

The Shadow of Immortality #Chapter 11: The venerable Inheritance(4) - Read The Shadow of Immortality Chapter 11: The venerable Inheritance(4)

Chapter 11: The venerable Inheritance(4)

Everyone stared at the stabbed Clark in shock.

Yi Lian screamed, "Clark! You're alive?!"

Clark replied coldly, "Friends, why are you screaming? Didn't I tell you to escape?"

Everyone was shocked! A phantom aura had protected Clark.

In his mind, Clark thought: "It's the embodiment given to me by the Constellation of Worlds. How generous! Though transparent, this embodiment possesses will. Had it not moved, I would have taken that stab."

Clark pulled the shadow beast through his embodiment. Though still semi-transparent, his hand was clearly gigantic.

The phantom beast dissipated and rose upward, hiding its presence.

Clark shouted angrily: "Are you fools? Do you want to die? These beasts only attack when we're off guard! They've surrounded us everywhere, and you're staring at each other! Hurry!"

Everyone rushed forward. Bai Hu immediately unleashed one of his techniques: "Hell Demon's Blade!" A powerful, decisive strike burned the area.

Clark said: "Actually, what you did was good, big brother! Because reinforcements will come as I predicted. Someone won't stay silent about this! They'll come!"

Jin understood, laughing: "Hahahaha! I get it! You mean the Minister! Yes, that's what I expected too! Of course he'll come! That obsessed man won't leave us!"

Bai Hu asked himself: "Why does this Clark terrify me even though he's weaker than me now? He's a soaring dragon, and I'm just a frog at the bottom of a well looking up at him! Also, he's the heir to the greatest warriors! That makes me jealous! Should I try to kill him and claim the spoils?!"

The forest smelled truly bloody! Blood of orcs and undead, the smell of burning corpses staining the trees with blood, and also the smell of fire! The forest was turned upside down!

Everyone climbed the giant mountain, looking down at the massive numbers below.

Clark looked at everyone and said: "I'll eliminate these assassins! As for you, protect yourselves, of course."

Yī Lian said: "I'll come with you! After all, our mission is to help you, not abandon you."

Clark nodded in agreement.

Clark descended the mountain. Enemies began swarming him.

He quickly burned them all with black flame, using Athena's blessing.

A powerful aura burst from Clark! A demonic aura!

One of the shadow beasts emerged, the very one that had tried to stab Clark.

It laughed and said: "So, a foolish beast like you decided to face me? Fine!"

Clark immediately fired a flame shot, attempting to burn its soul.

Half of the shadow beast dissipated to protect itself, but the fire crept across the ground, trying to reach it.

Clark laughed: "Do you think escape is easy?"

The shadow beast moved, evading the fire and Clark, but Clark was faster and saw it.

With rapid sword strikes, sparks flew everywhere.

The assassin's daggers matched Clark's quick movements, but Clark's momentum was greater and stronger, forcing the assassin into a defensive stance.

The assassin backflipped, attempting to kick Clark, but he dodged it.

Quickly, Clark countered: "Do you think these child's play tricks work on me? Let me show you something new!" Clark used Eye of Truth and Willpower Authority. He knew the Eye of Truth could merge skills, so he decided to merge Willpower Authority and the Eye of Truth itself!

This produced a unique skill called "Annihilation": a powerful skill! See three seconds into the future, fluid body movement upon knowing the next event, and also nullify techniques for ten seconds.

Clark looked intensely at the shadow beast, charging forward.

In the next three seconds, the other shadow beast would attack! Clark immediately knew! The shadow beast came! Clark grabbed the enemy's dagger in front of him and used a powerful wave of fire.

Bai Hu was shocked: "How did he know that too? Why are his eyes so intensely black?"

The first beast fell. Clark turned to the other shadow beast he held, using Annihilation Authority to nullify any skill it might try to use. He gripped it tightly! The shadow beast's hand shattered! Clark's blade intensified and glowed with a strong red hue!

In his mind, Clark thought: "I hear that blade screaming, wanting me to unleash what's inside it!"

The demonic blade split the space in half, and the shadow beast!

Alert: You have gained three levels!

Yi Lian screamed: "Happy for your victory! Then come help me here!"

Clark rushed to fight beside Yi Lian, but suddenly they heard an unexpected sound!

An overwhelming killing intent ignited directed at Clark!

Alisa! She has awakened!!!!

"Alisa's appearance had become angelic and terrifying. Her hair turned white, her eyes glowed with a white light, but her voice had changed.

She advanced toward Clark so fast that even he couldn't see her.

Everyone was shocked. They wanted to step forward to stop Alisa or whatever was controlling her. A strong white light burst forth, knocking Clark unconscious, and she collapsed as well.

Everyone was stunned and began to partially lose hope. Gene carried Clark and Alisa, saying: 'I'll protect them up there. I'll make a stand and fight!'

Gene thought to himself: 'I'm protecting this runt? Fine, in the end, we're just buying a little time, and then I'll end his life.'

But Clark was in a completely different place!!!

He woke up to a strange scene: the moon above, standing before him on water reflecting the sunlight. A perfectly poetic atmosphere.

But soon a radiant butterfly appeared, its ornate wings even captivating Clark. It materialized into a princess with stunning white hair. Clark looked on in astonishment, but his heart didn't soften nor did he feel anything.

He asked: 'Who are you?'

The princess laughed with her beautiful voice: 'You know you're in no position to ask questions.'

In his mind, Clark thought: 'This is an explicit threat. The tone... I'll use the still waters strategy with her.'

The lady broke the silence, saying to him: 'You hurt my girl, Alisa.'

· 'I didn't hurt her, she was the one who was emotional.'

The lady replied: 'I don't care. She doesn't want to appear because of you. I can crush your will right now, and that's what will result from your death. Are you ready for that?!!!"

To be continued!!!

Chapter 12: The venerable Inheritance(5)

Clark looked at her, laughing, and said: "You're all ridiculous! You covet my death, but I do not fear it. You're also hiding something. I want to know what it is."

Clark approached her.

She materialized a chair and a table.

Clark asked: "How is this possible?"

She replied: "This is my private world, my domain. Therefore, I can create anything as long as it is within my will."

Clark asked again, nervously: "Time! I assume you want to talk at length, but I cannot. We might all die."

The Lady replied: "Firstly, if we talk for a long time—say, an hour—it will only seem like a minute outside. Also, don't worry, there are those who protect us. I can speak with you here while simultaneously observing the external world."

Clark felt uneasy around her and asked an important question: "You are no ordinary entity. How does a being like you exist among humans? Are you one of the Founders? Are you Chahaya, the Spirit of Ice?"

She let out a quick laugh, but her face soon turned serious: "How do you know that? As long as you are within my will, I am superior to you. Hasn't it been obvious from the beginning? I possess the secrets of the first humans. The Great Venerable One, Lucifer's disciple."

Chahaya replied: "But his disciple died in the Great War."

Deep in his heart, Clark was astonished and thought to himself: "So, who wrote 'Secrets of Heaven and Earth'? It must have been Lucifer's disciple and no one else. She is merely dead."

Clark broke the silence, speaking: "Lucifer's disciple did not die; he escaped!!"

She retorted: "How did he escape? I saw the sacred ray pierce him." -"I think it pierced you, not him! How dare you, a dead princess, speak about the affairs of the living?! I always knew you were just a wandering spirit haunting the world of the living!!"

She responded angrily: "Who do you think you are, you corrupt one? I am a descendant of the Progenitor of Humans. Do you think someone as lowly as you has the right to belittle me?"

