**The Everlasting**

**(Volume 5)**

**The Struggler**

**Chapter 1**

(Flashback)

We were on our way back home. Papa had to pay respect to mama’s father and so he took all of us with him.

I had fun today because I had met several kids the same age as me. One girl even taught that my black hair was beautiful. Mama told me she was my cousin. Her sister’s daughter she said. She was quite pretty.

We also got into a lot of trouble when we got lost in the nearby forest…I should have listened to papa and not have left with that blond boy, he is all but trouble.

“Mama, papa where are we going?” I said as I had no idea where papa was driving us too.

“Papa and mama need to do something for grandpa don’t worry it won’t take long” said papa.

“Okay” I said.

It was night time and it was heavily raining, the scenery that was passing us by was very strange to me.

Dark dead trees and an unpaved road with the occasional road bumps made this trip very unpleasant to me.

After a moment, papa nodded toward mama and they stopped the car.

Mama then said

“Dear Yumina it won’t take a lot of time please stay in the vehicle.”

Then they descended and headed toward a building that was almost in the middle of nowhere.

A few moments later a huge explosion erupted demolishing almost the entire building.

I opened the door of the car and ran toward the enflamed debris where mama and papa went.

Not even caring when my new clothes got dirtied with mud because my main concern was my parents. Only to be shocked at what I saw. Mama was laying on the ground immobile and unresponsive while papa was in front of her barely holding a wind barrier and shouting at whatever that was in front of him.

I couldn’t see it clearly but it had a flame like aura surrounding its body but what clearly showed was a red scepter that was hanging in midair between both my father and that thing.

The entity was short…almost as tall as me but its expressions were impossible to see behind that veil.

It then spoke in an evil and an ancient voice…the sound almost made me hurl.

“Where is the protector?! …you reek of their smell. My Overlord had ordered me to take its life. So speak now”

The red jewel on the top of the scepter shone with a black light and a shockwave soon followed that sent me who was way too far from the middle of the explosion flying.

I must have rolled quite a lot and probably lost consciousness for a bit. I however, still fought the urge to lay down and sought to see my mama so I gripped hard on the wet dirt then stood and proceeded forward despite my dizziness.

I felt a warm fluid running down my forehead but I paid it no mind, ‘I want to see mama!’

But when I got back to the clearing nothing was left…

Even the flames were put out. However after looking closer I saw a part of the blue dress that mama wore today laid under some rocks.

I went there only to see her bloody hand sticking out from under the ruble

Unbelieving and skeptical I spoke with a cracking voice

“M-mama…Mama”

No response I touched the hand to find it clod as ice.

The rain had stopped so some time must have passed when I lost consciousness. I went looking for papa he probably might be able to help mama. But what I found was a red stain on where he was before.

(End of the flashback)

Right now I am at the school’ nurse, I had fainted after Ainz Greetman told me about the true fate of Asura.

If it is true then he died a human…meaning that he was truly trying to explain his situation that time…it actually bugged me for a long time until I decided to ignore it because demons often lie.

It was not the fact that he died that shocked me…It was the fact that he only passed away today.

Meaning that he was with those people for more than a month…and if the rumors are true…what were they doing to him for all this time.

However, why do I not feel saddened? Why do I not feel guilty?

The door opened up before I could answer any of those questions.

And from it came Shiki the blond boy. He was a friend of Asura…I wonder how he would feel about me now that he knows that Asura died a human…would he hate me for causing his death?

“Hey.” He said

I said back “hey”

He had changed his pants but still kept the same jacket he wore this morning…I wonder why?

He had a nicely arranged bouquet of flowers and orchids on him and proceeded into placing it into a vase before he grabbed a seat and sat next to my bed.

“How are you doing?” he said

“Fine actually…”

He frowned then he said

“What do you think of what that man had said?”

I answered honestly and without hesitation

“Nothing at all…I do not really feel bad or anything which I find wired to be honest.”

He then said

“I think you are probably still under shock…I myself can’t even fully understand what is happening…for whatever it is worth I truly believe that you did nothing wrong. You only acted that way that time because you thought that He had turned so don’t worry about it…and that item might have been faulty…that man has no proof if Asura really did change back we all know that that is impossible…he might be just telling lies to profit from his death or whatever it is…don’t concern yourself with this…”

True, what Shiki is saying actually makes sense…he did change, he was possessed so how can someone that is possessed change back…and that day when he fought that demonic mage head on he also did the same…he probably was a devil lord all along…and all of this must have been but a ruse. He had the same weapon that I saw that day…the day that both my parents died. He was the cause, he had the same voice…this is probably the reason why I do not feel regret…it was ‘it’ that caused me all of my current pains…why should I bother to care for the faith of a filthy demon.

I was probably lost in my world thinking of all of this and Shiki must have felt awkward because his expression had changed a bit, he even began to fumble…he must also think that I am cold hearted because I said that I felt nothing at the death of Asura.

“It doesn’t matter anyway. I was told by the principal that whatever the real reasons are you will still be considered as to have helped the country a great deal. That person used death magic. So no matter what, he was going to be executed anyway. You only hastened his destiny and furthermore if your actions are to be penalized the council’s judgment will be shaken and the people’s trust will be lost, and this may cause further harm to the country so we must keep this a secret no matter the real results. You should not tell anyone of this…the council will still be doing an investigation over this but the results will not be changed no matter what.”

I asked him

“How come you know all of this?”

He said

“I am the next head to the clan…it is my job to know.”

He then stood up and got closer to the door and said

“I must leave now I need to deal with some stuff…I’ll see you later at school. Get well soon.”

He then left leaving me all alone in the nurse office.

I rested for two days before I was fully recovered…it is quite laughable to have to rest this long just from a pressure attack. That man was frighteningly strong.

I wore my uniform and went outside, I still had to wear a small neck choker in order to hide the burn marks that that man left on my neck. I attended class as usual but I had noticed that I somehow became the center of attention in this school.

Everyone was eyeing me wherever I went but too afraid to speak their minds…let them be.

Walking back to my dorm room I was contacted by a holographic image of the secretary of the principal.

“Yuna Korima-san would you please head to the principal’s office. She wishes to have a word with you.”

I had asked the school board to use my regular name as it was more familiar to me…my old name only brings sad memories.

I answered with “Okay” and headed straight toward the main building.

Like always her office was well organized but she was a mess. Her red and long hair was not well organized and she had black bags under her eyes. Signe of lack of sleep. There was also two men inside the room with her

One almost six foot tall with a really scary look wearing light blue baggy trousers with a sky blue jacket and nothing under it making his scarred chest show. His hair was arranged in a ponytail that made it look puffier and bigger than it should.

He however had a really long katana that made the air itself shimmer from its mere contact.

The other man was of the same height, wore formal clothes all brown in color and had a well-trimmed moustache and a stern expression that made me feel not wanting to cross him.

 The principal rubbed the bridge of her nose and said

“These are the masters Ousay, and Kansaki they are here for the same reason you are…”

“What would that reason be” I asked.

“Master Greetman has managed to locate Osfor. He wishes for all of us to see the footage he had discovered.”

Footage? Of what

Then the teacher snapped her finger making a small crystal on her desk project images of a small room where that man and Osfor sensei were present.

Osfor was sitting on a chair with clear disgust appearing on him while that man had the very embodiment of fury showing on his face.

“You are all here I presume” Greetman said.

Then he turned to Osfor and said

“Play it.”

Osfor responded

“Do they really need to see this?”

“I SAID PLAY IT!!!” shouted Greetman making me flinch from his sudden outbreak

Then Osfor sensei hit a button on the dashboard in front of him making a screen that was off minutes ago begin to play a footage I would never forget.

(Few days earlier)

(Elsewhere)

‘Damn little girl…to have the nerve to not admit her wronging against my disciple I should have killed her that moment…if it was not for Kazehara I would have certainly lost it…’ I said to myself.

I had just left the school where I sent Asura to learn magic…he was a magnificent student, far surpassing myself when I was his age and even managed to learn all of my skills in far less of a time that it took me

I always knew that he was special, but fate is a cruel mistress, he was cursed to death and was used as a lab rat. An orphan I was told, but no one deserves such a treatment. It was by mere luck that I managed to find him that day.

I remember that day like if it was yesterday.

(Flashback)

He was exuding dark energy and probably was in a fight against someone. His body was unable to handle the immense demonic energies that were swirling around him. Even I thought that he was corrupted yet I was amazed to see that eye of his shine in that manner. A golden color that made the very energies of the world around obey him. The demonic energy was subdued without me even touching him. Yet I knew that if I do nothing he might fall for it if it resurfaces again.

He was gasping for air unable to walk properly and just fell in front of me. He was crying repeating the words ‘sorry I didn’t mean to hurt anyone’ again and again… a scepter was beside him. What a strange item to be exuding such energies… I tried to pick it up but it stung me from its mere touch. Then it began to reshape itself it transformed into a scimitar with a dragon maw shaped handle.

‘The devourer’ this item was an existence that once threatened this very world…it was told in legends that its owner was able to fight on par with Alsa. A mighty wielder of this blade the legends told it was forged from the blood and soul of an ancient devil that had split itself in two and placed half his power in this cursed item…where did this come from? Did the ones responsible for this facility used it on these kids? Too many questions to ask and too little time….this kid however seem to have a link to this blade.

Death magic is premating the air, it was used here…and it is coming from the kid in fact.

Black rings began to appear on his hands and tattoos of death began to spread across his arms.

This is a death curse. For it to be used on this kid…there is but one way to save him.

I picked up the blade and despite its refusal and massive amounts of pain that it began to cause me I held it tighter and went toward the kid.

He whimpered and cried while hugging his knees tightly….he must have seen things that no one his age should.

“Kid” I said

He kept whimpering but he must have heard me

I added, “You are cursed, and will die if not treated. There is a way to help you but it is not pleasant. Tell me do you wish for me to help you?”

He looked at me with bloodshot eyes ‘the golden color of his right had disappeared.’

“I…killed someone…I don’t deserve to live” He said however his expressions convoyed that was not convinced of such a thing. A glint of hope still exist in his eyes.

“Then atone for your sins and don’t take the easy way out, fight through it and with time you will learn how to forgive yourself.”

I presented him with the blade and said.

“Do not fear this blade. It may be the cause of your unhappiness but with me it will be your salvation.”

“How” the kid said

“By becoming stronger, and fighting for what you believe is right, and helping others you will see the world from another view, fight back and rise because no matter how hard a predicament may seem trying gives you a chance, whilst surrender is no chance at all”

Then I added

“You are dying from a curse that was placed on you, however if you let me bond you to this blade you may have a chance”

“What should I do?” said the kid

“Give me your hand”

Demons are stubborn creatures they refuse to die and would rather leave a portion of their power in an item in hopes for someone to grant them another chance at life, this is exactly what is happening here

I do not know of the origin of the demon that once owned this item but what I do know that it is strong

And if he is as strong as I think he is then a devil-lord he should be.

Devil lords are known for their ability to control death magic. So if the contract is initiated he might be granted a chance to live. Let’s just try.

I used my spiritual energy in order to initiate a contact I linked both the hand of the kid and the sword using it.

“What do you want human?” the thing inside the blade said as I felt the connection to it almost instantly.

“I wish to use your power to save this kids life.” I answered and the blade seemed to lessen the pain caused to me.

“Why should I agree to this?”

“Because if you don’t I will throw this blade in an active volcano and with it all chances of your revival will be naught…”

“YOU DARE THREATEN ME!!” the blade vibrated from his shout and more pain surged through my arm. Yet it calmed after I said the next words.

“Easy now. Listen this kid is dying and without your help he won’t stand a chance. Make a contract with him grant him at least a couple decades of life then you can do whatever you wish to him”

‘Not that I would let you take his body once the contract is established’

“Hmm interesting…I’ve waited thousands of years what is another few decades…I did manage to possess him for a short period of time. But his body is too weak to handle my strength…I would have better chances with him grown. However the curse had advanced a lot…and he has a special gift…good, good. I can handle this however he will grow unable to control his own mana... he will always need mine for sustenance”

“It is not a problem, I can handle that”

“Good, then let us begin.” That was…easy…

Once he said that all pain I felt left me and the blade began to reach for the kid

He instinctively reached back and grabbed the blade.

Once he did the growing tattoos that now managed to reach to his shoulder began to shrink and wither all the way back to his wrists. The curse had stopped working and the kid seemed to look much better.

I asked the kid.

“What is your name?”

He said “Asura…”

“Do you have a family name?” I said

“No”

“Then who was it that named you?”

“I don’t know…I only know that my name is Asura”

Hmm

“Then I shale give you a family name. From now on you are Asura Shirogami, meaning the white god… the one who brings salvation”

(End of flashback)

I should be passing the borders of Alsa by now. Quietus won’t be long to reach. I should find Osfor and have him explain to me what happened. Damn bastard took Asura’s wellbeing for granted he should not have let his guard off of him. But for those who were responsible for his death a fate worse than his is what awaits them.

Running is much faster for me than taking a vehicle or a ride. Although using an aircraft would be even faster but I do not have the means or time to waste looking for one.

The boarders of Quietus were upon me and guards who were watching the great gates of Quietus were clearly surprised to see me running toward them with no intention to stop.

Using Unstoppable Decimation I broke through the stone gate as if it was nothing, and kept on charging forward.

Reaching further into the territory I noticed that several presences were approaching me, yet none was threatening enough to force me to halt and deal with them. I have only one objective to reach the Seldia sector where Osfor was held captive. Although I doubt that he is being held captive against his will as he could escape anytime even in a teleport blocked area…I believe that he had discovered something far more interesting that he chose to remain captive. And now he needs me to free him meaning that he cannot handle what he had discovered alone.

“Greetman…” said a voice in my head, a voice I knew too well.

“Huh, still alive Viktor.”

 “What business do you have here in Quietus?”

Huh serious as always.

I responded”

“You know me well enough to guess.”

“Sigh…if this is going to bother my lord in any way I will be forced to act.”

“Rest assured” I said “Burgas is the last one on my list. I need to deal with ‘them’ first”

“…”

He kept quiet and after a few moments all the presences that were following me disappeared.

He didn’t leave without saying one last thing

“Give them hell.”

‘Huh…I am planning on doing exactly that’

After a few minutes of high speed acceleration I began to slow down as I was approaching the next checkpoint.

I halted right before entering the checkpoint that was just a small gate carved into a great canyon right after it was Quietus.

Calming myself down and removing the acceleration buffs I relieved my body from the stress I was feeling. Mixing with the crowds was not that difficult once I relieve the oppressing presence that my body usually emits.

The guards were on alert as they must have gotten the information about me breaking down the gate, but luckily I met Viktor and knowing him…

“You may pass Sir Greetman.” Said one of the guards.

‘As expected’ I thought to myself. That shrewd man already eased my not so subtle infiltration.

Continuing on my way I reached the city in nearly no time, getting to the Seldia sector won’t take much longer but I need to make a diversion. If I am to break in to wherever Osfor is I will need to make a commotion somewhere else.

Quietus was divided into four main sectors. Seldia, Ruvil, Bamed, and Gita. Gita sector was the one that the competition was held at. Bamed is a sector for the commune and Ruvil is for the nobles. As for Seldia it was the one that handled most of the production, administrations, and management of the city.

So far I am at the Bamed sector and creating a commotion here wont garner much attention, however if I am to make noise in the Ruvil sector that is not that far from here, those who oversee this city will deem the noble more important and most of the attention will be focused on them.

Finishing my mental planning I moved to act.

It didn’t take much time for me to get into the Ruvil sector. Bribing the guards who were checking the ones who entered the sector was necessary as even Viktor won’t be that cooperative.

I always hated magic when I was young. And I still do but that never kept me from learning some tricks.

Placing a few delayed explosion spells was by no mean difficult especially in a place where everyone thought themselves to be safe.

Leaving the sector after I had done the deed and without getting more attention I headed directly where Osfor’s ‘scent’ was strongly permeating the air, it was coming from the largest building in the area.

Most buildings in the Seldia sector were official ones. Tall and made of cement and glace and tightly put together. Unlike the noble ones that were made with stylish design and didn’t care for space.

It should be about time for the explosions to occur. I am not that monster of a man to make them deadly and they were still positioned far from most residents.

 Seeing the hordes of men wearing black coming out of the large building is proof enough that the explosions had gone off.

I waited a few more minutes until most of the organization dogs left. Then began to do the thing I am best at.

Utter and complete destruction.

I used my strongest buffs and body reinforcement spells.

