

Creator 1691

Chapter 1691: Counter attack

The clan member didn't speak anything. He just looked at Dayus angrily.

He has been hearing this threat for a long time and he is very much tempted to tell him to do it if he dares. But if Dayus really sees through this threat, he would regret it for the rest of his life.

Even if the possibility of that happening is less than one percent, he would still not take the risk. So, all he could do is grit his teeth and move grudgingly.

"If we fall in another trap and the other party finds a way to escape completely unscathed and we are injured, then I will use my trump card.

Is that okay?"

"Sure. But if I were you, I will just get ready. There is no way, we are not falling for the next trap."

"Let's hope that doesn't happen. I honestly don't want to kill that guy. Your rivalry is none of my business in any way."

"It is now your business. Or I would do what I told you I would do. So, you better take it seriously and stop taking stupid shots at me. If what you said is anywhere near truth, then your life is in my hands."

"Stop threatening me so much, you sick bastard. I might just fuck it all up and take it out on you. There is a chance that I can fuck all the consequences and only care about dealing with you at the moment."

With those words, he lunged forward to close distance between him and Sam.

Dayus just smiled. It felt good to control someone this much, but he is also a slightly wary of the last threat, which is why, he didn't go on any further with the banter.

Sam noticed that they are coming to him. He got ready with his last trap. He is a bit exhausted setting up. Since he cannot use the formations, all the traps he set up were done through his energy only.

For the quicksand, he spread all of his energy into the rock and made sure everything is ready for him to use the quicksand move in an instant. He also spread his energy to the vines and he also held onto the air pockets filled with poisonous gas.

He did all three of those activities at the same time for one trap. But for the currently trap, things are going to go next level.

All of his senses are occupied as he spread his energy all over the place. But in the most intricate way possible.

Now, all he has to do is wait and execute it at a perfect moment to get some results. The only problem is that it would have been better if his head is not hurting like hell.

While he is enduring the pain, the two opponents finally arrived near him.

Sam took a deep breath as his lungs expanded. His body is covered in golden flames as he applied fire elemental fusion. As he breathed out, golden flames enveloped the surroundings.

Dayus and the clan member easily blocked them without any hassle. Except for the heat slightly effecting their eyes, there is no damage whatsoever.

But that was just the start. As if on cue with the flames, a lot of holes appeared on ground, released high pressure winds, causing flames to act like a typhoon. The flames are now being assisted with the wind.

They stopped in their tracks to avoid the poison and flames. The earth turned into golems as it captured both of them from behind. Before they could break them off, the golems started sprouting vines as they captured both of them.

The vines had a metal sheen. The vines looked and felt more like metal ropes. As if on cue, just when they were about to break them off and almost got out of it, the space around them acted weird. They couldn't move their body no matter how much they tried.

"What the fuck is happening?"

The clan member was stunned. He was never attacked with this many elements at the same time. Fire, wind, poison, space, wood and metal. Everything is attacking them at the same time. Even though none of them are lethal, there are in a situation where they cannot escape if something lethal really happens to them.

They couldn't stay calm.

Dayus didn't dare wait any longer. He circulated his lightning energy and activated full fusion. He brute forced himself out of one strangulation after another. He broke past the spatial lock first and tried to get rid of the metal vines.

His luck didn't allow him to get out of the situation that easily. The vines started sucking the excessive lightning energy out of his fusion.

Sam used his own lightning energy to manipulate and control the lightning energy emitting out of Dayus, reducing his strength.

The clan member who followed Dayus, started raising his aura. His spiritual energy acted crazily as it turned sharper. His sword sense is at its limit and the limitations on him were being released.

Sam noticed this and decided to make his move.

Right when both of his opponents were finally about to release themselves, Sam jumped out of the flaming typhoon.

The clan member was the first to get out of the shackles and stopped Sam's kick that was aimed at him.

He felt like he tackled the charge of a wild beast.

"You are strong, smart, and resourceful. We could have been friends. If you weren't injured, I would have enjoyed a really nice duel with you. But too bad, we cannot."

"Stop talking nonsense and get away from him, you idiot."

Dayus screamed on top of his lungs.

Sam took a step back and threw another kick at the clan member. This time, he was met with a sword instead of a simple block.

Sam changed his leg with partial metal fusion and proceeded with the kick. The blade and the metal leg clashed and sparks flew around.

At this moment, Sam suddenly ducked. Dayus' spear went past him as it brushed against his hair.

Dayus who finally managed to break through from his restrictions didn't want to let this chance go. Sam finally started fighting and stopped running away.

There is no way, he could let this chance go away.

"Seems like you finally stopped being a coward. But how long can you even handle both of us. With your injury and your corrosion with corruption, you are done for."

Dayus spoke coldly as he kept on attacking.

Sam already took out his reaper sword as he fought with them crazily. The only silver lining is that the surroundings are filled with his elemental energies. He could manipulate the environment to his own use and fight back.

But the problem is just like Dayus said. He is very hurt and his body is currently in shambles. His senses are dulling even more as he expended more and more of his energy.

Dayus and the clan member slowly started gaining upperhand.

As the fight progressed, they became more and more sure that they would be able to win.

The thought just planted itself in Dayus' mind. But he didn't feel good as the time progressed, instead he felt bad. He had a really really bad feeling.

Sam is not the person who will fight a losing battle. There is no way, he could just sit back and let Dayus as he wanted.

While those thoughts are running rampant in his head, the clan member managed to get a hold of Sam. Both of their swords fell out of their hands and now their arms are interlocked.

The clan member shifted his weight and got Sam in a submissive position on the ground.

"You are good. But you are too weak at the moment. You won't be able to get rid of me that easily."

As he spoke, he turned the lock into an arm bar and tried to break Sam's arm.

Dayus was in daze for a moment. The thoughts in his head are running crazily. His instincts are screaming like hell. He couldn't shake off his feeling. It is to the point, he couldn't feel a single hint of relief when Sam is literally caught in that arm bar.

"Dayus, are you going to help me or not? I can't hold this guy for long."

The clan member spoke as he tried to put more pressure on Sam's arm injury.

"He won't come that easily. I am sure of that."

Sam spoke through his gritted teeth.

"Why are you so sure?"

"Because, he knows me better than you. And he also knows that there is no way in hell that I would let you catch a hold of me like this. Its that simple."

As he spoke, all of a sudden, his handgun appeared in his locked arm. He aimed the muzzle at the clan member's chest and fired.

BOOM

Chapter 1692: Lost

BOOM

The explosion got Sam out of his daze.

The big hole in his chest made the clan member faint though. It was ripped open and the rib cage could be clearly seen.

Blood gushed out like crazy. The clan member who was energetic just a moment ago, couldn't even breathe properly. He completely lost consciousness and just stayed there limp.

Dayus was shocked. He was rooted to the ground for a moment and before he could even realize it, Sam rolled on the ground and used the clan member as a shield and fired another shot at Dayus.

This made Dayus finally react to the situation and he blocked the attack with his lightning. It didn't work though.

The bullet went past the lightning and hit him on the shoulder.

BOOM

Surprisingly, even Sam used the lightning element. So, the explosion is laced with silver lightning and blew Dayus away.

As he tried to stabilize himself, he was shocked to see Sam directly jumping through the explosion and trying to reach out to him.

The explosion made Sam's whole body rocked due to the explosion. He spat out some blood and then it is even slightly black in color. But he didn't stop. He lunged at Dayus and caught hold of him.

He intertwined his injured arm through Dayus' and held the collar forcefully.

He extended his leg and kicked Dayus' inner thigh, making him lose his balance. Then he kneed him in the stomach. Dayus lost his breath for a moment. Sam took this chance to forcefully take him down and mounted him from the top.

Now he started giving headbutts, only he has complete metal elemental fusion.