Clark laughed inwardly: "The more I provoke her, the more information she reveals, and the more I benefit. How easy life is! But I need to win her over; she will be useful later. I will use a push-and-pull strategy with her to balance our conversation."

Clark pretended to be shocked by her claim of being a descendant of the Progenitor, feigning ignorance to make her talk more.

Chahaya laughed: "Hahaha! Now you know, you fool, that you are just a frog at the bottom of a well. Yes, you had better remember that well."

Clark replied: "Tell me more about that."

She looked at him with a cold, harsh gaze: "And why should I tell you?"

Clark responded, a fierce, savage, and intensely angry will emanating from him: "TELL ME!"

She screamed in shock: "Alisa! The waters are surging everywhere! Lucifer's will!"

"Lucifer, in truth, was not a descendant of the Progenitor of Humans. He was named 'Ren Zu'. He was the first to speak languages, but he preferred the language of Chenqing. He named himself Ren Zu and named his children in that language as well. That was when humanity began to multiply. But two emerged who rejected Lucifer: the Outcast of Light and the Outcast of Darkness. He did not just possess a shadow, but mastery over all shadows, which led to his rejection because he was not created from

light but from darkness, which caused him to be cast out. The other was Ornstein, who possessed Light and was called the Saint of Light. He was cast out because he was Lucifer's twin brother. One possessed Light and could steal it from anyone, and Lucifer, who could hide the light within his darkness. No one knew where they came from. Ren Zu himself did not know his own origin and had no explanation. But when he found the two children, one had white hair and the other was intensely black and dark despite their young age. These two children did not accept each other."

"He raised them as his own sons until that incident occurred, which Chahaya forgot and does not remember how she forgot it."

She narrated these events to Clark, shocking him. He said to her: "How could anything of his will remain? Everything dissipated in that moment and became like a bright light. After that, I no longer knew the beginning from the end. Everything became like the snap of a finger."

Clark was stunned, looking at her in shock, but a question screamed in his mind: "Do you see me as your enemy?"

She replied: "No."

He approached her: "Tell me the truth, Princess. Did you fight on the side opposing Lucifer? Or is there a part of the story you don't want to mention?"

She replied: "I only remember fragments of the past, and those moments make me not hate Lucifer... or you, his heir. It started—" Her head ached, cutting her off.

Suddenly, a strong light burst forth.

Clark shouted: "What's wrong?!"

Clark woke up.

The battle was raging. Everyone was fighting. Beside him, Alisa was beginning to regain consciousness. He looked up at the sky with a furious glare.

He said: "Hahahaha! So, Will of Heaven, you oppose me and obstruct my knowledge! But..."

"Let me tell you this: as long as I live— no, not just as long as I live! No one can take my life! I will walk the path of singularity, the path of knowledge and power!"

"I will become a tyrant on earth! If everyone loves treachery, then I will be the most vile betrayer humanity has ever known!"

Clark fell silent for a moment. The sound of the wind, the blazing fire, and the intense battle below inspired him.

He said: "I live like the legendary Ping fish! I piss in the river of time, defying destiny itself! I walk among fish swimming in the sea of fate. Perhaps I am still insignificant, but I am different from them. I am an individual, and everything exists for the individual! I shatter the paths of heaven and the stars! I soar among the clouds, I piss in the flow of time, and I bathe in the blood of my enemies!"

To be continued!!!

Chapter 13: The venerable Inheritance(6)

From the mountaintop, Clark saw the reinforcement armies. He laughed loudly, saying:

"Ah, the thrill! I love it when everything goes according to my plan."

He leaped down powerfully, pouncing on one of the summoners and killing him. By the time he landed, none were left standing. They had carried out their mission well in his absence.

Clark approached Bai Hu and Yi Lian, saying:

"Listen carefully: Don't let the Minister know I'm your master's disciple, and don't say he came. Leave the rest to me. Hehehe."

He laughed with a sinister chuckle. But Gene understood him best; he knew Clark didn't want the Minister to find out he was playing multiple sides, especially a faction like the Qin nation's.

They began moving toward the army from where Clark had seen them.

So far, Alisa hadn't spoken to Clark, and he hadn't cared either, his focus was on "Chahaya," the Spirit of Ice. She was truly important. But who was Ren Zu? This question stirred in Clark's mind.

They came face to face with the Minister and Clark.

Clark glanced at the men who had accompanied him, but not a single one was worth mentioning, not even the elderly ones hailed as the Three Venerables, despite having no real refinement foundation.

The Minister greeted Clark and Gene with an embrace, worried about them, saying:

"Did you encounter the Fallen One? The Venerable of the Mysterious Heaven Sect?"

Bai Hu wanted to strangle the Minister, him and Yi Lian, but Clark placed a hand on his shoulder, saying to the Minister:

"No, no. He didn't come. He only sent his disciples. They're good and well-mannered too. Let's avoid this talk for now. I have important matters."

But Clark was interrupted by a soldier's scream. A spectral shadow cast an ominous and irritating atmosphere. The smell of burning human flesh.

Soon, a soldier emerged from the shadows, his face disfigured by burns. His ear had melted, he was completely deformed. His eyes had turned yellow.

A single word echoed from the soldier's mouth before he tried to attack everyone: "She is coming! We will all die!"

Everyone understood the implication.

The Will of the Sun Venerable had begun to move!!!

Everyone grew tense. Clark didn't hide; he remained calm. He beheaded the soldier.

Brutus, who was beside the Minister, shouted: "How could you kill him? He was searching for you so we could rescue you!"

Clark took a terrifying step forward, his killing intent palpable.

Brutus's eyes met Clark's. Clark spoke in a hoarse voice, as if choking the heavens with his arrogance:

"Oh! Did I stir your grief for your comrade? He was looking for me? And did I care for the likes of him? He was merely a tail trailing behind the strong, so of course he would die. Like you! Yes! Do you think I fear you or those with you? I didn't request your presence, nor did I scream for help. So don't speak of what doesn't concern you. Understood?"

Clark didn't need to use his Authority of Will; that threat was enough.

The Venerables were furious. How could a mere child like this deny their favor? Was he trying to belittle them?

The Fire Venerable approached Clark, placing a hand forcefully on his shoulder, saying:

"Boy, don't be ungrateful."

Clark uttered a single word coldly:

"Your hand? Or you will regret it."

The Fire Venerable wanted to retort, but a flame suddenly erupted from Clark's shoulder. A simple flame that made the Venerable scream intensely.

Those who came with the Minister stared in shock: How was this possible?

Bai Hu said: "It's not about whether Clark possesses absolute power or not, but a person like this... I don't know... who gave him the title of Venerable without merit?! A man without refinement, how can he challenge someone with deep refinement and skill? The answer is simple: he can annihilate you all without effort."

Everyone was terrified, finally realizing they were powerless against him.

The Minister didn't want this to escalate, so he apologized to Clark, saying:

"I apologize, Clark. I didn't expect them to be so rude to you like this. My apologies."

"Don't worry. In the end, I don't care about ants. There's something more important. Let's set up camp here."

The battalion began preparing tents, everything, and lighting fires.

Alisa was still trying to avoid Clark. He approached her to provoke her, saying:

"Hahaha! Your eternal anger?! He tried to kill you! Nothing will change even if it's repeated a hundred times. Alisa, we didn't choose our fates. Some say it's unfair, others say: perhaps if I knew what would happen to me, I wouldn't grieve or get angry. Yes, ignorance strains the nerves: tension, fear of outcomes, schemes."

Alisa looked at him coldly: "Perhaps. But it's not fair for him to die like that."

