

Creator 1651

Chapter 1651: Towers

"I am going to hell as a living being and you are not kidding. This just got a lot more interesting."

"Why do you think, Hel came to introduce the task? Last time you were brought into that space, she just didn't come to intimidate you, she actually left a mark on your soul. So that it would stay intact within the hell without leaving your body."

Sam frowned up on hearing this.

Another person, that too a person that he hates with passion messing with his soul is not something he is comfortable with. He closed his eyes and started looking for the mark on his soul.

"Don't even bother trying to find it. You won't be able to do that. Do you really think that a God who is almost at the top of the whole foodchain even among the other gods leaves a mark that a mere Astral Plane cultivator can identify?"

It is impossible to do so.

Anyway, don't worry, it won't cause you any harm. It is personally vetted by Gambler himself. He took extra care of making sure that it is completely fine because of your history with her.

It is perfectly safe and everything is done with the constraints and the rules set up by the remaining gods.

Also the gods whose candidates were already eliminated out of the game are acting as the overseers of the competition now and they are extremely strict."

"I am pretty sure, there are rules in place when Hou Yi took over Arkiv, and Hel acted as her own players. I don't believe in a set of rules that are broken multiple times.

I highly doubt these gods will ever think of completely obeying these orders."

"I can understand your point. But all I can say is that you don't have to worry about it. Anyway, let me explain what you need to do next and for that, we need to go to hell."

With that he snapped his fingers, both of them disappeared from the spot.

They reappeared in a vast place. It is dark and the only light is coming from the dark red lava that is glowing on the ground around them.

He noticed that there is a large pillar in the middle of area.

Ling Tian looked around and at the pillar, before he spoke with a smile.

"This seven-feet pillar is key to the task. It is the key to start, continue the task and even finish the task. Let's take a look."

Both of them walked closer to it.

Sam looked at the majestic pillar. Even though it is just seven feet tall. It looked like it could support the whole world on top of it.

He wanted to instinctually touch it and raised his hand.

"Nope, you can't touch it yet. If you touch it, the task will automatically start." Ling Tian stopped him.

Sam stopped and waited for more details.

"In this task, as I said, you will be using a very new method to breakthrough to the Divine Realm. Not just breakthrough, this is the place where you reach the Peak of the Divine Realm.

The method we are using involves three things, Faith of people in you, the Sin you have accumulated and finally the corruption of hell while you tame your sin.

You are going to temper, your body and soul with these three aspects and breakthrough in each step.

Your faith is the factor that is mostly decided by now. If you want to increase it anymore, the only method is for you to utilize the time you are going to be outside of this hell to finish some more tasks in the middle.

And the second thing the sin you have accumulated.

Generally, that is the cleansing part, where people fight the effects of their sin through cultivation. But for you case, you are going to literally fight your sins. And every life you took, every place you destroyed, all the suffering you have caused, no matter how minor or major it is, it will be counted as your sin.

You will have a chance to fight all of them. The more sin you cleanse, the higher chance you have to become stronger with each level. Of course, you can leave some of your sin unattended, but there are some other consequences for that, which you will learn about some other time.

The final part, the corruption from hell.

Whenever you fight some of your sin, you will be absorbing some energy from hell. Think of it as an energy that corrupts your soul by latching on to it.

If you can process it, you will be strengthened, but if you can't, your soul will be slowly merged with the hell and its surroundings, making you a permanent part of it."

"What are the consequences of leaving the sin without taming it?"

"I will tell you after I explain the pillar and what you need to do with it."

"Alright."

"You need to place your hand on the pillar, it will calculate and manifest your sin into a tower. All you have to do is clear the tower as much as you want.

You want to see how your peers did it and how their towers manifested before to get an idea?"

"Yeah, why not?"

Ling Tian waved his hands and a virtual screen appeared in front of them. The first screen is of Dayus who came first into this realm. When he touched the pillar a streak of black smoke came out of the pillar from all sides.

The smoke manifested into various silhouettes. Silhouettes of animals, humans, elves, Barbarians etc. There are a bunch of different races that manifested and these flew to different sides.

Soon a tower started manifesting around him.

The screen zoomed out and soon Sam saw a large tower with around a two dozen floors was formed.

The silhouettes flew to different floors of the towers and settled there.

The screen changed and then came Noah's tower.

This time it is bigger and the creatures are different.

Kumar's is also different.

"Every tower is different. They don't have any similarity other than how they are formed. Each level of tower is not classified based on the number or time of the sin committed. Rather they are formed based on the level of suffering you inflicted on them.

The level of sin will be what makes them fall into place and each floor of the tower is its own world.

Its vastness depends on the level of sins you have committed.

Simply put, the number and the level of sins will decide how many floors do you have on the tower, how vast each floor is and how powerful each sin is.

And the sins are not just from this world. You will be having them from your previous world as well. So, you will be facing a lot more sins that your peers I guess."

"A lot more in an understatement.

So, are you going to tell me what happens if I don't tame all the sin? They seemed to have taken the shape of the creatures, so what is going to happen?"

"The more time the sins are left untamed, the more consciousness they will gain. They will start of as pure hatred or agony, but they will process it and soon thoughts will start forming.

They will look for other sins, consume them and manifest themselves into beings and finally they will leverage the hell's corruption and turn into various demons.

That is who the first demons were formed and as more and more gods that are currently in the positions of power and ruling used this method, the demons started growing.

One of the reasons that this method is forbidden is because of that. New sub species among the demon race were coming up everyday. And some times the people who challenged will be consumed and they will also turn into demons."

"So, all the demons are formed like this?"

"Not all of them. Some of them are created naturally. It is a much longer story and we don't have time for that.

Anyway, until you come across your next task, it is better if you focus on your tower. Of course it is not like you have any other choice. You are going to stay here and you are going to fight these things."

"So, should I touch it now?"

"Yes, please. I am looking forward yours and in fact so are your peers."

"The other players are watching?"

"Yes. You can actually watch each other's progress also if you allow each other. Just like how you watched their tower formation, now they will also witness yours."

Sam just shrugged and placed his hand on the pillar.

He felt like an invisible and intangible force, invaded his mind. That force pulled all of his memories outside and connected the soul with a different force that seemed to have ability to see anything and everything.

Sam felt like he connected with the whole universe.

Chapter 1652: Tower Formation

Sam closed his eyes as he felt the connection.

He lost himself in that connection and let it take the reign of his soul. That overwhelming power still made him feel safe and sound without any sense of danger whatsoever. While Sam is getting lost in that feeling, the rest of the players and Ling Tian witness the formation of the tower.

The black smoke formed. It surrounded a much vaster area than any of the previous towers.

The smoke turned into the silhouettes of normal humans, children, and adults. One silhouette after another appeared out of nowhere.

Two, four, eight, sixteen.... a hundred.

Not just human silhouettes. Soon silhouettes of hens and roosters, ducks, goats, pigeons, rats, wolves, foxes, bears, and crocodiles. A lot of animals that only existed back on earth appeared.

The first floor of the tower was formed. All of the silhouettes entered that. The second floor soon formed and a few hundred human silhouettes appeared.

The sheer number made the other players and Ling Tian feel surprised. They also killed thousands of people, but none of them had this many in the very first floors.

They are expecting something grand, but this way too much even for their expectations.

While they are contemplating on how huge the tower will be at this rate, the third floor came followed by hundreds of people & animals, kept on increasing. Then came fourth floor, followed by fifth, sixth, seventh... tenth... fifteenth...twentieth.

Finally, it stopped a bit.

Everyone was shocked. Twenty floors and all they saw were silhouettes of humans and animals. Normal animals. Not the beasts here. That means, everything that they have seen until now is from their previous life of Sam.

