**The Everlasting**

**(Volume 4)**

**Treachery**

Prologue

(Somewhere)

I was seated on a metallic chair. Both legs and hands bound to it by magic. A hole was all what’s left from my right eye…they took it away…I can’t use an ounce of my strength to get away from this predicament. I am continually being bled out, I was linked to several tubes that are filling me with minimal sustenance just to keep me alive yet at the same time unable to produce energy. Magic however is an impossibility with the removal of my eye I have totally lost control over my mana. I am less than useless right now.

 ‘Why the hell is this happening to me…WHY? WHY? WHY? ...what did I do to deserve this…? Why her of all people did this to me…Damn it, damn it to hell…I was betrayed by everyone…I should have never trusted any of them…even my master even he did not come to my rescue…why did I have to suffer this…why did I have to live that agony…is it not enough that I have not much to live…to suffer this treatment…why did I even agree to learn magic…why did I even agree to participate to that damn competition…damn it to hell. Demons? Hah they taught that I was possessed… damn idiots Where was Osfor anyway…he could have done something, anything…and now I am back to where I started in life…a lab rat for the same bastards… why did it have to turn that way….why…’

**Chapter 1: The ice princess**

Oh that was awesome, she really did a number on that guy. Yuna was really great there. Managing to entrap that guy in ice was all that was needed to seal his movement. That Jibi guy was nimble and swift yet his error was that he neglected the ice that covered the platform. The second it was fully placed the game was already over. That made the entire platform her playground so catching him off-guard was as simple as it can get.

Her next opponent was guy with a short board sword and a round shield. He was bald and burly with squinty sharp eyes. His blade probably had the same metal that Jibi had as it shimmered slightly under the sunlight.

His shield probably had some of that same metal.

Apparently the ice was not removed from the platform as Yuna was considered still standing. Her next opponent will have to start with a disadvantage…this is very lucky for us as he will probably end up trapped the same way Jibi did.

Yet to my surprise every step he took dissolved the ice under his foot

The judge announced the beginning of the game

Almost instantly Yuna shot forward two bolts of ice followed by a whip of her hand that made spikes emerge from the frozen floor.

The warrior jumped back dodging the spikes and poised himself behind his shield. He was struck in mid-air by the bolts that dissolved into water the second they came in contact with his shield.

Yuna’s hands shimmered with a white light as she was chanting her next spell it did not take a long time to cast as she made a gripping gesture with both her hands, gigantic ice hands emerged from the floor.

She almost stumbled the second she casted that spell as beads of sweat were falling from her forehead…she was pushing it too far.

She crossed her hands while maintaining them in a gripping motion and at the same time the giant ice hands did the same. They were trying to squeeze the shielded opponent. The problem was that the hands were a bit slow compared to the agile warrior as he just had to jump backwards. To dodge them.

Feeling confident the man did a slashing motion to the base of one of the hands.

It cut through the ice breaking the hand from the base making it crumble.

At the same time I heard a loud scream.

Yuna’s right hand was bleeding from the wrist…those hands must be linked to her by magic…why did she use a spell with that weakness…that was stupid damn it.

The guy probably noticed too so he decided to land another hit on the other ice hand Yuna pulled her arm backwards so did the ice hand this time it was between her and her opponent.

I saw a small smirk on the face of Yuna when that position was taken.

She whispered again

“Heaven’s piercing javelin”

Particles of ice gathered and created four great spears in front of Yuna that immediately started to spin.

Yet that positioning….Oh my god she is a genius.

The way the ice hand is positioned is perfect to block the view of the warrior to what was happening behind it. The second he sliced the ice hand Yuna cringed a bit then pushed both her bleeding hands forward making the spears twirl and lunch at enormous speeds.

The second the ice hand crumbled the warrior was struck to the chest with the first spear that sent him flying. Before he could even land the other three struck at him in mid-air making him fly all the way to the outer ring and crashing into the wall.

Quite shrewd of her…she lured him into hitting one of her ice hands and loudly screamed to make him understand that they are linked to her…the way she pulled the other hand back was to make it look like that she didn’t want to receive another hit but that was the bait as he focused on damaging the ice hand and forgot about taking into consideration the fact that he didn’t have vision over his opponent the hand was between them and covering her position. She led him by the nose from the start of the game…what a genius.

Her next opponent was a girl she had brown hair made into twin tails. Her mouth was covered by a black veil she was the same size as Yuna as for her weapon it was a chained scythe that had a small morning star on the end of the chain she was spinning the scythe while walking up onto the platform.

Yuna however looked exhausted. I know for sure that she has a lot of Mana but I believe that using multiple High tier spells in rapid succession is taxing beyond belief most students would barely know of any A class spells and if they are diligent they would probably be able to produce one or two… so far Yuna showed more than five A class spells one after another which in its self is quite amazing. She is probably suffering from Mana poisoning.

The judge announced the beginning of the game that started the same way like the last one.

Two bolts of ice shot forward one was dodged and the second was met with the morning star end of the chain scythe shattering it into a thousand piece.

The girl ran forward to close the gap between her and Yuna.

Yuna still had blood pouring down both her hands yet she pushed them forward bloody and dripping she clenched them both and casted the heaven piercing javelins. Yet something seemed wrong I noticed that the amount of Mana used was far less that the other time she used this spell… the size was almost the same but the power behind the spears is weaker…is she going for a feint?

She whipped her right hand in front of her making the spears thrust forward.

The first of the spears was easily dodged by the girl who just side stepped it as for the second she gracefully slid on her knees bowing backwards making the spear pass right in front of her face.

Then instantly propelled herself in an almost impossible way she spun around herself like a top dodging the third spear and sending the morning star to shatter the fourth spear while she was still in mid-air.

Her attack didn’t finish there as she made a wide downward cut with the scythe side of the chain that was aimed directly at Yuna.

It was a very wide motion so she should probably be able to dodge it yet the second Yuna moved she dropped on her knees from obvious exhaustion.

The blade almost struck at Yuna but she miraculously erected a frozen wall that stopped the blade from taking her out. However her hit points were at an incredibly low level and were even decreasing by the second.

It was probably the bleed effect that was rendering her weaker and weaker.

The scythe lodged itself deeply into the ice wall while the panting Yuna tried desperately to gain back her footing.

The other girl ripped out the scythe making some of the ice shatter in the process before she landed then proceeded to spin the morning star side of the weapon while approaching menacingly.

Yuna was on her last rope. Clearly fighting exhaustion and mental strain she is probably going to lose this match…I hope she doesn’t push herself anymore she has done more than enough.

The other girl started hacking at the ice wall with both ends of her weapon, with every slash the ice melts and the wall grows thinner.

Yuna started pouring more Mana into her wall to reinforce it but to no avail. The wall crumbles little by little until only a small portion of it remains. Yuna who managed to get back on her feet was in no shape to finish this fight. But what happened next left me speechless.

Yuna cladded her hands in a thin layer of wind then pointed forward.

“BLAST”.

It was the first time that she used an air based attack since the fights started.

A small shockwave was propelled from her hand it was by no mean an A class spell but it still packed quite a punch. The blast disrupted the girl from swinging her weapon and pushed her back a bit

Another blast was sent forward but this time it was aimed at the warrior girl’s feet.

The girl jumped upwards to evade the spell but the collision of the air blast with the floor made some of the ice shatter and even some of the water splatter toward the girl.

Yuna then casted another spell

“Rising water dragon!”

The splash that erupted earlier shaped itself into a small wyrm like water dragon and rose opening its maw engulfing the girl that was in mid-air.

Before the attack finishes Yuna then casted another Blast that when it contacted the girl it sent her flying to the outer ring. She still had a lot of HP left yet she was out of bounds and Yuna was declared the victor of this match.

The fourth contender walked up the stage.

She was clearly burnt-out she even had droplets of blood coming from her mouth…

Why is she pushing herself this much does she have something to prove?

The next one was a guy with a katana. He had a strange hard leather armour, it was shaped to only cover the right side of his chest with a battle skirt for protection. He poised himself forward. But before the judge could announce the start of the game.

Yuna fell forward. Her HP dropped to 0 before the fight could even begin.

The judge seemed to be discussing something with someone as he was nodding alone.

He then spoke.

“The Contender Yuna Korima was deemed unable to continue the fight. Due to the fact that the game has not even started this case will be judged as a withdrawal from the fight and no points will be granted to the Astartian team. Let the next contender from Alsa step forward!”

Before I could say anything Vessma who apparently came from nowhere said this.

“You will go first…Shiki is our only chance to beat the girl that was rumoured to be stronger than Rica from the Astartian team…and if she was as strong as that Jibi guy I think we will need Shiki’s strength to take her down. Your objective is to beat this guy and try to wither her down as much as you can the remaining contender so that Shiki can finish him off.”

So she doesn’t think I am able to beat both of them…

“Why do you think that I won’t be able to beat both their contenders…not to brag but didn’t you know that I was able to beat Shiki back at Albion?”

She snorted then answered.

“Hah, that and this are two different things Shiki was forbidden from using his A class spells back then I know for sure you would have lost if he did so just do as you are told, and stop talking back to me…”

It’s true that he was not allowed to use all of his strength but even so being told this really doesn’t sit well with me…I should probably change the way people think of me.

I walked up the stage but right before the judge could announce the start of the game an annoying voice erupted from the speakers around the arena.

“LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I will be the one to judge this game and commentate on it, it was really boring to watch games without a cheerful commentator like me to describe what was happening to the inexperienced audience so. Now Mr Asura please step forward. Mr Kagisa you too. GAME START.”

**Chapter 2: The barbarian princess**

I Vessma Stronghold heir of the house of stronghold and future wife of the heir of the house of Vendi. Was once again talked back too by that ape of a man…damn may he be that little twerp is trying to get on my nerves… I already graced him with a chance to fight at the solo battles but he still dared to question my orders and tried to make his worth more than it seems…I only hope he can do his job like the tool he is he must at least beat this sword wielder…damn savages and their primitive weapons. I never understood the reason why he was admitted to our school he should not be taught how to wield magic. Magic should be a privilege for the nobles and those of the purest of linages not for some unknown…savage.

The game is about to start and the Lord of this region will be the one to commentate on this game.

Before it started the entire ice field that was covering the platform was by one of dissolved by magic as its owner now was eliminated.

Well let’s just hope he survives this round so that we can at least have a glimpse of their trump card’s true power.

The announcer then said

“GAME START”

Only one second passed. The announcer then said

“GAME OVERRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR”

What? What the hell is happening did he lose? That was fast way too fast what happened?

Smoke rose from the centre of the platform no it was actually the side of the Astartian contender.

When the smoke cleared I saw the figure of Asura standing tall while the enemy was…had his head penetrating the ground and all of his limbs were sprung in various ways.

What the hell did he do? As if hearing my taught the announcer then said

“OH MY GOD THAT WAS AMAZING, IT’S A FREGGING SUPLEX!!! I AM SO GLAD I GOT TO COMMENTATE ON THIS. A ONE HIT KILL!! AN INSTANT VICTORY FOR ASURA WHAT AN AMAZING DISPLAY OF POWER.”

The hell happened?

“I know a lot of you are wondering what happened but I am not allowed to divulge the secrets of any of the contenders as this will be a disadvantage to Asura…unless he agrees to us revealing what type of spells he used we cannot show the replay…we are sorry but let the next Astartian contender rise to the stage…Wait! Wait! Asura just gave us the right to review the scene he said that it was going to be discovered anyway…let’s see what happened then in slow motion.”

He granted them permission? what the hell…who does he think he is to do something like that without consulting me…even though I want to know…

The screen started replaying what happened.

At first both figures were standing still then Asura disappeared…it seems that his movement was even faster than the screen could display. He appeared behind the still unsuspecting contestant and grabbed him by the waist then instantly made a backward bow crushing the head of the other guy into the stone floor. It was that what caused the dust to rise.

His hit points were at 0 the second his head came into contact with the ground…normally his head would have become a stain on the floor if it was not for the barrier…what a frightening ability…why did he even reveal this…he could use this against the other girl she would not have seen this coming what an idiot…

“Marvellous just marvellous to be able to master the Shunpo technique at such a young age. What an extraordinary talent”

Shunpo?? Isn’t that one of the spells of Ousay-sama…how did he even learn it? I was told that Ousay-sama never took a disciple even Zeles was deemed unfit to be his disciple although he developed a similar skill to Shunpo he considered it a cheap copy however. But I find it really fascinating…yet this kid has already mastered one of the seven’s technique…

The stadium erupted in roars as the replay was shown it was quite deafening.

“Let the next contender rise to the stage. We want more!!”

The next in line was the girl he was dancing with yesterday… for a savage he still knew how to dance a little…

The girl had an armour breastplate that barely held down her humongous breasts…those things should be illegal!!

She had a helmet shaped like a cone with braid of black hair on top of it that was dropping all the way to her waist.

Her helmet showed only her hazel eyes while covering almost all of her face.

She had two shoulder caps with small spikes on them while her breastplate was strapped to her waist with hardened leather she wore a battle skirt made from chainmail and boots that had protective plate reaching all the way to her knees as for the knee cap she had a small spike in its centre.

All in all with her green hair showing from under her helmet and swaying in the wind while she casually held the biggest glaive I have ever seen it had a runic designee on the blade part with multiple symbols written all over the shaft . She looked barbaric…yet at the same time she had a strange presence to her, like she was enforcing respect…A barbarian princess…

The non-caring attitude of Asura soon changed when he saw her coming as a grin was now mounting his smug face he walked slowly back to his position while taking a strange fighting stance. But this time he had a sword with him when did he find the chance to bring it…

However that sword was ominous it had a strange feel to it as whenever I tried to gaze on it I had this repulsive urge to look away…it looked like it was made for a devil. It was red in colour with a draconic hilt. Its size was not that impressive but it was shaped like a scimitar.

Asura casually spun it around his right arm making some warm-up swings waiting for the girl to be on stage.

Once she was in front of him he spoke.

“So how about we finish that dance”

She then answered with an elusive tone

“Most certainly”

The commentator eagerly said

“GAME START”

I taught that Asura would use the same move earlier but what happened was extraordinary.

They both stood still for few moments slowly breathing out each time Asura changed his stance.

The girl would change hers in accordance they stood still yet only changed stances trying to find a weak point to penetrate through…if it was for me I would have scorched her to crisp…

After a few exchanges of stance they finally settled at one. Asura had his sword held by his right arm over his shoulder and was horizontally pointing forward as for the girl she was holding the glaive with both hands while pointing the blade in a sideway position.

In an instant Asura disappeared he must have used his Shunpo skill again this time I was prepared and focused my sight at the girl to see what she would do.

She casually flicked her glaive upwards at the empty air but what happened next was to be marvelled.

Normally she would have cut through air but she actually slammed her glaive into the sword of Asura who just appeared from thin air. The first hit made a loud metal hitting metal sound that resounded through the entire arena.

One second of delay was followed with several louder clangs that went in rapid succession they were both exchanging blows at an extremely fast pace that only made their weapons look like a blur.

One moment after they disengaged and stood still.

Then once again they started switching stances but this time it was the girl who lead and Asura who followed…

After they both stopped the girl charged forward, at first she was walking with her glaive held in front of her then she started picking up speed then she disappeared.

Asura somehow managed to fling his body backwards dodging the devastating glaive slash that cut through earth like it was butter.

Not wasting any second the girl followed with multiple thrusts of her glaive while twirling her body making consecutive body rotations in mid-air followed by consecutive vertical strikes.

Asura was being pushed back as he was jumping backwards every time the blade came close to hit him.

Surprisingly he was grinning like an idiot almost having fun being this close to getting his head crushed like an egg.

The girl finished her attack by grabbing her glaive by the end and slashing it horizontally toward Asura this time he did not jump backwards but twisted his body and made a vertical slash of his own using his sword the act almost looked similar to the attack that the girl was using but as if she was expecting it she just jerked her upper body backwards making her accursed mounds jiggle wildly while still dodging the sword that slashed in between completely missing the mark.

The audience erupted in cheers after that. Then the commentator spoke

“WHAT AN AMAZING DISPLAY OF SKILL!!! What is this? It’s been so long since I last saw two promising younglings showing this mush skill. Amazing display of power from both sides. I can’t wait when this fight reaches its climax!”

**Chapter 3: the real fight begins!**

Damn that woman is strong! She was able to dodge my rush and still made an impressive display of strength and control with that freakishly huge weapon. I am sure that this is not even her full strength… how about we kick things up a nudge.

“Hey…”I looked up and saw that her name was Lori. “Lori…How about we stop testing the waters and we go at it for real?”

She smirked and said

“I taught you would never ask. As you remember I did promise a true dance of blades. You seem to be using spiritual buffs to power yourself I will give you time so you can use them before we go at it for real.”