Gene came beside them, sitting on the same log, saying:

"The strong devour the weak. The weak die by the decisions of the strong. But Alex's weakness was the cause of his death, not his lack of strength, no, but his spirit wavered at the first obstacle, so of course he was destined to die. Don't blame yourself."

"Let me ask you both this question: What is the answer to perseverance? What are its difficulties?"

Clark replied: "Some persevere for love, some for money, some for their duty, for their honor. But all those things die and fall through your arms, like your life which resembles an hourglass."

But Alisa said: "And what's the purpose if everything will die? Even if I lived an eternal life, I would keep repeating what I do, or those I love die. Will I repeat myself? Live among a generation different from mine? What is this?"

The forest breeze played with their emotions. Even though battle was imminent, Clark and Gene remained calm.

Clark left them, heading to the meeting tent.

(But Gene kept thinking: Go on, rejoice. In the end, you will die by my hand.)

Clark sat on one of the chairs, saying:

"So, your Emperor has begun to move! Meaning he wants to remove you from the path!!!"

To be continued!!!

Chapter 14: The venerable Inheritance(7)

The Minister retorted to Clark, "What do you mean?"

Clark replied, "The answer lies in your heart. Don't try to question me. You know exactly what I mean. You sent foreigners to solve your own country's problems. Isn't that like inviting a tiger into your home?"

"You know it in the deepest part of your heart, yet you try to lie to yourself despite that knowledge. We always try to convince ourselves that life is easy. Loyalty shackles the heart. Do you see yourself as bound?"

Clark was using psychological manipulation on the Minister, not to subdue his will, but to make him see the truth. Though it was mere speculation, it might hit the mark. Now he was directing his accusation at the Emperor. The Minister adored his homeland; to him, the land of his nation was like a god.

The Minister stared at Clark in horror. He said loudly, "And what concern is it of yours? What do you know? You're just trying to make me betray my country!"

Clark responded, "No, no. Not betrayal. But if they've strayed from the path you desire, then make them understand there are limits. Isn't that right?"

The Minister fell silent and sat back down.

Clark filled a glass of alcohol for him and for himself.

Breaking the silence, Clark set down his glass after taking a sip and said, "Loyalty comes in many forms. It can be loyalty to the homeland, loyalty to the ruling family. Many kinds. Your loyalty is to the homeland. Think about it: Is it truly a good deed to let a ravenous wolf into your home to take what is rightfully yours? Does that satisfy you? Where is the proud Minister who wanted to lift the curse and restore his nation to its former glory? No one silenced you; you silenced yourself!!!"

The Minister screamed back, "And what do you know of what I endure?! I see everything! Truly, everything! The mines, everything! Everything is being ripped from me! And now you, whose whereabouts we never knew, you and your friend, you want to voice your opinion?!"

A furious rage ignited in Clark's heart. He stood up, gripping his glass, pushing his sweaty hair back. It reached its peak.

He threw the glass against the tent, shoved the table, and shouted at the Minister, pointing at him, "After all that refined, hypocritical talk, you dragged me into your problems, you honorless fool! You exploited the situation I was in! A man who lost his memory, who knows nothing about himself, and you used me to serve your interests! Yes, you're right that I don't know where I was, but I know myself truly!"

"I won't be silent about my rights! I can leave you! I can burn you all to ashes and walk away! But do you think that pleases me?! I found myself here, I see my purpose here. So let's help each other."

The Minister fell silent. Clark's words were audible outside the tent.

Brutus and the others arrived. The Minister quickly yelled at them, "Get out, you fools! This is none of your business!"

Clark's killing intent flared. He said, "No! Let them hear what the man who raised them has done! You are selling out this country! Your rule over the vast lands hinges on your capital! You scoundrels! You decorate the streets, but in truth, you bring in armies from other nations to clean up the filth you've spread everywhere!"

The listeners were shocked, especially the trio. Brutus said, "Is that true?"

They all fell to their knees.

The Minister replied, "No, my sons, it's not your fault. It's mine."

He began to cry, "It all started when I lost to a member of a lowly sect. He had no foundation of refinement, yet he shattered my aura core and I became a weak man. Then, the Emperor took advantage of that. I woke up a week after my injury to terrible news: 50, no, 100 of our abundant resources had been sold! We keep the appearance of sovereignty, but they hold the real power over those regions!"

He collapsed, weeping like a foolish child. "Soon, they overstepped all bounds to the point of annihilating a village in the forest! It was for refugees. We paid no attention, but the 'Qin Nation' entered, killed them, burned everything, and didn't care about us!"

Alisa cried out, "Fang Yuwei's village! So you knew?!"

The Minister replied, "Yes, I knew everything! It happened right before our eyes!"

Yi Lian wanted to speak, but Clark signaled for her to be silent, laughing inwardly: I've broken his pride and made him doubt himself. Now I just need to extend my hand as a passionate savior.

Soon, Clark and Gene confronted each other. Gene had been watching, waiting for this moment to offer help. Like Clark, a cunning fox.

Clark didn't speak, but he was angry. They both extended their hands to the Minister, saying, "That's the past. Now we are in the present. Let us correct these mistakes together."

The Minister smiled at them, extending his hand and wiping his tears, "Thank you both."

Clark returned to his tent, followed by Bai Hu and Yi Lian.

His killing intent was glowing, his demonic aura furious and agitated. He screamed from the depths of his heart, "I want... I want to kill this man! Ugh... How dare he think he can show himself like me?! I was the one who spoke, I started it all, and then he comes to reap the fruits of my labor right before my eyes! Doesn't he thank the gods that I don't want to kill him yet?! And then he challenges me, declaring, 'If you're a man, then kill me!'"

He punched the massive tent pole and struck the table, then began punching randomly, his eyes sunken with rage.

Yi Lian grabbed him and slapped him, saying, "Calm down! Don't let a small problem destroy your heart. Demonic energy feeds on such emotions, but it's a blessing hidden inside a curse. Don't let that aura consume you."

Clark calmed down, wiping the sweat pouring from his face, then said, "Then call him to me."

Bai Hu replied in surprise, "Of all people, you want to meet him?! Are you determined to kill him?!"

Clark laughed, "Of course not! My longing and anticipation for him are great, but you might need your enemy... Sorry, Yi Lian, my senior sister, we cannot defeat the will of the 'Mad Sun.' He is a person buried in history like the Venerable One. Both were buried, and we don't know why. We know only stories about the Venerable One, Lucifer, and Ornstein. Our world is deep, living in a cloud of ideas that rains down on us. I will act, and I don't care if it harms me or not, because we are walking a dangerous path!!"

Yi Lian smiled, "Really! I didn't expect you to be like this. I thought you were reckless and foolish, no different from the others, but now I understand. Don't worry, as long as Bai Hu and I are entrusted with you, you won't die. I will bring him to you. Farewell."

Clark smiled as she left, laughing inwardly: Hehehe... You fools! Enjoy me while I play the good guy for you. I throw you the hook, and you swallow it like idiots! Playing with human nature is like fishing, but you must be playful and patient like a tiger's nature. The mountain cannot hold two tigers. I fear no one, but the danger is Gene! I must be wary of him, but I don't care!!

After two minutes, Gene arrived.

He saw Clark standing before a candle in his tent, studying it intently while swirling his glass in his hand.

Gene broke the silence, "So you're angry! But hahahaha! Who do you think I am?! Naturally, I will seize your opportunity. As you said: we are strugglers, you and I. I will stab you in the back, just as you will do! I won't care! I live not for myself; there is a desire soaring in my heart... Can you see what it is?! But I will find it. Clark, you're a fool if you think you're the only wolf! No no, the world isn't like that! If you are a seasoned wolf, there are wolves more cunning and shrewd than you!"