For other candidates, there are more than twenty floors at least, but that is the combination of the two lifetimes. And the first life didn't even have that many lives. There are only a few hundred people and that is for Dayus.

Noah and Kumar didn't even have that many lives behind them.

There is no way they would have ever imagined that Sam could have killed this many people in his first life. As they are shocked about that for a moment, they realized how many people he must have killed in this life.

Even the count they vaguely know is way too huge. The Usain sect, thunder god temple, the wars he waged when united the western continent. The people he killed within the empire. People he killed when he destroyed the organizations, it could be said that Sam had made most enemies and he also killed most people.

And the suffering he caused, is also no less. Of course, he made a lot of lives better. Expanded his organization like crazy, but the lives he took are not any less.

The floors continued.

Twenty-first, Twenty-fourth, Twenty-eighth, thirty-second, thirty-fifth, thirty-eight, forty-fifth, fiftieth, fifth sixth, it went on and on. Finally, they only stopped when it hit seventy-second.

Seventy-two floors.

Every floor is twice as big as theirs and they have filled with hundreds of people if not thousands and tens of thousands. With so many sins manifested in such forms, they cannot even imagine how long it will take to clear them all.

Sam opened his eyes.

He is currently on the ground floor of the tower. Standing beside the pillar with his eyes open as he started the majestic room around him.

The pillar changed a bit.

At first, it was just a seven feet tall pillar that has no aesthetic appeal. But now it is supporting such a large tower. It obviously grew in size and there are three grooves across the length of the tower.

One of the grooves started filling up. It is filled with bright blue light. After the groove was filled, it started spreading to the rest of the pillar and before he knew it, one-third of the pillar is glowing

And the glow is not just superficial. It is on a granular level.

Sam is perplexed as he couldn't understand what this light is. It is definitely not energy. He could easily sense it if it was.

It almost looked like a normal light without any gimmick. But even the spiritual energy that comes from normal light is not showing when he used energy vision.

Looking at Sam's confusion, Ling Tian chuckled and said.

"Don't worry. It is no fault of your abilities. The blue line you are seeing is faith. That is an indicator.

The remaining two grooves are actually the indicators of sin taming and corruption absorption.

Your faith is overflowing that is why the pillar is glowing like that. The indicators are made in such a way that they can hold much more than what an average player can gain. Even if an average player fill each groove to seventy percent, they would have enough strength to become an excellent Divine stage cultivator and would be able to stand at the peak of Divine plane cultivators when they reach the peak.

I must say, even I am surprised a lot by your faith. It is almost on par with a decently ranked god. Not a single Divine Plane cultivator would be able to fight you in that regard."

"Thanks for the compliment. Luckily, all the things I have done at least yielded some results. It would have been a waste otherwise."

"Really? In what form or shape is your current empire a failure? I would have loved to have that much under my control when I was becoming a Divine Plane cultivator.

Don't play the modest game. It doesn't really play well with the other players."

"I don't need them to be my fans and I will judge my accomplishments based on my own standards. There is not much I can do if that makes some salty bitches cry over me."

"Okay, okay. No need to be that serious. Anyway, I told you what you should know. The only thing to let you know right now is that your towers are built in the neutral areas of hell.

And Hell is basically divided into various domains. Your area is currently closed to Hel's domain. She is the person in charge of hell from the Norse Gods' side and she is also part of the game. So, I guess I don't need to tell you why she became in charge.

Anyway, that woman is going to be a pain in the ass if she tries to be one because of your history. So, I would suggest that you don't give her as many chances.

One way for you to help yourself in this situation is not roam around in the neutral domain of the hell too much.

That area has no governance whatsoever, so when you are out of the tower, things might get a bit wild.

Apart from that, there is actually zero advice I can give you. You can figure out the rest pretty much on your own as you start the task.

The further tasks will be known as you continue."

Sam nodded and Ling Tian disappeared with a goodbye after he said everything he needed to say. Sam was finally relaxed after that.

He looked at the Pillar and placed his hand on it. He closed his eyes and wished to be on the floor.

The first floor of the Pillar.

Sam looked in the surroundings. It is vast. He could see vague structures of buildings on the horizon, so he decided that he can start somewhere.

But on his way through, he finally spotted something that made him remember some of the things he did when he was a really little kid and did some things that a person shouldn't do no matter how you are angered.

Chapter 1653: First Floor

Inside the first floor of the tower.

Sam's emotions are in turmoil. He couldn't fathom witnessing the faces that he wanted to forget for so long.

These faces are part of his dark history. He didn't want to see them again. That is the part of his life that he is not confident in facing.

And to think that they came to haunt him in the very first floor. He couldn't help but feel a sense of anxiety when he thought of what could be in the remaining floors. This is indeed a really tough challenge.

Sam looked at a young man.

The young man looked lean and strong. He is taller than most people. He had dark skin. He looked like a normal person. But there is one key differentiation between him and a normal person. His eyes are black.

The whole eyeball is black in color and there is only the pupil which is white in color.

He is the guy that made Sam beg in the streets, the guy Sam ratted out to a trafficking organization.

The guy had died because of Sam and the pain and agony that was visible on his face when he died, was present. And Sam could sense the strength of a Peak stage Astral Plane cultivator from him.

It is pure neutral spiritual energy and it seems like it is balanced between the warrior type and the mage type. It is not a direct Mage-Warrior type that is for sure.

As soon as he saw Sam standing there, he started running towards him. With the anger apparent in his face.

Sam made a move and punched him in the face. The young man didn't stop though. He didn't show any fear or any hesitation when taking that punch. He acted like a rageful idiot who doesn't have any thought process.

There is no tactic, or technique in the way he fought, he just took the hit head-on with brute force and suffered all of the damage.

Sam dodged the next few attacks and kept on attacking him from different directions. There is no way he can deal with the current situation easily.

But soon it became annoying because he saw two middle-aged people. One man and a woman started running towards him.

Their mouths are secreting some saliva that is black in color along with black eyes that are similar to the first young man.

There is no way Sam could ever forget these faces.

These faces haunted a good portion of his past life. The first two lives he has ever taken with his own hands without even knowing. These are the two national-level artists that he killed with the poison. The two artists sexually exploited him when he was eight years old.

The woman looked at Sam in resentment and spat on him.

The black saliva that came out of her mouth looked like a water ball. Sam barely dodged it and it hit the Young man that was near Sam.

The black-colored Saliva started emitting some dark smoke as the flesh on the young man started melting.

The young man started healing the wounds at a rapid pace. The regeneration speed is actually higher than Sam's. He was surprised, but that didn't stop him from continuing the attacks. The middle-aged man also started spitting the black poisonous corrosive saliva.

The attacks are strong, they are pretty decent in timing as well. But they are not really battling with a particular strategy in mind. They are just randomly attacking Sam with the intention to hurt him.

So, it was pretty easy for Sam to control the battle. The only problem is that they are strong enough to not die by just one hit from Sam.

They can take some damage and they are capable of recovering with their regeneration abilities. This made the situation a bit tricky for them.

So, he decided to take advantage of the saliva that is being shot at him constantly. First, he started grappling with the young man and used him as a meat shield for the saliva attacks.

While regenerating the defense and the speed of the opponents is being reduced by a lot.

So, Sam has a really easy time dealing with more damage while carrying the young man as a meat shield. He used that technique to close the distance between him and the other opponents.

He then slammed the young man into the middle-aged man.

It is almost like he used a semi-flexible tree branch to hit someone. The middle-aged man skid on the ground for a minute, before he stopped at a spot. Sam turned around and threw the young man against the lady before he zoomed towards the middle-aged man.