I answered

“That won’t be necessary. WARRIOR ARTS FULL BUFF”

An explosion of smoke and a shockwave erupted from whiting my body followed by a glowing light. An ever changing aura was closely sticking to my body while steam was rising from my almost red cooler flesh.

She smiled once again then said

“Berserker’s rage”

As if mimicking me another shockwave erupted from within her body with a green glowing sheen almost sticking to her.

I noticed that her presence became denser, ground beneath her foot crumbled as if she weighed a hundred time more while her muscles tensed up and grew a bit. Nothing to make her look less appealing but rather made her look to be a true warrior.

In a single breath both our bodies disappeared to make three distinctive sounds of metal hitting metal.

I used Shunpo three times every time I tried to strict at her with my blade only to find her waiting for the strike.

Another breath was followed by four more hits that uselessly met with her glaive.

I used Shunpo one more time to feint an attack from her front. She struck at me but her glaive only managed to hit an after image as I already used Shunpo one more time to appear behind her.

An earth shattering smash was what I used to try and finished the fight only to be surprised by her rapid reaction as she made a 180 spin while pulling the glowing aura that surrounded her body onto her left arm.

The aura grew into a round shield of pure energy that had mesmerizing symbols and rune like writings on it that was almost a meter in diameter.

My hand struck it in the middle while a burst of compressed air erupted as I fused my fist with some wind energy. The damage should be significant as the sound of the hit almost sounded like an explosion.

I have used a lot of my Mana while I vowed not to use the eye to absorb natural Mana, I had to win this using my own strength.

I have enough to use Shunpo a couple more times and probably I can squeeze enough for another wind spell. She should have taken a considerable damage by now even with that weird shield of hers.

…however I still felt uncomfortable with that shield of hers…normally it should have broken into a thousand pieces but I still felt pressure on my extended fist.

As if on cue my hyper recognition activated and an image of an enraged warrior appeared in-front of me.

She appeared from the smoke swinging her glaive with her right arm, the blade coming dangerously close to me as she capitalised on my hesitation.

One more use of Shunpo to appear behind her and I was met with a well-timed kick to the chest that sent me rolling to the ground barely stopping before hitting the edge of the ring.

I think she held back there a little… quite depressing.

The commentator then said

 “AMAZING!! In less than ten seconds a rapid exchange of blows at the level of master warriors just happened…I am tempted to take these kids into my service…Although Asura was quite impressive in the earlier fight it seems that he is being pushed back a bit here, did he met his match? Let’s continue to watch…as for those who have missed what happened a replay of the game will be broadcasted after this in wait for the other game to begin”

Groggily standing up on my feet I dusted my knees off. Then looked at her menacingly…I couldn’t quite keep the scary look as a small grin appeared on my face, she was strong, strong enough to give me trouble…for a warrior she is the first one at my age to have managed to push me this much.

Damn I am very low on Mana right now I should focus on using spiritual energy more I might need to use the two Shunpo I have left for close calls wasting them to land a hit or two will prove to be useless against her…I must first wither her down with constant harassment and damage and finish her off as soon as I see an opening.

Dashing toward her not using any speed enhancing abilities I must have looked like a turtle compared to our earlier exchange but I heed it no mind.

She seemed perplexed at my approach and took a defensive stance.

I propelled myself forward making a diagonal cutting motion which was sidestepped easily by the warrior princess…

She still had a confused look on her face probably thinking, why is he not using his Shunpo?

I used my elbow to strike at her exposed abdomen from when she sidestepped but again she dodged it easily and sent her glaive with one hand horizontally trying to cut me in half.

I jerked my body backwards and made a swiping motion with my right foot trying to take her down with me which she easily jumped above and sent her glaive in a downward cutting motion.

I rolled to the side dodging the first strike that was followed by another then another. Each time I rolled the glaive would make a deep gash on the floor…I am really doubting the ability of the barrier to negate this mush damage as every strike rocked the arena.

Having enough rolling on stones I jumped up and sent my sword in an almost impossible angle cutting toward her

This time she blocked it with the pole of her glaive. I didn’t put a lot of strength behind the attack but that must have made her hands a bit numb as sparks flew from the contact of metal.

She then said

“Why are you holding back?”

I answered almost mechanically.

“I actually am not…it’s complicated but don’t worry I am by no means underestimating you”

“Is that so” she said.

Then another shockwave of power rocked the arena once more it was coming from her. The green sheen that was engulfing her earlier seemed calm but now it turned into a ravaging flame like aspect. Her eyes shone for a moment white then turned back to their normal emerald colour.

She conjured her shield once more and the blade of her glaive was covered with the same green sheen only it was shaped as a scorching aura blade almost like the flame from a magical welding torch.

Hyper recognition activated the second she stepped forward. I still was unable to dodge the oncoming assault as she charged at me with her shield held forward only her helmet was above it and her glaive was protruding like a spike from a small bend in the shield.

Barely dodging the tip of the glaive I felt the heat coming from it yet I was unable to fully bypass the round shield.

I tried to use Shunpo to appear behind her but even in hyper recognition mode I was still slow…How fast is she damn it.

The impact sent me flying well above the arena grounds smashing into the barrier.

My sword dropped from my hand and I was falling to the ground on the outer ring.

This is probably it…LIKE HELL IT IS “BLAST”

Before I was in contact with the dirt I used the wind spell blast that made me propel backwards into the air and barely landing on the arena once again…

Damn that was close…I must have looked cool back there though.

However I am now unarmed and my blade is all the way in the outer ring and stepping down from the platform will disqualify me.

“OH what great reaction from Asura as he used the blast spell to blow himself back…that was close too close for comfort…but the odds seem grim for Asura right now as he is now weapon less.

The girl spoke. In a stern and obviously annoyed tone.

“I taught you were different…it is true that you were able to evade being disqualified but it seems that I have misjudged you…you are not worth the effort…surrender now and spare yourself a humiliating defeat.”

I answered.

“I had my doubts at first…but now I am certain of it. Weakling I may be but I can assure you I will not lose to you.” I might have trouble fighting master level mages but warriors and the like are not that threatening especially now that I know who she is.

She said

“What do you mean you are obviously losing this trade…now weapon less what sort of miracle will save you from my hands.”

“Miracles I need not. I have all the strength I need to beat you now that I know what you are. A Verda tribeswoman.”

She flinched a bit after she heard that then said.

“What do you know about my tribe…?”

I answered shrugging

“Nothing mush just that they were supposed to have perished years ago yet here you are…My master told me that he has met and fought with them. He even told me an interesting thing about your tribe, strong in fights you may be and the more damage you take the stronger you become your entire tribe earned the title of the berserker god’s descendants but the sole problem with your power if it is used for a prolonged period of time it will corrode your brains and make you savagely brutal not even recognising friends from foe.”

“What does that have to do with our fight here? I can still maintain this form for a few more hours you think you can withstand my might for that long.”

Damn that is a lot of time but it is still irrelevant.

“No I will defeat you way before that.”

Hyper recognition activated again as she instantly appeared in front of me.

I grinned like an idiot. While I dodged her incoming charge this time using Shunpo fast enough to appear on the other side.

I closed my right eye and activated Mana flux this way the eye should not attract much attention even if I am able to hide the golden glow now but its better safe than sorry.

However I noticed the judge on the side of the arena jerk his head toward me the second the Mana flux activated. Did he suspect something? Damn I have already broken my promise to myself not to use the eye here and don’t want to brake the promise for Osfor sensei to not reveal it.

“MANA CLAD” a shockwave erupted from within my body and pushed the dust away. While a dense purple aura covered my body.

It was time to reveal my trump card.

“GOD HANDS” the aura condensed even more and formed a new set of arms two that appeared from the side of my chest arms of pure Mana. Even with the purple colour if you look close enough it will seem see trough.

I opened four dimensional storages and brought four weapons from them.

Two broad swords and a spear and a round heavy shield.

These were gifted to me by Osfor once I showed him what I was able to do with the Mana clad when we were in the forest.

They were not as strong as the devourer not by a long shot but these were all I have right now.

Lori seemed shocked at the new appearance but she still charged forward. I was too was surprised at first when I learned that I could shape mana to anything I want…but why did I choose an extra set of hands is beyond me…however it seems to work just fine.

Still activating hyper recognition I dodged the first slash using Shunpo and appeared at her side slashing with both human arms that had the broad swords at once she held her shield up to block.

The weight of my strike was by no mean light. As she was forced to her knees. she still managed to slash at me with her glaive cutting my spear in half…the aura covering her glaive was dense and sharp enough to make a steel made spear look like tofu.

Damn I was unable to do anything with that weapon and it was already lost.

I had my shield held with my Mana arm at a position that was almost behind my back so that it will not hinder my movement. But the glaive would cut me in halve if I didn’t block it so I hastily brought the shield above me.

The weight behind her strike was magnificent as it mad an ugly dent in my heavy round shield.

Pushing her weapon back with sheer force of will, I disengaged and jumped backwards…

The second I touched the ground I rushed back again this time using that split second when she felt the weight of my swords off her to charge at her with my own shield held forward. Yet she still caught on and pulled up her shield once more.

Both the round shields clashed and made a deafening sound.

Hers was made of pure aura while mine was truly just a hunk of metal. It started to melt when it was in contact with the aura shield.

I had to drop it. As it now became useless.

I shot two fireballs at her which were negated by her shield and she slashed at the air making a wave of aura charge at me.

Dodging it I used a water ball and a fire ball at the same time casting them from the Mana hands again.

They were not aimed at her but they were to create a diversion.

The two balls struck at each other making a small smoke screen which was all I needed for my next move. She swiped at the smoke making it dissipate and slashed at me with a hit that cut me in half.

Or so she taught I used the vapour particles with a bit of light element and made a clone of myself. Osfor sensei taught me how to do this when we were training with a lot of other spells. She fanatically looked all over trying to figure where in was to be surprised by an earth shattering smash that rocked her from the side.

Rolling on the ground and dangerously getting closer to the edge she was still holding her glaive and managed to impale it to the floor before she could drop from the platform.

‘Damn that was close’ I taught

“WHAT A COMEBACK!!! ASURA PROVES TO BE ABLE TO HANDEL HIMSELF. Are these guys truly just high school students?? Damn it some of the elite warriors will barely handle themselves in front of the might of these two uprising stars.” Said the lord. The guy was hyped.

I am starting to feel tired I was using a lot of spiritual energy in this fight.

I have to finish things off quickly or I might find myself in trouble.

She rose back up again this time clearly grinning and smiling.

She said

“Oh I will have to apologies for calling you a weakling you are truly remarkable…why did you not use this earlier…you said you are not underestimating me so you must have reasons not to use this ‘mode’ of yours…alright time to get serious, MARTIAL POISE”

Her green aura now became slightly redder she started to swirl her glaive in a dangerous motion and charged at me. Four exchanges happened in hyper mode the audience must have only saw blurs.

Both my blades were shattered after that exchange and I am now again weapon less.

Or that is what I made her think as she struck at me with her Glaive I dodged to the right and pressed my hand forward.

Making her grunt in pain.

She fumbled a bit back and fell on her bottom.

Her hit points reached a dangerously critical level by that hit.

How? Simple.

When I used the smoke screen I actually used another spell afterwards once she was fully focused on dissipating the smoke and cutting down the clone I used a chain conjuring spell the same one that the maid-san used on Ousay the other time to restrain him and grabbed the Devourer.

 Seeing as the judge said nothing I concluded that it was within rules so I used the same mist to cover the blade and make it reflect the light behind it. It was atrociously hard to do as I had to concentrate on manipulating the light to not make it stand out.

Then I struck at her side with it when I had the opportunity. Underhanded? Yes. But this is a free for all challenge and nothing is not allowed.

I waited patiently for her to stand up as she did the same for me.

She didn’t seem to mind the way I used my weapon so she took her position again this time her aura became blood red and the hair on her helmet were flailing upwards.

Surprisingly her hit points that where at the critical stage rose quite a bit above half health…how did she do that?

But right after that they started to drop at a slow but steady pace…

It must be her berserker form, like Master said this is their ultimate form. They become ravaging beasts even deadly wounds will feel like a bee sting to them but once this mode is over the back leech is always sever.

An intelligent decision would be to just Shunpo all over the arena dodging her when she is like this until her hit points reaches 0…but I am not one to tarnish the pride of a warrior that wants to go all out.

She charged at me once more and we went on a frenzy of metal hitting metal sometimes I receive a small gash on my body and sometimes I land a successful hit on here’s yet we were still at a settlement but only she was losing Hp with every passing of a second.

More and more exchanges happened while metal hitting metal. Blocking with her shield and striking with her glaive then fully discarded her shield and grabbed her glaive in both hands.

The exchanges became faster and faster yet sadly I too was running on fumes as my Spiritual energy is almost depleted.

The first to stop will lose and I’ll be damned to win by waiting her Hp to hit 0 because of her mode

I will be the one to finish her and not some damn self-inflecting debuff.

She capitalised on a misplaced footing of mine as I was struggling to fight her while almost exhausted.

With a downward cut that would undoubtedly finish me off and my sword way too far from a good position to properly block I grabbed the blade of her glaive with my Mana arms.

Searing and screeching the Mana and the glaive aura collided another shockwave erupted while purple mixed with red smoke rose from our exchange. I was pushed to the ground knees crushing the floor below, almost squashed by the strength she is showing.

Her Hp is almost depleted and her complexion even under that helmet seemed painful.

“SHUNPO”

I used Shunpo to disappear from in front of her making the glaive strike at the ground while still managing to graze me on the left shoulder.

I finished it with an earth shattering smash to the side that finally made her hit points hit 0.

It was my victory.

**Chapter 4: Happenings.**

I Arianna Dorova head of the Mächtige Klinge was a witness to the strength showed by this man…Asura, what a frightening person.

Not only was he able to one shot another contender and finish a fight in under a couple of seconds.

He fought on par with the strongest of my school…he even won…

I knew Lori from the day she was brought to me, pitiful and scrawny, said to be the last of her tribe.

She was hard to deal with at first; she looked like an injured animal, very fragile and weak but would bite on any who approached.

It was hard making her open up to the rest. But when she did she blossomed; she became an inspiration to all the young warriors of the Mächtige Klinge.

She managed to learn all of her tribe’s techniques alone as if they were printed into her.

She was on par with master swordsmen at the age of 15 and now she would definitely put up a fight with grandmasters even the elder status after this display would be in reach.

Yet to see her lose to this young man made a distasteful taste in my mouth…

So this is your disciple, Ainz? What a frightening young man…able to both wield magic and blade with finesse and mastery far beyond his age...I would find it hard for you to have beaten him if you were both the same age…

But what was that…that sudden change in attitude that sudden burst of power…why did he struggle so much at first he almost lost…did he hold back?...no I would not think he would have not if it was Ainz that taught him the way of the blade. Did he need a warm-up before he could use more magic…probably not but I think that the judges have noticed that shift in attitude…

Anyway I need to verify things with Jibi…that kid why did he hold back in that fight he could have easily destroyed that girl in the first exchange yet he stalled and took it easy on her which made him trip and get caught in that trap of hers…she too is a special case…the amount of high grade magic spells she was casting one after the other is astonishing… any person her age would have master at max a couple or in rare cases three high grade spells…she was shooting them like there was no tomorrow…interesting…we now have more hope…

**Part 2**

(Elsewhere)

“What do you mean you don’t know...? Did you see the burst of magic he had, look here” said Asilis

In an office building that was near the stadium Asilis and Koid were arguing about the happenings in the arena.

Watching the replay of the game they were analysing the fight that was on the monitor.

Koid answered shrugging “I am sorry but I have no knowledge about magic. You are the one from Albion and if told you I would not know then I would not know…”

Seemingly unsatisfied Asilis started to rub the bridge of his nose probably to relieve some headache.

Then as if a light bulb was lit inside his head he said “I have an idea…why not fix the next match between Alsa and Astora…make arrangement that Asura faces our little devil, that guy will not fall easily and I am sure he will be a worthy enough challenge to show the full potential of our ‘product’. ”

Koid answered questioningly “What do you mean? Are you suggesting we change the agenda that the Organisation has planned? That is bound to be punishable if not for clear reasons”

Asilis said “don’t worry about that I am sure they would like it, the Masters are always in for profit and if we show the full potential of this product there will be certainly great reward.”

Koid then said “Hmm…I don’t know about that but I will see what I can do…I’ll make the next game be between Alsa and Astora so you make sure nothing goes wrong. This is the final fight for the Alsian team, and if you want it to be against Astora so be it…the Masters have ordered it to be against Astarte so to show the power of the product fairing against their three strongest but if you truly are ready to accept the consequences of the product not being fully promoted it is all on you.”

Asilis answered instantly “Just do it!”

**Part 3**

“Young lord please wait you can’t be doing this she is someone from another country and there are procedures that need to be done before…”

Two men were walking down a hallway that was headed toward the gathering room of the Alsa team

One of them was the next to be king of the Alikh country prince Ardous Giive.