Clark looked at him, then poured another glass and placed it on the discussion table. He sat down, took a sip of the drink, set the glass down, and said, "Yes, Gene, you're right. We can't pretend... our contempt for each other, our overwhelming desire to end each other's lives... But remember: you are just a phantom! I am smarter, stronger, braver! I am better! Do you understand that or not? Do you think if an opportunity comes, you will seize it? I want to tell you something shocking: you are cursed! And the only one who can break your curse is me!!"

Gene didn't tense up and replied calmly, "So what?!"

Clark's eyes reddened with anger. He poured the alcohol on Gene's face and said, "So what?!"

Gene retorted, "Do you want to start a fight?!"

Clark shoved the table, saying, "If I did, believe me, you would die without knowing what hit you! I will nullify the curse for you."

Gene replied, shocked, "What?!"

Clark said, "Unfortunately, I need you. I need the strong for the battle to come."

Gene asked, "What battle?! Tell me, you son of a fallen woman! It was obvious you knew everything happening around us, yet you remained silent!!"

Clark replied, "Hehehe... It amuses me to see you struggle for your lives."

Gene was angry but quickly regained his composure, "Gaining power... that is truly something great." Then he asked the question that puzzled him, "How?"

Clark replied, "Your shackles remain unbroken even though they should have opened, but the curse in your heart has even blocked the will of Ornstein, of whom only a statue remains, and you could only absorb a tiny part. The solution is me! I can break the shackles binding you, and I can reseal them if I wish."

In truth, Clark was lying. He thought to himself: I am largely truthful, but I cannot reseal him. That is a skill unique to Lucifer; after all, we are different. There are skills called 'Heavenly Blessings' and others we

can learn through our awareness, experiences, and emotions... As for Heavenly Blessings!! And another truth... the secret to breaking the shackles of humans with weak talents is something that is learned, which was discovered by the Venerable One, Lucifer's disciple, not Lucifer

himself. Because the curse that befell the people of Dranglik and Ornstein was due to

Lucifer's resentment. And the Venerable One discovered a method not to eradicate the curse, but this method is extremely dangerous. He wanted the people of the kingdom to suffer; he didn't care about them. But he only tried to use it a few times. Diving into the world of thoughts is very dangerous for mortals. It creates a strange feeling deep within your thoughts... your thoughts, the thoughts of the human you are helping to break his shackles to reach his soul!!!

Clark motioned for Gene to sit on the ground. Gene sat, and Clark stood behind him, placing his hand on his back. He said, "Now I will enter your body with my soul, and then you and I will journey into the depths of your soul."

An aura began to manifest around Clark, red and pure, a terrifying demonic soul. That aura entered Gene's body. Gene began to feel the overflowing power entering his heart!! Meanwhile, Clark began to feel exhausted and nearly lost consciousness. He felt his soul tearing apart the curse's shackles binding Gene. Clark felt it: Yes! He had reached it!

BOOM!

A massive light burst from the sky, powerful and shocking. The light struck Clark's tent where they had gathered. Everyone outside watched in shock. The sight was terrifying and insane.

Clark and Gene were at the heart of the light, looking on in astonishment. A horrifying scene! Then, Clark's eyes began to darken... and he lost consciousness!!!

To be continued.....

Chapter 15: The venerable Inheritance(8)

Gene awoke to a bizarre sight. An immense light filled the place.

He saw a version identical to himself. He couldn't understand what was happening. His mind failed to rationalize it.

The spirit resembling Gene spoke to him: "I am the deep desire within your heart. That is your path!!!"

Gene was bewildered: "What path of desire? What is happening?"

Suddenly, rapid memories flooded his mind.

He was running away from his school, terrified.

He screamed: "What's happening to you, Clark!!!"

But what had happened to Clark?

Clark, in truth, had reached Gene's heart and shattered the shackles. He saw the scene; everything was ready like a great light... Ornstein truly helps his heirs.

He had determined Gene's path from the beginning. But profound memories had seeped into Clark's own heart.

It was his first time seeing such a thing. He wondered aloud: "What is happening? What is this design?"

He was stunned. He was perceiving the world around him in a spiritual form.

But he began to understand. He saw behind a strange device. A name flowed into his mind: Television!!

But he turned to the spiritual form of his own body.

Trying to return to it or communicate with it, but there was no response. Of course, he was merely watching memories, nothing more.

Clark was holding a tablet device. His spiritual self came beside him to listen.

Then, a voice message played.

From a girl named Scarlet!!

Clark's face was deathly pale.

· "Hello, Clark. I know you're sad and perhaps you've learned everything by now. But I want you to know this."

"Clark, I truly loved you. The reason I stopped you from doing anything for me wasn't out of dislike, but so I wouldn't hurt you. So I wouldn't burden you with my despair, my hidden depression."

"I never had a father, truly, Clark. But my mother was there, and she was evil. She lived in an endless death loop and managed to escape it by using a strange technique."

"This caused me to be cursed, to experience endless deaths myself. And she managed to die, achieving her deepest desire."

"Truly selfish. I died countless times, Clark, in the most horrific ways. An inescapable, inevitable loop. It's impossible for me to die, even of old age or anything else. In the end, they are timelines that are destroyed and reset into a new timeline. Death doesn't repeat in the same way. If I die by poison, next time I'll die by stabbing. And so on, an eternal, merciless torment."

"Clark, I found the way to free myself and free the world from the timelines that are destroyed because of my death, from which new things emerge. But with the Music Box, I can escape to a new universe. We all live freely, but we will forget everything!!"

"I found it in the midst of my absence and loss of hope. I learned the method my mother used on me to escape her torment of death. And to be honest, I wanted to use it on you. I thought you were a fool; no one would care about your suffering. But upon getting to know you, I learned you are a good man, and I loved you sincerely. So I didn't want to torture you."

"I wanted to learn my mother's secret: Where did she come from? How was she cursed? But it seems that will remain one of the world's secrets."

"After this message, I will most likely be dead. Go to my house and you will find the Music Box. Also, if you wish to say goodbye, you will find me in the dark alley where I

confessed our love. It seems eternal darkness is where our love will end. Goodbye, Clark."

Clark kept staring, crying. He threw his phone, sobbing uncontrollably. He left his house. His spiritual self followed, watching coldly.

Clark ran like a madman until he reached Scarlet's corpse, brutally and mercilessly stabbed!!!

His tears dried. Nothing remained but an emotionless face. He carried her in his arms.

Grief covered his face with immense sorrow. Clark's spiritual self looked on with intense cruelty: Weakness! He said:"Truly, love! It is a candle the weak shelter under. The wind is harsh, tossing them between love and despair!!"

Clark, who had carried Scarlet's body the entire way, arrived at her house.

He placed her on her sofa. Before him was the Music Box she had told him about.

For a full hour, he leaned on her dead shoulders, grieving. The final tear fell from his left eye, announcing his sorrow.

He carried her to the bathroom.

He removed her clothes.

The scattered wounds on her body were revealed. Clark vomited.

He placed her in the bathtub. He began to pour water over her body. Clark's clothes got wet.

Half his hair had turned white from grief.

He laughed, talked to her lifeless corpse, and cried like a madman!!

He said: "It seems I've lingered too long with you. Scarlet?! It's time to end everything and fulfill your wish."

He looked out from the balcony. Sunlight and the dawn of spring.

Gene entered the bathroom, horrified.

He said: "Clark, where were you? I looked for you everywhere. I got tired of school, so I came here."