I was born with enormous amounts of spiritual energies, I was told that only one in a thousand year would have this same body structure. Therefore tiring out in a fight is almost impossible for me even while using all of my buffs at the same time. And this was what gave me my reputation. And I will be sure to deliver!

The waves of energies that were exuding outside my body were making the glass of the building bend to the pressure as I entered.

“OSFOR!!!!!” I shouted without regard to the breaking of any glass material that was near my position.

There were a couple of guards laying on the ground that must have fell unconscious due to my emitted pressure.

Although a lot of ‘dogs’ already left the building there are still quite a few in here.

Three men came in from the elevator that was in the middle of the reception hall. Quickly approaching I shoulder-smashed one of them into the back of the elevator rendering it inoperable.

The other two looked stunned from the fact that their partner was eliminated in less time than they could even react. One placed his right arm forward trying to cast a spell only to have it grabbed by me and easily swinging his entire body into his friend. They made a good looking wall decoration.

Osfor’s smell is coming from below. The elevator is down so using the stairs to get down to him is the only and best option. As the ‘dogs’ can’t get fast enough to where he is without it.

Taking the stairs I went down however I still was met with resistance. Nothing a few punches to the face can’t handle. I cannot afford to use my swords at the moment they might crash the building down on us.

I could not keep track of how many lackeys I had to punch my way through in order to get to the third under floor. This is where Osfor’s smell is the strongest.

Opening a steel made door (breaking it into tiny pieces would be the less gentle term)

I found Osfor in the middle of the room grabbing a man wearing a lab coat with both hands placed on his temples. Searing flames were discharged from his palms into the man’s head. He was not trying to kill him…yet. As I have seen Osfor do this quite a few times before.

“TELL ME WHERE IT IS!!” said Osfor who I, personally, hardly ever saw him enraged

The man fumbled few words saying

“T-The next room to the right…locker 44…please release me…”

He won’t…

Osfor burnt down the face of that man into nothingness after getting that information.

Before I could say a word Osfor turned to me and said

“Follow me”

I was supposed to lash at him and now I am being ordered around…

I however still did.

The room to the right contained a few monitor screens and some lockers that had magical seals on them.

Going directly to locker 44 the seal on it was a safety lock that was supposed to explode the moment it was tampered with if the person did not have the correct formula to unlocking it. Probably destroying whatever it was locking with it.

However Osfor did not even care for such trivial mechanism and instead created a fireball and blew the entire locker sections.

Rummaging through the now scraps and rubble Osfor grabbed a staff.

Yes if it was that item it would be the only thing that would survive an explosion like that. It was his cane.

They must have took it from him and now he got it back…this is why he could not escape earlier.

Osfor turned back to face me with less sterner expressions.

“I need to show you something” he said “It is of the utmost importance”

“What would be more important to me than the death of my one and only disciple” I said in a not so subtle voice.

Osfor who looked dejected at the mentioning of my disciple truly did show regret.

“It is indeed a sad thing what happened to him…I received information about his death from one of the people who were overseeing this facility. Yet still…there is something that if we do not deal with now it might threaten the very existence of our race.”

“GET TO THE POINT!!”

“I luckily came into the possession of an agenda that was showcasing the future plans for the Organization. And making quick calculations I finally understood their objective. Their first attempt at Albion was to get my research on the Gore’s corruption and the method of recovery. Although it was incomplete I still managed to make a stabilizer that was able to suppress the corruption. This stabilizer is able to fight back the corruption. However this very item won’t work twice on the same person.”

“Didn’t I just say get to the point” I said

“I am getting to it please just listen. The organization is in fact not interested in the complete formula but have far more interest in the incomplete one. As with it and with the agenda that I have managed to obtain I understood their true motive…they wish to bring down the great barrier…”

“I still don’t get it…” I said

“Sigh… if they bring down the barrier that is protecting the countries an invasion of the demonic forces is inevitable. Chaos and anarchy will fester and then they will come like a devil disguised in angel clothing offering the people the medicine that will cure their blight and then promises them with salvation.”

“Salvation?”

“Yes, in fact this plan was never going to be executed as too many variables are in place. The most apparent of them is, if the barrier goes down and the invasion commences, it will be like a punctured dam that will poor more and more Gores into the countries and humans will be certainly unable to stop the devils from getting in. However the organization managed to find an item that could give them a way around this…”

“Asura’s Eye.”

“Yes…Now they could break the barrier from anywhere and with the ability to close it at will they will have in fact tightened their grip on the four countries to do their biddings”

Enraged by the information I just received, and by the fact that Asura was killed for his eye I could only get more infuriated he was but a tool for them…they will know my wrath and this I vow to myself

*‘I SHALL BE THEIR END!*’

“I still have more bad news…”

“WHAT COULD BE WORSE THAN THIS?” I shouted.

Osfor did not speak but just walked outside the room gesturing me to follow him.

A few corners and turns I found myself in another room that was containing files and huge monitors.

Its door was melted off and burnt skeletons of previously living humans occupied the entrance.

Osfor with no respect to the dead stepped on the crusty bones of the deceased and walked in. Then sat on a chair near the monitors playing a scene that made me re-swear my earlier vow, this time making their end to be very, very painful.

**CHAPTER 2 into the void.**

 “You are too slow human…”

I answered

“Well if you could look at my state right now” which by the way was not enviable “you would understand that walking with half healed bones and injuries might be the cause”

“Pathetic” said one of the black wolves. “Why should we even put up with this human…he is far too weak to be of help.”

“Quiet, our ancestors had promised that man and we shall oblige and respect their wish.”

“What are you guys talking about?” I said.

The big wolf stopped and turned to face me saying

“You will know soon enough. Now hop in you are far too slow, reaching our destination with your speed will take us months.”

‘Hop in? As in, ride him? That could be…awesome! Yet destination? What is he talking about?’

Some of the wolves began to growl once I approached the big one, but with just one glace at his subordinates, they all lowered their heads.

This guy’s fur is magnificent…and so fluffy!!

Yet without a warning he began to run.

Not just run…the damn thing’s speed was astonishing. His subordinates were keeping up with him only they were not using their paws and legs to run.

Almost all of their body had turned to black smoke expect their head. And looking like comets they rushed through the forest. One of them was heading directly toward a tree but once he was in contact with it his body dissipated before contact and reconstructed itself after passing the tree.

There was nothing that could stop these guys as they got faster and faster. I only worried about one thing. If the one I am riding used the same trick I might find myself stuck to a tree trunk…

However my worries were for naught as he was dodging the trees intentionally. Meaning that he did consider my wellbeing.

“You guys are fast!” I said

The alpha responded

“We are shadow wolves we are much faster in areas with low light concentration. Clasp your hands tighter it’s going to get much faster now.”

I did as I was told and truly it got way faster.

We just left the forests’ domain and reached a mountainous area. There was a huge cave or tunnel that all the pack headed toward. Once they entered the tunnels I no longer felt the bumpiness of the alpha’s motion when he was running.

He transformed his body into a shape similar to his pack only with a physical back for me to remain seated on.

I felt like I was flying.

After exiting the cave area that only took less than few minutes. And with a speed like theirs that would have been a few days walk.

I saw a new scenery. It was a destroyed land that not a single tree or batch of grass was growing in it

Burnt lands with fuming hills and charred rocks. The wolves kept running through it until I saw the biggest mountain I had ever seen.

It was red and large. So big that its peek was piercing the cloudless sky and still was not visible.

“That is one hell of a mountain I said”

“That is the nesting place of the current ruler of this domain.”

“Ruler?”

“Yes. A primordial dragon. Older than time itself and wiser than any. However even with his immense strength…he is a prisoner like us.”

‘Dragon? Is he the same one that brought me here? But how can someone of that strength be imprisoned here?’

The wolf as if reading my mind said

“You will know all you need once we reach our destination”

It took a few hours yet the mountain was still in view. There was a small creek that had water in it. And feeling thirst I was about to ask for the wolf to stop to get a drink.

But then he said

“We are here.”

Then they stopped. It was a small waterfall probably where that creek came from.

The big wolf said

“There is a cave behind that waterfall. Get in and you will understand everything. Prey will be brought to you daily. And under no circumstances are you to get out of that cave without one my subordinates…the void is no place for someone like you right now.”

‘What is he talking about…the only dangerous looking this I encountered today was you?’

Anyway I stepped down from his very fluffy and comfortable back and walked to the cave. There was a passage at the side of the water curtain that I took and walked inside.

I felt the wolves disappear.

This entire world felt rather dim lit.

I tried to use a fire spell but to no apparent success. However after focusing my entire being and energy in one finger I managed to produce a candle like flame that barely lit the entrance of the cave.

I tore a piece of my cloth and used a stick that was hanged on the side of the cave. This instantly meant that there was former human presence in this cave… meaning that whoever those wolves were speaking about must have lived here.

Igniting the torch I proceeded forward hearing but the now muffled sound of the waterfall.

Carefully and filled with a strange sense of excitement I moved forward.

What I found was shocking.

I expected spider webs and dust to be filling a place like this but no.

It was a perfectly round room with shelves and books, yes books.

It was clean with wooden floor skillfully made and an interior design fit for a great scholar.

There was a bed on the side and a big chair next to a study desk.

The chair however had a corps of an apparently old man.

The old corps had its hand holding a faintly glowing silver sphere.

Carefully placing my hand on it, the sphere responded and rose up high.

Scanning the entire room with waves of magic it displayed a message.

“At last, you came.” A projected holograph of someone that looked similar to the old man.

“Well this item here is designed to relay a message once it comes in contact with a human. Once this message ends it will be destroyed. Dear discoverer…I cannot express my gratefulness over the fact that you have discovered this item. I will be sharing a secret that you will probably find very hard to believe but if you could please do anything about it…it will save our world a great deal of trouble. Are you willing to hear this old man a final wish?”

The message stopped probably waiting for my response.

I said “yes”

Then the message continued

“Thank you for your patience. I was sent to this world by mistake. It was a stupid and faulty experiment to control the power of the void. Now knowing the truth behind this world I truly wish that I had never agreed to it. This world is ruled by a true dragon a primordial one at that. However he is not the only dragon here…another one that is probably of equal strength is still on the loose and is terrorizing every living creature here. Please do not leave this cave on daytime.”

“Daytime? So this is night? Wired” I said to no one in particular

“The primordial dragon once spoke to me and relied the thought behind this world and our world.

Our real world is but a prison. It was the blunder of our ancestors that caused us to be imprisoned here. Foolish and stupid they decided to challenge the Overseers of the true world and because of that they were condemned to eternal imprisonment in the Great Plains. The true world is much vaster than you could imagine. It contains many races of which are the dwarves, elves, draconic, beastkin and more. However we humans and demons were too arrogant, too confident in our own strength that we defied divinity and got crushed by them. The only way for one of our races to escape this prison is if one race totally eliminates the other. This might be very difficult to comprehend really I do know this it was the same for me at first…but it is the truth. The great dragon showed me images of a vaster world where he flew and soared high into the skies where he was revered as one of the strongest in the real world…he was imprisoned because he was flying over the great plains when the verdict was ruled. However due to his mighty strength he was forcefully locked up into the void unable to exit by his own strength. My only wish for you young man is to go and meet this being. However be very careful as reaching him might be very treacherous and I myself was unable to remain at his presence for more than few seconds.”

The message then stopped to speak one last time

“These are my researches and documents on this world take my ring it has a storing space in it and from there you could access this library from anywhere. I do not know whether you would honor my request however I would like you to know that once you are in the void it is almost impossible to leave it. The only one who might be of help is the dragon himself. He told me before he left that I was not strong enough to exit this place and once I find someone worthy. To send them to him. I do not know if you are the one he spoke about but please... if you are by any chance the one, please rally this message.”

The silver sphere emitted some sparks and fell to the ground with a dull thudding sound.

The only light was now coming from my torch. Looking up I saw a small yellow sphere on the ceiling that Shon for a moment reacting to the flame and lit the entire room.

Taking another look at the old corps I felt sorry for the man. He was wearing a black robe that looked very elegant and mystic not even his old and decayed corps managed to dirty it.

He must have spent god know how long in this place trying to leave without ever achieving his objective…will I suffer the same fate?

I relieved him out of his clothes and carried his decayed body outside. I began to dig a grave for the old man as this is the least one could do. Hours upon hours using but my injured hands and some stones I managed to make a barely proper grave. A quick prayer was spoken and looking up I noticed a change in the scenery.

The four moons had dissipated and the entire cosmos changed and warped around itself.

Like if the painter of that view decided to change the scenery.

A star. A dark and large star was now in the middle of the sky. It shun in an evil purple light that made the lands shudder from its intensity. Heat. The first time since I got here that I had felt heat. Then right after it I heard a wicked screeching sound that would have probably tore my eardrums if I had listened to it any longer. I placed my hands on my ears trying to suppress the sound to barley no effectiveness.

I hurriedly walked back into the cave waiting for the sound attack to end.

Its origin was undoubtedly a dragon. It must have been the one the old man spoke about in his message.

Amazingly once I was inside the cave the dragon sound was barely hearable. So I decided to remain inside.

I had to first do something I would have considered unethical and very immoral if I was in a different situation.

I dusted off the robe and the pants that the old man used to wear and placed it on me after removing my old rags.

It was quit baggy and not very comfortable and I immediately decided to take it off. But amazingly it tightened itself around myself and even reshaped itself into a much cooler design.

The robe now magically transformed into a vest of black and purple. The pants tightened themselves looking very stylish with a touch of the smoothest fabric.

Amazing objects…and much better than the rags I was wearing before.

I grabbed a book but instantly regretted it as pain surged through my hand.

I was forcing myself too much today that I forgot that my body is still battered.

Those bastards did a number on me and I will be sure to pay them back if I ever get out of here.

I then gently reopened the same book and began to read.

“GHAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA” screamed the boy that was on the screen and every time the man would break one of his fingers or his toes he would ask

“How do you activate the eye?”

Repeatedly time after time the boy would remain silent only responding to pain with his heart wrenching screams.

Poisoned, broken, burnt and even mutilated. The boy suffered hell throughout his ordeal.

The video only showed scenes where he suffered. The man would come and torture the boy for hours but the displayer would only show the result of each and every day of this continues inhuman act.

‘Day twenty two. Number 144 still refuses to speak. New methods have been used to no avail. Increasing the dose of the Vetra poison anymore will cause him to die.’ Said a commentator who was probably someone from the facility.

I was standing with the two masters inside the principal’s office.

Seeing the torture process that Asura was being put through made want to hurl too many times to count.

I was wrong.

He never turned…he somehow was and still remained a human…I caused him this…what is this sick and cruel joke. I did not even have the slightest hints of regret when they displayed the first day of his torture.

I taught that

‘He is a Devil…and no matter what he should not be pitied’

Until that man who was responsible over torturing Asura said the following words.

“No one is coming for you. No one will be looking for you. You are dead to them and even if thought 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 suppress 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.”

I had my doubts…but after he took his eye…he only suffered, and not even once did he transform. Not even once did he exude that dark energy…how is this possible.

I turned my face away from the screen only to hear master Ousay shout

“DO NOT LOOK AWAY!!”

Being forced to watch this, is agonizing. More than I could handle. Tears were starting to stream down my eyes as I was unable to continue any further yet still I watched.

I caused him this.

The boy groaned in pain and suffered throughout days and hours of torture.

Every time the commentator spoke only to rally the same thing without further update. Asura refused to speak no matter what kind or type of torture he was exposed to, he held his ground... For more than thirty days of captivity he still held on to the hope of being rescued…he fought against the odds. He fought here and fought back then…he was the only one fighting…why? Why did this have to end like this? Why?

Ainz Greetman spoke. Calmly in a manner that was unbeknownst to his nature.

“This is the last one…I have already seen all of them except this one…play it Osfor.”

Osfor sensei complied without uttering a word. Sadness and grief was apparent on his face while on Greetman it was the look of defeat.

“Day thirty one. The subject 144 had refused to speak or rally any information regarding the eye of the wise. Chief sector Mr. E, had managed to find a way around the lock that was not permitting anyone except the original owner to activate it. Subject 144 is no longer needed. Termination will be initiated today at 16 Pm.”

The same man entered the room. He spoke to Asura explaining how he was now useless to him. He even gave him the chance for a quick death if he said anything that would explain how he managed to fight back the corruption. Yet Asura still kept silent. Bruised battered and looking like a corps he still refused to break…

The video continued on showing Asura being ejected from his seat into a hole that opened underneath him.

Another monitor showed where he fell. It was a dark place full of sludge and rubbish.

Asura was nowhere to be seen but he was certainly there.