Dayus started bleeding from his forehead. He felt his head spinning. Sam also felt his head hurt, but he didn't stop there.

He started raining punches down on Dayus, but this time, he is using void style and spatial elements together. Dayus felt his fusion body getting destroyed bit by bit.

And the spatial element is stopping his bodily functions. The blood and the organs became stagnant as if they are locked there. Sam's attacks soon stopped.

He became weak and it is apparent in his eyes.

His physique has hit the limit.

"So, that is why you are acting crazily. You are on your last legs." Dayus spoke through the pain. But his eyes are filled with delight. He was never happier than now. He couldn't help but grin ear to ear foolishly as blood trickled down his mouth.

"Now that you are exhausted, it seems like we can exchange our roles. Now I will be the hunter and you will be the prey. I will play with your life as I take it away.

All the humiliation I suffered is going to be gone now."

Dayus tried to recover quickly. He wanted to get out of Sam's hold and finish this off. But to his surprise, Sam is also smiling.

"Idiot. With the amount of hatred you have for me, I thought you would at least know me a bit more than the rest. But you are just as stupid as I initially thought."

Sam's voice is low and barely audible. But that didn't stop from making Dayus feel cold sweat running down his back.

Sam took out his gun once again. The limp hand that was on Dayus's chest without any movement held that gun. He couldn't even find the strength to aim the gun properly. So, he just aimed it wherever.

"You crazy bastard. If you attack this closely, you will also get caught in the explosion."

"Of course, I would. But I won't die. As long as I am alive, it's good. But you, on the other hand, we never know what's going to happen to you."

BOOM

Dayus defended himself with all of his energy, but a hole appeared on his chest to the shoulder area. The bullet turned everything there into shreds.

The flesh was ripped apart and the spatial energy ran rampant as it took more and more of the flesh away. But Sam's arm muscles were torn apart a bit because of the recoil and being so close to the explosion.

This didn't stop him though. He proceeded to attack more.

BOOM

BOOM

He shot two more times. Dayus lost his arm completely and the spatial energy is corroding his heart and exposed lungs.

Sam was blown away by him. He looked at the two opponents who are also on the ground. Then he noticed that there is some twitching on clan members' arms. Within a few seconds, the clan leader opened his eyes.

Sam didn't want to risk it. He slowly moved his handgun and shot him.

The bullet hit the clan member in his abdomen and Sam's arm was completely destroyed. His resistance against corruption is completely gone. He is weak and bleeding from all over the body.

He started losing consciousness. But at that moment, an instinct kicked in making him struggle to stay awake. He looked in a specific direction and saw someone walking through the air. Sam could feel the killing intent from miles away.

He knew that whoever that is coming here to kill him.

But he couldn't stay awake. He couldn't take out the wine to heal himself. He cannot heal himself with his energy. He is losing his consciousness rapidly and by the time, he was able to vaguely see the silhouette of the person, he fainted.

He knew that he is going to die. He just wished that he is conscious when he did so.

He is a bit regretful about not being able to meet his friends for one last time. And if they are present now, there is no way he would have died at all. He could have easily won this round.

Now he is losing his life.

There are just so many things he has yet to do in this life. He didn't find out why he was forced to come here. He didn't find out why he is part of this stupid game. He didn't find out answers to a lot of these questions.

There are also so many plans he had. So many things he wanted to make. So many things he wanted to teach and so much legacy he could have created. He would have been able to show this world what could have been truly done with all the resources.

There is just so much awaiting him.

As those thoughts came into his head, he couldn't help but smile.

"At least I could say I am going out at the top. I am the best among my peers in whatever I have done until now. It is an achievement enough for me I guess. It's just too bad that I could have done more."

He muttered to himself as he fainted while looking at the vague figure.

He lost himself in complete darkness.

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Sam saw some faint light within that darkness.

His eyes felt heavy. His whole body is hurting. He felt the hard surface that he laid down on. He tried to lift his arm to rub his eyes. But he was unable to do so. He couldn't feel both of his arms. It almost felt like he doesn't have any arms at all.

He opened his eyes and saw the trees and the clear blue sky through the gaps between them.

It took a while for him to come back to his senses. The shock hit him and he wanted to get up abruptly. But all he was able to do was get hit by the searing pain in his back.

"What the fuck happened? I am alive?"

Sam thought to himself as he tried to look around. The corruption didn't let him though. His senses are just as dull as before.

"You are finally awake."

Sam heard a familiar voice. He tried to turn around to look at them. But he wasn't able to.

"Don't stress yourself too much. I am coming."

Arkiv stood up and walked to Sam's line of sight.

"What happened? Why am I still alive?"

"Seems like you are almost disappointed."

"Just tell me what happened. I am pretty sure that someone came to kill me. Don't tell me, you managed to save me. You are not strong enough for that."

"Can you be a little less blunt? I know I am not strong enough for that. The person that came at you is of Divine Plane cultivation and he was really pissed.

The only reason you are still alive is because of your new friend. He is the one who saved you. He bought you enough time for the Divine Plane cultivators to react. He is being treated there."

Arkiv pointed in a certain direction. Once again Sam tried to move, but he wasn't able to.

Arkiv realized his mistake and helped Sam up.

"Sorry for the treatment though. We couldn't really arrange a proper setup for you at the moment. The clan grounds are still in chaos because of the war."

"Is the challenge over?"

"Yeah, in a way. You lost."

Chapter 1693: Visit

"You lost"

Those words sounded very foreign to Sam.

He couldn't help but chuckle wryly.

"How long do we have for the deadline?"

He asked.

"A few hours. Why? I told you, you already lost. We kind of got a collective win. The only people who didn't get anything are you and Dayus."

"All of you worked together? That's surprising. I thought you will be fighting between yourselves."

"You wouldn't like that, wouldn't you? But too bad that didn't happen. We came to an understanding. But we should really thank you. This whole thing became easier because of you only."

"Are you trying to piss me off?"

"I am telling you the truth. It is because of you, Dayus made some really stupid mistakes and that led this whole scenario to become so easy."

"What happened?"

"The people that Dayus brought along are the core members of the Clan 6. And even the Divine Plane member of the clan, the clan head also participated.

The person that teamed up with Dayus directly and attacked you is actually Brig's peer. They are rivals in a sense. He should have been fighting with Brig on the front lines.

The clan head fought Kach.

You managed to corner your opponent so much and even landed your gunshots at such close range. The soul of that guy seemed to have been connected with the leader of Clan 6. This made him go crazy and come at you to kill you.

Until then, both of them are holding back.

They didn't really want to fight you. They were blackmailed by Dayus. So, they tried their best to hold back. In a way, that is the reason you managed to deal with that clan member.

Once the clan leader lost it, he stopped holding back and came at you.

Kach who was holding on his own was so shocked. But he still came to your rescue. He managed to take three hits from that guy before he showed any sign of weakness.

But that was enough. Right before he fainted, the clan leader of the Sura clan already reached this place. It seems like sensed the energy of this person. The clash came to a halt. But within all of this, Brig's daughter was caught. Since neither you nor Kach was not here, she became an easy target for us.

We managed to catch her easily and blackmailed Brig into giving up the technique.

This must have been your first loss, isn't it?"

Arkiv said with a smile.

Sam didn't speak. He looked at the sky peacefully. It has indeed been a long time since he lost. He almost forgot that losing was an option because of his constant wins.

He couldn't help but smile a bit.

"Too bad. I liked Brig. Now he lost his only advantage against the others. He deserves that technique."

"You don't have to worry about that. Even though we blackmailed him, we only made him give out a part of the technique. We know that you promised him that you will save his technique from getting stolen.

If not for Dayus's cunning plan, you would have succeeded too. You helped us a lot previously, so we decided to cut you some slack."

"Really? So considerate. Thank you so much."