Then he was shocked by what he saw. It wasn't the Clark he knew. His hair was white, depressed, his face pale from crying.

Gene said with a face covered in terror, guilt, and grief: -"You found out she died?"

Clark embraced Scarlet's corpse with his left hand.

He raised the wooden device.

He said: -"My dear Scarlet, you came in spring, and you will leave in spring. What a romantic story."

Gene screamed: "Clark! What are you going to do?!"

Clark didn't answer. He turned the handle, and a young girl appeared, singing a sorrowful song that adorned the scene, holding a small red egg, screaming blood from her eyes.

An intense light burst forth. Gene and Clark's spiritual self watched in terror.

The sun and moon began to move, alternating with supernatural speed.

Clark spoke: -"So, this is how it's used."

"Goodbye to this world. Goodbye to my beloved, who was like spring flowers!!!"

A deafening light erupted, swallowing Gene, Clark, and Scarlet's corpse.

Clark woke up, a single tear streaming from his left eye!!!

To be continued!!!

Chapter 16: The venerable Inheritance(9)

When Clark regained consciousness, he wiped the tear from his face. Beside him were Yi Lian and Bai Hu, who extended their hands to help him stand, while Gene was in a state of frenzied euphoria over his gains.

A status bar appeared before him:

Name: Gene

Path: Tainted Saint!!

Level: 5

Strength: 10

Mana: 10

Sacred Power: 5

Toughness: 16

Stamina: 12

Skills:

- Frenzy Flame (Level: 0)
- Fist of the Chaos King (bestowed upon you by the Lord of Chaos himself)

Warning!!! The Chaos King wishes to witness your achievements and warns you about the man beside you. I grant you the ability "Lie Detector." Souls tremble and bodies begin to feel sensations when lying, and the Lie Detector skill makes this clear to you.

Gene laughed loudly:

- Hahahahaha! This is the power destined for a king like me! Hahahahaha!

Clark turned to him, dusting off his robe, and said:

- "I rejoice in your small achievement."

Gene replied arrogantly:

- "Do you want to taste my fist?"

Without giving Clark a chance to respond... "Fist of the Chaos King"!

A massive light aura formed, erupting from his fist. He directed his hand toward the other side of the forest, tearing through several trees. A powerful blow indeed, his aura taking the form of a punch.

But exhaustion was evident on Gene's face.

Clark laughed:

- "You fool! Using such power right after waking up! Of course you'll get tired. But what about the other skill?"

Gene raised his finger. Soon, flames erupted... "Frenzy Flame"!

Clark and the onlookers were stunned.

Clark laughed:

- "Kekeke! It seems you will finally be our trump card!"

Everyone returned to the strategy tent. Clark said to Alisa:

- "Can you appear, Chahaya?"

Suddenly, a dazzling light appeared. Alisa's eyes turned completely white, with no pupils, just pure whiteness.

Amid the shock and bewilderment of everyone, Chahaya spoke:

- "What do you want?"

Clark replied:

- "You are an important part of my plan."

Chahaya fell silent. Clark continued:

- "The damage of Frenzy Flame goes beyond its burning power; it lives up to its name by infecting humans with a madness effect, turning them into slaves under the will of the Mad Sun. However, its effect on Awakened ones who have transcended humanity is relative; with each burn, the probability of madness increases."

"Therefore, according to my analysis, we have two days left until the Mad Sun appears. I will divide you into groups."

The attendees were: Clark, Chahaya, Bai Hu, Yi Lian, Gene, and finally the Minister.

He looked at them all and said:

- "Those who will kill the Mad Sun are: me, Gene, Yi Lian, and Bai Hu. But we will create a diversion to fight without obstacles. I like to call the plan 'Chessboard'."

"A battalion from our side will charge to hold back the beasts under the influence of madness. After that, Chahaya will freeze them. Of course, more hordes of beasts will appear, so another battalion will descend to hold them back, thus stripping the will of madness of any protection. And then we can fight it!!"

Yi Lian asked:

- "But how will we kill it?"

Clark laughed:

· "My flame doesn't affect matter itself; it burns the soul directly. The will is formed from remnants of souls and thoughts. The more the will thinks, the closer it is to its end. But we must enter the will itself, and we need at least one thing: immunity to Frenzy Flame to slow its effect on our minds. And the only man who can do that!!"

Clark pointed to Gene:

· "He will hit us many times with his flames until we acquire immunity. Unfortunately, and I hate this, he will strike us with burning rods of Frenzy Flame. If you feel the effect is almost complete and you're about to succumb to madness, retreat! After that, we try again!!"

Everyone was amazed by his idea. Is he just a fool who wants to be beaten?

Everyone left the tent. Clark stood on a tree, looking at the blue sky.

He thought to himself:

· "Kekeke! I am getting closer to my goal, and I see it now as if it were right in front of me."

Gene approached, leaning against another tree, breaking the silence:

· "Despite my hatred for you, you force my respect. You do not fear me and did not hesitate to harm me even though you know I am a danger to you."

Clark laughed:

· "You are merely a side character in my story. Do you think you can harm me? No, no, Gene. You are just a stepping stone for me, nothing more, nothing less. So why the fear and overthinking?"

Gene laughed loudly:

· "No one can say such arrogant words except you! But do you think I will beat you and your entourage mercilessly?"

Clark replied, moving away from him:

· "And who cares? Rejoice in your small victory, while I climb the heights of the sky and tie the phoenix by its neck!"

They began training and completed two days. Then... the promised day arrived!!!

To be continued...

Chapter 17: The venerable Inheritance(10)

The Will of the Giant Sun appeared in the distance. Its appearance was utterly terrifying. Its fearsome yellow flames truly frightened everyone.

They stared in shock.

But what truly terrified them was the sound of dense footsteps. It seemed the Will of the Giant Sun had indeed brought a massive, dense army, filled with monsters.

Yet, Clark's face was calm. He and Gene stood side-by-side, watching.

Clark quickly spoke, saying: "Now, Squad A1, get ready! You are the first to descend."

That squad grew tense; they didn't want to go down.

Clark swiftly turned to them, saying: "You don't want to descend? Fine! But do you truly not care about your families?"

Some of you have mothers in the city, some have wives and children, some

have brothers. And I... I must tell you something truly important: This army of monsters will burn the city to the ground! Let's fight! Let's struggle! For

our loved ones! You might say: 'What does this man know? He has no one.' But my reply to you is: I have you! I fight

alongside you, and my problems are your problems. Don't worry, let us defend the country together, defend our loved ones! Or do you want to be the reason for their deaths?!"

A shiver ran down the soldiers' spines.

Bai Hu said jokingly: "He's moved me! Perhaps I'll jump down with them and fight." Yi Lian smiled: "He's truly clever and good with words."

The soldiers swiftly charged forward, attacking.

Clark watched from behind them, laughing.

They clashed, and the engagement with the monster army began.

Chahaya came to Clark's side and asked him: "Shall I use my ice now?" Clark replied: "No! Wait a little longer, then release it afterwards."

They fought courageously, but Clark merely watched and laughed. To him, they were just ants! Their death or life didn't matter. What did it matter if they all died?

Another wave of monsters appeared at the front.

Clark shouted: "Battalion B1! Go! Attack and cover your comrades!"

They all charged forward, screaming their war cry.

Clark called for the Mimic Horse.

The horse approached, bowing, still disguised as Alex's mother: "I have come, O heir of the Venerable One!"

Clark replied with a stern face: "Are you flattering me, you son of a wench?" The

Mimic replied fearfully: "No! I swear to you, my lord, I am just like this because I was raised this way." Clark said: "Fine!"