Then moments later a few dozen Mahojins shone around the entire dump.

Creating a searing inferno that ate away at everything within.

This was the end of a boy that did nothing wrong. And fought for people that he was not obliged to protect…a good man died because of me. The world had lost a soul that its only sin was trusting others…

“Osfor…lets go.” Said Greetman.

And then the screen turned off.

The two masters exuded an aura too terrifying for me to even try and resist.

“They shall pay dearly for this.” Said master Ousay.

“Indeed” replied Master Kansaki. Then he added “I will be heading to Quietus now. I need Gaz-sama back. We can use these footages as leverage to hasten his release. Ousay, come with me.”

Master Ousay only nodded

“You may go” said the principal.

Finding myself ignored and unable to formulate words I tried to say something, but was interrupted by the principal.

“I need to tell you something Yuna-san.” After she said those words, the two masters disappeared like if they were not even in the room.

“I need to tell you something. Something about Asura.”

I said with sobs mixed into my speech

“I don’t wish to know anymore…I get it…I am a horrible and despicable person…I get it…I caused hi-“

“NO!” she said. In a tone that woke me from my miserable stupor

“No one has the right to blame you for what you did. Not even Greetman or the other masters. You had done what you taught to be right. And for that you are truly a remarkable person. Mistakes do happen and if you don’t forgive yourself you will never move forward.”

She sighed before she continued. Despite the apparent sadness she still tried to encourage me.

“I will tell you about Asura. He was found by Greetman when he was a child he happened to be an orphan that was forced to undergo illegal and inhuman experiments, he, and handful of other children at that. The Organization was the responsible over this, however, the day your parents passed away was the day Asura was freed from them. He, with the help of Greetman managed to initiate a contract with a devil that promised him life and release from a death curse that was casted on him in exchange for his body later on. This devil was responsible for the death of your parents. Not Asura. So if you want to hate someone hate the demonic existences that are threatening us.”

She took another breath and said.

“I understand that you wish to participate to the Crucible. Although you are a very talented kid, you need to know your limit. That place is not for the weak of minds and heart. If you truly wish to partake in it you need a good trainer. I will be yours. However, in exchange once you ‘DO’ get out you are to promise me that you will dedicate your life for others. And to fight for what is right and to fight against all demonic beings.”

Wiping away my tears I said

“I promise.”

**CHAPTER 3**

In an unwholesome land where even light refuses to shin. Covered with dark clouds originating from the highest tower of a dark palace. They stood.

Hordes of demons, all of them had been called to hear the decree of the one who rules over them.

The monarch of this wretched lands had spoken and with his will they are all to obey.

His strongest and most reliable servants were the five Devil lords that remained.

Perzahar, Great general and leader of all the armies advanced forward looking down on the gathered troops from the veranda of the palace, he looked like a human except for the pointing ears and the red eyes with slits in the middle with the addition of two horns that sprouted from the sides of his forehead and bended back. Wearing a black vest that matched well with his black pants. He stood on the veranda of the palace and spoke.

Even under the loud chatter and noise that the armies that had been assembled made, his voice resounded throughout the entire field hushing the miss figured creations and demons into a stupefying silence.

“My fellow brethren” he said

“THE ORACLE HAD GIVEN NEWS. The last Ashurian had fallen. And with it our victory is assured.”

Roars and shouts soon followed this statement

“Our great overlord had asked you all to partake in this conquest. It is finally time to rid ourselves from this prison. It is finally time for us to go back to where we belong. It is finally our time to triumph.”

Even louder cheers soon followed

“However, we suspect that this is a ruse and as we cannot afford to risk our plans to fail. We will send but a single army of our militia force. For them, the job is to figure out if the Ashurian line had truly ended. And with their inquiry, and if proven correct. The entire army shall soon follow.”

The cheers now were reduced to chatter and whispers between the demons.

“The leader of the second army Lord Vasbokh shall be the one to lead the recon forces”

The one in question was a hulking mass of muscles that doubled the size of the already tall Perzahar

He was shirtless his great and somewhat torn leathery wings added to his threatening appearance

His horns sprouted from the temple area where one of them was broken, and the scares covering his body only indicated that this creature had survived too many battles to count

The one named Vasbokh was the only non-mage of the devil lords although he had the power to control death magic it was minor and not to the extent of the excellent Perzahar. Yet what he lacked in magic he compensated for it via strength.

“As you all know our great overlord is the only one capable of opening the wall that separate us from the realm of those pitiful humans.” Said Perzahar

“And once our great overlord opens it, there will be nothing to stop us from overtaking them.”

Cheers and shouts erupted blessing the decision taken by the old ones.

It was a known fact for all of those that dwelled in the blighted lands that once the overlord opens the path, he will be in a weakened state. Yet even in that state his is still much stronger than all of his devil lords combined. However, he will be needing a lot of time to recover. So destroying more than one part of the wall is impossible. If the demons are to fail in the attempt to exit through the small opening created by their king the mission will be for naught.

Yet they will not give up the hope. They will fight for a chance to redeem themselves. For a chance to go back to the real world.

“We march in two months!” said Vasbokh in a voice that even without magic infusion boomed throughout the fields.

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The hell is this…this man is crazy…

I was reading through the book collection of the old man. His research was based on void magic, most of it explained how to integrate void magic into another type to change its properties. From the books I have read back at Osfor-sense’s library, Void magic is said to be the absence of an element. I found that notion to be wired, how can someone control void and nothingness? But this old man says the contrary.

“Void magic in itself is the origin of all magic; from it, magic is derived and exposed. By fully understanding the properties of this element you can create or reinforce any already existing magic. Take for example a normal fire ball. It is known that using the correct sign and mana infusion will result in its creation. However if one were to correctly add the void word into it magic text. The fireball spell will become void-fireball with the properties of both the conflagration of things and its consumption via the void properties.”

So in short if one were to add void to an attack it will both damage the target with the element’s own property and then eat away at its essence by the void part.

However that part. ‘One must correctly add the void word’ I guess when I was trying to do the same that time with Osfor-sensei that was the reason why I was unable to perfectly change the properties of that spell.

Opening another book I delved into the vast amount of research and work that the old man had spent creating. However the gurgling sounds that my stomach began to make after few more hours, reminded me that I am a human and I need to eat.

Looking through the small room that I was in, I failed to find anything edible, but even if there was it will be a few hundred years old and probably not very healthy…

I decided to go out, if I remember correctly the wolf leader said he will have one bring me food every once and a while…did they forget?

By the time I was outside the cave I saw it. It was a carcass of a strange looking dear with a purple gem embedded into its forehead and with one of the biggest horns on a deer that I had ever seen they too were glowing purple. The shadow wolf was cautiously looking around probably waiting for me to take the carcass the moment I met his eyes he disappeared.

I hastily grabbed the dear’s body and brought it inside.

Few hours later I was having roasted unflavored meat inside the cave.

It would have tasted much better if I had some salt, however I still ate worse than this with master... Now I just hope that this dear or whatever it is, is not harmful to the human body.

The room inside the cave was marvelously tidy, with a bed and a fireplace and even a makeshift stove. The shelves where the books were placed on were made of wood and the floor was also wooden. The old man must have spent a lot of time making this.

There was even a bed. And a small section at a side of the cave that had a small hole with water running under it. I don’t have to guess what that was for.

The cave was well equipped that calling it a cave would be insulting.

I took a nap in my temporary new home.

I had a dreamless sleep, I failed to know how much time had passed but I still woke up and continued on with my routine. Read eat and sleep. I did this for god know how long until I finally managed to finish almost all the books.

Some were too hard to understand at first as they relied heavily on knowledge of other books. Yet luckily my understanding was still superb as I was still able to fully memories the verses. Although I could not for the life of me replicate any of them I still fully remember the Mahojins and magic texts.

I was happy when I finally understood why I was unable to merge void into my other spells. If what this old man is saying to be true I think now I can utilize the void magic to its maximum potential…ah I always forget that I don’t have the eye anymore…

Anyway. What I and Osfor-sensei were doing was replicating a baseless idea that void was the absence of magic, However if I use the theory that this old man spoke about. That Void is the cumulative energy of all magic. The text for the magic formula will radically change. And if placing it correctly the spell, not only would it work it will be far stronger.

Sadly I cannot use mana...

It was yet again time for the wolf to be bringing me food. So I got out and went looking for him. Oddly enough he was not there. I waited and waited and my hunger only grew stronger.

I have to rely on myself now I cannot wait for someone to bring me food. Looking at my body condition I noticed that most of my wounds had healed although not perfectly I can now utilize my hands better.

It was daytime and it was rather warm so I took a stroll out not caring for the warnings of the old man.

I got down the hill where the cave was located at and followed the stream line.

There were various herbs out there; I saw most of them in the old man’s books. He had mentioned that some of them were capable of healing minor wounds so I grabbed what I could and placed them on a small lather bag I found back at the cave.

The whole scenery was marvelous although sinister. However one thing was bothering me. The great mountain that was a few hundred kilometers away gave me a sense of dread. As whenever I headed toward that direction I felt my body becoming slightly rigid and heavy.

This was the mountain where the dragon is said to have nested in.

I should probably take a look sometime…

I was woken from my day dreaming when I heard a growling voice a few meters behind me.

Instinctively jumping sideways I managed to dodge a claw that would have ripped me in half.

A giant hulking monster just ripped through dirt and stone like if it was nothing with its hand that had claws almost long enough to be swords.

He had a slim body almost three meters tall, a purplish black fur and red eyes with long arms and a gaping mouth that made no sense. His maw resembled that of a wolf and his ears were too long that they limply hanged down his head. He also had a jewel in his forehead one that was much bigger than the dear’s.

He growled and dashed again with a speed that did not match his size. His claws yet again missed me as I sidestepped them. Still feeling the pain in my legs I grumbled some profanities under my breath and rolled sideways from another downward cut. This time his claw was stuck on a boulder underground so I took the chance and struck at his abdomen.

Sadly that was a poor decision to make as his side was stronger than steel.

He swung at me with his other free arm but luckily I dodged by going under it then immediately rotated my body while striking its hand with a heavy kick making his own claw slash at his other arm.

Blood poured from the newly open wound and the monster screamed and howled form pain.

A few seconds later more of these creatures showed up. They growled in response and got closer to where I was. I slowly backed away thinking of a way to get myself from this mess only to be surprised by the fact that they were not heading toward me.

Then all of them jumped surprisingly on their comrade that was stuck. They ravaged him while he screamed and swung is free hand trying to push them away to no avail. He died almost instantly and the beasts began to feast on him. I ran away immediately afraid to be the next one on the menu.

I headed back toward the cave, looking every now and then behind me in fear of having one of those things to be on my tail

Reaching the cave I rested and continued reading some of the books.

I ignored the growing hunger and still read through several of them. Some were even speaking about alchemy and synergy. Probably with these he managed to create the papers on these books to write on them and mold the cave into a habitable home.

A few hours later I heard the howling of one of the wolves.

He brought prey. But he did not explain his tardiness, and he just left.

Eating to my heart’ content I continued on with reading the few remaining books.

I cannot remember how much time I had spent in this place but right now it should be more than one month.

I had enough rest. I should restart my training. Seeing how I could easily get killed in this place remaining in this weakened state is not beneficial at all. If I ever decide on meeting that dragon, I would need to make sure I can at least survive the journey.

Freakishly

**CHAPTER Turning Point.**

“Nassi!”

I shouted.

And got a reply that fully transcribed boredom.

“What is it Shiki…”

“Man you have been missing out on too many days at school…are you going to leave that desk of yours or not?”

He was inside his grandfather’s cabinet taking care of some work. Probably documents related to the four clans.

“Don’t you see that I have my hands tied to these things…I can’t understand how my grandfather even managed so many problems…”

I said

“Just leave that to Vizer-chan…”

“You know well enough that I would if she was here…this thing is really boring…my grandfather’s secretary is back at quietus…they will be releasing him soon after. The principal told me that she managed to get her hands on some good leverage to get him out of their hands. This shouldn’t take time so I better get things tidy for my Grandfather.”

“You don’t need too anymore dear grandson of mine.”

Said a man who’s voice I least expected.

It was Ryouka Gaz-sama head the head of the blazing fire dragon clan. And leader of the four great clans.

He was behind me wearing his usual cloth with signs of tiredness on his face. He looked…old.

Kaori and the principal were next to him with Kansaki-sama and Ousay-sama too.

Nassi who was still shocked at the sudden appearance of his grandfather instantly jumped from his seat and hugged him…something I never thought he would do. But it seems that he truly did feel lonely without his grandfather…Nassi grew up without his parents and the closest thing he had to a parent was his Grandfather. He spoiled him when he was young and kept him out of harm in many occasions. He doted on him like his son and that is why their bond was always strong.

“Now, Now Nassi. Appearances. Appearances!”

Nassi then got himself together and said

“Welcome back Grandfather”

Ryouka-sama took his chair and said.

“Kazehara…give me all the updates concerning what Ainz and Osfor had discovered back at quietus.”

The principal then responded.

“It seems that Osfor and Ainz had managed to get their hands on footage that heavily condemns the Organization. However luckily their plans are now exposed and they cannot use their plan to bring down the barrier as they will be eradicated by the power of all the countries. I had managed to hold a secret meeting and received the blessing from all four country leaders and even Koldich had approved that if the barrier is to fall anywhere in the four countries, an alliance will be made and we will bring down the Organization ourselves.”

“How come such footage was found…wasn’t that too easy? Too leave something of that value laying around?”

Ryouka-sama said

“No sir. The thing is, they probably never thought that Ainz will go there himself. And by the report I received from him directly. Not a single one of the high ranking Organization officers was in that building the day that Ainz got there. I think they never thought that Osfor would be able to rally the information regarding the place where he was captive and thus they made a mistake in underestimate him.”

The principal responded.

Ryouka-sama massaged the bridge of his nose a bit and said.

“This information changes things…Still I would like to know something else. Did you recover Asura’s body?”

This notion surprised me a bit did Ryouka-sama already know about Asura’s death?

The principal then answered.

“No…Ainz took it to heart and went down that dump looking for the body of his disciple. But found nothing but sludge…He brought down the entire building due to rage and his inability to bury his own disciple…Osfor is back in his lab at the moment he is trying to complete his project…these incidents had left us devastated…but like you said Ryouka-sama we have to strike back…otherwise we will lose face.”

“Indeed…I wanted to apologies to Ainz personally but it seems now is not the time…”

Said Ryouka-sama but was interrupted shortly after by Nassi

“Why should grandfather lower himself and apologies to that man. It was because of him that whole competition was ruined why should any of us express sorrow or remorse toward a contractor?”

Then Ryouka-sama looked at the principal saying

“They don’t know?”

She sighed and said

“No they don’t it would only cause more-”

Yet before she could even continue Ryouka-sama roared saying

“THEY MUST KNOW!! He was their friend and the least that could be done is that he is remembered as the person he was. Not the way that everyone judged him to be. Tell them!”

Another sigh from the principal was heard then she said

“It seems that we were mistaken. Asura truly did die as a human…some footage that we managed to get our hands on had proved that…we don’t know how, but he was able to suppress the possession and retained his humanity…the death of those people was not his fault. It was the demon possessing him but he somehow managed to comeback yet no one even thought of it that way. Remember Asura as the good friend he was. Being a contractor was never a choice for him. He had no choice in that matter to be honest it was that or death…I would tell you later how all of this happened but you will have to promise to keep the information to yourselves.”

The hell? So that means that he never turned…how? That is impossible?

“Tell me Kazehara…I understand that you are training that kid for the Crucible. Do you think she would make it?”

The principal then answered

“If it is with her current strength. I think that clearing the first twenty five floors will be a long shot. She needs to master her magic. However with my guidance that won’t be a problem. The issue is that she wishes to clear fifty floors and in that I am not sure that she could make it.”

The old man then answered

“Train her as much as you could. She will be the one to judge if she would continue or not. That place is not for the weak and if she could beat the first twenty five floors I am sure she would exit right away…even I was not stupid enough to try and go beyond those levels when I was younger…she needs to see what is inside to truly understand how dangerous it is.”

“Understood” the principal answered.

The two masters on the back have yet to say a word

Kaori then jumped in saying.

“I understand from what Shiki had told me that that place is very dangerous. Is it really worth the risk though?”

I had to answer

“I believe that she has something to prove…and in that no one has right to tell her what to do…we can only pray for her safety.”

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(1 month later)

Alikh was known to be a country that shared the most of its borders with the blighted lands.