"I don't know if you are being sarcastic or not. But I will accept that thanks. Anyway, all of us will get the points and the badges. I don't know if what we did is right, but this is going to help us in the future.

Sorry for your loss."

"I didn't lose some companions or friends. You don't need to feel that sorry for me. This is just some stupid competition. I am sure I can cover that in the future though. It is just that the circumstances are not in my favor this time.

It is way too much of a handicap for me."

"Seems like someone is looking for excuses. Didn't expect that from you buddy?"

"They are not excuses if they are absolutely true. What happened to Dayus by the way?"

"Unfortunately he is alive. The Clan 6's leader took him away.

The clan leader gave some really expensive elixir to save him from death's door. We were really disappointed."

"You guys really left him to die?"

"It is already regretful that we don't get a chance to kill him ourselves. It would have been okay if he is dead at least. You should have finished off the job man, why would you leave it off in the middle?"

Arkiv appeared really regretful.

"What the hell is wrong with you? I am almost dead here and you are questioning my performance? I thought we were friends."

Sam smiled and teased him.

As they were bickering and chuckling, the other players joined in. Except for Donner of course. He is still fearful of Sam. He didn't dare mingle that closely with the rest of the players. But no matter what kind of collective plan they come up with, he is the easiest to convince.

It is almost like he is trying to make amends.

"Since the task is over, can we at least heal ourselves completely?"

"Not possible. We tried. And corruption is running rampant. Everyone is feeling battered. I don't know how you are feeling, your corruption is the highest among us after all. Are you feeling okay?"

"I don't know. My bones are hurting, my muscles are sore and my spiritual sense is completely fucked up. Let's just hope that I am okay."

I never knew that I would be looking forward to going to hell like this. Can you carry me to a room or something? I would like to get some proper sleep before I leave. My head is hurting too much."

"The great Sam is finally feeling vulnerable. This is a day to remember. Your friends must have been here to witness this."

"Yeah, and you think you would have been able to win if they were here. Just get me out of here."

Sam was taken to the clan grounds. Everyone is extremely busy with the war, so there is not much Sam can do at the moment. He cannot even talk to anyone.

And he is not even looking forward to interacting with anyone. He just went into a deep sleep after he hit the bed.

Time passed. Sam is ignorant of all the chaos that occurred outside. The chaos that he was indirectly and partially responsible for.

After a few hours, Sam felt like his whole body is burning. He woke up in a hurry and looked around. He is back in hell. He couldn't help but sigh.

He could have said goodbye to the people there. Kach, Brig, and the rest of the players. As he was thinking about it, he was suddenly greeted by an announcement.

"You lost the first round. No points, no badges. You are at the last of the current player list. The restrictions are lifted. You can heal yourself and deal with your corruption."

The voice belonged to Hel. Sam sighed as he took out his wine and started drinking. He has been waiting for this moment for a long time. As he chugged the wine, he felt his body revitalizing. His cells felt like they came to life. The corruption that has been running rampant slowly went down.

He finally managed to get a hold of it as he slowly started suppressing it.

While he was about to start feeling a sense of relief, he also sensed something else. Something powerful is approaching from a different side which made him vigilant.

When he turned to take a look, he saw all the creatures on the second floor of the tower, the place he is currently at all running toward him.

There are humanoid creatures, and beasts and the animals that turned into weird creatures of hell are all charging at him.

Sam cursed under his breath. But he didn't dwell on it for the moment. He just wanted to escape that place while recovering. He is sure that after he gets his full power, he will be able to tackle anything.

And with the frustration he built up in the past few days, he would be a whole different beast when fighting these creatures.

He just focused on dodging and healing.

Meanwhile, far away across the realms. Hel had a visitor.

Zeus stood in front of her as he looked at the surroundings of her mansion.

"What are you doing here?"

She asked directly.

"I came here to make another deal."

"I am not making them anymore."

"My candidate didn't get the benefits he was promised. I need to make the deal."

"All I promised is to provide a scenario for your candidate to get a better score. It is not my fault that you picked an idiot who doesn't even know how to take advantage of the situation. So, don't ask me about the deal.

You deal with it yourself."

Chapter 1694: Deal

Zeus looked at Hel with a frown.

He obviously didn't like what he was being told. There is no way his prideful nature will let him take this bullshit.

Hel looked at his unhappiness, but couldn't give two shits about it. He might be unhappy, but what she said is the truth. She doesn't have to actually care about what he is feeling. She already did him a lot favors and he wasn't able to do anything with his bad choice of a player.

"I don't care what we agreed up on before. I want you to do one more thing to deal with Sam and you will do it no matter the cost. You understand me?"

Zeus spoke in a cold tone.

Hel looked at him calmly and said.

"Zeus, for a prideful piece of shit, you just take your words back way too much. Do you know that?"

"You better listen to what I say and do what I want Hel, otherwise you won't be able to bear the consequences. So, work with me while I am still being nice."

"Don't try to get all superior with me Zeus. We were perfectly clear on our terms when we made the deal. You were clearly happy with them too. I delivered everything I promised. But you didn't do the same."

You failed to kill Sam. Now he is back in the game.

Good luck making him fall for the same shit again."

"I need you to manipulate the towers for him."

Hel who was about to give a piece of her mind to Zeus stopped and looked at him as if she is looking at an idiot.

"Please tell me I heard you wrong."

"No, you need to manipulate the tower difficulty. I don't care what you will do. But the difficulty should be off the charts."

You can say that he won't fall for the same shit twice. But he should fall again and we need to make sure of that."

"Have you lost your mind while fucking half of the Olympus? You want me to disrupt the dynamic of this competition and that too by manipulating the tower? Do you think it will just fly by? Gambler will really start a full fledged war."

He is going to tear open the void and will create a war where the people from celestial realms can directly attack each other.

Not in a regular realm war where we agree on terms and fight it out. A realm clash between realms. Do you even remember what the consequences were when that previously happened? Gods died. Literal GODS, that should have lived for eternity died just like that.

I don't want to be on the other end of Gambler's craziness."

"You believe every word he says? He is bluffing. Do you think other gods in the game are going to just sit back and watch?"

"I am not strong enough to deal with him, Hou Yi is a waste in front of him. Only people who have any real chance to deal with him are actually you, Karthikeya, and Sun Wukong. At least that is what I believe."

Sun Wukong doesn't give a fuck as long as things are entertaining to him. That too we are the ones who are messing with Sam constantly even after Gambler warned us. Karthikeya has way too big of a moral

campus. So, there is that. Who else is going to fight that lunatic? You? Alone? Are you going to fight the Void dragon and all the beasts he is rearing as his underlings?

Good luck with that."

As she was speaking, Zeus didn't even bother to reply. Instead, he took out something and placed it in front of her.

It is a disc that seemed to be made out of dark black rock. A small hint of black smoke is coming out of it.

The surrounding grass started dying out and the area is filled with death energy.

Hel got stunned.

"Is it what I think it is?"

"Yes it is."

"How do you have it?"

"I am the leader of the Olympus. Don't ever ask those stupid questions. I can have whatever I want in Olympus and this thing is no exception."

"Yeah, yeah. I know. You don't need to show that off. Are you sure there is not going to be any problem with this disc? I don't want Hades to be on my ass after this."

"He won't. Because he doesn't know I have this and as long as you don't do something stupid, he won't know that you have this either.

So keep it on the down-low."

"If you are giving this out. Then the request must be huge as well. I am kind of scared to accept it. Let me hear the terms first."

"I want you to speed up the evolution time in Sam's towers. The creatures that are spawned because of his sins should all be rapidly evolving.

What you said is right. There is no way, he will fall for the same trap. Sam would be taking all kinds of measures to make sure that he won't be affected by the corruption next time.

But I don't want that. Even if he doesn't die, I want to make sure that the handicap he had because of his loss will not be wasted."

