

Creator 1681

Chapter 1681: Cooperation

Noah cleared the deal with her clan, while Kumar also did the same.

By the evening of the second day, both of them met in a secluded spot between both of the clans along with the representatives from the respective clans.

"This is the plan. We are going to target the Sura clan from two sides. One party is in charge of taking care their business, another party is in charge of taking care of their resource points.

We will not assign the tasks separately to a single clan. Rather, both clans will provide people, both Noah and I are going to assign members to the teams and appoint leaders based on the information we got.

This way, you wouldn't have to fear that one clan is going to hoard all the resources they got from a single point.

Also, our main focus is the businesses and resource points that are under the control of Brig's students.

The only reason we are attacking the remaining businesses and resource points is to divert some of the forces of the Sura clan.

And as you already know, they used quite some resources to fight off the Clan 6's premature attack. So, we have that for an advantage.

We are going to pressure his students and try to kidnap them with every attack.

That too, if they are present there."

"What do you mean if they are present there? Even though he likes his students, they are living outside, because they need to grow themselves. Even if he anticipated the attack, he wouldn't be anticipating that his students are being targeted."

One of the clan members spoke.

"Generally, that would be the case. But the situation is different.

Just like how we arrived at your clan to help you steal the technique, there is another guy that went to Sura clan to do help him save the technique from you guys.

And it is not an exaggeration to say that whatever we do, he can do it better and faster. He is just that good."

"Then we might as well go and try to get him on our side instead of working with you."

Another one of the clan members said with a sneer.

"It would indeed be a better option, if you can bring him to your side. But you have the same chance to directly convincing Brig to handover the technique as convincing this guy to come work with you.

Both are nigh impossible.

Even we don't know how exactly that guy's thought process works, but one thing we are sure is that he will think of every possibility.

So, attacking Brig's students might just be one of the first thoughts that pops up in his mind."

"Then, why are we still doing this?"

"Because, we have limited options. The Sura clan is not going to make it easy for you and a direct war is something I assume you would like to avoid at the start.

We are going to make the most obvious moves now, but our trick is that we are going to hide our identities and do it. We are not going to reveal who did it. And if possible we are going to throw the blame on the Clan1, Clan 2 and Clan3.

Pick a clan that is most likely do this and create the scene as if they did it.

We are going to stir the storm behind the scenes and reap rewards when all the parties are vulnerable."

"This is way too complicated. Why don't we just wait out for now? The other four clans already shot at the Sura clan.

So, if we just sit this one out and let them do the fighting, we can swoop in and deal the final blow. We will split the rewards and continue the war with the new technique."

"You don't have such a long time. We only have six days.

Within these six days we need to finish the task and be done with it."

"Why only six days? We can take a slow approach."

"Because after six days, Brig will have some contingencies set up that are arranged by the goddess he is worshipping. The same goddess that bestowed the technique to him.

So, if you are confident in taking care of that, then you can take your time.

And we won't be staying here after these six days. No matter what the progress is, we will be leaving this place.

I hope you understand that.

That is why, we are trying to accelerate the dispute. We will destroy the businesses, resource points and attempt kidnap at multiple occasions. The only thing we don't do is reveal our identities.

We should not leave obvious and easy clues. They should be indirect, complicated, but should be accurately pointing them to the targeted clan.

That is why, we need to pick a clan that both of you are familiar with and also have a lot of information on.

If you can pick one like that, then we are good to go."

The clan representatives both exchanged a look.

All seven major clans here have some differences. They have some friction. But there are obviously some clans that do not have that much of bad blood.

They don't hate each other to guts.

And obviously there are some clans that they hate to their guts. Coincidentally, both Clan4 and Clan5 hate one clan passionately.

"Clan1." Both representatives spoke at the same time.

Noah and Kumar exchanged a glance in surprise.

"It seems like you found the common ground pretty quick."

"Well, there is not much competition obviously. If you have brought any two clans, there is a good chance that Clan 1 would be their choice."

"That's actually good for us. Makes things easier.

There is something else that we need to agree on. A base of operations. All the people that are involved in this situation should be operating from this place only.

We not operating from either of the clan grounds. We are going to run this as a joint operation. All the achievements, gains, battle records, plans, strategies, everything is going to be transparent.

You wouldn't be able to leave to your clan until the operation ends. You are going to stay here, move from here and comeback here.

If you are okay with that, we can proceed."

"Why is that?"

"We don't want you guys to have all this stupid politics influencing the whole mission. We are here to win and we are going to do that by hook or crook.

If you want that technique and much more from the Sura clan, you have to follow our words to the tee and keep your individual benefits behind it.

For the time we are staying here, all the profits will not be divided based on the clans. We are going to share them based on the contributions of the teams and the teams can decide on how they split the stuff.

As for the rest, you can do whatever the fuck you want after we left.

Does that sound good?"

The clan representatives thought for a while. They didn't know if they are comfortable with this, but after some contemplation, they agreed to this.

"This went smoother than we thought. Thank you for this. Now, let's pick the teams."

The deal was sealed.

Back at Sura clan.

Sam threw a scroll onto the table. It opened up on the table and it was completely drawn with different plans.

"As you can see, this is the detailed plan that we have for dealing with the two clans Clan3 and Clan4.

Please ask me any doubts you might have."

"You came up with a plan already? You didn't get the full information."

"It doesn't matter. I can do a lot with the information that I have at my hands."

"Then I hope yours works well. Because we don't really have much information from my side.

All we know is there are two people that came to the clans. One woman and a man.

Both of them match the descriptions you gave us and they got close to the core members. They took a relatively milder approach and they from what we learned, they went outside with some members.

Apart from that, there are no other movements from both of those clans.

Sam looked at the matching descriptions. Noah and Kumar.

"Oh, this is going to be interesting. Are their approaches same?"

"Yes, almost. But I thought that is typically how you guys approach except for you. Because the guy attacked with Clan 6 yesterday, also had a relatively minor approach just like this."

"It doesn't matter. I don't know what exactly are they planning. But there is a slight possibility that they are working together. That will not hinder our plan though. We are going to continue with what I proposed. So, let's get this party started.

I want you to send a group of people to execute the first step of plan."

Chapter 1682: Sculptor

The meeting was over within a few minutes.

A few messages flew out of the clan and reached people that are near the Clan4 and Clan5.

The tasks for that night are few.

One of them is to target a city that is right in between the Clan 4 and Clan 3.

The city is very small and it was solely constructed to monetize on a very special patch of forest adjacent to it. It could be said to be in joint control of the both clans as both clans combined together hired some people to run the city.

Of course, they sent their own youngsters to increase their influence over there. No matter how clean the partnership is, these clans that are so used to trying to one up on another, cannot just live there peacefully.

And this obviously sparked some intense rivalry.

So, in this one particular city, there are two women, both of same age, with almost same level of beauty and familial status. They are like the absolute counterparts in the clans. Their authority, power, influence and even wealth is almost same.

Neither of them has one up against the other for years. They tried, but it was just impossible because as soon as one of them got one win over the other, even before it could be digested, the other party evened it without any problem that too within a day or two.

The rivalry didn't just begin with this generation. For generations that this place existed, every single time, the rivalry stagnated there but it was extremely volatile and resulted in many fights between the clans.

So, Sam thought of a way to utilize the rivalry to his own advantage.

The first thing they did that night is to start a small fight between the two parties. With the troops they had, the bars are extremely active. And then a bar fight started.

The most obvious way. Even though they are extremely normal instance to happen, this time, with Sam's proper guidance, things are a bit more volatile than usual.