It had an enormous amount of military and supervision over the wall that separated them from that filthy domain. In order to prevent any unwanted invasions or attempts to do anything. However today did seem to be a bit gloomier. The dark clouds that hung over the blighted lands unusually extended beyond the barrier and covered a good portion of Alikh’s borders.

The guards that were on watch duty however failed to see this little premonition that will bring about a great disaster.

Few hours later a stampede of an army was seen by a guard who in his panic failed to ring the alarm bell in time.

Hordes of thousands of monsters, demons and devil alike was charging at the gate.

Their sound was now loud enough to be heard by almost everyone that was guarding the border.

Ringing the bell sound although late managed to put almost everyone on alert. The headquarter back at the capital was contacted and they were rallied with the information.

Panic was apparent on everyone yet they still had faith in the barrier that was protecting them.

The army that was now very close to the barrier had a truly grotesque sight to it. Abomination of all kinds squealed and shrieked threatening to scare the life of the still surprised guards.

Yet while the wall was still up. The guards had no fear for their lives. Yet…

A dark cloud of death soon followed the now halted army and crashed into the barrier corroding it and eating at it. It only took a few minutes until the barrier was eroded and shattered. A SSS barrier was brought down in matter of moments…

Leading the army was a hulking beast almost three meters tall with an ugly scared figure and torn wings.

 He had a giant battle axe on his right arm and roared at the army to advance.

He was first to jump in and with one swing of his axe he brought down a tower that was for guards to watch over the. The impact still wrecked another building whose only sin was being aligned with the tower resulting in both of them crumbling away.

The takeover of the exit point was in matter of minutes as now the demons had secured an access point toward the human realm. All they need to do now is to infiltrate in one fell swoop and take the entire great planes for themselves.

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The meeting room that was now holding an urgent assembly the leaders of the different factions of the Organization hastily gathered.

“WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS? Was this your doing Mr. V?? Said the leader”

Slapping both his hands on the table Mr. V rebuked the accusation

“NO; I am not that stupid…It must have been someone else or something else…”

“With the incident that happened at your laboratory back in Quietus it does not matter…we will be put to blame for this…you should have disposed of that footage as soon as you could.” Said Ms. C.

But angrily Mr. V responded

“It was not time for the disposal of that footage and you know it I still needed to make a report to the headquarters and-“

“ENOUGH” said the old man.

“It is not time to be fighting…we need to do something about this. How far are you in fully unlocking the Eye’s ability?”

After calming himself Mr. V said

“I am almost done, and the eye after many attempts and failed experiments is now stable. Whenever the eye was implanted in any of the test subject’s eye socket it would killed them almost instantly. However after injecting some of the previous owner’s blood into a another kid, the eye managed to calm down and operate although it is not showing its full potential it is more than enough to close the gates as my workers had presumed. We should use it to close down the gate as soon as possible the invasion that we are encountering is that serious…”

“Good” said the old man then added

“Let them fight the beasts and we like we had planned before we will be the ones to bring salvation…the infiltration might change things up for a bit but I think he can be left of the hook once they find out that it was not our doing. I need all the information regarding the barrier falling down and who caused such a thing…to be able to bring down that barrier and in that short amount of time is unthinkable…it took us decades to do that at Alsa…and now it seems that someone has the ability to bring it down in an instant. This is not something we should overlook. For wealth and prosperity.”

“For wealth and prosperity” responded everyone.

**CHAPTER X**

Good. It seems that I have recovered some of my strength. Good, good. Right now I can use some of my buffs. Fighting one of those clawed monsters shouldn’t be a problem but I am still not sure what to do if I encounter more than one.

I had spent a lot of time in this cave and now I think I am ready to venture out.

I would still need a weapon to use and I think the claw of those beasts would do the trick. As they were sharp enough to rip through boulders they would probably be enough to defend myself from any monster that I encounter…hopefully.

God I am starting to hate this place…the lack of human interaction is not an issue as most of them are traitorous bastards anyway. It is the routine that is boring me

Train eat read and practice magic.

Yes practicing magic, it seems that I was slowly gaining back the control over my mana and now I can use some third and second tier spells. As in C and B class spells. I tried an A class spell but the leach-back was devastating as I suffered from massive mana poisoning.

Thankfully there is an herb here that has the same effect of that plume that Master Ousay had given me and I was not stupid enough to try a high tier spell without having that with me.

I stockpiled on food and smoked meat and herbs before I gathered all the books inside the cabin in the spatial ring that the old man had left. The house looked very boorish without the things that decorated it…I don’t know if I will be able to come back to this place but no matter…I only have to move forward.

I headed out in the direction of the mountain passing by a familiar place I saw the leftovers of the same monster that was ravaged by his own kin.

Only bones were left and thankfully his claws were there too. I treaded carefully toward its carcass and ripped its free arm out. The other hand had the claw still deeply stuck on the ground and would be but a waste of time to try and take it out.

The hand had three long sword like knifes. I have no idea how they are capable of using their hands for anything other than slicing things up…but it does not matter.

As the flesh was now rotten and fragile due to the long time it spent on the surface I managed to break the “fingers” apart making three separate claws I used a piece of cloth on the base of every one of the claws as a handle so that I don’t cut myself swinging it around

I tried a couple of test swings it seems capable of handling heavy sticks although not as strong as my Devourer. I packed all three makeshift swords into my bag.

This will have to do…

I headed then toward the mountain.

I don’t know how much time I had spent walking but no matter what the mountain still looks very far away but that did not discourage me from seeking it.

I left at night time and now day is soon to rise and with it as the master said monsters will come out…I will be needing a place to sleep in, at least until the daytime passes.

Finding nothing of the sort nearby, I kept on walking. While occasionally looking around me in order to not get ambushed or to walk in some monster’s territory.

Day came up and the dark star soon replaced the four moons. Once it shone its light on the land I felt slightly more energized. I felt the whole world change with it, the star had some sort of effect on the environment but I gave it no mind and kept on walking, the road ahead of me is still way too far.

I instantly jumped sideways once I felt killing intent coming from behind me.

Looking back I saw that the wolf that was supposed to be bringing me food was behind me.

“What are you doing here” He said.

“I decided to visit the dragon.” I responded as I had nothing to hide from him.

“You are not ready yet.” Said the wolf.

“Who decides whether I am ready or not. I am bored, there was nothing to do in that cave, I will be going to meet this dragon and if he has a way out of this place it is better that I know of it sooner than later.”

“Our leader did not save your life so that you could throw it away. You have to wait…”

“I don’t care. If he saved my life then I thank him for it but I have something to do, and I can’t do it staying in this place. I need to speak with that dragon.”

“It is true. He owe us nothing” said a familiar voice, it was the wolf leader he seemed to have appeared out of nowhere

“I saved his life because our ancestors had given us this task. The last human that was here was the one that saved our race. We owe him our lives. And thus, saving this human is a promise that we must fulfil. But if you young human still wish to reach that dragon…it will take you months of travel on foot. I can get you halfway there but the rest you will need to walk yourself. The closer we get to the mountain range the heavier the pressure becomes. If you fail to reach the top you better go back and wait until you are stronger.”

I said

“Thank you for the help but I will travel alone.”

“Good luck young lad.” Said the white wolf

“Thank you…I never got to know your name”

“My name is Zhareb what is yours young lad?”

“Mine is Asura, Asura Shirogami”

 “It was nice to meet you I do hope that we meet again.”

“Goodbye…” I said

Then the wolf nodded and disappeared with the other black wolf.

Ughh that was awkward…anyway I need to keep going forward. That mountain will take a lot of time to reach.

Walking for god knows how long I began to hear the sound of hooves. I crouched under a batch of violet grass and slowly climbed a hill that was covering the view.

Thousands of creatures that resembled buffaloes yet were three times bigger and were far more imposing, horns and purple jewels imbedded on their foreheads, they ran in a line almost afraid of something crushing whatever laid in their path. One of them had stumbled to only be crushed under the hooves of the passing horde it even caused more stumbling in the line that was once perfect to be turned to complete chaos.

It was but a moment later that I understood the reason why they ran like that. It was because their life depended on it. Two giant beetle like monsters were following the horde they were at least ten meter in height and more than thirty in width as for the distance between their horns and back it was probably more than eighty.

They both had a dark purple color carapaces but one of them had a singular horn on its face that shimmered in a faint purple color, the other had a two large fangs with the same shimmering light that were situated on the side of what probably was its mouth, this one clamped its fangs together into the colocation of the stumbling buffaloes tearing flesh from bone in a single bite.

Blood and gore painted the scene showing what true horrors hid in this world. This scene just taught me how dangerous this world truly is.

The other beetle now joint its mate in a feast of fresh spasming meat. They both eat to their heart’s content while I prudently hid my presence and remained unmoving atop the hill.

I decided to wait until they had finished their meal to proceed forward, there is no point trying to pass by them risking myself getting discovered.

It was but few moments until they had finished eating, then both their horns began to shimmer in a perkier light than before they became brighter and their carapace looked even glossier. After that they both let out a screeching sound and moved in the same direction that the horde went at a speed far too incompatible with their size.

I should probably take more caution walking toward the mountain, meeting one of those beetles unprepared would probably end my journey.

I approached the massacre scene and noticed that although a huge portion of the meat was eaten, there still remained a lot here. Yet surprisingly the purple jewels that were embedded on the heads of the buffalo like beasts had all disappeared.

It seems that monsters here do not rely solely on the nutrients that the meat of their prey provides for them…I think they use whatever is in those jewels to reinforce themselves considering the way those beetles had acted and also the way their horns had reacted…

I searched through the chunks of meat and gore and luckily managed to find an intact head of one of the buffaloes it was buried deep underground and probably was missed by the two beetles.

I placed my hand on the jewel and found it too sturdy to be removed casually so I grabbed a one of my makeshift swords and carefully cut away the jewel.

It was almost as big as my fist when I removed it, it gave a pulse from now and then but seemed to not react to anything. I tucked it away in my bag and continued on with my destination.

It is a long way to go and I have nothing but time…

I only stopped for eating or other biological needs, according to the Zhareb it would take me a lot of time getting from the cave to the mountain where the dragon resides, the area I am in right now is a huge open plane and I need to get to the mountainous area that is still way too far. I should probably use the time I have to practice. Instead of walking probably running and even carrying some weights would prove beneficial. Yet doing so in the day is probably not a good idea as most life forms seem to become active during this time period.

Surprisingly I have yet to hear the roar of the second dragon as it had not done so since the first day I had come here.

I kept on doing my training and running by night and sleeping by day for many days and rarely ever encountered any beasts. Thankfully though I found a dear that resembled the one that the wolves had been bringing me for sustenance sleeping by. It was a wonderful treat and sleeping on a filled stomach was too much of a bliss to pass on.

The dear’s meat was fantastic and it had helped me for days to come. It was energizing and very delicious yet the pressure emitted from the mountain range only increased the closer I got. The food helps a little but only reinforcing my body would help me withstand the might of this pressure.

The food became scarcer the closer I got the main mountain but I was prepared for such a case and stockpiled on dried meat and some herbs. What was amazing was the fact that the clothes I wore never got dirtied or got torn…the fabric of this item is truly incredible.

I probably spent more than twenty days in the open only sleeping in caves or hiding myself well under a bush or a casual tree but the closer I got to my objective the harder it was to find a good cover to sleep under. At one point I began to travel day and night. This had proved to be a bit more beneficial as I encountered more beasts at daytime and casually took care of them. None was strong enough to cause me to worry except for once where I had met the same creature that I am using their claws as swords now.

He actually looked larger than the others and his fur was even darker than his brethren. Almost pitch black, I was lucky enough to notice it following me and that was enough for me to prepare an ambush for the poor soul, however even after landing a critical strike with one of the makeshift swords that penetrated the middle of the monster’s chest he was still able to retaliate with few swings that were surprisingly fended by the clothes I was wearing. I had thought that that would have been my last day as a living man but this item is sturdier than rocks.

I finished off the beast by plunging another sword into it but this time after dodging a horizontal swipe of his claws I plunged the sword directly into the beast’s head.

It dropped dead almost immediately his body was still in spasm as I separated his head from the rest of his corps and carefully extracted the jewel on his head.

It seems that the only creatures that did not have this jewel were the wolves… does this have to do with them being sentient beasts? A question to be looked at later on.

I grabbed the jewel and the new claws and placed all into the almost bursting bag. Not forgetting to carve some of the finest pieces of meat out of the creature’s body for food later on.

I am finding myself becoming truly not giving a damn about anything that is happening around me.

The fact that I am enjoying monster meat and not caring for this too dire of a situation being that I am probably the only human in this lost world is reason enough for me to believe that I am becoming crazy. None of this would have happened if I did not agree to going to the competition…none of this would have happened if she did not betray me…none of this would have happened if I had decided not to lend them a hand. It was all my fault I should have only cared for myself, I should have only gave a damn about myself…a demon they said…I am starting to believe that true demons are in fact humans. However, what is done is done…I will take care of everything once I exit this place and I will be damned if I did not pay back all those that had betrayed me ten times their due.

**CHAPTER 6**

An old man with a golden crown on his head was sitting on a throne that was fit for someone of his might a true hero in his time and a person to be feared but now time had docileized this mighty lion into this old looking man who looked like he carried all the worries and sorrow of this world.

 “Your majesty we can no longer hold the wall we need all the help we can get…” said the trusted servant of the king Ardous Elior.

“I know Mujin…I know” said the King “we can only hope that the other countries agree to help as if we fall…they fall”

“But you know too damn well that they will only provide help if they are paid…we cannot agree to this they will strip us clean…” said the old servant

“WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO THEN?” roared the king “I know that they will do so but I cannot help it. We need to look after the people first. I do not care for my life if the people survive”

The prince then interfered “Why father? Should we not just leave this place and let the people fend for themselves. It is the survival of the fittest here and if they cannot save themselves then the only thing they should do is to die for our survival. We are of noble linage and they must give their lives to us, let us just leave to Astora I am sure they would welcome us there-” although he spoke a lot he was finally cut off by the now infuriated looking king as he roared shocking the prince from the force of his shout

“ENOUGH, what kind of a king would place the safety of himself before the safety of his people? A captain would always be the last to remain on a sinking boat and so would a king if his nation was on fire. Where have I gone wrong raising you? Oh dear Efely, if only you were still alive…”

“My liege” said one of the royal guards of the king. “An envoy from Alsa and Astora has arrived”

“Let them in” said the king

The man that walked first was the minister of defense himself. It was Gligan Brisht known for being the undefeated warlord, he was known for his remarkable leadership and acute hunch.

The second one was a person that needed no introduction. It was Kansaki koujetsu a mastermind and a great politician with a natural knack for deception.

The first one to speak was the minister and getting right to the heart of the matter was his style.

“You need help, we can provide about two thousand mages and three hundred grand mages and twenty arch mages for defending the wall. With the addition of one thousand warrior all meeting the minimum of master. On the counterparty we will require fifteen percent of the yearly income of the country of Alikh this of course is regardless if we are able to repel the forces or not. We are not sure how many had managed to enter so we must take our own precautions as you can see.”

“This is madness” said Mujin “What would stop you from bailing out on us the moment you find ourselves overwhelmed? Or even just taunting the enemy without actually fighting this is a stupid attempt at an offer” then he turned toward the king and said “My king I would be more than willing to go there myself and recruit as many men as I can to shove back those demons where they came then to let you accept such an exploiting offer”

The king then said

“We are severely underhanded and we need as much help as we can…I am truly happy to hear your opinion on the matter Mujin but we need help…even if we have to ask the devil himself for it.”

I have a better offer said Kansaki

Then everyone on the hall turned back to face him.

“My country is ready to offer assistance to Alikh for free…”

Shocked and unresponsive the king remained, but soon was awoken from his stupor by the roar of the minister

“WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL OFF HERE KANSAKI?”

“Nothing actually. Like I said Alsa is willing to offer help for free. We are prepared to offer six thousand mages and grand mages to help close the gap and the assistance of all heavenly demons including myself. Our assistance will remain until we get full control over the gate breach point.”

The minister who was not believing what he just heard roared again

“THERE IS NO WAY SOMONE IS WILLING TO OFFRE THAT MUCH HELP AND FOR NOTHING…”

The king then spoke

“We are truly grateful for your offer but are you not risking too much for our cause…”

Kansaki responded while shrugging

“Well beats me…I personally would have asked for at least thirty percent of the yearly income but it seems that Gaz-sama has a soft spot for you. He was the one that decided on this the second he got back to his post.”