"Increase the evolution speed? Are you nuts? He is about to pass 2nd floor. He is already way ahead of other candidates in those terms. He is being watched by a lot of people. Both the gods and other players. There is no way we can hide that from them."

"You can figure that out yourselves. That is your problem. But I told you what I wanted to tell you. So, if you really want this disc as much as I think you want it. Solve this problem and let me know."

With that, he took the disc and disappeared from that spot.

He was dumbfounded. The offer is tempting. All she has to do is make Sam suffer, which is not exactly something she is unwilling to do. She might even enjoy it a lot. But there is a great chance that she would be unable to take what comes from the Gambler.

He is a maniac and lunatic. She doesn't know if she can bear those consequences.

But when she remembered the disc and what she could do with it... the temptation is way too alluring.

As she was thinking, all of a sudden she remembered something.

She called her subordinates.

"I have a task for you and you only have two days to finish it.

I heard that at one point Gambler released some special tokens. A token holder can ask Gambler to grant any wish. They were specifically released only in Gambler's turf. I need you guys to find who still holds those tokens.

Find someone and buy as many as can.

No, no. Not as many as you can. Buy everything that is still in circulation. You have to two days to finish this and get back to me. If the task is delayed or if you fail to finish it, you are all going to be trapped in the cursed soul lake.

Do you guys understand?"

"Yes, Madam."

Everyone left the place.

Two days went away in a flash.

Everyone came back. Some people had tokens in their hands. Some people didn't. But there are only five of those in total. Way less than what she expected.

"I am sure there must be more than five tokens in circulation. There is no way there are only five. You fucking failed at your task."

She took the tokens and waved her hand.

The whole group disappeared. They were all pushed into the cursed soul lake that Hel mentioned previously. Their souls were subjected to torture that they never even dared to imagine.

Hel didn't even care about what was happening to them. She just looked at those tokens and held them tightly.

She gritted her teeth and took out a different communication token.

"I agree with your plan. Come here. We can discuss the remaining details and proceed further."

"I will be right there."

Zeus arrived within a few minutes. He took out the disc and handed it over to Hel.

"I can't promise you too much. Definitely not as much as you expect. I will give Dayus a slight advantage.

His body will not be affected by the corruption as the others. Even though that will reduce the body tempering speed, he can clear more towers than the others in the same time frame. The tempering he misses in the quality can be covered with the quantity.

As for Sam, as you said, I will increase the evolutionary speed. But I will decide the pace of it. You have no involvement.

As soon as there is even a slight suspicion from other gods and players, I will not continue with it. I will stop it and all the blame should be carried by you.

We are good to go if you agree to all of these terms."

Chapter 1695: Bear

Zeus thought for a while and nodded his head.

They shook on the deal and both of them went on their own ways.

Back in Hell. Sam is currently in the second floor of the tower. He looked at the final opponent he had in front of him.

Now that he explored all of the second floor and dealt with every opponent possible, only this one creature is left before he could leave this place and reach the third floor.

In the past two days, while Hel is looking for those tokens, Sam was busy plowing through his opponents on this floor. After the horrible experience he had at the Sura clan, he understood one thing.

He shouldn't hold back anymore. He has to push himself further and make sure that his condition has not deteriorated to the point that he cannot use his full powers.

So, Sam put up fixed intervals to suppress the corruption in his body. As for the lack of tempering because of this early suppression, he had thought of some other way that he could use.

Before he could try that, he needs to deal with this last opponent.

It is actually a bear.

A bear that he hunted by himself as part of his training. The bear is the toughest opponent he had faced that year.

Currently, the bear is twice its original size. Its eyes are bloodshot. The fangs and claws are of course much more lethal. Unlike most of the opponents he faced, this beast didn't have any additional ability like poison or some other thing.

All it had is an upgrade in its raw power. Just its aura is intimidating to him.

Sam held his bow and looked at the beast from far away. He took out a special arrow and aimed at it.

The arrow whistled through the air and left the bow.

The bear who is just walking around looked in Sam's direction and grunted.

It slammed its claw on the ground and roared.

ROAR* *BAM

The earth shattered and created a shock wave of spiritual energy. The wave destroyed the arrow in its tracks.

The bear looked at the poison that spilled from the arrow and sniffed it. Its gaze turned towards Sam who still stood far away.

Bear made a move and lunged toward him.

With every single step, it crossed dozens of meters. In a blink of an eye, it is just a few yards away from Sam.

Sam came back to his senses and started running. He put the bow away and took out the sword. He took the executioner instead of the reaper.

He used the wind element to boost his agility as he moved around in the area trying to take advantage of the bear's large figure.

No matter how agile the bear is, the forest's trees and rocks, simply put its terrain is going to leave some troubles for its huge figure. Sam is adamant about taking advantage of that.

But he noticed that the huge body is really not much of a disadvantage for the bear. The energy waves coming out of its body are strong enough to destroy the trees in their way and turn into debris.

Sam kept on running for a while.

The bear didn't leave him alone and just ran after him while throwing its claws.

Energy rays didn't come out of the claws, but the sheer force is wrecking chaos in the surroundings.

The trees are being destroyed. Cracks appeared everywhere.

If not for the fact that this is not a real place and the creature is not a real one, he would have thought that the whole scenario is real. He wouldn't have even stopped to think if by any chance fake.

After running around for a while, they finally arrived at the spot Sam wanted them to arrive at. He stopped in his tracks and turned around. He lunged at the bear, which caught the beast off guard a bit.

The bear didn't think for long though. It threw its claw at Sam.

Sam swung his sword and tried to cut through the shockwave coming from that claw. He utilized spatial energy and the ripple style to accomplish that.

The mild application of the spatial energy and the ripple style just barely created spatial ripples with the sword strike.

It is just enough to throw away all of the unwanted noise as well as some people's physical presence.

Sam didn't know if it will work for disrupting the ear, but it did.

Even though its attacks were blocked, the bear didn't even flinch for a moment.

It just roared powerfully and attacked Sam once again.

This time, Sam smiled and stomped his leg on the ground.

The earth rumbled a bit and three spikes came out of the ground. They went straight to the belly of the bear.

The Bear sensed the danger and tried to jump away from the spot.

Sam didn't let it though. He is already mid-air with the sword in his hand.

He slashed the bear that came up.

The slash barely left a mark on the Bear's thick flesh. But the force made the massive creature crash to the ground.

One of the spikes that popped up previously brushed past the bear slightly at its belly.

A small nick appeared on that part.

The bear which was completely unscathed from the sword coming from the top was injured by something as simple as an earthen spoke on its belly.

Apart from the obvious reason for the difference in toughness, there is one more reason for this to happen.

The material of the ground.

The reason Sam brought the beast here before engaging is to take advantage of the material in the ground. It is a type of rock that has strength that could compare to a very high-level metal that could be used to make some high-class weapons.

Sam knew the bear is stronger than him, so he decided to use the surroundings to the best of his ability to take it down. And the strong stone in the ground is just one of the many measures he took.

Chapter 1696: Change

ROAR

Amidst the roars of the bear. Sam jumped onto a tree nearby.

The bear felt the injury on its belly and looked at Sam angrily.

Sam met its eyes calmly. His plan is working well so far. The bear might have had enough strength to rival some really high-level beasts. But it doesn't have the necessary intellect to use that strength well.

It is too crude.

He can easily take it for a ride and deal with it. The only problem is the time it would take to slowly destroy it bit by bit.

ROAR

Halting his thoughts, the bear attacked the tree he was standing on.

CRASH

He jumped to a different tree while slashing the bear. The sword ray laced with wind elements hit the bear on the back. But it didn't try to pierce through it or cut through it.

Rather the sword ray moved tangentially to the bear's body. It brushed past it while cutting off some fur.

If one looked closely, one would be able to notice that there is a very slight gash that cut off a negligibly thin layer of hiding along with the fur.