He reached in a flash and started beating the crap out of the middle-aged man. He took a full mount position and landed the barrage of attacks. He simply punched the middle-aged man out of any possible shape.

With a punch, the jaw of the middle-aged man flew in the air and landed far away. By the time the remaining two opponents came to him, Sam tore the head off of the middle-aged man.

He threw his head to the side and right before he was about to get up and move to the remaining two opponents, he felt a sense of energy that didn't belong to him.

This weird energy is dark, dense, and powerful. The energy fit him like a glove and he felt a slight sense of sharp pain that he never really felt before.

He closed his eyes to observe where this came from and then remembered what the instructions were. This is the energy from the corruption of hell. As he was thinking, he also found that there is some other invisible energy merged with that corruption.

It is the cleansed sin that you carried for these people.

Sam just took a couple of seconds before he went back to killing these guys. He just slammed the shit of the opponents and killed them within no time.

Of course, the grand display of attacks attracted some strangers. The strangers are of course the dead people that are nearby.

He killed a couple of them and got a vague idea of how to deal with them. So, he just dived into the fights.

After the initial experience of the power and the effects of the corruption, he became much freer in space. He increased, his speed and strength as he actively sought the opponents instead of just waiting for the ones that are there for him.

He didn't know how long he fought, but there are dozens of dead bodies all over the place. The surroundings looked like they are some kind of suburbs with large houses. Sam started raiding one home after another, but after he went on with over a dozen houses, he finally hit a roadblock.

The pain that came from the corruption suddenly shot through the roof. The sin he has been cleansing also seemed to have hit a certain limit. He almost felt like his body is exploding.

And this happened when Sam is actually standing in front of a person who is wearing a standard Indian police uniform, Khakis.

Not only does he have a uniform, he even has a cap on his head with a brown leather belt and a holster attached to it.

When the police officer saw Sam, he turned around and took out a gun from the holster.

Sam was surprised that the other party has a weapon. As if that wasn't enough, the police officer started gathering some weird energy from different parts of his body. Sam could even see the circulation openly.

Only then did he notice that the police officer has been shot dead. There are at least thirty bullet wounds on his body, but since there was no blood on the uniform, Sam didn't bother with the tears.

The energy is being pumped towards the gun from these bullet wounds.

When the gun loaded in just a second, the police officer pulled the trigger.

BOOM

At first, Sam didn't think much of it. After all, it is not his first time facing guns, in fact, he did that when he was just a kid in his past life. There is no way, this could shake him.

But their opinion changed as soon as he was hit with the pain of the corruption as well as he saw the bullet that came out of the gun. It is like the explosion of a hand grenade is compressed into a one-inch cube and the cube traveled at supersonic speed to release itself at a certain point.

Sam attempted to dodge it, but the bullet already reached his side and exploded there.

He still has his feather coat on, which helped him out in dealing with the explosion, but he was thrown away to the side like a ragdoll.

Chapter 1654: Police Officer

BOOM

Before Sam could even properly get up, another explosion occurred beside him. This time, instead of dodging he relied on using a defensive barrier.

Which didn't work as well as he wanted it to work, but still it didn't throw him off far away.

He looked at the police officer with a frown. He doesn't know who that person is. For the people he killed until now, he is sure who they are and why they have such resentment towards him.

But this person is someone Sam doesn't even know. He is pretty sure that he didn't die by Sam's hands.

So, he is very confused on why this guy appeared in his tower.

He doesn't have any time to waste on contemplation. So, he threw the thoughts to the back of his mind and got ready to fight back. Only after he stood up and started circulating his energy did Sam understand that it is not a plausible thing to do.

He cannot fight back for now. He noticed that black lines are appearing on his body. They are spreading along the veins. He couldn't circulate his spiritual energy normally. In fact, even absorbing the spiritual energy in the surroundings became a problem.

Sam could only grit his teeth and wave his hands. Harbinger came out.

He jumped onto the Harbinger and let the spirit take control of the board. Instead of Sam attacking, the board just attacked its own with Sam's commands.

The board hovered over the area as wind blades and wind energy explosions ran rampage. Sam keenly observed the police officer to see how he would react. But to his surprise, not a single scratch could be seen on him.

All the police officer did was aim the gun at different spots and gather energy from different gun wounds.

Each wound gave him a different type of energy. When he used a wound on his leg, the bullet's energy is sharp, confined, and precise. It is more like an energy beam.

When he used the one from the back, the energy explosion has a ripple effect and spread far and wide.

A wound from the chest gave him the normal large explosion that threw Sam off at the start.

A wound from the arm gave the flexibility to the attacks and the police officer managed to change the trajectory of the bullet.

Just like this, there are different attacks that the police officer can do with all of his wounds, and sometimes he can even combine two or more wounds to create an explosion of various qualities.

If not for the speed of Harbinger, Sam felt like he would have a really hard time with this. The corruption is spreading rapidly and he is barely able to control it while fighting.

After he tackled the police officer for a while, he finally understood that it would be hard for him to defeat this person if he is struggling with the black energy.

So, he needs to find a way to clear this corruption and get back to the fight.

As soon as he thought up to that point, a bunch of images flashed in his mind. It is the method to remove corruption. It seems to be one of the things the gods imprinted in his mind while putting down a seal on his soul.

He now naturally knew how to do it, even though he didn't do any of it before.

He looked into the surroundings to find a spot to start the process. He is in an area that looked like suburbs.

And he looked at a certain spot that looked like an empty area far away. He zoomed the harbinger towards that place.

The police officer followed him for a while. The speed which should have been almost impossible for a person of that level was seen in that police officer. But as soon as Sam went out of that suburb area, he stopped chasing.

He shot at Sam a few times, which were dodged by the harbinger, but Sam managed to escape.

The police officer looked at Sam coldly, before walking back into the suburbs.

Meanwhile, Sam moved towards what looked like fields. There are no houses in the vicinity except for one barn. The rest of the area is completely filled with fields.

Sam knew that there is a great chance that the barn has some people that might want to take care of him, so he decided to land in the fields with a considerable distance between him and the barn.

After landing, he let harbinger take care of him, while he sat there trying to channel the corrupt energy. It is impossible for him to directly observe this without going back to the pillar. But once he goes back to the pillar. But going back to the pillar and returning back to the tower is going to be a hassle.

At least Sam wants to explore the first floor completely before he went back to the pillar.

So, there is a remedy for his situation. All he has to do is suppress the corrupt energy into the center of his body and perform a seal with hand signs so that it will stick there without affecting the rest of his body.

Of course, there are some possible side effects and many ways it could go wrong. It is safer to go back to the pillar and process the corrupt energy there, but Sam decided to take the risk. If things go well, he will go back to that place only after the first floor is cleared.

While Sam is meditating and performing some hand signs, far away from him near the barn, a large white rat came out of the barn. It has the same black eyes. But its body is different from a regular rat. It almost looked like the rat has taken steroids and worked out for years.

It ran into the fields towards Sam, followed by dozens of rats that have similar but also different variations in their bodies. Some looked lean and they are fast as bullets, some managed to bite through everything in their way, they are not even bothering to move around some rocks in the field, they are just biting through them.

Some rats are moving underground as if they are fish in the water. The list could go on.

And followed by those dozens of rats are actually a few dogs. They are not many, a little over half a dozen. One of them is a pitbull, another one is a husky, and the remaining looked like they are just stray dogs.

Of course, their eyes are black and they have massive fangs. Their claws also grew bigger and they looked like savage beasts that could tear something apart at any given moment.

