top of the Tower of Babylon, alongside two other Gods whom she hadn't met.

"Five," Celeste replied after a few minutes.

"What can you tell me about him?" William inquired.

Before Celeste could answer William's question, Chloe interjected and answered the question herself.

"He acts mysterious when he's just an old fart," Chloe stated.

"That's right," Claire supported her sister's statement. "He only contacts us when he needs a favor. It is really one-sided. Maybe it is time to settle the scores and use this as leverage against him."

Celeste didn't know if she should laugh or cry about her Familiars' description of the God of Familiars, who had chosen her to become his representative in Hestia.

"Well, what Chloe and Claire have said is true." Celeste admitted. "But, the God of Familiars never does things without a reason. When he asked me to make you a Familiamancer, I am sure that he had done it in good faith."

William nodded his head in understanding. He couldn't remember if he had met the God of Familiars in the past, because there were so many things happening around him, making him unable to recall if they had already had a meeting.

'It doesn't matter,' William thought. 'I'll be seeing him now anyway.'

The Half-Elf lightly squeezed the soft, and delicate hands of the two little girls who were licking the lollipops that he had created for them, while waiting for Celeste, Chloe, and Claire to arrive.

"Maple, Cinnamon, can you take me to the top of this tower?" William asked.

"Okay," Maple replied.

"This is easy," Cinnamon answered.

The two little girls reluctantly let go of William's hands before pressing their hands together, intertwining with each other.

Maple and Cinnamon both closed their eyes, and a single glance was enough to tell them that they were concentrating on something.

Suddenly, a small spark appeared in front of them.

This spark moved in a circular motion until it grew bigger, and bigger, creating a portal.

Finally, the portal stabilized, showing the appearance of a place filled with stars.

"Let's go in before the portal closes," Maple said as she held onto William's right hand, pulling him towards the portal.

"Hurry up, hurry up, hurry hurry up~" Cinnamon grabbed hold of the Half-Elf's hand and pulled him as well.

Celeste was only two steps behind William, so as soon as the Half-Elf entered the portal, she was able to enter as well.

Chloee and Claire had taken their familiar forms, and sat on William's and Celeste's shoulders, just in case something unexpected happened.

"So, you're finally here."

An ancient voice echoed in the surroundings making William and Celeste look around them.

"Over here."

The Half-Elf and the Elf looked in the direction where the voice was coming from and they saw an old man, wearing white robes, with both of his hands clasped behind his back.

"I welcome you to the Top Floor of the Tower of Babylon," the old man gave a light bow. "Dark and difficult times lie ahead. So I won't bore you with lengthy speeches. Tell me, Dark Prince, what is your reason for coming here?"

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Chapter 1369: Are You Willing To Pay The Price?[Part 1]

"Tell me, Dark Prince, what is your reason for coming here?"

Will gazed at the old man, who gave off a very different aura compared to that of his Grandpa, James, and the God of Shepherds, David.

The God of Familiars was like an old hermit who had seen everything there was to see in the world, and had stepped beyond the boundaries of Human greed. Even so, the Half-Elf was curious about why the old man was referring to him with such a title.

"I am no longer the Prince of Darkness," William replied.

The old man didn't reply to William's words, and simply smiled. He then waved his hand and a round table filled with food appeared in front of them. Chairs also appeared as the old man sat, and beckoned them to join him.

Maple and Cinnamon sat and began to eat the food on the table with as much grace as Chiffon did whenever she ate with William.

The Half-Elf, and the beautiful Elf beside him, didn't touch the food. Chloe and Claire remained seated on their shoulders as they eyed the God who allowed them to be born in the world.

"I think you misunderstand something about light and darkness," the God of Familiar said when he realized that William and Celeste had no plans to eat anything in front of them. "Darkness and Light are like a kitchen knife.

"If they are used to do good, then they can help prepare the most delicious dishes that would make people happy. However, if they are used to do harm to others, it can be a sharp blade that can stab people and end their life."

The God of Familiars then waved his hand and a projection appeared in front of them.

Scenes of mass slaughter by the Demons who had invaded the Central Continent could be seen in the projection.

William frowned when he saw the image of Felix, who was sitting on a throne that was mounted on a golden chariot. The green-haired Demon had a look of triumph on his face, as his Army of Darkness overwhelmed the defenders who were desperately trying to protect their Kingdom, from the Heir of Darkness, who wanted to conquer everything that he could set his eyes on.