Sam noticed it and smile. He looked at the bear charging at him and threw a spear with his left hand. The spear lodged itself into the ground. It was neither near the bear nor it was in its path. The bear didn't even bother with that spear.

But as soon as the spear landed, the ground shook a bit. A streak of earthen spikes emerged from that point. They hit the bear from the side and some spikes were particularly targeting on its belly from under it.

The bear halted in its tracks and jumped to the side. Sam took this chance once again and sliced on the same spot as before. The slash is once again tangential just like before.

He didn't aim to cut the flesh off directly. Just another very thin layer of it was cut off. The layer was like a thin and delicate flower petal.

Sam jumped off onto a different tree and waited for the bear to stabilize itself. It looked at Sam fiercely. Its eyes are bloodshot. He could sense its thirst for his blood from far away.

This time, it also wisened up a bit and didn't run towards him. Instead, it jumped straight from its spot to his location.

Sam smiled as if he had anticipated it.

The tree he was standing at suddenly moved. The branches that looked completely normal were shot out and tried to catch the bear in mid-air.

His spiritual energy traveled through the tree. Wooden spikes came out and tried to trap the bear within the branches.

ROAR

The bear roared in frustration as it slammed its claws on the branches and the trunk.

The spikes weren't able to pierce it. But the branches started coiling around making it irritable. They tried to restrict its motion.

Sam of course didn't leave this chance. Once again he shaved off another layer of flesh on the back of the bear.

And this time, along with taking away that small layer, he also left some purple marks on the bear at that spot.

The purple mark is a kind of poison.

For the next few moves, the poison kept growing as he kept shaving the flesh. He succeeded for the six moves.

In these six moves, he used the trees, earth, and the surrounding rocks to his advantage as he made the bear either get caught in some silly trap for a moment or halt in its tracks as it got off guard by some sudden attack.

Either way, he left a significant mark on the back of the bear. The whole patch of flesh that was exposed turned purple.

When Sam landed the next attack after that though, the bear is not as angry as before. It is not as frustrating. It just tried to follow Sam's movement.

Sam landed on a tree and smiled a bit. His plan is working. The poison he left behind on the back of the bear in that patch of exposed flesh is actually to make its flesh numb. To make it lose its sense of pain.

He doesn't know if it works as most of the creatures here are purely driven by instinct and they don't really care much about the pain. Whether it is present or absent is irrelevant to them.

The only purpose it served for the bear is to irritate it constantly. It becomes pissed off knowing that Sam is touching it and attacking it as he liked while it was unable to do anything about that.

Sam's goal is precisely that.

So, when he noticed that the bear didn't react when he attacked the poisoned patch of flesh, he felt a bit relieved.

He decided to go for the next phase of the plan and for that, he needs to land three more proper hits on the same spot before placing something there.

So, he led the bear to three more traps. In the first two, he simply and successfully landed the hits. The bear started bleedings slightly. Just when he was about to land the third attack though, the bear that was supposed to be stuck in the trap suddenly made a completely unpredictable move.

Instead of trying to break free of the trap like it usually did when it fell into them, it let the trap irritate it, while it forcefully let its body get damaged a bit and tried to roll around.

It rolled around exposing a part of its belly to Sam. But one of its claws which was the only free one brushed past him.

Sam was thrown away and crashed into a tree. He stopped himself from being thrown completely off balance. But it was too late.

The bear forcefully broke through the trap. And to Sam's surprise, it attacked the particularly weak point which granted the bear an easy release. It escaped the trap with almost no injuries and dashed towards him.

It smashed into Sam and charged him through the tree before it crashed him into another large rock beside them.

BAM* *CRASH

The rock is smashed into pieces. Sam tried to get away from that spot, but he wasn't able to. The bear took the momentary chance to bite into him.

Sam reacted quickly enough to activate his metal elemental fusion making it impossible for the bear to bite him. And from the suction he is feeling from its mouth, he is sure that the bear is trying to tear him and swallow him.

If he turns into anything soft now, there is no doubt the bear will suck him in. But he definitely cannot stay in that mouth also. He needs to get out of there immediately.

But no matter how much pressure he applied on the bear's jaw, it didn't budge.

Instead, it started crashing Sam into the surroundings.

"Fuck it. I will just finish you off."

Sam muttered and he started gathering energy. But not outside or in his arms. Instead, he gathered the energy in the gap he created inside the mouth of the bear. He gathered the fire elemental energy. The golden concentrated flaming ball was created. Just when he was about to launch it though, the bear suddenly spat him out and left the spot.

BOOM

The energy ball brushed past the bear's fur. It left a large burning mark on its hide before it went past it and exploded.

He left a large crater by accident.

The Bear looked at the crater and then at Sam vigilantly.

Sam frowned when he saw Bear's reaction. This shouldn't be happening. This is not supposed to happen.

The creatures on the second floor, shouldn't have this kind of vigilance. The creatures here are still supposed to fight based on their instincts. It is already surprising enough that the beast came out of the trap like that.

If going by instincts, it should have gone for the traps, instead of going for Sam, since Sam's attack didn't seem like much since the start.

But it went after him by forcefully dealing with the trap. Now it acted like this. There is no way this is a simple coincidence.

One more thing that bothered him is the sudden transition. He is a hundred percent sure that the bear was initially attacking purely based on his instincts. It just became like that out of nowhere.

As these thoughts flooded through his brain. The bear slowly stepped back and looked at Sam cautiously. It didn't roar or growl. IT became completely silent. This just solidified Sam's beliefs.

Something has changed in this bear all of a sudden.

He threw that thought to the back of his mind the next moment. He knew he cannot afford to lose focus now. So he decided to focus on this later after he defeated the bear.

Chapter 1697: New method

Sam stood up hurriedly and stepped back to increase the distance between him and the Bear.

At first, he wanted to take care of the bear slowly to observe while conserving his energy. The Bear is clearly stronger than him, so he didn't want to use up all of his energy at the start and suddenly get caught by it because of his wrong estimations.

He would still like to do that. But he doesn't know how long he would be able to do that in his current state.

He is slightly injured. Compared to him, the bear's injury is less critical. He needs to find a way to finish the battle quickly.

The only reason, his tactic of dealing with the bear slowly might even work is because the bear was running purely on instincts. But now that the advantage is clearly taken away, there is no way, he could continue the tactic.

The only problem is that he might exhaust himself and Hel might put him at a disadvantage like she did in the previous round.

He just hoped that he is not that unlucky to be done in for the same trick twice in a row.

He raised his aura and took out his spear. The silver lightning crackled as he threw the spear at the bear with all his strength.

BOOM

An explosive sound came when Sam threw the spear. His surroundings are swept with a small shock wave. The trees shook and dust clouds formed.

The spear left a large crater in its path as it reached the bear in a fraction of a second.

ROAR

The bear stood up on its hind legs and threw its claws at the coming spear. Taking it head-on.

The claws formed energy rays that hit the spear. The clash stopped the spear and the energy rays shaped like claws in mid-air.

Bear took this chance and escaped from that spot. The spear destroyed the claws and landed at the spot the bear was previously in.

BOOM

A large silver lightning explosion covered that spot. The bear that just escaped wasn't completely unscathed. It took in the aftershock and felt the lightning slow down its muscles a bit.

The bear looked around to find Sam. But with the dust cloud as his cover, he let his shadow undead out. He utilized shadow fusion and let his aura match the one that was given out by the undead creatures.

The bear got confused as it caught all different auras that are similar to its opponent and didn't know which one it should go after.

All undead including Sam, charged at the bear as they attacked. Sam even went as far as distributing his weapons to the humanoid undead creatures to confuse the bear even more.

If the bear is running on instinct, it would have just attacked the nearest undead to it first and then moved on to the next. It wouldn't have cared much if it was just Sam. It started thinking of a way to go and get Sam without wasting much of its energy.