The king laughed at that statement and said

“He truly is a kind man…so Mr. Brisht now that we have support from Alsa I believe that your offer is not too tempting to accept at the moment”

Enraged and defeated the minister answers back

“We will then provide our help for ten percent of the yearly income of you country”

The King responded to the offer by saying

“Five percent and the assistance will remain until the breach is secured.”

The minister sighed and said

“Done…”

He then left immediately grumbling under his voice his clear dissatisfaction for the turnover of the situation.

“So your majesty I believe the entirety of our forces will be here in the span of three days. However, I have brought with me a small force that will be enough to quarantine the situation at hand.” Said Kansaki

The king whose looks were now brimming with hope asked Kansaki

“Who have you brought?”

“Well for the moment I have about two hundred grand mages and four heavenly demons. The rest as I have said will be here three day from now, you will need to give me the control over the battlefield so that we can handle the situation as we see fit.”

“Do as you wish. However tell me, of the four heavenly that you had brought…is he with them?”

Kansaki snorted at the statement and said

“Yes, he is…”

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Back at the borders of Alikh a massacre was being unfolded. Humans losing their lives like flies to a candle flame

Demons and gores alike would taint and kill whatever was misfortune enough to cross their path. The Alikhian army was unable to push back the invasion even with the countless amounts of spells and fortifications they all fell to the onslaught that was coming to them. The devils now had fully secured the pathway to the country and were unstoppable. Many had wondered how come these creatures had never attempted to do any of this earlier but none was concerned enough to find out the reason as their lives and survival depended on closing the breach.

The Alikhian army was disorganized and totally incoherent their commander in chief lost his life to the one that appears to be leading the invaders and now his second in command is having trouble putting the forces back together.

The invaders had no need for sleep and seemed to be tireless as for the humans they could not fight both their feeble nature and the demons at once.

The hulking leader was closing the gap between himself and a tight congregation of soldiers and mages that were bombarding the invaders from atop a hill that was overlooking the entire scene of battle.

Their spells were seemingly inefficient as most of them either missed due to panic or bounced back from him due to his inhuman body strength.

 He jumped at the group swinging his enflamed axe aiming directly at the center of the group. If the attack would connect they would lose their last hope and commander and this battle will be for naught.

However as luck would decree they were saved from such a fate by a man none would have even foretold his appearance at this place. Ainz Greetman, the strongest human alive.

He jumped in front of the group crossing both his blades blocking the devastating strike. An explosion of wind and fire originated from the crossing of both blades.

“Ousay! Takeda! I got this one you guys handle those who are trying to encircle us. The rest of you mages try to hinder the approach of the other demons.” Said Greetman.

And almost instantly they all complied

A green haired maiden soon showed up near the gathering of the Alikhian mages saying.

“Who is the commander of this battlefield?”

A middle aged man wearing a golden attire showing that his statue was higher than the ones surrounding him said.

“I am the one supervising this battlefield who are you?”

The maid gave no mind to his question and immediately said

“Assemble all those that had been injured, reallocate the camp further back from the entrance. This position is already lost, we will need to tack it back later on, and we will be doing a tactical retreat until all of our forces show up.”

Looking infuriated the man shouted

“I said who are you? And why are you ordering us around state your purpose!”

Right after he had said that one of the demonic beings managed to infiltrate past the grouping of soldiers and jumped aiming his spear toward the middle aged man.

Although the man had seen the attempt at his life he was too shocked to react and too slow to try dodging, yet right before the spear that was launched managed to strike at him, the maiden casted a spell that summoned chains from the ground in front of the middle aged man, they swirled rapidly around the spear and managed to stop it before it had pierced the man’s heart. A second after that another set of chains wrapped themselves around the wrists of the flying demon and tore him instantly apart.

“Like I said, you need to reallocate the camp. It is too dangerous here.”

The man looked angry but still sighed and conceded to the request.

“We are pulling back. All of you retreat back leave the field and go back, we will set camp at the second checkpoint…this battle is lost.”

A strong clash of metal was resounding throughout the battlefield. Muffling all sounds of fighting due to its loudness.

The devil lord that was leading the invading forces was being pushed back by the unrelenting Ainz.

Every swing of Ainz’ swords managed to force the hulking devil a step backwards. He looked shocked to see that a human was able to harness such force and strength yet the devil roared in acceptance saying

“Finally someone worthy of my strength.”

After his shout the devil matched the same pace of Ainz’ swings strength and speed alike they were battling each other like it was no tomorrow.

Swing after swing none of them gave way to the other, they would sometime land a hit strong enough that it would push one of them a few dozen meters crashing into demons or soldiers alike. And yet they still kept on fighting.

Ousay and Takeda however were preoccupied with forcing the invading forces from encircling the retreating portion of the army. Each one of them took a side on the central hill.

The sword master Ousay managed to inflict heavy damages to the mindless beasts as most of his attacks were wide ranged and had great distances. He slashed at the air rapidly and constantly, shattering and crushing groups of monsters at a time sending slash waves of wind to tear them apart and breaking their advance.

As for Takeda, he forced most of the demons on his side into a halt due to his strong barriers and crushing force as he squashed everyone that was caught between two of his barrier magic like flies.

However the demons were too many to be stopped by just these men. Although with the addition of the two hundred grand mages and their power. This was still not enough to pushback this unending sea of monsters. They still however managed to force the invasion into a halt as most of the demons now were unable to pass through the chokepoint that was created by the arrival of this unexpected aid. They were all certain that the only one that could breakthrough and give them leeway would be their Devil lord. But he too was still preoccupied with fighting a human that should not have this amount of strength.

Most of the soldiers and mages that were atop the hill had now managed to flee back to a further checkpoint. Although many demons had managed to bypass them before the arrival of the help from Alsa, that point was still holding strong due to its geographical position as it was a natural stronghold. The only passage toward the center of the Alikhian country as it was positioned atop a mountainous area with a steep cliff.

Ainz soon found himself to be the only one fighting but he gave it no mind as his opponent was still far from tired. Nor was he. Although he was now encircled with thousands of demons, none of them had attempted to attack as they must have respected his ability to fight or were simply too afraid to act. Someone able to fight on par with the strongest of them is not one to be messed with.

Ousay now had fully managed to suppress the forces that were coming toward him. As for Takeda, most of the demons on his side had abandoned the idea of trying to breakthrough his barrier.

Most of the demons now decided to climb the central hill where the last two hundred grand mages were standing on but found no way to pass through as the bombardment of these ones proved to be superb and consistent.

“Ainz. The retreat was successful come back now.”

Nodding to the information Ainz then used a buff that ignited the veins on his body and filled him with power. He turned like a top and smacked both his swords onto the now blocking devil lord.

Although the devil lord had sensed the dangerous amount of energy that was coming from the man in front of him, he still failed to fully gauge the strength of this strike as it sent him flying hundreds of meters away into the group of demons, due to his size and the force behind that strike he rolled through his own men crushing them thanks to the impact.

Right after that the monsters looked in the direction of the now huffing Ainz and decided to charge all at once. Only to be disappointed by the fact that Ainz was now teleported away thanks to the help of the mages on top of the cliff.

The mission was a success…but the cost was too great.

CHAPTER X

We were back in the school arena and I was watching a sight to behold, seeing Yuna playing with ice this way made me feel mesmerized yet what was the point?

“What is she doing?” I asked Kaori as I watched Yuna bending ice to various shapes and with huge amounts of it too.

“well Shiki…I believe the principal had asked Yuna to do this exercise to become more efficient at magic control…I find it to be absurd but the way the principal insisted on this exercises probably means that it is important…”

“But why the different shapes?” I asked

To be answered by Nassi who appeared from nowhere.

“It is to teach her how to maintain control over different calculations, magic formulas and degree of inputted mana at the same time. This is a great way to enhance the amount of concentration at a given time. This way she will be ready for any variable that might come and disturb her focus.”

“Huh…I still don’t get it…anyway why are you here Nassi? Your grandfather must have took over all the work shouldn’t you be studying for the upcoming exams? You didn’t get the chance to study at all while ‘he was away.”

Nassi then snorted and replied

“Like I would need to waste time for subjects that easy…”

Well only a genius can make you feel like this. I spent several weeks preparing for the upcoming exams and he shrugs them off like if they were but a nuisance.

He then added

“Anyway. Grandfather is occupied with the breach and invasion that had happened at the Alikhian borders as you all know. And today marks the day of where the full assistance of Alsa and Astora will be present. It would be but a matter of time before the invaders are pushed back.”

“True, now with the full support from both Alsa and Astora this ordeal should not take longer…However, what is stopping them from opening another path toward us? I find is strange that only one single section was brought down” I said

Then with a stern expression Nassi replied

“Well Shiki, grandfather had expressed the same thought, He believed that the organization was responsible for it, but after receiving a report from the survivors of the initial attack they said that what brought down the wall was something from within the blighted lands. It came like a black smoke that eroded the wall and destroyed the barrier.”

This is dangerous…I thought to myself then I said

“If this is true then we are in an even worse situation than we initially thought ourselves to be in…”

Kaori then said

“What do you mean?”

“Well…you all know that the barrier is of the highest levels of protection, a SSS barrier that held strong for thousands of years. Made by Alsa herself to stop the remnants of the last Great War from invading once again. However now that they have something or someone capable of breaking it at any moment, then isn’t this barrier useless…we need to stop relying on these walls and strengthen ourselves, otherwise once the day they do breakthrough, we will have only ourselves to blame for our own weakness.”

Kaori then said

“If he was still here…he would probably be able to close that breach…” the tone of her voice convoyed sadness that I didn’t fail to intercept.

“Indeed, he already closed one at the fairy forest. He would have probably been more than capable of closing this one. However what is done is done, there is no point in dwelling on things that happened in the past.”

A small yelp was heard afterward that came from an audience member who was watching Yuna’s performance with glee.

It seems that she lost concentration for a second and most of the shapes she was managing broke apart.

Now she began to reformulate all the floating shapes and forms and started all over again.

“She is working hard” said Kaori

I then responded.

“We should do so as well…”

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Back at the borders of Alikh a subjugation force was handling the invaders. The combined might of the Alsian, Alikhian and Astorian army forced the demonic existences back from the checkpoint.

The first three days were filled with stress and fear as the Alikhian soldiers would have nowhere to go if this natural fortress is brought down. However they still kept standing and they held strong for three arduous and painful days awaiting the arrival of the forces that were promising to help.

The commander of the invaders had charged through the tight pathway with few hundred of his race at a time as the pathway would only let that much in, and with the continuous stream of monsters and demons alike the courtyard in front of the fortress became full to the brim with them.

However the fortress held strong and on the wake of the third day the subjugation force managed to arrive at a crucial time.

Their arrival was well timed with the full advance that was ordered by the leader of the invaders and was more than what needed to force them back to where they came from.

Although most of the forces were above ground and behind the fortress’s walls many were still fighting head on with the monsters. Many of the soldiers were infected by the blight and miasma created by the mere contact of the gores or the influence of the demons. But still they fought to win back their territory.

However the battle as almost turned over as the leader of the invaders began to use death magic.

Unlike what they had seen before, this creature would strike with his weapon sending waves of death magic that instantly killed any that was miss fortuned enough to be on its’ way.

This devil lord became a threat to those that battled against him. His Might was enough to bring his foes to their knees in fright. Being unable to even scratch his skin would render any that opposed him hopeless.

Yet this devil lord was enraged, he was angry and infuriated. It was long before he had a decent fight and once he got what he wished for it was taken from him suddenly and unsatisfactorily. That fighter, that monster in human clothing is nowhere to be found. This battle is not satisfying not even in the slightest. Men drop dead without a breaking of sweat and lives quenched without a hint of regret. This hulking beast feared that he might have accidentally killed that man with his death magic but he rebuked that thought thinking that it would be too cruel of a joke for someone of that caliber to die with a spell this feeble. This was the reason Vasbokh never liked any of his brethren. They all relied on their magic and rarely used their swords. Apart from Perzahar, the other three were heavily reliant on sorceries, and none would ever try to fight him head on. They knew of their weakness and he knew of his. On long range he is nothing but a target practice for them, but on close quarters they would be nothing but a training doll to vent his frustration on.

Yet sadly fights between devil lords were forbidden by their overlord. As it was the command since they are low on numbers and cannot repopulate like humans. Their last comrade died thousands of years ago. And it was by their own hands. This one was the strongest devil lord, thought to be the one that could even inherit the seat of the Overlord. He was the only one that brought satisfaction to the mindless Vasbokh the only one that could fight on par with him and even was the one that broke his horn. However he turned greedy and wished for more power. He did not want to wait his turn to succeed the Overlord and stupidly pushed his luck into challenging him. Resulting in his untimely death. From there on it was forbidden to fight. From then on it was but dull days and years that passed by.

Until this moment, a human capable of igniting the once lost flame in Vasbokh’s heart, He needs him he wants him. He needs to kill this man at his strongest so that he could once again feel the thrill of the fight.

The forces that Vasbokh was leading were now falling to the heavy artillery and assault from the newly arrived support. However they could still push on, his objective was already secured, as he now knows that the enemies are not a serious threat and the amount of resistance that he encountered was but a nuisance to the entirety of the Overlord’s army. Right before he would send the signal for the final push to shove away the incoming force he was surprised by a single unite that was gathering enormous amounts of energy and mana.

Surprised by the existence of a human that could harness this amount of mana the thought of him being the same man that he fought three days before crossed his mind. But he instantly dismissed it thinking that a human with that much strength would have no way to harness this amount of mana and magic. Not even the devils were able to wield both magic and spiritual energy in equilibrium. Perzahar was the closest but was still not able to show the same strength of that man. So who was this person what is this entity? Vasbokh asked himself yet he was not one to wait for answers he was one to get them.

He began to cleave his way through the bodies of his enemies, rapidly approaching the person gathering that amount of mana.

Once he was close enough he saw him

A human boy, probably not even twenty years of age was the one gathering this massive amount of power. He was barely reaching above Vasbokh’s knee. With a scrawny physic and a body not worthy of a person wielding this power, yes his eye it was the same eye as their fallen comrade. He had the eye of the wise… but this should not be possible…their Overlord had mentioned that none should have a power like this and it was a privilege to but the offspring of gods and a rare gift to the strongest of demons.

If the last Ashurian had indeed died then who was this youngling?

Yet before Vasbokh could answer this question. He was suddenly attacked by the boy. The energy that he gathered was soon shot forward aiming directly at his chest. Under normal circumstances Vasbokh would have easily dodged but his mind was still processing the events unfolding in front of him.

“Disintegration” shouted the boy sending the hulking beast flying while at the same time decimating hundreds of demons.

The attack in itself was not lethal to the hulking Vasbokh but it was more than enough to kill the lowly demons.

Once Vasbokh was on the ground he roared and for the first time in his life he decided to use his brain for once instead of fighting his way through what just happened.

He shouted to his comrades.

“RETREAT NOW. We were sent for scouting…handling someone with the Eye of the wise was never our job.”

Yet without a single complaint soon every invader followed the command and retreated under the heavy assault.

Not only had they given up on the fortress they soon emptied the entire camp and went all the way back to the breach. Exiting without a single word and giving up on a dream that they had been seeking for thousands of years. This event left many soldiers surprised and bewildered, why would the invaders retreat in this manner?

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**CHAPTER 8**

“Good god that was deadly…”

Well I just managed to survive a close brush with death. How it had happened well it goes like this

I was climbing the mountain where the said primordial dragon resided in. few weeks after I began the climb yes you heard that right few weeks. You see although I have an enormous amount of strength compared to a normal person even though I am still not fully healed. This mountain was ridiculously big and the road ahead was not paved in any way. I needed to take detours and find different passages in order to climb but a few hundred meters. The chasms found here and there also force me to take an even longer rout Even the creatures that reside here are strong beyond belief. But in the end they were all delicious. However, it seem that they become less and less the higher I climbed.

I heard the roar of a dragon and believe me when I tell you that damn thing was huge. It covered the glowing dark star with its size and managed to shake my body to the bones with its screech. Its appearance made the already too heavy of a pressure that I have been suffering under for the past thirty or so days of climb tenfold itself. I was almost crushed by the terrifying aura that this creature was releasing yet it seems that something was wrong.

I have been feeling the pressure coming from the mountain that the old man had said to be home of the primordial dragon for too many days to count that now I can fully distinguish it. This newfound pressure was strange to me, so I instantly assumed that this was in fact the second dragon, the one that went mad from this prison.

Another screech and roar was heard from within the mountain range this one coming from a different source.