After some initial bland fight, the Sura clan people just went straight ahead and secretly attacked both the groups leading them to each other.

They ignited the fight too much to the point by the dawn next day, a few people died and a lot more are injured.

They kept on fighting one another.

Meanwhile, Sam worked for a few hours in the night while prepared a set of instructions for the next step of the plan.

And in this step, he needs to do something really crazy. He got his hands on one of the most precious gemstones that are in the size of twice the human being and started sculpting it with his sword. He sculpted a beautiful woman. It is one of the two targets they had.

Apart from sculpting her in a very profound and poetic way, he also carved a few lines of poetry on the back of it.

The next morning, by dawn, in the middle of the city, the statue that was sculpted by Sam appeared along with the carved poetry.

The statue belonged to the lady from Clan 3. Along with the statue laid a dozen or so troops of lady from Clan4.

They all died in the same way. A knife through the heart and even the knife wound is a bit unique. Sam made sure that they look like sculptor knife wounds.

There are clear instructions on how they should be done.

Along with those bodies, there was a scroll left behind with a few words.

"These guys tried to harm my heart which is you. So I harmed theirs."

He didn't even bother to put up much effort into that. It is a cheesy, stupid and completely meaningless line, but he still threw it to her face.

The lady from Clan 3 came to see this at sunrise and was shocked. Her face turned in embarrassment as she read the poem behind the statue. The clean and perfectly sculpted statue also of course made her go crazy.

She felt some tingling feelings in her head as she looked at it again and again. She was smitten instantly.

Meanwhile, the lady from clan 4 got jealous. Because while this looked like a message to lady from Clan 3, this is also a message to her. A message that is telling her to stay away from her rival.

This is of course something she couldn't swallow. The loss of troops is incentive enough for her to deal with this in an extreme way. With utmost retaliation that she could possibly muster.

The fact that these dead troops served as some kind of love message from some hidden guy to the one woman she hates more than anything in this world, just added a shit load of fuel to an already

She decided to retaliate and called the troops that are available to her. Most of them are spread out in the surrounding forest and made their way there.

While gathering the troops, she already sent people to destroy the stupid statue.

"I don't care what you do. But the statue shouldn't exist. Destroy it now. No matter how you do it, I don't care. All I want is that statue to be gone completely."

The orders were easy to give, but the execution became a big pain in the ass for the subordinates. The Clan 3 lady seemed to have expected this reaction and sent her core team to guard the statue.

Which made it impossible for the Clan4 lady's team.

After the first failure to even attempt, the Clan4 lady also sent her core team. This caused a small-scale war in the middle of the streets.

The clash didn't go for long. They pulled back and the statue was left safely.

The battles went on for late afternoon as the ladies started gathering troops like crazy demons that are trying to invade the land of the weak and dying.

Chapter 1683: Perfect plans

The whole city was thrown into chaos as the ladies gathered troops and raged battles on one another.

The women didn't care what kind of losses they are causing and they certainly don't know what kind of trouble they are about to bring to their clans.

But as the time passed, another incident happened within a few hours.

The statue was finally destroyed.

The lady from Clan 4 was a bit perplexed because none of her close troops did this. They are all busy clashing with their counterparts in Clan 3 troops.

But the lady from Clan 3 thought this is definitely the work of that lady from Clan 4. So, she ordered her subordinates to go all out. She even went as far as calling the clan for some reinforcements.

The clan members were surprised to see such a mess in just one day. Just the day before, things are peaceful in the city. Except for the regular rivalry, there is nothing else going on there.

But within a day, actually half a day, the whole city turned upside down and all the balance was broken.

They obviously didn't send any troops. They just sent a message stating that the lady from Clan 3 should calm down and stop the battle, before she gets into some trouble, not just from outsiders but the clan as well.

The rejection is something the lady didn't expect. At least not from her father. She believed even if the clan canceled on it, her father wouldn't.

But to her surprise, even her father rejected it. She didn't like this development. Her troops are going all out in the battle which didn't leave her with any reserves. If something happens to her troops, she would become defenseless and will have to flee.

This makes her lose the generational rivalry that was always a tie.

She couldn't face her clan with that.

While she was contemplating, what she doesn't know is, that the elite troops of the lady from Clan 4 are being destroyed. All of them are ambushed and assassinated and by sunset, The lady from Clan4 was only left with her personal bodyguards.

Now its her turn to send a message to her clan. Her father reacted differently.

They believed that Clan 3 must have sent some very high-level experts and killed their troops off.

So, the father didn't like this development and made a move on his own. And he happened to be one of the high-level elders within the clan, playing a role in the plan hatched by Noah and Kumar.

At the base of Clan4 and Clan 5 collaborative operation.

"Where is the elder? I thought he was supposed to be here by now?" Noah asked in confusion.

"He didn't come. The clan sent a message stating that an emergency came up on his daughter and he went there to solve it."

"Emergency? What kind of emergency? What the hell happened?" Noah asked.

The elder from the clan explained the situation.

"Fucking hell. I told you to report anything that is out of the blue. So, when almost a war is starting out there with your clan, why didn't you tell me about it?"

"Because it is honestly not a big deal. This rivalry is going on for generations. It happens occasionally."

"But one of your core elders is leaving in the middle of such an important operation. I don't believe it is not a big deal anymore."

And for fuck's sake, just when I thought the plan is going smoothly, something like this happened."

He pulled his hair a bit and looked at Noah.

"Do you think this has something to do with Sam?"

"I don't know. But it is a likely possibility. I had my doubts when our plan went smoothly without any trouble. The Sura clan is way too passive while we are destroying their businesses. We did manage to kidnap some of their subordinates and threw the blame to Clan1.

But their retaliation is way too mild. Who sends an envoy message when some of their people are kidnapped? That too in such a delicate situation?"

"Sam is up to his tricks again. We need to figure out what he is thinking and before that, we need to figure out a way to execute the next step of the plan. The core elder is needed to kidnap the next person."

After some discussion, Noah and Kumar adamantly stated that the elder should be back which made the clan members go back to fetch him.

But only after they went there did they learn that the problem has blown too big.

The elder that went there is no situation to come back.

Because the lady from Clan 3 went missing. She was kidnapped out of the blue and her father was informed immediately. This time her father who originally rejected to even sending his troops joined in the battle.

So, the battle that started as a quarrel between two spoiled brats dragged two core elders from two clans and they started fighting.

By that night, Sam got the update and he smiled as he looked at the room full of dumbfounded people.

"Did you see that? I hope I have proved myself enough to make you stop asking all those stupid questions."

He spoke to Brig as he took a sip of some exotic wine.

"Thank you. I will take it over from now on."

"What are you going to do?"

"Execute the rest of your plan that's focused on that area. You can take charge of the remaining areas that are progressing."

Sam nodded as he checked the reports coming from other areas. He obviously had similar plans lined up for other areas.

In one place, Clan 2 and Clan 1 are clashing without even knowing that they are fighting each other. It is happening discreetly as the two secret forces of the clan are targeting and fighting each other.

These two secret forces are hidden to commit assassinations on behalf of their clans. But the nature of these organizations is that they are completely hidden from even other members of the clan. Even some core members are ignorant about it.

Sam doesn't even know how Brig managed to gain this information. And from what Brig told him, there are a bunch of other organizations just like this working for other Clans. It is just that they don't know about them.

Brig was in the middle of investigating these organizations when the whole fiasco with the technique started. If he had more time, he might have had that information also.

Anyway, when Sam came across these two assassination organizations, he got an idea. A very common but efficient idea.