The other one was his butler and consultant he was an old man probably in his sixties almost as tall as the young prince with grey hair and a well-trimmed moustache wearing a black twin tailed suit he followed the obviously smitten prince.

“I made up my mind I will make her mine by her will or by force!!”

The old man answered in a defeated tone

“But young lord she may not be a worthy person at least let me check up on her background”

The young man was now in front of the door to the room said

“That would just be a waste of time. Even so you think that I as a prince will be refused…every woman in the world would die to bed me. And this one I took direct interest in her so please if you are not supportive just remain silent.”

The door was opened wide with the prince walking gallantly inside.

A haughty look was on his face while looking at the crudely arranged quarter.

Some of the kids were lying on beds mostly the ones who just fought and are recuperating while the others were starring right back at the prince.

The first to move was a redhead girl that bowed in a manner showing that noble blood was running through her veins.

Then spoke politely and graciously “My lord, what brings you to our humble establishment?”

 The young prince nodded then said

“I am looking for the Girl who fought earlier in the arena…the one with the white hair. Where is she? I can’t see her here.”

The girl answered “My lord Yuna-san is not currently here she was watching the game that is currently being played between Astora and your country. The game just finished so she will be here soon.”

The price then said

“Then I wait.”

The redheaded girl rose back from her bowing stance and asked the young prince a question.

“Are you not interested in who won my lord?”

The young prince shrugged saying

“It doesn’t matter to me I am not here for this stupid competition…”

“Don’t you think that is rude? I believe that there are some who would not take kindly to the words you just spoke.”

He was cut off by a young man that just entered after him.

Almost as tall as the prince with black hair and a smug look the young warrior who singlehandedly beaten the ash wyvern won a victory in less than few seconds and even managed to beat the strongest young warrior of Astarte. The man’s name was Asura

The prince was obviously furious as he never was talked back too by anyone now.

“What are you intending to say kid” the last word was heavily insisted upon

“Nothing that you didn’t understand. So what is someone like you doing here?”

The prince who has now a vein popping on his forehead said “That is none of your concern. Now move aside I have better things to do than waste my time with someone like you”

As he finished his sentence. Yuna showed up right behind Asura. Once the prince noticed her, his eyes glinted and a lecherous look showed on top of his face.

He pushed Asura aside and went to welcome the new arrival that was clearly surprised by the sudden approach.

“Miss Yuna I am pleased to have met you. I have something to discuss would you mind coming with me to my chamber.”

Yuna who felt uncomfortable still answered polity.

“My lord I am surprised by your presence here but I would have to decline. The next game will start soon and I will be in it. So I have to refuse.”

The prince who has never been told ‘no’ to before was now being declined.

In a moment of anger from not having his way the prince grabbed the hand of Yuna who was caught off guard.

The prince threatened “When I say you will come with me it means you will come with me you have no right to refuse and I have no patience for your-“

Before the prince could finish his words a hand grabbed his. And with crushing force Asura squeezed making the prince cringe from pain until he let go from Yuna’s hand. Asura who now slowly pulled the prince’s hand up said calmly but in a very frightening manner to the prince “you are not to touch her, be it for your status or anything else if she does not want to follow you then she will not follow you.”

Then suddenly he threw the prince like he was a rage making him fall on his behind.

The prince now who was massaging his bruised arm was almost at tear point shouted to the butler

“Mujin kill that insolent fool!!”

The butler looked puzzled but once he saw the look on the prince’s face he made up his mind.

He faced Asura and said in an apologetic tone.

“Sorry young lad but you have picked the wrong person to infuriate”

The atmosphere around the old man suddenly changed what was once looking like a docile grandfather has now the presence of veteran in the art of war.

A true magus one who has lived a life of blood.

Channelling Mana like it was the easiest thing to do he ignited his right arm sapping the entire room from its energy leaving only the prince unharmed but to everyone else the atmosphere felt as cold as the ice. Even Yuna was having a hard time breathing.

Asura on the other hand had both his eyes scanning rapidly the surroundings.

When the magus made a fist the sound of the deliverer was heard.

Ryouka Gaz. Clan head of the blazing fire dragon representative of Alsa and lord of its capital and finally headmaster of Albion.

“Mujin, you are to stop at once!” said the clan head in the most compelling of voices making his presence well known to everyone gathered in the hall.

Seeing the headmaster the butler reluctantly dissipated his flaming hand thus making his terrorising presence disappear.

The butler said

“I am sorry lord Gaz I was just following orders.”

The clan head nodded saying

“I see.” Then looked at the fallen prince “What business do you have with my students?”

The prince stood up dusting himself and responded “I was only here for a friendly talk until this…this savage assaulted me”

The savage in question answered “well I must have missed the memo on when a friendly talk transformed from a discussion to dragging a girl by force to a man’s chamber”

The prince’s eyes widened with the lack of respect shown from Asura and the blatant ‘allegations’.

The headmaster looked at Yuna then the butler then back at the prince.

And said

“I see…Young man” addressing the prince “You are to no longer set foot into this quarter. You are not welcome and if you are in need of anything from Alsa you are to follow the formal procedures.”

The prince shouted back at the headmaster “DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM!!”

The headmaster answered with the same voice octave “DO I LOOK LIKE I CARE? SPARE ME FROM YOUR SELFISH ACTS AND LEAVE BEFORE I GET ANGRY. I WOULD HAVE CONSIDERED THIS AS AN ACT OF WAR IF IT WAS NOT FOR MY FRIENDSHIP WITH YOUR FATHER”

The prince responded in a meeker tone “”Y-you would risk war for a girl?”

The headmaster leaned forward and calmly answered “I would…even for less”

If the presence that was emitted from the magus before was compared to a smothering weight

The presence emitted from Ryouka after saying those words was like a crushing tidal wave washing over everyone in the room.

The prince whimpered after hearing that and scurried away without forgetting to say the most cliché of words

“I will remember this!” followed by the butler who bowed to the headmaster and left after the prince.

The headmaster looked back at the obviously still shaken students and said

“That was a job well done kids. Our standing in the competition has improved we may be able to take this home if we win at least four of the next games against Astora and if Alikh managed to score at least 2 wins against Astarte…I have been told that Lori from the Verda clan will be unable to participate due to a sever burnout so they will have to go with four participant…although their excellent warrior Jibi is strong I doubt he could take down all of Alikh’s members alone…”

**Chapter 5: Electrifying!!!**

As I was walking toward the arena to attend to the final match I taught to myself

*Damn I should remember not to ever piss off that old man his presence is similar to my master’s*

But that ability was quite interesting…the power to rob life…it sucked energy from everyone within the room, at first I taught it was some sort of an ice spell but after analysing it I am now certain that that spell is some sort of a death spell. I don’t know about the regulations concerning Alikh’s country on the use of Death magic but if I can remember the penalty for using it at Alsa was death…

Anyway the final fight is about to begin, and I really do need some rest, that fight with Lori drained me more than I could hope even using the Mana flux for that short of a time has strained my body.

Although I think I can afford to have a few more bouts I think I should speak to Vessma about the arrangements of the combat.

Oh speak of the devil she is here

Vessma hastily ran toward me and with a fidgeting pointing finger she said

“Y-you idiot do you know who that was? Do you have any idea what would have happen if Ryouka-sama has not intervened? Oh my god how many times do you have to prove that you are an idiotic brute that thinks of nothing but making trouble for others? Damn it”

Well that was not the kind of words I was hoping to hear

I answered her back calmly

“Well I had to do that I would hate if a stranger were to do this to a comrade, and before you continue ranting I would have done the same if he came after you.”

At the end of my words I saw a clear blush on Vessma’s face, I have no idea why that happen though.

I continued before this discussion get any more awkward.

“Now I just want to know, in what order will the fighters be in the next rounds. Should I start first and take out as many as I can? Or would you prefer that someone else make my job a little bit easier?”

She coughed a bit and spoke in a way that was much more professional

“Hmm I would like to send you first but it seems that you are still fatigued…I want to send Shiki-sama and Yuna-san first then you if they are to tire what do you think?”

She is asking my opinion? This is rare I taught that she was all bark and orders…

“I agree let them go first I think that Shiki wants a go as he only participated in the race. As for Yuna-san she needs not to stress herself I will tap in if she is to tire”

She walked away saying

“Good I think we agree on this. Good luck in the next game…I was supposed to win the group fight to make this easier…I think that we will have to rely on your brutality to win this…quite inelegant but this is all we have”

I keep wondering why does she always consider me as brute and barbarous yet she has a summon that is the epitome of savagery huh…quite ironic isn’t it…I’ll never understand this girl.

Passing the entrance to the arena I felt a wave wash over me heat and noise, the sound of thousands of people shouting in demand for battle, the smell of dirt and sweat…quite lovely actually.

Taking our seat at the booth that is next to the round platform I saw Shiki that was barely containing his excitement. What gave him away was his shaking hands and probably the sparks that were occasionally emitted from his hair.

The announcer then disrupted the chaotic noise from the audience with his boisterous voice.

“LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I will be the commentator for this game as you can guess. This is indeed the final fight for the Alsian team and the team from Astora sadly the latter will not be benefiting from wining this game as much as will the Alsian team as they have a huge difference in points. But fear not ranking third is still far better than ranking last and will still gain them some favours and rewards from this competition. So Fight well and FIGHT HARD let the strong rise and the weak be trampled”

The first to walk up to the arena was a skinny girl from the Astorian team her blue hair was cut short barely reaching her neck while her vividly blue eyes and plump lips gave her a sweet looking allure.

Shiki walked up the stairs confident as ever with sparks still coming from his hair occasionally.

They stood in front of each other waiting patiently the for the judge to announce the beginning of the fight, until the commentator said

“FIGHT START”

Then just like a Deja-vu the announcer once again said

“FIGHT OVER, WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON IN HERE???”

Shiki was still standing in his spot sow as the girl. But on a closer look the white of her eyes was showing while smoke was rising from her body

“Damn that was fast, what little monsters Alsa has brought us this year…too bad I cannot reveal the technique that Mr Youtaro has used without his consent so anyone who has saw what happen you are…wait, wait it seems that Mr Shiki also wishes that his spell to be revealed…what a weird bunch these guys from Alsa”

OH…another 1 second victory, hah, way to go Shiki.

The screen started showing what happened. It was almost instantaneous at first but after the replay ‘well I didn’t need the replay I already clearly saw everything the first time’ the scenes slowed down and showed what truly happened.

Shiki ignited his right arm with an electrical charge and had a small Mahojin on his other arm.

He crossed them in an x shape and pulled them apart with frictional force. This somehow created another Mahojin under the girl that had the same symbols of the one he had in his left arm.

After that she was out. A huge current of electrical discharge spewed forward from under the girl almost frying her if it was not for the barrier.

And what is amazing that all of this happened in under a second.

I would really suffer against a mage that could use spells with this degree of potency at this speed…I still wonder, if there was no spell limit at our school would I still have won all those games?

It seems that Shiki will be fighting for the second match his new adversary was a good looking boy almost as tall as Shiki with wavy short hair and a robust physique.

“Fight start” the beginning of the round was announced

The beginning of the game was almost a replay of the other one but with only one difference.

Shiki somehow missed. The guy managed to dodge at the last second while sending an air blast towards Shiki who surprisingly took it head on.

It sent him flying a few feet away but never did he loose his cool, he still had that creepy smile on his face as if he was beginning to enjoy himself.

And as if nothing happened he stood up and walked forward confidently. The other guy seems to be of level as he was able of a feat not many can mimic, the sole fact that he was able to dodge an attack at that speed was impressively beyond belief.

The other guy charged forward while zigzagging some of Shiki’s rapid lightning bolts’ attack.

I still had my hyper-recognition active when I noticed that Shiki began to charge his entire body with electric power.

This was the same magic he used when he fought against the twins on that day.

He began to walk slowly toward an almost frozen enemy as he started moving too fast for normal eyes to witness.

Once he was close enough he tightened his grip making a fist. With apparent exhaustion on his face that must have been caused by this obviously overtaxing ability he still gritted his teeth and swung a punch aimed at the abdomen of his enemy.

Alas that would have been a victory but surprisingly his foe disappeared from sight the instant the attack was about to make contact. Instantly appearing behind Shiki with a well-placed roundhouse kick to the side that sent Shiki rolling on the ground. Not waiting for him to stand back on his feet he charged again at him with a stomp to where Shiki was laying, a stomp that only met the hard platform but was strong enough to cave a huge portion of it in.

Shiki who was now wary of his opponent took a somewhat of a defensive pose. He had both his arms forward and his hands in a dragon claw like form with occasional kinetic discharges that sparked from finger to finger and from hand to hand. His posture was one of prudence and probably based on counterattack. Sadly if you can’t see an attack coming you can’t counter it.

He was now being tossed around. The man started appearing and disappearing from sight each time a hit was connected to Shiki. He was using the same tactic as me only his was not based on a spell like Shunpo…no it was pure speed. I taught that warrior-mages were a hard thing to become but this one was excelling at it.

Hit after hit Shiki was being toyed with.

After receiving a trashing Shiki shouted “ENOUGH!!”

And with it an impressive discharge of electricity erupted from his body making a shockwave that submerged the arena with its power.

The other guy who should have been fried received but a slight reduction in his hit points however Shiki was well in the danger zone.

After some of the dust cleared up his figure showed up. The guy was crossing both his arms in front of him. The cloth of his uniform that was on his arm was fully burnt. But he suffered little damage to his physical body.

But what was impressive that the amount of power that Shiki displayed was phenomenal. As even the platform started spewing some occasional sparks.

Shiki on the other hand looked completely exhausted. However I know that he is not someone that would give up that easily. Shiki begun to channel some of the Mana in his body to recreate a spell that I have seen before. The one where his aspect became lion like.

He begun to run near the rim of the arena circling his adversary. More and more sparks started spewing forward then the shape of the lightening beast begun to materialize.

Crackles and roars of a thunderous beast were blasting through the arena. Shiki increased his speed and began to enclose his encirclement on the guy in the middle of the arena.

This one however did not feel the least threatened as he was smirking and waited patiently.

Before Shiki could fully close in, the figure of the guy disappeared making Shiki pass on empty space. Shiki is now heading toward the rim of the stage with nothing to stop him from getting out of bounds yet he didn’t panic and somehow managed to slow himself enough to barely stop at the edge of the ring. Sadly his small success was met with utter disappointment as at that time and probably because of the lack of speed the lion shape figure disappeared and with it most of Shiki’s remaining strength.

Not to waste the chance he was struck from behind with a strong kick that sent him out of bounds and disqualified him on the spot.

The man now faced the audience and shouted loudly and proudly “WHO’S NEXT?”

**Chapter 6: Satori Hivika.**

I was sitting in our team’s private booth near the arena when Shiki came and sat next to me.

Shiki was obviously distraught, as he had a grim look on his face.

I asked him

“Common man it’s just a game. You lose some and you win some hey you even managed to destroy one of them in one hit.”

He looked at me then sighed

“It’s not that, this was a good opportunity to prove the might of our clan and to secure my seat as the next clan head…but man that guy was amazingly strong.”

I answered him with all honesty.

“I agree…it is rare to see someone move at that speed he even bested you …I can’t see myself beating him in a contest of speed… I hope that Yuna could do something Vessma didn’t want me to face him yet…I don’t know why though”

With another dejected sigh he said

“I hope so too…she seems to be our best chance against speed types and Vessma must have believed that too. Her ice is capable of hindering their movement and lowering their speed…she still needs to be extremely vigilant because with a speed like his, he can take her out the second the judges declare the start of the game…”

I snickered at his statement and reassured him saying

“Don’t worry man she is a tough nut to crack I am sure she can do something about him.”

He chuckled bit and his mood seems to have improved slightly then he said.

“Did you still not hear anything about Osfor-sensei?”

I frowned a bit at hearing that as I have totally forgot about him

“Nothing so far...he is still missing, we could really need his help. But let’s just believe in Vessma-san she seems to be quite capable even under pressure.”

Shiki started teasing me saying

“Oh so you can say nice things about her…did she perhaps seduce you in anyway?”

I snickered at his comment saying

“Like if. The beauty of a snake does not make it less lethal.”

“What was that about snakes?” said Vessma who just entered the booth.

We both looked away as if denying to have said anything but she only squinted her eyes then sighed.

“Yuna-san is up she should be able to at least tier him if not beat him…I could not believe they had someone of his calibre…he might even be a challenge to one of the school’s five monsters.”

‘she seems to be thinking highly of him if she said that…but if this guy was a challenge to her as she just said…what would Lori make. This guy is pure speed but Lori was an interesting girl as she was strong beyond belief…I really would like to have another match with her…I wonder where she is right now’

“LADIES AND GENTLEMEN as you have seen the earlier match was an epic display of speed and power. What would this game bring us? I can’t wait for it to start.”

The two contenders stood in front of each other and the game’s start was announced.