I tried to climb higher to have a better view of the dragon thus I climbed through a steep cliff and hid within a congregation of large boulders and rocks

The thing was circling the mountain and would only show up for few seconds every time it made a full turn and believe me although this dragon was big the time it took him to make a full circle at this altitude was long this just shows how enormous this mountain really is, his scales were gray and his body was enormous, his wings although large had few holes in them but he still managed to fly. He had four horns on his head two were tilting backward sprouting from its forehead and the other two were sprouting from its temple to the side of his mouth. Its eyes were white as milk and he had a purple jewel on his forehead.

Unluckily for me the creature that was facing forward somehow managed to notice me. He then roared again with an unprecedented force followed up with the gathering of huge amounts of energy in his mouth. He shot forward a beam of light that was aimed perfectly at me.

Not caring for how high I was situated, I actually used all of my energy to shoot myself backwards and down through the cliff I just climbed

I acted on instinct and jumped away from the attack that managed to destroy the huge rock coagulation I was hiding behind, it was like a blowtorch was aimed at thick piece of butter the rocks proved to be of no resistance against the attack and the spot I was using for cover was soon flattened to the ground. However, the searing heat was still felt even under the clothing that I was wearing I felt that I was going to be cooked alive if this would had continued any longer

I stumbled and crashed on some of the rocks on the cliff and barely managed to grab one of the swords I had in my bag while the bag itself shattered and lost its contents. I struck the sword on the side of the cliff stopping to a halt a few meters after. The content of the bag were but meat and a few claws and some herbs but the most important was saved in the ring that belonged to the old man.

I still feared for my life as if I climbed back up right now I might end up dead so here I am back to my predicament.

I waited a few hours until I felt that the pressure emanating from the second dragon lessened a bit.

I then resumed my climb. Fear actually makes a person focus and be on edge at the same time, once I reached the top of the cliff again I noticed the damage that the dragon had done. The dragon actually shot his attack diagonally it did not only wreck the cliff but the beam managed to rip through several layers of stone and dirt creating a still burning chasm at the base of the mountain. It seems that the reason behind all those holes I saw once I entered the mountain range were due to this creature.

It was still a long way to the top but I could make it in few more days if in these days I get lucky enough not to encounter that crazy dragon again…

But one thing is still bugging me. I wonder what the other dragon truly has to say about this place and the way to get out…I hope it is truly worth the trouble and the time it took me to come back here. Considering that I only know of the spell that would get me into the void and not the one that would open a way out…ah damn if only I still had my eye…but no problem I just need to hope that he actually is as the old man described.

…

After three more days of sleepless and tireless climb I managed to reach the top

And oh my god what was there was mind blowing.

The mountain I have been climbing had a natural heaven inside it although it was far below, I still managed to see it. Trees and grass growing with many creatures running around having their fun in this small garden inside the mountain. Yet strangely no sign of this dragon I was supposed to meet.

My stomach began to grumble after a few moments of staring so I decided to get down the steep cliff.

I have been munching on some dried meat I was saving inside some of my pockets but now I need more nutrients and those animals would probably prove to be more than satisfying.

It took me a couple hours to get all the way down to where the greenery was at. If I considered the fact that the mountain would be at least a dozen kilometer in height this patch of grass would be at least at the eight kilometer mark. It is strange to find something like this at this height but the fact that not even ice was formed on this mountain top made it clear that the laws of this world worked in their own special way for example I never suffered from the lack of oxygen that I usually did when I was traveling with my old master and when we climbed to high platforms.

A lone dear ran through the plane without a care in the world stopping only to eat grass but this day was not his lucky day, as I was really hungry and this would prove to be a very nutrient meal.

I was able to throw a small rock at it and managed to instantly kill it. He made a great delicacy almost comparable to the taste of the dear meat I eat that time with Yuna…

Anyway. I managed to find a pond that was being fed through a small stream coming from underground. I drank and swam to my heart’s content washing away the dirt and the tiredness. But what was thought of me to be a blissful moment of relaxation soon turned into a disaster.

Another roar, this one however was very close. The dears began to flee in terror as for me, I looked up and saw it. It was the same ashen dragon of that time and it was flying above the patch of land. He then opened his mouth wide and began channeling the same attack that ripped through the boulders that time.

I am unable to do anything once this attack hit not even me or the animals inside will be spared from the destructiveness of its might. Is this how I die? After all that trouble…

“FEAR NOT YOUNGLING I AM STILL HERE”…

I know that voice.

A second before the ashen dragon could shoot its ray, another dragon crashed in it midair and sent both of them reeling toward the ground. Once they made contact the ground itself shook from their weight.

The other dragon had the color of blood, he looked imposing and mighty his wings well-made and in impeccable shape and his body without a single scratch on it. His scales were almost glistening under the dark star but his eyes were crimson and focused on his target. He had only two horns on his head, but they were much bigger than the ashen dragon’s.

Two titans began to fight each other claw and fang were traded with none of them showing any sign of withdrawal, they disengaged and roared at each other while the red dragon would move cautiously around his opponent the ashen one would screech and look furiously at his enemy.

The ashen dragon once again opened its mouth this time to shoot another beam of light but was again stopped by the red dragon that crashed once again into it with its head. The shock sent the heavy ashen dragon reeling but was clearly not enough to defeat him. They continued battling each other causing earthquakes with the sheer amount of their power. Each hit and each impact resounded throughout the valley.

I want to assist but what could an ant do in a fight between elephants? I probably won’t be able to even scratch the scales on the ashen dragon’s body with the remaining claw I have. As for magic I would have more chance with farting and hoping that the dragon would die from gas poisoning than to try the low tiered spells I can handle now without suffering massive rebounds.

I then remembered what the old man once said in his books void magic is the origin of all magic and this is the void so if I can use this world’s energy I might be able to do something…however the problem with the rebound still remains…there is still a solution though…I hope that it would work anyway if not I might end up killing myself for nothing and I can’t seem to recall that the red dragon had even asked me to assist him…should I really do it?

Well what is the worse that could happen?

I left the pond without wearing anything but my boxers and grabbed the storage ring and pulled out some herbs. Yes the herbs that had the ability to suppress the effect of magic poisoning. Then I began to shove them in my mouth.

I began to feel dizzy but I paid it no mind. I slowly started casting a spell.

I began slowly by creating a magic text in midair then transformed it into a Mahojin. I poured more mana into the small Mahojin making it grow, I then recalled all the necessary words and began to write them slowly and respectfully they were by the hundreds. But thankfully the fight between the two dragons was a bit far from me although I think that something like a safe distance with these dragons should not exist, I began to feel the rebound once I was using too much mana although I don’t have a lot I am using whatever my body can produce at this state.

The original spell needs more than three times the amount of mana I originally have but I will have to make do with this customized one. After finishing the necessary texts and luckily managed to dodge a rock the size of a house that passed right above me without losing focus on the spell in front of me I added the final touch. The spell contained two elements. Light and fire however this one is using three. I added the void element and hoped that it would work. According to the old man the void word should only be added as a powering source to the spell and not an actual element. So now the spell not only will it consume the user’s mana but also the surrounding void energy which in its all exists everywhere. And especially in this place it is heavily present.

Considering the low amount of mana I had provided and the fact that this is a stupid idea and I have never even attempted something like this before the chances of this spell to function are almost none existent. But what do I have to lose huh? My life? I already lost that.

Waiting for a chance the red dragon managed to once again throw back the ashen dragon and this time he clawed at his forehead shattering a piece of the enormous jewel imbedded on it. This gave great pain and suffering to the white dragon but still managed to retaliate with a swift claw to the red dragon’s abdomen. It was not deep but it still made a gashed wound. Blood began to poor outside those wounds but the red dragon gave them no mined.

At this moment the two dragons were apart from each other and this was the chance for me to test this spell

I aimed and prayed that this would work.

“Void ray of disintegration”…

The Mahojin turned the words shone bright but nothing happened.

However as if it was fate’s way of telling a joke the Mahojin began to gather mana. It sucked me dry almost killing me in the process and began to suck the needed energy from the outside world. The ashen dragon picked up on the gathering of mana but was a tad bit too late.

The veins on my hands began to blister and my head was spinning as the effect of the herbs began to recede. If the spell continued any longer I would die before I can do anything.

Then it shot forward.

A purple ray of death shot toward the ashen dragon. It took a defensive stance and shouldered the damage with its side. The amount of energy that came out from the spell was enormous. The thought of this happening while I still had the eye even frightened me. However, this attack although destructive and even few times stronger than Osfor-sensei’s original spell…it proved to be very lacking against a true dragon.

Not only had I not been able to even make it bleed, the damn thing took all of the attack only suffering from minor burns to the shoulder.

I almost died standing from the sudden feebleness I felt. The rebound was surprisingly not that high but the fact that almost all of my mana was used up coupled with my right hand that I used to cast this spell being charred to a crisp with but some few tendons and burnt flesh holding it together was going to kill me soon enough.

I used my other hand to get another batch of herbs to eat but was slowly losing consciousness. The herbs however made sure I was still up in order to see how this fight would unfold.

The red dragon was thankfully not one to let a chance like this escape its notice. He soon jumped on the white dragon and managed to lock its jaw on the still defending dragon’s neck.

The ashen dragon squirmed and wriggled trying to release itself from the clutch of death but was surprisingly knocked down with the enormous amount of power shown by the red dragon.

He kept his jaws locked onto the ashen dragon’s neck and even managed to harness more power to squeeze harder resulting in some of his fangs being broken but ultimately it was all he needed to break the ashen dragon’s neck.

With a loud snap the life of a once terrorizing dragon ended. And with its death the red dragon roared to the heavens claiming his position once again and this time securing it as the strongest in this world.

I gradually began to lose consciousness but the red dragon did not allow me my well-deserved rest.

He shouted at me saying

“Wake up youngling. There is not much time to lose. Come here”

The sound of this dragon was being broadcasted inside my head so I had no way to ignore it and continue on with my sleep. So I gathered whatever power I had and stood back up. The amount of damage and corrosion that happened to my right hand made me unable to feel it. Now that I noticed it if I were to sleep with wound this sever I would probably not wake up afterword. I need to treat this, I probably can get something from this mountain to help me fix my right arm.

I was walking slowly toward the red dragon but it seem that it would take forever so he actually bit on the neck of the fallen dragon and brought it toward me.

I looked at the dragon and said

“Hi”

The dragon snorted and said

“there is no time for pleasantries you need to eat, now.”

I answered him back

“Eat? I just eat something so I am actually full thank you…and I believe that dragon meat is a bit too tough so I think I would pass…” seeing that even the red dragon broke his tooth fighting this I probably would lose more than one trying to do the same thing.

“No. you need to eat the heart” he said

“The heart?” I asked

And before soon I heard the screeching and loud wailing of several creatures at once.

“Damn they are here.” Said the dragon the proceeded to shoving one of his hands into the dragon’s chest. The penetration of the flesh was easily achieved now that the dragon is dead. I think that their bodies loses its strength and durability when they are alive.

The dragon then ripped out the heart of the dead dragon, the heart was massive and huge almost three time bigger than me once the dragon dropped it to the ground.

He then said

“Eat. Now”

“Euh…even if you say so I think this is a bit too much” I said

The dragon then again said

“Do not worry about the physical and start eating unless you want to become the next meal to those guys.”

Physical? Those guys? what is he talking about?

I looked up and soon understood. The sound that I heard earlier belonged to these things. Imoogies…Yes and shit ton of them too. They were swarming the top of the mountain, they probably were swimming high above and now that the ashen dragon died…they too want the heart. The legend say that once an Imoogi eat a dragon’s heart, they themselves will become a dragon.

I placed my left arm on the still hot heart and tried to tear some of its flesh but to no avail, it was still too tough. Bloodied and tiered I tried to rip a piece of it with my teeth. However once I sank my teeth in the heart the flesh melted and almost disappeared into my mouth, the blood and flesh transformed from raw and disgusting flesh to taste like the nectar of gods. I wanted more, so I sank my teeth again and bit at the heart this time taking a bigger bite. The explosion of tastes washed over me as I continued on biting, I never got to swallow as every time I bit, the flesh would disappear and my body would feel invigorated yet with every bite I craved more, I felt a gluttony like nothing before, I felt hunger like never before. I bit, and bit through the flesh like a mad man. I craved. I eat and I was still unsatisfied.

“Good, good” said the red dragon “I will take care of these nuisances you only have to eat, youngling.”

He then flew off and began to chase away the incoming horde of Imoogies. As for me, well I didn’t really care, I had a feast in front of me and I did not want to share.

After an hour or so I think I was done with the heart.

I actually began to lick the blood off my fingers just to get whatever flavor that was left.

Looking back at my right hand I see it now fully healed. Not only did it change from the charred state to what it was before no it became much better looking and staggeringly more powerful to the feel.

Now that the euphoria I was feeling had ended I can fully sense what is happening to my body.

My skin became stronger and my muscles became much sturdier, my badly broken fingers are now better than ever and my overall state is superb. However only my right eye is still missing…

The dragon descended back after managing to slay a few hundred of those pesky snakes the rest ran away.

“Did the Imoogies crave the heart as well?” I asked

“Imoogies? Ah those sorry excuse of a snake yes they did. They think that with the heart they could become a true dragon, what sad fate await them if they truly did manage in doing so.”

“What do you mean old one?”

“My name is Drakhsis. As for them none would have been able to withstand the power that cometh with the digestion of the heart.”

“I felt that my body’s strength increased a bit but nothing to be lethal…shouldn’t they be more than able to sustain something like this?”

Drakhsis laughed saying

“Oh you have yet to digest its power fully. Now rest. You will need all of your strength for the upcoming night, Ashurian.”

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“So how did he do?”

Said Mr. V to one of the doctors in his lab

The doctor then enthusiastically answered

“The results were magnificent!! Although the kid lost consciousness soon after using that spell he was picked up by some of our agents and brought back. There was some damage around his eye but nothing too serious I think that those are some minor singes of rejection but they can be treated nevertheless.”

Mr. looked pleased with the report and went to speak to the boy directly.

The boy was sitting on a chair inside the lab with some of the doctors around him discussing the event that happened.

Mr. V ignored the lot and spoke directly to the kid.

“So Jamie. How are you feeling?”

The boy happily replied

“I never felt better. The surge of power and the ability to cast spells at will this is magnificent sir!”

Mr. V then answered. “Oh it is great that you are feeling this way. But tell me something. I and some of my comrades have been discussing something. It seem that your participation had turned the tides of the battle and we managed to push back the invaders. We will be needing you again to do another thing for us but can you tell me one thing.”

The boy replied

“What is it? Sir”

“Well you see, the spell you used that time was considered an S class spell. And was developed by Osfor, the heavenly demon that belongs to Alsa. How were you able to reproduce such feat without even encountering that person or being in contact with that spell?”

The boy answered with a naïve look saying

“Well sir, I actually don’t know but if I am not mistaken whoever had this eye before used such a spell. And while I did not actually meet them, the eye somehow managed to ‘remember’ all the spells he had used and believe me when I tell you, the owner of this eye knew a lot.”

Mr. seemed content with the answer and asked one more thing.

“SO tell me again Jaime, How about you become a king?”

The boy seemed a bit shocked at the sudden proposition and knew for a fact that Mr. V never tell jokes, but before he could ask anything the man said

“Well Jamie, you have been with us for a long time so this is our way to repay you for the hardship you had suffered. So what say you?”

The boy seemed to be thinking and said

“If I become a king…Can I get to eat a lot of pie?”

Mr. V then chuckled and said

“You can eat all the pies you want Jamie.”

He then turned around and walked away. Leaving the drooling kid living in his own fantasy.

Mr. V returned to his room and contacted the leaders of the organization, they were already present and mostly waiting for him.

“Mr. V you are once again late.” said Mr. E

“I am sorry for my latency but I have good news.”

“Please do tell” said Ms. C “That is the least you can do now that your base was compromised, what a joke it is to have lost your grasp over the base in the Seldia sector and to a lone man…”

Mr. V then rebuked the statement saying

“This is not the time for this, and if I were present there at the time I would not have let it be that way. The man lured most of the forces outside the base and managed to wreak havoc within.”

Mr. E then interrupted

“Go to the heart of the matter Mr. E, and please Ms. C stop bringing the past we had already discussed this.”

With a click of her tong Ms. C then calmed down.

“Well, it seems that we are once again struck with fortune. It seems that the kid is capable of using the spells that the old owner used. And in them the spell to repair the barrier. We can close it at will if we wish so. So tell u Mr. E what is it that you wish me to do?”

The old man waited and considered the new information then said.

“Well I think that we should lock it down as soon as we can.”