He put up bounties on members from other clans within the area.

The only thing is that he put up bounties in both the organizations and there is always one specific requirement. The organization member should bring the head of the target. So, when both the organizations are targeting just one target at the same time, things went horribly wrong.

And there are some times, Sam placed the bounties on both Clan 1 and Clan 2 members. The ignorance and lack of involvement of these organizations helped. Apart from the stupid fight between those ladies, this is the second most progressive thing.

People from within the clans are panicking because of this development. Clan 6 is licking its wounds. Clan 1 and Clan 2 are in trouble. Clan 3 and Clan 4 are also in trouble. Now all that is left is Clan 5.

For this Sam didn't have many plans except for defending them normally. Because Clan 5 is going to be the scapegoat that they are going to use. They are going to be the fall guys for all the deaths they are causing.

The only clan that is completely devoid of any damage while the whole thing is in chaos. Sam is going to set up the Sura clan in such a way that by the end of the week, they would appear as if nothing has ever happened to them.

Of course apart from the attack from Clan 6.

Sam is really looking forward to seeing the faces of the rest of the players when he finishes the task with flying colors.

"This is much easier than expected. I wonder what these guys are thinking. Why did they not even compete properly?"

He muttered to himself as he went through the plans once again before sending someone to get something to eat.

Meanwhile, things are not really looking that well for Dayus, the self-proclaimed rival of Sam. He is currently on the clan grounds of Clan 6 along with the elders and the clan leader.

"You said, it would be the easiest time to do this. But I lost half of the elites that the clan has nurtured and gained a reputation of being the biggest loser in my clan history. You better have some damn good explanation for this."

Chapter 1684: Wait

"I didn't lie to you. That was the easiest time. But it just happened that Brig is tougher than I anticipated. I underestimated him, which by the way is the result of your wrongful information."

"Do you really think, you can weasel yourself out of this situation? You are going to take responsibility for this. Or, you will die."

"Yeah, like that is going to happen. Why don't you ask your god, if they are going to agree with this?"

Before he could even reply, as soon as Dayus spoke those words, the god's statue within the clan hall glowed. The god is not really a popular one, but Dayus knew who he is. Because when he had a meeting with Zeus before he went to hell, he met this god.

He knew he is going to be in this clan for this task. It is rigged since the start. But to think that he will lose even then. He really felt embarrassed.

The god looked at the clan leader and said.

"You need to let him go. I don't care what happens with the technique, but the young man should be unscathed by the end of these seven days. That is your task. I will reward you accordingly for that.

Try to get that technique and you will get extra rewards. But if there comes a time when this young man is in danger that threatens his life. Do you understand that?"

"Why are you making us do this? We worshipped you with all our hearts. We never did anything wrong. We abided by all your rules. Then you introduced this guy to us and threw us off like this.

We lost so much because of this and now you are saying that we should be protecting the person who brought us to this situation. Is this how you treat your worshippers?"

"There is no room for discussion. This is the final decision. Do as you are told."

Dayus smiled. The clan leader of course didn't. He is angry and frustrated.

He felt a bit sad when he noticed that Zeus is not the one controlling this organization. The remaining six clans are actually being looked after by some powerful gods, that are either in the game or by the gods that are of similar level.

But this one organization is managed by some underling of Zeus. He was obviously disappointed, but he is now relieved for that. Because he can do whatever he wanted. The underling of Zeus is not going to take any action against Dayus, and the underlings of those underlings don't have balls to deal with him.

This is the perfect place where he could swing his authority around.

The only downside is that the force of this clan is really not enough to get the technique. Not while competing with the rest of the clans.

So, all he can do is make the best out of this bad situation.

And the best solution he can think of is, even if he cannot get his hands on the technique, he could get his hands on Sam. Even if he cannot kill him, he has to deal him a critical blow. A blow hard enough to make him go crippled. Physically or emotionally.

So, he started hatching a plan. All he has to do is wait for the right time. The final day.

The final day when everyone gets desperate and make a move on Sam and Brig. That is the perfect time for him.

Meanwhile, back at the Sura clan.

Sun rise, fourth day.

Sam is once again looking at the results of his work. He was really impressed by how perfectly the Sura clan is operating. They are perfectly dealing with the whole situation as they followed his instructions.

Once he got Brig's approval, the rest of the clan didn't dare show their disapproval in anyway or form. They obeyed everything without any questions no matter how ridiculous the request is.

He really felt satisfied. These people are definitely not as good as his own subordinates, but they are much better any other organizations he interacted with before.

And the results are perfect indication of this.

The dispute between those two ladies is escalated. The ladies are completely out of the picture and it became a clan-level fight.

They didn't even care much about the technique anymore. They almost withdrew from the race. If not for the fact they spared some troops to try and plan for the technique along with the players, Sam would have completely relaxed by now.

But still the players are feeling a bit conflicted. They even felt that at this rate, they might as well have tried it by themselves. In that way, at least they would have had the satisfaction of giving it their all before losing.

And if luck works out, they might even get it.

Of course, they knew thinking about that is of no use at this point. So, all they can do is try to figure something out in the remaining few days.

Then there is Clan1 and Clan2. They don't even have much conflict going on. But they lost a lot of people behind the scenes.

They don't even know how to react for this. They wanted to retaliate against the Sura clan. But they cannot. Everytime they tried, their people are being assassinated.

Finally, Clan5 was the only one left and now is the time for Sam to implement the next step of the plan.

The fourth day went on without much change in the situation and that night people moved away from the Sura clan. They spread all over the region.

The next morning, Clan 5 started sensing some trouble. Overnight there are tracks left behind that showed Clan5's involvement in the conflict that started the war between Clan3 and Clan4.

Then there is evidence connecting them to the assassinations of the Clan1 and Clan2.

Of course, many people thought that they are being framed. But they couldn't help but have some suspicions.

Even though players knew that this might be Sam's idea and it is right up his alley, they didn't bother to listen to them. They knew that the technique is important, but the defense of Sura clan is not easy to deal with.

And the pride is not there just for the show. The pride of these people just because they are born into some clan. It wouldn't really let them just let this go.

They thought that Clan5 did this to try and get to Clan 1. With the added hopes they had because of the war with Clan6, they might even be eager to try their luck.

That is what they thought and players know that this is a bunch of bullshit.

But there is no way they could convince them. The most they could do is only to wait for the last day.

So, the time slowly breezed by.

While the situation is like this with the players and their tasks, there is one more significant thing that piqued Sam's interest.

Kach and Yana.

While Sam is dealing with the clans with the oldest tricks in the book, these two had created quite a repo.

Yana seemed to have taken quite a liking to him. They went out to roam across the city and the surroundings, they went for dinners and yana spent most of her time with him.

"So, what exactly is happening with them? Did your daughter, finally came back to her senses and found a proper guy?"

"Maybe, maybe not. What do you think about the guy?"

"He is younger than me, but he is stronger than me."

"I am not talking about it like that. What do you really think about him?"

"He is an adamant guy, he controls himself pretty well. He has that much strength, but he knew his limits. He is a really great guy. If you really want to marry your daughter and him, you can do it hundred percent. "

Chapter 1685: The Last day

Brig was surprised by Sam's answer.

"Marry my daughter to him? You really have a high opinion of him."

"Of course, I do. He is honorable, humble, has strict moral code for himself. He also doesn't do stupid shit like the young masters of your clans do. He is a perfect guy.

I would be his friend and not just friend for the sake of it. A proper friendship with a lasting relationship."

Brig nodded his head and went into a deep thought.