Tell me: Is this the only army of the Will of the Sun?" "Yes, my lord, it is the only one."
"Good! But I want to know: What

will happen to whoever reaches the core of the Will of the Giant Sun? Tell me!"

"The effect will intensify, and they will feel a maddening burn reaching their body and soul, because the true fire that

protects the core tries to kill you, not just drive you mad."

Clark laughed: "Good! That's what I wanted to know."

He pointed his finger at Chahaya to freeze the soldiers along with the monsters.

She froze them all. The sight of the ice was truly magnificent, shimmering. Then Chahaya used another technique: "Ice Shatterer"! It scattered like stars in the midnight sky.

The three Venerables, Brutus, and his brothers were shocked, saying: "Did you really kill them after all that?! You vile monster!"

Clark laughed, saying: "Of course I killed them! Isn't it fun? I stirred their instincts

with ethics and loved ones, gave them hope, made them think we were equals

and would fight together! But in the end, I sacrificed them! Oh, the irony! Nothing remains of them! They vanished from existence! Hahaha!"

Brutus attacked, screaming: "You monster!" But Clark's sword was too fast. Brutus's sword broke, and he fell to the

ground in shock. But... "How?! I, who thought I was my father's pride, my own pride, my country's pride! Defeated by this?!"

The Venerables tried to move to kill Clark, but Clark pointed to Gene to try his new power on the "rats." Soon, he burned them with Frenzy Flame.

Clark stood laughing: "Don't be sad, Brutus! I didn't kill you because your

time hasn't come! Believe me, I kept you and your brothers for a noble task!" Brutus turned: "Father! Look at this

devil and what he's doing! Please!" Minister Francis did not turn to them nor care, instead watching as they headed to face the Will of the Giant Sun.

Everyone descended to the arena: Gene, Clark, Bai Hu, Yi Lian, and Chahaya behind them for support. Clark said laughing: "Now the real battle begins!" They all charged.

The Will began to form into fists to strike them. But Clark used his embodiment and the blessing of Athena, Lady of Battles, and managed to break the attacking fist. Everyone endured its first attacks.

However, the next series of strikes were filled with Frenzy Flame. It was good they had gained resistance, but it wouldn't prevent them from being afflicted by the flame.

Clark blocked the strikes with difficulty, pushing forward to close the distance. Everyone charged, cutting through the attacks.

But what shocked them was the ground beneath them exploding with fire! Chahaya quickly froze it, but it had already hit everyone.

They were all shocked: What is this?!

Clark was furious: "Did I miscalculate? Or what?! I won't despair like a fool!" He quickly surged forward, destroying and cutting through the strikes, with Chahaya covering him.

Even she began to tire quickly.

Clark didn't notice that the fists of the Mad Sun were starting to tire because they were attacking on multiple fronts. He also realized: "I see! I can now use Annihilation for ten seconds and stop it for ten seconds!"

Clark shouted: "Chahaya! Lift me up to it so I can attack!"

Clark rose, using the feet of his embodiment to leap high into the sky. He used Annihilation! Now the Will's movement stopped, but the fire remained! The heat was extremely

intense! Clark's right ear began to melt! He screamed in agony: "Resist, my body! Damn you! Just one fire shot! If I can..."

The sight was awe-inspiring to everyone! Clark, deep within the Will, raised his hand with great effort! And... BOOM!!!

He unleashed his black fire that shattered the Will into small pieces! Declaring victory!!

To be continued...

Chapter 18: The venerable Inheritance(11)

Clark did not fall. Instead, he remained standing as everyone watched in stunned silence. The remnants of willpower swirled around his body, which had been disfigured by the fire.

But that will had invaded Clark's mind. Greed agitated its core. It refused to depart from the world of the living. A paradox: though it was just a remnant of a dead soul, it desperately clung to life.

It attempted to seize control, but suddenly—the remnants that had formed into the Mad Sun's specter... found itself vulnerable. It received a powerful punch from Clark, even as he hovered on the edge of consciousness.

Clark's voice boomed, his face both majestic and terrifying: "You think you can invade my inner world? No, a thousand times no! You will never succeed!"

Almost instantly, Clark's presence overwhelmed the Mad Sun's. A deep, ominous black aura began to envelop him, radiating intense discomfort. Yet, the Mad Sun's will continued its struggle.

Clark surged forward: "I feel the greed raging in my heart! I can devour you!"

He lunged. The Mad Sun's will felt sheer terror. In a flash, Clark seized it by the throat. The Eye of Void manifested and completely absorbed it.

Clark's body was tempered by that will, even though it was merely a remnant.

Memories of the Mad Sun flooded Clark's mind.

He saw how the Mad Sun had built a magnificent city on a vast island, beloved by its people, who adored him in return. He had a wonderful wife and children.

But he left to repel invaders.

Upon his return, he was horrified. His lands were scorched, his people slaughtered—their blood and souls utterly drained.

In fear and dread, he entered his palace throne room.

He found his wife in the arms of a strange, bearded man with thick, dark hair on his hands.

His children were dead.

His wife moaned before him as he wept bitterly.

She gestured for him to look away, but he understood: she had betrayed him.

He cried out, "Where did I fail? What did I lack to deserve this?"

His wife didn't respond, her moans only growing louder.

Rage erupted!

A fierce battle ensued. The man who had destroyed his island was none other than the Venerable One—the same being who, after that war, became known as the Conqueror of the Mad Sun!!!

Back in the real world, light coalesced into nine colors, enveloping Clark's body.

Yi Lian screamed, "It's the Aura of Void Manifestation!"

Gene shouted, horrified, "Has he achieved it?!"

Cha Hua replied, "No, not yet. His body is being refined by it. Even as a remnant, it will elevate him to the stage of Soul Manifestation!! At that stage, a mortal body is purified by the Waters of Destiny, and the Heavens acknowledge!!"

With a powerful wave of his hand, Clark dispersed the light. His injuries vanished, and his face became even more pristine. He landed heavily on his feet, his demeanor majestic and formidable.

Clark spoke, scratching his chin, his fangs exposed: "That was a good meal! Heh heh heh!"

He thought to himself, How pitiful, Mad Sun. You were lost in a world of love, shattered by betrayal, and crushed without even achieving revenge.

In his mind, Gene glared furiously at his rival, pure hatred burning in his heart.

Yi Lian asked, "What remains now?"

Suddenly, the earth shook as if something immense stirred in its depths. Their legs trembled. "What's happening? Why is the entire area shaking?"

The tremors subsided after minutes. Everyone was tense except Clark. Gene remained calm too: "As long as Clark isn't worried, things are still under control."

Clark declared, "I expect that sound is answer enough. The true Legacy has appeared!!!"

They all rejoiced at the approaching end of this farce.

"Hey, Mimic," Clark commanded. "Come and lead the way."

Silently, the Mimic led them. They all followed.

Clark focused: "No new skills or notifications. My refinement has increased, and I've reached Level 15. My energy has grown:

- Strength: 25
- Mana: 14
- Stamina: 30
- Durability: 20
- Qi: 6"

Clark laughed, "My power has truly increased!"

Even Gene grew stronger, but not like Clark. He only reached Level 8 and still felt inferior to Clark, who chuckled inwardly at his achievements.

They passed through a thicket. A intense light erupted. The Legacy door was magnificent, but locked. Everyone was puzzled except Clark, who laughed: "The door requires sacrifices."

Clark approached Proteus and his brothers. He slung an arm around his shoulder and whispered, "Remember when I said, 'Your time to die hasn't come'? It seems it has now."

Their throats went dry with fear. Proteus stumbled away from Clark, his face twisted in terror. Clark said, "Just die easily."