Sam who is sitting in the middle of the field tried his best to suppress the corrupt energy. All the black lines slowly started going back and they gathered in his abdomen.

He quickly made a few hand signs and right when he was about to make a move, he felt a sense of danger.

The harbinger made its move. A large wind blade cut through the fields and went straight ahead at the rat that appeared nearby.

They lunged forward instead of dodging. Its teeth started glowing with weird energy as it bit into the wind blade.

The tangible wind blade was broken in half as the rat bit through it.

The harbinger didn't stop. Energy beams and wind blades were shot at the rats like crazy. The whole place turned into a chaotic mess. Sam frowned, but he didn't dare stop the process now. He knew for sure that he would have hell to pay if he is disturbed at the moment.

He made the final three signs and suppressed the energy.

He opened his eyes and looked at the harbinger. He took out his new staff, the one with the granular energy conduction, and went to assist the board.

A rat that came directly out of the ground jumped at him. He swung the staff directly at the rat's head. The head is crushed into the ground. Sam applied pressure and wanted to completely crush the head into the past.

But to his surprise, the rat just dug through the group in a flash and disappeared from that spot. It came out instantly and tried to bite Sam in the leg.

Sam stomped at it to let it go. The rat once again dug into another hole and disappeared. Sam felt frustrated, because right when he was about to deal with this one annoying rat, another rat came out of nowhere.

He swung the staff at its head. This time the force threw the rat far away making it crash into a tree. The rat made a hole in the tree before it crashed into the ground behind it. It looked at Sam crazily before it disappeared from the spot. Sam of course didn't notice and started fighting with the remaining fights.

Chapter 1655: Testing

Sam noticed that the defense of the rats is too much and before he could even deal with them, the dogs already caught up.

He gritted his teeth and shook his head.

"If even the first floor is this tough, I wonder what the remaining floors would be like. And to think I would be having a hard time facing a bunch of rats and dogs. This is embarrassing."

He made a few hand signs as his shadow started moving.

He used the shadow necromancy to release his shadow undead. Their shapes are manipulated to spread on the ground far and wide.

At the same time, he also used the earth's elemental energy to crush the space under his feet. The rats that are moving under his feet suddenly felt the pressure of the earth. All the openings they created were now filled with large spikes.

The rats weren't stabbed though. Their skin was so tough that they were just pushed to the other edge of the hole. They were being crushed, and after so much effort, their internal organs started feeling the pressure, but their skin wasn't damaged in the slightest.

Sam finally managed to kill a couple of rats like that while crushing the earth. As for the rest, when they tried to jump around Sam tried to slither and slip around. As they landed in the shadows, they were caught in their place.

"Good thing I learned this shadow manipulation. These little shits. Just how annoying can they be."

As he was thinking, he caught hold of a dog and put it in a headlock. He used the energy observation and manipulation technique to powder its neck.

The dog died on the spot before Sam extended his hand. A bunch of energy gathered at his fingertips into a few energy bullets. They were shot at the rats that were caught. The shadows' tentacles forced open the rats' mouths as the energy bullets went inside and exploded.

The rats turned into a bunch of meat paste before they disappeared.

Sam heaved a sigh as he retrieved his shadows. He didn't expect such a challenge from this place. This is actually one of the most annoying battles he has been in.

Before he could be glad that this is over, he noticed that a horde of rats is coming toward him.

"Fucking hell."

He muttered to himself as he got on the harbinger and flew away into the sky. He didn't want to get into a direct confrontation with these things. They are way too tenacious for such little creatures.

He could only focus on contemplating different methods to kill these little fellows as fast as possible. But while he was thinking, he had to dodge some wind blades that came out of nowhere.

SWOOSH

The whistling sound of the blades going right past him made him vigilant once again and he looked around. He saw a bunch of chickens coming from the direction of the barn. Being shocked would be an understatement for what Sam felt at that moment.

He barely wrapped his head around the fact that the rats became this strong, now there are some chickens that are coming from the barn that can throw a really dangerous wind blade from almost 1000 meters away.

As if that is not enough, they can glide pretty well. Even though the chickens originally cannot fly, it seems like the hell gave them the ability to glide a lot more than they actually should be capable of.

Now came another twist. As Sam dodged the wind blades something else came along. The roosters started screaming at him and the sonic waves hit Sam disturbing his balance a bit.

Sam used an energy barrier to block them before he shot a fireball at the birds. Which was simply destroyed by the sonic waves. They didn't even bother to dodge the golden flames that came at them.

Sam couldn't help but roll his eyes at this situation. These creatures are so tenacious in terms of their physical endurance. He didn't even have this much trouble when he was dealing with Divine League.

He gritted his teeth and moved towards the chickens on the harbinger. These ranged attacks are going to be more troublesome than the rats. The staff started glowing with spatial energy as he swung it at the nearest chicken.

The concentrated spatial energy exploded with the void style. It almost happened in slow motion as the surrounding energy gathered into small energy pellets because of the staff. These energy pellets collided together once again and created a massive explosion in an instant.

The chicken that was hit in the head, exploded on the spot.

The pieces that came out of the explosion crashed into the surroundings, creating smaller explosions wherever they landed. One of those pieces landed on the nearest chicken which was gliding and also crashed into the ground.

Of course, it didn't die.

Sam checked the staff and shook his head.

"I could kill a dozen guys with this energy. Even the humans that I fought on this floor were easier. I wonder what's the difference and why this is happening."

He muttered to himself and proceeded to fight.

As he was floating in the air and fighting the chickens and the rats, he noticed something else. He looked at the barn and there are a bunch of chickens coming out of it once again followed by a bunch of rats.

He frowned and looked at the already crowded area.

"Fuck it."

As he spoke, he extended his hand forward. An energy barrier was formed and small energy spheres gathered all around him. He closed his eyes and controlled the spheres. They spread around the rats that are on the ground.

A formation was created and a controlled explosion was on the way.

BOOM

Half of the rats died and Sam moved forward with another formation, but this time in the middle of the air as he destroyed a few chickens.

He then moved towards the barn as he let the remaining injured chickens follow him along with the rats.

He got a look at the barn. It is large. Maybe the largest one he has ever seen. He has never seen such a big barn in either of his lives.

And there are two entries for that barn. One of them is letting out chickens that are flying toward him while the other entrance is letting out rats.

He doesn't know how many going to come out. But it doesn't seem like a small amount. It is almost never-ending.

He contemplated for a bit and turned around before leaving the area. After he reached a certain distance out of the field, the chickens stopped following him and went back.

Sam hovered there in the air as he sat down on the harbinger while contemplating. He took out a scroll and started mapping whatever he found until now.

He managed to clear a few areas at the start. But the remaining two areas he visited after that, one with the police officer and the other with the barn and the creatures are going to take some time as he needs to figure out a proper countermeasure for them.

After mapping that out, he only has two more areas to explore and the first floor would be completely explored. Of course, he does need to kill all of these things. But at least he will get some breathing space until he finished the whole exploration.

He can also figure out if this terrain and the area offer anything that he could take advantage of while dealing with these things.

After some thought, he proceeded with the plan and hovered around on the harbinger as he moved to a different area.

This one is a lot better. The people are stronger and he came across some cats as well, but they are not as tough as the rats and hens, and they are nowhere near the policeman in the uniform.

He dealt with the people there easily within the day. He spared his energy without any consideration. All he did is sit back and recover while thinking of ways to deal with the creatures.

He finished off the last remaining area as well before finally coming back to the barn area.

First, he captured one of the chickens and one of the rats with much effort and brought them out of the barn area.

As soon as they are out, the creatures struggled like they were being tortured by some kind of curse. They are screeching and screaming. But they didn't die at all.