Kach and Yana don't know that Sam and Brig are actually discussing their relationship.

The two youngsters who took a liking to each other were lost in their own worlds for a while. But every day, Kach started and finished his day with the same question.

"What do you want me to do?" That is the only question he had for Sam every day.

He always confirmed that Sam doesn't have any task for him before doing anything else. One of the reasons, why Sam had a great impression of him.

Just like that, days passed.

After the fourth day, the clashes became a bit intense. The clans that started their own battles and wars are rising the stakes with every passing hour and of course, Sura clan is also pretty much drawn in.

Clan 2 and Clan 3, the two clans that didn't completely break off the decorum with Sura clan in particular even tried forge a partnership with them on several occasions. And because of what Sam did, instead of being the single and sole victim against six clans, Sura clan became a normal player in this whole mess.

Players are having a hard time. They cannot find enough man power to execute the plans against Brig.

By the night of fifth day, they all came to a conclusion after tasting different types of failure.

That is to escalate the war.

Yes, that is the solution they came to after striving so hard and failing so many of their plans.

Noah and Kumar also expressed this as soon as they came to the conclusion.

"What the hell is wrong with you guys? Even though I had my doubts initially, your plans are mostly practical. If not for the powerful counters devised by them as if they already know what's about to happen are the only reason for this.

I still have some good impression of you. Don't let that get to your heads and destroy your reputation."

"This is not just a desperate attempt to get things done. Rather this is actually the most feasible solution that we can think of now.

If our guess is right, the rest of the clans could also only do the same. Even they don't want to, once the both of your clans did that, the rest will have to follow suit.

The war should now be in happening in such a way that all the troops and core members of the organization should be busy to the core.

Even Brig who was in the protection in the clan grounds until now, should be unable to risk his lack of involvement.

Only then will we be able to drag him out and catch him in action. The only time that we will get a chance to deal with him.

And trust me, if we know the other players as much as we think we know, there is no way they are not going to think the same. They will be proposing the same thing to the other clan heads. They are going to do the same thing.

Think carefully and make this decision."

"Are you sure? The stakes are going to be high. We don't really want to stake all of the resources for a single technique. The probability of getting it is also not really that high.

I personally really like you both. Just join Clan 4 and stay with us. We could grow together." One of the core elders from Clan 4 spoke.

"There is no need. If they really want to join, they can join our clan too. They are more than welcome there." An elder from Clan 5 retorted.

"Can you guys please stop discussing this? WE already told you. It is impossible for us to join not just you, any other organization for that matter. By this time, day after tomorrow, we will be gone. We might not even meet again in the future.

So any talks of join the organization are futile to say the least.

Anyway, just discuss this and let us know."

Similar conversations are happening everywhere else, except for Sura clan and the Clan 6. Sam was clear that he will not be a part of this organization and the clan 6 didn't even push an offer forward.

But one common point in conversation is an all out war.

That night, hundreds of soldiers from different organizations were moved. Everyone waited for the dawn carefully and when the dawn finally arrived, a war happened.

The war is in a scale that the land hasn't seen in centuries. The number of people is not actually that huge, but the strength of people and what they represent is insane.

The players who have seen many things in many places were also shocked. The number of Astral Plane Consummate cultivators is huge to the say the least and a lot of them are just a little more than foot soldiers in this war.

The realm is filled with battle cries and weeping commoners who are afraid when the war will catch up to them.

Within a day, cities disappeared, resource points were destroyed. Hundreds of people died, authorities and reigns altered completely within the realm.

Except for the clan leaders, everyone else joined the battle.

Obviously Sura clan got more heat than the rest of the organizations, even though the danger has lessened quite a bit, Brig is still the point of focus for this bloodbath.

So, all organizations more or less wanted to wear down the Sura clan a bit.

Of course, the defensive measures didn't really make it easier for them.

But by the end of sixth day, when everyone is accounting for the losses they suffered in that day, they noticed that the Sura clan has the least.

This hit everyone by surprise. They didn't expect this at all.

"What the hell is happened?" This is the reaction from anyone who heard this news.

As for this happened, the answer is actually the thing that started this whole shit storm. The technique that he obtained from Hel.

Brig decided to make full use of this and now he is a dark elemental user that can heal.

When the clan heads learned about this, they couldn't help but salivate a bit. Even though they are a bit skeptical and reluctant about this whole plan initially, after looking at this data, they all wanted the technique.

Now, they felt like the losses they encountered a bit justified. They didn't feel the same pinch.

So, they informed the troops at the front line and the players were delighted to hear this.

"Alright, the moment of truth will be at dawn tomorrow morning. The last day we have in this realm and the last day for this stage of the competition. Let's hope all of our hard work counts.'

Noah said to Kumar.

"Maybe, it will be. Sam is extremely injured and obviously, he is corrupted with hell's energy. You and I barely have any corruption on us, but it still hurt like hell. What do you think is happening within in body? He will be in endless pain. This is the only time, we might get his ass in this way."

"We can't trust that. That guy is tough.

Meanwhile back at Sura clan.

What Noah guessed is true. Sam is tough. At that exact moment, he is actually trying to suppress the hell's corruption a bit.

"How are you feeling? Are you sure you can go through this?"

"Yes, it is fine. I have been through much worse than this. So, you don't have to worry about me. "

Brig said as he looked at Sam.

"So, you are going to leave after you are done with the task."

"Yes.

"Why don't you join in with us"

"You already know the answer to this."

Sam rejected the offer once again and got his focus on work.

That night. Everything was smooth and calm. But irreparable changes are about to happen that will leave everyone a new person.

Chapter 1686: Lost Sense

As Sam finished speaking, Kach once again became vigilant.

"What happened?" Sam asked.

"Someone is approaching," Kach replied.

Sam was confused. Because he couldn't sense anyone's presence. Looking at his expression, Kach frowned and said.

"Someone was approaching from North East and they are very close by. They just hid in the emptied mansion right outside the estate."

Sam looked there in surprise. Because that is within the range of his spiritual sense. He should have been able to pick that up easily. But he wasn't able to do that. He tried to focus on that one particular area.

And his frown deepened. His forehead has never been so wrinkled before. He closed his eyes and started putting all the mental energy that he could muster into his spiritual sense and it was concentrated to focus on only that mansion.

But he wasn't able to. As he gritted his teeth and tried to push harder, he suddenly felt someone tapping on his back.

"Hey, dude. You are going to pop your vein. Stop pushing yourself like that. Your aura is changing way too dynamically and it is making that weird dangerous aura inside you more active."

"More active?"

"Yes, the more you are currently focusing on your spiritual energy, the more that dangerous and weirdly foreign aura is fluctuating. It is to the point it is acting like a parasite that was served with its favorite nutrient.

It is consuming your spiritual energy like crazy and the worst part is, that you are focused on what is going on outside that you are unable to see what's happening inside your body for that short time.

What is happening to you? You were like a senile and diseased old man nearing his head, compared to the person you were a week ago.

What is wrong with you? Do you need to see a healer? Or do you want to go to Brig? That weird healing curse might help you with whatever the shit you are going through."

Sam didn't speak for a moment and just tried to focus on his body and mind for a second. He sensed what's happening and understood that whatever the hell Kach spoke now is true.

"Hey Sam, Please go to Brig and tell him to take a look. That weird dangerous aura is a lot similar to a parasitic curse that I came across. This one is a lot less dormant, slow, gradual, and different in its core nature compared to that. But the symptoms and the method of the bad things happening within your body are actually, very similar.