The Mimic approached, touched one of the great door's ornaments. A stone pedestal emerged. Clark laughed, "All I have to do is place your heads on this altar."

Cha Hi looked on coldly, thinking, It's good I didn't swap with Alyssa so she wouldn't have to see this.

Gene thought too, This is the fate of ants. Only the strong rule this world. Morality doesn't matter—only how you rule. Are your hands hard or soft? In my case and Clark's: they are hard. So, naturally... He lunged, beheading one of them with his sword!!

Everyone was shocked by Gene's move, even Clark, who quickly laughed, "Ke ke ke, everyone wants you dead! To escape this damned labyrinth, hurry up!"

Proteus was stunned, fear gripping his heart. He clung to the legs of Minister Franz, his spiritual father, weeping, "Please, Father, save us! Have you forgotten your sons? Please, you old fool, save us!"

The Minister didn't respond, his face cold. Gene carried Ethan's severed head and placed it on the stone pedestal. A stream of blood began to flow. Ethan's blood formed a face on the stone door.

Clark said, "How magnificent! Your deaths will be immortalized as art!"

They lost all hope, their faces pale. "Nothing matters now. Their fate is sealed. If your death is decreed, no one can stop it."

He beheaded the two—Proteus and the other. Clark laughed, placing the heads happily, covered in blood.

Their faces appeared. Clark laughed, "One head remains uncut." He looked coldly at the Mimic, "Your purpose is over. I sentence you to die for your master. Yes, me."

Terrified, it clung to Clark's legs, begging for mercy, pointing at the others to be killed: "My lord, I am your servant. Kill them, but spare me! Please, my lord, I will serve you, do anything you wish."

Clark coldly beheaded it without a second glance. Cha Hua thought, Such cruelty! But the world demands those like them!!

The Mimic's face appeared, completing the puzzle. The door opened, revealing a giant hand that reminded him of the Mad Sun's will—but it was black, covered in thick dark hair, radiating a pouring aura.

It grabbed Gene and Clark, and the door slammed shut behind them!!

To be continued....

Chapter 19: The Immortality unconscious

The atmosphere was plunged into profound, oppressive darkness. I feel my strength waning. What's happening? I feel my mouth has gone completely dry.

Clark said this, utterly terrified.

Gene managed to hear him. He felt his eyes beginning to adjust to this gloom. Soon, he saw an eye—Gene's own eyes seemed to follow it—and he sat down beside Gene.

They felt the ground beneath them. Clark asked in astonishment, "Is this... grass?"

Gene replied, horrified, "A cave with grass? What's happening? Did we get transported somewhere else?"

Clark fell silent, but his mind was raging with thoughts. He said, "So this is the true Legacy? What's happening? Is this what they call a Heavenly Blessing? A blessing for those who transcend the realm of mortals and reach the heavens?"

"The subconscious realm... The Venerable One, the Beloved Noble, described it as a place only reachable by those who surpass the mortal world. The subconscious is full of resources and monsters, but the Venerable One's world was destroyed and lies in ruins. They say the flow of time here is different; one hour in the outer world equals three hours here!!"

Clark was shocked; he realized he and Gene were in an extremely dangerous place. He thought to himself, The reason this place is so dark is because it was struck by calamities during the Venerable One's journey to the ends of the earth.

He reached a place no human foot had ever trod. He learned and studied many things on a journey to collect the stories of Rinzo, which were hidden from all. Surface tales emerged, and so did shocking truths within them.

But most importantly, he found a great and strange tree, blue in color, with massive, terrifying branches, in a place like a black void with violet ripples. Dense stars formed into the shape of a huge and beautiful woman.

But that woman spoke with a hoarse voice: 'The Venerable One, who transcended human limits and reached a place no one else has, has been paralyzed!' Her aura was overwhelming.

He said: 'I am one who has fought wars and battles to the extent that I killed a million humans without a hint of mercy! Now I fall before the presence of a woman!!'

A great entity spoke: "How dare you overstep your boundaries to come here, mortal? Were the limits I created and protected you from Fate not enough? Now you wish to break everything! But I have done my part, and my authority has waned. Now I cannot protect you, for they have arrived through their own actions!!"

The Venerable One, stunned, asked, "Who has arrived?" The entity did not answer him.

It shattered this null void, and a great presence manifested. The mere sight of them was enough to show their immense power! Their auras were akin to nothingness. But the Venerable One knew he faced formidable foes.

The Venerable One described their forms: One had eyes of intense blackness and darkness, making the Venerable One's legs tremble. Its eyes felt as if they were plunging into the depths of his very soul.

The terrifying one spoke: "Urban! The Venerable Beloved Noble! Your own curiosity told you to come here, but your doom has now arrived!"

The others did not speak, but they were twin bald beings with no eyes or hair, instead possessing long tongues. Their cry was a deafening, earth-shattering shriek that broke the void!!

Suddenly, the scenery changed. The Venerable One was horrified. He felt his power weakening. Various monsters began to appear and attack him. But soon, enormous eyes appeared in the sky, watching him.

Bolts of lightning and toxic rain struck him down. The Venerable One didn't understand what was happening, but he began to flee. The earth, the sky, everything fought and attacked him. He ran away in terror. He realized he was merely an insignificant speck in the world. The wars and struggles he had endured were, in the end, nothing but child's play.

Clark stopped. After recalling what he had read in the book, he said, "Gene, let's hide! This place itself is the test."

Gene asked, "What?" "The first test is survival here! Initially, the calamities will be relentless. The earth will attack us, the sky will attack us too. The environment itself changes over time."

Gene asked angrily, "You son of a bitch! If you don't tell me what's happening and what this place is, I won't cooperate with you!"

Clark replied coldly, "This is a world reached only by those who surpass mortals! The Subconscious of the Immortals or the Paradise of the Immortals, you could call it that. But this place has become hell, not paradise!"

"Also, this isn't just anyone's subconscious; it's the subconscious of someone who transcended humanity to such a degree that the Immortals who destroyed this place rejected its existence in the highest and furthest reaches of that sky!!"

"We are not in the outer world, but the outer world itself will be affected! Even the city will be struck by these disasters."

Gene was shocked. "But how?!" "A strange power! You could call it Calamity! It is endless, pursuing you to the ends of the world. The earth and sky will assail you with all manner of misfortune and bad luck."

Gene retorted, "But we are not the Venerable One! Meaning it shouldn't harm us."

Clark replied, "You're wrong about something! This is the consciousness of one struck by misfortune! Therefore, as long as this consciousness exists or is revived, the calamities that befall will act. You could say those inside or outside will suffer! Nothing else matters."

"But what truly matters is us passing the first test." "Alright, let's light a fire and mentally prepare for what's coming."

Clark said, "You're right. Because in this darkness, I feel like I'm talking to myself."

They lit a fire but couldn't sleep. They felt time was passing strangely and quickly. The situation was maddening.

Suddenly, a huge light appeared! A giant eye opened in the sky, and a powerful black bolt of lightning, intensely dark, erupted. They both dodged it.

Soon, the ground beneath their feet became like a maw trying to swallow them. Clark jumped and pushed Gene, who hadn't noticed.

Gene retreated to the tree behind him, which in turn tried to strangle him. He used his Madness Flame. But this place and its misfortune were against him! So, the tree went insane! Its attacks became intense.

Clark quickly burned it with his black fire, yelling at Gene, "You fool! Didn't I tell you our luck is cursed?! Don't use anything, or it will turn into a weapon against you! Fight and keep your attacks physical!"