But of course, when the undead neared it, it finally made its move. And unlike before, it didn't blindly charge forward. Rather, it first dodged the nearest shadow and tried to get out of the encirclement from the undead.

It acted carefully without any of beastly instincts.

Sam felt more and more sure that something is wrong with this bear.

But he didn't have time to focus on that at the moment.

The undead moved up on his orders. They changed their direction and followed the bear. But after covering a few yards, they disappeared in a puff of black smoke.

The bear that was about to launch its attack on the creatures, was stunned for a moment and vigilantly looked around.

Sam also disappeared in a puff of black smoke as he used the shadows along with the undead to attack the bear.

The bear is standing on open ground which is devoid of any other shadows other than its own. But that was enough for Sam to close the distance.

He used the shadow as a medium and arrived near the bear.

He attacked the bear with his sword.

The bear barely managed to dodge it before it launched its own attack. The claw went through a puff of black smoke. Sam already disappeared before he could get hit.

ROAR

The bear roared in frustration. And to add to that frustration, a bunch of small protrusions appeared around it. The rocks stuck out of the ground randomly and they are creating a bunch of shadows in that area.

Sam and the undead creatures started running amok. They appeared near the bear while leveraging the small shadows besides the rocks. They threw their attacks at the bear from all directions. But most of them are focused on the small patch Sam left.

Most attacks that landed on the rest of its body were bounced off easily. The bear didn't even feel the pinch. But the small patch on its back which is laced with poison was attacked repeatedly. It started bleeding slowly.

But the bear didn't feel anything at that time as well.

Soon, the bear finally got used to the speed of the attacks and threw its claws into the surroundings. The claws destroyed the rocks and razed them to the ground. All the shadows were gone and the undead popped out of nowhere.

The bear lunged at them as it threw repeated attacks.

Sam escaped from the spot. He jumped up in the air. Shadow fusion turned to wind elemental fusion. Wings popped on his back as he flew high into the sky.

He put his sword away and took out his bow.

Now that he already hit the bear so many times and the bleeding increased with every second, he decided to wear the bear down with these arrows and finish it off.

It also became easier since Sam also has a clear target on the bear's body. The bleeding hole on its back. With every arrow he shot, the bleeding intensified. And every arrow is laced with turbulent and sharp wind energy.

So arrows not just attacked the hole, rather they created a hole and expanded it bit by bit as they made the bear bleed more and more.

Soon, the bear started slowing down.

Sam took this chance and started using lightning along with his wind element.

The lightning arrows hit the bear and paralyzed it.

Finally bear was unable to move. So, Sam shifted fire element to finish it off.

The arrow is filled with fire elemental energy. Golden flames erupted. Sam poured as much energy as he possibly can and shot the arrow directly at the bear.

The golden flames enveloped the creature and its surroundings.

The bear wanted to move, but it couldn't. All it could do is burn in the golden flames as it took it all. Its fur burned and soon it is followed by burning flesh. Soon the bear died and then only Sam managed to heave a sigh of relief.

He landed on the ground. He wanted to examine the burning body of the bear a bit. But the corruption hit him and the new corruption gathered by the bear joined him. He is full and he is sent back to the pillar.

Sam heaved a sigh once again. Now it is time to experiment with the method he thought of. The method he wanted to temper his body while not having to store it inside his body.

And the answer he came up with is pretty direct and idiotic even. Since he cannot store it inside his body, all he has to do is store it inside the place where it belongs. The pillar.

To get the most out of the corruption without spending the actual time required, Sam decided to use his unique physique and put it to the test.

Instead of going for the quantity in terms of time, Sam decided to go for the quality. So, in the past few days, while he was still fighting, he made some calculations. He estimated what kind of effect the tempering brings to his muscles and organs before he started analyzing how can he achieve the final results of tempering using the corruption energy to achieve the desired effects.

After making millions of calculations at least, he felt like he had stumbled on the solution. All he has to do is use the corruption energy to enhance his muscle fibers. While simultaneously trying to heal himself. His muscles are subjected to endless destruction. And there is another catch. He is not just using the energy that is inside his body. He decided to look for the energy outside of his body.

Then he thought of the pillar.

First, he wanted to try out one thing. He wanted to see if he can move the energy from the pillar directly. And it didn't take long for him to get the answer.

Chapter 1698: Thoughts

Sam placed his hands and tried to connect the corruption energy inside his body to the energy inside the pillar.

All he had to do is let the energy inside his body flow to the pillar. Just when the pillar was about to suck it completely, he controlled it and dragged the energy from the pillar into his body forcefully.

The energy travelled through one hand and ravaged through his body.

All his muscle fibers are subjected to the extreme treatment of this energy. They are being torn apart while Sam's vampire body leveraged the death energy around in this hell's environment to heal the torn fibers.

His body is at the extreme limit of destroying itself while rebuilding itself. Every muscle fiber was deconstructed and reconstructed at least a dozen times in a second.

He sucked in all of the energy from the pillar and slowly started circulating it through his body before he sent it back into the pillar through his other hand.

The whole process felt like Sam has been tortured with the harshest methods for a thousand times, but everything had happened in just one moment.

He didn't stop though. He did the three times and by the end of it, his skin is covered with a thick bloody substance. It smelled grimy and looked dirty. And Sam felt like his muscle mass has reduced by a bit.

But he felt slightly more agile and flexible. Strong too of course. Except his whole body is hurting with every breath he took.

He didn't know the aftereffects would be like this. His body did go through the tempering process in a short time and since the changes are so sudden, he could even feel them instantly. But the pain through the process and after it is horrible.

The only silver lining is that it is just pain. Nothing else. It is just the muscles being sore. He could endure it easily and he could function very well. There is no actual injury that could hinder his movements and attacks.

He smiled in content. Now, he can just collect all the corrupt energy and store it in the pillar whenever he wants. He can be as immediate as possible too and he can go through the tempering process within just a few minutes, whenever he wants.

Whenever he enters a new floor, he can first do a scout and get an idea on what type of monsters and how much corruption he has to take in. With that he can plan and schedule his refinement sessions so that he will in a decent shape no matter when Hel takes him out.

He looked at the ceiling with a smile.

Hel who is spectating the whole thing from her own residence couldn't help but feel that Sam is smiling at her. It felt like he is mocking her.

But when she recalled the torturous situation that Sam has experienced and then the torturous session that he has put himself through, she couldn't help but feel a bit anxious about the decision he made.

She followed through with what Zeus has suggested and now she has to live with it.

The sudden change in the bear's behavior is because of that reason.

Generally, it will take a long time before the creatures in the towers evolve their intelligence.

But for Sam, it happened in his second floor only. Even if it is at the last moment, it is still very dangerous. His difficulty compared to the rest of his peers, increased exponentially.

Of course, he will also get equally valuable benefits from this, but this is unfair. Sam already have more floors than anyone else.

He would have to get out of this hell before the time limit passes while he tries to take advantage of his more floors. But now there is this added difficulty.

If Gambler takes this seriously, she knew things wouldn't end well.

But the disc is too much of a prize that she has been craving for a while. So, she couldn't bring herself to give it up. She took a risk and went on with the decision.

Now when she thought back to what she did and what Zeus must have expected from this, she couldn't help but smile wryly.

Whatever Zeus might have expected from this, is not coming to fruition. She knew of this for sure.

She felt like Zeus just paid an invaluable price to make it so that Sam has more advantages than any other player in the game.

The only disadvantage he might have is time and if they the gods learned anything about Sam until now is that his intellect is good enough to reduce this advantage by a large degree if not completely eliminate it.

She couldn't help but feel a bit anxious about what will happen to the rest of the candidates.

While Hel is thinking of the consequences, there are two more people who are doing the same.

One of them is Sam.