You mentioned that the new healing method can be used to cure any sort of curse. This might help you out a bit. Even if it doesn't work, at least you would have known something about this."

"Thank you for your concern. But not knowing is not the actual problem. I actually have the knowledge about whatever that's affecting. The only problem is that I never got a chance to learn about its full capabilities and was ignorant about what's currently happening in m..."

"Many people are approaching. Sam, there are many people coming to the clan gates from different sides and the leaders of the group who are at the forefront are making their way here.

Come with me. I will take you to a safe space. You can figure out whatever's happening there later."

As Sam was speaking, Kach suddenly stopped and spoke to him.

Sam frowned and looked around. His spiritual energy is unable to scan for long distances. He used energy vision instead. Even though it hurt his eyes, optical nerves, and even his brain so much with just one such move, he still looked around.

He was shocked, to say the least. He was dumbfounded.

He could see the people moving toward him and the energy fluctuations are something he is very familiar with. They are all the players he has been interacting with his whole freaking life.

He knew very well. And he is sure that their stealth is not as powerful as to blind his spiritual sense and even the players can pull it off somehow. Sam is confident in his own skill to know that the rest of the group wouldn't be able to do that.

His spiritual sense has dulled. It became so inoperable to the point he couldn't even notice the energy fluctuations that are not even hidden.

It is a new low for him. He became vigilant. Paranoia kicked in. Cold sweat ran down behind his back.

The teams that are following the players dispersed when they reached the premises of the mansion and they started attacking the members of the Sura Clan.

Only players moved forward. Arkiv who left in a different direction stopped at a certain spot. He stood on a high vantage point and waited with his arms crossed. He let the rest of the players duke it out just like he initially promised.

Meanwhile, the people that hid in the vacant mansion are still not moving, except for one person. Another player. It is none other than Dayus. He came with a lot of people and everyone has high-level stealth equipment.

But it is not strong enough to completely hide their presence. It seems to mostly focus on hiding their cultivation level.

Sam didn't think much of their stealth though. He is fully focused on the fact that his spiritual sense is crippled and from the looks of it, it's going down every moment.

The corruption from hell is affecting him more than he thought. While things are already bad in that way, they just kept on getting worse in other ways.

The attacks became intense. And following Dayus, the rest of the group he has with him also came out.

They spread out. But not as much as the rest of the groups.

Soon all the players, including Dayus and except Arkiv are standing around Sam and Kach.

"Sorry, Sam. But I guess Arkiv revealed the information before. You and Dayus are going to be targeted. Of course, Dayus is going to be the first target and you the second.

So, if you are okay, even though you didn't agree to the previous deal, I would like to offer it again once again.

He is a pain in the ass for all of us. I am sure you want to kill him more than anyone else here."

Noah said with a smile.

"Why is everyone asking as if I couldn't find a chance to kill Dayus before? Do you really think if I had wanted him dead, he would have been alive until now? Just stop it and get on with your plan. And I have a feeling that you are proposing this just so that I could tire myself out and you guys can just deal with me much easier."

"That's part of the plan. But most of it is because that asshole is way too tricky and doesn't play by our code. You are the most efficient percent to handle his bullshit."

"Flattered. But not enough for me to make a move. You can deal with that by yourselves."

Sam replied and turned to Kach.

"I think you should go and help your future father-in-law. The number of people these guys brought is nothing to scoff at. He will need you."

"But what about you? Are you sure you will be okay with this?"

"No problem. I can count on the rest of the players. If they really do break their word, they should be sure that I die today. They know what the consequences are going to be like if I survive by any chance."

The rest of the players heard these words. They just shook their heads and turned to Dayus.

"Really? You guys are going to gang up on me? And here I am thinking that I will slide away from this first round and spare all of you some mercy. My original target was only that asshole. But now, you are all in for some real punishment.

It's a good thing that I prepared for this."

Kach was about to leave when the people hidden in the mansion made their move. They all zoomed towards their location and they spread out to tackle the players. Only two of the group members ran towards Sam and Kach along with Dayus.

Everyone is stunned.

They thought the ambush was set up for the Sura clan members. Turns out it is not even an ambush.

Sam took out his sword and blocked Dayus' lightning spear. He slid on the ceiling as he wobbled.

He gritted his teeth as he looked at Dayus. This is humiliating. He could have handled Dayus with one hand if he was in his original shape. But now, he couldn't even block him properly.

Before he could even sink in that embarrassment. Something else happened. He felt the energy fluctuations coming from both sides. Two people who are at least as strong as him if not stronger are attacking him.

Chapter 1687: Lure

Sam gathered all of his energy to create a shield. But someone is one step ahead of him and luckily it is his ally.

Kach who was about to leave obviously stopped in his tracks when the situation escalated to this. He instantly came to Sam's side and blocked the two attacks that came at him. One with his body and another with his sword.

He looked at both of the opponents in complete disguise and spoke.

"Who the hell are you guys?"

Kach asked in confusion. All six clans are currently either attacking each other or attacking the Sura clan. At least that is what they initially predicted based on their movements. But from the looks of these two people attacking Sam, things don't seem like that.

Because both of them are using a faint amount of Divine energy. People who can use that in these clans are not supposed to be sent to deal with these players. The rest of their troops will be left in a vulnerable situation.

Dayus took out some weird token and threw it at Kach before lunging towards Sam.

Kach sensed some dangerous aura from it and dodged it instinctually.

Two of Kach's opponents split apart and one of them joined Dayus in attacking Sam.

Kach dodged the token that came at him. But he realized he misunderstood what that token could actually do. A cage made of pure spiritual energy popped out of nowhere and tried to envelop him.

He barely managed to deflect it a bit and only his left arm was caught inside.

The cage collapsed like a net. But it only made it more troublesome as it became flexible and tried to drag Kach inside.

The opponent of course didn't want to let this opportunity go and attacked from the side.

Kach had to defend the attack and focus on it, instead of the net that was dragging him in.

Meanwhile, Dayus and the other opponent are targeting Sam who has yet to regain his balance.

Which surprised everyone on the spot. Except for Dayus. He smiled as if he knew this would happen.

Sam blocked another volley of attacks and this time, he couldn't keep himself standing, and fell off the building.

Dayus jumped off and pressed on with his attacks. He aimed the spear at Sam's face. It is blocked with an energy field. Sam barely managed to hold himself as he lay on the floor,

Dayus smiled at it and said.

"You can't really show off when you feel you forgot how to stand. Can you?"

Sam is surprised and skeptical. He kind of attributed his loss of sense of balance to the corruption along with the loss of spiritual sense. But from the looks of it, Dayus might have been the reason his balance is gone.

At least he might have known this would happen.

He wanted to ask for answers. But he knew that was not going to happen. So, he focused on getting away from the situation. So, as Dayus applied pressure on the energy field with the spear, all of a sudden, the earth split up under Sam and swallowed him.

He disappeared from the spot and was spat out a few dozen meters away.

He turned around and started running.

Dayus and the opponent were about to run when Noah intercepted them. Her opponents seemed to have been going through some confusion as they started attacking each other with vines coiled all over them.

Dayus blocked her attack and scolded her.

"Get the fuck out of my way. You ignorant fool."

Noah just got angrier and attacked him even more. The other person in disguise who was initially running after Sam came back to help Dayus. But the other players also started getting out of the deadlock from these people.

"For fuck's sake. I knew these idiots are not strong enough." Dayus spoke as he crushed a token. A large light flashed on the spot and acted as a signal. Within the surroundings of the city and even in the forest outside, everyone from Clan 6 looked at the flash and stopped whatever they are doing in the middle before they made ran towards that one spot.