Without a second to spare Yuna casted her ice domain covering the entire platform once again in ice.

This should limit his speed as a slip will mostly result in him being disqualified.

The guy had jumped up before the ice reached his legs. And sent two air blasts toward Yuna that were repelled by two thin ice walls.

Once those walls shattered she willed the particles of ice to shoot forward and head toward the guy.

He pressed his right arm forward making a thin wind barrier repel most of the ice shrapnel.

Smirking he made a fist and struck at the ground. A wave of destroyed ice erupted and spewed all over the platform.

Most of the ice was cast aside clearing the platform and making Yuna’s situation a lot more serious.

The man lunged forward and disappeared only to reappear with his elbow in full contact with Yuna’s abdomen. Sending her rolling a few feats away, yet he did not stop he kept chasing her and each time he landed a hit it thwarted her backwards rocking her body from head to toe. The blows were hard and heavy I could almost feel them and I was not the one taking the beating…but for some reason I felt rage building up inside me.

I couldn’t care less if it was anyone else taking the beating but for some reason seeing her receive damage makes me feel bad, although it is but a imitation of the real one it still feels real.

She was not able to defend herself, she capitalised on a small opening and casted a small ice wall to stop his onslaught but to no avail as he broke through it like if it was glass and sent another hit, this one directly to her face.

Clenching my fist I growled under my breath at his methods were ‘savage’.

Perhaps I am a hypocrite, it was not long ago, I was going all out on a girl myself but seeing him doing that ticks me off.

She was close to the arena’s rim so another hit will ring her out.

But the bastard grabbed her hand and threw her inside the arena once more. A shocked expression was On Yuna’s face when she realised what he was trying to do.

Due to the fact that all of his attacks were mainly physical ones, the damage that he dealt to Yuna’s Hp was not that high. So it will mostly be a show of power.

In other words Yuna showed a high standing in magical aptitude and prowess with her versatile arsenal and multiple high grad spells. So he is trying to destroy her image using physical superiority….but to what end?

Not stopping his relentless assault he kept going at her withering her Hp bit by bit while pieces of her uniform shredded and her hair became a mess. She could cast a spell once in a while but to no avail.

As any spell she was able to use in that short period of time was nothing too threatening to this man.

Looking to my left I saw the grim looks on everyone’s face. Then Vessma said

“Asura-san…you are up next.” Then she looked in my direction with the most serious gaze and added “Destroy him!”

She then walked to the arena and signalled the judge.

The announcer then said

“THE Alsian team wishes to forfeit this round. The winner of this...”

“I CAN STILL GO ON!!!” Yuna shouted.

The announcer shocked at the strength behind that voice as it travelled throughout the entire stadium. Yuna was unrelenting and the spark of fight has not left her eyes.

She then turned to face Vessma and said.

“I will hate you for life if you force me to step down. I am not done yet.”

Then the man in front of her shrugged and said “You should probably heed their warning. You are outmatched here.”

She answered with a serious tone

“We will see about that. I never wanted to use this against a normal person. But you leave me no choice you proven to me that I am still weak and for that I am grateful but even so you will not win this round.”

The man smirked and took back his battle position

The judge then demanded the continuation of the fight.

I felt the temperature drop. It became so cold that I was able to see my own breath.

Yuna’s hair glowed white with an aura like never before seeping from her body.

Black clouds gathered and covered the once blue sky. She raised both her hands and shouted.

“ICE DRAGON LORD’S JUDGEMENT”

In an instant a massive Mahojin appeared in the sky covering almost all of the arena.

Then a ray of concentrated energy shot downward covering the entire platform with Yuna in it.

A blinding light followed then a ringing in my ear was all I could feel. Seconds passed like days

But when everything cleared ice covered the platform and the arena and was barely contained by the barrier.

Where Yuna was standing was a cocoon like tulip made of ice and she was inside it. The other guy had his arms crossed in front of his face and was facing upwards. He became a status like figure made of ice.

The tulip opened and Yuna walked out. Exhaustion and fatigue was apparent on her, I bet that she can’t continue anymore.

“I JUST CAN’T!!! ARE ALL ALSIANS GENIUSES!!! THAT WAS DEFINITELY AN S CLASS SPELL how was this young girl able to master such a spell at such a young age what a frightening country Alsa is.”

Amazing. An S class spell. This girl is something alright she was already strong enough now this just fortifies her standing as the strongest young magician here. As I was told by Osfor not anyone can reach the S class stage of a spell. His took years to develop and his SS class was something he wish not to speak about. Probably because it was way harder but to see Yuna casting a spell of that magnitude fills me with pride.

Although I’ve casted a spell an S tire spell it was only because the eye was helping; she however managed to master it after god knows how much time, effort and dedicating.

As a witness of the power of high grade spells I can almost assure that that man is long gone.

His Hp are not 0 but are 20% and rapidly declining. This must be the freeze effect.

However as the cruel fate can only decide the ice surrounding the man cracked and then shattered, enraged and wrathful the man shouted to the heavens.

I felt a strong tug once he shouted; my heart almost stopped.

He then spoke. In a way that made me remember that thing.

“You…are dead.”

How is this possible…why does he give the same feeling as that metallic demon.

He disappeared from sight and grabbed Yuna by the back of her head and smashed it downward.

She tried getting back up only to receive a kick to the side that sent her rolling. Clearly disoriented and in pain she still pushed her arm forward trying to cast a spell to repel the man only to have him disappear and grabbing her arm. Then like if she was a toy he swung her body smashing it to the ground.

At that instant her HP hit0 and she was out. Yet the bastard was not satisfied and kept hitting her until the judge intervened stopping the man from further harming the girl.

All that time I stood and watched one of my friends getting hurt. She will probably recover. Although the barrier will prevent her from bodily harm she will still suffer an equivalent mental pain. And seeing my friends getting hurt is not something I like.

At that moment, I was sitting at the booth with both my hands clasped on each other and supporting my chin. I did not notice it at first but the amount of spiritual energy that my body was releasing was enough to make anyone shiver.

Calming myself a bit I stood and walked toward the arena

Yuna was carried out by men wearing purple I taught that she would have fainted but she was wide awake with her eyes watering up she was trying to stop herself from crying…was it that painful to her or was the loss in itself what made her like this. Doesn’t matter today this man will suffer.

The announcer then spoke. His voice was hoarse as if he had seen something disgusting.

“The victor of last game was Satori Hivika. A good strategy albeit cruel taking advantage of the enemy’s moment of weakness after using a high tier spell. Amazingly a spell that level would have certainly incapacitated some of the strongest warriors. Quite the body you have there, kid. Now the next match will begin shortly. It will be Asura Shirogami vs. Satori Hivika. Let the match begins”

Once the game begun the guy spoke this time in a manner that was much saner than earlier.

“So the hero has emerges, the one that will defeat me and bring honour to his country and team. But I should warn you young ‘hero’ I am not as lenient as the ones you have met. And I can assure you that I am much stronger than that girl who had almost beaten you. So give it your all. And fail as that is what-”

“Bla-bla-bla…are we here to fight or are you going to keep talking all day?”

The guy as if insulted frowned and vanished from sight.

My hyper recognition was activated the second he disappeared a punch was aimed at my face from my right side without needing to dodge I hastily raised my right arm and stopped his punch.

He had quite the power behind that strike but too bad my buffs were already active and stopping a power based hit is nothing to me as his compared to master’s is but a joke.

Shocked he disappeared again this time from the other side only to be stopped again with a single hand.

Again he disappeared but this time I had no intention of blocking.

He appeared in front of me aiming his knee to my abdomen. A swift sidestep and a forceful grab to his face by my right arm and the back of his head was smashed to the ground. I said “you Like the taste of your own medicine?” Keeping my grip on his face I raised his body and sent him rolling.

Seeing the clear difference in power the audience cheered.

Walking slowly toward the man who was now groggily standing up trying to regain his posture, I disappeared.

I used Shunpo to appear at his right side aiming a low kick to the back of his knee. Another Shunpo to appear in front of him with a straight punch to the stomach making him cave in.

Followed by a rising knee to the face that made him spring backwards, not to wait another second I used Shunpo to appear at his side. His body was almost hanged in air. I acted rapidly with a full leg extension to the sky then a downward cutting motion I struck him into the ground.

I taught this guy would be much stronger…he must have suffered from the damage that Yuna has dealt him.

However his Hp has not decreased by a lot even after all of that beating from me Yuna and Shiki hi is still standing strong.

He stood up this time laughing as a maniac

“IS THAT ALL” he said.

Then charged at me with a speed far beyond what he has showed before. Nothing I can’t handle though.

Using Shunpo to dodge and using it to attack again. With this guy I cared not for an honest game as I was channelling manna flux before the fight even begins. An opening I perceived and took advantage of is when he used a wide motion to strike at me. This guy was skilled but not enough he has a good grasp over martial arts but not on a master’s level.

The opening gave me the chance to hit him with a wind palm. It hand enough force to knock him back. Followed up by another Shunpo and another wind palm. Then another then another and I kept going. Every time I struck he would be pushed back his body rising from the floor and before he could set foot I would strike again before he could reach the rim of the platform I used Shunpo behind him and with a strengthened roundhouse kick to the back I sent him back to the inside of the platform.

I was not done with him.

For what he did to Yuna. For making her cry I would make him Beg for his life. I would make him plead for mercy, mercy that he will not receive…the hell?

What am I thinking? Did I always think like this…I know I am furious but why did I ever think of torturing and making another person suffer…

Another tug pulls me from my self-exploring back into reality.

Black fume was rising from Satori’s body. He stood up. Eyes crimson red and fangs emerging. Blood veins popping all over his face. He took a deep breath and breathed out. Then began looking at himself. Almost admiring his arms he looked onto his body with great care.

Then looked at me.

A possessed Contractor.

“LADIES AND GENTLEMEN THE GRAND TOURNAMENT IS SUSPENDED I REPEAT THE GRAND TOURNAMENT IS SUSPENDED!!! EVERYONE TAKE THE EXIT. TO ALL THE ENFORCERS YOU ARE TO APPREHEND THE PARTICIPANT SATORI. USE ALL NECESSARY MEANS. ASURA…RUN!”

**Chapter 7: when things go south**

“Damn-it, damn-it, damn-it, it was going so well…now they will be infuriated…damn it…” said Asilis who was still watching the game in the same room as before.

Koid then as if adding salt to the wound said

“I told you so. This was a rash plan, that kid as you have said yourself is a strange and unexpected variable. His strength was enough to force the transformation of Satori. This kid was the result of years and years of work by the organisation. They were aiming to create humans with strong physical traits and able to wield magic. This kid was the result of a successful transfusion between a demon and a human being. And now that the human part has lost its control…it is deemed as a failed project. Even Migado was barely able to sustain his form against this kid…as for satori whom the test showed to have the highest sync ratio with demonic existence he was a true discovery and now that he also transformed I bet that the organisation will not stand silent at this…and you my friend I think that you blew your last chance.”

Asilis answered in rage “Do you think I don’t know that! But I will never approve of this. There is no way that that kid was able to surpass Satori in strength and speed without having some sort of booster. The mana readings coming from his body are all over the place. At first it was compact and surrounding his body like a tight cover and now it is burning like a sun…this is not something a normal person is capable of…there has to be something…”

Koid then said “You are wasting your time looking for something that is not there if I were you I would try and escape from here…although I think that it will be futile as the organization is everywhere.”

Asilis who was still wrathful exploded at Koid saying “SHUT UP! I will not run until I know the secret behind that kid’s power…I should probably get answers from Osfor…he must have an idea…wait what the hell is happening there?”

Koid looked at the direction where Asilis was looking and noticed that the monitor was displaying a fight between the enforcers and Satori

The enforcers were surrounding the arena, more than twenty of them.

They all had spells on the ready and fully prepared to subdue the possessed kid. The audience was fleeting and running toward the exits while the enforcers enclosed on satori.

This guy however had a thick and foul aura surrounding him. Like a miasma of blackness seeping from his body and covering it. The enforcers were wary of that smoke and Asura who was looking at the scene shocked could only back away.

The possessed looked straight into Asura’s direction and howled. A deafening sound almost ear-splitting resounded from its inhumanly widened mouth.

The miasma then took a distinctive shape, tentacle like, and spread toward every enforcers. Some of them were caught off guard not even able to cast their magic.

As for the rest anything they shot toward the possessed was rendered useless. Every spell dissipated at the contact of that miasma. And every enforcer touched by those tentacle like substance became a husk like figure, drained from bodily fluids almost mummified.

The Possessed walked forward heading toward Asura who now was trying to get off stage, only to be blocked by the rising of the smoke tentacles from underground that appeared in front of him, stopping him from ever moving forward.

He turned and faced the possessed preparing for the worst.

The Enforcers joint him and begun channelling a spell, not giving the possessed a chance to react Asura summoned his sword and changed its form into a long saw teethed sword with a wicked tip that was like a long needle.

He charged toward the Possessed dodging the rising tentacles one by one.

Ripping apart any that blocked his way he moved forward , noticing that a few spells casted from the surrounding enforcers were about to make contact with the possessed, he took the chance to slice at his miasmic shield.

At first the sword was unable to penetrate as the fumes hissed and forced the sword back. But with applying more strength the veil broke apart and the sword cut the possessed diagonally from the chest area making black blood spray out.

Enraged at the unexpected turn of event the possessed howled again making most of the tentacles shake in sync with it. Now they began their hunt chasing after Asura. He began using his Shunpo to dodge some of them but clear signs of exhaustion were apparent. The kid fought hard today against many opponents and now he is fighting for his life.

The possessed then took the initiative and charged forward his speed was several times higher than before and now only after images of him were apparent.

It would only take one touch to end Asura’s life and with a speed like this there is no way that Asura will survive.

The sword on Asura’s hand elongated becoming like a snake, while the possessed got closer the movements of Asura’s hand made the chain-sword dance into a violent storm of blades. Slicing at any image of the possessed, dissipating it into nothingness but to no avail.

Then out of nowhere Asura was thrown aside like a ragdoll from an unexpected strike at his left side.

This was all that the possessed needed to end Asura’s life. As with a single touch he was able to corrupt him.

**Part 2**

A never ending blackness, I felt myself float into a bottomless abyss. I turned and swirled but to no avail, I could only float helplessly into this bottomless sea of darkness.

‘Am I dead? I remember fighting that monster…lately this is all I have been fighting isn’t…’

A dim light began to shine far into this dark realm then I felt my body pulled toward it.

At first the pull was slow then it gradually increased in speed. Until I finally spawned into a room that was quite familiar.

‘Wait a second I remember this place…this is the throne room of that self-proclaimed God of war…why did I forget about this…’ I taught to myself

And as if he could hear me think he answered.

“I do not claim to be a god of war…I AM THE GOD OF WAR ASHURA BE MY NAME AND YOU ARE NOT TO DISRESPECT IT EVER AGAIN!!!” that voice was sordid and loud heard from everywhere but coming from no particular location.

And as if he was trying to impress me he appeared in front of me tall and mighty with his oppressive aura seeping from the pores of his skin like a tide of death.

Looking down on me he added this time calmly but not less threateningly.

“Who is he?”

I answered almost automatically

“Who is who?”

Enraged and clearly irritated he shouted in my face.

“WHO IS THAT DAMNABLE CREATURE THAT HAS POSSESSED THIS BODY OF YOURS!!!?”

I answered unknowingly what was truly happening

“I have no idea what you are talking about…this seems like a déjà vu don’t you think?”

He then responded while all of his arms made a fist like grip and relaxed them as if calming himself.

“You don’t know anything do you…let me tell you boy. You have two entities residing within this body. I only awoke a few months ago but something was sleeping in this body of yours for more than a decade. I was only able to clearly see it once you were struck by that fiend and now it has taken control over your body…what is going on…”

I asked in fright and in demand for immediate response

“What do you mean? Are you saying that the contract was activated?”

The god of war questioningly spoke

“Contract? Did you forge a contract with a demonic existence? YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT AN ASHURIAN HAS SIDED WITH DEMONIC BEINGS?!! I SHOULD END YOU RIGHT NOW AND SPARE OUR NAME THE HUMILIATION OF THIS DAY!!”

I answered hastily trying to explain the situation

“Actually that contract was forced upon me and I have no power over it. It was made to increase my lifetime as I was supposed to be dead 10 years ago. But what is this Ashurian you speak of?”

He howled at my question and spoke

“You are the last of us. You are my only remaining descendant. You are a descendant of a god… but you clearly don’t act like it. Now that this demon has possessed your body it will be almost impossible to release you from it. Yet there is a way for you to regain control.”

“Then what is it?” I said

“I will channel a fraction of my power to you. This should be enough to overload your body and make the demon lose control…by that time you should be able to seize control over your body…you will only have one chance.”

I answered full of hope.

“Seems simple enough what are we waiting for?”

He had a grim look on his face when he spoke then next few words.