Sam took them back to the area and they finally stopped struggling. They even got their strength back.

After that, he went back to the barn area and once again captured a couple of these creatures before going back to the sub-urban area. He dropped these creatures in front of the police officer. To his expectations, the policeman fired a couple of shots at the rats and the chickens and they died.

The corruption energy was attributed to Sam.

Chapter 1656: Spatial Tear

The next day.

BOOM* *BOOM* *BOOM

A series of explosions hit the suburban area as Sam hovered around on the harbinger. The police officer kept on shooting him as Sam leisurely dodged each one of those bullets.

He just slipped past a yard and lodged a large liquid energy container while doing that.

The police officer jumped on to the top of the house as he shot at Sam.

BOOM

Sam smoothly slipped away while lodging another container in some other spot. The police officer followed him as he leaped off of the building.

CRASH

The roof of the house shattered as he leaped through the air and shot consecutively at Sam who is dodging all of these attacks. Sam kept on dodging the attacks while placing the liquid energy containers here and there.

After placing all of them, he increased the altitude to do a final check before leaving the area. The police officer followed him, but had to stop when Sam left the suburb area.

The police officer looked around. There is a hint of frustration in his actions. He kicked the pebble on the ground to the side and aimed the gun at the nearby house.

BOOM

The house exploded into the pieces.

The police officer then looked at the surroundings and his eyes landed on the liquid energy containers. He looked at the containers that Sam left behind and went near one of them.

Sam who is moving away saw this from afar and was very tempted to explode it immediately, but he had to control the urge, before flew to the barn area. The rats and the chickens are still harmoniously waiting for him.

And the number increased by multiple times. Sam took out a large cannon and supported it on his shoulder. He loaded the cannon with a container and shot it at one of the corners of the barn.

The chickens and rats noticed him, but he is at an altitude that makes it impossible for them to reach him.

"If only these things are weak, I could have taken you all down from here leisurely." He muttered to himself before he shot another container at a different spot.

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

One container after another landed around the barn based on how Sam calculated. In the next ten minutes, he finished setting up the formation and launched the final container at the centre.

The surroundings started trembling as the spatial energy rumbled. A large tear appeared in the space as all the chickens and rats were sucked into that large tear.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the area. In the sub urban area, the police officer who is checking the containers around, felt the tremble of spatial energy. As he tried to touch the container, he felt a slight backlash that threw him off.

The formation acted up and a large tear appeared on this side as well. He looked at the chickens and the rats that are falling from the sky.

He frowned and took out his pistol before shooting the creatures one by one.

The creatures are already screeching and screaming with the pain that came from this place not being theirs. One of the things Sam noticed is that the farther away they are from their original spot, the more pain they are experiencing.

So, things became easier. But of course, the police officer is not having a good time.

Even though the rats and the chickens are having such a terrible time with a lot of pain and weakness, they are in hundreds in numbers. They are relentless. And the police officer is not able to shoot faster. There is a certain limit to his speed.

His explosion is strong enough to blow up at least two creatures at a time, but that is not enough to clear more than a couple of hundred creatures instantly.

While the creatures and the police officer are duking out with each other. Sam hovered around the barn for a moment, before he directly went in through the entrance.

The barn is basically empty. There is just a large empty room with a bunch of chickens and it is connected to another large empty room with a bunch of rats.

They were all asleep by the time Sam arrived, and woke up after he did. The whole room turned chaotic and they started attacking Sam from all the sides. Sam stood at the connecting point of both the rooms and defended himself with the barrier.

He kept the energy barrier intact and used the hoverboard to get out of the barn. The creatures that followed him were sucked in by the spatial tear directly.

Meanwhile, Sam took out his cannon as he shot around the barn. His plan is to destroy the whole barn in a single shot. When the formation was finally set, a large energy storm originated from the middle of it.

The storm with wind and spatial energy combined slowly started destroying the barn. Board after board, tile after tile everything came off easily.

Slowly, the barn was torn apart and the storm directed everything into the spatial tear nearby.

The police officer on the other side started feeling the pinch. The creatures are already troublesome enough, but now Sam added this extra storm to the mix.

After making sure that the barn will cease to exist and no more creatures will come out of it, Sam also dove into the portal to go to the other side. He looked at the battle between the police officer and the creatures.

He took out his own hand guns and loaded them with some new bullets that are a result of his new research. They are part of the same batch as the staff that Sam is using now. But these things are a lot more powerful.

"I didn't want to use these things right away. But we don't seem to have a choice. Let's finish this off as soon as possible."

He aimed his gun and shot at the nearest chicken.

The bullet also has a granular texture. Each grain is glowing with golden fire elemental energy. When it reached the target, the grains of the bullet broke apart and spread out a bit into a sphere of one foot diameter.

The golden energy linked each grain and at the centre of the sphere a smaller sphere of energy originated which attracted the spread-out granular pieces to the centre.

BOOM

The golden flames exploded. The chicken that was caught in the explosion. The feathers and the flesh burned off. The explosion then blew off the rest of the pieces. The surrounding creatures were blown off with some serious burn injuries.

Sam then shot another creature and then another. The police officer noticed what Sam is doing. He frowned in frustration. He wanted to deal with Sam and aimed the gun at him, but before it could happen, a rat leaped into the air and bit the police officer.

He shook the rat off and shot it at point black range. The rat's head blew off.

Before he could go back to Sam, another rat came and attacked him. So, he decided that all he has to do was deal with these creatures first and then move to Sam.

So, both shooters started dealing with the creatures. They are already weak enough with the pain that they are going through so they are basically target practice.

For the next fifteen minutes, they cleared out almost all the creatures nearby. The rest of them are injured and in no condition to fight anymore.

Sam landed on the ground finally and looked at the police officer. He held his gun aimed straight at Sam without even blinking.

Sam did the same and they shot at each other.

Both bullets clashed and they negated each other.

Sam raised an eyebrow in surprise. He had a few close calls with these bullets, but he never felt the full power of it. Only when his own bullets were negated did he understand how powerful this guy is.

Sam didn't even want to test and see if he would be able to win against the guy with just one gun. He didn't want to waste his time and test himself or anything. He would just find out whatever it is the best way to deal with him.

He took out another one of his hand gun and used the two of them shoot at the opponent at the same time. He didn't care if it is fair or not. All he needs is a win.

The gun fight became intense after this.

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

The explosions raised mayhem. The police officer is very good with this kind of fight. He managed to use the rest of the houses and the surroundings to his advantage. In fact, Sam could feel that the skill is on par with some of very high level fighters he met in his past life.

But too bad, he cannot hold on for long.

Sam shot eight times in a row. The police officer couldn't keep up, particularly when the bullets followed the same path again and again.

The bullet hit the police officer on the shoulder.

Chapter 1657: First Floor cleared

Once the left shoulder of the police man was gone, the rest became easy.

Sam just bombarded the opponent with dozens of bullets and managed to defeat him. The police officer looked at Sam with the same anger.

For some reason, Sam felt that this anger is actually not similar to the anger of other creatures that he fought, whether they are humans or not, most of their rage is instinctual. Their anger is not sane or controlled.

It is pure resentment that they had towards Sam. But in case of this policeman, he appeared a lot more sane. A bit clearheaded. This is also a bit confusing to him.

Sam didn't know what is going on with it, but he looked forward to digging deeper and know the reason behind it.

He aimed the gun at the police man's head and spoke.

"I don't know where we came across. I certainly don't remember ever killing you. But I do hope that I know why I killed you. Your skills are impressive."

Muttering to himself, he pulled the trigger.