"When you were the Prince of Darkness, you could have done the same," the God of Familiars said. "But, you didn't. You chose the least bloody method, which was to turn all the Elves into Drows and use that as leverage to make them bend to your will."

"The methods might be different, but the result is the same," William interjected. "I made them obey me by force. In your eyes, it might be less bloody than what happened in the Central Continent, but in

the eyes of the Elves, it was the greatest curse that could befall them and it will haunt them for thousands of years.

"It's just a matter of how people die. They can die quickly and in great pain, or they can slowly live in shame, wishing they were dead."

William didn't think that what he did was right. He did things that needed to be done at that time because he needed the Elves to become his cannon fodder for the war against the Demons.

He didn't care about what would happen to the Elven Race.

The only things he cared about were his family, his Master, Celine, Charmaine and the Elves that served him, Acedia, and Celeste, who was Celine's twin sister.

"Right," the old man nodded in agreement. "What you did is inexcusable because you have taken an entire race hostage for your ambition. Just like the Pope did to the Believers of Light.

"She did what she thought was right in order to make sure that the Holy Order of Light would become the biggest, most influential, and strongest organization in the world. For that goal, she did many things that would not make her any different from a villain. The sad part was that when she died, all the respect that people had for her disappeared as well.

"Frankly, she died a very pitiful death. It is such a shame that Human greed and ambition can turn a once religious, and pious, woman into someone that would make you, the Prince of Darkness, look like a Saint. So, tell me, who won in the end?"

Before William could even answer the old man's question, Chloe, who was seated on his shoulder, raised her little fist and shouted.

"You old coot, stop talking in riddles!" Chloe shouted. "We didn't come here to listen to the ramblings of an old fogey. Tell us how to recover the other half of William's soul, and resurrect Elliot and Conan while you're at it!"

"That's right," Claire commented. "Making yourself sound like a wise sage is very unbecoming of you. A smelly old fart who just stays on top of the tower and watches the daily lives of mortals is similar to a pervert, who is taking a peek at the ladies while they bathe. Have you no shame? Stop talking in circles and just get to the point!"

The corner of God of Familiar's lips twitched when he heard the two little familiars complain. He was very tempted to say that the Peanut Gallery should just shut up and not get in the way of their discussion.

The God of Familiar then shifted his attention to Celeste, who averted her gaze in embarrassment. Both of her familiars had been through a lot and they no longer looked at the God of Familiars as if he was the most benevolent being, especially after Elliot and Conan died.

The God of Familiars decided to ignore the two disrespectful little familiars, and shifted his attention back to the Half-Elf, who was looking at him with a solemn gaze.

"Now where was I? Oh yeah, don't look at Light and Darkness as if they are simply black and white, with white being good, and black being bad," the God of Familiars stated. "When you and the Pope fought each other, your side was the one that won the war. I'm not saying that what you did, and what she did was right.

"The battle between the two of you was inevitable. If you didn't fight her then she would have come to cause trouble for you. It is clearly evident that both of you could not coexist under the same sky. However, she found a compromise. Do you know what that was?"

William nodded. "She wanted the version of me without my memories, so that she could brainwash me to do her bidding."

"Right," the God of Familiars said. "She understood that having you was more beneficial to her. It was similar to you capturing the World Tree and making all the Elves submit to you. The Pope thought that once you were in her hands, your subordinates would bow to her will as well."

Chloe clicked her tongue and once again raised her small fist in anger.

"So, what does this whole conversation lead up to?" Chloe asked. "You've been talking about light and dark and black and white for what purpose?"

The God of Familiar chuckled before answering Chloe's question.

"Because in the great battle that all of you will face in the not so distant future, you will need all the help you can get," the God of Familiars replied. "Whether it be on the side of light, or on the side of darkness, you will need both sides to work hand in hand, or all will be lost."

The gaze that the God of Familiars was giving the Half-Elf was so sharp, that even Chloe flinched when his gaze landed on her small frame.

#### Chapter 1370: Are You willing To Pay The Price?[Part 2]

"Stop spouting nonsense old man." Chloe scoffed after she managed to regain her composure. "We already know this. Will already has a plan to unite the entire world for this battle. Isn't that right, Will?"

William blinked. "I do?"

"This is the part where you will just nod and say yes," Chloe complained as she poked William's cheeks. "Don't make me look bad in front of this old fogey."

William could only smile bitterly as he listened to Chloe's complaint. The Half-Elf knew that lying to a God was impossible, so he didn't dare say that he already had everything under control.