“There is a catch however…depending on the power needed to destabilise the demon’s control, the link between us might weaken. And the weaker it gets the greater the time I will not be able to assist you. We will be separated for a duration and in this time you will be on your own. If you get corrupted again you will forever lose that body and your soul will be destroyed.”

“Ok that is great and all…but tell me one last thing, why was I not able to remember you when I last met you…I seem fully aware of this place now but if I awoke will I forget again?”

He said in pride

“You were not ready to know who I am. And you still are not. But this time I need you to know who you are… from this moment onward you will not forget about this place nor what I have told you now close your eyes and prepare yourself because this is going to hurt.”

**PART 3**

I know that I was being stubborn when I asked the personnel to not take me to the infirmary after losing against that satori…but I never knew that I would regret it.

‘What the hell is happening?’ I taught to myself while shocked by the events unfolding in front of my own eyes.

“WE NEED TO GO NOW YUNA-SAN IT IS NOT SAFE HERE!!” said Vessma-san frightened and almost panicking.

“I answered we cannot leave Asura there alone he will die”

She said trying to pull me by the arm

“You are still drained from the earlier fight you can’t do anything to him…and I am sure that the enforcers will be more than capable of stopping that demon so please let’s just leave..”

Right after she said that I felt a gust of wind then black smoke rose from the stadium. The barrier was supposed to stop people from taking real damage but that miasma seems to be able to negate it…it corrupts magic. This is the same thing that happened when I faced that metallic mage he rendered my attacks useless. If this continues Asura will really die.

As I saw Asura making his way toward the possessed I taught.

“What the hell is he doing he is charging head on onto that monster he will die like this…”

Seeing him fight like that made me feel a bit of pride as he is now fighting for his life but not even looking frightened dodging attacks like if they were nothing and masterfully using that strange sword of his…I can almost feel jealous at his ability to fight through hardship at impossible odds…he truly is a remarkable person I wish I had half his courage…I would have been able to prove myself to those who have abandoned me…

Then out of nowhere I saw Asura fall…how? He was dodging just fine how come he received damage? I saw nothing…

Vessma then cried when she saw the tentacle made of smoke swirl and engulf Asura’s body.

They began to drain it from life but a moment after the smoke began to disappear.

Asura showed signs of life as he took a deep breath making all the smoke surrounding him disappear.

The possessed spoke

“WHO…ARE…YOU?”

Asura then spoke in a way that made me shiver and tremble from fear, foul and unwholesome the air turned. This was the same feeling I had that night…His voice confident, strong yet frightening. He said the next words

“My identity is of no use to you as you are breathing your last breath.”

This was the same voice I heard that night…

The possessed talked back

“You dare threaten… me, a greater demon… you must be wishing for… death.”

Then Asura spoke back as if annoyed

“I do not wish to listen to your incoherent ramblings anymore…die”

Once he said that he raised his hand and made the same black tentacles that the possessed was controlling move to his will. They all charged at the formerly called satori and began to suck the life out of him. He shouted and screamed but to no avail as his life was being drained more and more. He then began to beg for his life asking for Asura to spare him but those pleads only fell on deaf ears as an inhuman grin appeared on Asura’s face almost ecstatic at the pain and pitifulness that the possessed is now showing.

Then out of nowhere he stopped the possessed was now barely alive. Only skin remained on his bones as he looked up to the towering Asura he said one last thing.

“Please spare me my lord…I am sorry to have overstepped my…”

Then his skull was crushed in as Asura stomped it with little to no effort.

Asura began to look all over his body then he took an interest to his wrists. He jerked both his arms and made two black circles appear. Those circles as if alive blossomed a tattoo all over his arms. Then he jerked his arms to the side making black chains emerge from the middle of both his palms. Each chain penetrated the chest of every enforcer that was still alive around the arena.

Those chains were ethereal as they did no physical damage but once Asura pulled his arms I was even able to see the very soul of those men. He gathered the energy from his victims and made it into a ball of blue light he then eat it…

“TO ALL AVAILABLE TEACHERS, STAFF AND ANY WHO HAS AT LEAST AN ELDER STATUS OR MAGUS HEAD TO THE ARENA. ASURA WAS POSSESSED BY A DEVIL-LORD I REPEAT WE HAVE A DEVIL-LORD ON THE LOOSE. TO ALL STUDENTS AND AUDIENCE GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!!!”

Said the lord of this region as he was obviously shaken and fearful.

“THE DEVIL-LORD IS USING DEATH MAGIC, TAKE EXTREME CAUTION I HAVE NOW MADE THE ARENA INTO A TELEPORT BLOCKED AREA THE DEVIL MUST DIE HERE AND CANNOT BE PERMITTED TO ESCAPE.”

‘D-devil lord…Asura turned into a devil lord…h-how? Why? if someone was contacted by a demonic existence they get corrupted and become mindless killing machines…the only exception is the contractors…as they lose their body to the demon and make it fully manifest itself…was Asura a contractor all this time…he was manipulating us all this time…”

The devil-lord then took the sword and looked at it. He then said

“Old friend…it’s been a long time since we have last met…how about another blood bath?”

Then the sword as if rejoicing shrieked and hissed it transformed into a scimitar with a dragon’s face as hilt then the blade disappeared. A steel pole emerged from the bottom of the hilt and the dragon shaped hand guard upchucked a deep red jewel. Transforming into an unwholesome staff.

This is the same weapon of that wretched night… sob…it was him all along wasn’t it. He tricked me.

Hordes of teachers and members from different countries entered the arena in hopes of stopping the new-born threat.

Spells began to cast and magic was being summoned, some types I have never seen before not only elemental magic even rare types of curses and hexes were being conjured. Mana began to gather in the arena as everyone was preparing to blast the devil into nothingness.

The devil then spoke.

“Oh young Asura I cannot thank you enough…you have awoken the eye and now it is mine to use HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH”

Everyone blasted the devil off with their magic at the same time.

Massive explosions and outburst echoed throughout the arena that I had to cover my face from the impeding rise of dust.

“IT IS FUTILE!!!”

Said the clearly unharmed devil as not a hair was damaged on his body.

He looked exactly like Asura but his right eye shun bright red.

“WITH THIS EYE AND MY ABILITY NO MAGIC CAN DO ME HARM. NOW PERISH!!”

With those words a black wave of death erupted from his body whenever it washed over someone their very soul would be pushed outside of their body and they would flop helplessly to the ground.

Overpowered and distraught the remaining survivors banded together. Then the devil spoke once more.

“Feeble humans…where is your old might…you have accepted ‘their’ decree and became satisfied with living here in this damnable cage…WE DO NOT WISH TO BE ENTRAPPED HERE, WE DO NOT WISH TO REMAIN HERE, WE WILL BRING DOWN YOUR FRAIL AND UNWORTHY RACE AND CLAIM BACK OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE…what is this smell…You…my mission can finally be complete”

He looked at me when he said those words, me now who is feeling tear drops streaming down her cheeks. I felt betrayed that the same person that I began to care for was the reason for all of my trouble…

I prepared for the worst when he was walking toward me then he screamed in pain. Howled and screeched as he dropped to his knees.

“HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE…DAMN YOU…I CANNOT GO NOW…NOT NOW…”

A moment later he closed both his eyes then

“Holy shit that was painful…euhh why is everyone looking at me that way?”

**Chapter x Lost Hope**

 “NOW IT’S THE CHANCE, KILL HIM!!!” said one of the guys that were surrounding me

I am feeling a bit lost here I was told by Ashura that that other entity took over my body…thankfully that method of his destabilized it momentarily for me to regain control over my body…but this is wired before I lost control I was sure that I was well past complete exhaustion but now I feel more energized than ever…I can even see the flows of mana clearly…what the hell is going on here?

As I was absentmindedly trying to figure out what was happening I forgot about the few persons who were around.

One of them casted a spell that was…well lethal is the least I could describe it with as it was clearly an S grad spell shaped like python that was made of magma…

The hyper recognition mode activated making me feel time slowing down considerably…now if I remember correctly I used to be able to see people move at a slow pace but now…they all seem to be frozen in place. Even oncoming spells are not moving…was this the doing of that entity?

Yet what is amazing is the fact that I can move about without the slowing effect…but what the hell is this thing in my hand? That hilt…it looks like my sword’s first form? Is this a new form? It looks like a magic-staff…now what should I do? I’ll try and dodge these attacks first then probably try and explain this situation…

As I moved from that location I willed the time effect to slow down, immediately after that an explosion erupted that made a huge crater where I was standing…that would have hurt…a lot.

I raised my hands and said

“Wait everyone please calm down there is a misunderstanding here!!”

Then another man said

“DO NOT TRUST HIM. DID YOU SEE HOW HE IS IMBUING HIS VOICE WITH MANA? HE IS TRYING TO MIND MANIPULATE YOU, DO NOT BE DECEIVED. KILL HIM NOW.”

My voice? Oh crap that is the same thing Osfor-sensei told me about…wait a minute does that mean I am already using man flux?

Again right before I could react the hyper recognition activated again making everything seem frozen in place.

Multiple spells were casted at my location but when I tried to move I felt sluggish and slow.

My right eye began to hurt and I could feel the effect destabilising. I did however manage to dodge the attacks but I think that mode is no longer tangible…I believe that whatever that entity did to me is now wearing off and judging by the way these guys are reacting they will not be convinced with words…I should just get out of here…teleportation seems to be the best way out so let’s just do it.

Activating the Mahojin needed for the teleportation spell was not that difficult but I was a bit overwhelmed with the sheer number of spells and people trying to take me down…

Using mana clad I summoned the black shield and made it into multiple square shields that surrounded me they had a simple purpose although they’re not as strong as the one with the condensed form that I used that time with Osfor sensei they should be enough to stop most of these A class spells and even grow stronger when they feed on their energy.

I managed to finish the teleportation spell but surprisingly it did not activate…I was somehow blocked from getting out of here.

Then surprisingly someone as if explaining what was happening said

“Stupid devil don’t know that the barrier is now blocking him from teleporting away. Focus fire on a single point and destroy that shield of his.”

So the barrier is blocking me…should I overpower it with a disintegration spell? Nah it’s too risky I might fall unconscious…I can’t get out of here…wait a second…if I can’t get out can I get things in?.

If they do not wish me to exit…then all I have to do is make them lose the will to fight.

I then shouted

“REVERSE SUMMONING.” This is a spell I developed myself after studying the same teleportation spell that took us from Osfor’s cabin to the fairy forest. Of course with the help of Osfor-sensei.

What I had in mind was a bit of an overkill…I called the one thing that could help me deal with hordes of enemies…the four sentinels. They were placed at the entrance of Albion for the sake of decoration and bringing them here actually was not that straining. As it was mush difficult to transport living things than inanimate objects.

Four great blue Mahojin appeared around me then from them they emerged. Kneeling to me they rose from the ground and took their positions. Majestic and imposing the four heroes arrived to my aid. I fuelled them with mana until the runes on their bodies shun with glee and left them to do their thing.

I jumped to the Elven sentinel’s shoulder and willed the other three to surround us. The Elven sentinel nocked her bow backwards and aimed to the sky. A massive mana arrow shot forward aimed at the barrier’s ceiling. The arrow made little to no damage to it.

However I willed her again to shoot another type of arrow. This one similar to the one she used against those monsters. The one that splintered into a thousand particle.

Another shot toward the sky and the arrow rained on everyone gathering down. Although most of them were still shocked by the appearance of these four giants they still managed to react and try to protect themselves. I still believe in the power of the barrier to prevent them from actually dying if they receive heavy blows so I will go all out on them.

Willing the warrior sentinel to use his two handed sword to my bidding, he pierced the ground making it crack seismically. Then fire rose from the fissures forcing some of the personnel on the way to move aside. The seismic cut stopped at the borders of the barrier surrounding the arena.

I felt a huge surge of mana behind me and I knew that someone was preparing another high grad spell an S class one. So before I could even react I felt that the paladin sentinel understood me and moved on its own he raised his shield up and conjured his personal barrier.

Effectively blocking that magmatic attack…the guy using it must have immense amounts of mana as only one use of an S grade spell can be quite draining.

The same guy then said

“Huff…don’t let that devil escape he must pay for his crimes…”

What the hell are they talking about…now that I have a higher perspective…what the hell are those mummified corps like- oh my god did I do that?

While I was thinking that I felt a familiar mana being conjured then a freezing ice bolt was shot toward me. Without realising it the cleric sentinel raised his mace and stopped the frost bolt with it.

He then proceeded into healing the paladin sentinel as he took some damage from blocking that spell.

I looked at the direction of that attack then noticed that Yuna was still here.

A crying face and an angry look met mine…she then proceeded into summoning another spell.

Is she thinking that I did this…do they all see me like a devil?

I tried to explain to her but every time I was impeded with these pestering bugs.

I then willed the sentinels to go all out on them not to spare a single one…explaining after this might be a bit of a pain but it is much better than getting caught or worse killed…

The elven sentinel began to shoot arrow after arrow blasting anyone off and almost instantly dropping anyone that was touched by one of her arrows unconscious. Even those who tried to use a protective type of spell wither be it a barrier or a shield made of an element suffered from the heavy damage dealt to them by the pure mana arrows.

The warrior kept swinging his two handed sword wreaking havoc into their ranks. Even while the four of those sentinels were busy fighting off the hundreds of the incoming personals and teachers I too was busy holding off some of the ‘stray’ spells…

This is too damn frustrating…I am beginning to feel tired, sustaining all of these spells at once is too demanding…I am however still surprised as the death curse did not activate yet…

There is no other choice I must use it…this is the only way I know that could destroy something of that magnitude…but if I use it I will probably lose consciousness…wait a second…that teleportation spell is already conjured…if I can destroy that barrier and use the Mahojin to get away from here I can make it out…this could work.

But before I could even channel the disintegration spell someone used an earth spell to shake the entire ground below the sentinels…they held ground but I fell, still I managed to land on my feet but that did actually placed me in very awkward position. I was surrounded from all sides…I did feel powerful and mighty above the sentinel but now that I am in the open this feels very dangerous.

It doesn’t matter I still landed near the teleportation Mahojin So I just have to destroy the barrier and get out of here.

I remembered when Osfor-sensei told me that to correctly and safely use that spell I need a powerful insulator…and looking at my right hand, my sword that is now transformed into a staff might do the job…no time for experimentations I will just have to use it…

I willed the four sentinels to guard me from all incoming threats while I aimed at the ceiling of the barrier and channelled the disintegration spell.

Raising the staff up high the red crystal resonated with the mana that I began to fuel it with.

The mana that began to swirl and gather around the staff was immeasurable…is this thing too powerful or is it the effect of that demonic existence as I could still feel my ability to use mana-flux being stronger than ever.

While I began to use the spell I noticed that most of the teachers became wary and paused they must have been surprised to see that I was able to use an S class spell.

I grinned at their reaction and kept on going. The Mahojin completed its formation and the ray of concentrated magic shot forward destroying the barrier with almost no resistance. The shattering of it was like music to my ears as it sounded like freedom.

Then the exhaustion hit me like a train I felt my body weaker than ever and I was barely able to support myself.

Quickly trying to use the Mahojin to get out of here. I looked one last time in the direction of Yuna before I left. However she was not there, no she is now on the platform few feet away from me…what is she doing here why did she got up…is she trying to get an explication of what happened?

Many questions spun in my head but I was distracted with the fact that the hyper recognition activated on its own…however, only the lesser mode as Yuna still seemed to be moving.

But when I took a closer look it seemed that a teacher is now casting a high grade spell it was a concentrated acid breath that was aiming at me. and that position…No she is in the line of fire, if I teleport away now she will be struck from behind and with the barrier down she will most likely not survive it…

Barely able to stand I gathered my remaining strength and moved forward to intercept her and casted the black shield behind her making the acid attack clash into it. The acid was unable to corrode it but it still heavily damaged the ground.

Sighing a breath of relief I coughed and wretched blood.

I felt my chest becoming colder and when I took a look down I saw it.

Yuna’s heaven impaling javelin was piercing the right side of my chest.

The look on her face was of grief and anger...yet I could still see sadness hidden under those expressions.

I felt my right eye shutting down and the link to the sentinels being cut. The Mahojin that was supposed to teleport me away broke and the black shield dissipated.

She let go of the spear while I fumbled backward before falling saying but one last word.

“Why?”

**Chapter X what needed to be done!**

**Part 1**

“The-the eye…THIS IS IT!!! IT WAS THE EYE!! Damn it we have to act now” said Asilis

Koid replied with an annoyed voice

“What is it now…you know that you won’t get more chances?”

Asilis replied “No you don’t seem to understand…this is the eye of the wise that kid is using it…forget about the ability to reinforce mages’ bodies so they could use both magic and martial arts…and think of it this way. That eye grants any who use it the ability to fully understand the basic behind any type of magic and replicate it…this was supposed to be a myth but after analysing the facts it all seem to fit…the power surges, the ability to revive ancient artefacts to reproduce lost magic and even use mana flux oh my god it all fits this kid was using this eye for so long…this would benefit the organization more than ever…we need his body, do whatever it takes to get his body and believe me it will be worth it.”