Gene tensed up, drew his sword, and began cutting the branches.

Soon, the lightning charged again, and the Heavenly Eye fired. Gene dodged, but a spark from it grazed and struck him. He let out a loud cry: "Boom!!" He bit his lip, blood welling in his mouth. "I won't fall!!"

Clark was terrified! The situation was far from reassuring.

They moved constantly to avoid being swallowed by the earth and dodged the lightning that tried to cook them alive. Gene fought violently, his back to Clark's. Clark used his embodiment to crush the stone monsters, and Gene used the Fist of the Chaos God.

The battle dragged on. Clark yelled, "Let's escape from this place! It's vile!" They began carving a path to flee.

They succeeded and avoided the dangers, but the Eye pursued them, showering them with lightning bolts. One struck Clark, causing him immense pain. He felt as if searing, sharp blades were piercing him.

Gene was stunned; he couldn't handle even a spark, while Clark took a full blast.

But misfortunes never come without reason!! Because of their injuries, the smell of burning flesh began to emanate! The flesh of Clark and Gene!! It caused a massive wolf to appear. It was blue, its fur composed of blue flames, its eyes deadly red.

Clark was terrified! The blood drained from his veins. He screamed, "Run, quickly! It's the Azure Wolf King!!!" "Make sure you don't get hit by its flames! Its fire is enough to burn the sky itself!!"

Gene was horrified. Soon, the two began to run. But the Azure Wolf King's speed was supernatural. The two were afraid, feeling hopeless.

They dodged the lightning from one direction, but one of the bolts struck and hindered the Azure Wolf King.

It let out a powerful roar! The Azure Wolf King, and this only angered it further! It began leaping into the sky, as if stepping on its own flames. And it did! When it jumped, fire appeared under its feet, and it launched an attack on the Heavenly Eye!!

Gene said, "Let me burn it with my flames!!"

Clark retorted, "Are you insane? If you hit it, it will become even more enraged, and it will not deviate from killing us!"

Clark said, "It attacks randomly! That giant Eye considers everyone in the Venerable One's subconscious to be enemies! So it doesn't matter! What's important is that we escape quickly and treat our wounds."

Soon, they dashed off running. But then they saw something shocking, unlike anything they had seen before: a bright green light! The rocks were rising, and then something shocking appeared at the end of the path!!!

To be continued....

Chapter 20: stories of Rin Zu

The immense green light dissipated. The rocks rose, forming stone shelves.

Clark was stunned and bewildered.

He asked Gene, "Do you know what this is?"

Clark replied, "No, but I think these shelves contain something."

"Shall we open them then?"

"What do you say we open one first and see what's inside?"

Gene responded with a nod of agreement.

The two of them stepped forward. They were tense; the atmosphere was heavy and frightening. Clark placed his hand on a shelf's handle and opened it. A piece of paper appeared inside.

Clark was surprised but read it. Its content was as follows:

"It seems you have succeeded and passed the test of survival, you and your companion. I apologize for the chaos I left behind me; it seems to have disturbed you. But now you face your second test. I like to describe it in a poem:

Two men place their hands on one thing...

A burning in the heart, anger, envy...

A blind man walking without aim.

Two who stabbed each other for a bite of the Devil's apple.

And that is all I offer you. Understand it well!!!"

Clark fell silent after reading it. He said, "Is this Venerable One crazy or what? What kind of riddles are these? This isn't even a poem!"

Gene ignored Clark's words. He quickly went and pulled open another shelf, revealing a wooden scroll about a combat technique!!!

Clark was shocked that he had been hasty and began opening another shelf himself. Gene read his find: The technique was called "Domain of the Tyrant King."

Gene returned and sat facing Clark. Clark kept looking at him; he didn't ask what was written. He knew from seeing Gene so focused on what was in his hand that he had obtained something good.

They began gathering some firewood to light a fire. A calm settled after the battle that had raged outside.

Gene was quiet. He would go to a nearby waterfall to train and return hours later.

Clark thought to himself, describing his situation: "Finding food was relatively easy for me because, unfortunately, I found a wolf. It had six eyes, and yet it was no match for me, so I naturally killed and ate it. The best part was its brain."

As time passed, Clark and Gene didn't feel it, but days went by, and they only opened the shelves twice!!! No more.

But Gene's muscle mass had increased; his body became strong and well-proportioned, and a calm demeanor settled over him.

Clark was shocked! Because during those past days, Gene had been training in the "Domain of the Tyrant King."

Gene opened his status screen:

- Level: 12
- Strength: 26
- Mana: 20
- Durability: 12
- Stamina: 15
- Sacred Power: 0

Skills:

- Fist of the Chaos King (Level 1)

- Madness Flame (Level 2)
- Domain of the Tyrant King (Level 1)

Domain of the Tyrant King: Enhances your power within a domain, whose moving center is you (the user). Grants you four-dimensional vision, meaning there are no blind spots from which you can be attacked. Enhances your skills and their damage.

Gene was so happy that he went out to test his skills and returned within minutes, having hunted a massive wolf—one Clark had read about: a Lord of the Earth Wolf—which Gene had crushed with a single blow to its chest using his "Fist of the Chaos King" skill. That was truly powerful!

Clark felt genuinely envious. He then rushed to one of the shelves to take something from it, hoping perhaps to get something great.

When he opened the shelf, he found a ledger with ten pages. Clark was happy; maybe it was a skill. Gene watched him intently.

But soon, Clark's face reddened with anger; his eyes radiated killing intent. It was merely one of the stories of Rin Zu. But he sat down angrily and said, "At least it's something to relieve the boredom."

He began to read it:

"In the beginning of the world, awoke Rin Zu (which means 'Progenitor of Humanity' in his own language). Rin Zu

was a weak human among monsters. Rin Zu, from what is known, was born with an immortal subconscious, meaning from his very beginning he was

at the peak of the mortal hierarchy. But he began facing hardships and defeated many monsters, which made him feel sorrow. Life became extremely difficult

to the point that when he closed his eyes to sleep, he thought it was his end, because he didn't know who might kill

him in his sleep. The heavens took pity on Rin Zu and sent down a strange spirit in the form of a mask. This mask was called the 'Mask of Qi.' The Mask of Qi

said: 'Do you want help, human? I will grant you power and intelligence.' Rin Zu replied: 'Naturally, for in the end, I either get your help or die.' He began fighting monsters and defeating them

. But it turned out this damned mask was merely a curse that drained lifespan and exhausted the body. Rin Zu was

shocked; he began to age, and his appearance started to change. Rin Zu lost hope, and grief grew in his heart. Then something new appeared: a small insect. It said it was 'Cicada of Perseverance.' 'I will give you hope.' RinZu

replied: 'And what will you take from me? My pride? Or my entire lifespan, like the previous one did before abandoning me?' It replied: 'No, I will take nothing from you. I will grant you perseverance and hope, nothing more

, nothing less.' Rin Zu said: 'Very well.' Hope and perseverance were renewed in Rin Zu's heart, and he began to explore and venture out into the world. But Rin Zu's own subconscious was affecting the external world, and this

caused monsters to swarm upon his appearance. But he paid no mind, defeating them all. However, in one

instance, he fought a great monster. That monster was of supernatural strength: 'The Bull of Magma'!!! It was truly terrifyingly powerful. Then, Rin Zu—to his misfortune—lost the 'Cicada of Perseverance.' Rin Zu wept; nothing remained for him, which stirred his sadness and fury."

The ledger ended. Clark laughed: "The Progenitor of Humanity possessed an immortal subconscious from the very start of his life, and his immortal subconscious was affecting the world!!!"

To be continued...