After his talk with Cathy, the Virtuous Lady of Hope gave him hints about what to do after he returned to Hestia. Visiting the God of Familiars was only one of them.

Two years.

This was the amount of time remaining before the Army of Destruction came knocking on their door with full force.

In those two years, William must meet with all the rulers of the Central, Southern, Western (Gunnar Federation), Eastern (Silvermoon Continent), and Northern (Demon Realm) Continents, and tell them of the upcoming threat.

The Half-Elf was certain that none of them was going to believe him. Even so, he must find a way to make them believe, so that all the forces of Hestia could unite under one banner, and fight with everything they had against the Army of Destruction.

"Your, Excellency, I can understand what you are trying to say, but for now, let's discuss the main reason why I came here," William said as he covered Chloee's lips because he could tell that the little familiar was about to spout off a litany of profane words, condemning the old man for wasting their time.

"Can you please tell me how the other half of my soul could be restored?" William inquired.

"I can tell you how, but I don't know if it will work," the God of Familiars answered. "This is the first time that something like this has happened, so there is no precedent. Even so, we won't know until we try, right?"

The God of Familiars didn't want to give William false hope. He truly didn't know if it was possible to restore the other half of William's soul, and resurrect the two familiars that had died.

"Come with me," the God of Familiars ordered as he opened a golden portal beside him. "Let's go to the Graveyard of Familiars."

Will nodded and stood up from his seat. However, just before he could walk towards the portal, Maple and Cinnamon grabbed hold of his hands.

"We're coming with you," Maple stated.

"Cinnamon wants to see!" Cinnamon raised her free hand as a way to insist that she must go.

William smiled as he looked at the two little girls, whose cheeks were still stained with food sauces.

He used his water and wind magic to clean the faint traces on their cheeks before taking them inside the golden portal where the God of Familiars was waiting.

Celeste was only a few steps away because she also wanted to see the Graveyard of Familiars.

Chloee, and Claire, on the other hand, had solemn expressions on their faces. Part of them were scared to see what lay on the other side, while the other half was feeling hopeful that something good would happen once they entered the portal.

Contrary to what they expected, the Graveyard of Familiars wasn't a gloomy place like those cemeteries in horror films.

It was a land of perpetual sunshine, and the place was incredibly beautiful. Trees, flowers, short bridges, and small brooks could be seen all around them.

After walking for ten minutes, they arrived at a small shrine, where two crystals were placed on an altar.

William bit his lip and his eyes moistened when he saw two familiar faces, whose eyes were closed in a peaceful sleep inside the two crystals.

They were none other than the red-headed teenager's familiars, Elliot and Conan.

His two best friends who had sacrificed their lives in order to help him survive against a God, whose desire for conquest and chaos was second to none.

"They were born because you used your soul as the catalyst for their birth," the God of Familiars said softly. "Because of this, they were stronger than ordinary familiars. You and them shared the same root, and because of that, they didn't hesitate to face death fearlessly."

The God of Familiars sighed in his heart as he looked at the two familiars, who seemed to have been frozen in time.

"You ask me if there is a chance for you to recover your soul then the answer is yes," the God of Familiars stated. "But, if you ask me if there is a chance for you to resurrect them after you've recovered your soul, the answer is no."

The old man faced William and looked at him with all the seriousness that he could muster.

"William, you need to make a choice," the God of Familiars gestured at the two crystals on the altar. "If you want your souls back, all you need to do is smash those crystals. Once Elliot's and Conan's bodies are destroyed, your soul will naturally return to you."

The God of Familiars moved to the side and placed both of his hands behind his back. "Once a familiar dies, they can revive an infinite number of times, as long as their summoner is alive. But, this is only true on the condition that they do not unleash their full power, breaking the vessel in which their souls are kept.

"Just like a broken jar of water, no matter how much water you pour inside it, all of its contents would disappear in time. When the last drop of water falls, their time in the mortal realm comes to an end.

"Their souls then appear here in the Graveyard of the Familiars, as their final resting place. So, tell me, Dark Prince, are you willing to pay the price for your soul to become whole again?"

William's lips were pressed firmly together.

He had no intention of desecrating the bodies of Elliot and Conan who did everything in their power to protect him.

If he were to really smash the crystals, and destroy their bodies in order to regain the other half of his soul, he was very certain that he would lose more than whatever he would gain after doing such a bastardly act.

An act that would make him lose what he held sacred, and make him no different from Felix, who threw away his pride, and dignity, for the sake of gaining the power of Darkness.