BOOM

The corruption energy entered Sam and all of a sudden, the whole area started glowing. The glow passed away pretty quickly though. Now the black energy in the whole area went down. The area became a bit normal and natural in color and aura.

Sam was also shifted to the pillar without any prompt whatsoever. He could feel the corrupt energy get into his whole body.

He didn't suppress it now, instead he put his hand on the pillar and the black corrupt energy started spreading into the pillar. Even the energy sphere that formed in his abdomen also did the same.

At least that is what he thought, but the next moment he noticed something else. The energy is not completely going into the pillar. Only the corruption part of it and the sin part of it is going there. It is as if the remaining energy is filtered from the corruption and sin.

The filtered energy is being absorbed by Sam's body passively without him doing anything at all.

The groove on the pillar started raising a bit.

While this is happening in Sam's body, something else happened in his mind, which he wouldn't have predicted in a thousand years.

He started seeing the memories of the people and the creatures he just finished off. Not all of their memories before they died, rather just the memory of their resentment toward him.

Most of the time, Sam was not surprised with the memories that flashed in his head.

What he looked forward to and what surprised him were the memories of the animals. The answer was simple though, the resentment from the chickens came because, Sam killed them. To eat. The resentment from the rats is because of the lab experiments he has conducted on them.

Which is also kind of justifiable.

As for their extreme powers, Sam got sort of 'answer' from the hell when he thought about it with his hand against the pillar. It is just an external thought that popped in his mind.

The powers of the dead creatures that appear in these hell towers, depend on how they died and what the final thoughts they had in their minds, when they died.

The powers of those rats are because of some mutations they went through when Sam tested them in different ways, the powers of the middle-aged sexual predator couple are from the poison they ingested through their mouths.

The powers of the chickens are the funniest ones. They got those powers, because they wished that they could fly away when they were being caught and they wished they could slice the people up just like how they were being sliced. The combination led to the creation of these wind blades.

He couldn't help but chuckle at this.

He knew that this is a serious issue and he can imagine what other weird powers these creatures are going to get, but he couldn't help himself.

Finally, his thoughts landed on one person he is curious about.

The Police officer.

As soon as he noticed those thoughts, he was shocked. Now he finally recognized who this police officer is.

He never saw his face in the past life, but he is one police officer that Sam had his hopes when he was being trafficked out of India. He has never seen his face and he barely remembered his name. But he was famous at that time.

He had a reputation of not letting any bad practice go on within his jurisdiction and Sam with great difficulty sent a message to this person when he was just eight years old.

Right when he was being sold out by his art teacher to people from the organization he was part of.

And the cause of this resentment baffled him.

The police officer held such resentment against Sam because, the one complaint Sam gave ruined his life. It turned it upside down.

Because of the secret hidden complaint, the police officer apparently went on to investigate the traffickers, but the organization is way too big and way too powerful for one officer to do anything.

His superiors who were on the payroll of the traffickers ratted him out. His family died, he was framed and then he was taken out by his own peers. All the gun shot wounds came from his colleagues only.

In this whole process, he wished that he never got that complaint. He resented the person that gave him that complaint and of course that is Sam.

Sam couldn't wrap his head around this logic. He was just an eight year old boy. All he did was write a letter and send it to the police station, in hopes that he would be saved.

But the police officer started resenting that very boy who he should have saved when things went too far against his family.

The worst part is, the officer who was daring and bold, didn't even have guts to hate the perpetrators themselves by the time they were done with him.

Sam was disappointed to say the least. Of course, there is also confusion and bewilderment along with it.

But disappointment was what clouded him for a short while.

After he shook those feelings off for a moment, he finally started contemplating. He officially cleared the first floor after almost a week of efforts. Now, he needs to absorb all the information he could get here and move to the next floor with prepared mindset.

Some things, he is completely sure of, like with every passing floor, he is going to get stronger, which is the most obvious one.

There is no fixed pattern for the people and creatures that he might encounter in each floor. They are not coming chronologically. Because there are some people that he encountered on the first that belonged to the time when he became a teenage assassin, there are also some people that he came across when became much older.

So, the amount of suffering they have gone through might be one of the factors that decided what floor they would be on. But he cannot fathom a chicken suffering the same level as the police officer who was emotionally and physically tortured before being killed.

Then came his third speculation and this is something that he is not really sure of.

He can explain this in two ways. First one is that there is a range of suffering within which the first floor falls under and within that range, the lowest will gain smaller power and the highest will gain larger power.

The second method is that there is a possibility that the animals that he has eaten or experimented on, might be clustered together and placed here based on the collective suffering. Of course even in this case the range exists.

He needs to check more floors before he can come to any conclusion of course.

There are a few more things, Sam started thinking about and one of them is the strength of the creatures.

No matter, whether they are people or rats and chickens, they are unbelievably strong. They are way too strong to the point that Sam would have to constantly unleash his full-powered attacks if he has to get rid of them by himself without using any of his inventions.

Even in the case of the other players who are his peers, he cannot imagine them being able to defeat their counterparts without using Blood arts.

And even if the first floor is that difficult, he cannot imagine how drastic the change would be when he goes to the second floor.

Then he finally started noting down something regarding the corruption. Within this first floor, he went through quite a few phases with the corruption affecting his body. One phase is being within a completely controllable limit.

Then it became uncontrollable, making him experience extreme pain, then the suppressed state, and finally the relieved state. Based on this, he made quite a few observations.

Chapter 1658: Second Floor

When the corruption is in the start stage and slowly grew with time, he could feel a faint burning sensation in his energy network.

All of his meridians were being refined by this energy. When he was full of corrupt energy, the refining went to the point of literally burning his energy network. He felt injured and weak. The pain constantly distracted him.

So, all he could do was suppress it.

When he suppressed it, the burning pain reduced by a lot, but he could feel that his energy network was still under pressure because of it as his own energy needs to suppress the corrupt energy.

When he finally released it into the pillar, he could feel that his body changed a bit. Not only did his meridian network was tempered, but the more he kept the energy in a suppressed state, the more his blood and muscle fibers also being slowly treated with it.

Of course, there is a sense of exhaustion after he finally lets this energy go, but as he slowly recovered, he also saw an increase in his physical strength.

This made him feel content. This is another one of the benefits in this scenario. This is also going to help him in long term.

He then looked at the entrance that leads to the second floor. He doesn't know if he wants to visit that floor immediately. The strength of the first floor itself is very bad, there is no way, he would be able to finish off the second floor scot-free.

And also, he doesn't have very small ammo like the single-use bullets that have only one purpose of just killing the other person. Even the weakest bullet under Sam can create an explosion that could affect a decent-sized area.

The explosion is always concentrated. But it still affects its surroundings.

After thinking for a while, he finally came to one conclusion.

He needs to enter the second floor, even if he is unable to deal with the hell that would be presented to him there, he will have that extra time in which the corruption can temper his body and bones.

So, he took the leap of faith, but only decided to move exactly one day later, so that he can relax, recover and also get ready for what is about to hit his face.

The next day.

Sam appeared on the second floor of the tower.

When he entered the second floor, the first thing that came to my mind.

"WOW."

Even Sam who rarely expressed normal series of emotions no matter what couldn't help but let out this amazing sigh.

He stood on a cliff and looked at one of the most beautiful sights he has ever seen. From above that cliff, he can see the forest expanding far away and on the other side of the forest, he saw a large mountain range that has a huge waterfall.

This is the first time, he has ever seen such a big waterfall. It is so huge that Sam could faintly hear the sound of the waterfall from his position.

As he slowly took in the whole scene, he suddenly felt a sense of threat and looked around. He instinctually turned on energy vision as he looked around.