Everyone in the room was shocked at the statement and wouldn’t dare to object without waiting for further information from the leader.

Mr. E then added

“I think that we will have our hands tied behind our backs if we do not rush to fix things up. The four countries are now conspiring against our existence. Although we had bribed most of the ministers and high positioned men in most of the countries. We will lose our grasp if the kings themselves decided that our existence is no longer necessary, once we clear away the doubts from the people’s heart and show as the once that truly saved them…we could then do whatever we like.”

Mr. V then said.

“Then how about the offer I had proposed to you, do you agree to it?”

Ms. C then roared

“What offer!!? Are you working behind our backs Mr. V!!?”

Mr. E then answered

“Like I said before, calm down Ms. C. Mr. E’s idea is rather brilliant. If we cannot have the backing of the four countries. We only have to make one of them truly ours. We will be presenting a new king to rule over Alikh. King Elior is old and need to be changed. With the only heir being his unfit son and having his country invaded and weakened. Overtaking that country will not be that hard of a matter. Therefore we will provide a new king in which we are ruling from behind him. And in doing so we will have the backing of an entire country. A country that none would dare fight against considering that it boasts with a person capable of closing the ‘breaches’. ”

**Chapter 9**

“Where is that winch!!!” said Vasbokh enraged and threatening.

 Perzahar appeared in front of him saying

“You are in the presence of our Overlord. Respect is the least you can do so lower your voice Vasbokh”.

Vasbokh then sighed and said. Looking at the being sitting on a throne

“Pardon me my overlord. But I was told a lie and I hate being lied to…”

“Explain yourself Vasbokh.” Said the Overlord

After gaining some composure Vasbokh spoke about the event that unfolded

“Then a kid with the eye of the wise showed up.”

Once the Overlord heard this statement he unconsciously grabbed the right side of his chest. Where a wound that never healed was present.

“Essithia…”called the Overlord. Then a figure showed up

She was a greater devil. Just below the strength of the devil lords but her power resided in clairvoyance and illusions.

She had a slime figure almost an hourglass shape and looked fairly beautiful. He black hair and pale blue skin color made her look like a temptress her chest was bountiful and her allure was dangerous. She had one horn sprouting from her forehead like an Oni.

She was wingless but she had a tail that swung from left to right.

“Yes my overlord” said the she-devil

“Did you not give us news that the Ashurian had died?”

She replied while bowing her head while some of her hair fell down and covered a part of her face, she did not bother fixing it as it would be disrespectful to the overlord. No one would be in their right mind if they think that their personal beauty should be more important than answering the Overlord. Even if it would take but a second. The woman answered

“Yes my lord. I felt the light of the anomaly that resided within the Ashurian and the Ashurian himself fade from the world.”

“Hmm…it was our own decision to send the anomaly to possess him. We needed that devil back…although incomplete if he had obtained the eye he might have regained some of his power, after all they are both of the same linage…” said the Overlord.

“It is true my Overlord but why should we do so? Wouldn’t he regain his memories if we did so…wouldn’t he try to rebel again?”

“I tamed him once and I could tam him again…but now we need to know how come someone else is using that eye.” Said the overlord.

Another Devil lord spoke this time it was Lerdakh, this one was a mystery to almost all those present at the room except for the Overlord who fully knew of him.

He was wearing a black veil that covered almost all of his body while shading his face under darkness. He had a weapon at his right, it was a scythe almost too big to be of use as it towered over him with its curved blade being more than two meters long. The blade was jagged and toothed from the middle of the blade then smoothed out the rest of the way to the tip. While the pole holding it was curving like an S shape it was still looking too big for the slim man under the veil.

“My Overlord” the man spoke yet his voice was deep and sounded old. Then added. “If what the oracle is saying is true, then this leaves only two explanations. One being that there was someone else other than an Ashurian with the Eye of the wise and this was not foretold so it is unlikely. And two being that the Ashurian truly did die and his eye was then given to this new boy that Vasbokh spoke about. However in either cases I think that our invasion should be put to a halt until we fully know the truth behind this. We still have many minions beyond the borders and they could give us whatever information we need in due time.”

“Indeed” said the Overlord. “Then so be it. I do not want to risk our long awaited return to a wielder of the eye of the wise. Especially since some of the Guardians are still alive.”

Vasbokh then spoke saying

“I don’t believe in these things…why should we fear the unknown? And act depending on the foretelling of the future from this winch…”

Essithia then spoke saying

“When did my foretelling ever go wrong? Thankfully this time even though I had foreseen our fall it was by the hand of the same Ashurian that is now no longer of this world. At least this time we can act as we see fit without calling for the wrath of a decadent of a god.”

Perzahar then spoke

“Can you use your ability again Essithia?”

“What do you mean Perzahar, are you not one to believe me as well?”

“Not at all but just to make sure.”

Essithia’s lips curled over in a smile and said in a bewitching way

“It is a pleasure to do your bidding my lord.”

She then began to chant in an incomprehensible voice using the old words

Her eyes turned white then she began to speak.

“A crownless king shall be, the one that challenges thee. For he shall bring misery, upon those that dare cross he. The Ashurian shall reign forever, bringing forth an army from heaven. The guardians shall be his blade to slaughter those he had raid. The Ashurian then will prevail showing path to the world from hail.”

The atmosphere around her turned back to normal then she said

“So what do you think my lord?”

Perzahar then said

“It seems that the prophecy remain unchanged…perhaps there is another Ashurian? No, we were assured that the last one had died. It is probably temporary…I think the prophecy is linked to the wielder of the eye although this may be but a hunch we need to get our hands on it.”

“Indeed, but nevertheless we shall wait for the report of those that stayed.”

“Understood” said Perzahar.

The Overlord then waved his hand making everyone understand that they were no longer needed in his presence. So they all began to leave until he said

“Not you Lerdakh.”

Lerdakh then stopped and waited until everyone left before he faced the overlord again.

“Tell me something Lerdakh, when was the last time you spoke to the Everlasting Silence?”

“It’s been more than a thousand year my Overlord.”

“Try and speak to him again. All those that passed away must first go through him. Even us one day. He is the only one to truly know if the Ashurian truly did die.”

“I will do so my Overlord but…”

“I know…the cost will be great, however no matter what he asks. Provide!”

“I shall do so my Overlord.” Then Lerdakh too left the throne as he understood that that was the only thing the Overlord needed of him.

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“Perzahar…”

“What is it Vasbokh?”

“You know fully that I do not trust Lerdakh with the Overlord. You know full well that we use death magic as a weapon while he worships it. I cannot trust someone like that with our Overlord.”

“Perzahar sighed at the concern that Vasbokh showed but then said

“Even if he truly is a devotee to the Everlasting silence he will never dare cross the Overlord. He know too well how strong our lord is.”

“Nothing is assured. Did you forget how ‘he’ was thought to not be a threat to our Overlord and he still managed to wound him. The wound of that day is yet to heal.”

“Do not bring the past. That one was an anomaly. Lerdakh is loyal although he is a worshiper of death.”

“If I see Lerdakh even attempting something on our Lord I will be the one to bring him down.”

“Not if I was first. So do not worry Vasbokh. I know you are loyal but stop being paranoid.”

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“Gyaahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh”

I screamed my lungs out for an entire day without signs of the pain ever receding. The dragon had said that the digestion process of the heart will be painful but this pain makes what happened to me when I tried to gain back my body from possession like being tickled with a feather.

“Good your body is beginning to accept the power of a dragon.”

Power my ass I will be dead before I can even use this power.

My breath was cutting short and my heart rate rose. I was almost hearing the pounding of my own heart and the veins on my body pulsed with power. It was like a dam was breaking through from every vein I had.

I turned on the ground squirming and wriggling in an attempt to reduce the pain, but my body would only grow hot that steam began to be released from the pores of my flesh.

Thankfully the pain only lasted for few more hours…

Now huffing loudly I tried to stand back up but every fiber of my being began to hurt the moment I even thought of making a movement.

 Gave up and decided to just remain laying on the ground. Even breathing proved to be painful but I suffered through it.

“You now have the body of a dragon Youngling. However you will be needing to sustain it. So rest well and once you wake up we shall discuss more serious matters”

I closed my eyes after that not even caring for the things this being called serious. The amount of pain and exhaustion I suffered was enough to force me to sleep for years.

…

I woke up later. While not knowing how much time had actually passed but taking a look at my body condition I saw that I was covered with hardened and dry layers of blood. It seems that I have been sleeping for a long time. My body was feeling rather…normal nothing too different except for the fact that I am feeling a bit hungry and perched.

“Finally you had awakened. Youngling.” Said the towering dragon. Now seeing him up close and without the adrenalin pumping I saw that he was damn huge.

“So Drakhsis-san how long had I been asleep?”

“Huh. You slept for thirty turns. I even feared that you had died in your sleep.”

“Thirty? You mean I slept for thirty days how the hell is that even possible!!”

Considering the fact that I have not died from dehydration and malnutrition this was hard to believe

The dragon then spoke to me but I noticed something that I have been missing the entire time.

He never moved his jaw.

“Eating the dragon’s heart had provided nutrients for your body this entire time. As for the other matter you are thinking of it is that I am speaking directly to your mind youngling. if I ever did use my voice you would have died from the power I hold in me. You are most fortunate that the Arvion had lost his mind otherwise he would have killed you with but a word.”

…

“Do not look so shocked we are dragons, even gods dare not cross us.”

Now that you mention it I took a look at the body of the fallen dragon. It was still in the same position that I left it at. But strangely if what Drakhsis had said to be true why didn’t his body rot?

“The flesh of dragons do not rot. We are beings of power and magic and in this world what is made of magic is only consumed or transferred. This dragon’s body I left is for you and you alone as you will be needing sustenance. The serpents had left as they saw that the heart was consumed. You may be targeted if you exit the mountain range as you are now still weak but still hold the power of the heart. Your strength is comparable to a hatchling so be patient and wait.”

“Well I don’t really have a reason to leave I actually came here to meet you.” I said while fixing my posture. It is amazing that the dragon is able to speak directly through my mind. I experienced this with Osfor-sensei…it must be similar.

“That and this are two different things youngling.”

…my thoughts are no longer mine it seems.

“Hahaha…it’s been a long time since I last laughed. I thank you for this. But to more serious matters. Why are you hosting a devil in your body if you are a descendant of god?”

He probably is thinking of the thing I made a contract with…

“You do not need to answer. I will find out on my own”

Once he said those words I felt an immense vertigo and my head began to spin. I felt that the dragon is inside my consciousness, he began to go through my entire life in matter of seconds.

He then spoke in a melancholic way

“Hmm…the world above had turned sour…so much hatred so much pain…I cannot understand why the overseers would let something like this happen. But this was your race’s fault to begin with. You should not have challenged them…hmmm the wheel of hatred is still spinning and you humans are forever stuck within it. If none of you let go of their pain it will always come back to haunt others. Vengeance is never the way, to pardon when offended and to forgive when wronged is the way of a benevolent being, being all powerful is meaningless if you have no one to protect.”

I have no idea what he is speaking about.

The dragon’s tone became much more serious saying

“You too, Young Asura. You have a lot of hatred within you, hatred that is unjustified and baseless, it is true that you have been wronged by some of the humans but one of them did only what they thought to be right…yet you still treat people that only defended themselves and brand them as traitors…humans are fickle thing. They always dictate themselves to be true and everyone else to be in the wrong.”

Is he talking about her?

“Most importantly, let me ask you a question. Do you really want to leave the void? And if so…why? What do you have to gain going back to a world where most want you dead and the rest care not for your survival? Is it only to prove them that you still live? If so then it is but a feeble reasoning and is not worth the power you are given. So think and give me your answer once you see fit. If I found your answer to be lacking. You will die here and the power you just consumed shall be mine to call upon another one from the world beyond.”

After hearing this I understood two things. First of all I actually agree with the dragon, do I really have to leave this place? If so for what reason? It is quite a convincing argument if I may say. And secondly I understood that it was not me that managed to open a pathway to the void when I was in that dump. So I asked the dragon for more explanation

“So it was you that brought me from outside the void…how? And why?”

“I am a primordial dragon and in this place my power is limited. While I could open the pathway to the outside world I cannot leave. The Overseers forbad me from leaving, not until you humans and demons could sort out your differences. Or kill each other. As for why it was because of you youngling. Although I cannot leave with my own power. You managed to open way to the void and if I exit by your hand I would not be breaking the laws of the Overseers. However, now that you lost your gift, I cannot leave; unless you claim it back.”

“Then tell me Drakhsis-san who are these overseers and what do you mean by claim it back?”

The dragon then spoke as if remembering an old past.

“The overseers are rulers of worlds. They however only interfere when the entirety of a race is about to be extinct. They are protectors of life and also the judges of this world. They are far stronger than gods and were here and will stay here until time itself perishes.”

Okay…

“As for claiming back the eye it is quite possible. You only need to leave this place and get it back then open a passage for me from outside.”

“And how do I do that” I dumbly said

“You need to clear every floor on the crucible”

“I might as well paint the sun in black” I said

“You dare mock me Human?”

“No but what you are asking is madness. I know that with this new enhancement of yours I got a bit stronger but clearing all one hundred floors is impossible. Even my master stopped at the fifty floor and told me that it would be considered utter madness if one were to go beyond that. I know my limits and without that eye to help me I don’t think I could clear the first twenty five.”

“You ridicule yourself too much youngling. When have you began to rely on that Eye? Your whole life has been but the way of the blade and now that you tasted the power of that gift you began to think yourself weaker without it. No, I shall be the one to teach you the might and true power you could obtain. Even without that Eye.”

“Then there it is.”

“What do you mean youngling?”

“That would be the reason for me to leave this place. Teach me. And I will promise to set you free.”

“That is not fair. You need to give me your own reason for leaving something that you and only you wish to accomplish.”

“alright let me think of one, but while we are waiting why not teach me if you said power is transferred in this world it makes no problem for you to teach me how to become stronger. In the end I either leave with this power once my answer is satisfying or I die with all of it and you take it to your need.”

“Very well. But before we could start you need to wash up and eat. We will begin soon after”

He may be old but he is a quick thinker.

I then started walking toward the lake, yet something was strange. My body was relaxed but I still felt tremendous dormant power within. I wonder what would happen if I try this.

I made a fist and used the offensive earth shattering blow on the ground below.

Results

The earth in a diameter of almost ten meters around me caved in.

I turned to look at the dragon and he then said

“That is not even a fraction of your true potential, wash up and eat, then we will see how to make you even stronger”

I was too shocked to comment back on what he just said. And frankly I did not even put all my effort into that strike I feared that my bones might still not be fully healed so I held back but damn this is amazing.

I washed up in the near lake and wore back my cloth they seem to be a bit tighter then the last time I wore them but right after that thought crossed me the clothes became looser and accommodated themselves to my new size. Yes my body became a tidy bit buffer it seems that I gained a bit more muscle mass. But it was barely noticeable.

“Oh you still have that. It seem that it had lost some of its power. Come here” said Drakhsis

It seems that he was talking about the cloth I am wearing.

Once I was close enough Drakhsis plucked a scale from his right arm using his claws but another scale instantly replaced the old one. He threw it in front of me and it was damn huge. At least one meter diameter.

“Place your hand on it”

Once I did so I felt the heat and power of the scale transferring to my cloths.

The scale disappeared by my cloth gained a new sheen and glistened with energy for a moment.

“Now it is as hard as a dragon’s scale. And believe me there are few metals in the world that are capable of piercing through our scale”

“Thank you for the gift” I said

Drakhsis then said

“Before we start you need to eat. Begin by feasting on the fallen Arvion. Eat as much as you could of his flesh, not until you are satisfied that we shall commence.”

I did so and although that the meat was not as delicious as was the heart it was still too damn satisfying. However I remembered one thing but before I could utter a word

“Worry not, what happened when you eat the heart won’t happen again so eat until you are satisfied.”

And so I did. And I did so ravenously. I began with the dragon’s chest meat it was quite delicious and the fluids and meat would be sucked into my mouth as if I was drinking water. They melted the second I thought of eating it.

It took me a couple of hours until I felt satisfied, but looking at the body of this thing it would take me months before I could finish all of it.

Then I remembered something

“Drakhsis-san what is that jewel over Arvion’s head”

“That is something of this world. It is caused by the dark star. The energy from that star is given to creatures. Those who refuse it would remain sane like the wolves you had met, they only hunt by night and hide during the day. As for the rest of the creatures you meet by day they all absorb the star’s energy and in time it makes them stronger but corrupts their brains, that dragon over there sought power to exit this world and he did so with gathering unwholesome amount of energy from that dark star…however he turned mad before he could even use its power to free himself. You would have turned the same if you took more time getting to me”

Oh damn…

“Is it possible to harness the power of these jewels?”