“Are you not just making an excuse to spare yourself the guillotine? This seem too convenient for you

…” said Koid with a tone of mistrust.

Asilis angrily replied

“Damn it man, I am telling the truth…even more don’t you believe that a devil-lord’s body would be more beneficial to the organization than a failed experiment…think it through, we can get a better standing with them”

“Hmm it does seem tempting…alright just because we were friends why not. “ Said Koid then he pressed a button near the dashboard in front of him.

He then spoke announcing to any who heard his message to acquire the body of the fallen devil.

A grin showed on Asilis’s face as for once his ideas began to move according to plan.

**Part 2**

I Shiki Youtaro the next head to the lightening beast clan stood inside the quarter room of the Alsian team. Everyone is shocked by what we just saw…Yuna the ice queen just cold heartedly pierced through the chest of Asura, the one who everyone taught to be her boyfriend. That man who saved me from certain death when he risked his life against that metallic mage, and contributed greatly against that invasion…turned out to be a contractor Asura the friend I taught is a god damn devil-lord.

I have just witnessed the end unfolding of this badly scripted nightmare and I can say that its damn author is despicably wicked…

This gut wrenching feeling I am now having is tearing me apart…how is this possible I shared a damn room with that man we spoke like true friends we even chassed skirts together…no that was just me.

But damn I was fooled…no everyone was fooled by his impeccable act. They say contractors could blend in with human life and cannot be discovered due to their ability to comprehend the memories and feeling of their host but I never taught it would be this potent. He even feigned embarrassment when he got lucky and managed to find himself in the girls’ locker room…

I could only feel bad for Yuna…she must have had it really bad. They just started dating and now she is forced to do this, no one should be in her position…damn this cruel fate.

I took another look at the faces of everyone in here, they all looked exhausted and some even looked frightened.

Vessma who I taught would be spewing profanities against Asura is now more silent then I have ever known her to be.

Yuna then entered the quarter her mascara was running. Clearly showing that she has cried a lot. This only made me feel more pain…she must be going through hell right now.

Feeling the urge to try and console her I tried to comfort her but she spoke first.

“I-I finally did it…sob…The one that killed my parents…he is finally dead…Sob…”

What? What is she talking about?

Before I could ask her anything she feinted right into my arms, probably the exhaustion from all the fighting and the stress of these unfortunate events have just caught up.

“WE NEED TO GO NOW!!” said a voice I clearly recognise.

Ryouka Gaz just entered the building. He looked furious and agitated. Next to him was the principal and two of the school’s staff.

Vessma asked with a monotonous tone

“Why?”

The principal intervened

“There is no time to waste. If we do not leave now things will get complicated”

I answered almost automatically

“They already did”

Men in black, dozens of them entered the room behind both the principal and the headmaster and surrounded all of us.

The headmaster took an offensive stance and ignited both his hands making all the men in the room unconsciously step back. The sheer amount of pressure released from him was suffocating.

A man who seemed too buffed to fit in his suit walked in between the line of the other men,

He fixed his glasses then calmly said

“Mr Gaz. We do not wish for any complications. You may be able to power yourself out of this situation. But I can assure you that your students will not. So please surrender yourself as you are responsible for this blunder”

The old man still taking his stance answered

“I do not believe the words of the organization…you dared and crossed me once and now you dare do it again. And now you are using the students to twist my hand…I will step down once I am certain that every one of them is safe.”

“They may leave we only need you” said the same man

With a nod from the old man the principal took action. She summoned a magic circle in the middle of the hall and gestured to all the students to step inside.

Before we could teleport away the headmaster released his stance and let the men capture him but he still said one last thing.

“Kazehara I leave all the work left to be done to you.” She nodded with a tear dropping on her left cheek then he turned to me and said

“Shiki…take care of my grandson”

Then we were out.

We teleported near the aircraft that got us here and were hurriedly pressed ti get in.

Leaving Quietus I felt a bit of relief but I still had that bugging feeling about Asura…

If he truly was a contractor…why would he bother doing all of that for us?

**Part 3**

A small conference was held in a room that was designed to host those who are of the highest standing in society.

The room was decorated with various artefacts including shields and swords from an age long gone even the walls had the head of several animals a d sacred beasts stuck to it as decoration.

The room had a wide window that the queen Elianor was looking through. As for the other three figures they were all seated around a round table in the middle of the room.

“This is outrageous!!” said the queen of the Astartian kingdom

“Your majesty this is for the best…even I did not think it would be possible for Asura to be one of those things…I would have never agreed for Mr Gaz to be apprehended like that especially by those people. But the fact that I received information telling me that Osfor was doing illegal experiments here in my city made me act like this…it’s better for us that they handle these things.” Said the lord of the Quietus region

“I knew Ryouka Gaz since long…he is a ravenous beast when his pride is damaged and I can assure you that your actions here against him will not go unpaid for.” Said the minister of defence Gligan Brisht

“Will someone at least understand my position here…I have my back to the wall I cannot do anything else…the people will lose faith in us if we do not deliver punishment…and not only from this region all of yours…they will think we became soft and this will only lead to more trouble we have to act firm and decisive.” Said the lord while massaging the bridge of his nose.

“I do agree with lord Koldich” said the prince Ardous Giive then added “those savages needed to be disciplined and this just showed us their true colours. I say that that man to be executed as he is the one responsible for all of the deaths of the enforcers and the people who fought to stop that thing.”

The queen roared in anger and replied to the boy that was acting with clear prejudice against the Head of the Alsian country.

“BOY. Dare again disrespect that man’s name and it shall be the last thing you say. And one more thing not only Asura was possessed I think his possession was triggered because he came in contact with the kid from the Astorian team”

The minister rose from his seat and shouted

“What are you trying to say Queen Elianor?”

“Exactly what you are thinking. You should also be held responsible for that kid.”

“Now listen up” said the lord of the region with a high pitched voice that clearly depicted his growing displeasure. “We do not want to destabilise this already fragile peace between all of the countries of this damn land. I assure you that I will get the lord Gaz back from their hands as soon as I can. As for Asura’s body or the professor Osfor I cannot as they were held on firmer evidences and cannot be released.”

“Why do we have to listen to them? We could crush them and get what is ours” said the queen

“It is without doubt the thing I wish to do the most but as they are now they cannot be eradicated from these lands without sever setbacks. They hold great economic influence over all of our countries and were partially the reason why all of us stood back on our feet. Taking them down right now will probably instil a civil war that could threaten our very own existence.” Said the lord Koldich with a grim look on his face.

“Damn it to hell, they are toying with us as they please…I need to contact my husband these events had left a bad taste in my mouth…I wonder what would that man feel now that this boy is dead”

**Chapter 8: under the knife**

It’s cold. My chest hurt… and I can’t move.

I was entrapped in a stretcher with multiple straps holding me down

I was feeling cold all over my body but the place I was pierced through felt the coldest

Why did she do that? I even helped her, protected her taught her how to fight and even started to fall for her…yet she paid me back with a stab in the chest, not waiting for an explanation on my part not even hesitating. Those eyes of hers when she betrayed me were as cold as her element. She must have had a heart of ice. I have seen no one approach her so I did I have seen no one speak to her so I did, I have seen no one befriend her so I did…

Few sounds in the background were muffled at first but now they began to clear up.

 My face was covered so I could not see anything but I could barely hear what some people were saying

“…His body is…heartbeats…fast…eye…”

I could not make what they were trying to do but I understood once I felt this indescribable pain rip through my right eye socket.

I must have been on an operation table and these men must be some sort of doctors.

More pain surged through my right eye as something thin and sharp was making its way into my eye socket and plucking the eye out.

It would probably feel like a never ending pain if someone loses one of their eyes this way. But for me the second it left my skull my entire body felt numb. I felt my entire body shrivel and fade only small heartbeat sounds were what I could hear, then I drifted into nothingness.

I drifted in and out of consciousness too many times to count. And once I finally settled I found myself strapped onto a chair with magical seals and restrains. And few tubes with red liquid passing through them.

My senses were numbed at first but they slowly began to feel alive, only to turn unpleasant discomfort that I felt at first to an unbearable excruciation of pain. I felt that the right side of my face was set ablaze, my throat was parched and my skin felt brittle and harsh.

“He is up” said someone I couldn’t see from this position but I could understand from his voice that he was clearly old.

Another man stepped in and this one I was barely able to see when I raised my head. A light source behind the man shaded his expressions but I could still make out his physic.

He was tall and burly with a well-proportioned upper waist. But it somehow seemed that his clothes were barely fitting and would tear at the slightest of movements.

After my remaining eye adjusted enough to the dimed light I managed to see that he was wearing some sort of apron…the ones you see doctors wear.

The man pulled a chair from the side and sat in front of me.

Then calmly asked

“How do you activate the eye?”

I opened my mouth to protest this cruel treatment saying

“Who the hell are you? Release me this instant!!” although that sounded very threatening and imposing in my head my throat only managed to spell the words in a way that showed utter helplessness…not very convincing I might say.

And that probably was not a very good idea as I was met with a hard punch to the face then the same man asked the same question

“How do you activate the eye?”

“I said release-“and once again I was rudely interrupted with another punch to the face.

Normally I would not feel that much pain from a normal punch but this guy is managing to shake the very foundations of my body with a single hit.

Dazed and disoriented I barely managed to register what the man said after that.

“I only want to know how you got the eye to work. If I hear anything other than what I asked for you only have yourself to blame”

I answered again

“I don’t know what you are talking abo-GHAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA” I screamed in pain from the sudden breaking of my right hand’s middle finger. The man once again asked

“How do you activate the eye?”

I had only one answer to tell him.

“F\*\*k you!” I had to spice it up with a nicely aimed spit that landed between his eyes.

No need to fully describe what happened afterword, but the result was ten broken fingers and a face too swollen to recognise. Probably a few missing teeth too, and a hell of a lot of screaming and pain.

The man became sweaty and probably started to feel tired, he took a handkerchief and started cleaning his knuckles from blood.

Then he calmly said one more time

“How do you activate the eye?”

Normally I would have told him anything to get him to stop torturing me. But the fact that he is asking how the eye can be activated meant that he himself could not do it. So it is better if I remain silent as this information is probably the only thing that is keeping me alive.

Irritated from my silence the man stood up and walked away giving me a false hope of relief.

I could still hear him shout something at another doctor but I was too dizzy at the moment to fully register anything so I passed out. It seems that I have been doing a lot of this lately…

I have lost track of time as the dimly lighted room gave me no clues on it. The only thing I could feel was the constant throbbing at the hole that was previously my right eye.

The same man entered once more, this time he had new clothes and wore a doctor’s coat on top and even smelled differently…

His first words were

“How are we doing today?” which implied that at least one day passed…it is strange that I felt no hunger but I truly did feel thirst.

I remained silent at his question then he added the same old line

“How do you activate the eye?”

Again met with silence he only sighed and began to speak

“You know, kid… I have spent a long time in this trade and I can assure you that I can make anyone speak, be it a man woman or child if given enough time. But you are a special case, as my methods are a bit too extreme you might lose your mind, and that is something I do not want. I know that with time we can figure out how to use that eye, but if I could get the answer right now I can make all of your pain go away…for good. So how about it?”

Silence was my answer and it seemed to be working wonders as no more beating was coming my way when I did not speak. Well that was what I taught.

“Hmm…you know what amazes the most about you Asura? It is not the fact that you have the eye of the wise. But it’s the fact that you are still alive. I for sure was certain that you had died at the Saint Herman orphanage incident ten years ago but look at where we are right now.”

He probably was trying to get a reaction out of me and truth to be told he did

“What do you know about that?” I asked.

“Oh, a lot actually. I was financially supporting it and to be honest I was sure that all of the kids that went under the knife had been cursed to death by one of my colleagues…so how come you are still alive to this day? Test results for your blood came one day ago and I was truly surprised to know that your blood sample showed up to have already existed in our database…what a strange coincidence now not only do I need to know how do you activate the eye I will also require information on how you literally cheated death for ten years.”

So more reasons for me to survive and at the same time to take more beating…wonderful.

I remained quiet.

He then said this

“For your informations. Today marks the thirteenth day that you have been declared dead at the quietus region. Your name is now a smear on the perfect record of Alsa as you have been considered a possessed, the clan head Ryouka Gaz was held to trial yesterday and was deemed guilty as he was responsible for all of that blunder. Normally no king or any of his entourage could be held to trial but that man is a selectee of the people. So he is replaceable and is not above the law. He is imprisoned for treason of the alliance of the four great countries.”

He took a breath and stood up then said

“No one is coming for you. No one will be looking for you. You are dead to them and even if otherwise you are thought to be a devil lord. However I can clearly see that you are still human and it is quite strange that you managed to supress the possession…another thing I would need to know. So this time I will give you a taste of the upcoming events might you change your mind about remaining silent.”

He took a syringe from the inside pocket of his lab coat and said

“This is Magnolian Vetra serpent’s venom. This serpent is very dangerous and quite powerful. They although small in size are still considered sacred beasts. Their bite is what makes them threatening to almost all living thing. If bitten not only would a human die in less than ten seconds the pain it will cause him is indescribable. This effect is similar to almost all living beings. We took away the effect this poison has on blood so it no longer coagulates it but the pain is still present. So you won’t die but you will wish if you did”

He tapped lightly on the needle with his finger and gently pressed the syringe which made a single drop bud from the tip.

The then took the needle and shook it slightly making the drop of venom land on my strapped hand.

Well he said that the pain was indescribable…it actually was.

That single point made me feel like if my hand had been stomped on by an elephant and set on fire at the same time while being ripped to shreds using rusty and dull chainsaws. Not a good feeling I tell you.

He grinned taking pleasure from my torment and said

“This is your last chance. Tell me what I need to know or suffer from a fate far worse than death.”

Although the pain from that single drop was immense and it didn’t even get into my system yet, I would still prefer to stay alive thus not telling them anything that would make my existence any less wanted. I have been cursed to death since long ago and I still fought the urge to just give up. I will not do so just because of a needle. However, I almost regretted that decision…almost.

The man sighed at my continued silence and injected me with the venom. Feeling it pass through my system and agitating my nerves was not pleasant. Tides of excruciating pain washed over me only to be replaced by stronger ones. The veins on my body swelled and deflated with every heartbeat. I was feeling the full blunt of that poison but could only utter a gruff, as my jaws were clenched tight from pain I could have sworn that I cracked some of my remaining teeth. Pain and more agonising pain lasted for god knows how long yet strange enough I was unable to fall unconscious. The pain was beyond what I could have ever believed and woke me every time my brain tried to shut itself down to prevent harm. Seconds became minutes and minutes be cam hours I lost track of time as my body was convulsing and shaking. My broken fingers could only flail around and do nothing. I tried even under the disorienting agony to use my spiritual energy but to no avail, my body was unable to produce the smallest amount so I was in for a long and a painful ride.

**CHAPTER 9 plans for the future**

(Mr V. POV)

Leaving the room where the new ‘victim’ was held in I could only let out a sigh of defeat.

Damn little bastard making my job difficult, how come someone this young is able to withstand that much pain and for no particular reason? I have spent years in this business and know every way to make a man talk…but this kid is a persistent prick , I should probably just kill him and get over with this…but damn it I need the information and fast.

“Mr V!” someone said but after taking a closer look it seems that he is the man in charge over this facility.

“What do you want?” I said sounding annoyed which I actually was.

He fidgeted a bit then answered

“W-well it seems that the kid’s blood was useless in activating the eye we are probably not going to be able to reanimate it if it is not fused back to a living organism…we should probably reinsert it-“

I had to cut him off because he was beginning to speak nonsenses

“You will not put it back on that kid. Find someone that is compatible with it, it should not be hard. The last I want is that kid getting back that thing…did you see how magnificent its power was? He was able to wield all magic as if he was willing it with a thought. It is true that we had lost a valuable product, but with if we were to harness the full potential of this eye we will be able to change the very fate of these lands”

He asked questioningly and with a tone of mistrust

“To this extent?”

I answered confidently

“Even more!”

Then I walked away leaving the man to do his thing. It is true in fact that that eye is capable of great things. One of them would be the possibility to destroy a portion of the barrier that is holding off the gores from reaching the humans. Reanimating old artefacts or even creating new type of magic…the options are almost limitless and the reward is great.

I reached my destination which was one of the conference rooms that the heads of the organization discuss their matters at. My seat was like always at the left side was empty, and only I was left for the meeting to begin.

The rest of the seats around the round table had holographic images of their appropriate owners.

Mr E, the old man and one who is considered to have spent the longest with this union. And next to him was the figure of a woman she was Ms C. as for the other three they were all men and were too hard to make proper prediction on their origin.