The people that are disguised and were battling with the players took out their disguises and it also seemed like they lifted some kind of limiters on themselves. They became more powerful or one could say, they revealed their true powers.

If anyone of the other clan members were here, they would have recognized all of these people.

They are all core members of Clan6. They are the cream of the crop elite and now all of them are here to attack the players instead of trying to defend their own clan in the war.

Sam didn't care about any of this though, he just ran out of the estate towards the woods.

Dayus made the clan 6 members attack the players once again.

"Idiots. It is because of Sam that we are unable to get ahead in this competition. He made this thing unfair. I am making this fair now. I am doing a favor. How stupid do you have to be to not recognize this?

And I am letting you keep this first round of the competition on top of that.

Thank me later. You ungrateful pricks."

He left those words and ran after Sam.

Kach wanted to follow after him, but Dayus turned around and ordered the two people that attacked Sam earlier.

"Keep that guy in check. Kill him if you have you. Whatever it takes. He shouldn't interfere with my fight. Finish it off and come to me quickly. I need to kill that guy today no matter what. While he is still weak and pathetic.

Once he recovers, he will be the worst nightmare for all of us together."

Dayus ran like his life depended on it. By that time, Sam already reached the woods and he is jumping over the trees.

He is using the shadow element as he moved fluidly in his partial fusion.

He knows he is weak at the moment. He doesn't have the aid of his formations, he is hurt and the corruption is festering.

His spiritual sense is weak and every time he is trying to use spiritual energy, he is hurting himself. He knew better than just feeding his ego and going against a tough opponent. Particularly when they have help.

He needs to make the terrain, the way the battle flows, and even the way the opponent reacts to his advantage.

And one more thing he is sure of is, that Dayus doesn't give a fuck about this first competition, he is solely aiming to kill Sam.

Sam looked in the surroundings and made his way towards a large tree in the front that is full of vines. The vines are full of thorns that have a faint metal sheen. He slowed down a bit and took a deep breath before he ran towards that tree.

The vines of the tree are expanded and covered a lot of ground in the surroundings. He tried to spread his spiritual energy through the vines and used his observation ability on the surrounding area.

But to his disappointment, even the range he could spread the energy has been reduced. He could only sigh and think of a different method. Before he could do that, he saw a streak of purple lightning making its way towards him.

"Here he comes."

Sam muttered as he saw Dayus nearing with every second. This might be the first time that Dayus was ever closer to becoming faster than Sam and Dayus is pleased about it. Even before he reached the position Sam is standing, he kicked on a tree and jumped high into the air, before throwing the spear with all of his might.

Sam took a deep breath and made his own move. He canceled the shadow elemental fusion and started using wood elements on the tree.

The vines that are spread into the surroundings all acted up. They came out of the ground and weaved together in an instant as they created a web that acted as a shield against the spear.

The spear tackled the web and the lightning spread across it. The tree and the v

ines are being burned to a crisp by the lightning, but at least the attack was stopped and the spear was stuck in the web.

Dayus was about to make a move to get his spear back, but Sam was one step ahead of him. He jumped off the tree and into the web right before the lightning was consumed completely and caught the spear.

He jumped back onto the tree and turned around to run away.

Dayus is pissed. He looked at Sam hatefully and got ready to attack him. He jumped off of the tree he was standing on and made his way to Sam.

Sam started running in a different direction, but not before making one last move using that burnt tree.

Chapter 1688: Hole

As Dayus lunged towards him, Sam kicked hard on the burnt tree.

That one kick broke the tree into dozens of pieces that are coupled with sharp wind elemental energy that came at Dayus at the same time.

Dayus had to stop in his tracks to block the attack, which gave Sam a very tiny headstart. He used the shadow element to slip in between the trees within the woods. He is like a slippery loach in the water.

After defending himself against the attacks, which are not really that strong, but not weak either, Dayus pursued Sam once again.

"What happened, you cocky bastard? The great Sam is actually running away from me. Where did the crazy asshole that constantly picked fights go? Come and face me, you coward."

Sam didn't respond. To keep up with his speed, Dayus had to use his partial lightning fusion. It increased his speed and reaction time, but it made it hard for me to be as agile as Sam.

They are straight sprints, after all, so he is having a bit of a hard time within the forest as Sam used the terrain to his advantage.

Looking at Dayus' provocation, Sam didn't respond with his words.

Dayus only got angrier and tried to provoke him even more. After two minutes, Sam finally slowed down a bit.

Dayus wanted to get ready to tackle any attack that might come. He thought Sam would be up for direct confrontation. After all, he is banking on Sam's pride to be hurt by the repeated taunting he has done until now.

But Sam didn't do that. He slid to the ground and kicked on the roots of a tree nearby. The kick was laced with a wind blade. The tree fell leaned to the side as it was about to fall down. Sam jumped into the air and landed another kick on its trunk.

Dayus thought the attack would be the same as before. An attack with fragments and wind blades combined and he instinctually used an energy shield to defend himself. But that didn't happen. He just used the falling tree as his support to change his direction.

He used one full boost to disappear into a dense patch of the woods.

"Fuck."

Dayus cursed and ran after him once again. He used his spiritual sense to find out where Sam's location exactly is.

Sam made that unnecessary. Even though he disappeared in the patch for a moment, he didn't hide for long.

The trees started moving the next minute he entered the patch. He used his wood elemental energy to control them. A handful of vines shot up from within them as they attacked Dayus.

Dayus didn't bother much with them. He easily dodged them as he tried to pin point Sam's location based on the movement of these vines and his spiritual sense.

As soon as he entered the patch, the movement of the trees was gone. They became still again and everything turned eerily silent.

Sam stood at one location without moving anywhere. Dayus located him easily and arrived there.

He wanted to get his spear back first, but Sam just stood there with the spear in his hand and dodged the lightning attacks that came at him. The trees that are stagnant moved on their own and blocked all the lightning attacks one by one.

They are reinforced with a bit of wood elemental energy and they are not turning into a completely burned crisp with just one attack. Sam moved around and blocked any attack Dayus threw at him with the help of these trees.

This made Dayus understand that there is no way, he would be able to get to Sam at this rate and he has to find a way to close the distance. The ranged attacks will not do much damage in this terrain.

Or the other option is to make the whole area disappear. Which is not ex

actly something he is willing to waste his energy on at the moment.

So, he decided to close in on the distance and moved with his lightning partial fusion.

Sam had very close shaves with him as he dodged those attacks. Dayus started destroying one tree after another with every attack, even if he is unable to defeat Sam directly. He knew that Sam could only play around in this patch as long as it was intact.

But what he didn't expect it, after he destroyed three trees that are in the middle of the whole patch and created a small place from where he could observe everything, Sam suddenly opened his wings and flew off from the spot.

Dayus wanted to chase him, but all the trees enveloped him as they tried to trap him right there.

Sam flew in the air and turned around. He held Dayus' spear and used his own lightning energy. The Silver lightning crackled and the spear absorbed it very well. Its innate nature to absorb the lightning energy is impeccable.

He overloaded the spear with his lightning energy as he threw it at Dayus who was tackling the vines, roots, and branches of the trees.

He unleashed full fusion and broke the restraints before he kicked the ground and was about to jump. But at that exact moment, the earth went limp. The hard ground under him turned into a flesh lump of soft soil that dragged his feet inside. He was stuck there when the spear came at him.

"Fucking bastard."