After he finished the refining process, he sat there near the pillar in meditation. He is currently thinking of what might have happened with the bear and what he should be expecting from now on.

'The only thing I could do is explore the third floor and see if the creatures are getting smarter. No matter what the answer is, it doesn't change the direction I am going to take.

The only problem is that the time taken to scout is going to increase a lot.

Maybe, I should think of a solution that would let me finish scanning the place faster.

Parameters should be the dividing the floor based on area, type of creatures present in an area, their number, collective strength, intelligence, lethality. I need to be able to create a technique that could measure all of these parameters.

And without any unnecessary machinery and equipment. This could be a bit tough. But if all this can be achieved by a person directly without a need for any other equipment, this could be a very useful technique in real life also...'

Sam's thoughts ran wild as he got more and more ideas in his head. He couldn't control himself and started thinking of possibilities in his head.

Meanwhile, somewhere far away.

Gambler is looking at the whole fiasco through his screen.

Even though Sam wasn't speaking his thoughts out loud, he seemed to have understood what Sam is thinking.

"This fellow is going to make something interesting again. What do you think it would be Ling Tian?"

"I am not smart enough to guess it sir."

"Come on, you are no fun. Just like Sam. Why are you both of you such stuck up people.

Anyway, I want to ask your opinion on something. For the stunt, Hel pulled. What do you think should be the compensation?"

"I think it should be decided based on what she got from Zeus, Sir.

Hel clearly knew of your prowess. In fact, she might be the only few who is close to being accurate about your strength. But for her to still make this decision, the price Zeus paid must have been invaluable to her. So, if I have to make a decision, then I would say, we should find out what the price is and then take at least half of it."

"Half of it? What if it is way too valuable? Do you think Sam can handle the half of it?"

"I am sure he can find a workaround and also find a good use for it."

"Yeah, he might just do that. So, why don't we pay a visit to Hel?"

"We can sir. But before we go, there is something you should know. She has acquired a bunch of your special tokens."

"Oh? That's surprising. This woman started using her brain for a change. But still, she does know that there are some conditions associated with those tokens right? She might hoard all of them together, but that doesn't grant her complete immunity."

"Yes it doesn't. But her plan is to reduce the damage as much as possible. If she uses all of those tokens and give out some compensation, then she doesn't have to give up too much and escape from this."

"Oh? She indeed became smart. But does she really think that I would be that straightforward? She has another thing coming.

Sam is not going to die any time soon. So, let's beat her at her own stupid game. Let's wait. I will give you the spectating right for this game. Note down every disadvantage Sam is facing compared to the rest of the players.

Compile a whole report. Try to pull out as many disadvantages as possible with unbeatable logic. When it was made, not just Hel, Odin should have to pawn his Gungnir off for a few days to repay the debt even with all of those tokens in existence.

Let's shake up the Norse before Sam comes here."

"Sir, you do know that if you really give half of it to Sam, you will make whole of Norse his enemy right?"

"Will I? It can't be helped though. That is only fitting for the stage I am preparing for him."

Chapter 1699: Third Floor

Sam entered the third floor.

He is standing in front of an entrance to a small town located in the middle of a forest. At least that is what he assumed based on the surroundings and what he could see. For some reason, neither his spiritual senses nor his energy vision is going past the gate of the town.

All he has is his pure naked vision.

Sam observed the surroundings. He walked around the town walls for a while without going in.

The surroundings felt familiar to him. He couldn't put a finger on where he saw this place and how he must have come across something. But he is very sure that he has seen this place before in his past life.

He wanted to explore the forest before he could get into the town.

But he wasn't able to. There is not much space around the town that he could explore. There is an invisible barrier blocking him and something told him that the third floor is all cramped into that one town.

He thought for a bit more time before deciding to pry into the town.

It would have been better if there is a way for him to check what is inside the town before he could get inside. But he cannot enter it.

He even went as far as trying to use his wings and shadows to see if he could get a glimpse of what is happening inside. But he couldn't.

His vision was blocked. The shadows are unable to enter. He couldn't even enter into the town through air for some reason.

All he can do is enter through the main gate.

After some thought, he just decided to go with it.

He held the reaper sword in his hand before slowly pushing the main gate. He was shocked by the view in front of him. He finally understood why this place felt so familiar. It is a town established in one of the training islands in his previous life.

The island was designed by the organization, solely to train a certain group of people. It is called the Lion hunter tribe.

It is not really a tribe as the name implies. The people inside are not exactly related. Not all of them at least. But all of them went through the same training regimen. They are a group of specially trained soldiers.

Hired guns specialized in hunting big shots. Most of their hit list includes commanders of different armies, leaders of mercenary groups, CEOs, and politicians.

They don't just specialize in the assassination. All of them are really good at hand-to-hand combat. Tracking people, causing chaos. Laying traps and hunting people down in one vs many settings is their particular forte.

As for why the whole town appeared in his third floor, there is a reason for that.

He slaughtered the whole town. All by himself. This is actually one of the first establishments he destroyed when he decided to go rogue against his own organization. He directly invaded the town and killed every last one of them.

Most of them were still trainees at that time, but he didn't spare them too. He just took every life that existed in the town.

One of the memories he would rather not revisit. And that is not just because he killed them all, but rather he is one of the core trainers of the tribe.

He is one of the people responsible for the creation of this whole training program. And he killed them all.

He couldn't help but constantly recall the thought of killing them.

As he was thinking about that, he saw the town is changing a bit. Some sentry towers appeared in different positions. A group of people with rifles appeared on them along with the towers.

Sam waved his hand and blocked the coming bullets with an energy shield. He stored the sword away and took out his handguns.

He aimed at the structure of the sentry tower.

BOOM

The golden flames ran rampant as they burned the whole structure down within a moment. The tower collapsed. The watchers who were shooting Sam also collapsed along with it.

But they didn't die. They walked out of the golden flames and rolled on the ground, trying to put the flames down. Sam even recognized the faces of those people. Their actions are extremely precise and trained.

They are following the exact instructions they received in training. They put out the flames while shooting at Sam.

There is not a change in their expression. They just stood up and charged at Sam with their guns as if the burnt flesh on their bodies is nothing significant.

The energy shield is still on. The bullets are causing faint fluctuations on the barrier, but it is still perfectly alright. His bullets on the other hand reached their targets without any problem.

Within no time, the watchers from the first tower are dead.

Sam aimed the guns at the other towers. He didn't proceed further from that spot and just shot them down one by one. While dealing with the watchers, Sam estimated these people's behavior. He wanted to know how they are operating relative to their original selves. And from the looks of it, they are not really doing that good.

The original watchers wouldn't have just charged directly at him after they fell off the tower. They would have put off the flames and first found a cover while sending one of their members to the middle of the town.

To inform the higher-ups so that they will take all the measures. As for why send one person at least directly to them instead of informing through the radios, it is so that the person could give out a description more accurately.

Here instead of that, they just blindly charged. They didn't take cover, they didn't take the time to analyze the situation much.

But since he is alone, that could have been the reason for their misjudgement.

They didn't know what Sam's strength is. In their opinion, he is just a single person. So, they charged at him blindly. Sam felt a bit relieved.

If all the people in the town just came with their full intelligence, things wouldn't be good. They are skilled, powerful, and most of all fearless.

They have zero regards for lives, including their own. If they really came with all of their skills, intelligence and memories, added with the extra strength that comes from this hell spawning, Sam will have some real trouble when dealing with them.

At least, he managed to deal with the watchers and the towers very quickly. There is a gap between him and the rest of the town at the moment. He doesn't know if there are any modern gadgets like the radio or other communication equipment.

But it is most likely that they are not here. So, his arrival wouldn't have been informed to the rest.

He stood there and took a deep breath before letting out his shadow undead.

All shadow undead spread to different spots of the town. He decided to try one the new techniques that he decided to create to inspect the floors.