At first glance there is nothing, but after he increased the intensity of the energy vision a little bit, he managed to see.

It is the presence of the Bees.

Some small bees that are just a little bit larger than a normal bee on earth are flying towards him.

They should have buzzed, but they didn't. they are completely silent. Except for the sound of the forest and the waterfall he is faintly hearing, there is not a single sound from the bees.

Even the energy waves caused by it are very small that he barely noticed them.

He activated his energy barrier just in case and it turned out to be the right decision because as soon as the barrier was formed, it was hit by a bunch of small stingers.

Not only did they land on it, they also managed to stick inside the barrier as if it is made of some soft wood and they are some nails shot from a nail gun.

Sam is confused and surprised by how sharp the stingers are. He was tempted to take a closer look, but before he knew it...

BOOM

The stingers exploded, at the same time. The red hot flames that have a slight corrosive effect spread across the surroundings, and even the barrier that he was holding was cracked completely. It barely stood there.

And it completely broke after another round of stingers from the bees.

Sam could only jump forward and dodge the attack before creating another barrier. He rolled on the ground with that barrier around him and managed to escape both the explosion and the stingers.

He extended his hand and the golden flames shot out toward the bees.

Then Sam did something so miraculous that he never it is possible for the bees.

The golden flames that almost reached the bees, seemed to have been deflected by those small vibrating wings.

Sam was surprised once again. He didn't even know how to deal with this.

As he was thinking, he jumped down the cliff and started going down.

"There is no point in thinking. It will only stress me out. I might as well do first and think later."

As he rapidly climbed off of the cliff, when he reached a certain altitude, he moved on to the harbinger and then only he noticed how high the cliff really is.

And he couldn't understand how the bees managed to make that far away.

While he was contemplating that, he noticed that the bees stopped following him, but something else started.

He saw some birds that looked like pigeons.

The first thought that came to Sam's mind is that it would be delicious if cooked well.

But the next actions of those pigeons made him realize that he is still in hell. The pigeons opened their mouths and started screaming. Just the scream itself is a sonic attack and for some reason, they can also release flames as if that is not enough.

The sonic waves distributed the chaotic flames evenly and they spread all over the cliff walls.

Sam was even more surprised when he noticed that the whole mountain is on fire.

The rocks, grass, trees, and even the soul. Everything that is part of the cliff started burning as if it is made of paper.

Sam took out his guns and started shooting the pigeons down.

He went down the cliff and finally touched the solid land that is not hundreds of meters high above normal ground level.

He looked at the fascinating beauty of the large trees that made him feel small and tiny. He touched one tree and all of a sudden, he sensed a movement nearby.

HISS

A snake came out of nowhere and started coiling around Sam's hand. The snake didn't wait for long before it took a good large bit.

The flesh of course wasn't torn apart. But the fangs carefully injected a bunch of venom into his body.

"Good thing, I am immune. This poison is very different."

He muttered to himself and looked at the snake that is hissing away.

He stomped his leg on the ground. A small earthen barrier completely surrounded the snake. Before it could try to escape, the barrier soon grew some spikes and they were all focused on the snake before they moved in.

The snake that was supposed to die, didn't. It just stayed there with all of the spikes lodged into the leather. The attack itself is a complicated one as they all targeted the vital points that Sam remembered at least.

But it is impossible to penetrate.

Sam waved his hands and the earthen barrier turned its shape once again. This time, it is not just the surrounding barrier prison, rather this time, it was locked in completely from all sides, from the top and the bottom as well.

The snake was trapped and Sam decided to capture it and test it to his heart's content to see if there is really anything that he could use against the rest of the creatures on the second floor and the third floor.

Sam camped there wondering how he was caught up in all of this. And then he remembered that this life wasn't his choice, but the choice to be here was definitely his. He was offered a drink and an invitation.

With a chance to even get out the fuck out of this place. But he still chose this. Which seemed kind of stupid when he came across the pigeons and the chickens that are almost as strong as him and they are still in their small bodies without much change.

Sam quickly left to take care of the snake. He just sat there and started his experiments. Most of them are not as usual, just like how everything around them is weird.

Chapter 1659: Crossbows

Sam used his energy vision to scan the surroundings a bit and after confirming that there is nothing else around except this snake, he sat down a bit and started examining it.

There are a few things, that he was surprised about.

The first one is that he wasn't able to sense the presence of this snake when it tried to attack him.

The second one is that this snake has more sanity than even some people on the first floor. It didn't just rashly attack without any consequences. It was sure that Sam would die after injecting that lethal dose of poison.

This is why, it caught him by surprise, before making that move.

Of course, then there is that tough leather skin that couldn't be pierced with normal spikes. And this time, even crushing didn't work, because this thing is pretty flexible. It managed to survive somehow.

The only silver lining is that it doesn't have much direct attack power, particularly after it bit him. The poison might just be the most lethal and even the only attack the snake has, so it kind of lost all of its attacking power.

Sam did some toughness tests and flexibility tests on the snake as he waited to see if its poison comes back.

And it didn't take long for that to happen. Within the next twenty minutes, the snake regained its poison and got ready to bite Sam again.

But of course, this time it didn't have that chance.

Now for the final test, Sam wanted to test the lethality of the dose of this poison. He looked into the sky and saw the pigeons are still hovering in that certain spot. He took off on harbinger to attract the flock.

The first pigeon that saw him, didn't even hesitate to just dash toward him. Sam aimed the snake straight at the pigeon and let it take the bite.

The pigeon that was full of vigor and strength, suddenly turned black before it fell crashing down on the ground.

It only took a fraction of a second for the poison to work and it worked perfectly.

The pigeon that needed Sam's special bullets to die, was dead with just one snake bite. Of course, these snake bites are not going to be a steady long-term weapon.

It is also not fast enough. But he can use this to farm some lethal poison that he could use. After all, when he consumes the poison, his hydra bloodline can enhance it. It would be a waste not to use this to a full extent.

Sam took out his gun and shot a bunch of pigeons before he hovered down. He doesn't have any plan to deal with these birds for now at least, and the same goes for the bees.

He would rather focus on the land for now and then move to the air.

Luckily, he also has a small area, where he could stay a bit less vigilant. He doesn't know why this space was empty without any other creatures apart from the snake, but that works for him.

Now, he started mapping the area.

When he was on top of the cliff, Sam has a vague understanding of how big the whole forest is, so he divided it into different sections which he would explore one by one.

The first section is the one straight ahead.

An area that could be his base when he finished off everything in there and is connected to the three remaining areas.

This would make things really easier for him in many ways.

Now, he activated shadow fusion as he went deeper into the forest.

Even though he already expected it, the massive trees made him feel tiny here. Some trees are so big that the roots are as tall as him. He felt so insignificant in front of it for some reason.

But not all of them are that huge. As he went deeper, he saw quite a few relatively smaller trees.

As he explored the area bit by bit, Sam stopped in his tracks.

SWOOSH

A crossbow bolt went past him and hit a tree behind.

The bolt right went to through the tree by splitting it into two vertical halves, before it hit another tree behind it.

Even before the tree crashed, Sam disappeared from the spot with a puff of black smoke. He reappeared right behind a tree but disappeared within the next second.

A crossbow bolt split that tree apart and destroyed another tree behind it. Sam reappeared on the same spot this time and looked at the damage caused by the bolts.

His energy vision is at the highest intensity as he looked around. But he wasn't able to find anyone. No one is hiding behind the trees, no one is hiding within the branches. Everything appeared clean. In fact, way too clean. There is not single trace of energy fluctuations around.

Even though the bolts are coming in constantly.