“No, but they have their uses. Now that you have finished your meal I will send you to do something for me. Consider this the first part of your training.”

“Ok I am listening” I said

“Alright, now do you remember the time you saw those earth dwellers, you called the beetles.”

“Yes I remember”

“Bring me the male’s horn”

“Huh? Male? Horn? How could I know?”

“The male is the one that has only one horn while the female has clutching jaws. You have three days”

“Euh come again? Three what?”

“Three days I said now hurry up, if you are not back here by time I shall devour you.”

“Devour me? I mean common it took me more than one month just to get from that point to here and you want me to go all the way back there and come back in three days…aren’t you a bit too harsh”

“Time is ticking…”said Drakhsis in a mocking tone.

“Argh. God damn it.”

I turned and began to run. I thought that his request was absurd I mean common three days this is insane does he know how far that place is…but before I could even register what I was thinking I saw something wired.

A few moments ago I was near Drakhsis who was all the way in the middle of the green patch near the lack…now I am at the top of the mountain. Exactly at the place where I first was when I was seeing the inside of the mountain for the first time. How the hell did this happen?

Soon after I heard Drakhsis saying

“Your new body is that of a dragon, in this you have the strength of one, thus the speed you have now. Now tell me isn’t three days more than enough time? I think I should make it less.”

I hastily answered

“NO, NO, you are most generous with that time I will do my best.”

I then began to run before he changed his mind.

I often received some absurd request from master Greetman but this dragon is outdoing him.

It took me no less than a day and a half to make it all the way back to where I first saw the beetles. I then looked at the remains of their carnage. It was in fact nothing but rotten flesh at this moment. It seems that what Drakhsis said was true only dragons do not rot. I then followed the same direction at where they were headed. It seems that I can no longer track them via their footprints as wind had mostly covered all their tracks. However something is strange.

I can feel exactly where they are. And they are actually not that far from here.

I took a small detour and continued on following my hunch.

Although going at a speed enough to break the sound barrier I never felt tiered or fatigued.

Is this what power is supposed to be like?

How come there are things far stronger than this…it is a mystery that one day I will have to solve…or face.

After a few more moments I began to ‘smell’ those things. I slowed down reaching an area that had few hills surrounding a huge hole underground.

Once I took a look at the giant chasm I saw them. Hundreds of those said beetles gathered there. But the smell that was coming from that place was disgusting.

Until I figured out the reason behind it.

One of the beetles this one with two fangs so a female was rolling a giant ball made of dung and half eaten bodies of dead animals.

I did not want to waste more time so I searched for the closest male of the lot and jumped at him.

I buffed myself a bit and struck at his carapace with an earth shattering blow.

Results

Not a damn scratch, however now that I made myself known to the entire hive…they all began to hiss and screech. Soon after they were all chasing me...quite anti climatic isn’t it…

**Chapter 10**

“This is absurd!” said Osfor

“But I am telling you it is what I saw. No one should be capable of replicating your spell…with the exception of Asura…” Said Greetman

“I agree…I was there too and saw it myself right before me and Ousay could even partake in the battle. He used your disintegration spell and managed to pushback that damn devil lord.” Said Takeda

“I think it is the result of that experiment. If you think about it the man responsible over the death of Asura said so himself. They found a way to activate it…but why did they help in the fight? Is it possible that they thought the invasion was somehow not beneficial to them? Anyway we must not let this escape our notice. This is the lease we could do.” Said Osfor.

The three of them were sitting in a guest room for inside the palace of the king of Alikh. The decoration in there was rather plain as you could even see things fare more beautiful at some rich noble’s houses.

However the King of Alikh was never one to care for appearances and appeasing the crowd.

“Where is Ousay?” said Greetman

“He is probably back at some tavern drinking himself to death. He seems to not have taken the order given by Gaz-sama to not fight the demons once our forces had arrived.” Said Takeda

“He is still sulking over that? It’s been almost a month! but well I can’t blame him. He came here to look for a fight and was rather envious that Greetman got to test the mettle of that Devil lord alone.” Said Osfor.

“That thing was absurdly strong…never in my life had I seen something capable of taking a hit of both my blades while I was at full strength and rise back as if it was nothing…although Ousay is fast. He is not strong enough to handle the weight of that thing’s blows.” Responded Greetman with a sulking face.

“To think that things like that still exist…I really hope that whatever sent them here decided to truly just give up on the invasion…to forfeit a fight like that with but the appearance of that person wielding the same eye as Asura makes me question myself on how truly strong that eye really is…” said Osfor.

“It matters not, now we will be needing to clog that passage, if the demons ever do try to infiltrate again it will mostly be via that passage…I think using a few earth mages would be enough to rise a strong and fortified barricade to stop them from advancing.” Said Greetman

 “No, we will be needing to create something of equal power. Did you not hear the reviews of the people that were there first? That blasted devil destroyed towers with a single strike. Even more so this was but a recon party sent for scouting if they decide to do a full scale invasion I don’t think a makeshift wall of stone would stop them.” Said Takeda

“Well Takeda, you are a master at barrier magic, could you not replicate this wall? If given enough time that is, even Asura managed to rebuild it in but few moments” answered Osfor with a mocking tone

“Humpf, that wall is the reason I took my specialty it is to be able to one day replicate barriers and protection fields of that caliber. I can set up an S class barrier but it is not enough. If given time and help from other mages an SS one could be risen in a month time…but an SSS barrier like that one is impossible for me. I have not the singleness clue on how it was formed, what is the text involved in it and what was the source that is providing it with power. Asura was able to read the text and rebuild it but I am sure that even he was unable to understand the meaning behind whatever was written in there to protect the people.” Said Takeda.

“Let us of the past…we need now to reinforce the border so tha-“but before Greetman could finish his statement Midorikawa entered the room with a look of fright on her face.

“The Wall!! The wall is being rebuilt! The barrier is being reconstructed by one single man who the hell is he?!!” said Midorikawa

Everyone knew of this girl she was silent most of her childhood and rarely cared for anything she was quiet and always lived in her own world. So seeing a look of fright on her made the three masters sitting inside all stand and leave the room heading directly toward the wall.

They left the palace without notifying anyone and were only witnessed leaving by few maids and servants.

Once they reached the courtyard a small aircraft was waiting for them. It looked like a blimp that was empowered with crystals filled with magical energy. The blimp took off at a frightening speed heading toward the barrier.

It took a few hours of travel to get there passing through valleys and mountains , they passed through several cities that were equipped with means to destroy flying aircraft but were not even targeted due to the insignia of the Alsian kingdom on the blimp. The fact that Alsa is here to aid Alikh in this time of need is deemed honorable by the populace and they would only wonder at why would something like this pass by them at this speed.

Once they had reached the breach passing by the fortress where the last stand was fought they could still see the aftermath of that fight. The land turned corrupt and was quarantined in several places where fire magic was constantly being casted by mages to fully destroy the blight and miasma that the devils had spread and tainted the land with.

They then soon landed and headed directly toward the wall. If one was to see the look on the four heavenly demons they would shake in fear.

Anyone standing in front of the huge broken gate would be able to see far into the blighted lands. Unwholesome and dark with tainted soil and a darkened sky, it would send shivers down the spine of any that watched.

In front of the gate was a gathering of people, from the uniform it was about a few dozen Alikhian officers and soldiers and more than forty agent of the Organization all wearing black suits.

There was a kid amongst them this kid however was facing the breach using enormous amounts of energy to try and repair the barrier.

“What is the meaning of this” Said Greetman and to his statement all those guarding the breach

But was surprised to see most soldiers drawing their swords and taking a defensive posture.

“Seize them!!” said an officer and seconds later the four heavenly demons were encircled by the soldiers and a number of the organization agents.

“What the hell are you doing? You know full well that your meager strength is not enough to stop my wrath!” said Greetman

An agent of the Organization then approached saying

“Well Mr. Greetman it seems that you and your party are wanted for murder.”

“What! This is absurd remove your men or you will feel true murder!”

“I am sorry Mr. Greetman but we are acting based on orders if you are proven not guilty then you shal be set free”

“And who is this person that we are accused of killing” said Osfor

“Well he-“but before he could finish the kid facing the breach said

“Finally finished! Damn that took a lot of time.”

The same officer ignored the ones in front of him and said to the young kid

“Oh Wonderful Jamie. We are now sure that those things won’t be invading anytime soon.”

Once the group of four heard that statement they all looked at the now active portion of the barrier

The damn kid repaired it.

The kid then hastily rushed toward the group of four and happily said

“Oh they are the heavenly demons of Alsa!”

The boy had average height with short brown hair a small nose and a round face with a very slim physique almost malnourished. However his right eye Shone gold. The entourage of his eye was almost bruised as red veins showed under the skin around it.

“Cut the crap kid and give back what is not yours” Said Greetman

“No, no, no, Mr. Greetman this kid belongs to us now, and that eye was never yours to begin with. It was too our property…we only misplaced it for some time and now it is back to us…although in a different form” Said the officer as if mocking Greetman who is now seething with rage. Not only had this man the gal to insult his dead disciple he even dared to claim the boy to be but a property, a tool for their usage. Greetman never felt such hatred before and began releasing his presence. To which he was surprised to see that he was unable to exert any power.

“What the hell is happening…I can’t move my body” Said Takeda.

“Blood paralysis…this is my spell” Said Osfor with a tone full of hate.

“Yes indeed it is yours and look how wonderful it is that I am able to cast it on all four of you. I often wondered how strong the heavenly demons truly are but in only one month time I managed to understand all of the secrets this eye had and even managed to develop more advanced version of magic. The one who had this eye was unworthy of its power.”

“You damn brat!” Roared Greetman as he began to put more power in his muscles using buffs to reinforce himself and cleansing himself from the spell casted on him. Yet it only caused him pain once the boy used more mana.

“I have unlimited mana to control and I can keep you all in this state indefinitely. I can even kill all of you right now, but it seems that I won’t be needing that. You have been accused of murder you see. The murder of the King of Alikh, Ardous Elior”

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“Holy shit, holy shit, and holy shit!!!” literally I am so screwed right now. I thought that I would be able to outrun the damn things but it seems that they can FREGGING FLY!!

Do you guys ever tried to kill a cockroach with a sandal, and then got surprised by it flying directly toward your face! I mean it is the same damn thing minutes ago it was docile and waiting to be killed but the moment it opened its wings THE SHIT GOES DOWN FO REAL I mean seriously unnatural and unexplained fear would grab you and you just start screaming and shouting profanities and cursing the one responsible for these transforming hideous creatures.

Well I am in the same state although my ‘cockroaches’ are a few times bigger than your normal ones. And are disgustingly fast. I think the ones that I saw that day were only strolling as even while I am right now running like my life depended on it and it actually did they still kept chasing me.

Why the hell did this happen? I thought that one strike would be enough to kill it but that did like no damage what so ever. Feeling that my body is going to tire out soon and that the pursuit was not relenting I decided to strike again. I slowed down a bit and waited until one of the beetles jumped at me whilst it opened its mouth.

I stopped for a moment and jumped backwards dodging the incoming chomp and shot an uppercut to the abdomen of the thing. This time success. The damage I did was enough to kill the thing instantly.

However this only made the beasts hiss louder and encircle me.

This situation turned very sour as their loud hissing and screeching was very distracting. I can’t think of a way out. But amazingly they all turned at once and began to fly away.

“What the hell is going on here?” I asked myself only to be able to find out the answer soon enough.

Another horde of buffalos was running a bit far from here but somehow I sensed them and the beetles did so too. I think that they believed that I was a meal not enough to satiate their hunger and would have a better and more fulfilling delicacy going after that horde. I actually felt sad that I was ignored and considered not worth eating… I think that my flesh would only taste good to those of a serpentine blood…

Anyway looking back at the lone corpse of the beetle I just killed it was luckily a male.

 I looked at its carapace and noticed that the exterior part of it the one that is protecting its back is very thick.

I used earth shattering smash again on the dead corps and received the same result. Nothing not a god damn scratch…

Well anyway now that the mission was accomplished I need to go back…wait a second...it took me a day and a half to get here and lost half a day trying to escape from these things… I even ran in the opposite direction of the mountain…holy crap I need to run back and fast.

I flipped the damn thing and grabbed it by the back and began running toward the mountain.

If I had kept the same pace I would never make it. Although this thing is heavy I was still able to run even faster than I did the first time I ran here. It took me but a day’s journey and few more hours to get there. I was late for the appointment but I hope that he can forgive me.

“You are late” Said Drakhsis that was lying near the lack and with a joyful tone too.

“I am sorry but there were some complications…”

“However tell me why did you not ask for direction and where to find those things before you went like a madman running all over the place? Also you should know that there is a passage out of this mountain and even faster than running all the way to the top of it and then descending back.”

There was something like that?

“Oh and yeah I gave you that time limit because I knew that it would be difficult for you to catch it in one day time and one more thing…there is a nest north of the mountain and is much closer than where you traveled…”

I feel like I was trolled.

“It is but your own mistake for not asking first.”

“Well tell me oh great dragon then why do you need this thing?”

“Well let me show you.”

The dragon then rose up from his laying position and walked toward the carapace every step was heavy and would lightly shake the earth.

He then turned over the monster and snapped its very large horn with his claws.

The thing looked like a twig compared to his big hands but he then grabbed it and began cleaning his teeth with it.

I stood there shocked for a moment until a white piece fell from his mouth. It was a white scale probably from the time he bit on the neck of Arvion.

“Ah finally I got rid of that damn thing. It was bothering me for days…Why do you look surprised Youngling…do you not know how strong are dragon scales…it is quite annoying to have to suffer through that discomfort especially when my own claws are too big to get rid of something like that.”

…

“…you really sent me all the way there to get you a toothpick?”

…

The dragon did not answer

“Why didn’t you do it yourself? You could have gotten any of them in no time looking at how strong you are”

“Humpf, you seem to have forgotten something. I subconsciously release massive amount of pressure if I leave the mountain range every creature will feel the weight of my presence and would hide. And those damn thing would dig deep underground that the only way to get one of them would be to blow it up. It would only destroy their horns that way though.”

“Okay… now that you mention it…It seems that your presence really is still active but I am no longer susceptible to it.”

“That is also a part of your training. I have been releasing it throughout the days and you have bathed in it that you can no longer feel its weight. It is a teaching that many of my brethren used on their disciples to teach them the way of dragons.”

“You have brothers?”

“Yes I do. I have many but this place is not permitting me to go and see them…Ah how I miss the old days where I was showered with gifts from the dwarves , that my name was sang by a elven maidens and was respected by beastkin…I miss the days where I soared the skies and ‘argued’ with kingdoms…”

I think you meant destroyed but that is none of my business

“I want that.” I said

“What is it Youngling?”

“I want to know, I want to see…”

I thought about my next words and said

“I want to see the real world I really do. Yes, I want to see the world you speak of. I want to meet the elves to see the dwarves and converse with beast men I want to see what no man had seen. I want to be free from this prison to live in a world where none could judge me and none would challenge me. It is a lot of requests and a goal that may be simple and naïve but it is something I truly want.

“But do you know what that means?” said Drakhsis.

“Yes I do. It will mean that and entire race will have to be destroyed for my own and selfish desire.” I replied

“And you still want to do it?” asked Drakhsis this time with a serious tone.

“Yes I do!”

“Hahaha. Then so be it! However you still need to clear the crucible. So let’s start the real training.”

“Oh yea I still have a question” I said

“What may it be?”

“You said that I would need to clear the crucible right, but how can I even go in if the access point is back at quietus?”

“The crucible is everywhere and anywhere. It matters not if we are in the Void or the fallen world or even the true world. The crucible is made by the overseers to see the real mettle of you feeble humanoids. It will take a hundred and fifty turns before it will rise and it will rise here too and back at the fallen world. But you will not leave until you had finished your training. If you do not accomplish it then you will wait here with me for the second time it would rise.”

“Won’t that be thirty years from now?” I said

“Time has no meaning for us dragons. So let us begin. I will teach you an art that was forgotten, an art that would make you take the essence of a being of great power into yourself. It will make you possess the strength of this existence.”

“You mean I could become a dragon and… like breath fire!!?”

“Ugh…not a dragon, just the aspect of it…and not only the power of dragons…if mastered right you can even use the aspect of what resides in you. Be it God…or Devil”

*To be continued*