And this one utilizes his shadow undead.

Except for two rest of the undead are far away.

They all took up different places before standing still.

Sam closed his eyes and sat on the floor. He let his consciousness contact one of the undead creatures. Dark elemental energy spread from the undead creature. It spread to its limit and covered a lot of ground. Sam tried to use their observation ability through the undead creature.

Even though it was extremely troublesome, he still managed to connect a bit. The observation ability is not as detailed and precise when he used it with his own body. Rather all he got is a faint and broad map.

He could see different people staying in different houses in the town. Some are resting, some are working out and some are maintaining their weapons. Their actions are robotic and monotonous.

Sam waited for two minutes and there was no change. He shifted his consciousness to a different undead and did the same.

This method is good for mapping. But it is limited to necromancers, that too mostly for shadow necromancers.

He made a mental note to find a different alternative.

Meanwhile, from the middle of the town, some people started making a move. They didn't talk or scream. They all acted as if some program in their head is triggered and they are some machines executing that program monotonously.

They are moving towards Sam and they fell under his radar when he is scanning the area with an undead.

Looking at them, Sam immediately understood what is happening. They are the first wave of Lion hunters.

When someone attacks the Lion hunter tribe, according to the protocol, the soldiers shouldn't come out of their house, instead, a full armed team will be deployed first to get an understanding of the level of crisis.

This rule is made to prevent any unnecessary losses.

Chapter 1700: First Wave

The first wave of lion hunters engages with whatever threat comes to their town. They don't have a choice.

Based on how they fare against the threat, the rest of the town reacts. If the otherside is overwhelming, the second wave with a much larger force intervenes and the rest of the soldiers are to start making preparations.

Preparations are for two scenarios. One of them is to tackle the enemies that are coming at them and another one is to create a destruction plan and escape from that spot.

But if they are consciously following that plan, they should at least be preparing right now. They didn't show any emotions. They are just robotically doing the same monotonous activity they are doing until now.

Only the first wave of lion hunters arrived with some ferocity.

The two undead creatures that stayed back with Sam made a move on these soldiers.

There are twenty-five of them. And all of them are on the same level as Sam. So, it is obviously going to be a difficult fight, even if Sam is fully involved. So, the undead creatures were no match for them.

But the undead are not responsible for killing them directly. Their goal is to stall them and try to injure them if possible. And for that, they started using all sorts of tricks. They disappeared into a puff of smoke whenever someone attacked. They reappeared the soldiers and just landed a very small attack out of nowhere.

The attacks are aimed at the back of the soldiers' knees or on their arms when they are about to shoot.

Even with that, Sam is not really able to kill them. The shadow undead is being destroyed as they got caught one time or the other. But they are of course being regenerated, which is taking Sam's energy a lot.

But it is still going according to Sam's plan.

While he tried to figure out a different iteration for the scanning technique he is currently using, he is also trying to understand the lethality of these bullets.

When he was being attacked with the handguns, the bullets are unable to penetrate through the energy barrier. The barrier barely fluctuated. Just from what he could see, he should be simultaneously attacked with over a few dozen bullets.

All of those bullets should land on the barrier at the same time and they should all cover a certain area for it to work.

But the bullets from the assault rifles are a bit different. Their attack power from one volley of their shots is enough to destroy the barrier. Sam had to recreate the barrier for every attack.

These things are not the most shocking for him though. He received the most shock when he was attacked by the grenades and the snipers.

The sniper bullets are so precise and concentrated that they penetrated through the barrier. A hole appeared in the barrier instead of completely breaking.

The rest of the barrier is completely intact and only one clean and precise hole is formed.

Sam almost got caught off guard. His shadow undead appeared as a black puff and blocked the bullet before getting destroyed.

Sam felt the pinch as the energy left his body to regenerate the undead creature. The sniper bullets are still coming through.

So, the undead not only has to deal with the people that are coming at him from the front, they also have to sacrifice themselves to block these sniper bullets.

Sam thought he could endure it until he finished the scan of the surroundings. But only when they launched their first grenade did he understand how wrong he is.

BOOM

Sam's barrier was blown away and so was he.

From within the dust cloud of the explosion, Sam slowly got up with an aching body. If not for the fact that he blocked the attack at the last moment, he would have been toast. He is pretty sure he would have gotten some severe internal injuries.

The next moment, he disappeared into a puff of smoke and reappeared at the rear of the soldiers.

A sniper bullet went through the head of his afterimage.

Sam took out his own handguns and shot rapidly at the soldiers from the back.

BOOM* *BOOM* *BOOM

It was neither as fast nor as concentrated as the assault rifles in their hands. But they worked. A few people died on the spot immediately.

BOOM

On top of that Sam concentrated on some specific targets. The grenade holders. He just shot on the grenades to increase the damage.

When a grenade exploded, the soldiers are smart enough to react immediately. But at least three people are dying on the spot while the rest of the surrounding people are being injured severely.

He took full advantage of the situation to the maximum. In two minutes, he disappeared from the spot again and reappeared at a different place.

He just went on with the barrage of bullets.

A sniper bullet once again hit the afterimage he left behind.

As Sam killed the people that are after him, he realized one thing. The regular shooters are not really that dangerous. Both in terms of defense and offense, they are much worse if they are compared to the police officer he faced on the previous floor.

The police officer's gun is much more lethal. He was precise, his defense is almost impossible to penetrate.

But here these guys are being easily taken down as long as Sam managed to get out of their firing range.

As long as he can dodge the bullets, he can even kill a person who is wielding an assault rifle with just a single shot.

This is extremely surprising.

As he thought about that, he speculated that might be the reason because these people are just the very first enemies he faced in the third floor. They are just as strong as the watchers that were on the towers.

They are clearly smarter and they are not running purely on instincts like the police officer.

Currently, the only opponents that are as strong as the police officer or even a bit stronger might be the snipers.

It is not just their lethality. Sam wasn't even able to find them. His shadow undead that abandoned the scanning of the place is currently looking for the snipers that are firing at Sam.

He estimated their locations based on the direction the bullets came from, but he is always falling short of knowing their accurate location.

By the time Shadow's undead went there, the snipers are disappearing.

But that is not exactly a disadvantage for Sam. He might have to exhaust more energy at the moment, but while he is dealing with the rest of the town, the current scenario is considered an added bonus.

Because the difficulty of whoever came to attack is measured by the time they took to deal with the first wave. In a way, the first wave is just a suicidal measuring scale.

So, if Sam takes a long time to deal with the first wave, then the difficulty of the next waves will not be as high. This will give him more breathing space when fighting with them.

He let the shadow undead try and pursue the snipers while he dealt with the ground battle. The only problem is that he is consuming too much energy this way.

He could also feel the corruption energy seeping into his body.

It is denser and more powerful as well when compared to what he got on the second floor.

But he is not worried. Because he already had a small game plan in his mind that will let him have a bit smoother time when dealing with the rest of the town.

So, he just focused on dragging the battle while dealing with the first wave of soldiers. After the few grenade explosions he caused, they wised up and decided to stay away from each other. They spread out used the houses for their cover.

Sam didn't mind that. He let them drag the battle out and in the process, started collecting the weapons that fell from the people that died.

He wasn't able to acquire the pistol from the police officer. Mostly because he dealt with him in such a high profile but indirect manner.

But now he was able to acquire these guns, so he wants to see if he can use them for his own good.

He caught a few assault rifles and then some more handguns to see how they function. He replaced his weapons with these and continued the fight.

He is surprised by how precise the design of the weapons is. The energy effect that came from these bullets is also caused by a very intricate inscription on the inner mechanism.

If Sam had to design a gun in this world to sell to the masses, then this would be it. He doubts that he could do a better job than this. This one has lethality, but it is not as drastic as Sam's personal guns. It is perfect for selling it on the scale.