Sam took out his reaper sword and slashed the crossbow bolt.

He was stunned when he was unable to cut it in half. He was barely able to deflect it and a small shard of that bolt was the only thing he was able to cut off.

The bolt lodged into the ground and there are some cracks on the surrounding earth.

Sam didn't have time to inspect what happened. He barely dodged another bolt and hid behind a rock this time.

They are even able to catch up with harbinger's speed as well as his movements with shadow fusion. They are using crossbow bolts and they are extremely good at hiding themselves.

Sam could think of a few people that fall under that category.

A group actually. A group he has slaughtered during his training period within the organization.

This brought some really cruel memories back to Sam.

The imprints this group left in his mind are special. Because they left an impression when Sam is way weaker than him as well as an impression when Sam is way too stronger than him.

Both of these impressions are unique in their own right.

As he was thinking back to these memories, he heard some loud crashing sound.

BAM

BAM

BAM

The rock he was hiding behind is vibrating as one bolt after another lodged into it from the other side.

He moved away from the rock.

CRASH

The rock crumbled into small pieces before it crashed into the ground because of all the repeated hitting.

Sam who moved to the side, was greeted with another crossbow bolt. But this time, he confidently blocked it with the sword. The sword strike sent the bolt to the side.

BANG

BANG

BANG

There is a constant clashing noise as the sword met each and every one of those bolts that came at him.

He just hovered there and focused on just defending. He even undid his shadow elemental fusion and met them with his normal speed.

BANG

BANG

Two attacks.

BANG

BANG

Four attacks.

BANG

BANG

Ten attacks.

BANG

BANG

Twenty attacks.

They kept on coming without any break. But Sam didn't panic. There is a method that he used to defeat these people before and he is very sure that it is going to work again.

Even with all the enhancements, they must have gotten with the way they died, Sam is very sure that he would be able to defeat them just like how he did the first time.

As the number of bolts increased, soon the trajectory of the bolts became constant.

The shooters are not moving much. They stuck to the same place and started shooting rapidly instead of using any other tricks.

Since Sam is not moving away, they decided to focus on speed and quantity instead of tricks shots that will just put more stress on their minds.

Sam smiled as he noticed this.

He slightly channeled wind energy to his energy vision to take a look at the bolts that are coming at him. The bolts are very stealthy. The energy fluctuations are undetectable for some reason.

But the wind around it is definitely moving and Sam decided to focus on that instead of the bolts themselves. As he noticed the ripples of the winds, he got a faint idea of the probable location of the shooters.

Now that he knew where they are, things are going to be a lot easier.

Spatial energy surrounded Sam as the smile turned into a grin.

He disappeared from the spot and a bunch of bolts hit the trees and rocks behind him.

The next moment, the bolts stopped coming.

Sam reappeared on a tree branch far away. He swung the reaper sword to his right.

The sword slashed through the tree trunk.

SLASH

Blood splashed out as an arm and a chunk of some other flesh came off along with the tree trunk.

He jumped off from the branch the next moment. A crossbow bolt went past the spot Sam was standing in and hit the tree trunk through the slash Sam made.

The bolt lodged into the chest of a person who was hiding there.

Chapter 1660: Cross bow squad

Sam landed on a different tree.

The grin on his face didn't fade. In fact, it widened.

"Cocky Idiots. Even in hell, you are still the same."

He muttered to himself as he disappeared from the spot. Eight bolts went past the spot he was in. He reappeared at a new spot and slashed another trunk.

This time, the head fell off along with a part of the tree. The volume of the bolts was reduced by a lot when Sam jumped to the next spot and slashed another person.

Once three heads were down, it became fairly easier for him. Sam kept on jumping from one tree to another as he killed people.

The heads rolled down, one by one. Soon, all the reaper sword has is blood and there is an empty patch in the middle of the forest. The area is riddled with cut-down trees, broken rocks, and of course pieces of corpses.

Sam observed the effects of corruption as he looked at the corpses.

They are part of his training in the organization.

When Sam was about to finally graduate into his own independent assassin when he was twelve, these people are the final test for him to pass.

These are some senior assassins within the organization and they do not take some mercenary jobs, they also take on training the new graduates.

The final test is to survive their onslaught and try to assassinate them back. And if the counterattack works or if the team thinks that it will work the other person would pass.

Because of Sam's status, he was put forth to take this test early. Generally, the threshold for this is sixteen. For some reason, these guys felt that they were being insulted as a twelve year old was asked to take this test.

So, they decided to take this out on Sam.

The first time Sam attempted this test, his whole body was riddled with holes from the crossbow bolts. His arms, legs, his back, in fact even his buttocks had around six bolts lodged into them.

It was because some of these guys were trying to bet who hits Sam's anus first.

But of course, all of them missed it and because of the bet they lost, they took out their anger on Sam even more.

Sam almost bled to death that night.

These people have a unique fighting style which made it hard for Sam to take revenge.

By some miracle, he recovered within a couple of months. Only later did he realize that it is not really much of a miracle, rather than the sadistic nature of these team members.

They only gave him flesh wounds with their weaker bolts to take pleasure in playing around with Sam.

But Sam himself had his own plans. He studied their fighting style. For starters, he wasn't injured that much in the second round. He only got one injury and he was completely fine.

After that was done, the tests went on.

Sam kept on improving.

The main advantage of these guys is that they are stealthy. Nobody ever managed to find their exact location when they attacked.

They are extremely stealthy, they are precise and their choice of weapon limits the range to which they are good at.

So, they are not really snipers, rather they are a shooting squad that uses crossbows and knows how to fight using the terrain from a decently long range.

They prey on the target bit by bit. Making them weaker, slower, and finally taking their lives.

But their biggest mistake is constantly letting Sam go so that he could come back and entertain them more.

Soon, Sam became skilled enough to catch these guys. He managed to defeat them after dozens of tries. Once he figured out a way to not get injured within that formation used by these people, he started trying out the test like once a week and within a few months, he had it in his grasp.

The pattern is that these people try to corner the target to one spot and they will bombard them with their trick shots and speed and make it impossible to recover.

They will kill them right there.

So, Sam focused on defending himself with a sword and first figured out their locations. Just like how he did now.

Then there is this drawback they have because of the stealth. They compromised on their movement because of their stealth. Their positions are fairly fixed.

With their fixed situation, Sam could pinpoint their locations. When he was a kid and did this in real life, he had to use some really old tricks in the book to get to them and take them one by one.

When Sam was done with each one of these team members, he showed them what the hell on earth would taste like.

He broke their bones, ripped the tongues out, and the eyes were gouged out.

That is why he had such a lasting impression on them. He almost killed himself when he was a kid for challenging them in open.

But now Sam schooled them beyond belief.

Even in this present scenario, Sam did the same.

He first narrowed down their locations, they took down what he felt like are the key opponents and then took over the rest pretty easily.

The crossbow squad that used to enjoy the misery of the candidates they failed, died in a test taken by a twelve year old.

That was one of the most tragic things to happen in the organization, because of the amount Sam made the organization lose as they invested a lot

in the squad. The assassinations would have gotten some really great cash, but Sam ruined it for the community. He even made a bunch of enemies because of that.

As he imagined how his situation was when he met these people, Sam finished up the cleaning process.

He then sat in that area to think about the next step.

He doesn't have any threats lying around. The forest patch is cleared. No more new people are coming when he was sitting there.

There are no creatures as well. Sam had a breathing space where he could kick back a bit.

After a few minutes of brainstorming, he picked an interested direction. Sam took it because the main camp he is establishing would be a lot closer from this place if this direction and from the details fixed up like this a bit.

But it also has a certain level of danger.