The gruff and old voice of Mr E announced the beginning of the conference.

“Thank you for attending this meeting everyone. As much as I would like to begin speaking about the matters concerning the fabricated incident on the Alikhian soil I have come to find out that Mr V has managed to get a hold of an eye of the wise, so is this true Mr V?”

Damn that old man got the news earlier than I expected…doesn’t matter I was going to tell them anyway.

“I did actually.” I heard more than one sound of amazement after my statement but I had to add the following to not end up in any kind of misunderstanding

“However, we are unable to operate it the person that used to be its carrier was found to have been cursed to death so in fear that the eye becomes contaminated by the curse I ordered the personnel to not put it back and find a more suitable and easier to control person to use it for us.”

Ms C intervened saying

“Wise decision but don’t you think that you will have better chances of making the eye functional if you are to share your privilege with us, I can assure you that we will hold nothing back in order to help you with your experiments”

That vixen…

“I am thankful for your offer but I believe I have all that I need in order to get the eye to function.”

She then said

“But I-“yet her words were cut short as Mr E said

“So be it. Mr V you will have full privilege of working on the eye but you will have to bring results in one month time. If not I will have to remove that privilege and make this a joint project between all of our divisions”

I had to admit it, that man knows what he is doing…it doesn’t matter I should have results before that.

I replied

“Understood”

“Mhmm” said the old man then added “Now as for the incident that happened few weeks ago at Alikh we have been forced to postpone our intervention as the casualties have been less than we had expected. The situation was supressed almost immediately. As you all know the project that Ms C was working on was revolving around a treatment that could subdue the blight’s infection. Ms C would you care to recapitulate on the subject?”

The woman almost eagerly agreed

“Yes sir, although incomplete, results had shown that one injection can prevent death or corruption yet if infected again it will be too late. The idea was to spread the infection in a given area and let the country bid its fortune into buying the antidote. However as Mr E said the plan was put on hold because intervention from Alsa and Astora was immediate, under the guise of aid they pretended to help Alikh in their predicament by sending some of their best fighters and diplomats to secure some of the kingdom’s favours.”

One of the other men spoke

“Can we not re-enact the same event into different areas to optimise our chances into infecting more people?”

Damn idiot can’t even see further than his nose…

“No” said Ms C and then added

“It will be too obvious and too risky, first the multiple incidents will bring too mush unwanted attention secondly there will be a high risk of losing control over the epidemic as we might find ourselves rulers over barren and dead lands and this is the thing we want the least.”

Well said.

“I believe that I might have an idea that can help us, however it will need time” I said

The old man as if intrigued said

“Please, do explain Mr V”

I added

“I have known that the barrier at the fairy forest was actually repaired by the same kid that became a devil lord. And if the eye was able to repair it, then the eye would most certainly be able to destroy it. This way we will have control over the very thing that is protecting these lands opening the path to those monsters at our mere will and forcing countries to beg for its shut down. We will rule the entire plane with a fist of steel.”

“Interesting” said the old man

“This will accelerate our plans enormously…we are counting on you to bring results, worry not the reward shall be magnanimous. FOR WEALTH AND PROSPERITY” added the old man

“FOR WEALTH AND PROSPERITY!!!” said everyone.

**CHAPTER 10: Aiming high**

I Shiki Youtaro was wearing a tuxedo and attending a decoration party that was held on behalf of Yuna Korima for taking down a devil lord. It was ordered by the council members of Alsa as to recompense Yuna for her selflessness and immediate act into putting down a danger that would have threatened the lives of thousands…but I on the other hand don’t feel that joyful about it. Not in the least.

Today marks the twentieth day since that damned incident…the old man got himself imprisoned and now the poor Kazehara-sensei is doing all she can to hold this country together.

Next to me was Nassi who by the way could not stop talking trash to me about being friends with a devil lord, he still attended the ceremony and wore formal attire. Although his grandfather was still being under imprisonment he must attend these kind of festivities as the new Head of the blazing fire dragon clan. Kaori on the other hand had very few comments on the whole thing yet surprisingly my sister Haruka was the one that was shocked the most, she cried for days and spoke to no one. Poor kid still believes in Asura being innocent and think that he was framed…I too had my doubts at first but once time passed and footage of the events were released I was able to fully see everything and to truly see the horror that was so close to me.

The party was held at the council’s headquarter that was located near the centre of the capital. As they are responsible for order in the country of Alsa they are also the ones who agreed that the old man should be imprisoned. The ceremony began with a moment of silence for those who had fallen on the hand of the devil-lord.

One man wearing an almost all-white robe with a hat that was decorated with golden symbols that matched with some of the symbols on his robe showed up on a veranda that was overviewing the hall.

He raised both his hands slowly in front of him and casted a Mahojin that was pure white.

A show of light then begun and illuminated the entire hall. Mots of light danced and twirled around the audience submerging them in awe, they say that these motes represent the souls of the deceased and are now making their final show before leaving to the after-world…I say it’s a bunch of crap. The man is clearly conjuring and manipulating these things himself but no one wants to see the obvious.

Once the show ended with all the motes assembling into a spire and disappearing after a firework-like explosion Yuna descended from the stairs that were next to the veranda where the robed man is standing.

She had a light blue dress with white strips that matched her body perfectly. Elegance in her demeanour was showing as she strode confidently. She stopped under the veranda and began to speak addressing everyone in the hall, her clear and serious voice boomed throw-out the entire hall.

“I am pleased that you have all showed up to this gathering. And on this occasion I would like to say a few words. First of all it was not only me who defeated the devil-lord but it was thanks to the masters who had managed to weaken it before I could land the finishing blow. Their sacrifice was not in vain as that dangerous beast was killed thanks to their effort.”

She took a breath and continued

“I also have a revelation to admit. My real name is not Yuna Korima it is in fact Yumina Shimazu.”

The hell? That is the same family name as Kaori…what the hell is going on?

“I had my reasons into why I needed to take my father’s name but I would like to just say that from this moment onward I will be contending over the position of head of the raging water dragon clan.”

Kaori spoke that moment “Yumina… where have I heard that name?” And then as if awoken from a dream into reality

“AH Now I remember…she is the girl that used to play with us when we were kids, I was told she was a distant relative and because we were separated for a long time I could not remember her…the only difference was that the girl I knew when I was young had ebony colour hair and Yuna here has white hair…”

Yuna…or Yumina then continued

“And finally from this stage I would like to announce that I will be participating in the Crucible that will rise the next year” the crowd ignited in murmurs and low whispers most of them were too surprised to even speak.

“Reaching the fiftieth floor was the condition given to me in order to succeed the current head. And I plan on doing it. That is all thank you all for coming…please enjoy the party.”

The hell this just went from very disturbing to totally stupid. I have to speak to this girl.

I walked hurriedly toward Yuna, trying to know if she truly understands the risks she is taking.

She was encircled with a large group of people most were trying to know more about that devil lord and some probably had other reasons in mind.

I still however, dragged her from within the crowd even under the hissing and disapproving sounds that the crowd was making but none wanted to openly disrespect the next to be clan head of the lightening beast clan.

“Am I crazy or did I just hear you go ballistic out there?”

“What do you mean?” she said

I massaged the bridge of my nose because explaining this will be a bit complicated.

“Do you know the other names of the Crucible?”

“The death trap, the impossible maze, the doom doorway, the highway to hell. The staircase to-“

I interrupted her

“Okay-okay that is not my point, my point is that it is named like that because it is not something that you just decide on a damn whim”

She then coldly said

“Do you think that I cannot make it? Should I just go back on my word now that I have said it? Do you think that I am weak?”

Oh god, women and their logic!!!

“No that is not what I was trying to say god damn it. Now listen up, the crucible rises every three decades you know that right? Do you know that some of the best mages from Alsa perished in it and those who had made it to the twenty first floors decided that they would never dare go back to that place again…and you want to reach the fiftieth floor? Aren’t you biting more than you could chew?”

She then shouted

“WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?”

I shouted back

“THE ONLY SANE ONE! DON’T DO IT! YOU WILL JUST DIE!”

She roared at my statement and stomped her way out of the hall.

Kaori then walked next to me and said

“What happened? Why did you do to her?”

I said

“Apparently that girl doesn’t like being told to stay alive so she decided that she would end her life in one year time.”

Kaori then said

“You don’t make any sense, is it about her participating in the crucible? I think that is honourable”

God damn it is everyone here so dense?

I said

“There is no honour in death! If she goes there she will die that is final that place is not for the weak of hearts. She is far too young…”

Kaori then said

“You seem to know a lot about that place…”

I then began to tell her why I did not want anyone I know to go there.

“This is something I was told to keep a secret, my uncle was supposed to be the clan head of his generation. He was far stronger than my father and had immense stamina and power. He decided that in order to avoid combat with his siblings and family that if he could prove his strength to all of them at once he will be heir with no trouble. So he decided to partake in the Crucible. It rose almost thirty years ago with its guardian promoting challengers from all over the continent to take their chance and risk their life for the ultimate goal. The one hundredth floor. Although none has ever managed to reach it some were said to have made it to the seventy fifth. My uncle though managed to clear fifty of them. However, when he got out he was not the same. He aged decades while only days had passed, he became ruthless and cruel not recognising his family he even taught that his life was but another floor trial. So he went mad and violent. The entire family was forced to act in order to stop his madness so they ended his life.”

“Oh my god” Kaori said “I never knew of this…isn’t the crucible considered a tower with multiple floors that you have to fight your way to the top? What is this thing about trial? Why did he age? What happened? I didn’t hear this from anyone before.”

“Well according to my uncle before he went ‘coucou’ in the head, and this is something you won’t find anywhere in a library. After the twenty fifth floor some floors might have a test or a puzzle to be solved in order to pass. Some might even take years to figure out. So the tower although in exterior is linked to space the time that passes inside is completely different from here. It’s like another dimension of sorts. My uncle said that he had met entire populations in there…probably descendants of those who had tried to challenge the tower before but failed.”

She then said

“What do you mean by populations? You mean people like living people? How is that possible? The tower cannot contain that much wasn’t your uncle just exaggerating? You did say he went crazy…”

“Well we did consider that at first but then he said that after the twenty fifth floor the rules change, not only the floor get bigger even the enemies you fight inside do not remain limited to monsters. As he was forced to kill thousands of people to leave a specific floor. Every floor as my uncle said, can be an extension of an entire world it is not limited by physical boundaries as you may think, the extension of a floor is in probably another dimension”

“This is too complicated…”

“It was to me at first, you can think of it like this. Imagine a hundred world on top of each other and then this tower is penetrating through all of these worlds. This is one way to interpret all of this.”

She said

“Well it sounds simple like this but to what end?”

I shrugged answering

“Beats me, but one thing I do know. That if someone is trying to take that challenge they are in for some ugly surprises. Not only each floor gets more difficult the people or in this case ‘enemies’ inside had spent god knows how much time getting stronger in order to leave that place. As they were born there their only way of ever leaving is to reach the final floor or so my uncle was told. So they dedicate their lives to strength and power. By the time the crucible opens they will all try their luck. And if someone is unlucky enough to be in their way to freedom they will be trampled.”

“That sounds like complete dementia”

I agreed

“Exactly! Whomever had decided the fate of those people must be crazy in the head”

“And now Yuna wishes to take the same path…I think that if what you said is true she should be stopped…”

“Finally someone who could relate, however please try your luck with her this time I think I had won enough hate points from her to last me an entire lifetime.”

“No it’s not like that” Kaori said, I think she is just sorting out her feelings…she must still be traumatised by that incident and now with all these events happening at once I can relate to her feeling a bit frustrated…she will get over it in time, don’t worry.”

“I do hope so…she is someone I don’t think I would like to see cry…again”

**CHAPTER 11: The void**

“Still so stubborn aren’t we?” said the same man who had been visiting me every time to deliver more pain.

My answer was silence.

“You have been under this for quite a while. Maiming, poisoning organ boiling teeth breaking and even bone shattering were not effective on you. Any normal person would have broken a hundred time over, Just why suffer the agony why not just speak and be released from this torment?”

…

“Damn it. EVERYONE LEAVE NOW!”

He ordered everyone inside the room and those where were watching to squirm away and so they did.

“I will tell you something. You truly are someone remarkable, to withstand this mush pain and for such a long time in order to keep an information is truly commendable especially in our line of work. You know I have been asked to bring up results concerning the eye and I did get a bit close to achieving it. In order to make it work it needs a host that has immense physical endurance…and only warriors do, however we had managed to replicate the same effect even so increasing it. The boy you fought that day was something we worked on for a long time but worry not we have many. The only thing we needed was a pure demon and a host to make a contractor. Those beings if injected with the same solution that Migado had used the day he fought you at school will gain reinforced bodies and the eye will operate.”

Why is he telling me all of this?

“Now the thing is, I no longer need you. As my prime objective was completed however, it is the fact that you regained your sense after being possessed that intrigues me. Although it is not enough to spare your life. This day marks one month since that you have been here with us, and by its end it will be your last. Whether you speak or not is up to you, but one of them will grant you a quick death it’s up to you to choose.”

Then he left.

…

So it comes to this…I have been waiting for anyone…I was hoping that they could probably understand. Why the hell is this happening to me…WHY? WHY? WHY? ...what did I do to deserve this…? Why her of all people did this to me…Damn it, damn it to hell…I was betrayed by everyone…I should have never trusted any of them…even my master, even he did not come to my rescue…why did I have to suffer this…why did I have to live that agony…is it not enough that I have not much to live…to suffer this treatment…why did I even agree to learn magic…why did I even agree to participate to that damn competition? Damn it to hell. Demons? Hah, they taught that I was possessed… damn idiots, Where was Osfor anyway…he could have done something, anything…and now I am back to where I started in life…a lab rat for the same bastards… why did it have to turn this way?…why?

No, it was actually my fault. I should not have trusted anyone. No one in this world is spared from greed, they all want something from you, and they all want what you have. They all wish that only they could succeed, and if it means to step on those who they cared for they would not hesitate. That day I died, it just hadn’t caught up to me yet. If I had known before I would have never let anyone get close. Humans are despicable. At least demons do not stab you in the back…

Thirty days had passed and I had tried everything to release myself from these restraints. They do not budge…my weapon was taken away from. Magic is useless here as these seals drain mana and the tubes that are inserted in my flesh drain my blood so I cannot harness spiritual energy…I had lived a life with nothing but hardship and now I will leave it…perhaps I should have given up long ago perhaps I should not have kept quiet…perhaps…

The man walked back in

I shivered thinking that the time that he spent out was too short did the day already pass? Was this is it?

My heart raced in anticipation to the nearing end

“So nothing…it is too sad to see one such as you leave this world. But rejoice, your gift will change this world long after you are gone. Do IT!”

Once he said the last words the chair lunged backwards throwing me into a hole in the ground that just opened out of nowhere.

I fell a few dozen meters into a pile of junk I probably would have felt the pain from the impact but the drop was eased by this black rotten sludge under me. It smelled of charred flesh.

The only light that shined on this wretched place was coming from where I fell.

Now I understand. This must be a dumpster to those who had been deemed useless and disposable.

The hatch closed leaving me in absolute darkness.

Would this be the way I die…from hunger and disease? Is there something here in this darkness? Perhaps there are gores here? No I cannot sense them…well I probably wouldn’t be able to even if I tried, my mind is all jumbled up right now…

I barely managed to stand up as my body was too weakened to sustain itself. Days of torment and motionlessness can do that to a person.

Wobbling my way out of the black sludge I tried to find something to help me out of this situation.

A lost hope. as nothing seemed to be recognisable. Only darkness and distorted shapes laying around on the ground.

Now released from the restraints I could probably use magic.

I tried however but failed miserably as I could not focus at all. My mana is ridiculously low right now. With not source as my weapon and without the eye I am not able to even produce the feeblest of magical spells.

There is no mana within me and I cannot harness mana from this place.

I cannot use magic here…

Hang on…no magic? Would that work?

I pressed my hands forward and chanted.

“Oh limitless domain…grant me privilege in seeking your attendance... Bath my soul in your bottomless wisdom…and let me see what no man should witness. Give me right to enter the void…”

I waited and waited but nothing happened.

Until few lights began to lit around the room. At first I taught the spell had worked only to understand the true error of my way of thinking.

When I fell from the hatch I had smelled something that resembled charred flesh. Now I know why.

The light coming from the now clear to be seen Mahojins illuminated the area only to show mountains of rotten and burnt corpses. I was trudging in human burnt filth.

These Mahojin were probably a mechanism to ensure that whatever is dropped here is dead.

Flames began to arise and close in rapidly. I was almost in the middle of all of this

It was my time to leave this world.

“I never taught that I would die in a place like this…Well I had a good run.”

“IT IS NOT YET YOUR TIME YOUNGLING!” Said a sagacious and primordial voice.