He muttered to himself as he looked at the silver lightning surrounding the spear hit him. He made last ditch effort with the energy barrier, but there is not much use.

BOOM

With an explosive sound, the barrier broke and the rest of the surrounding patch of the forest was burnt to crisp.

When the smoke cleared, Dayus stood there on his knees with his armor completely tattered. He spat out a mouthful of blood and took the spear out of his shoulder.

He stood up and leaped into the air as he tried to keep up with Sam.

Sam just flew straight into the air as he increased the distance between them and then changed his direction before landing somewhere far away in the forest. Dayus stood on top of a tree and looked at Sam hatefully.

"I would be damned if I don't kill you today. You slick bastard."

He muttered to himself and gathered his energy in the spear. He aimed it straight at Sam as he moved towards the ground and threw it.

BOOM

The spear was launched with the extreme explosion of purple lighting and it destroyed everything that is within its path. All the trees and other vegetation within its path have been charred black.

Sam looked at the approaching spear. His only options were to either block it or stop in his tracks, dodging it. But he picked the first one because he just got an insane idea.

He took out the reaper sword and concentrated to his fullest to inject spatial element and shadow elements into it.

He slashed the sword vertically as he closed down his wings and increased his speed on top of the freefall.

A large gash appeared in the space and a spatial tear connecting to the shadow world opened up. The spear that contained an insane amount of lightning elemental energy was sucked into that gash. Sam and Dayus both got stunned for a moment.

BOOM

There is a large explosive sound coming out of that gash which made everyone stumped. But they were more shocked by the fact this plan worked. Sam has never used the shadow world like this. The spear is obviously very valuable and it even possesses a spirit. Sam doesn't know what happens to the things that go

into that place, but at that moment, he understood that they won't really come back.

Dayus tried to get his spear back by summoning it. He was counting on the spirit to use the lightning energy and fly out of the crack. But it didn't work. The crack just swallowed the whole spear and it slowly started closing.

Dayus almost extended his hand into the crack, which is obviously stupid and he stopped after he felt the turbulent spatial currents and the rampaging shadow energy.

Sam slightly chuckled as the energy around him went rampant. He didn't bother going back to the hole in the space and just went on with their life. He just turned around and moved away.

Chapter 1689: Honesty

Dayus is pissed. He didn't like the way Sam fooled him.

This is the biggest humiliation he could ask for at the moment. Particularly, when he remembered how injured Sam is and how weak he was at the moment.

This should have been easily finished. He couldn't believe that not only Sam is playing around with him, but he is also doing so with such ease. It almost seemed effortless.

He felt like a fool. Rightfully so. What kind of person loses a his weapon when fighting like this, except for a fool.

He stopped in his tracks and didn't even dare to move at all for a moment. Sam took this chance and once again started running away. He must say that he is enjoying this a bit. He knew that he doesn't have enough energy or power to defeat Dayus head on.

He has too much of a handicap. So, there is very little he could do. But with the trickery which he hadn't used in a long time, he could do a lot more. All he has to do is put his pride aside a bit and be a bit more shameless.

He started running deeper into the woods, to see if he can find another spot to lay down a different trap.

And within a few minutes, he noticed something and smiled. As he was preparing, Dayus is doing something else.

He just stood there with gritted teeth as he started contemplating about various things. All of them are about Sam of course. And whatever thought he had, all of them ended up at the same thing.

A question.

"Can I kill Sam or not?"

This question is the final conclusion for all the doubts raising in his head and no matter what kind of scenario he is imagining, he couldn't confidently say that he could kill Sam. This is him being brutally honest with himself.

All this while, he knew that is not as strong as he claimed himself to be and he knew deep down that he is not as strong as Sam, but he was too prideful and butt hurt to accept that fact. Now that he faced the truth, he thought of another thing. Since he cannot kill Sam by himself, he will just let go of all his shame and fake pride to deal with him.

He took out a communication token and spoke through it.

"Remove the limiter on yourself. Come and aid me to defeat Sam. You need to catch and kill him."

He could hear some battling sounds from the other side.

"I told you to stop the battle and come here. I want you to hunt Sam."

"I am not coming."

"What did you say?"

"It is already beneath me to come and fight with a youngster like this. It is against the rules and completely against my bottom line. Now, you want me to go and kill a youngster, who is already injured and has done nothing to me? You can dream on.

If you want to take this out on my clan, then by all means, knock yourself out. But there is no way, I am going to satisfy your whims on this."

Dayus is frustrated by this answer. He didn't want to hear this now. This is the last thing he want.

"Okay then. You deal with the guy there. Alone. Send the person helping you our here to me. You can do that at least. If you don't do that, I am not just going to threaten you. I will deal with you in the worst way possible.

I might not be able to do anything to you directly. But your god will do whatever I want him to do. I am sure you don't want that."

There was a faint silence from the other side and after a moment, a sigh was heard.

"Alright."

Dayus smiled and looked at the direction Sam has left and slowly started walking there. He is no hurry. Because he knows that it is going to be his victory as long as he acted shameless enough.

At this moment, back at the estate. Kach looked as one of the two opponents he is fighting just finished talking into a communication with a sigh.

He frowned.

Even though he got a faint idea of what this guy is talking, he didn't hear what the person from the otherside is saying so he didn't have full context of things.

But the next moment, he didn't even have time to think about these things. Because, the man suddenly raised his power. He is overflowing with energy and not just the spiritual energy, but divine energy as well.

Kach clearly knew this level of power can only be wielded by a person who in on verge of breaking through to Divine Plane. They are just a push away, which is above Kach's current level at least in terms of cultivation.

If that is not surprise enough, the second opponent he is facing also showed a similar level. But this person didn't focus on Kach anymore and moved towards woods, where Sam escaped to.

Kach wanted to intercept, but the first opponent blocked him.

"I apologize. I am embarrassed to even do this. But my hands are tied. I cannot let you go and help your friend."

"Who the fuck are you? There is no way a person like you has leisure enough play with side characters like us. Not when everyone else is dying to get their hands on the technique, which I believe will be impossible to gain after tonight.

Why are you wasting your time on us?"

"As I told you, we didn't have much choice. If given one, we would also obviously choose to fight for the technique, or staying back at my clan would have been a much better choice than coming to fight you.

The only thing, I am going to promise you is that I am not going to kill you. I will also not seriously injure you. So, you can be free of any such fear."

"Should I be thanking you for this?"

Kach replied sarcastically as he swung his sword. Death energy toiled around his blade as he made his move fiercely.

Both of their forces clashed and Kach managed to hold his ground. He would have been a bit proud of himself if it was a normal scenario. But currently, he is in one of the most difficult situations. He wasn't able to intercept the other opponent who went after Sam.

He gritted his teeth in frustration. But there is little he could do no matter how frustrated he is.

Meanwhile, Sam is a bit surprised as he noticed that Dayus is not pursuing him anymore. Instead, after a couple of minutes, he saw a purple lightning being shot into the sky from Dayus' location.

Sam frowned in confusion. A lot of questions arose in his mind and soon he came to draw some speculations. There is only one reason to shoot something so flashy like that. It is to draw attention and show his location.

This is obviously a bad news for him.

He looked at the surroundings which he wanted to use for his advantage in his next exchange with Dayus. Now he is unsure if this will be optimal place for him.

As he was thinking, he noticed that a purple lightning spear is coming towards him. Just from his basic energy vision, he could see that the spear is unable to hold the power of that attack. It is crumbling before it could reach his position.

But the attack is still dangerous. Even though a lot of energy is being dissipated because of the poor weapon, the attacks themselves are still a bit lethal considering Sam's health. He dodged the attack and hid in between the rocks as he waited for Dayus to come near him.

But all that came are the lightning spears, one faster than the previous one.

Meanwhile, within the next two minutes, the person in disguise came and met with Dayus.

Dayus threw another spear at Sam's location and spoke.

"That bastard is hiding there. Don't let your guard down. No one knows what kind of traps that rat bastard has set up."

The other party just snorted.

"What's with that attitude? It seems like you don't really understand your position here? Show some respect?"

"You can make me do all kinds of despicable things. Because today is not mine or my clan's day. But no matter what you try, you can never make us respect you. You are calling your opponent a bastard. But from what we can see, he is a man much better than you."

He is injured, outnumbered and overpowered with much more powerful opponents. You should have been able to match him yourself, but you are still taking our aid, but he is fighting by himself. I respect him more than I respect you.

So, if you want some respect. You better shut the fuck up and earn it."

Chapter 1690: Relentless Traps

Dayus wanted to retort.

But he knew better than to argue with the truth.

He just cared about the fact that this guy is attacking Sam. That is enough for him at the moment. As for the rest of the petty revenge, he can take it after he was done with Sam.

So, he moved along with the Clan6 member.

Both of them made their way to the spot Sam was hiding in and they kept on attacking on their way. Sam hid behind the rocks and didn't change his position. The most he to try and endure the after effects of the attacks that landed near him.

He didn't want to take even a single attack head on. So, when Dayus and the clan member neared him, he already took his chance and disappeared from the spot.

Instead of black smoke or some spatial energy fluctuations, he disappeared with a lot of dirt and dust in the place.

Dayus and the clan member reached the spot. Both of them landed a kick on the huge rock, which exploded into debris.

Sam is nowhere to be seen. Of course, they didn't just trust their eyes. They spread their spiritual energy instantly to check out the surroundings.

Dayus focused on all the hiding spots, including the ground. But he was unable to find Sam. Still, he didn't believe that Sam left without any trace. So, he started attacking the surroundings with lightning.

"Stop it. At least fight properly. What is the point of wasting your energy like this?"

The clan member spoke as he looked in the surroundings carefully.

"Just shut the fuck up and do as you are told. Attack the ground. He is bound to be in there."

As he finished words, they suddenly felt some tremors and before they knew it, the whole area turned into a quicksand.

"I told you, you fucking idiot. He always has something up his sleeves."

Both of them were about to jump up and escape, but a bunch of vines popped out of nowhere and caught a hold of them. The vines dragged them deeper into the quicksand.

Dayus and the Clan member, tried to get rid of the vines. Only they couldn't easily do it as the vines has some kind of sticky substance making them extremely annoyed. The next move made them more than annoyed though.

Small openings appeared within the quicksand surface as poisonous gas escaped from it. The purple gas made both of them feel the sting on their skin.

"When did he have the time to concoct such a gas? It appears freshly secreted." To Dayus surprise, the clan member spoke curiously about the poison.

That guy doesn't seem to be worried about the gas, rather he was genuinely curious about where the poison came from. As for how he knew it was secreted freshly, nobody could care less at that moment.

"Why do you think, I told you to be careful? We need to catch him soon. Or we would be facing an endless string of traps as the time progresses"

Dayus used his lightning energy as he tried to escape from the quicksand. After a lot of struggle, his legs finally came out. The clan member also freed himself. But in this short time frame, they consumed a lot of poisonous gas.

They didn't die of course. But they did feel the stinging feeling all over their skin as well as their respiratory system.

Sam who escaped the spot a long time ago, left them another confusion.

He let his shadow undead out and made them dig tunnels away from the quicksand while he escaped in one of the tunnels himself. He is also using shadow elemental fusion while he is doing that. He also radiated a hint of death energy, just to imitate the aura of the shadow undead.

Both Dayus and the clan members were once again confused.

Dayus could only take out his spears once again. He started throwing them at one target after another.

It took almost ten shots before he managed to estimate Sam's direction.

By that time, Sam left them in the dust.

He came out of the ground as soon as Dayus identified his location.

He deactivated the completely shadow fusion and replaced with partial shadow and partial spatial fusion. The reaper sword keened as he started randomly swinging it. The sword blades flew around as he cut the spatial fabric just enough to leave it at a delicate spot.

Some of the cuts intertwined, but they didn't break completely. After dancing with his sword for a while, until Dayus and the Clan member are within his sight, he finally made his move once again. He aimed his hand at both of them as spatial energy gathered around it.

The energy turned into an orb, which he shot directly at them.

The clan member took the lead and intercepted the orb with his sword ray.

BOOM

An explosion occurred which didn't faze both of them. They just moved forward. But they halted in their tracks, when they felt the odd energy fluctuations. Then only they noticed the delicate cuts in the spatial fabric.

They rippled crazily before tearing open. The shadow energy crept out of the cracks as they spread rapidly in every direction.

Dayus and the clan member weren't quick enough to dodge it. So, they had to take some turbulence head on, before they got out of that dangerous area.

They started panting as they looked at Sam who suddenly flew into the air as he moved in a densely packed patch of woods.

"What the hell is up with this guy? Is he not tired at all? How is he able to use all kinds of traps in such a small time span?"

"I told you. He is a rat bastard. That is all he is good at."

"Sounds like sour grapes to me. That right there, is a fucking skill. I am jealous of that and you should be too."

As they bickered and followed Sam, an hour passed as they met with a bunch of different traps, that made them feel exhausted. Sam acted relentlessly as he used the surroundings to the best of his abilities. None of his attacks are fatal.

Most of them are designed to annoy the other party and make them consume as much time as possible. He is simply dragging the time out so that he could win the game.

Dayus also noticed this since the start. But he believed that he would be able to overpower Sam since the other party is not at his best.

Sam who halted in his tracks after noticing that his pursuers also stopped, started inspecting his current state. He used a lot of his energy. His body is hurting everywhere and he is losing his spiritual sense completely.

But he still has more than half a day to go through to win this first round of the competition. If that is not enough, he still has Dayus and his ridiculously powerful partner on his tail to take his life.

This is the worst situation he could be in.

And to top it off, he cannot use formations or his inventions to save himself.

He took a deep breath and took out one invention he could use to defend himself. Although limited, it is still within the limits of his tool access.

The handgun.

He can use ten bullets from this handgun. He didn't use a single one of them yet. He looked at Dayus and his partner who are discussing something and came to a decision.

Since this is also the last day, he might as well use all of it. And since Dayus is so eager to get a fight, he might as well give it.

But not before setting up one last trap, that will give him a slight upperhand.

So, Sam finally moved after some contemplation.

Meanwhile, Dayus and the clan members are in some serious discussion.

"I want you to use your trump card."

"Are you fucking mad? Do you know how much energy it takes from me to use that? And do you know how dangerous it can get? I can wield the power of an Actual Divine plane user with that. Even if it is just for one move. That is an overkill to use even amongst my peers.

There is no way, I am using this against someone who is already fighting an unfair battle."

"Where is all of this righteousness coming from? All you have to do is follow my orders. Anyway, the other party is very very strong. Not just physically, but intellectually as well.

If you ask me, this fight is more than fair.

Just do as I say."

"Not happening. I am not attacking him with that much power."

"Okay then. I don't want to argue. This is my ultimatum.

You can either capture him and kill him within the next ten minutes, or you use your trump card on him. Otherwise, I will see through the promise I made to you, which you all assumed to be a bluff.

I won't ask you anything again. I will just proceed along with the results of your choice."