“YOU ASKED PERMISSION INTO THE VOID. THEN SO BE IT! YOU ARE INNOCENT NO LONGER”

A huge rift opened in front of me cracking the air apart. Showing an obscure world that no one should see.

Two large claws peeked from the fissure and landed behind me. They were large enough to almost cover half the space inside this dump. And then swiftly dragged me and the grime I was standing on into the crack.

I was still too shocked to understand what was happening and many questions arose in my head. But the main thing that was bothering me is…how will I survive this fall? As it turned out the thing that grabbed me tossed me a few thousand meters above the ground…or whatever it is down there as only dark and purplish soil was visible.

The land began to grow wider and the impact grew nearer but right before I reached the ground my speed began to slow to a complete stop and suspension a couple of meters above the ground.

Then whatever was supporting me decided that it no longer wanted to have anything to do with me so I crashed in, face first.

I tried to get up but was too exhausted to move so I decided that the spot I was in was a good place to take a nap.

I mean it’s another dimension what could possibly go wrong? Right?

Few hours later or days. I don’t think my biological clock is still functioning at the moment. And considering that this place has four moons and probably no sun can be a bit confusing.

As I looked up to the sky I witnessed a sight to behold. Grand and magnificent the colour of the sky, it was a deep red with four great moons dangled magnanimously and ingeniously above. Constellations I had never seen before and galaxies to behold.

The place where I fell was near a forest although I was perched and exhausted I decided to move closer to there. A forest would mean that there is a water source although the shape of the trees was not recognisable to me…well I am in a different world…

A walk that should have taken me a few minutes took almost an hour and almost all of my energy. But luckily I found a small pond filled with clear water…probably.

I looked into my hands and noticed that under the now dry sludge and remains of deteriorated burnt flesh were broken fingers…they were no good if used to contain water…I then dipped my face into the pond and drank like if It was no tomorrow. Did I worry that there was something in the water? Yes. Did I care? No. at this point drinking was all that I could think about so I did and did so ravenously.

After satisfying my thirst I decided that I could use this water to clean myself. So I removed my clothes and threw myself in. I had probably contaminated all of the lake and I honestly didn’t care as a forest this big would certainly have more of these ponds somewhere else or at least a river. Now my prime objective should be to find something to eat and a shelter to pass the nights.

I cleaned myself a bit and washed my clothes. My hands were still in poor shape so making a fire is going to be a difficult task.

It seems that this place is almost devoid of wild life. I can’t hear the sound of birds or the crackles of bugs. Only silence except for the occasional wind that brushes the leaves of the standing trees.

It took me quite a while before I managed to set up a camp fire.

The flame chased away the cold but I had forgotten a simple rule that needs to always be taken in consideration when camping outside. Fire is an unusual thing and all unusual things bring attention and sometimes an attention that you really don’t need especially when you are unable to defend yourself.

And this time this fire brought a special gest…well guests. Wolves. Not like any I had seen before. Their red eye shone from behind the curtain of trees and a half a dozen encircled me.

They were black as night and growled and salivated in front of me. One of them got too close to the fire and dissolved like black smoke. However the same smoke rematerialized a few meters in the back and the same wolf was back again growling louder.

One wolf walked forward he had a much larger body and he even had a mane that adorned its neck.

Every wolf made way for this one. As it is most certainly their alpha, I looked around me and grabbed the closest stick hoping to use it to defend myself.

“Don’t be stupid human. If we wanted you dead you would have been dead!”

It spoke… it then added

“Follow us we need your help.”

Well it is not every day that you get ordered around by a pack of otherworldly sentient creatures. So I did as I was told. I followed a talking wolf.

**CHAPTER 12: THE WRATHFUL.**

(ALBION)

The school had resumed its function once the situation cooled down a bit as Kazehara-sensei did her very best to ensure that the students will not feel responsible or at least suffer from that horrid incident.

We had been attending school right after the end of the ceremony that was held on behalf of Yuna. Right now she feels a bit distant and her old habits are now back…she no longer speaks to anyone and rarely interacts she ‘again’ is always looking gloomy and overthinking.

Kaori was attending class as usual however, that was not the case for Nassi as he is always occupied now. He, as the only heir to the house of the blazing dragon, was now almost forced into the position of head. Although there are other people on the clan he personally took the position in waiting for his grandfather’s return.

The old man was still being held captive and was refused to be released. But right now the situation is sure to change as both the kings Ardous Elior and Bistor lamina requested his immediate release from the very people that incriminated him of the acts that that devil lord had committed.

Under that heavy of a pressure it is only a matter of time.

I on the other hand found nothing interesting going on here.

It was actually a bit fun when ‘he’ was around, even if he was not who we thought him to be.

We were told by a teacher that the possessed contractors were able to fully grasp the identity of their hosts so even their own families would not differentiate between the fake and the real.

And as being lucky enough that the devil lord was not interested in laying waste to this school.

More precautions were taken now. Student were now being requested to take certain tests and give blood samples. Probably as mean to avoid what had happened before.

The class rep raised her hand to Takeda-sensei to ask a question.

“Takeda-sensei, what are the different ranks of demonic existences…I heard people say that our previous classmate was a devil lord how did they find out what class he was?”

Most students looked at her as if she had just said a taboo, but I cannot blame them.

For example if you discover that a bomb exploded somewhere and know that that same bomb was sitting next to you, you would probably feel uncomfortable right?

The professor however sighed and fixed his glasses then began to explain.

“Missaki-san those are very sensitive matters, however as you are all looking interested in this I may as well explain. Demonic existences are categorised in two main branches. Gores which every one of you know are in fact creatures or items with magical properties contaminated with the blight.

The second type are the pure demons. The only difference is that pure demons had refused to be in contact with the blight and retained their old power which comes with varying degrees of potency”

He sighed again as if not wanting to continue and said

“The pure demons have many abilities and their greatest strength comes from the fact that they are sentient, as they can understand human thought and replicate it. They are known to have their own language and even the ability to create new kinds of magic. Their origin is so far unknown but they are known to live only beyond the great barrier that is protecting the remaining civilisation from the infestation of demons. One of their abilities is the fact that they can form contract with humans and grant them power in exchange for access to the human part of the divided land. As for your last question only pure demons have a ranking system as for the gores they are all ranked the same even if the host is for example was a king class sacred beast in its normal life once it is infected it becomes a gore deprived of rank, as they lose all their knowledge and become mindless hulking beasts.”

He took another breath and continued

“Pure demons have two main categories. Demons and devils and both these classes are classed into three categories. Lesser, normal, and greater. The power difference between each classification is enormous. However even the weakest devil is hundreds of times stronger than the strongest greater demon.”

Missaki then raised her hand again to ask another question.

“But what is a devil lord you only told us about devils and demons.”

Takeda sensei then said

“I am getting to that. Devil lords however are a rare case when a devil surpasses the rank of a greater devil. They however have one thing in commune, they can freely control death magic as if it was a plaything. Death magic requires enormous amounts of energy to control and they do so without breaking a sweat.”

The room went silent as they have all knew the consequences of using that kind of magic here in Alsa.

Yuna then raised her hand. This is the first time I have seen her participate in any class. And truth to be told I was surprised.

“There is one more type of devils you did not mention isn’t it? Takeda-sensei”

The professor as if caught off guard had a very stern expression on his face.

Under the hard stares of every one in class that were demanding answer the teacher broke and began to speak.

“Yes in fact…there is one last kind of devils. They too can manipulate death magic and on a grander level. They could cause the death of thousands on a whim. But that is not all. even elemental and spiritual magic was easy to use for them. Their power transcends all that human can ever hope to achieve and their strength is almost immeasurable. They were once thought to be Everlastings but the theory was revoked when even these beings were squashed instantly by the hand of the Everlasting might. They are now taught to be extinct as the last one was recorded to have died and brought end to the Age of War. They are called Devil Overlords.”

Yuna then asked again

“Is there a possibility that one of them still lives?”

Takeda-sensei answered

“I highly doubt it. Because if they did they would have made a move on humanity a long time ago. They are the only thing that could bring down the barrier that is protecting us from the infestation outside. And in a thousand year not a single breakthrough had happened.”

One of the students then said

“Except the one on the fairy forest no? Wouldn’t Asura then be considered a Devil overlord?”

Saying his name brought multiple hisses and scuffs from various students.

“No!” He said and was rather angered by the assumption

“That incident was caused by another factor his presence there was certainly but a coincidence so please do not jump into conclusions. I will discuss this no longer. Class dismissed.”

Quite the bombshell there the teacher seemed pissed…

Well there is nothing to do here any long so I packed my things and to leave, as I was bored I need to get some fresh air.

I should probably go downtown I could enjoy myself a bit.

But before I got to the door someone grabbed me from the hem of my shirt. At first I taught it was Kaori but once I turned around I saw the beautiful Yuna behind me.

My first taught was that I was going to get reprimanded over our last conversation but she surprisingly said

“I am sorry for that day…I was under a lot of stress and could not think clearly. I know that you only meant well but I was too thick headed to understand what you were trying to say. Kaori explained things to me and I now understand that you acted out of concern so thank you…and sorry again”

Way to go Kaori. Note to self, buy that girl a present the next time you meet her.

I answered

“No it’s alright I should have been more explicit. So it is partially my fault. So Yun-Yumina where are you heading?”

She hesitated and said

“Eh-ehm well you can still call me Yuna if you prefer but I was going to visit the school library what about you?”

“That was my destination too. So shall we?”

What? Downtown could wait.

I found it a bit awkward walking next to her in the hall as she was very quiet. I tried to imitate a conversation so I opened my mouth only to hear an enormous explosion sound followed by the sound of metal being torn apart.

Then a warning resounded all throughout the school

“Warning! An Intruder is on school grounds! To all students please head to the auditorium room all free teachers are to head to the school front yard.

We were actually close to the front yard so I looked at Yuna and she had this spark in her eye probably intrigued and curious to know what is going on and probably thinking that this may be another attempt like last time.

We headed toward the exit ignoring the crowds of students passing us by. As we got out we had a look on the situation.

About twenty teacher were out Takeda sensei and Midorikawa-san was one of them with the addition of Sraam-sensei who by the way is almost impossible to meet, they all looked in one direction, the school gate. Although it was still visible. Or barely whatever was left from it. That sound earlier must have been what caused this.

A figure of a lone person was showing to have stopped a few meters after he had passed the broken gate.

The school barrier was still active so they would probably not be able to pass through.

It was barely visible but that person must have punched the barrier from outside. A few moments after, a shockwave of energy passed us by. One single punch was able to produce an effect even the school barrier could not fully stop.

Then it happened

It was probably when the shockwave reached the other side of the barrier when the whole thing shattered.

I am beginning to think that they are using faulty material into building this thing.

Takeda sensei who was one of the many teachers then turned and yelled at us

“WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE IT IS DANGEROUS!” but he was interrupted by the now clear voice of a man that was coming from the one responsible for destroying the barrier.

“WHERE IS SHE?!!” Was said loud and clear and with a voice that made me want to change my underwear. This was beyond fear, this was dreadful terror that I am feeling right now.

Like being at the mercy of a colossus but fully knowing that they would never let you live.

Takeda sensei Midorikawa san and Sraam sensei almost harmoniously said the next words.

“Oh shit!”

Then he disappeared only to appear at my right grabbing the lovely Yuna with his right hand by her throat and raising her up to his eye level.

“It was you” said the man who by the way was huge or probably only appeared so to me as he was as tall as Takeda-sensei but with a bulkier and larger physical frame. He wore an olive green leather coat over him with brown trousers and had two large swords on his back. He looked like a man in his mid-forties yet his body was exuding a frightening aura as I was barely keeping myself from fainting. And steam was going up his almost red coloured skin. His eyes were as white as milk and his short beard was glowing like lit ember.

His speed was phenomenon as he had passed every teacher without them even realising that he was already behind them. Only Sraam and Takeda sensei were fast enough to grab him. One from the waist and the other from the hand that was grabbing Yuna who was now turning blue from lack of oxygen. Midorikawa-san casted a spell that chained his other arm but proved to be utterly useless once he shook the chain making it break almost instantly.

“RELEASE HER THIS INSTANT” said a womanly voice that was belonging to our beloved principal.

She appeared from the entrance we came from.

He did not look at her and kept his focus solely on the suffocating Yuna.

But still said

“Why should I?” the man said

The principal said

“She only did that because he turned…there is nothing we could have done. he is gone…Ainz”

T-That name…He is Asura’s master…is he here for revenge?

The man dropped Yuna who began to cough and gasp for air and then he shouted

“IT WAS NOT HIS TIME YET!! HE SUFFERED ENOUGH! HE STRUGGLED ENOUGH! HE DESERVED BETTER! I SENT HIM HERE FOR YOU TO TEACH HIM OTHER WAYS OF LIFE BUT YOU ENDED UP KILLING HIM!!!”

Every single word he said echoed into my body as if a drum was being beaten next to me. I feared that his words would shake the earth and conjure storms.

Takeda and Sraam released the man but still they kept quiet.

Fear was permeating the air.

The principal got closer to the enraged man and said.

“There was nothing we could do…he was a contractor and he was possessed it was the only way.”

He shouted into her face

“HE. WAS NOT. POSSESSED!!”

Then huffed a bit and grabbed a small pendant from his pocket that had a green stone embedded into a golden socket and threw it over to the principal.

She looked at it and asked with a face full of fright and disbelief

“His?”

The man nodded. “It became like this today”

Then the principal fell to the floor placing her hand over her mouth as if stopping herself from hurling.

Takeda sensei then placed his hand over his face and as if regretting said

“What have we done?”

Sraam sensei kept quiet.

The man named Ainz said

“Where is Osfor?”

Midorikawa-san answered “he is held captive as one of the responsible over that incident. He is not currently here”

The man ignored her and shouted

“OSFORRRRRRRR!!!!”

Nothing was happening at first until a great shadow passed us by then a small red bird flew and stood above Sraam-sensei’s head.

I was barely able to hear Sraam say the words “Why me?”

Ainz turned to face Sraam and with a deafening voice he said “GET YOUR ASS OVER HERE, THIS INSTANT”

He was shouting at the bird the man was freaking shouting at the bird is he crazy?

The bird blew fire from its small beak and the flame shaped itself into a person.

The man then said

“Where are you now?”

The flame persona responded (yeah fire is speaking crazy huh?)

“I am in a teleport blocked area in Quietus probably near the Seldia sector.”

The man answered

“I am on my way. and when I get there you better have a very reasonable justification on why you were not with Asura that day.”

The persona then said

“Just get here. There are some messed up things going on…I don’t have more time hurry!”

The man turned and began to walk away and then stopped and said

“Death is too sweet a deal for you, child. You should live fully knowing what you had done”

Then he disappeared. Were his words directed at Yuna? What does he mean by that?

I went to her and lifted her up. Burn marks were on her neck that shaped like that man’s fingers she was still shaken and probably traumatized. His focus was not on me and I felt the need to crawl under a hole and never go out again I don’t even want to know how she is feeling right now. I turned to Takeda sensei and asked

“Takeda-sensei…what is the deal with that man…”

He answered almost mechanically

“He has every right to hate us…we have done him wrong.”

I looked over at where Takeda-sensei was looking and noticed that his gaze was focused on the item that that man gave to the principal.

She was holding it near her chest and droplets of tears began to bud near her eyes.

I asked “what is that in the principal’s hands?”

Sraam-sensei who was mute almost the entire time and by the way still had that familiar looking bird on top of his head said

“It is a Zephra stone…it was developed to track the sanity level of a contractor. Red mean possessed and bright green means…well not.”

So I asked “but that colour is dark green…”

Sraam then said “in the case of the contractor’s death before the contract’s period has ended their bodies will no longer be accessible to the demon thus the colour dark green…in other words…Asura died a human. And if what Ainz said to be true…Asura died today”

The shaken Yuna froze for a moment as if trying to grasp what had just been told. Frankly speaking so was I. if what they are saying is the truth…it means that we had done something very bad and very stupid.

I felt that Yuna’s body went limp and looking at her I think that she had fainted. Too much informations to grasp at once and too many question to be asked.

**CHAPTER END**

(Somewhere in the blighted lands)

Way outside the realm of man laid a dark palace fit for a dark king. The name of the ruler of these lands was unknown to many but he was still feared by all that inhabited it. His word was a decree and his will was to be followed. Under him worked hundreds of thousands of demons and devil alike only to spread wild his name and claim back what was once promised to him.

“My lord” Said his most trusted servant. “The oracle had given news”

The crownless king spoke

“Which would they be?”

“Today the prophecy was void. The last Ashurian has left this world.” Said the trusted servant.

“Is this news to be truth?”

“Yes my lord. The irregularity that was sent to possess him had lost its light.”

“These are indeed some good news…what about the protectors?” said the king

“The prophecy claimed that without his aid they are for naught, none can stop you now my great Overlord.”

*To be continued.*